DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Freedom of Information Office
National Institutes of Health
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Bethesda, Maryland 20894
phone: (301) 496-5633
fax: (301) 402-4541

Via Email: shannon@usrtk.org

March 20, 2026

Shannon Murray, PhD
Staff Scientist
U.S. Right to Know (USRTK)
4096 Piedmont Avenue, 963
Oakland, CA 94611-5221

Re: NIH FOIA Case No.: 57707; U.S. Right to Know v. NIH, Case No. cv-02954-KAW

This is a partial response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Two that is the subject of the complaint filed in *U.S. Right to Know*, Case No. 4:23-cv-02954, now pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Your FOIA request, dated November 5, 2021, was received by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the same day.

FOIA Request Two remains as "originally written" in which the request seeks: "all email correspondence from or to Dr. Morens (including CC, BCC, and attachments) with the following email domains and organizations: @ecohealthalliance.org [and] 'EcoHealth Alliance[.]'" The date range for the request is from 1/1/2016 to the present.

Pursuant to the Court's order dated November 7, 2023, NIH has processed 2,535 pages of responsive records this month. Portions of the enclosed records have been withheld under FOIA Exemption 6. Specifically, information is being withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), as well as section 5.31 (f) of the HHS FOIA Regulations, 45 CFR Part 5. Exemption 6 protects against disclosures that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Please direct any questions regarding this response to Jevechius D. Bernardoni of the Department of Justice, who can be reached at Jevechius.Bernardoni@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

for Karen E. R. Lampe, Ph.D.
Acting Freedom of Information Officer, NIH

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:10:08 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:09:26 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: David Morens [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: 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 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: 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 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

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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 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.: +1-212-380-4474

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C85884b01ebb640993bd308db8b9fa9e5%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=i6Zc9gCoOamRG9JiJcyrcoywOtAUimiN4TEWeTbjkDA%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [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

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

b6

iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 > wrote:

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Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint.
Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).

Best regards,

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich 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
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

All: I listened in this morning on the webinar on COVID-19 origins that Jeff Sachs moderated under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). I wasn't able to stay until the end of the Q&A, but I did hear the three main presentations. Sachs said that he plans to post the recording of the session (on SDSN?). This was the first of three planned webinars – the second (on global health financing) will take place on November 22, the third (on health system strengthening) on December 8.

Sachs served as moderator. His introduction was fairly mundane. His basic premise was that there are two "absolutely viable" hypotheses for the origin of COVID-19 – either zoonotic or due to a lab leak. (Note that the language he uses – "absolutely viable" – obscures the fact that the evidence differs significantly for each of the two hypotheses. But this was a bias that ran through all of the presentations.) He then argued that we need to follow both lines of inquiry equally, to have a proper understanding of both possibilities. He alluded to the bimodal distribution of most discussion of these questions – with "mainstream media" coming down on natural origins, and "alternate media" arguing for laboratory origins (including in this Senator Burr's Senate Minority Report). He then turned to two "leading scientists" and a "leading reporter" for further perspectives.

The speakers were Alina Chan (Broad Institute), Richard Ebright (Rutgers University) and Emily Kopp (US Right to Know) – no great surprises there.

Alina Chan's main argument was that there is not enough evidence to decide which hypothesis is true, and that all the evidence is circumstantial. She did say that there is no argument over the fact

that the pandemic originated in spillover from bats – just a difference of opinion on how and where this happened.

She presented a set of factors that would explain the chain of causation for each of the two hypotheses:

Natural origins

- Earliest cases handled live animals?

- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?

- Were there animal variants of the virus?

- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?

- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

She then claimed that none of these have been established for SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak

- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans

- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013

- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"

- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses

- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

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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:

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1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the Nature Medicine correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the Nature Medicine correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic

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plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,

Jeff

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Date: Tue, 21 Sep 2021 11:43:08 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 21 Sep 2021 11:40:25 AM -0400
Subject: Introduction to our key Collaborator in France, and heads-up re. a PREZODE event at French Embassy Oct 21st
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] [b6]
CC: Carlos Zambrana-Torrelio [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.png

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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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 Christian [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 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

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Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 4:25:15 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 4:24:28 PM -0400
Subject: SSCP public hearing
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]

It was an awful experience – Republicans repeatedly calling for us to be debarred, Democrats saying 'while ecohealth didn't cause covid, their behavior with Federal grant compliance raises serious questions as to whether they should receive federal funding in the future'.

I did a good job from what I'm hearing overall, on defending our work, and the issues they're coming after us on are of no real consequence (a late NIH report, margin notes in a draft proposal etc.), but used to paint a picture of a deceptive organization. I've spoken with Jeff about why the Dems are seemingly ready to throw us under a bus, and he believes it's partly because the SSCP has come up with nothing and this would be a 'scalp' for them to wave around. Secondly, the politics for the Dems are all about winning in November, so they're happy to defend NIH and point the finger at EcoHealth, even though many of the issues they highlighted were due to NIH bureaucratic sluggishness, rather than any genuine issue with EHA.

We're going to pick apart the democrat and Republican reports finding-by-finding, draft rebuttal statements and probably set up a press conference next week. The next phase will now be fighting to try to make sure we aren't debarred.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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 1, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]

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REL0000482226

Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

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

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

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

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

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

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Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On May 1, 2024, at 2:35 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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From: Roberts, Rich <b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:26 AM
To: David Morens b6 Peter Daszak b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 ; peter hotez b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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, May 1, 2024 8:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 >; peter hotez b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Fwd: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

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REL0000482226

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** b6
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 08:26
Subject: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
To:

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

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

By Katherine Eban
May 1, 2024

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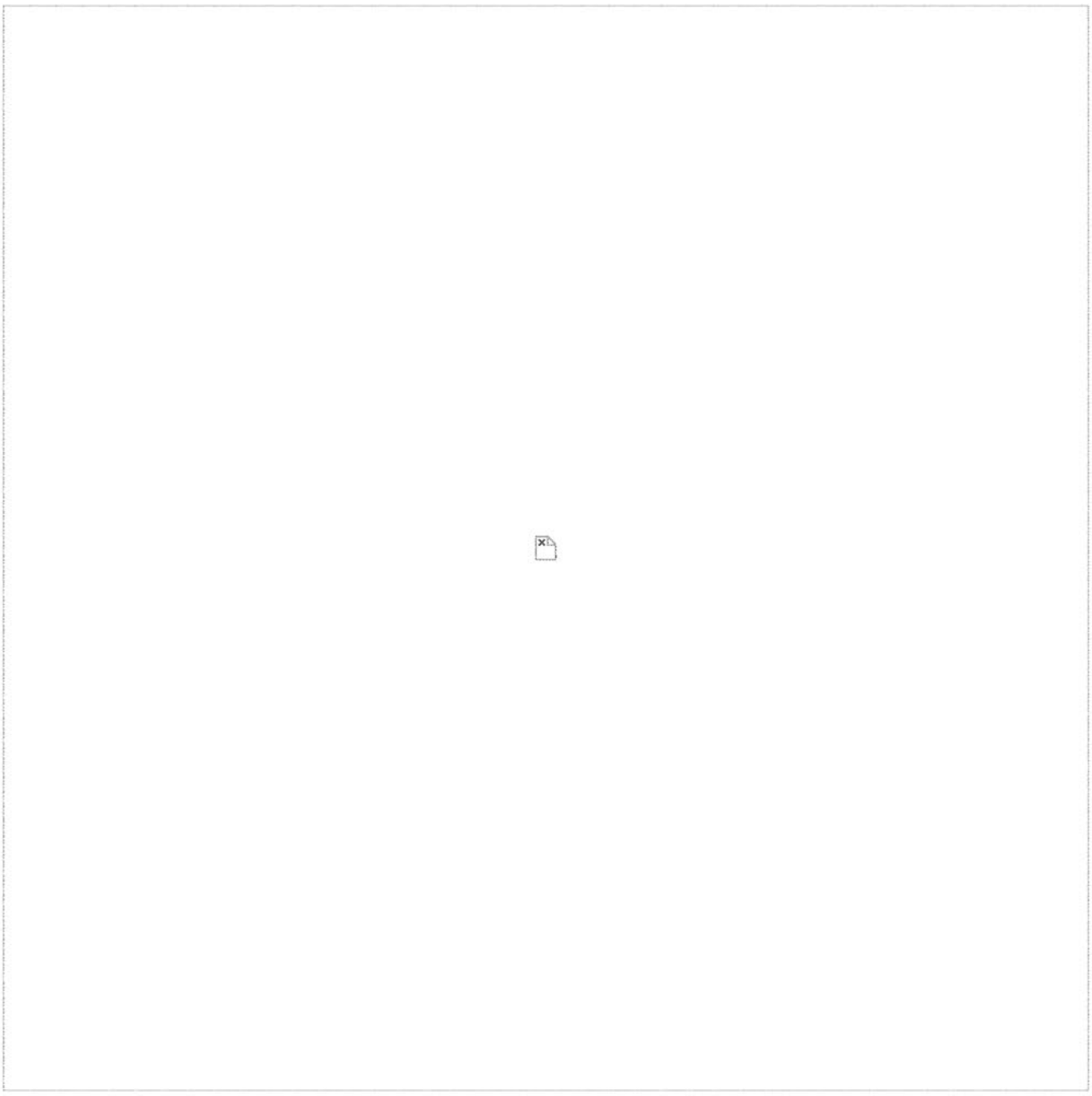

Ralph Baric, researcher and lab leader at North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, sits for a photograph in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, U.S., on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.ILLUSTRATION BY PAMELA WANG. Photo by Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

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

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

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

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

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

was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Katherine Eban

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Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2021 11:17:40 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 13 Apr 2021 11:17:39 AM -0400
Subject: FYI: Sanjay Gupta and the Origins of CoV-2 story
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6
b6

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: b6
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

Date: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 11:02:59 AM -0500
Sent: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 11:02:50 AM -0500
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 David Morens b6 >;

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

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Media Inquiries:
b6
g
iPhone

On Nov 6, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Dear all,

Just wanted to let you know that I found out my name was on a 'kill 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 (b) (6) (b) (6) 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

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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 eter Daszak <
b6 g >; 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:

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

All: I listened in this morning on the webinar on COVID-19 origins that Jeff Sachs moderated under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). I wasn't able to stay until the end of the Q&A, but I did hear the three main presentations. Sachs said that he plans to post the recording of the session (on SDSN?). This was the first of three planned webinars – the second (on global health financing) will take place on November 22, the third (on health system strengthening) on December 8.

Sachs served as moderator. His introduction was fairly mundane. His basic premise was that there are two "absolutely viable" hypotheses for the origin of COVID-19 – either zoonotic or due to a lab leak. (Note that the language he uses – "absolutely viable" – obscures the fact that the evidence differs significantly for each of the two hypotheses. But this was a bias that ran through all of the presentations.) He then argued that we need to follow both lines of inquiry equally, to have a proper understanding of both possibilities. He alluded to the bimodal distribution of most discussion of these questions – with "mainstream media" coming down on natural origins, and "alternate media" arguing for laboratory origins (including in this Senator Burr's Senate Minority Report). He then turned to two "leading scientists" and a "leading reporter" for further perspectives.

The speakers were Alina Chan (Broad Institute), Richard Ebright (Rutgers University) and Emily Kopp (US Right to Know) – no great surprises there.

Alina Chan's main argument was that there is not enough evidence to decide which hypothesis is true, and that all the evidence is circumstantial. She did say that there is no argument over the fact that the pandemic originated in spillover from bats – just a difference of opinion on how and where this happened.

She presented a set of factors that would explain the chain of causation for each of the two hypotheses:

Natural origins
- Earliest cases handled live animals?
- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?
- Were there animal variants of the virus?
- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?
- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

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She then claimed that none of these have been established for SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak
- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans
- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013
- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"
- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses
- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

Richard Ebright was then asked what should be done about improving the oversight of research in this area from the perspective of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. He concurred with Sachs and Chan that the available data do not enable a choice between the two hypotheses of COVID-19 origin. But regardless of where one stood on this question, the research by EcoHealth Alliance, WIV, and their collaborators – according to Ebright – used inadequate biosafety protocols and lacked transparency. Again, according to him, this points to, but does not prove, a research spillover as the origin of COVID-19.

I've attached a screen shot of the slide he shared that lays out his bill of complaint. As you can see, he's fixated on the work that WIV and EHA did from 2016-2019, arguing that, while this doesn't prove laboratory origins, it "exceeds the standard of probable cause" and provides "ample basis to initiate investigation and ample basis to improve oversight." (Like Chan, he also made much of EHA's rejected DARPA proposal, trying to use it as a "smoking gun" for malign intent by EHA and WIV, despite the fact that this research was never done!)

He spent most of his time, however, outlining a basis for and recommendations for improved research regulation and oversight in biosafety, biosecurity, and bio risk management.

Sachs and Ebright had an exchange about the recent news of the creation of a variant of COVID-19 that appeared to be more virulent than Omicron, without the "knowledge or approval of NIH." This was evidence for both of

them of the need for enhanced oversight.

Emily Kopp, an investigative journalist with US Right to Know, then made a breathless presentation about her attempts to bring the truth about COVID-19 origins to light through FOIAs and dogged persistence. The gravamen of her complaint is that much of the relevant research has been underwritten by NIH, DOD, and USAID with taxpayer funds, and conducted in the US (at EHA, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, and UC Davis), yet she and her colleagues have had to file dozens of FOIA requests and lawsuits to get access to what they consider to be relevant information.

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the *Nature Medicine* correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the *Nature Medicine* correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be

aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,
Jeff

Date: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 5:36:03 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 5:35:58 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]

Jerry:

I take your point about the need to proceed deliberately. I like the suggestion of Peter asking NAM to say that he has to consult with colleagues to prepare a response and therefore needs to expand the circle of confidentiality.

This whole situation reminds me of the days of McCarthy and HUAC. It's sad to think that the hyperpartisanship on Capitol Hill is now infecting what should be the more rational precincts of science.

I'm available for a conversation whenever convenient.

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 5:13 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Rich Roberts [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

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 b6
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 b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Rich Roberts 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

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 [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Rich Roberts [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

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

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MORENS_NIH_016221
REL0000482238

Date:	Mon, 20 Mar 2023 5:19:14 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 20 Mar 2023 5:18:32 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: FW: Independent: 'It's a very difficult thing to pin down': Did Covid-19 originate from a 'lab leak'?
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To:	David Morens b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; peter hotez b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.jpg; TF Lab Leak or Not How Politics Shaped the Battle Over Covid's Origin NYT 3-18-2023.docx

Thanks David,

To me they did better than the NY Times did today in addressing the nuances in the competing scenarios.
Jerry

From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; peter hotez b6 Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >
Subject: Fwd: FW: Independent: 'It's a very difficult thing to pin down': Did Covid-19 originate from a 'lab leak'?

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: Mon, Mar 20, 2023 at 1:20 PM
Subject: FW: Independent: 'It's a very difficult thing to pin down': Did Covid-19 originate from a 'lab leak'?
To: David Morens b6

David

David M. Morens, M.D.

CAPT, USPHS (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 496 2264 (assistant: Ms. Sherri DePollar, b6
b6 b6 b6

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2023 9:38 PM
To: David Morens b6
Subject: Fwd: Independent: 'It's a very difficult thing to pin down': Did Covid-19 originate from a 'lab leak'?

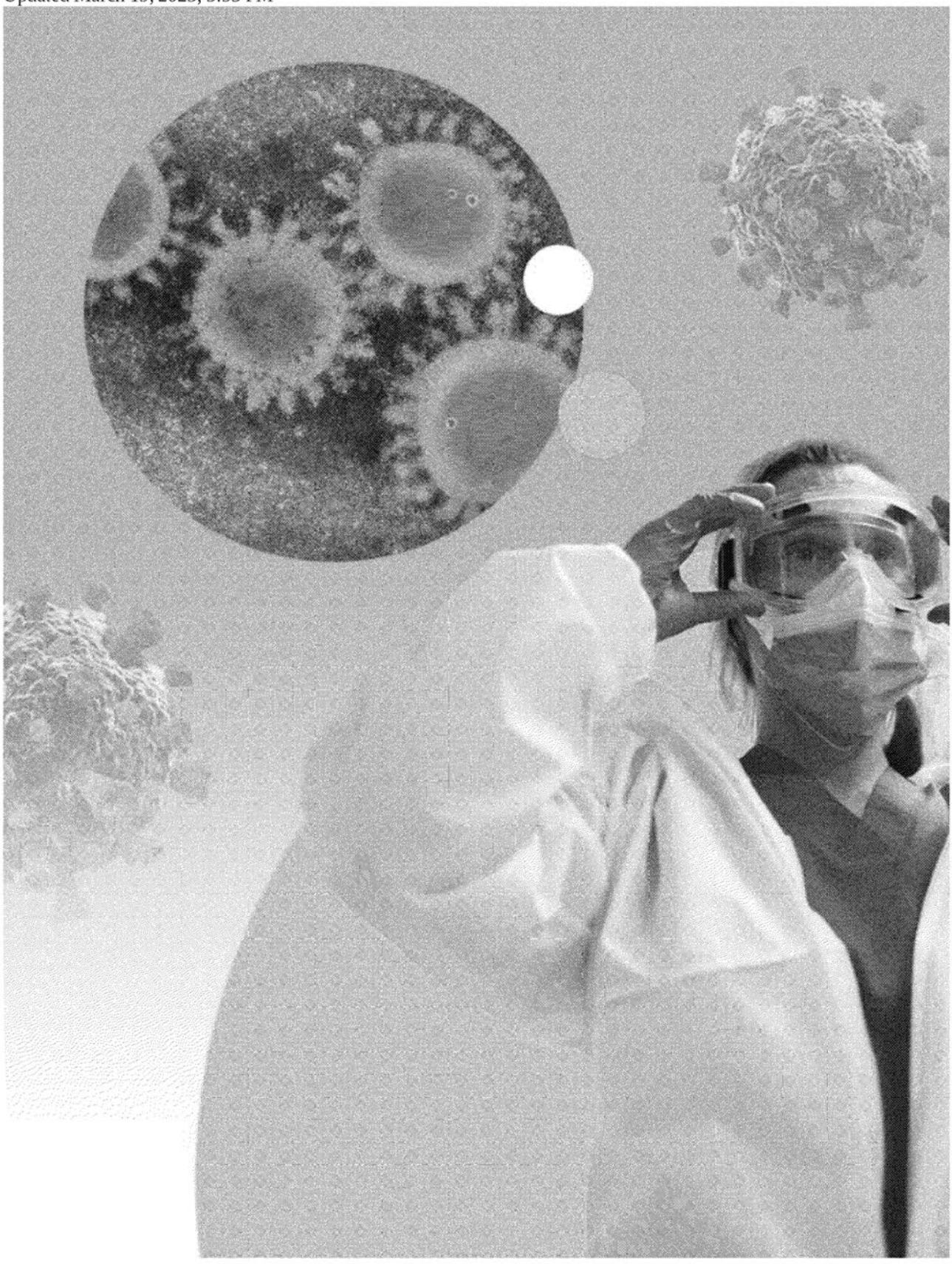
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" b6
Date: March 19, 2023 at 21:21:09 EDT
Subject: Independent: 'It's a very difficult thing to pin down': Did Covid-19 originate from a 'lab leak'?

'It's a very difficult thing to pin down': Did Covid-19 originate from a 'lab leak'?

INDEPENDENT

Josh Marcus
Updated March 19, 2023, 5:53 PM



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MORENS_NIH_039404
REL0000482266

Some US government agencies believe Covid originated from a lab leak in China (Getty/iStock)

In late February, *The Wall Street Journal* published a shocking report. Investigators at the US Energy Department had concluded with "low confidence" that the Covid-19 pandemic most likely originated from a laboratory leak in Wuhan, China.

The finding seemed to fly in the face of measured assurances from scientists and government officials who insisted the disease, like all other pandemics before it, originated when an animal virus crossed over into humans sometime in the fall of 2019 in China. The conclusion, in a space of days, seemed to validate claims from Republican politicos and China hawks alike, which had previously been dismissed as conspiracy theories and over-heated partisan attacks.

The FBI has also concluded, with "moderate confidence," that a Covid lab leak was the most likely origin, while the National Intelligence Council and four other other top government agencies retain a "low confidence" assessment that the disease began zoonotically.

So, has the world of Covid knowledge really been flipped upside down? Not quite, according to coronavirus experts.

According to environmental and occupational health sciences professor Gerard Cangelosi, associate dean for research at the University of Washington School of Public Health, the DOE's findings, which the agency acknowledged it only held with "low confidence," represent a conclusion "slightly better than a coin flip."

"We know nothing for sure," he told *The Independent*, noting that the DOE's evidence for its findings haven't been made public for review. "Anyone who claims to know how it arose is fooling themselves. That should always be established. It really really takes a long time to figure these things out. We still don't know exactly where HIV came from. We don't know exactly where 1918 flu came from. It's a very difficult thing to pin down."

Instead, he prefers to start from what we do know.

"Every single infectious disease that we've ever known arose naturally," he continued. "In most cases, zoonotically, meaning it started in an animal species and made a jump to humans. That alone makes it seem most plausible that's how SARS-CoV-2 started."

The early cluster of cases that began in the fall of 2019 around Wuhan, China, could've still infected workers studying coronaviruses at nearby labs – a lab leak and natural origins are not "mutually exclusive," Professor Cangelosi noted – but the public health expert said there is no evidence that concretely suggests Covid began as an experiment in a Chinese lab and spread across the world after an accident, as many on the right would have you believe.

"The evidence I've seen is largely circumstantial that the Chinese are hiding something," he said. "That's not evidence."

Other experts agree.

"All the evidence available for scrutiny points to the pandemic originating from transmission from live animals to humans," Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan who co-authored one of the major 2022 studies on Covid's origins, wrote this month in *The Washington Post*.

"One thing everyone involved in studying the origins of SARS-CoV-2 seems to agree on — FBI and Energy Department included: No laboratory modification of a virus was involved," she added. "Indeed, there has never been an infection reported as a result of a pathogen generated through gain-of-function research."

Instead, we're left with a mix of uncertainty and educated guesses, a reality when studying pandemics, where the exact contours of a disease's journey around the world are often calculated probabilistically rather than with exact, crime-scene precision.

A Republican-led committee in the House of Representatives held a contentious public hearing on the origins of Covid recently, the first in a planned series and a sign that the debate over the early days of the pandemic isn't going away any time soon. We may never know the precise moment the coronavirus jumped into humans, but the long-running fight over its origins has revealed not only lapses in global pandemic preparedness, but the long shadow of partisanship that might hamstring our response to the next infectious disease that inevitably crosses over.

The first cluster of Covid cases can be traced back to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, according to researchers, where vendors sold animals like raccoon dogs and red foxes in late 2019 that can both get and shed the disease which causes Covid. The creatures were photographed near stalls where scientists later found Covid on surfaces like cages, carts, and machines that process slaughtered animals.

The earliest known patient at the market, later the site of an early cluster, had symptoms as of 10 December 2019, when between 10 and 70 people had Covid worldwide, according to genetic analysis.

Michael Worobey, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona who extensively studied the early days of the disease, told NPR in February that there's an "absurd" level of evidence tying the early outbreak of the disease to the area around the market

"We do have one analysis where we show essentially that the chance of having this pattern of cases [clustered around the market] is 1 in 10 million [if the market isn't a source of the virus]. We consider that strong evidence in science," he told the broadcaster. "The analyses that we've done are telling a very strong story. The evidence is amongst the best we have for any emerging virus."

Professor Worobey's findings were published in an extensive, peer-reviewed paper in *Science* last summer, but there hasn't always been such concrete evidence to work with.

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With so much unknown about Covid's origins, especially during its early days, scientists quickly had to start fending off conspiracy theories as they raced to analyse the rapidly spreading disease.

In a February 2020 letter in *The Lancet*, a prestigious medical journal, a group of top scientists condemn those arguing Covid had an unnatural origin somewhere in a lab in China.

"We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin," the letter reads. "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."

That didn't stop partisan actors from jumping into the fray, such as White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, who speculated wildly that the Chinese wanted to "weaponise" Covid and "sent hundreds of thousands of Chinese nationals over here to seed and spread the virus." Donald Trump, meanwhile, had taken to describing the pandemic with the racist epithet "kung flu."

Eventually, though, questions about the origins of Covid and a possible lab leak entered more scientific quarters.

In May of 2021, another group of prominent scientists called for investigating both the natural spillover and lab leak theory of Covid, writing in *Science* "knowing how COVID-19 emerged is critical for informing global strategies to mitigate the risk of future outbreaks."

"SARS-CoV-2 could have spent some time in a laboratory before encountering humans," one of the letter's authors, Stanford University professor of microbiology and immunology David Relman, explained in 2021. "We know that some of the largest collections of bat coronaviruses in the world — and a vigorous research program involving the creation of 'chimeric' bat coronaviruses by integrating unfamiliar coronavirus genomic sequences into other, known coronaviruses — are located in downtown Wuhan. And we know that laboratory accidents happen everywhere there are laboratories."

That year, following a joint investigation with China, the World Health Organization concluded it was "extremely unlikely" Covid leaked from a lab, though criticisms from both within and without acknowledge that Chinese officials weren't fully forthcoming during the process, blocking access to some forms of patient data. Plans for a second phase of investigation, including potentially auditing individual labs, have been quietly shelved.

"They have not been transparent," then-White House press secretary Jen Psaki said of China after the release of the WHO's initial report. "They have not provided underlying data. That certainly doesn't qualify as cooperation."

She said the report "doesn't lead us to any closer of an understanding or greater knowledge than we had six to nine months ago about the origin" of the virus.

Chinese officials have continued to stand behind the WHO finding.

Chinese Embassy spokesperson Liu Pengyu told *ProPublica* last year "the allegation of lab leaking is extremely unlikely. The conclusion should be respected. … From the very beginning, China has taken a scientific, professional, serious and responsible attitude in origins tracing."

The official said some in the American political and media sphere "distort facts and truth" and should "stop using the epidemic for political manipulation and blame games."

As the pandemic deepend, the blame games ratcheted up in intensity, as Republican officials continued to insist there was a shadowy truth behind the origins of Covid. In an infamous July 2021 exchange, Senator Rand Paul, alleged that Dr Anthony Fauci lied about the federal government funding research so-called "gain of function" research on novel coronaviruses in Wuhan that could've made them more contagious, alleging the long-time health leader was "trying to obscure responsibility for 4 million dying around the world from a pandemic".

"Senator Paul, you do not know what you're talking about, quite frankly, and I want to say that officially," Dr Fauci said. "You do not know what you're talking about."

"You are implying that what we did was responsible for the deaths of individuals. I totally resent that," he continued. "If anybody's lying here, senator, it is you."

That fall, *The Intercept* reported on documents showing that the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, headed by Dr Fauci at the time, had in fact funded a nonprofit called the EcoHealth Alliance, which partnered with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) in the past, complicating Dr Fauci's testimony in May of 2021 that the NIH doesn't and hadn't funded such work.

It's unclear whether Dr Fauci was aware of the EcoHealth Alliance work. A 2014 award to the Chinese research institute explicitly stated the money couldn't be used for gain-of-function work, and none of the viruses listed in write-ups of the experiments performed under the grants are closely related enough to Covid-19 to spark an accidental evolution into the disease, according to *The Intercept*. The NIH told the news site it reviewed the nonprofit's work and concluded that it didn't qualify as gain-of-function research, an analysis some scientists have questioned.

Other Republican-led efforts yielded more pointed questions about Covid's origins.

In the Senate, the committee on health, education, labour and pensions, led by then-senator Richard Burr of North Carolina, who has been recognised for his work on biodefence issues, concluded in an October 2022 report that Covid was "more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident."

Investigators poring over opaque Chinese government reports about the lab work underway in Wuhan described a culture of intense pressure to produce prestigious scientific discoveries, mixed with worrying safety lapses and an effort to scale

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up the country's bio-research apparatus before it had capacity to oversee it properly.
Ambiguous archived reports from the WIV spoke ominously of seeming references to past lab safety and biosecurity problems, describing a swift response "every time this has happened" and an urgent set of visits and communications from top Chinese government officials in the fall of 2019 surrounding some unnamed matter. Past inspections of the facility in 2011 and 2018 found issues with viral sample storage, and the Senate committee concluded that "the WIV struggled to maintain key biosafety capabilities at its high-containment BSL3 and BSL4 laboratories," referring to a classification of labs conducting the most sensitive levels of viral research.
What's more, a declassified US State Department fact sheet noted that the "US 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 common seasonal illnesses."
"This raises questions about the credibility of WIV senior researcher Shi Zhengli's public claim that there was 'zero infection' among the WIV's staff and students of SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-related viruses," according to the document.
Even ostensibly neutral attempts at finding information around Covid's origins quickly descended into acrimony and accusations of cover-ups.
In 2022, the eminent economist Jeffrey Sachs disbanded a high-profile *Lancet* commission working on the origins of Covid, arguing the scientists he'd helped select for the project had conflicts of interest, accusing them of hiding their past work with the WIV and EcoHealth Alliance. (Those involved with the panel have argued they had completely normal contacts with the institute, a center of international viral research that regularly works with outside researchers, contacts that made them a better fit to serve on the investigative commission.)
Mr Sachs, meanwhile, has attracted criticism for attempting to sit in on commission-members' sometimes sensitive interviews with Chinese researchers, and for doing a podcast interview in August of 2022 with Robert F Kennedy Jr, a leading anti-vaxxer.
Seemingly wherever any group of experts and officials got together, acrimony, doubt, and politics tended to overshadow the scientific discussion. It's a legacy that can be felt even in the comparatively dry confines of academic journals.
In October of 2022, another group of experts published their findings on the origins of Covid in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
"Considerable scientific peer-reviewed evidence supports COVID-19's origin as a zoonotic infection within the wildlife trade, as in many prior outbreaks," they wrote. "While a laboratory leak cannot be ruled out, no verifiable evidence or scientific data are available to support this interpretation."
"However, laboratory accidents do happen, and no independent formal audit of the Wuhan laboratory facilities has been possible in the wake of geopolitical conflicts," they added.
In the face of such dispute and unceratiny, University of Washington's Professor Cangelosi understands, in a certain way, the appeal of the lab leak theory, that a phenomenon as complex and far-reaching as the Covid pandemic could have one culprit who made a mistake in one moment. However, he cautions against using inquiries into the disease's origins as a weapon of political blame. Instead, he said, they should be about helping us prevent future outbreaks.
"It might steer people, even people who are not politically inclined and have no ill will, it might steer them towards what they think will be a simple solution, which is shut down the labs in china," he said. "Actually that will do nothing at all."
Humans and animals will continue living side-by-side. Humans will continue doing research about viruses. Laboratories will continue to have issues. The key point, he said, is to take the lessons learned in this pandemic about the effectiveness of mRNA vaccines, the need for rapid and widespread viral surveillance, the crucialness of mass stockpiles of personal protective equipment, and make sure we're ready for the next pandemic.
We may never know where this infectious disease first began, but we know for a fact it won't be the last of its kind.
Originally published March 19, 2023, 5:16 PM

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Date:	Mon, 22 Aug 2022 9:02:28 AM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 22 Aug 2022 9:02:22 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
From:	"Roberts, Rich" [b6]
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6];
CC:	David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6];
Attachments:	image001.jpg

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]

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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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

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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]g>
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
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_011011
MORENS_NIH_021754
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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 Moren [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.

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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

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

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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 <chm 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
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USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai 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.

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Cheers,

Peter

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---

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

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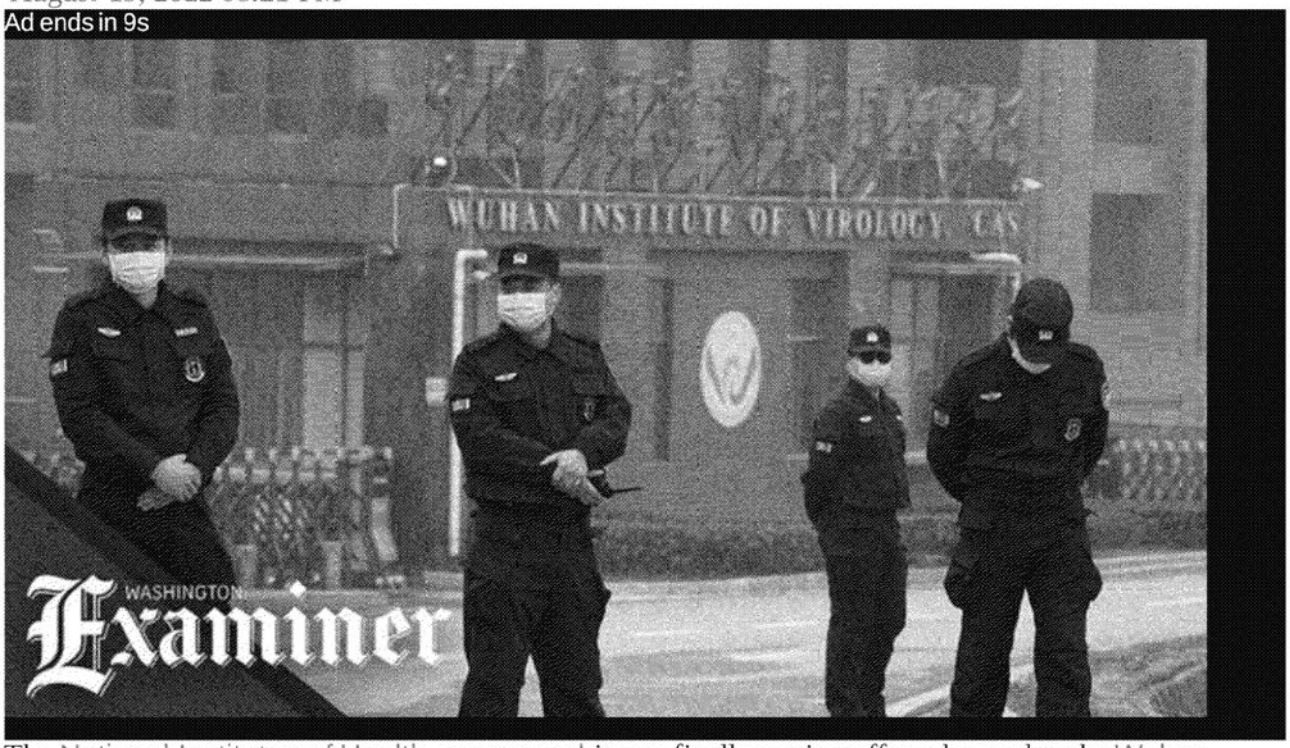
by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM



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.

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"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China .

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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MORENS_NIH_021760
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

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

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MORENS_NIH_021761
REL0000482283

Peter Daszak
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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

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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] g >; 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]

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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: 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.

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MORENS_NIH_021764
REL0000482283

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_011022
MORENS_NIH_021765
REL0000482283

Date:	Mon, 14 Jun 2021 10:49:08 AM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 14 Jun 2021 10:48:46 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Inflammatory op ed in Bloomberg: If Covid Did Escape From a Wuhan Lab, Brace Yourself. The world's anger will be terrible to behold
From:	Roberts, Rich [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6]
CC:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>;
Attachments:	image003.jpg

The idea of a free press with no constraints is running out of control

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 14, 2021, at 12:44 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER

Below is a really inflammatory op-ed, essentially giving free reign to bring the pitchforks out, should the lab leak theory be 'proven'. Given that in the US the people doing the 'proving' are the same intel agencies that Pompeo is quoted as saying "We lied, we cheated, we stole", then that's not a good omen for the safety of our fellow scientists, in particular yours truly!

https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-06-04/if-covid-did-escape-from-a-wuhan-lab-brace-yourself?sref=X9N3NABa

Cheers,

Peter

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

Technology & Ideas

If Covid Did Escape From a Wuhan Lab, Brace Yourself

The world's anger will be terrible to behold.

By
Stephen L. Carter
June 4, 2021, 6:00 PM EDT
<image003.jpg>

Did it all start right here?
Photographer: Hector Retamal/AFP/Getty Images

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His novels include "The Emperor of Ocean Park," and his latest nonfiction book is "Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster."
Read more opinion Follow @StepCarter on Twitter
COMMENTS

Ever since President Joe Biden ordered U.S. intelligence agencies to investigate reports that the Covid-19 virus might have escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan, commentators have argued over what difference it makes if the theory turns out to be right. Here's why the answer matters: The discovery that the virus had a human origin would give the coronavirus saga what it's lacked: a villain.

And that's a problem.

If a virus that has killed nearly 600,000 people in the U.S. and close to 4 million around the world turns out to have escaped from a laboratory in China, the formless fear that has immobilized most of the world for the last year and a half, at last given a target, might coalesce into fury.

And fury, when widely shared, is hard to control.

Don't get me wrong. It's important to know the truth, and some degree of anger might be good for us. One of the many tragic features of the pandemic has been the way that efforts at public dialogue about causes, remedies, and, yes, whether the virus itself might be human-made, were for the most part stilted and lost, the angry murmurings of a people all but immobilized by anxiety.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017216
MORENS_NIH_035407
REL0000482284

To be sure, we sought villains as best we could: The whole mess was Donald Trump's fault, the shutdowns were a power grab by blue elites, the real problem was bureaucratic incompetence. But this was mostly the performance of pain without adequate information.

We can include in this category the pretense that scientists were certain that Covid-19 was not of human origin — and that those who suggested otherwise were dangerous cranks. That fantasy was exploded by the meticulous reporting of the veteran science writer Nicholas Wade in an article published in May in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Wade's persuasive case that the novel coronavirus escaped containment at the Wuhan Institute of Virology — which was conducting research on altering viruses so they would more easily jump from animals to humans — has reopened a debate we should have been having all along. Biden's order is a consequence.
But here's where one might worry. Research on risk perception shows that we tend to fear human-made harms more than natural ones, even when the natural ones have greater likelihood or severity. Some research suggests that human-made harms make us angrier too.

The distinction makes sense. It's easy to hate, say, a terrorist group like ISIS. There's no point in hating an earthquake.

But anger generally doesn't do us any favors. Some people think better when they're angry; most think worse. Moreover, there's a well-known finding in social science that anger leads us to be irrationally optimistic about our ability to solve a problem.
It may be, as Ross Douthat has suggested, that a confirmation that the Covid-19 virus escaped from a Chinese laboratory would lead to a major propaganda advantage in the geopolitical battle over hearts and minds. Such victories matter. But they're not likely to satisfy the all-too-literal American mind, which, when roused to anger, invariably seeks more concrete satisfactions: invade this, regulate that, throw so-and-so in jail. Anger seeks catharsis, often in the urge to "do something." Lots of bad policy is driven that way.

The Sept. 11 experience offered a catharsis because the nation was able to strike back. On the other hand, the intensity of national fear and anger created an atmosphere in which it was difficult to engage in serious public debate about the merits of the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

What about regulation? Perhaps evidence that Covid-19 was of human manufacture would bring about international consensus that all experiments on viruses that might jump to humans should be carried out at a higher level of biohazard safety. As Wade points out, however, the problem is often less what the rules demand than what researchers find convenient. (It's not as though deadly viruses have never escaped containment in the West.)

Besides, as the British astrophysicist Martin Rees reminds us in his 2003 book "Our Final Hour," rules are not universally followed. No matter how strictly we regulate the handling of dangerous microbes, Rees writes, "the chances of effective enforcement, worldwide, are no better than current enforcement of laws against illegal drugs." Just a single rule-breaker, he notes, "could trigger widespread disaster."

Which is to say that even if the Covid-19 virus didn't escape from an improperly contained lab, sooner or later one will.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017217
MORENS_NIH_035408
REL0000482284

Which brings me to my final thought.

Biden's order to the intelligence agencies was a good thing. But the 90-day deadline smacks of political theater. The U.S. needed two decades to figure out what went wrong at Pearl Harbor. We had trouble tracking Osama bin Laden to a compound he had reportedly occupied for five years. That we will uncover the truth about the origin of the pandemic in three months seems ... unlikely.

If the Covid-19 virus does turn out to have escaped from a Wuhan laboratory, even by accident, the world will erupt in fury. The pressure to "do something about it" — to find a way to punish China for its negligence and its coverup — will be intense. So here's my modest suggestion, should that unhappy situation arise: Whatever we decide to do, let's take the time to think things through, rather than acting out of unreasoning anger.

This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

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Date:	Wed, 21 Apr 2021 1:37:16 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 21 Apr 2021 1:37:14 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
To:	Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments:	image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; EthpINRUYAEONCM.jfif

Great cartoon at the end. D

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

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Date: April 21, 2021 at 13:23:19 EDT
To: "Roberts, Rich" b6 >, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6 >, Keusch Gerald b6 >, Robert Kessler b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Cc: "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Subject: RE: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_019991
MORENS_NIH_039823
REL0000482308

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Daszak Pete b6
Keusch Gerald b6 Kessler Robert b6 ; Chmura Aleksei <
b6 g >
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Subject: RE: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

David:

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

Rich

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Daszak Peter b6 ; Keusch Gerald b6 ; Roberts, Rich <
b6 ; Kessler Rober b6 ; Chmura Aleksei < b6
>
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Fwd: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < b6
> **Date:** April 19, 2021 at 8:28:05 PM EDT
> **Subject: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before**

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019992
MORENS_NIH_039824
REL0000482308

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019993
MORENS_NIH_039825
REL0000482308



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

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

Many of the creatures were alive, added Dr Holmes, who remembers seeing one bludgeoned in front of him.

"An animal had got out or something, and somebody was clubbing it," he said, mimicking the hand actions over Zoom. "I think it was a racoon dog, though I couldn't quite see. It was pretty confronting."

Dr Holmes added that he is unsure whether the Wuhan CDC ramped up disease surveillance or introduced new safety measures in the years preceding the pandemic, and the China CDC has not responded to *The Telegraph*.

The Huanan market gained global notoriety when the first cases of Covid-19 (initially reported as a "mystery pneumonia" on December 31, 2019) were found in people who worked and shopped there.

Of the initial 41 people hospitalised with pneumonia who were officially identified as having Covid, two-thirds were exposed to the market, which was closed and sealed off by the Wuhan authorities on January 1, 2020.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019994
MORENS_NIH_039826
REL0000482308



Inside Huanan food market in October 2014. Dr Eddie Holmes described the site as dirty, not particularly crowded, but with areas full of wild animals in crates Credit: Eddie Holmes

Experts believe the site played a significant role in the initial circulation of Covid-19, either as the site of the initial "spillover" event where an animal virus jumps to humans, or as an "amplifier" of the early epidemic.

A report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the origins of Sars-CoV-2 provided crucial details. Though it said "no firm conclusion" could be drawn on the precise role of Huanan market, it found the virus most likely jumped from bats to humans via an as-yet-unknown animal.

The wildlife trade in general, and wet markets in particular, have long been linked to the emergence of new pathogens. There is evidence Sars jumped to humans at markets in Guangdong, China in 2002 and data points to similarly a significant role in 2019.

In early 2020 Chinese researchers collected close to 1,000 samples from Huanan market – swabbing everything from rubbish bins, doors and stalls to stray cats and mice – and found widespread contamination "compatible with introduction of the virus through infected people, infected animals or contaminated products".

Meanwhile, of the first 168 Covid-19 cases, roughly a third had a connection to Huanan market. Genome sequences from some of those in this group found eight of the earliest samples were identical, confirming there was an outbreak there.

Yet the first person with a known link to Huanan market became ill on December 12, four days after the first known case. This suggests Covid-19 may have been spreading under the radar in several parts of Wuhan simultaneously before Huanan market amplified circulation.

The joint WHO-China team also found no evidence that live wildlife was still sold at the market – though noted that both Dr Holmes' pictures and "unverified photographs and videos in media reports" suggest otherwise – and none of 457 animal samples taken from the market between January and March 2020 tested positive for Sars-Cov-2.

The report added: "The manager informed the teams the market was cleaned twice a day, morning and evening. Pests and rats are sought out and killed; holes were closed. Rigorous cleaning was done once or twice a week. Even though there are rooms above some stalls, vendors were not allowed to live in the market."

But Dr Holmes and others, including members of the WHO team, believe more samples need to be taken to "follow the animals", and caution that finding wildlife involved in the early transmission chain is like finding a needle in a haystack.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019995
MORENS_NIH_039827
REL0000482308

It is also possible that the virus was introduced to the market by an already infected person involved in earlier stages of the wildlife trade.

Live wild animals in crates stacked ontop of each other, taken in October 2014 during Dr Eddie Holmes' trip to the market Credit: Eddie Holmes

"We know how easily Sars-Cov-2 spread from minks to mink farmers in Europe," said Dr Dale Fisher, an expert in infectious diseases and chair of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. "So it's likely this could happen on a farm, and the farmer was the index case who then took it to the market, where there was a super-spreading event.

"But evidence points towards wildlife. And whether it's been plague on rats, or Ebola on bats and primates, or Sars-1 on civet cats and bats, camels for Mers – historically these outbreaks all had species jumps and then amplification events," he told the *Telegraph*.

It is estimated that birds and mammals harbour roughly 700,000 viruses with the potential to jump to people, while 70 per cent of new emerging infectious diseases come from wild animals. Places where numerous species mix in close quarters with humans, with few biosecurity measures in place, are high risk.

Just this week, the WHO issued new guidance urging countries to crack down on wet markets and suspend the sale of captured live wild animals as an "emergency measure" to protect public health.

"In my mind, the wildlife trade is the most likely source of it. The role of that market is still uncertain, but there was clearly a lot of transmission and to me it smells like there's a strong link – we need to follow it through," Dr Holmes said.

"My concern is that the finger pointing has got so bad, will that happen? I think China just doesn't want it to be China… so then the question is, are we actually going to see all the data? I honestly don't know. But the more the politics gets into it, the less likely we will."

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_019997
MORENS_NIH_039829
REL0000482308

Date: Sun, 25 Jul 2021 4:36:42 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 25 Jul 2021 4:36:32 PM -0400
Subject: Re: explicit language warning!
From: "Hotez, [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]>;
Attachments: Outlook-whaa4ygz.png

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



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Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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b6
Phone b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

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 b6
Cc: Robert Kessle b6
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

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President

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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]
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 was of SARS-CoV-1 so that we could prevent SARS-CoV-2.'

Dr. Fauci praised the 'qualified, highly respected Chinese scientists' that the National Institutes of Health had collaborated with at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and defended the funding of bat coronavirus research in China.

Fauci added: 'So, it was research that was done by qualified people. Right now, when there's all of this thing about China, that's a different situation now back then when you're dealing with qualified, highly respected Chinese scientists. So it isn't what was made out to be about dealing with really, really bad people. Because those scientists were very well-respected in the scientific community internationally.'"

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Keusch, Gerald T 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
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021154
MORENS_NIH_042001
REL0000482322

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_021155
MORENS_NIH_042002
REL0000482322

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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] g >
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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] Iotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Robert Kessler < [b6]
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021156
MORENS_NIH_042003
REL0000482322

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

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 >
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!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay 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

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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

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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 >; DRURY, Patrick Anthony b6 Ken Maeda b6 M.P.G. Koopmans (b6 Hayman, David < b6 >; IVANOVIC, Dragana < b6 Dr. Elmoubasher

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MORENS_NIH_042008
REL0000482322

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.

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

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Date: Mon, 17 May 2021 4:20:18 PM -0400
Subject: Details of BSL-2/3/4 levels for viral cultures
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
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

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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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: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:27 PM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' b6 'Keusch, Jerry b6 >; 'Rich Roberts 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

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(b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Jerry b6 b6 Rich 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 Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- b6 b6 b6
- (b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:11 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research
https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research

In a tense exchange Tuesday with Sen. Rand Paul, longtime NIAID Director Anthony Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied his institute has funded gain-of-function research.

By Daniel Payne

Updated: May 15, 2021 - 11:44am

A prominent Columbia University virologist claims that in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic a U.S. nonprofit funded coronavirus experiments in Wuhan, China the results of which were used in "gain-of-function" virology research at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Vincent Racaniello made the claim amid ongoing controversy over a recently resurfaced interview between himself and Peter Daszak, the president of the U.S. infectious disease nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.

Both EcoHealth Alliance and the scientist leading the research at UNC have been heavily funded over the years by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been directed since 1984 by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the public face of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic under Presidents Trump and Biden.

Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied that NIAID has funded gain-of-function research in a tense exchange Tuesday 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

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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.

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Date: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 5:52:59 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 5:52:55 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>;
CC: b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 Garry, Robert F

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
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 b6
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 [b6] wrote:
>
> I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).
>
> https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21
>
> No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie, Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)
>
> President
> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA
>
> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org
>
> > On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F [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.

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Date: Tue, 21 May 2024 12:04:40 PM -0400

Sent: Tue, 21 May 2024 12:04:29 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

From: Keusch, Gerald [b6]

To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>; Peter Daszak [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]>;

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

Another approach, I have contacted my Congresswoman and my two Senators imploring them to intervene with the Democratic members of the Select Subcommittee about the dangerous and consequential actions being taken against Peter, David and Tony. I have raised it to the level of an existential challenge to the survival of science, and a persecution without justification of the three of you. I don't know if it will resonate with them, but I will let you know if I hear anything back.

I have also provided Jocelyn Kaiser with material to write further about the SSCP actions and important ambiguities and misinformation in Tabak's testimony. Her response back to me was "Got it ". I don't know what that means other than she is pondering the issues.

Jerry

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

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

b6

From: Peter Daszak [b6]g >
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]g >; 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.

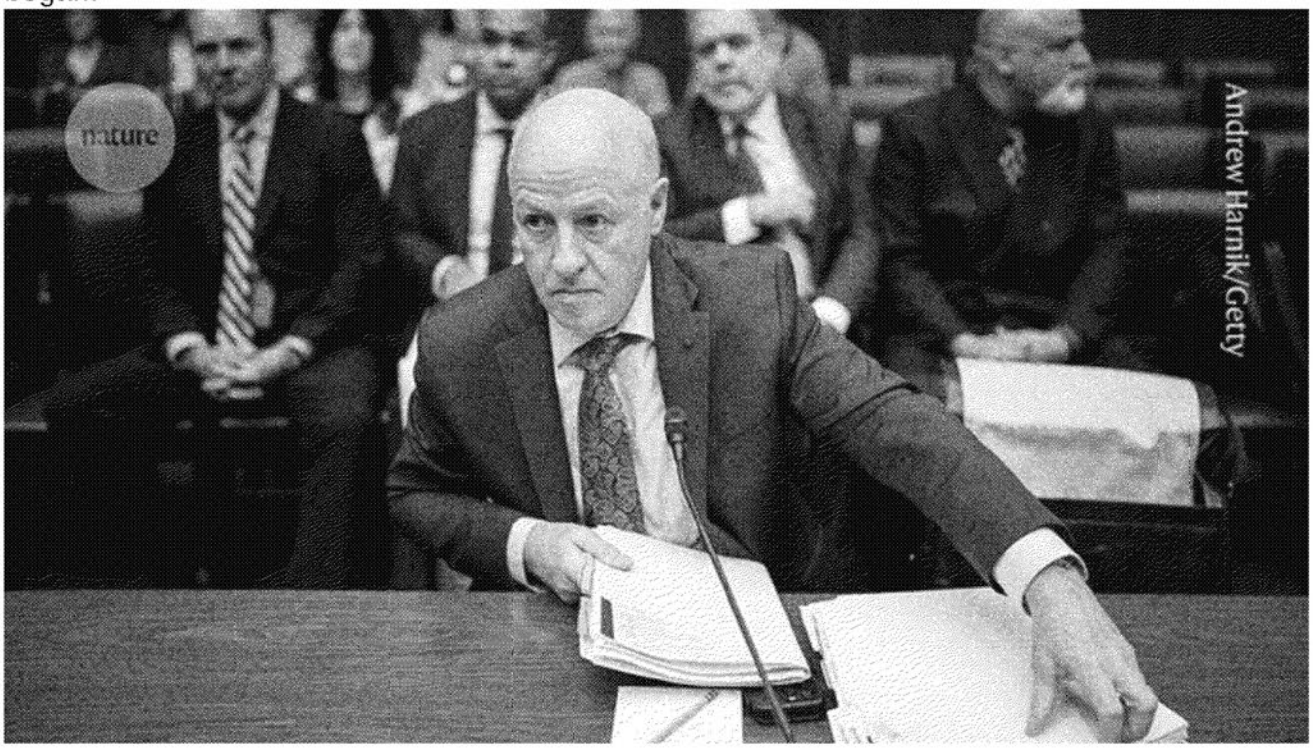
Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

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

b6



Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 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

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MORENS_NIH_046787
REL0000482469

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Keusch, Gerald b6
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: 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; 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
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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:	Fri, 7 Jun 2024 6:16:30 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 7 Jun 2024 6:16:27 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: NASEM service
From:	Keusch, Gerald [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Keith Martin [b6] >;
CC:	Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.png

Hi Peter,

I will delay any discussion with other NAM members until you know what this is all about. Jerry

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald [b6] Rich Roberts [b6] >; David Morens [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] >; Keith Martin [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: FW: NASEM service

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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---

From: Symmes, Gregory [b6]
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Daszak, Peter [b6]
Cc: Wood, Tash [b6] Alison Andre [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <

b6 >
Subject: RE: NASEM service

Hi Peter,

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

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

My executive assistant Tasha Wood will follow up with your colleagues to find a convenient time for us to talk.
Best,

Greg

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
Acting Chief Operating Officer
b6
b6
NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

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From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 7:43 PM
To: Symmes, Gregory [b6]
Cc: Wood, Tasha [b6]; Alison Andre [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: NASEM service
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Symmes,

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

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

MORENS_NIH_047194
REL0000482474

Cheers,

Peter

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

---

From: Symmes, Gregory <b6
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Daszak, Peter b6 g >
Cc: Wood, Tasha b6
Subject: meeting request

Dear Dr. Daszak,

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

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

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

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best,
Greg Symmes

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
Acting Chief Operating Officer
b6
b6

NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

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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

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004239
MORENS_NIH_011219
REL0000482477

Peter Daszak

President

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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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Roberts, Rich 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004242
MORENS_NIH_011222
REL0000482477

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

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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.

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

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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

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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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_004247
MORENS_NIH_011227
REL0000482477

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

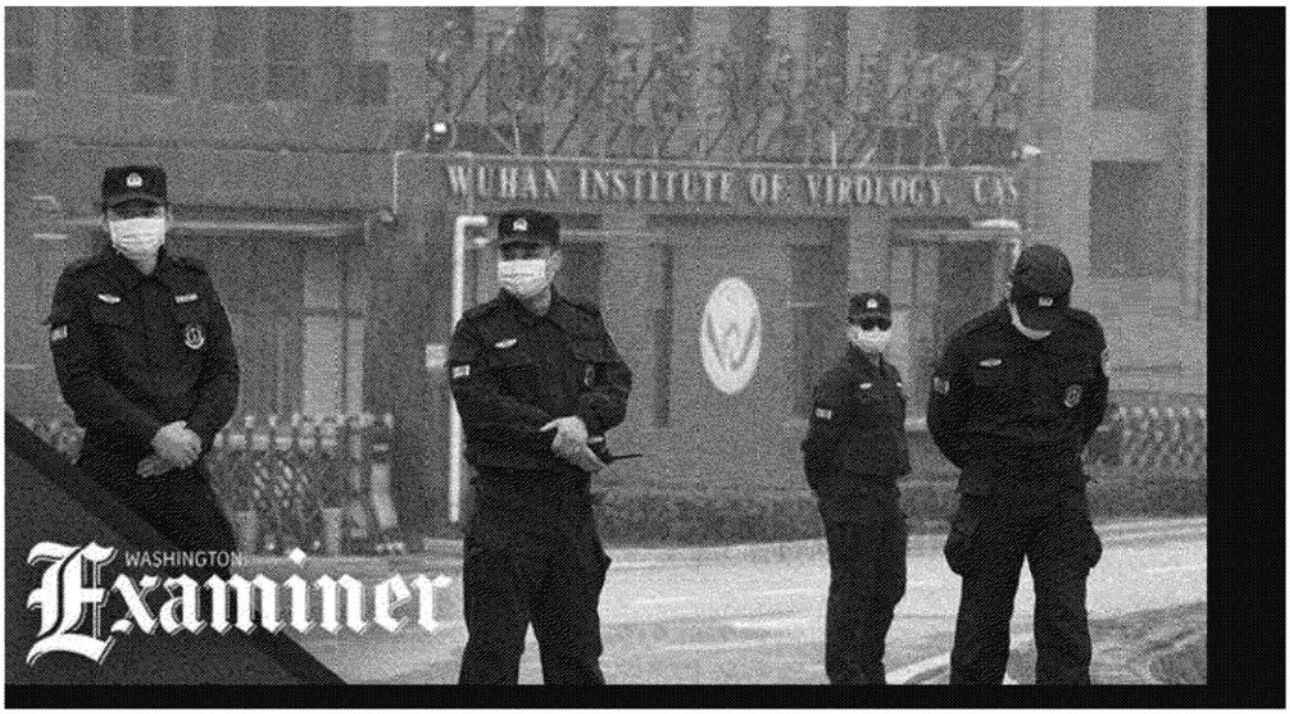
WUHAN LAB

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_004249
MORENS_NIH_011229
REL0000482477

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: Thu, 23 May 2024 10:05:19 AM -0400
Subject: Re: RE: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing
From: kuuipo9 [b6]
To: Peter Daszak <[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 [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:12 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; 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

MORENS_NIH_044734
REL0000482503

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_044736
REL0000482503

Date:	Wed, 4 Aug 2021 12:12:26 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 4 Aug 2021 12:11:19 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: House report on Origins
From:	"Roberts, Rich" [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6];
CC:	David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Attachments:	[b6]

Peter:

It never stops. Best to lie as low as possible – something that animals in Africa learned a long time ago.

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: Monday, August 2, 2021 5:59 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: FW: House report on Origins

EXTERNAL SENDER

More attempts to discredit me from the Republicans.

Just forwarding this to Rich and Peter. The Republicans in the House Foreign Affairs Committee have released a 'Covid-19 origins report' in advance of the White House intel report. It re-hashes all the usual conspiracies with no new information at all. However, they are now accusing me of following orders from China in 'covering up' COVID's origins and asking for me to be subpoena'd. Today I've been called the 'Public Face of China's Disinformation Campaign' by one right wing press outlet, and I expect this will drive a follow up cycle of abuse and offense from the Murdoch Press. In fact, I've received multiple requests for comment from reporters already including Josh Rogin in the Washington Post, reporters in the Washington Examiner etc.

Here are some articles:

https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/house- report-names-public-face-of-chinas-disinformation-campaign-on-covid-origin/

https://news.yahoo.com/peter- daszak-subpoenaed-wuhan-lab-183600491.html

https://nypost.com/2021/08/02/gop- investigation-proves-covid-leaked-from-wuhan-lab-report/

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world- news/2021/08/02/covid- did-leak-wuhan-lab-say-republicans-want-subpoena-british/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Jerry b6
b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/
NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net >; Eddie Holmes b6
>; Kessler, Robert b6 Wang Linfa b6
b6
Subject: FW: House report on 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 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6

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From: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:19 AM
To: NIAID OD AM <b6>
Subject: House report on Origins

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Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:59:41 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:58:57 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

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

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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 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: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:11 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >, Gerald Keusch [b6] >, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >, Rich Roberts [b6] >

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%7Ce38355b807d74ad739b208db8b9e3302%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=dOmWTIObhW0xFLXW0ewBZuJrpaW%2FluUeBp%2BIJN2NKpo%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [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%7Ce38355b807d74ad739b208db8b9e3302%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=ZSkccnKRpDOp2hfHqr4H3TOezSsEhHbMIu0KUiFffiE%3D &reserved=0

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: 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

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Date: Mon, 7 Jun 2021 12:57:00 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 7 Jun 2021 12:56:51 AM -0400
Subject: Re: ASF and all this may come up in interviews
From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry <keusch@bu.edu>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Peter:

Maybe best to disable the phone for most of the day - or change the number.

Rich

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 7, 2021, at 12:44 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER

Well I really appreciate that! It was a horrible interview – they spoke to me for hours over the days up to it giving the impression it would be a balanced review of what the WHO team found in China, but clearly they saw that the lab leak was the breaking story and didn't even mention wildlife farms or markets! Please pass on my appreciation to your wife.

Having a very bad weekend frankly. Hate phone calls keeping me awake at night and I've just seen that the social media people have finally discovered the hate-website that someone's put up accusing my father of being a Nazi (www.peterdaszak.com). Villagers gathering with pitchforks as we speak!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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, June 7, 2021 12:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter:

My wife and I watched the 60 Minutes coverage, which was better than I had remembered. My wife thought you were very good!

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, June 6, 2021 11:54 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Roberts, Rich < [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

EXTERNAL SENDER

Wonderful that you're able to get information up the chain and I'm really relieved and hope that it will be useful and that this won't be weaponized politically.

The quote came out in the Financial Times on Saturday (attached PDF). The relevant quote is here:

'But he [Fauci] also admits that some of the work undertaken at the Wuhan lab using NIH money could have violated safety standards — even if he says responsibility for that lies with EcoHealth Alliance, the non-governmental group that performed the work. "We will have to go back and look at that," he said of accusations that some of the coronavirus work was undertaken at biosafety level two, roughly equivalent to that in a dentist's office. "But that is something that should have been monitored by EcoHealth Alliance." EcoHealth Alliance said: "As with all research organisations, EcoHealth Alliance must follow the local laws of the countries in which we work."'

Of course, for EHA this is very concerning because even though we've followed the appropriate rules, their complexity means that the public may not understand, and when you add comments like the journalists have above: "work…could have violated safety standards", it's just used to cast doubt and try and besmirch our name as usual.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 b6>; Keusch, Jerry b6 b6; Rich Roberts b6; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Subject: FW: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter, the below CONFIDENTIAL email went to Tony and to our OD staff, so that Tony will be prepared to speak to the subject of BSL…

This was what I was typing up when we spoke last night. I am sure he will "get" this and be able to respond to the crazies if necessary….

<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
b6

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<image002.jpg>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:36 PM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>; Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Subject: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

In the recent Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists article, we have this quote

"It is clear that some or all of this work was being performed using a biosafety standard—biosafety level 2, the biosafety level of a standard US dentist's office—that would pose an unacceptably high risk of infection of laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2…."

My understanding is that human coronaviruses including sarbecoviruses are routinely worked at in BSL-2 around the world as are many other viruses that can cause problems for people. The BSL level designation is decided by each country and is not related to perceived pandemic potential but largely to risk to the BSL workers.

For example, BSL-4 designation generally means deadly virus, infectious by aerosol, no vaccine against it, and no treatment for it. So, although rabies is 100% fatal in humans, it can be prevented by a vaccine and prevented by a post exposure serum, and (probably if not totally) not infectious by aerosol, thus it is BSL-2 even though among the deadliest of human viruses. Working with non-human coronaviruses at BSL-2 is widespread since these viruses are not known to infect humans.

David, Alan and others may have additional thoughts.

Attached is a fact sheet that I think comes from Ec~Health

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Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 5:45:47 PM -0400
Subject: Re: SSCP public hearing
From: kuuipo9 [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6] [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

It was an awful experience – Republicans repeatedly calling for us to be debarred, Democrats saying 'while ecohealth didn't cause covid, their behavior with Federal grant compliance raises serious questions as to whether they should receive federal funding in the future'.

I did a good job from what I'm hearing overall, on defending our work, and the issues they're coming after us on are of no real consequence (a late NIH report, margin notes in a draft proposal etc.), but used to paint a picture of a deceptive organization. I've spoken with Jeff about why the Dems are seemingly ready to throw us under a bus, and he believes it's partly because the SSCP has come up with nothing and this would be a 'scalp' for them to wave around. Secondly, the politics for the Dems are all about winning in November, so they're happy to defend NIH and point the finger at EcoHealth, even though many of the issues they highlighted were due to NIH bureaucratic sluggishness, rather than any genuine issue with EHA.

We're going to pick apart the democrat and Republican reports finding-by-finding, draft rebuttal statements and probably set up a press conference next week. The next phase will now be fighting to try to make sure we aren't debarred.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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 1, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was

Possible

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
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 1, 2024, at 2:35 PM, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:26 AM
To: David Morens < b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 peter hotez b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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 om

From: David Morens < b6
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Jeffrey Sturchio < b6 peter hotez b6 Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Fwd: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

MORENS_NIH_044684
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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** b6
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 08:26
Subject: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
To:

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

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

By Katherine Eban
May 1, 2024

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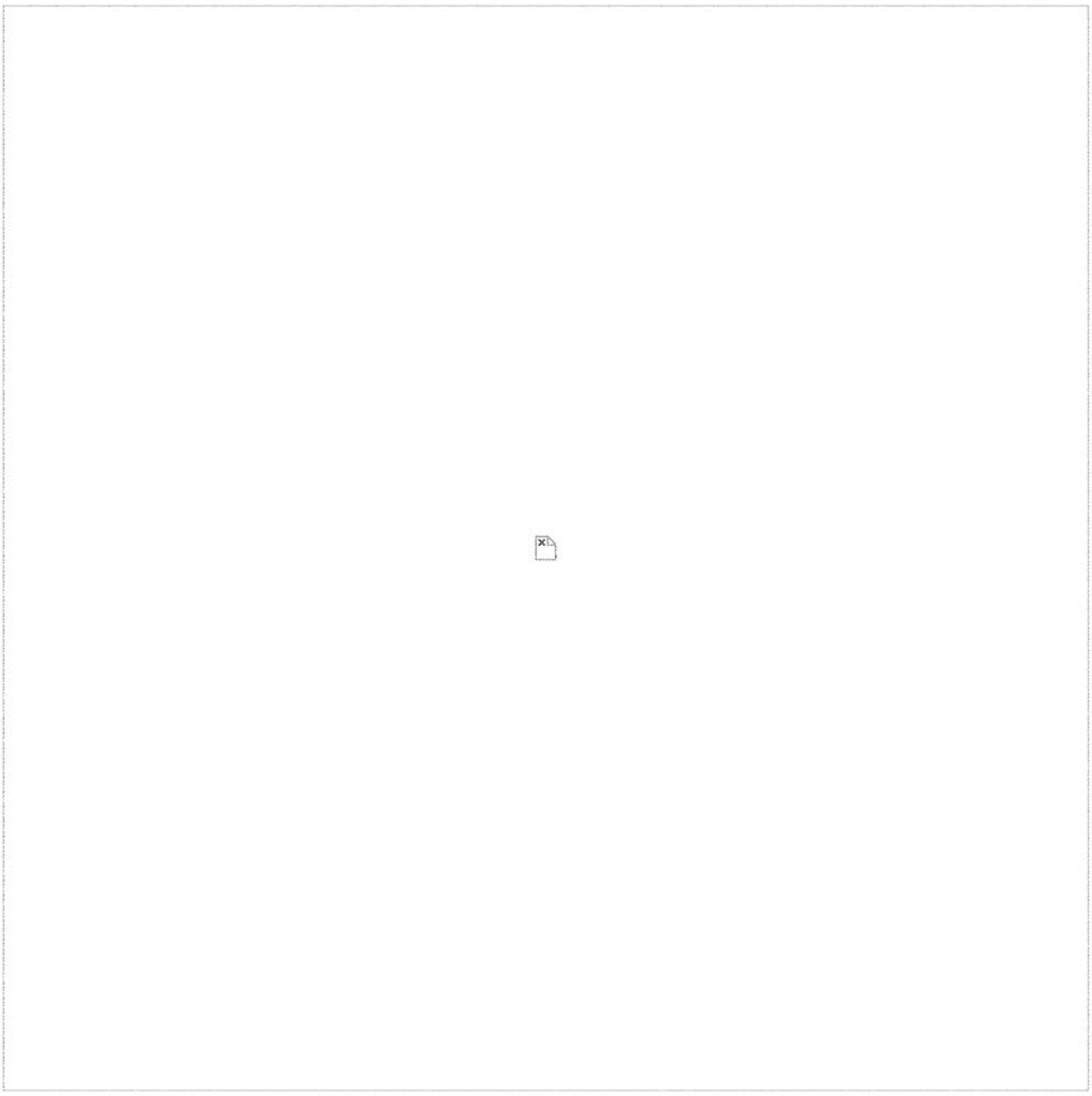

Ralph Baric, researcher and lab leader at North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, sits for a photograph in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, U.S., on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.ILLUSTRATION BY PAMELA WANG. Photo by Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

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

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

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

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

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

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was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Katherine Eban
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Secret Warnings About Wuhan Research Predated the Pandemic

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

By Katherine Eban

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Date: Mon, 30 Jan 2023 2:24:18 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 30 Jan 2023 2:24:07 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Scheduling the Anti-Science Brainstorm Session
From: Alison Andre [b6]>
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]

Hi David,

Yes, we're confirmed for 1:00pm on Wednesday February 1. I have your gmail address on the invite but I'm worried it might not have gone through. I'm including the zoom info below and I will send another invite too.

[b6]

Meeting ID [b6]
Passcode: [b6]

Best,
Alison

On Mon, Jan 30, 2023 at 2:17 PM David Morens [b6] wrote:
Alison, I am not sure I ever got a calendar invite. Is it still on?

TY,

david

[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 Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 10:43 AM Alison Andre [b6] > wrote:
>
> Hi David,
>
> No problem at all and I hope you are feeling better. Wednesday February 1 works for the group so I'll send around a calendar invite now.
>
> Best,
> Alison
>

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>
>
> On Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 8:55 AM David Morens [b6] wrote:
>>
>> Alison, i think either would work, thanks
>>
>> Sorry i haven't responded, i have been out of the loop this week with some health issues. david
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> David M Morens
>> OD, NIAID, NIH
>>
>> On Jan 20, 2023, at 09:48, Alison Andre [b6] > wrote:
>>
>>
>> Hi David,
>>
>> Following up from Peter's email, most of the group is available on Monday January 30 at 12:00-1:00pm ET or Wednesday February 1 at 1:00-2:00pm ET (preferable). Would either or both of these options work for you?
>>
>> Best,
>> 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.
>
>
>
> --
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> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

MORENS_NIH_033429
REL0000478119

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

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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

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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 (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002903
MORENS_NIH_009419
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share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

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Date:	Tue, 25 May 2021 8:07:56 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Fox News: Tucker Carlson: Fauci, the WHO, and mainstream media lied about COVID origins for more than a year
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
To:	Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Attachments:	image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: May 25, 2021 at 07:47:35 EDT
Subject: Fox News: Tucker Carlson: Fauci, the WHO, and mainstream media lied about COVID origins for more than a year

Tucker Carlson: Fauci, the WHO, and mainstream media lied about COVID origins for more than a year

Published 6 hours ago

'Even as of now, the US government has not launched and broad and serious investigation into where the coronavirus came from'



By Tucker Carlson | Fox News

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MORENS_NIH_039327
REL0000478203



Actually, it looks like this virus did come from a lab in China. Nearly a year and a half into the pandemic, that's the new consensus in the American media. Boy, these things change fast. There are holdouts of course. Just today, over at the Washington Post, a China shill called Michael Gerson wrote a hilariously overwrought column entitled:

"The right is dwelling on slanderous myths about the origins of COVID-19." The radical right! Slanderous myths! Russian QAnon sleeper cells slandering the Chinese government! It's pretty funny. The good news is, it's almost over. You're probably not going to see a lot more columns like that going forward. The nonsense is finally dying down.

At other parts of Michael Gerson's own newspaper, we've learned, they're working on new stories about how the virus did in fact escape from the lab in Wuhan. So, the debate among serious people over the origins of COVID appears to be pretty much winding up. Pretty much every sane person acknowledges at this point that the government of China likely caused the single worst man-made disaster in human history. As if we need more evidence, over the weekend, the Wall Street Journal reported that the first people infected with COVID-19 were probably researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In November of 2019, three of them were taken to the hospital with symptoms. The Journal did solid reporting, but it wasn't entirely new. Back in January of this year, the State Department issued a fact sheet telling the entire country the same thing.

They said the first COVID patients were not hungry patrons of the local wet market, reckless diners who gorged themselves on pangolin and bats. No, they weren't. The first patients were researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Clearly, they'd been infected at work, while working on the

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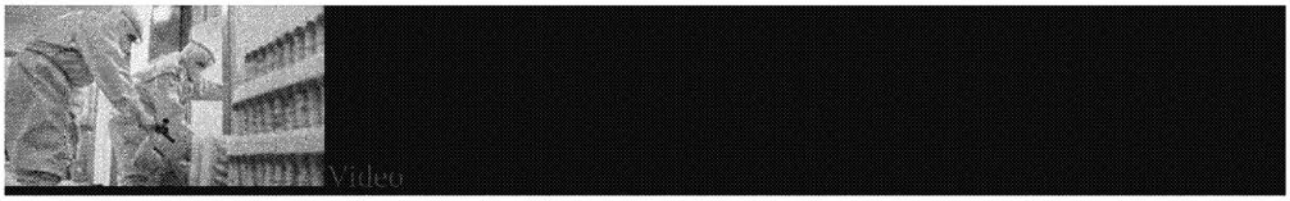
virus. If you were trying to understand where COVID came from, and you should be if you want to prevent future pandemics, that State Department in January told you a lot. Yet it was ignored.

In fact on Monday, Tony Fauci himself — the man in charge of our whole response to COVID-19 — told CBS News that he never even heard about the State Department's findings on the Wuhan lab. He had no idea.

In other words, Fauci's own employers, the U.S. government, publicly released compelling evidence that the virus that he has devoted his life to fighting, did not come food, but instead escaped from the very bio lab that Tony Fauci has sent American tax dollars to fund.



Yet somehow Tony Fauci didn't know this. He didn't know it till he read this weekend's Wall Street Journal. It was news to him. Bolt from the sky. Totally new information.

Can we really believe that? No, of course, we can't. In fact, we have heard that on or about November 19, 2019, right around the time those Chinese researchers became the world's first COVID patients, the government of Thailand contacted the CDC and Tony Fauci's office to say its intelligence service had picked up "biological anomalies" around the lab in Wuhan. In other words, there had been a leak.

We can't confirm this, though we believe it to be true. We do know that several other allied foreign governments, including the governments of France and Australia, have gathered evidence showing the virus escaped from a Chinese lab. Yet Tony Fauci, who runs the whole thing, didn't know any of this? Come on. Of course he did.

Fauci has known from the beginning the virus may very well have come from that lab. Many people have known that. Fauci just lied about it for more than a year. In May of 2020, in an interview with the willing dupes at National Geographic, he told you that, as one of the world's most eminent scientists, there's really no chance COVID-19 was engineered by human hands.

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FAUCI: If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what exists now, it's very, very strongly leaning towards that could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated. The way the mutations have naturally evolved. A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in the wild, then jumped species.

"A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists." Really? Where are those scientists today? Is there, for example, a single working virologist on planet earth who'd come on this show right now and dismiss the Wuhan lab leak idea out of hand as ridiculous — or quote "outrageous," as Francis Collins of the NIH once did?

We doubt there's a single working virologist who would dare to do that. But not so long ago, the entire scientific and public health establishments did that very thing. So, what's changed? Not the science. The science remains precisely the same. Only the politics have changed.

And that gets you thinking. Now that we know what we know about the Wuhan lab — and we know that, of course, Fauci has known it too for a very long time, how could he not — it's pretty remarkable to go back and look at Fauci's public statements about COVID and the government of China.

Keep in mind, he knew that it was at least possible that this virus came from that Wuhan Lab. Yet he did this interview with our David Asman with Fox Business in January of 2020. Keep in mind that Tony Fauci was perfectly aware that China may have created this virus, and he knew for a fact that the government of China was lying, covering its tracks, and pushing the world health organization to do the same. Imperiling the entire planet as they did that. Tony Fauci did that, yet he said this anyway:

DAVID ASMAN: Dr. Fauci - China has been known to fiddle with their stats before. Do you trust what they are telling us about this illness?
FAUCI: From what I can see they really are being much more transparent.

You read that, you look back over the last year in light of what we now know, and you ask yourself, how does Tony Fauci still have a job? Seriously. What kind of country gives this much power to

someone who's proven himself to be serially dishonest and incompetent? It's scary we'd allow that. Especially in public health. Meanwhile, and this is the most galling part, those few journalists and scientists who told the truth about what happened in Wuhan were punished for telling the truth. They were attacked by CNN, censored by Facebook, denounced by their colleagues. They were destroyed in some cases. Where's their apology? Who's paying into their reparations fund? No one of course.

Here's someone who deserves to be rehabilitated immediately. His name is Professor Stephen Mosher. He's an expert on China and a very brave person. You'd need to be to say what he said in February of 2020, back when mass lockdowns seemed like something they only did in China, Mosher came on this show and told the truth:

MOSHER: Well, I think it escaped from the lab because we have the Chinese government basically telling us that it did…Wuhan is the only level four laboratory in all of China. So that's where you would put a dangerous pathogen, whether you were genetically engineering it to be a weapon or not, that's where you would be experimenting on it. So it makes sense that the epicenter of the epidemic, that the lab there would be the source of that virus.

So you read that, and you think that guy was on to something. He was smart, he was honest, he connected the dots. For his trouble, for telling the truth, Steven Mosher was immediately denounced as a conspiracy nut. Meanwhile, the liars and China's shills got richer and more powerful.

The WHO, which followed China's instructions and told the world that COVID wasn't really transmissible by air, now has the full support of the Biden administration. In fact, Joe Biden rejoined the WHO, with no conditions. This is despite the fact American intelligence can prove that the WHO lied, and people died as a result of those lies. Even as of now, the U.S. government has not launched any broad and serious investigation into where the coronavirus came from. If you can imagine.

At the same time, they're telling us we need a 9/11-style commission to understand every facet of the January 6th events at the capitol. But the pandemic that killed three million people and destroyed the west? Which it has. Never mind. We'll let someone else figure it out.

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This article is adapted from Tucker Carlson's opening commentary on the May 24, 2021, edition of "Tucker Carlson Tonight."

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MORENS_NIH_039332
REL0000478203

Date: Fri, 24 Mar 2023 10:15:52 AM -0400

Sent: Fri, 24 Mar 2023 10:15:48 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Daily Caller: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul, Rep. Chip Roy To Introduce Legislation To Eliminate Fauci's NIAID

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6

To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >;

CC: David Morens b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

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 b6
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
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 b6

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

Media Inquiries:
b6
b6

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 g >
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.

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The three new institutes would be the National Institute of Allergic Diseases, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute of Immunologic Diseases. The directors of each new institute would be appointed by the president, subject to Senate confirmation, and limited to no more than two 5-year terms.

"We've learned a lot over the past few years, but one lesson in particular is that no one person should be deemed 'dictator-in-chief.' No one person should have unilateral authority to make decisions for millions of Americans," Paul told the Daily Caller before introducing the legislation. **(RELATED: Rand Paul Introduces Legislation To Repeal Federal Mask Mandate For Public Transportation)**

"To ensure that ineffective, unscientific lockdowns and mandates are never foisted on the American people ever again, I've introduced this bill to eliminate Dr. Anthony Fauci's previous position as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and divide the role into three separate new institutes. This will create accountability and oversight into a taxpayer funded position that has largely abused its power and has been responsible for many failures and misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

READ THE LEGISLATION HERE:

(DAILY CALLER OBTAINED) — ... by Henry Rodgers

"From the earliest days of the pandemic, unaccountable public health bureaucracies proved themselves far more adept at ruining lives than saving them. Never again should a single individual, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, wield unchecked power and influence over the lives of the American people. Breaking up Dr. Fauci's taxpayer funded bully pulpit into three separate agencies — and requiring Senate confirmation for all their future directors — is one of many actions necessary to allow the American people to hold public health agencies accountable," Roy, who introduced an identical House version of the bill, said in a statement. **(RELATED: EXCLUSIVE: Sen. Rand Paul Demands NIH Preserve All Documents, Communications In Fauci's Possession)**

The legislation is currently cosponsored by Utah Sen. Mike Lee, Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn, Indiana Sen. Mike Braun and Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley.

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Date: Wed, 19 May 2021 11:15:57 AM -0400
Subject: RE: National Pulse: EXC: Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan Lab Journal.
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Attachments: image003.gif; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.png

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

Preposterous…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: [b6]
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: FW: National Pulse: EXC: Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan Lab Journal.



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012612
MORENS_NIH_024000
REL0000478282

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

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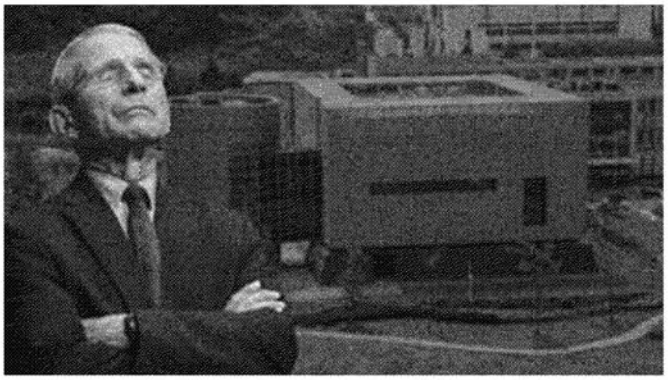
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID ODAM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: National Pulse: EXC: Fauci Underling Serves On Board for Wuhan Lab Journal.



- Exclusive

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

- May 18, 2021
- Natalie Winters

The Wuhan Institute of Virology's scientific journal – which has discussed controversial "gain-of-

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function" research – counts scientists from Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) on its editorial board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Editorial Board members.

Beyond establishing additional ties between Fauci's NIAID and the Wuhan Institute of Virology – including multiple conferences involving scientists from both entities – the journal has also discussed gain-of-function research. These unearthed

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connections follow Fauci insisting his agency never participated in gain of function research at the Chinese lab during an exchange with Senator Rand Paul.
A 2017 article from Virologica Sinica notes:
*"To identify the DENV entry factors, Amara's group carried out a **gain-of-function** complementary DNA(cDNA) screen for host proteins that allow the minimally susceptible cell line 293T to be infectable by DENV (Carnec et al., 2015)"*
"Simultaneous gain-of-function and loss-offunction assays were performed by transfecting cells with or without related miRNA inhibitors. After 24 h, Act-D was added into the culture medium," one study notes.
Another study references the practice, commenting "two main approaches can be undertaken in such screens: gain-of-function, in which a library of overexpressed proteins is used in order to induce or amplify restriction."
Listen to this article

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Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 3:55:04 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 3:54:49 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Daily Mail speaks out about the OIG report
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>;
CC: Peter Daszak [b6] David Morens [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6]

Daily Mail is in a race to the bottom with Fox News

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in 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]
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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 2:53 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

Peter:

Incredible. You should stop reading this crap.

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: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 3:47 PM
To: David Morens b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Daily Mail speaks out about the OIG report

EXTERNAL SENDER

According to the Daily Mail, it's a 'bombshell' report about the 'now-notorious' EcoHealth Alliance….

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article- 11676679/Covid-lab-leak-fears-Federal-report-says-NIH-failed-tabs-Wuhan-lab.html?ito=social-twitter_dailymailUK

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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 12:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

You are right

I will point out that the problems in NIH OD, and the problems in NIAID are very different. In the past, the 27

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015487
MORENS_NIH_032380
REL0000478291

Institutes/Centers have always functioned independently, and some, including some small ones, have done pretty well when not being interfered with

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

d

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 12:01, Hotez, Peter Jay b6 wrote:

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

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in 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: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:38 AM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

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

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MORENS_NIH_032381
REL0000478291

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 (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

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

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

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

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

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015489
MORENS_NIH_032382
REL0000478291

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015490
MORENS_NIH_032383
REL0000478291

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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---

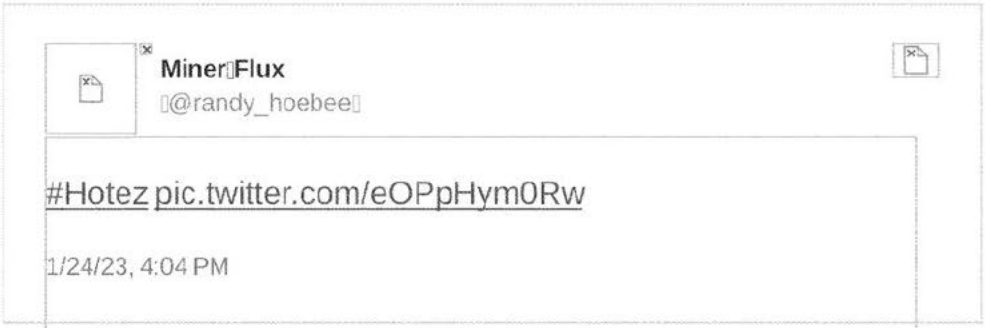
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak [b6 g >; Aleksei Chmura [b6 >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

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

As ever,
Jeff

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

Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter



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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015492
MORENS_NIH_032385
REL0000478291

Date: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 12:40:52 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 12:40:47 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Please help!
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
CC: Roberts, Rich b6 Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

I'm happy to support Peter in any way, 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

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

iPhone

On Oct 2, 2021, at 11:39 AM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

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Yes absolutely. It's usually better to email on a week day. Would Monday be OK or do you think quicker reaction to that awful paper is better?
Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 2, 2021, at 12:32 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:
>
> Peter:
>
> Finally located a good contact at Elizabeth Warren's office.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: [b6] [b6]
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email [b6]
>
> **From:** Peter Daszak [b6]
> **Sent:** Saturday, October 2, 2021 10:55 AM
> **To:** Gerald "Jerry" Keusch [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; peter hotez [b6]
> **Subject:** Please help!
>
> **EXTERNAL SENDER**
>
> Sorry to do this but I'm under pressure here and Jeff sachs' latest discrediting of our name publicly is not helping. Apparently a letters been sent to my board calling on them to fire me.
>
> It's being reported in the NY Post today. Let me know if you can't read it on this link.
>
> https://www.google.com/amp/s/nypost.com/2021/10/01/calls- grow-for-ouster-of-wuhan-lab-tied-daszak-as-head-of-nyc-health-nonprofit/amp/
>
> My board chair is Nancye green - she's v supportive but everyone has limits. Her email address is (b) (6)
>
> Would you be willing to write an email to her this week to express your support for me and disgust at the way we are being attacked? It might be good to also mention that ecohealth has a critical mission that needs to stay the course through these ugly politics.
>
> Sorry to be so blatant but I'm worried that this level of attack is hard to stand up against.
>
> Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

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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)

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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_002361
MORENS_NIH_008877
REL0000478309

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:01:04 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:19 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

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

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

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Peter Daszak b6
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:11 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >, Aleksei Chmura b6 >, David Morens b6 >, Gerald Keusch b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >, Rich Roberts b6 >

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

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New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:
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&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C80a8f0ba66f34e2848b808db8a0c110e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=wnuQEEobuY3vvYWr8ipEKArfT%2BdbwPJ36aknSy%2Bo2IA%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%7C80a8f0ba66f34e2848b808db8a0c110e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=cEnSz6V3TiMxO1GFThXz1FW0AVuOpIJFFK7Hn2MB8gI%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

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Date: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 11:03:29 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 2 Oct 2021 11:03:05 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Please help!
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6];
CC: Gerald Jerry Keusch [b6] Rich Roberts [b6] David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

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

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail [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 Oct 2, 2021, at 9:55 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

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

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

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

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

My board chair is Nancye green - she's v supportive but everyone has limits. Her email address is [b6]

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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

[b6]

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Date: Sat, 18 Sep 2021 12:05:27 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 18 Sep 2021 12:05:21 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Garry, Robert F [b6]
CC: Wang Linfa [b6] Edward Holmes [b6] >; Jason Gale [b6] Stephen Goldstein [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] Robert Kessler <kessler@ecohealthalliance.org >; David Morens [b6]

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

https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21

No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie, Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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

[b6]

> 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.

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_009466
MORENS_NIH_019953
REL0000478343

Date:	Tue, 30 Apr 2024 4:14:32 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 30 Apr 2024 4:11:29 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	kuuipo9 [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]
CC:	Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] John Feigelson [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments:	image001.png

Thanks David.

As I mentioned to some of you on the chain, we're getting disturbing information that the Republicans will be calling for EcoHealth to be debarred. We're also hearing that the Democrats will issue a report tomorrow that says:

"EcoHealth Alliance did not cause the pandemic, but that it had questionable behavior when it comes to complying with federal funding rules which raises questions about whether the organization should receive federal funding.

The instances where questionable behavior is alleged include:

- The 2-year delay in submitting Year 5 report for the NIAID grant that ended in 2019 and the claim, which the report says it's not backed by evidence, that there was a tech issue when EcoHealth Alliance tried to submit the report within the deadline;
- Whether Peter properly represented to NIAID whether the work on WIV1 could be considered gain of function;
- Whether virus growth above 1 log should have been reported and when;
- Whether Peter misrepresented who was in possession of bat coronavirus samples ahead of the NIAID grant suspended in 2020 being restarted;
- The lack of transparency about the Lancet letter in February 2020.

This is obviously a really bad turn of events, but not unexpected considering the way the Democrat staffers attacked me during my transcribed interview. They are obviously focused on protecting NIH, Fauci and therefore Biden. It's a shame they're willing to throw us under the bus in the process..

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

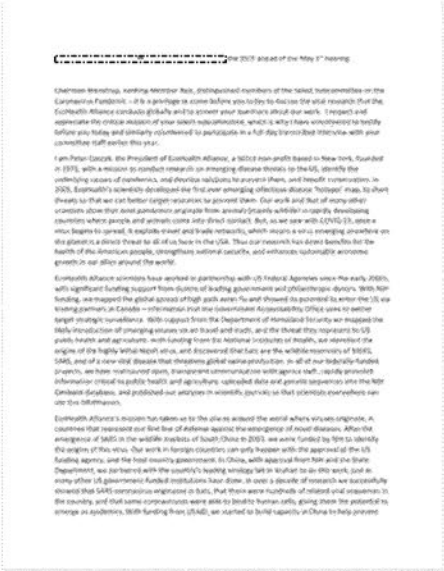
EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 3:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Subject: Re: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

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

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

> My opening statement is now up on the SSCP website -
>
> 
> Daszak-Testimony
> PDF Document · 48 KB
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
>
> President

MORENS_NIH_047678
REL0000478346

EcoHealth Alliance

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

b6

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]g >
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

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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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 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
Cc: "Agee, Jennylee" b6 "Chalfie, Martin" b6 Martin Chalfie "Everly, Rebecca b6 ich 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

MORENS_NIH_047681
REL0000478346

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

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

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

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

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

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

Warmest regards, Peter

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

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Media Inquiries:
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iPhone

MORENS_NIH_047683
REL0000478346

Date: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 11:53:43 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 4 Apr 2024 11:50:03 PM -0400
Subject: RE: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Regarding April 4, 2024 Announcement by the House Energy & Commerce Committee
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] peter hotez [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]

Great to hear that David.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:29 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] peter hotez [b6] effrey 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

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Date: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 5:34:38 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 5:34:13 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.
From: Edward Holmes [b6] >
To: Jason Gale [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6]

It really doesn't get much lower than Wade. It really doesn't.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
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 18 Aug 2021, at 7:00 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

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

---- Original Message ----

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: JASON GALE [b6]

CC: [b6]

At: 08/18/21 00:51:28 UTC+10:00

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021646
MORENS_NIH_042524
REL0000478369

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

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Tel.: (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Garry, Robert F [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: [b6]
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

Thanks Peter,

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

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

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

Bob G.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021647
MORENS_NIH_042525
REL0000478369

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:40 AM
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: [b6] [b6] >, " [b6] Robert Garry <
Subject: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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

By Nicholas Wade | August 17, 2021

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021648
MORENS_NIH_042526
REL0000478369

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More significant, the Chinese government would have found it much harder, if not impossible, to manipulate the World Health Organization (WHO) into setting terms of reference that favored China's obstructive goals and kept WHO inspectors who visited China this February from accessing records vital to understanding the origin of

the pandemic. China now insists those terms of reference cannot be changed, blocking further investigation into the origin of the SARS2 virus. "The two groups that produced the infamous letters in *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* paved the way for the Chinese government and helped enormously to facilitate all of that," says Milton Leitenberg, an arms control expert at the University of Maryland. The reversal of the virologists' conclusion about SARS2's artificial origin is thus a matter of some significance.

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

_A key email from Kristian Andersen to Anthony Fauci.

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

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

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

The participants included Fauci and possibly his nominal boss, Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. (Farrar says in *Spike* that Collins was present, but Collins's name is not on the list of invitees in the Fauci emails.) Officials on the UK side were Farrar and Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the UK government. The others were mostly virologists, including Andersen, Holmes, and Andrew Rambaut of the University of Edinburgh.

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

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

At the conference there was a notable imbalance of power between the virologists and the officials. Fauci and Farrar together control a large portion of the funds available for virological research in the Western world. A virologist keen to continue

his career would be very attentive to their wishes. Two of the conference participants had multimillion-dollar grant proposals under final review with NIAID at the time of the call.

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

RELATED:

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

_A Jeremy Farrar email about the teleconference.

Whatever was said at the meeting, it was followed by a remarkable and almost immediate about-face. By at most three days later, Andersen had executed a 180 degree turn in his views about the virus. In an email of February 4, 2020 to Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, which had directed NIAID funds to Shi, Andersen wrote, “The main crackpot theories going around at the moment relate to this virus being somehow engineered with intent and that is demonstrably not the

case." The email was obtained by U.S. Right to Know, an investigatory group.

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

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

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

Farrar had a direct hand in the two letters that went out to the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*. He was a signatory of the *Lancet* letter, a draft of which Daszak, the organizer of the letter, began circulating just five days after the conference. The letter sought to squelch all discussion of the possibility that the virus had escaped from a lab by deriding it as a conspiracy theory. When Daszak wrote an article in the

Guardian elaborating on the same theme, Farrar promoted it with a tweet, saying "as always worth reading @PeterDaszak."

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

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

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

Nor does Andersen's. In a June interview with the *New York Times,* he painted a picture that includes a change of mind on the possible engineering of the virus "in a matter of days, while we worked around the clock," and then that quick reversal being buttressed by drawn-out research.

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

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

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

been inserted into SARS2 in a lab.

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

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

RELATED:

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

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

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

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

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

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

One of the more informative suppressions of data was the closure of China's main database on bat and other viruses. Zhengli Shi, China's leading expert on bat coronaviruses, told the BBC that it was taken off line because of numerous hacking attempts. It's conceivable that in January 2020, after the pandemic broke out, people

without authorized access might have tried to hack into the database. But in fact the database went off line on September 12, 2019. Who would have wanted to hack into a bat virus database back then? More likely, that is the date at which Chinese authorities realized they had a virus escape problem.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 6:26 PM
To: Jason Gale b6
Cc: (b) (6) ; b6 Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) ; b6
Subject: RE: feedback on wild animals

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

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service

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National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
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b6 b6 b6
(b) (6)

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From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Garry, Robert F <[redacted]
Subject: Re: feedback on wild animals

Thanks, David.

I just got off a video conf call with the current editor in NY (the one asking all the latest questions). He's very nice and I feel like he gets its. He thinks it's a fascinating story.

Problem we have in journalism is that there are some people who aren't interested in actual journalism and telling stories; they want to climb to the top and manage people. I rejected the latter route 10 years ago, but am so grateful that I still get to meet so many remarkable people, visit cool places and see all aspects of humanity.

A difficulty working for a NY-based organization is that it's assumed that all the best people are in NYC, so being in Melbourne (where I need to be to be close to my kids in Adelaide), is that folks consider Australia a backwater and, by association, I mustn't be all that important/valuable. But my new role as "global biosecurity czar" is helping somewhat.

Ahhhhh... Office politics!

From: [redacted] At: 08/15/21 09:03:03 UTC+10:00

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

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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]
> At: 08/15/21 01:45:11 UTC+10:00
>
> Looking forward to this important article. Truth is stronger than fiction.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.g[b6]
> **Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:41 AM
> **To:** [b6]
> [b6] [b6] [b6]
> [b6] Garry, Robert F <
> [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

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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

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According to the report, minks, civets, raccoon dogs and other mammals known to harbor coronaviruses were sold in plain sight for years in shops across the city, including the now infamous Huanan wet market, to which many of the earliest Covid cases were traced. The evidence collected over 30 months by **Xiao Xiao** a I'D NAME HIM HERE [[i don't know that naming a researcher

no one has ever heard of adds much]]researcher working at a lab affiliated with China's Ministry of Education was hastily drafted into a manuscript and submitted to a scientific journal [Joel, we cannot name the first journal they delivered it to because the authors decline to give us the name, saying it may affect their future chances of being published] in February 2020, just weeks before the outbreak was declared a pandemic.

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While the study received wide attention when it was eventually released by a different publisher [Publisher (Springer Nature) and publication (Scientific Reports) are different. Might add confusion DO YOU WANT TO ADD NAME HERE?], its long and torturous journey to publication gave **Chinese officials an opportunity to weave alternative narratives in which the virus may have come from abroad, even from a U.S. Army biological research facility**. [the stuff in bold is not contested and we go on to show how that happened, documenting with links when available]I TWEAKED WORDING HERE BUT THIS STILL ISN'T QUITE RIGHT. IF THE REPORT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED EARLIER CHINESE OFFICIALS COULD STILL HAVE DONE WHAT THEY DID—THEY COULD HAVE JUST SAID THE REPORT WAS SHODDY, OR WHATEVER, AND THEY ALSO COULD HAVE JUST IGNORED IT. I disagree. The evidence that Xiao et al provide was meticulously documented and supported by photographs that would have been difficult/impossible for China to dismiss (as older published photos and media reports had been). What's more, Newman understands that Xiao collected blood-sucking ticks from the wild animals he studiously cataloged. His frozen tick samples could be tested for blood/antibodies/virus , which could be extremely helpful in identifying infected species PRIOR to December 2019. The WHO team knew nothing of this, so couldn't have asked China for this research or any results, had they actually done the research. The delay in the publication of Xiao's paper delayed the evidence that there were live animals sold in the Huanan market. The WHO researchers couldn't have asked about tests on wildlife that ostensibly were never there. Likewise, Chinese authorities couldn't have done the tests on

animals that didn't exist. The problem is that in January and February 2020, it was widely assumed the animals HAD been there and that the necessary tests and tracing of animals (the sampling of animals on farms they were raised on, testing of farm workers, animal hunters, transporters and traders **had all been done** by researchers in China -- the very things that ultimately led to the discovery of the origins of SARS and of MERS viruses. **None of these things were done** (or at least, there is nothing publicly available to show that they were done) **because the animals "weren't there"**. Now that we all know they were there, China as lost considerable face. The issue has become so political than there is much less/?no willingness to cooperate and conduct the additional research that the WHO-led team recommended. Ideally, Xiao's ticks should be studied, but it's doubtful that will now happen (I wouldn't be surprised if he's been ordered to incinerate them!) Hope this is clear.

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An international team of experts convened by the WHO traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to seek answers—a trip that might have yielded different results if the scientists had known about the work of Xiao Xiao, a virologist whose roles straddled epidemiology and animal research at the government-funded Key Laboratory of Southwest China Wildlife Resources Conservation and at Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.‘MIGHT HAVE YIELDED DIFFERENT RESULTS’ SEEMS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. WHAT RESULTS DID IT YIELD? I’D CUT THIS GRAF

As mentioned above, the WHO-convened team of researchers was told by market authorities, vendors and regular market visitors that there were no live animals sold in the Huanan market. That undermined completely the premise that the Huanan market was the kind of place where live animals from different species are stacked in cages, with urine and fecal material drips from one cage to the one below it, where there are splatters of blood and guts from animals, and lots of potential for the spread of diseases from one species to another (including Homo sapiens).

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

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

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

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

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

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~~The information void kindled a raging political debate that's already caused a trade war between China and Australia, as nations~~ demand to know ~~how Covid emerged.~~

Australia in April 2020 called for a global inquiryinto the origins of the pandemic, including China's handling of the initial outbreak. Days later, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used part of his Earth Day message to call on China to close its wet markets to "reduce risks to human health inside and outside of China."

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

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

- USA Today: Blame the Chinese Communist Party for the coronavirus crisis: Coronavirus crisis proves communism is still a grave threat to the entire world. If Beijing had just been honest, the pandemic could be preventable. April 5, 2020
- Yahoo News: More than half of Americans think

China should pay coronavirus reparations, poll shows April 9, 2020

- Voice of America: Americans Join Coronavirus Lawsuit to Make China Pay April 10, 2020
- Washington Post Opinion: China must pay reparations to Africa for its coronavirus failuresApril 16, 2020
- Reuters: In a first, Missouri sues China over coronavirus economic losses April 22, 2020
- Washington Post: Missouri is suing China over the coronavirus pandemic. It's the latest conservative gambit, April 22, 2020
- New York Post: Top German paper demands $165 billion coronavirus reparations from China April 22, 2020
- Attorney General Fitch Prepares to Sue China on Behalf of Mississippians April 22, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump on U.S. Seeking Compensation From China Over COVID-19: 'We Have Not Determined the Final Amount' April 28, 2020
- The Guardian: Trump says China could have stopped Covid-19 and suggests US will seek damages April 28, 2020
- Intelligencer: Trump Thinks He Can Make China Pay for the Virus Like Mexico Paid for the Wall, April 30, 2020
- Washington Post: U.S. officials crafting retaliatory actions against China over coronavirus as President Trump fumes April 30, 2020
- Lawfare: Does China Really Owe the World Trillions of Dollars? May 7, 2020
- Fortune: Trump's demand that China pay coronavirus reparations evokes an ugly history May 8, 2020
- South China Morning Post: Why China won't be paying the West coronavirus reparations any time soon May 15, 2020
- Deccan Herald, India: Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Why China needs to pay reparations to the world June 4, 2020
- Why calls for reparations from China for coronavirus are an unfeasible distraction June 9, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump Demands China 'Pay Reparations' for COVID, Says $10 Trillion Not Enough June 12, 2021

In response, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, denied "wildlife wet markets" existed in the country. Government researchersCAN

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

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

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I DON’T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT POINT THIS GRAF IS TRYING TO MAKE. This is intended to demonstrate the kind of gaslighting that has occurred. Some of the WHO-led researchers are veterinarians and zoologists -- they know what animals smell like,

and could smell their lingering presence a year later, but were told essentially that it was impossible that they were smelling animals because **there "were no live animals there"**.) The researchers noted a mixed smell of animals and disinfectant in some areas of the market, but they were told by the market's manager that they were probably smelling the lingering stench of rotten meat and sewage, according to a joint WHO-China report. [should we add "according to Laing Wannian etc here? Liang Wannian was the leader of the Chinese research team collaborating jointly with the WHO-led research team. The source for the above description are in the annexes to the official joint WHO-China report released at the end of March 2021.]

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

addition, I have emailed China CDC Director George Gao at least twice and not received any response.]

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Among the earliest clusters of infections recorded in Wuhan, one involved three Covid cases among staff working at a stall in Huanan. One of the employees, a 32-year-old who fell ill on Dec. 19, traded goods back and forth between the Huanan and Baishazhou markets.

WHERE DOES THIS FACT COME FROM? NOT THE REPORT, RIGHT? WHEN DID IT FIRST BECOME KNOWN? This information was from the joint WHO-China report released in March 2021, however, the WHO-led researchers went to the Baishazhou market more as a demonstration by the China team of what a perfectly functioning large food market looks like. The WHO-led team was oblivious to Xiao's research that showed there were at least two stalls in Baishazhou that had been selling live wild animals for human consuption. So this detail and its significance was lost on the WHO researchers at the time.)

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

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

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

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<Mail Attachment.jpeg><Mail Attachment.gif><Mail Attachment.png><Mail Attachment.jpeg><Mail Attachment.png><Mail Attachment.png><Mail Attachment.jpeg><Mail Attachment.png>

Date: Wed, 24 Apr 2024 6:36:35 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd
From: kuuipo9 [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; [b6]
Attachments: image004.png; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.

David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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

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

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From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM
To [b6] Keusch, Gerald T <[b6] Jeff Sturchio' <i [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

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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

MORENS_NIH_044595
REL0000478370

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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

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

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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

MORENS_NIH_044597
REL0000478370

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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

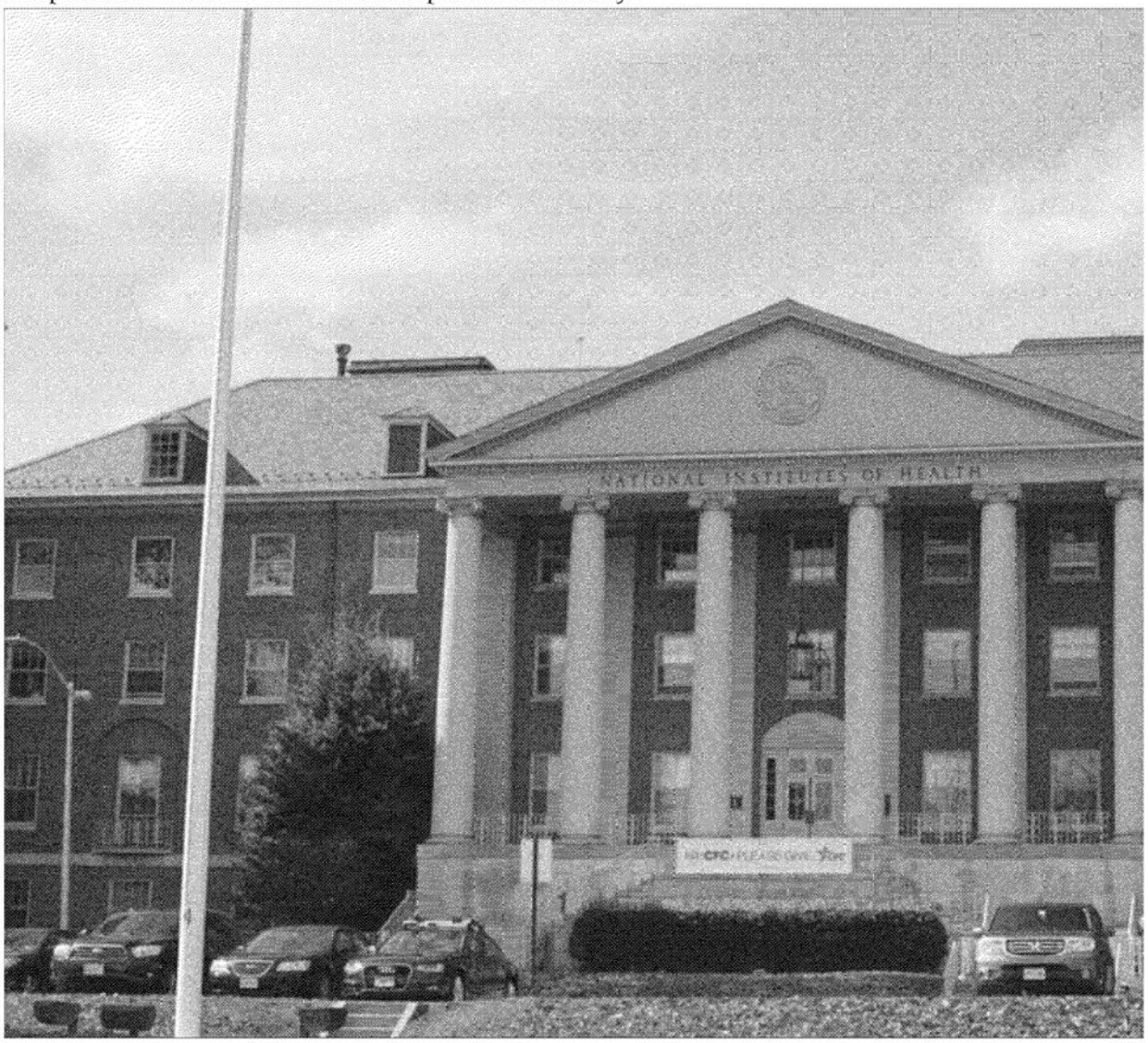
MORENS_NIH_044598
REL0000478370

@COVIDSelect

BREAKING

@EcoHealthNYC

President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.



From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_NIH_044599
REL0000478370

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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 [b6]; Jeff Sturchio < [b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6] >; Hotez, Peter Jay [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

MORENS_NIH_044600
REL0000478370

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

Cheers,

Peter

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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])' [b6] ; 'Alison Andre [b6] [b6]

MORENS_NIH_044602
REL0000478370

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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

From: Michael Hiltzik 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

MORENS_NIH_044603
REL0000478370

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 g > wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.
>
> After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.
>
> As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened,

and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

MORENS_NIH_044606
REL0000478370

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 12:36:13 PM -0400

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>

To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>;

CC: Daszak Peter [b6]>; Keusch Gerald [b6] Kessler Robert [b6]>; Chmura Aleksei [b6]>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E [b6]

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

Yes, amen..... and as i have been saying to Peter, the more that scientists hide from the wrath of these people, the more we encourage them. These guys play hardball, so my question to leaders like you is what can we scientists do, within the context of our commitment to evidence, objectivity, and fairness, and our unwillingness to fight dirty, as we stand up for the truth and call their bluffs?

I don't know. I just don't know, but feel we can be doing more, not only personally but through different scientific organizations, especially if working together in common. That did not happen much 10 years ago with the H5N1 gain of function debacle. At the time, so many scientists said, this is terrible, we have to do something.... But not me, i don't want to get death threats, or lose my grants, or be harassed by politicians or reporters, or get into contentious stressful arguments or be attacked in editorials.....

Tony played it very cool and appeared to be uninvolved, but in fact did much behind the scenes to put the fire out. It took several years, and was draining to all of us. d

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

On Apr 21, 2021, at 10:21, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

David:

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

Rich

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Daszak Peter [b6]>; Keusch Gerald [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Kessler Robert [b6] Chmura Aleksei [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019824
MORENS_NIH_039559
REL0000478462

Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: Fwd: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: April 19, 2021 at 8:28:05 PM EDT
Subject: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

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

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

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



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

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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019825
MORENS_NIH_039560
REL0000478462

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

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

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



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

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

Many of the creatures were alive, added Dr Holmes, who remembers seeing one bludgeoned in front of him.

"An animal had got out or something, and somebody was clubbing it," he said, mimicking the hand actions over Zoom. "I think it was a racoon dog, though I couldn't quite see. It was pretty confronting."

Dr Holmes added that he is unsure whether the Wuhan CDC ramped up disease surveillance or introduced new safety measures in the years preceding the pandemic, and the China CDC has not responded to *The Telegraph*.

The Huanan market gained global notoriety when the first cases of Covid-19 (initially reported as a "mystery pneumonia" on December 31, 2019) were found in people who worked and shopped there.

Of the initial 41 people hospitalised with pneumonia who were officially identified as having Covid, two-thirds were exposed to the market, which was closed and sealed off by the Wuhan authorities on January 1, 2020.



Inside Huanan food market in October 2014. Dr Eddie Holmes described the site as dirty, not particularly crowded, but with areas full of wild animals in crates Credit: Eddie Holmes

Experts believe the site played a significant role in the initial circulation of Covid-19, either as the site of the initial "spillover" event where an animal virus jumps to humans, or as an "amplifier" of the early epidemic.

A report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the origins of Sars-CoV-2 provided crucial details. Though it said "no firm conclusion" could be drawn on the precise role of Huanan market, it found the virus most likely jumped from bats to humans via an as-yet-unknown animal.

The wildlife trade in general, and wet markets in particular, have long been linked to the emergence of new pathogens. There is evidence Sars jumped to humans at markets in Guangdong, China in 2002 and data points to similarly a significant role in 2019.

In early 2020 Chinese researchers collected close to 1,000 samples from Huanan market – swabbing everything from rubbish bins, doors and stalls to stray cats and mice – and found widespread contamination "compatible with introduction of the virus through infected people, infected animals or contaminated products".

Meanwhile, of the first 168 Covid-19 cases, roughly a third had a connection to Huanan market. Genome sequences from some of those in this group found eight of the earliest samples were identical, confirming there was an outbreak there.

Yet the first person with a known link to Huanan market became ill on December 12, four days after the first known case. This suggests Covid-19 may have been spreading under the radar in several parts of Wuhan simultaneously before Huanan market amplified circulation.

The joint WHO-China team also found no evidence that live wildlife was still sold at the market – though noted that both Dr Holmes' pictures and "unverified photographs and videos in media reports" suggest otherwise – and none of 457 animal samples taken from the market between January and March 2020 tested positive for Sars-Cov-2.

The report added: "The manager informed the teams the market was cleaned twice a day, morning and evening. Pests and rats are sought out and killed; holes were closed. Rigorous cleaning was done once or twice a week. Even though there are rooms above some stalls, vendors were not allowed to live in the market."

But Dr Holmes and others, including members of the WHO team, believe more samples need to be taken to "follow the animals", and caution that finding wildlife involved in the early transmission chain is like finding a needle in a haystack.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019827
MORENS_NIH_039562
REL0000478462

It is also possible that the virus was introduced to the market by an already infected person involved in earlier stages of the wildlife trade.

Live wild animals in crates stacked ontop of each other, taken in October 2014 during Dr Eddie Holmes' trip to the market Credit: Eddie Holmes

"We know how easily Sars-Cov-2 spread from minks to mink farmers in Europe," said Dr Dale Fisher, an expert in infectious diseases and chair of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. "So it's likely this could happen on a farm, and the farmer was the index case who then took it to the market, where there was a super-spreading event.

"But evidence points towards wildlife. And whether it's been plague on rats, or Ebola on bats and primates, or Sars-1 on civet cats and bats, camels for Mers – historically these outbreaks all had species jumps and then amplification events," he told the *Telegraph*.

It is estimated that birds and mammals harbour roughly 700,000 viruses with the potential to jump to people, while 70 per cent of new emerging infectious diseases come from wild animals. Places where numerous species mix in close quarters with humans, with few biosecurity measures in place, are high risk.

Just this week, the WHO issued new guidance urging countries to crack down on wet markets and suspend the sale of captured live wild animals as an "emergency measure" to protect public health.

"In my mind, the wildlife trade is the most likely source of it. The role of that market is still uncertain, but there was clearly a lot of transmission and to me it smells like there's a strong link – we need to follow it through," Dr Holmes said.

"My concern is that the finger pointing has got so bad, will that happen? I think China just doesn't want it to be China… so then the question is, are we actually going to see all the data? I honestly don't know. But the more the politics gets into it, the less likely we will."

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Date: Wed, 6 Oct 2021 2:46:53 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 6 Oct 2021 2:44:24 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Final 4th 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: Francis Collins on CNBC today.eml (56.4 KB).msg; RE_ Wpost_ How Chinese pressure on coronavirus origins probe shocked....eml (37.5 KB).msg; Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci..eml (1.22 MB).msg; RE_ feedback on wild animals.eml (91.3 KB).msg; RE_ Sunday Wash Post editorial.eml (5.41 MB).msg; RE_ Sunday Wash Post editorial.eml (1.66 KB).msg; RE_ FW_ For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8_12)_ Letter to Dr. Fauci from....eml (23.6 KB).msg; RE_ The Intercept_ Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scienti....eml (143 KB).msg; RE_ Fox_ Biden to visit intelligence community as investigation into....eml (78.1 KB).msg; RE_ Josh Rogin.eml (1.87 KB).msg; RE_ Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists_ W. Ian Lipkin_ The known known....eml (120 KB).msg; Re_ Thank you.eml (2.45 KB).msg; Jake Sullivan.eml (1.98 KB).msg; RE_ Science Speaks_ Not until June 2021 does China report Wuhan wet ....eml (53.8 KB).msg; RE_ Science Speaks_ Not until June 2021 does China report Wuhan wet ....eml (47.2 KB).msg; RE_ Politico_ POLITICO-Harvard poll_ Most Americans believe Covid le....eml (27.2 KB).msg; RE_ Politico_ POLITICO-Harvard poll_ Most Americans believe Covid le....eml (27.4 KB).msg; RE_ NAS workshop_ Potential Benefits of Gain-of-Function Research htt....eml (101 KB).msg; RE_ BMJ_ The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis_ did the media fall victim ....eml (113 KB).msg

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Re-sending 4th batch of emails in 2 parts: part 1 is July 1st 2021-Aug 31st 2021

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Peter Daszak <b6>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 2:34 AM
To: 'David Morens' <b6>; Gerald "Jerry" Keusch <b6> Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Cc: 'Robert Kessler' <b6> <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6> <b6>
Subject: Final 4th batch of emails

st th

In this pile (July 1st to Oct 6th 2021), we generally say similar gossipy stuff about various people and institutions.

Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 12:22:42 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 12:22:05 AM -0400
Subject: FW: Washington Post: Biden receives inconclusive intel report on covid origins
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

Just sharing this with Rich Roberts as well. I believe this is a positive development because it suggests there is no new evidence from the intel report, as expected. Add to this growing evidence in the scientific literature on wildlife-to-human spillover and I hope the tide will begin to turn.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/08/24/covid- origins-biden-intelligence-review/

Cheers,

Peter

Biden receives inconclusive intelligence report on covid origins

The report falls short of concluding whether the coronavirus jumped from animal to human, or might have accidentally escaped from a lab in China

By
Ellen Nakashima
,
Yasmeen Abutaleb
and
Joel Achenbach

Today at 10:32 p.m. EDT
260

President Biden on Tuesday received a classified report from the intelligence community that was inconclusive about the origins of the novel coronavirus, including whether the pathogen jumped from an animal to a human as part of a natural process, or escaped from a lab in central China, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the matter.

The intelligence community will seek within days to declassify elements of the report for potential public release, officials said.

The assessment is the result of a 90-day sprint after Biden tasked his intelligence agencies in May to produce a report "that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion" on the origins of a virus that has killed more than 4 million people globally and wrecked national economies. But despite analyzing a raft of existing intelligence and searching for new clues, intelligence officials fell short of a consensus, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the report is not yet public.

The debate over the virus's origins has become increasingly rancorous since former president Donald Trump said last year that the virus originated in a Chinese lab. Efforts to understand the virus's provenance have been complicated by Chinese authorities' steadfast refusal to allow a more intensive inquiry by international

investigators.
Biden's directive came after he received a May report from the agencies saying that they had "coalesced around two likely scenarios" but had not reached a conclusion. He disclosed that two agencies leaned toward the hypothesis that the virus emerged from human contact with an infected animal, while a third leaned toward the lab accident scenario.
The leader of the intelligence community, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, cautioned in June that the agencies might not solve the mystery. "We're hoping to find a smoking gun," she told Yahoo News in an interview. But, she said, "it's challenging to do that," adding that "it might happen, but it might not."
The review involved dozens of analysts and intelligence officials across multiple agencies, Haines told Yahoo. She said she deployed "red cells," or groups to test analysts' assumptions and ensure the intelligence is scrutinized from every angle.
Another official said the intelligence community is "not necessarily best equipped to solve this problem," which is fundamentally an issue of science. Although spy services are "positioned to collect on a range of foreign actors," the official said, they are not necessarily poised to dive into global health data sets.
Biden himself, in his first visit to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in July, voiced the need for a more robust group to track pathogens. "You're going to have to increase your ranks with people with significant scientific capacity relative to pathogens," he said at the time.
Officials in the Biden administration hammered China's lack of transparency ahead of a World Health Organization report on the origins of the coronavirus. (JM Rieger/The Washington Post)
Many scientists familiar with the origin debate have been skeptical that the 90-day review would settle it, and some have said the inquiry could require years of research.
"We should not even be thinking about closing the book or backing off, but rather ratcheting up the effort," David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist who has pushed for a broad investigation of all origin hypotheses, said late Tuesday in an email.
The notion that the virus may have escaped from a lab got sharply increased interest this spring after 18 scientists wrote a letter to the journal Science in May saying that all possible origins needed to be investigated, including a laboratory accident.
Proponents of that theory point to classified information, first disclosed in the waning days of the Trump administration, that three unidentified workers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology — one of the world's preeminent research institutions studying coronaviruses — went to the hospital in November 2019 with flu-like symptoms. In China, people visit the hospital for routine and mild illnesses.
Throughout 2020, that hypothesis became enmeshed in election-year politics. Trump's assertion that the virus emanated from a lab came as he and other administration officials were blaming China for the global outbreak and trying to deflect attention from their botched handling of the virus at home.
Many scientists, however, noted that viruses have a long history of jumping from animals to humans. There are many plausible scenarios in which that might have occurred, including the possibility the virus spread from wild and domestically raised animals sold in crowded markets. Many early cases were clustered around a seafood market where traces of the virus were later detected on surfaces.
That zoonosis theory was bolstered by a June 7 report, published in the journal Nature, documenting 38 species of animals sold in 17 markets in Wuhan before the pandemic. The authors said many of the animals suffered from poor hygiene and were known to carry zoonotic diseases.
"We now know for sure that [coronavirus] susceptible animals were in fact sold at the markets in Wuhan, which changes the calculus tremendously," Robert Garry, a Tulane University microbiologist who strongly supports the zoonosis theory, said in an email.
Experts in viral genome evolution also determined that the novel coronavirus almost certainly was not engineered as a bioweapon because it has several naturally occurring features seen in many other coronaviruses. But even scientists favoring a natural origin have said that without definitive evidence of animal-to-human transmission, it is not possible to rule out the possibility that a laboratory accident led to the outbreak.
And many questions remain unanswered. The animal that carried this virus before it infected people has not been identified — a process that has taken years in previous disease outbreak investigations. Nor have the lab-leak advocates found any direct evidence that SARS-CoV-2 was inside a laboratory in Wuhan before the pandemic, although the lab has not released its records, which have been sought by scientists and governments

around the world.
A delegation of investigators from the World Health Organization made a brief visit to the Wuhan laboratory in February and later declared that there were multiple possible origins, with a natural zoonosis most likely and a lab leak "extremely unlikely."
But the WHO director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, undercut that conclusion, saying it would be premature to rule out the lab-leak theory. The WHO effort was also criticized by some international scientists and researchers, who called for further investigation.
White House press secretary Jen Psaki on Monday said the public would be told the report's outcome. "I don't know what format that will take at this point in time," she said.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:36 AM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: 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>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021936
MORENS_NIH_042818
REL0000478682

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 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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021938
MORENS_NIH_042820
REL0000478682

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

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

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MORENS_NIH_042823
REL0000478682

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Date: Sun, 9 May 2021 2:32:35 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 9 May 2021 2:28:55 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: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

That's so true. When I was a Ph.D student, I was also dabbling in describing new species of coccidial parasites from animals in pet stores in London. Many a weekend spent staring down a microscope at fecal samples while my then girlfriend, now wife would be staring at her human monoclonal antibody cell cultures.. good times.

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 11:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [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

Who needs a day off when you love what you do?

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, May 8, 2021 8:11 PM
To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [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

No problem – haven't really had a day off since I began my Ph.D….luckily my wife's also a scientist, so gets it.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [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

Peter, thanks fir this really helpful info! Although there still seem to be missing pieces, it is good to know that so many top notch folks have looked At this so carefully. I feel MUCH better now, and sorry to have eaten up much of your "day off" (as if aNy of us have days off anymore). D

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

> On May 8, 2021, at 17:14, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:
>
> Hi David – answers/comments in the body of your email below…

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 Robert Kessler b6 g >; 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.

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

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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
> >
> > 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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E b6
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, 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

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be reasonably called “Gain of function”. The only recombinant viruses were bat-CoVs, with spike proteins of other bat-CoVs. None had enhanced transmissibility or cell infectivity. None are known to be infectious to people.

I believe the whole ‘gain of function’ phrasing used to describe the Wuhan CoV research is just a ruse to scare a gullible public – journalists today have been using phrases like “making viruses more dangerous in the lab in Wuhan” etc. None of this is true.

Cheers,

Peter

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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 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

Richard J. Roberts
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240 County Road
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USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014757
MORENS_NIH_030410
REL0000478687

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014758
MORENS_NIH_030411
REL0000478687

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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

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 <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014759
MORENS_NIH_030412
REL0000478687

b6 g >; 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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_014760
MORENS_NIH_030413
REL0000478687

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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
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Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 7:56:45 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 7:56:31 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;
CC: Peter Daszak [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in 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

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

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

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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

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MORENS_NIH_023105
REL0000478694

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---

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

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On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T < b6 wrote:

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MORENS_NIH_023106
REL0000478694

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
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

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

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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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_012023
MORENS_NIH_023108
REL0000478694

Date: Sat, 8 May 2021 10:55:20 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 8 May 2021 10:55:14 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6
CC: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 Robert Kessler b6 Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Attachments: Political actions, letters re. EcoHealth's CoV research in China, NIH grant etc..docx; Nicholas wade article.docx; Daszak Letter to Nobel Laureates May 2021.docx

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Peter:

Here is the letter that went out to all the NLs who signed the original petition.

"Dear …..,

Most, if not all of you, will have received a communication from Andre Goffinet who is trying hard to add to the rumors that the virus causing COVID-19 leaked from a lab in the Virology Institute in Wuhan. A recent, apparently well-argued article by Nicholas Wade (attached) professes neutrality, but really just tries by innuendo to promote this view that the virus leaked from the Wuhan lab. One victim of this Chinese lab origin campaign is Peter Daszak whom we all supported when he lost his grant. He has been harassed continually, received death threats and is hounded by the Republicans in Congress. All because he has been working for years to study bat viruses in collaboration with scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. I attach a short piece that Peter wrote about recent events, including a rebuttal of some of Wade's claims and a separate document outlining the events that took place and are relevant to the termination of his grant.

Finally, I might add that Goffinet wrote to me about a month ago, implying that because I have organized conferences in China I might too be part of the conspiracy to present the Chinese view of events. As a result, he would like you to believe that I solicited your help merely to support Peter and the Chinese. This is simply untrue. He failed to mention that the clear purpose of our statement was to decry the political interference in stopping the funding of a peer-reviewed grant.

Rich"

Already a number of people have written back – all supporting you.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak b6 >
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:11 PM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T 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

No problem – haven't really had a day off since I began my Ph.D….luckily my wife's also a scientist, so gets it.

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MORENS_NIH_029437
REL0000478698

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: David Morens < b6
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich b6 ; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6 ; Robert Kessler < b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, thanks fir this really helpful info! Although there still seem to be missing pieces, it is good to know that so many top notch folks have looked At this so carefully. I feel MUCH better now, and sorry to have eaten up much of your "day off" (as if aNy of us have days off anymore). D

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

> On May 8, 2021, at 17:14, Peter Daszak b6 > wrote:
>
> Hi David – answers/comments in the body of your email below…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014654
MORENS_NIH_029438
REL0000478698

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Roberts, 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 still need to get more educated on furin cleavage sites in coronaviruses. A few articles, e.g., the one attached, claim that in the evolutionary history of multiple different coronaviruses, FCS's do appear independently, although this is less common in sarbecoviruses. Is that your understanding?

[Peter Daszak:] yes – it seems to be uncommon

And is there any idea what determinants might favor insertion of these sites. Also, do we know about the levels of expression of furin in cells of mammals that might be sarbecovirus co-hosts? I assume that all such mammals have furin activity similar to humns, but is that known?

[Peter Daszak:] not really known well, or discussed that I've seen.

I ask this because the notion that a furin cleavage site indicates human engineered origin needs to be rebutted or at least countered. This is one of several of the Wade points that will appear, to the layman, to be damning. David

[Peter Daszak:] This has been rebutted regularly since January 2020. It was the key reason that this whole lab leak idea was discussed at the White House level in the first place. It was missed by Zhengli in her Nature paper. Likewise, Ralph Baric missed it when he first looked at the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences in early Jan. Apparently Trevor Bedford & Eddie Holmes pointed it out to Jeremy Farrar, saying it could indicate lab origin (i.e. a virus that gained a furin cleavage site during cell culture). Jeremy mentioned it to Fauci, who mentioned it to Bob Kadlec (if I remember correctly) at the WH. They then convened a panel via NAM to discuss that included me, Ralph and the others. Ralph pointed out that it could have been acquired naturally during human-to-human transmission. I pointed out that it could have been acquired during transmission through an intermediate host. We all pointed out that influenza, and other CoVs have these, although rare. That ad hoc committee then transformed into the NASEM COVID-19 rapid response committee that became largely ignored under Trump and has now basically ended.

There have been lots of active virologists rebutting the theory that the presence of a furin cleavage insertion indicates lab leak because these are found in nature, and because close relatives of SARS-CoV-2 have insertions albeit slightly different sequences at the same site. Here are some links with rebuttals or discussion:

> ***Kristian Andersen pointing out that the furin cleavage site is seen repeatedly across the CoV phylogenetic tree:*** *https://twitter.com/K_G_Andersen/status/1330565966745403392?s=20*
>
> ***The article on Virological.org that he refers to:*** *https://virological.org/t/naturally-occurring-indels-in-multiple-coronavirus-spikes/560*

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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
> >
> > It evolved after a progenitor bat-CoV spilled over into wildlife in farms in S. China. SARS-CoV-2 spillover into mink in Europe led to rapid evolution of strains that bore similarities to pangolin-CoVs. Mink strains then re-infected people in the Netherlands. Now, there's a report of mink clearing the virus, showing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 and being reinfected later – all good evidence that farms full of raccoon dogs, ferret badgers and civets in S. China could have had circulation of SARS-CoV-2 for many months prior to it emerging.
>
> Hope this all helps. One day, the research will be done and all this will be demonstrated. Unfortunately, the one group that had access to China to do this work (EcoHealth) is currently blocked from doing it!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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MORENS_NIH_029440
REL0000478698

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak < b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6 Keusch, Gerald T < b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 g >; 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

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President

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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 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

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

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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
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Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014660
MORENS_NIH_029444
REL0000478698

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

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---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014661
MORENS_NIH_029445
REL0000478698

Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura b6
'Robert Kessler b6 g)' b6 g >
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

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Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:00:49 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:59:48 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)

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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 1:39 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)

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--------- 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)

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-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>
Date: Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:16 PM
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Peter Daszak [b6], Aleksei Chmura [b6]>, David Morens [b6]>, Gerald Keusch [b6]>, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>, Rich Roberts [b6]>

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

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

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

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Media Inquiries:

b6

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iPhone

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Date: Thu, 22 Apr 2021 10:35:59 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 22 Apr 2021 10:35:57 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: David Morens b6 >; Peter Daszak b6 >;

David is absolutely right. When you feel the need to vent write to us. Give no interviews. Basically sShut up, and when you open your mouth take a sip of a good red wine.

From: David Morens b6 >
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 9:41 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i must say, and i mean this with respect and aloha, i do agree with Rich and Harold that this may be a time for you to lay low yourself, and let others go to bst for you

I know that must be hard when u are being pilloried, but my sense is that we are at a time when you need to be the victim being saved by noble champions

Will noble champions step up? This is a place where Harold, Rich, Jerry, Victor and others must step in. You can't do this yourself, the assholes are too powerful

Let's all of us work behind the scenes to reverse this injustice. I don't know how, but my boxing gloves are on and laced up.
David

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

On Apr 22, 2021, at 20:44, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

Great to read this chain. I also spoke with Rich Roberts and will be sending a 2 pager with all the NIH/EHA letters and responses in a timeline, and links to all the political action going on.

I agree with your assessments (both of you) – this is a threat to science, and it's not going away – it's now become more centralized with Biden maintaining a tough-on-China stance, and there are loud people on the left (e.g. Jamie Metzl) and within science (Relman, Lipsitch, Ebright) who are feeding political action and the call for commissions. Note that only yesterday there were two actions of note – the bill on China interference was pass in Senate Committee (Foreign Affairs), with Michael Lauer testifying, and the bill from the nutter Right re. declassifying intelligence on Wuhan.

We need to continue this multi-pronged effort to defend science, even though, as Tony suggested, Harold also, and my Board Chair, I will continue to try to avoid any publicity on this issue at all…

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019472
MORENS_NIH_039043
REL0000478737

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:47 PM
To: David Morens b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Even more than I could have hoped for. That's great to hear.

Jerry

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Great news, and i think you are probably exactly tight about Tony. Just a bit ago, I got a call from Rich saying he had just talked to Harold, who went into a bit of a tirade about Francis, I omit the colorful language here, and said he, Harold, would call Tony next week

Rich also said he would be advising Peter to stay away from the press, as that may be fanning the flames with the nutters.
D

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

> On Apr 22, 2021, at 16:40, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:
>
> Thanks for doing this David. I suspect that deep down Tony is not naïve, but that he likes to keep a calm and in control public persona.
>
> The optimal way to reach him will be through Harold Varmus, and its good Rich agreed to be in touch with him. I'm purposely not including Rich on this note because I don't want to be seen as pressuring him further. I think he will follow up, he has as good a connection to Harold as I do, and if necessary I will follow up. Harold has consistently stayed in the background when I have asked him about doing certain things or writing certain commentaries etc. but he has not been reluctant to speak rather frankly about Francis and the Lauer affair when he believed it was necessary or he was directly

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MORENS_NIH_039044
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approached by the reporters at Science, for example. I did try to get Jon Cohen and Meredith Wadman moving on a new article but as you know they both declined at this point because it was not news. I think that was a cop out decision, and depending on what Rich has to day I might just copy Harold on that and see if he is willing to contact them because they will most likely have a different response to him than to me.
We just have to stay on this, not panic, and not waiver from the ultimate goal. Timing is always critical. So is the messenger. Lander may be the right person, and Harold has indicated to me that he has been in contact with Eric on this issue.

Jerry

From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <b6
Cc: Roberts, Rich <b6; Peter Daszak <b6 Robert Kessler <b6; Aleksei Chmura <b6
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

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

On Apr 22, 2021, at 15:06, David Morens <b6 wrote:

Hi Jerry and colleagues, just spent 40 minutes on Zoom with Tony and one of two possibilities: either we are all unnecessarily alarmed, or else he is not taking the threats seriously

He said repeatedly, in a low key jocular way, that no one could mess with him or niaid since we haven't done anything wrong, apparently not counting as "messing with us" the fact that we had an important research project terminated in an unprecedented manner for political reasons.

He also repeated alot of macho comments about how there is always a guy with an AR-15 right outside his door (true, and sometimes two other armed secret service guys) and everywhere he goes outside the office he has at least two bodyguards, also true...9

I hope he is right that the wackos won't gain any further traction, but i am not so sure. For one thing, there was huge collateral damage a few years back with the H5N1 gain of function mess. It is true that neither Tony nor other NIH staff got into any trouble, but thousands of professional hours were wasted over several years time and, far more importantly, the research moratorium, which went in for years, caused labs across the country to close, or move into other areas, caused lab people on grants to lose their jobs, and grad students to lose their dissertation work and postdocs to lose their projects. It was a mess that ought not to be forgotten

If i had to bet, i would guess that beneath Tony's macho I-am-not-worried reaction he really is concerned. And whatever the case he should be very concerned about what happened to Peter, to our research portfolio in an extremely important area, and to scientific independence

He did not know about either the Miller Commission or the letter from Rep Rogers which i emailed to him on gmail later

I also commented that Lauer's letters to you Peter, and the Rogers letter to you, had alot of overlap and seemed to reflect input of at least one scientist, whether or not one of our grantees. In other words, i feel that regarding those letters someone or someones are working in cahoots with the politicians who wish to

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REL0000478737

do harm to NIH He didn't seem particularly troubled by that.

In the end he said thanks for filling me in and asked me to call him on his private cell phone (which is what i normally do anyway) if i hear anything that might be important

So, i am not sure where things stand. I absolutely DO feel that it would be a good thing if one of you luminaries were to approach him and try to make sure he understood what is going on out there, and perhaps discuss what the larger community of scientists can do to lock arms in unity and push back. David

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

On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:24, David Morens **b6** wrote:

Thanks, Jerry, i will let you know how it goes, although he may not indicate to me his next steps. The way it works with us is that he tries to never ask me things directly, like ask for my advice on what to do, but rather does alot of homework ahead of time, figures out what i am likely to say, then HE tells ME what he thinks so that i can confirm it. Yes, we all have our peculiarities, but as long as the machine runs smoothly its ok

I DO know that he has great respect for Harold, and i think also admires Harold's charge-ahead no-BS style, which is the opposite of Tony's extreme caution. So i have little doubt that he would welcome that kind of help. D

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

On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:09, Keusch, Gerald T **b6** wrote:

David,
Thanks for the note, and I recognize what you say is what I know about Tony. He is a remarkable person, but like all of us he isn't perfect. I think your strategy to lay out the issues and let him run with it to decide what can be effectively addressed and with what strategy.

Rich's suggestion to talk to Harold is on track, and it would be great Rich if you were to do that. I know that they have a very close and positive history of working together, that Harold is very strategic in his thinking, he prefers to work in the background (something I have confirmed multiple times this past year as I have asked for his advice on things I could take on), and that he will be really frank in talking to Rich. Harold has very recently told me that he has worked closely with Rich on a number of issues related to the concerns we all have.

Let us know how the chat goes tomorrow. I think you have the right perspective heading in to it, and lots of good information at your fingertips.
Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019475
MORENS_NIH_039046
REL0000478737

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

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

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MORENS_NIH_039047
REL0000478737

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.

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

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MORENS_NIH_039048
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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 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 b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i am on leave in Florida for my granddaughters graduation from Florida State

Tomorrow at 130 i will be having a zoom call with Tony to tip him off on some of the info you sent in your recent email

I want to be sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to share

[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

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

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

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

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

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.
[Peter Daszak:] you're right..! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright. The internet 'researchers' are led by a banker and some junior scientists, many from human genetics, mol boil world.

Do you agree, and do you think that person was Ebright? Do you think Relman, Lipsitch, Imperiale, or other current or former grantees might have been involved?

I am not sure we ever funded Ebright, but we did fund the others. I would like to think that Relman et all are only mouthing off to the press, but do you think there is more to it than that, eg, that any of them are working with the politicians?
[Peter Daszak:] David Relman is talking with reporters a lot about this, including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus

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

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

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

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

Anything you think might be helpful, I'd appreciate

TY, david

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

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Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 4:34:24 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 4:34:12 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
From: "Hotez, [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments: Outlook-cfydqr4g.png; Outlook-cfydqr4g.png

Unless she herself raises the issue about the state of his mental health, I think that gets really tricky. We know Jeff is being unreasonable in his position, and it's distressing to watch him hold onto it, but in my conversations with him he sounds otherwise fairly lucid. So while it certainly may be cognitive decline I would be hard pressed to say that's the basis from my conversations with him. Being a jerk can be a sign of dementia, but there may be other factors. Tough call

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

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

iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 3:23 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6]> wrote:

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

Hi Peter H,

The issue with Sonia is not Jeff's positions but his mental health and perhaps failing cognitive capacity. If there are early warning signs that she needs to recognize and then discuss with his primary care doc it may help to get the family involved in helping Jeff to acknowledge that something is not right and begin further assessments and maybe even interventions. No easy task for an ego like his - this would be an even worse blow than seeing his contemporary Joe Stiglitz and his junior Michael Kremer both receive a Nobel in economics - his Nobel.

That's separate for pushing back on his dogged attempt to push one perspective in an increasingly concrete and poorly supported by actual evidence manner.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 2:50 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] wrote:

A good reminder: never to go into battle with Ian, ridiculous. I doubt appealing to Sonia will do much good, and I'm not sure any of the Columbia faculty see this as their fight? I think refuting Jeff point by point in a white paper is the way to go, perhaps one that could wind up in SCIENCE, unless you think it's already covered in your article Jerry. If not, Angela Rasmussen is probably the best qualified, I would be happy to work with her, if she were to take the lead. Just some thoughts, best, Peter

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6
Twitter: @peterhotez
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Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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







From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 1:38 PM
To: David Morens b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6 Aleksei Chmura
b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6 >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

Rich and I have already spoken about my call with Ian. He feels there is nothing he can do. His concerns are the following, some of which he has made abundantly clear in various articles and interviews.

1. The viability of the lab-leak hypothesis is a self-imposed injury by scientists, pointing to the conversation between Jeremy Farrar, Francis Collins, Christian Andersen et al in February 2020, and the denial and then the FOIA.

2. Peter is conflicted (appearance, not necessarily reality) and should not have accepted appointment to the Lancet Commission, the WHO team etc. He (Ian) would not have if he had been asked.

3. There is no way to get Sachs to "stand down".

4. The two science papers by Worobey et al are "crap epidemiology".

There is no viable way for me to push any further with Ian. On the issue of the reputation of Columbia University I am thinking about contacting Waafa El-Sadr, Vince Racaniello, and the Nobel laureate economist Joe Stiglitz, all of whom I know well enough to contact. The secondary issue is Sachs' cognitive health, as he becomes ever more focused, concrete in his thinking, and unable to take in and evaluate new information. He is a broken record, for sure, very possibly because he is a record in the process of breaking. Are others concerned? Concerned enough to

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be in touch with and supportive of his wife and family be expressing concern for his public face, reputation, and legacy?

I'm thinking it over before doing anything more. Thoughts?

Jerry
-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

Also at Columbia is Steve Morse, who has been studying pandemic viruses since his days with Josh Ledeberg in the late 1980s.....

David M. Morens, MD
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

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:42 AM Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:
>
> Jerry:
>
>
>
> I can try Ian Lipkin too. He may be concerned about the general damage to science and to Jeff himself. One of Jeff's very good friends tells me that a lot of people who know him closely think he is going off the rails.
>
>
>
> Rich
>
>
>
> Richard J. Roberts
>
> New England Biolabs
>
> 240 County Road
>
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
>
> USA
>
> Tel: [b6] [b6]

>
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
>
> email: b6
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>
>
> From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:37 AM
> To: Roberts, Rich b6 Peter Daszak
> b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
> Cc: David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 >
> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
>
>
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
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>
> You are right, but I doubt Columbia can do anything to stop a faculty member speaking on his own behalf from saying stupid things. What needs to happen is that the faculty at Columbia with the expertise also speak out against his stupidity.
>
>
>
> For what it is worth I will follow up with Ian Lipkin (who probably won't be sympathetic) and Wafaa El-Sadr (who will be).
>
>
>
> Jerry
>
>
>
> From: Roberts, Rich b6
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:24 AM
> To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T
> b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
> Cc: David Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura
> b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6 >
> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
>
>
>
> Peter:
>
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>
> "Inaccuracies" is a very mild word for the statements he makes.
>
>
>
> This just gets more disturbing by the day. I wonder how the administration at Columbia view this? Are they aware of the damage he is doing?
>
>
>

> Rich
>
>
>
> Richard J. Roberts
>
> New England Biolabs
>
> 240 County Road
>
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
>
> USA
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> Tel: b6 b6
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> Fax: (978) 412 9910
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> email: b6
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>
> From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:05 AM
> To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>;
> Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
> Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura
> [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>
> Subject: Jeff Sachs is at it again!
> Importance: High
>
>
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
>
>
>
> I just saw this in Current Affairs. At least this is not a major daily broadsheet, but it's filled with inaccuracies again (some of them highlighted in the text below, in order of appearance).
>
>
>
> He responds to the two papers in Science this week by dismissing the scientists (all 20+ of them) as having already stated their opinions prior to the paper, so what they're doing is simply creating a narrative.
>
> He states that the work in our rejected DARPA proposal was underway and being promoted very actively – again simply not true as I've stated publicly – the grant was not funded and the work not done.
>
> He goes into details of our unfortunate conversations as he tried to remove me from the Lancet Commission. He implies I didn't share the details of my work in China with him prior to joining. This is not true – it's why he invited me to lead the taskforce.
>
> He accuses me of 'misdirection' re. the work I've done in China. Not sure how publishing it in dozens of papers and speaking about it daily at the beginning of the pandemic is somehow misdirecting.
>
> He follows a common theme from the lab leakers that we had 180 viral 'strains' in the lab. Not true – we had hundreds of short RdRp sequences (few hundred base pairs) PCR'd from bat samples – only 3 viral strains in culture. All of this publicly released, all of it repeatedly stated.
>

> He makes a demand for 'lab notebooks' again. This amplifies the aggressive FoIAs and congressional attacks against us. I already told him EHA doesn't have a lab and doesn't keep 'lab notebooks'. Good luck asking for these from China with this aggressive narrative.
>
> He outright accuses scientists arguing that the virus did not come from a lab as 'lying'.
>
> He follows another lab leak narrative of dismissing EcoHealth's work as simply being a 'marriage-maker' between US and China labs to shunt NIH money to China. I'm very proud of the fact that EHA's work over the last two decades has led to multiple papers in Nature, Science, and all other leading journals. You just don't end up being senior author on these papers by acting as a 'marriage maker', but dismissing our scientific status is part of the lab leak agenda to undermine science.
>
> He accuses me of 'not telling the truth'. No details of course!
>
> Accuses all the other Task Force members of hiding some alleged
> conflict of interest - that they are 'part of this thing', whatever
> that is
>
> Accuses the task force of trying to avoid looking into the lab leak even though he knew full well we had interviewed people like Relman, Ebright, Quay as part of our work and had stated publicly that we would look at all hypotheses re. COVID origins.
>
> He dodges the question on my alleged 'hiding pretty serious conflicts
> of interest' by saying he asked for my research proposals and I
> wouldn't hand them over on legal advice. What he failed to mention is
> the reason I gave him for this in an email – NIH had refused to make
> those proposals public under FoIA and had then been sued. If I then
> went against their direction I would run the risk of further grant
> terminations. That's what my lawyers advised and I have an
> organization to run, rather than undermine our funding base just
> because Jeff Sachs is inquisitive…
>
> Damagingly, he states that our rationale for hiding the truth is because we don't want to be guilty for millions of deaths. That is exactly the comment I get when people send me death threats (more every week now that these stories are in the news). It's a pretty straightforward incitement to violence for these people.
>
> He states that he doesn't trust scientists because we hide our work, when in fact we've published it in papers, and our proposals (even those that are not funded) are now public.
>
> He equates this work with nuclear weapons research
>
> He criticizes NIH for redacting 290 pages of attachments. Anyone who's bothered to look at that will see that NIH was circulating a DRAFT version of their COVID-19 research strategy that was released a few days later having been corrected and edited. It was simply an attachment to an email. There's no way that a govt agency should be circulating uncorrected versions of a strategic plan – that's just commonsense.
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> https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https- 3A__www.currentaffairs.org_2022_08_why- 2Dthe-2Dchair-2Dof-2Dthe-2Dlancets-2Dco&d=DwIGaQ&c=ZQs-KZ8oxEw0p81sqgiaRA&r=5LfYK49OliIsJzSnooAjOg&m=hPFWMEklFgm5H54jTvYTzCXGWKMPBxl03XCQ9TggM6ARK1vT3e4qNgSCrud5F2C5&s=hC16xyJYpKXkpxydEKvaynlBUG6T0PtpVcI- ZhW5pZI&e=
> vid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-invest
> igation-into-the-pandemic
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> Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US
> Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic
>
> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is "pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology" and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.
>
> Current Affairs
>
> filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS
>
> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the Lancet. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.
>
> Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus's origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.
>
> NATHAN ROBINSON:
>
> I want to quote something that you said recently:
>
> "I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I'm pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there's enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it's not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don't want to look underneath the rug, the statement."
>
> The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the New York Times in the last year:
>
> "In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans."
>
> "Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic."
>
> So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.
>
> JEFFREY SACHS:
>
> Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020, before they had done any research at all. And they published the same statement in March 2020, before they had any facts at all.

So they're creating a narrative. And they're denying the alternative hypothesis without looking closely at it. That's the basic point.
>
> Now, what is the alternative hypothesis? The alternative hypothesis is quite straightforward. And that is that there was a lot of research underway in the United States and China on taking SARS-like viruses, manipulating them in the laboratory, and creating potentially far more dangerous viruses. And the particular virus that causes COVID-19, called 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

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alternative. And when they discuss the alternative, they don't discuss the research program. They discuss complete straw men about the lab, not the actual kind of research that was underway, which was to stick furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses in a way that could have created SARS-Cov-2.
>
> What I'm calling for is not the conclusion. I'm calling for the investigation. Finally, after two and a half years of this, it's time to fess up that it might have come out of a lab and here's the data that we need to know to find out whether it did.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> One of the things that struck me that I didn't know when I started writing about this and actually doing some some research is realizing that in the years leading up to the pandemic, there was a huge controversy about whether it was wise to modify viruses in the course of research in ways that could make a virus more infectious or more lethal. And some people were arguing that this kind of research was insane. And some people were warning that in the case of a lab accident—an accident, mind you, not as an intentional "bioweapon"—a simple human error could cause a real catastrophe.
>
> SACHS:
>
> That is exactly right. There were several kinds of experiments of manipulation of the genes of dangerous viruses. And this raised a lot of alarm. And there was actually a moratorium in 2014. But the champions of this kind of research pushed on, they applied for waivers, which they got, and finally the moratorium came off in 2017. And they said how important it is to do this dangerous kind of research, because they claimed, "Well, there are lots of viruses out there. And we don't know when they're going to become highly pathogenic, and we need to develop drugs and vaccines against a wide spectrum of them. So we have to test all these viruses that we can find, to see whether they have high spillover potential." But they weren't actually aiming to just test viruses that they were collecting in nature. They were aiming to modify those viruses. Because the scientists knew that a SARS-like virus without a furin cleavage site wouldn't be that dangerous. But they wanted to test their drugs and vaccines and theories against dangerous viruses. Their proposal was to take hundreds, by the way—or least they talked about in one proposal more than 180 previously unreported strains—and test them for their so-called "spillover potential." How effective would they be? And to look: do they have a furin cleavage site, or technically what's called a proteolytic cleavage site? And if not, put them in. For heaven's sake. My God! Are you kidding?
>
> Okay, but we didn't even ask the question from the first day: did you guys do that? Tell us what you did. Could you give us your lab notebooks? We're kind of curious. Instead, these people who are writing these New York Times articles right now and publishing these pieces about the market, from the first day—without asking about the experiments—they said, "Nope, it's natural." That's why I don't trust them. Because they've never looked at the alternative hypothesis. And their hypothesis has so many gaps, so many holes in it. But they don't even try to look at the alternative hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> I think it's very important to make clear that the "alternative hypothesis" is mainly a hypothesis about an accident, and scientific hubris. It's important to distinguish the kooky theories from the incredibly plausible theories. Because what you're talking about is people who did not appreciate the dangers of what they were doing.
>
> SACHS:
>
> In fact, it's very interesting. The alternative that is the right one to look at is part of a very extensive research program that was underway from 2015 onward, funded by the NIH, by Tony Fauci, in particular NIAID [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases], and it was to examine the spillover potential of SARS-like viruses. The champions of this research explained in detail their proposals. But after the event, we'd never asked them, "So what were you actually doing? What experiments did you do? What do you know?" We somehow never asked. It was better just to sweep it under the rug, which is what Fauci and the NIH have done up until this point. Maybe they could tell us, "Oh, full exoneration," but they haven't told us that at all. They haven't shown us anything.
>
> So there's nothing "kooky" about it, because it's precisely what the scientists were doing. And then you can listen to the scientists on tape describing why they think the research program is so important, because they say these are dangerous viruses, and therefore we have to prepare broad spectrum vaccines and drugs. They explain

it's not good enough to test one or two viruses. We have to test all of them. And then they came to realize, as I said earlier, that just having a SARS-like virus, if it doesn't have this piece of the gene, it's almost surely not going to be that effective. So they got around to the idea. "Well, let's put these in," if you can imagine that. To my mind, it's mind-boggling.
>
>
>
> But they were proud of this, because it's actually genius at a technological level. Can you imagine: you can take a sequence of letters, which defines the genome, you can recreate the virus just from the letters. You don't even have to have the biological virus in hand, you just need the sequence. Then you can say "I'm going to add these four letters RRAR, the furin cleavage site, or maybe it's eight, RRARSVAS, this is a sequence of eight amino acids—I'm going to stick it in there right at the S1 S2 junction of the spike protein, because I know from my research program that will make it more pathogenic, that is more disease-causing. And then I can see whether my drug candidates like remdesivir, or some other candidate works against it. That is their idea. There's nothing kooky about our claim: Hey, what were you doing? Because they told us that they wanted to do these projects. And they told us that they were wanting to do these projects in the months leading up to this outbreak. And then what is absolutely strange is that even though scientists knew right from the start, that is very weird to have that RRAR furin cleavage site in there—never saw that before in a SARS-like virus, and that that could well have come from a lab—hush, hush. Don't talk about it. Don't even discuss it. Just say right from the beginning: This is natural. Of course, it's natural. Everything else is kooky.
>
> So you saw a narrative being created. And the scientists are not acting like scientists. Because when you're acting like a scientist, you're pursuing alternative hypotheses. And the scientists just wrote recently an op-ed saying the only evidence that this came out of a lab that's been put forward is that it came in a city, Wuhan, where an institute was located. Well, that's a lie. That is not the only coincidence that leads to this theory. What leads to this alternative hypothesis is the detailed research program the NIH funded that was underway in the years leading up to the outbreak. So I see the scientists absolutely trying to create a narrative and take our eyes off of another issue.
>
> Now, again, let me emphasize, we don't have definitive evidence of either hypothesis. But what we do have is definitive evidence that officialdom has tried to keep our eyes away from the lab creation hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> You mentioned the lab in Wuhan. It's not just that there was a lab in Wuhan doing research on viruses. But there were ties between the lab and those pursuing this program. What do we know about the research that was actually occurring there?
>
> SACHS:
>
> We know that at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the scientists there had been trained by American scientists to use advanced bioengineering methodologies. And in particular, we have scientists in North Carolina, Texas, and so forth who do this kind of research, believe in it, argue for it, and say that they don't want any regulations on it and so on. And they were in close contact with Wuhan Institute of Virology, and they were part of a joint research group that was stitched together by something called EcoHealth Alliance. And EcoHealth Alliance was the kind of marriage maker between the American scientists and the Chinese scientists. That was the vehicle for funding from the U.S. government, especially from the National Institutes of Health, and especially from Tony Fauci's unit, the NIAID. There were years of grants, there were grant proposals. We don't know exactly what was done. But we have enough reason to know that we should be asking exactly what was done. And we know definitively that from the beginning, NIH has been running from telling us what has been done. They're not telling us the truth, that they had reason to fear from the start that this came out of a lab. And that to this day, they have reason to suspect it, but they're not talking.
>
> ROBINSON:
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> 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:
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> Well, more than that: I appointed him—this was Peter Daszak—I appointed him to chair the task force of the pandemic commission that I was running for the Lancet. And he headed a task force on the origins. I thought, naively at the beginning, "Well, here's a guy who is so connected, he would know." And then I realized he was not telling me the truth. And it took me some months, but the more I saw it, the more I resented it.
>
> And so I told him, "Look, you have to leave." And then the other scientists in that task force attacked me for being anti-scientific. And I asked them: "What are your connections with all of this?" They didn't tell me. Then when the Freedom of Information Act released some of these documents that NIH had been hiding from the public, I saw that people that were attacking me were also part of this thing. So I disbanded that whole task force. So my own experience was to witness close up how they're not talking. And they're trying to keep our eyes on something else. And away from even asking the questions that we're talking about. We don't have the answers. But we have good reasons to ask. And we have good reasons to know that NIH is not doing its job properly right now.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> So you're saying that Daszak and others did not disclose to you pretty serious conflicts of interest? Since, on the hypothesis that it had something to do with this kind of research, that would have implicated Daszak himself in the origins of the crisis?
>
> SACHS:
>
> Well, he could have explained to me right from the beginning that there was a big research program and that they were manipulating the viruses, and here's how. He could have given me the research proposals. And when I asked him for one of the research proposals, he said, "No, my lawyer says I can't give it to you." I said, "What? You're heading a commission. We're a transparent commission. You're telling me your lawyer says you can't give me your project proposal." I said, "Well, then you can't be on this commission. This is not even a close call."
>
> But there were so many other things. He was just filled with misdirection. I don't know whether he understands or not, maybe he doesn't understand. But the things he said just were absolutely not right.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> When people hear you say, "They're sweeping it under the rug, they don't want to look," one question that may come to their minds is "Well, why? Why would people not be interested in getting to the truth?" But the alternate hypothesis from the natural spillover that you're talking about could have serious repercussions. It would implicate a lot of people in potentially millions of deaths. So there's a lot at stake here for the scientific community. Which explains why there would be an interest in directing people away from this possibility.
>
> SACHS:
>
> There are at least two reasons why they might be doing what they're doing. One is, as you say, the implications are huge. Imagine if this came out of a lab. And we have, by some estimates, about 18 million dead worldwide from this. That's not the official count. But that's the estimated excess mortality from COVID. Well, the implications of that—the ethical, the moral, the geopolitical—everything is enormous.
>
> But there's a second matter that is really important, too. One thing that is rather clear to me is that there is so much dangerous research underway right now under the umbrella of biodefense or other things that we don't know about, that is not being properly controlled. This is for sure. And that's happening around the world. And governments say "don't poke your nose into that." That's our business, not your business. But it's actually our business. It's our business to understand what is going on with this. This is not to be kept secret. We don't trust you.
>
> Let me put it this way: I don't trust them right now. I want to know. Because even what we know of the dangerous research is enough to raise a lot of questions of responsibility for the future. And to pose the question: "Hey, what other viruses are you guys working on? What should we know?" Because no matter what the truth is on SARS-Cov-2, what is pretty clear is we've got so much technological capacity to engineer dangerous pathogens right now. And a lot of that is being done. And it's classified. It's secret, and we don't know what it is. And I don't like that feeling at all. I don't recommend it for us and for the world.
>

> ROBINSON:
>
> Well, you've rather answered the question of why it's important to get to the bottom of this. Because one of the excuses you hear is, "Well, who really cares? Does it matter? It was an animal, it was a lab, whatever it is, it's here." But what you're saying is, "No, we actually need to know where this started." Because this isn't going to be the only one, whatever the origins are. And we don't want people to die from future viruses. This is critically important. If we're going to save millions of lives, we have to find out the answer.
>
> SACHS:
>
> I can tell you one thing that I've learned from talking to a lot of scientists in the last couple of years: the technological capacity to do dangerous things using this biotechnology is extraordinary right now. So I want to know what's being done. I want to know what other governments are doing, too, not just ours. I want some global control over this stuff.
>
> We've kind of understood the nuclear risk—even that, of course, is in a lot of ways hidden from view. But this is a clear and present risk. And there's reason to believe we're actually in the midst of it, not just hypothetically. So come on: it's time to open the books everywhere. It's time to find out. Maybe it was the marketplace. Maybe it wasn't a lab. But we need to get real answers, now. Not the kind of misdirection that's been going in since February 2020. Enough nonsense! Enough New York Times stories saying, "Oh, it's this, it's that," without looking closely at the very plausible laboratory hypothesis.
>
> ROBINSON:
>
> It seems from what you're saying that as the head of the Lancet's COVID-19 commission, you didn't feel you were able to get satisfactory answers or see the data you wanted. What kind of investigation do we need and who ought to do it?
>
> SACHS:
>
> The most interesting things that I got as chair of the Lancet commission came from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits and whistleblower leaks from inside the U.S. government. Isn't that terrible? NIH was actually asked at one point: give us your research program on SARS-like viruses. And you know what they did? They released the cover page and redacted 290 pages. They gave us a cover page and 290 blank pages! That's NIH, for heaven's sake. That's not some corporation. That is the U.S. government charged with keeping us healthy.
>
> What I found is that we have a lot of data which we're not finding right now. And I don't want to have to rely on FOIA and leaks, though those can be incredibly informative. I want clear, independent scientific investigation and transparency. One way to do this would be a bipartisan congressional oversight investigation that had subpoena power. Give us your lab records, your notebooks, your data files of virus strains, and so forth. There are many questions that we need independent scientists to define, to tell us exactly the kinds of information. But we know right now we're operating in an environment in which the government is working to hide the data that we need to make a real assessment.
>
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> Cheers,
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> Peter
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> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
> pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Fri, 10 Feb 2023 10:56:06 AM -0500
Sent: Fri, 10 Feb 2023 10:55:20 AM -0500
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Yes even better

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

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
[b6]

iPhone

On Feb 10, 2023, at 9:52 AM, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

Peter:

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

Rich

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay 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 Morens b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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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

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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 <b6>
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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

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

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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

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Executive Assistant b6

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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:

1. To formulate and recommend principles and procedures to guide the Association in a continuing review of issues that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, and to search for means that will effectively bring these issues to the attention of both scientists and others.
1. To monitor whether the actions and policies of the government of the United States, the governments of other nations, and of private organizations circumscribe or restrict

the freedom of scientists or their ability to carry out their responsibilities.

1. To collect information on restrictions of scientific freedom and of the ability of scientists to carry out their responsibilities, and to make such information available to scientists, scientific societies, and others who may be interested in taking action to counter these restrictions.
1. To encourage and assist the AAAS, its affiliates, and other scientific groups to develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to establish policies, procedures, and educational activities designed to encourage scientists to accept their professional responsibilities both with regard to safeguarding the integrity of science and with regard to the application of science in the promotion of human rights and general welfare.
1. To encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to develop policies and procedures to protect scientists against infringements of scientific freedom; to collect information about the procedures of affiliated societies for dealing with documented allegations of such infringements; to facilitate communication among the societies with a view to strengthening of these procedures; and, in exceptional circumstances and within the criteria developed by the Committee, to conduct an analytic review of cases where the ramifications are deemed to be especially significant for the scientific community at large.
1. To report annually to the Association, through the Council–and, as appropriate, to other scientific and technological communities and to the general public–the activities of the Committee and its general assessment of significant developments during the year that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility and that call for examination, discussion and possible action.

As part of the attempt to fulfill its mandate, the CSFR in 1977 established a Science and Human Rights Subcommittee, specifically to address issues of human rights as they occur in relation to all these duties.

Adopted by the Committee for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility February 9, 1996.

Adopted by the AAAS Council on February 16, 1997.

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Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

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Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <b6; Peter Daszak <b6>; David Morens <b6; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <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 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

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On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com> wrote:

Hi:

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

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

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

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

Rich

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Tel: b6 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, February b6
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: David Morens b6; Roberts, Rich <b6 effrey 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

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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
    - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
    - OSTP
    - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

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Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: 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

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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

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

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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 effrey Sturchio < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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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

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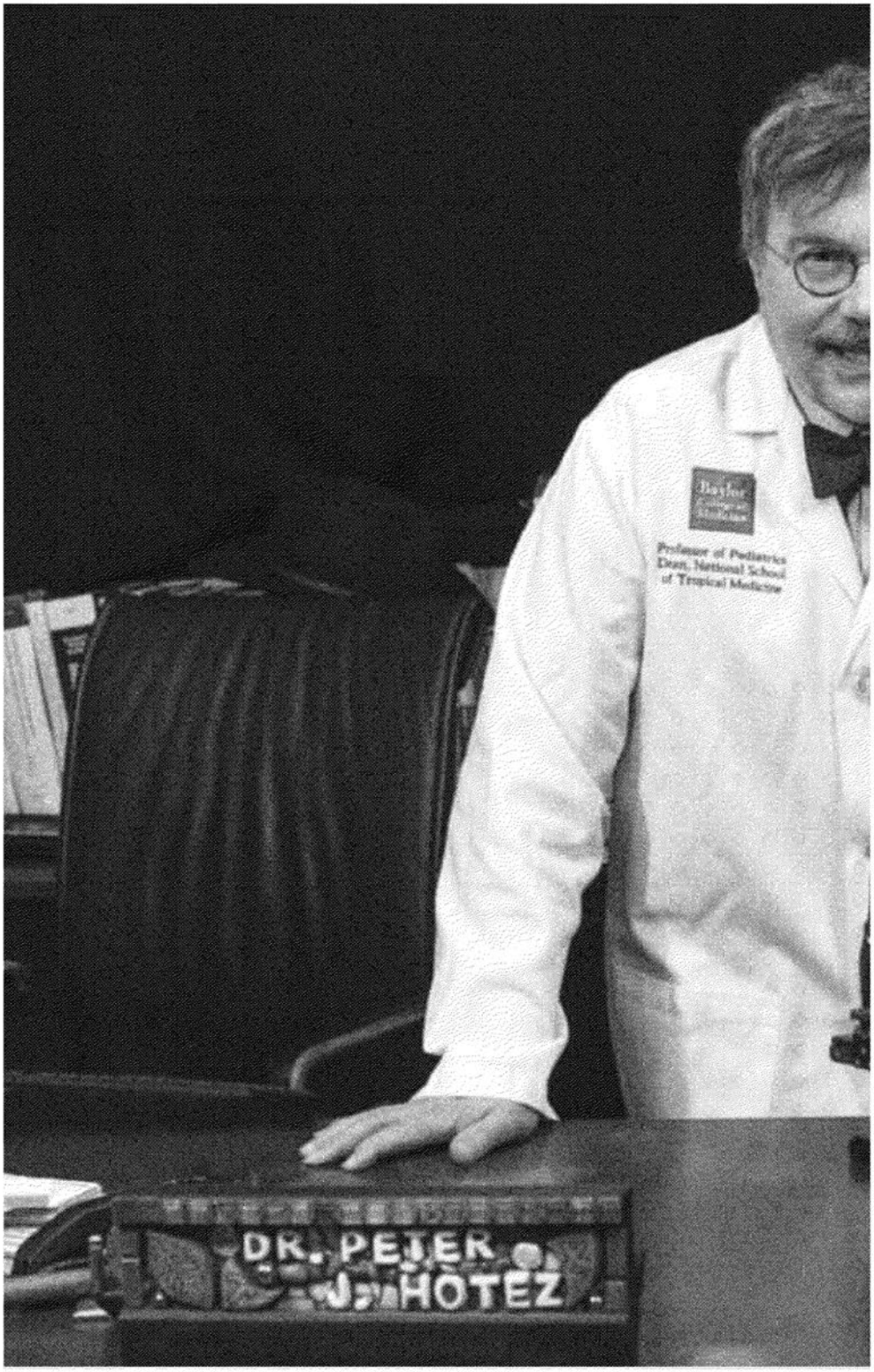

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media.

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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,

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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

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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

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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

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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

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about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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

---

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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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

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Baylor University, University Professor

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Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

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

Peter:

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

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

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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240 County Road
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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, Ric 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

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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

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REL0000478770

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240 County Road
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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

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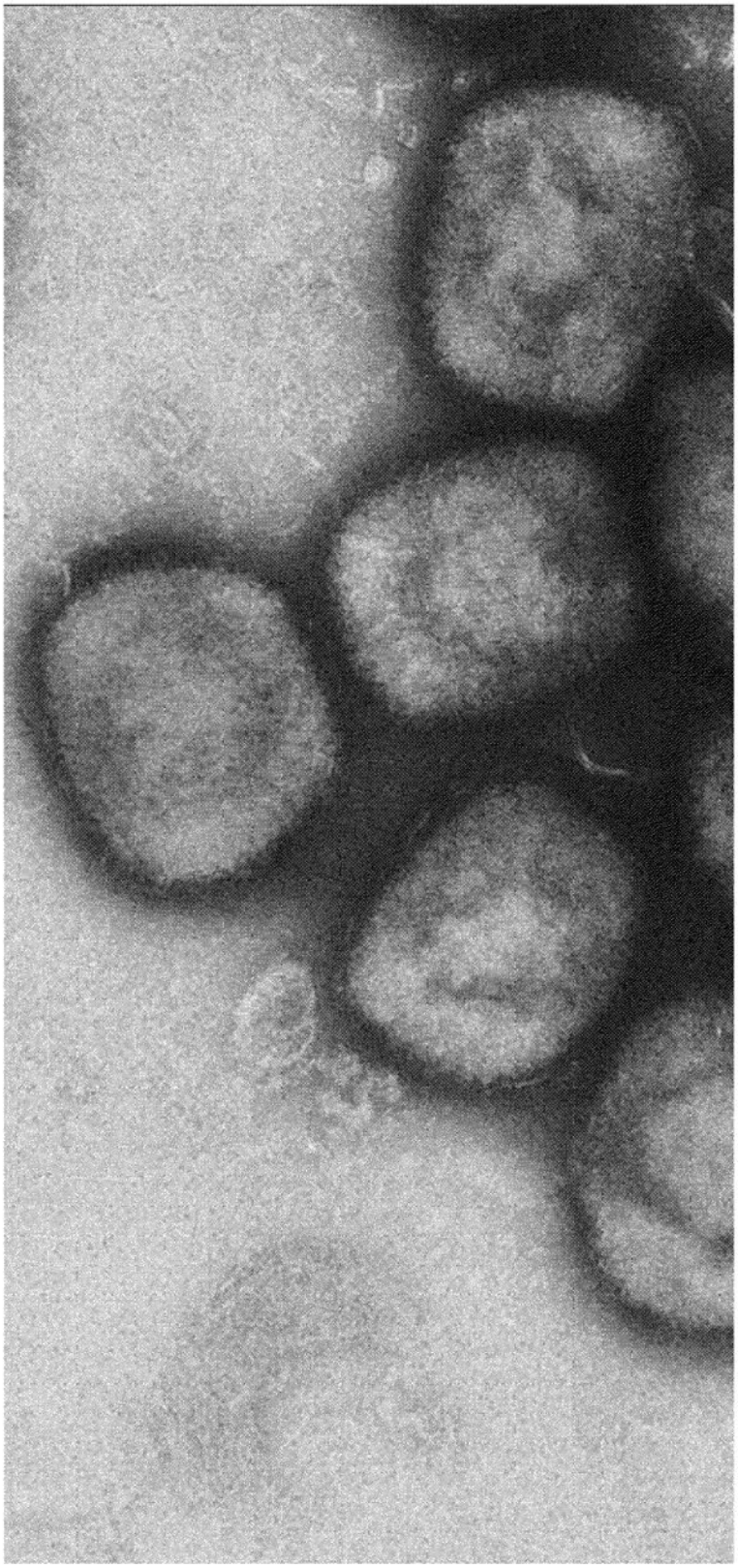

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the

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evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack. They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

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

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

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

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

The origins of the pandemic

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture

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of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

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

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

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

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an

experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
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Email

Cheers,

Peter

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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 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

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Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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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 (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

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

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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 (b) (6) (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

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

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

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

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak < 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

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Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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
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

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

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
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

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
>; 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 <
>; Gerald Keusch b6
Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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MORENS_NIH_037582
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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018587
MORENS_NIH_037584
REL0000478770

Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 1:22:46 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 24 Jan 2023 1:22:35 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Couple of articles of interest
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6];
CC: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.png; image001.png

My point, with a 4th major Coronavirus pandemic inevitable following SARS MERS Covid, we need more than ever to expand our virologic research workforce, double down not scale back

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

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On Jan 24, 2023, at 11:02 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

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,

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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
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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 Sturchi 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
>
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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; 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

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

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> 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 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

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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

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

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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

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point they hope to discredit NIH, and especially NIAID. They will also target their grantees.

NIAID is looking for a new director? Will that happen soon?

Best Peter

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

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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

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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

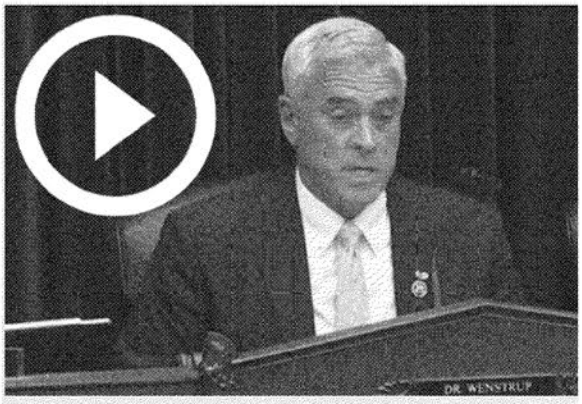
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_NIH_031661
REL0000478796

Date:	Fri, 3 May 2024 1:12:29 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 3 May 2024 1:12:15 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From:	Peter Daszak b6
To:	Roberts, Rich b6 >;
CC:	Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 Keith Martin b6 >; David Morens b6 >;
Attachments:	BRW- Thumbnail.png

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

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



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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich [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



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

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Date: Mon, 2 May 2022 11:52:16 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 2 May 2022 11:52:13 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Response from NAM FW: confidential
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]>
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>;
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

Sorry, was occupied yesterday with family so I have just caught up with this and the Ossoff/Johnson letter. As I noted earlier I will send a letter to Ossoff with my concern that he has co-signed a letter with Johnson and request his explanation. I don't for an instant think I will get a reply, and I don't (and never will) vote in Georgia. I did sent a few contributions to his campaign but I am not in the category of an influencer.

For NAM, I suggest your advisors consider whether or not you can respond back to Fuentes-Afflick to ask what they intend to do about the failure of the house members to maintain confidentiality that you and allegedly NAM has. It seems to me they deserve a rebuttal. I don't know if there has been any attention paid to the Fox news piece, and maybe its not time to work on a favorable public response, but I would certainly be willing to take it up with Jon Cohen at Science.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 8:10 PM
To: Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>
Subject: Response from NAM FW: confidential
Importance: High

Dear all,

Please read below the response from the NAM membership secretary.

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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: Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >; Dzau, Victor J. b6 Kim, Se b6
Subject: confidential

Dr. Daszak,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I want to assure you, personally, that the confidentiality requirement and following our process are my top

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

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

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Dzau, Victor J. [b6] Fuentes-Afflick, Elena [b6] Kim, Se [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

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

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

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

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

interview/).

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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Date: Mon, 7 Jun 2021 1:02:37 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 7 Jun 2021 1:01:17 AM -0400
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>
CC: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> Keusch, Jerry <b6> Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>

You're right – we eventually worked out a solution with the phone company and it seems to be working, finger's crossed. Just disappointing when they win – crank calls at 5am really do tire you out.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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From: Roberts, Rich <b6>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:57 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>; Keusch, Jerry <b6> Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Subject: Re: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter:

Maybe best to disable the phone for most of the day - or change the number.

Rich

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 7, 2021, at 12:44 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:
>
> **EXTERNAL SENDER**
>
> Well I really appreciate that! It was a horrible interview – they spoke to me for hours over the days up to it giving the

impression it would be a balanced review of what the WHO team found in China, but clearly they saw that the lab leak was the breaking story and didn't even mention wildlife farms or markets! Please pass on my appreciation to your wife.

Having a very bad weekend frankly. Hate phone calls keeping me awake at night and I've just seen that the social media people have finally discovered the hate-website that someone's put up accusing my father of being a Nazi (www.peterdaszak.com). Villagers gathering with pitchforks as we speak!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich < b6
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Keusch, Jerry b6 ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter:

My wife and I watched the 60 Minutes coverage, which was better than I had remembered. My wife thought you were very good!

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, June 6, 2021 11:54 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E b6 ; Keusch, Jerry b6 ; Roberts, Rich <
b6 ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

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MORENS_NIH_030419
REL0000478840

EXTERNAL SENDER

Wonderful that you're able to get information up the chain and I'm really relieved and hope that it will be useful and that this won't be weaponized politically.

The quote came out in the Financial Times on Saturday (attached PDF). The relevant quote is here:

'But he [Fauci] also admits that some of the work undertaken at the Wuhan lab using NIH money could have violated safety standards — even if he says responsibility for that lies with EcoHealth Alliance, the non-governmental group that performed the work. "We will have to go back and look at that," he said of accusations that some of the coronavirus work was undertaken at biosafety level two, roughly equivalent to that in a dentist's office. "But that is something that should have been monitored by EcoHealth Alliance." EcoHealth Alliance said: "As with all research organisations, EcoHealth Alliance must follow the local laws of the countries in which we work."'

Of course, for EHA this is very concerning because even though we've followed the appropriate rules, their complexity means that the public may not understand, and when you add comments like the journalists have above: "work…could have violated safety standards", it's just used to cast doubt and try and besmirch our name as usual.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6 Keusch, Jerr b6 b6 ; Rich Roberts b6 >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 >
Subject: FW: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter, the below CONFIDENTIAL email went to Tony and to our OD staff, so that Tony will be prepared to speak to the subject of BSL…

This was what I was typing up when we spoke last night. I am sure he will "get" this and be able to respond to the crazies if necessary….

<image001.gif>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014767
MORENS_NIH_030420
REL0000478840

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

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:36 PM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>; Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
Subject: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

In the recent Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists article, we have this quote

"It is clear that some or all of this work was being performed using a biosafety standard—biosafety level 2, the biosafety level of a standard US dentist's office—that would pose an unacceptably high risk of infection of laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2…."

My understanding is that human coronaviruses including sarbecoviruses are routinely worked at in BSL-2 around the world as are many other viruses that can cause problems for people. The BSL level designation is decided by each country and is not related to perceived pandemic potential but largely to risk to the BSL workers.

For example, BSL-4 designation generally means deadly virus, infectious by aerosol, no vaccine against it, and no treatment for it. So, although rabies is 100% fatal in humans, it can be prevented by a vaccine and prevented by a post exposure serum, and (probably if not totally) not infectious by aerosol, thus it is BSL-2 even though among the deadliest of human viruses. Working with non-human coronaviruses at BSL-2 is widespread since these viruses are not known to infect humans.

David, Alan and others may have additional thoughts.

Attached is a fact sheet that I think comes from Ec~Health

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Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 5:25:23 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 5:25:20 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Harold Varmus has been spotted in CT!
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6 >;
CC: David Morens b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >;

Will do

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, 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!

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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

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 g >; 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 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

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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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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

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Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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.

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: b6
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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; DRURY, Patrick Anthony b6; Ken Maeda b6; M.P.G. Koopmans b6; Hayman, David b6; 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.

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

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Date: Tue, 14 Feb 2023 8:54:09 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 14 Feb 2023 8:51:19 PM -0500
Subject: Surprising discovery in the bowels of NIH.gov
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]
Attachments: NIH 2020-foia-log.pdf; NIH 2021 foia-log.pdf; NIH 2022-foia-log.pdf

I found a place on the NIH website where they do an annual report of all FoIA requests: https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/freedom-information-act-office/nih-foia-log

It's quite shocking – there are something like 2000+ a year for 2020, 21, 22 – that's ~5.49 per day!!

Even worse are the topics – things like "Every email from Tony Fauci with the words "Christmas" "Holiday" "Thanksgiving"" as well as every possible conspiracy theory from hydroxychloroquine to windfarms!

I've attached pdfs for the past 3 years. It looks like about every 5th one or so for 2022 is related to EcoHealth alliance, WIV, Daszak, etc.

What a shocker! No wonder we're all so busy here plowing through the same emails over and over again!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018953
MORENS_NIH_038439
REL0000478887

Great to see your thread (and re-tweet it)!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 8:38 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6; Peter 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

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MORENS_NIH_038440
REL0000478887

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

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Feb 13, 2023, at 6:28 PM, Peter Daszak [b6]g > 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
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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 b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Peter Daszak < b6 ; David Morer 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
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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: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:41 AM
To: Roberts, Rich < b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 ; Peter Daszak <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018956
MORENS_NIH_038442
REL0000478887

b6 >; David Morens 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

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

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iPhone

On 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
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Executive Assistant: Erin Varney
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: evarney@neb.com

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 < b6 >
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

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On Feb 9, 2023, at 4:35 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [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
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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 [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

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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

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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

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Kelly Joyce
Drexel University

Bartha Maria Knoppers
McGill University

Alexa Koenig
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Steven Livingston
George Washington University

Camille Nebeker
University of California, San Diego

Safiya Noble
University of California, Los Angeles

Frank Pasquale
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Neal Rubin (Chair)
Adler University

Judith Tanur
Stony Brook University

Joseph Watkins
University of Arizona

Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Rich < b6
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6 ; Peter Daszak b6 David Morens b6 Jeffrey Sturchio b6 Aleksei Chmura < b6

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REL0000478887

Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

LeBron was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke Kyrie Irving, citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the National Academies. I speak with Holden pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

Many thanks Rich!

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

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

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

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Media Inquiries:
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iPhone

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

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been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

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

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

Rich

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email: b6

Executive Assistant: b6
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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 <

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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:

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018966
MORENS_NIH_038452
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay 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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Media Inquiries:

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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Ja[b6]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]
Cc: David Morens[(b) (6)]>; Roberts, Rich <[(b) (6)]; Keusch, Gerald T[(b) (6)]; Jeffrey Sturchio <[(b) (6)]; Aleksei Chmura <[(b) (6)]
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 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

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(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

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Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?
Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.
Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?
Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.
It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.
After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.
As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science

aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far

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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

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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

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

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conservation

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

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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(b) (6)

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

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(b) (6)

iPhone

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

Peter:

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

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

Rich

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T b6 Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

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

Rich

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

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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.

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

The origins of the pandemic

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

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

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

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

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

A bird flu study raises alarm

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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_018984
MORENS_NIH_038470
REL0000478887

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
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Cheers,

Peter

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

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent

pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T [(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [(b) (6)]
Cc: Peter Daszak [(b) (6)] David Morens <[(b) (6)]>; Jeffrey Sturchio <[(b) (6)]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Rich Roberts <[(b) (6)]>
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

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

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

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

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [(b) (6)]
Cc: Peter Daszak [(b) (6)] David Morens <[(b) (6)]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [(b) (6)]>; Aleksei Chmura [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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

Jerry

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

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

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

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

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Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

I also cannot believe for the life of me that 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
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Website: b6
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of 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 (b) (6) (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

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

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

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

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

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

> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018991
MORENS_NIH_038477
REL0000478887

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <
b6
>
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
>; David Morens <
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

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

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

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018994
MORENS_NIH_038480
REL0000478887



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

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iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018996
MORENS_NIH_038482
REL0000478887

Date:	Mon, 7 Mar 2022 11:15:39 AM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 7 Mar 2022 11:15:33 AM -0500
Subject:	RE: Music from my relatives in Ukraine
From:	"Roberts, Rich" [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6];
CC:	David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Attachments:	Zelensky.png

Peter:

Thanks. What is happening is quite appalling and the response by the civilized world is very disappointing.

The attached is highly appropriate.

Rich

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Music from my relatives in Ukraine

EXTERNAL SENDER

Re-tweeting and sharing also.

So glad you've done this Rich. These are dark times for both Ukraine and Russia – in addition to the human suffering, centuries of art, science, culture are being willfully destroyed as we speak.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005728
MORENS_NIH_014070
REL0000478891

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 2:21 AM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T < b6 Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Re: Music from my relatives in Ukraine

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

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

On Mar 6, 2022, at 9:44 PM, Roberts, Rich <b6> wrote:

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Peter:

Your brother is a very talented violinist! Thanks for sharing. The current situation is heartbreaking and I think we all wish that more could be done to help.

In case you were not aware, Roald Hoffmann and I have organized a Nobel Laureates appeal for peace in Ukraine. The appeal is attached and the current list of signees (currently 181) can be found at https://nlcampaigns.org/ukraine.html Please circulate as you see fit, but especially to scientists in Russia, Ukraine and China.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: 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 (b) (6), 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: (b) (6)
And a really technical piece "Gypsy Airs" by Sarasate (b) (6)

Here is (b) (6) playing piano. She managed to get out on Day 1 of the invasion, escape over to Hungary and is now safely in Sweden with (b) (6)

I also wanted to share this beautiful piece of Ukrainian music. It's called "Chuyesh Brati myi" or "Listen, my brother". I first heard this when we buried 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 (b) (6) 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 (b) (6) we're trying to persuade them to get out every day…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_005731
MORENS_NIH_014073
REL0000478891

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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 (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Responding to your email below David, you're right about the best defense being offense. I end up going through a process with these attacks. First day I feel like giving up on science. Then after a while, sometimes a few days of moping around, I get my aggression back and start trying to find ways to counter. As a strategy, I'm gradually talking to a few of the nastier journalists who have been attacking us, and I'm working on approaching some of the Republicans who are trying to defund us, and will have a better chance of doing that if they win the mid-terms.

First attempt came this week when *The Intercept* told us they were planning a story and sent a list of ridiculous questions about some typos in our reports on the terminated R01 – the issues that the House E&C Republicans sent to NIH last week (attached). *The Intercept* has filed FoIAs on our NIH grants back to 2001 and is currently in court to challenge NIH about handing over information on FoIA requests. Their play is to file a story every time Republicans on the Hill rip into EcoHealth or NIH then report in a dramatic way without our side of the story, usually quoting Ebright and Larry Gostin. I spent an hour and a half answering their questions on zoom and explaining how every allegation levelled at EHA about our NIH work can be answered by understanding the process of doing normal science. They've now put a story out that is less damaging than we believe it would have been, and has them turning their ire a bit more onto NIH O/D rather than us – not great for that to happen, but better than just lots of innuendo about our motives. There's still plenty of mudslinging particularly from Ebright who believes the typos in our report represent "Serious violations". The story's here: https://theintercept.com/2022/03/03/wuhan- coronavirus-research-nih-ecohealth/

I'm also working with Jon Cohen (Science) and Betsy McKay (WSJ) to send them every document we receive from NIH O/D and our responses. Both seem to be building up to doing a story and both recognize that this is a load of garbage being churned up for political purposes.

Amusingly, I sent Jon Cohen the Intercept story and he said it broke the ultimate rule of journalism – it was too boring to reach the end.

By the way David – I removed Holly Irving from the email chain because it's a NIAID address and can be FoIA'd

Cheers,

Peter

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From: David Morens <b6
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
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

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005735
MORENS_NIH_014077
REL0000478891

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 >
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Bloom, Barry R. b6 >; Michael Imperiale b6 ; Silja Vöneky < b6
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 g >; 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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_005736
MORENS_NIH_014078
REL0000478891

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Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 12:28:54 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 12:24:57 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republicans, this time also mentioning Rich Roberts
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Rich Roberts [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Thanks Peter – the worst of it is the way fellow scientists are just not getting in touch any more (apart from you, the heroic 4 muskateers). I've been quietly uninvited from committees I was asked to serve on, quietly left out of co-authorship for papers I was originally asked to help, and I know that USAID, NIH and DoD DTRA are avoiding us at the moment, even while we depend on them for funding.

At the same time according to the right wing attacks we're somehow supposed to defend ourselves publicly, hand over all our data, testify to our crimes, respond to interviews, etc.

Erstwhile good scientists are feeding this as well – the Fox news link below has a video at the top of the page with Jay Battacharya accusing Fauci, Collins, Jeremy Farrar etc. of shutting down the lab leak ideas. Their FoIA'd emails, from my point of view, show them trying to avoid amplifying a conspiracy about the wuhan lab, not shutting down valid lines of inquiry. Of course, as Fox attacks Fauci, we're right in the middle of the line of fire.

https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid- origins-republicans-pressure-nih-risky-research/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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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, February 24, 2022 11:39 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Rich Roberts [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republicans, this time also mentioning Rich Roberts

I'm so sorry Peter, I've just endured 2 successive nights of Fox News attacks but Tucker Carlson and then Laura Ingraham. It's really bad

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 Feb 24, 2022, at 10:29 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,

I'm so sorry to darken your doorsteps again with news of more awful attacks from the Republicans. This time it's the House Energy and Commerce Republicans – the same ones who asked for me to be kicked out of the NAM (still not heard from the NAM by the way).

They've now sent a letter to NIH (Tabak) accusing EHA of fraud because we're allegedly double-dipping on funding (USAID and NIH), and not declaring private funding, specifically the anonymous donation that you helped organize Rich. Of course, this was after the NIH terminated our funding, so is utterly irrelevant, but they give the impression that we used the attacks to raise funds. Well, we've lot substantial funding since then, so that's also not true.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015723
MORENS_NIH_033410
REL0000478897

Here is the news story on Fox:
https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid- origins-republicans-pressure-nih-risky-research

The letter to Tabak is attached. It specifically names you Rich, and insinuates that we were busy making money out of this miserable situation.

Here are the facts:

- The research work we conducted in China on coronaviruses was funded by NIH, with support for One Health capacity building and emerging viral risk analysis supported later by USAID.
- NIH and USAID undertook an assessment of any potential overlap in funding, and decided that there was none.
- We reported to each agency about the work we did and acknowledged funding on all scientific papers from this work.
- No non-federal funding was used to support this coronavirus research in China prior to the abrupt termination of our NIH funding on April 24th 2020, after which we had to use used non-federal funding to pay for staff time to publish this information and make it available to the world.
- We remain committed to doing everything we can to continue getting the work we conducted in China prior to COVID-19 out into the public domain, for the benefit of citizens in the USA and globally.

This week alone we were notified about 2 separate FoIAs to USAID for our emails and proposals. We've got daily requests from reporters who are trying to generate negative press. We've got a former disgruntled employee accusing us of being a CIA front on right-wing podcasts, and a barrage of online threats and harassment, many of them from well-known right-leaning social commentators with hundreds of thousands of followers (including Glenn Beck – 2 video podcasts on EHA and Eric Weinstein).

Meanwhile, I'm being quietly sidelined by all the societies, agencies and academies that used to ask me to give talks, join committees etc. The NAM hasn't even let me know whether they're going to 'investigate' me or not, so I'm in limbo there too.

I've had 2 years of this and at this point, I'm really worried about my future in science, our organization's future, my own job, my family and my health.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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MORENS_NIH_033411
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015725
MORENS_NIH_033412
REL0000478897

Date: Wed, 30 Jun 2021 2:49:41 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 30 Jun 2021 2:49:29 PM -0400
Subject: Re: quote of the day…. i can't resist
From: Karen Siatras [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

That's OK; it's not every day that my inbox is filled with notes from luminaries, after all.

I wish they would Build That Wall --- right around the middle of the country --- and let the crazies do their thing without bothering the rest of us.

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 9:01 PM David Morens [b6] wrote:
Oops sorry for copying you on more than one of these emails with the science luminaries

You see, we are normal, depraved people, after all. d

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

From: David Morens [b6]
Date: June 29, 2021 at 19:51:14 EDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]
Cc: Siatras Siatras [b6] Peter Daszak [b6], Gerald Keusch [b6]
Subject: Re: quote of the day…. i can't resist

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 [(b) (6)] 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: Fri, 8 Jul 2022 11:45:06 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 8 Jul 2022 11:44:55 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Rep. Roy demands answers regarding partnership between American scientist and the Wuhan Institute of Virology
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

Especially since I think he's stepping down as head of GNL, I will reach out to him

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 8, 2022, at 10:23 AM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

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Poor Jim..... d

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: July 8, 2022 at 11:22:31 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: Rep. Roy demands answers regarding partnership between American scientist and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: July 8, 2022 at 09:33:38 EDT
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >, NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >, NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: Rep. Roy demands answers regarding partnership between American scientist and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

Rep. Roy demands answers regarding partnership between American scientist and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

July 7, 2022
Press Release

WASHINGTON— On Wednesday, Rep. Chip Roy (TX-21) sent a letter to Dr. James Le Duc, former director of the Galveston National Laboratory to get answers about recently uncovered documents indicating a partnership with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"As more evidence seems to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 originated from the WIV and cannot conclusively be ruled out as the source, it is essential to have a clear understanding of knowledge transfers between China and the United States," the letter reads. "It is concerning that any public institution receiving federal government funding would enter into a cooperation agreement with an entity controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Further, though UTMB may not be alone, it raises serious concerns that a prominent recipient of federal taxpayer dollars would enter into an agreement with any foreign entity—but especially an adversary—with such a glaring 'memory hole' provision that authorizes research materials and files to be destroyed upon request," it adds.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008169
MORENS_NIH_017827
REL0000478899

Recently, the U.S. Right to Know non-profit group uncovered concerning documents revealing a partnership established by Dr. Le Duc and the Wuhan Institute of Virology. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated October 20, 2017 contains a 'memory hole' provision that would have allowed Wuhan Lab personnel to request files and materials be destroyed. On its face, this seems to violate record retention laws and requirements on grant recipients at the NIH.
"As Congress looks to safeguard Americans from national security risks, it is essential that we understand why federal grant recipients are entering into partnerships with institutions in adversarial countries and under what circumstances. Therefore, we request information from you regarding the interactions and agreements between UTMB and the WIV under your leadership," the letter reads.

Congressman Roy is committed to fighting for Congressional oversight over the origins of COVID-19 and the level of participation U.S. scientists have with adversarial governments, including the Chinese Communist Party.
Full text of the letter can be found here.
###

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_008170
MORENS_NIH_017828
REL0000478899

Date: Wed, 16 Jun 2021 1:28:54 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 16 Jun 2021 1:26:59 AM -0400
Subject: FW: EcoHealth's scapegoating
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] peter hotez [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

Please read the email from Research!America below, and my response. Rich kindly put me in touch with them to see if they can help EcoHealth right now with NIH. I'm extremely grateful for your help Rich, and for Ellie Dehoney contacting NIH, but the response is not good. I feel real jeopardy right now with Dr. Fauci & Francis Collins under attack, and people focusing on the idea that our public comments that a lab leak is extremely unlikely (which it is) have made us a target. What's made us a target is Trump canceling our grant, followed by a relentless 1.5 year attack by politically motivated actors and organizations. I'm worried that they've effectively won at this point. I can't speak out publicly, no one within the Federal Govt seems willing to defend us, and our funders are being pressured and will begin to withdraw.

Add to this today's news that the HHS Inspector General will be looking into the grant to see if it was managed correctly (it was), and further political action from Rep. Ernst, who's latching onto the idea that an organization with a suspended grant should be defunded of all federal funding and has a bill ready that will close us down - https://www.ernst.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2021/6/ernst- pushes-to-cut-off-u-s-taxpayer-funding-of-organizations-like-a-wuhan-lab-linked-nonprofit-that-disregard-federal-law.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:18 AM
To: 'Ellie Dehoney' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Jessica Scott' [b6]; 'Jacqueline Lagoy' [b6]
Subject: EcoHealth's scapegoating
Importance: High

Thanks for trying Ellie. We cut back on press interviews a couple of months ago, and haven't spoken to a major outlet in a few weeks. However, there are dozens of quotes from me over the past year and a half where I gave my opinion, based on deep knowledge of the facts, on the likely pathways of COVID's emergence. Unfortunately, we were the only US organization

working in China to investigate coronavirus risk continually for the last 17 years, so the press came to us for answers. Add to that my misfortune on being asked by the WHO to help them on their COVID origins mission. I agreed, despite significant hardship, and now am being pilloried for reporting what we found. Our task on the WHO mission was to ascertain how likely each different pathway was, and that's where the quote probably comes from – we found it 'extremely unlikely' that it came from a lab, and published that in our report. Any good scientist worth their salt would have come to the same conclusion, and Dr. Fauci stated he believes it came from nature recently in Congress. The rationale is simple - there remains no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, but substantial evidence for emergence via human-wildlife interactions. To be now effectively canceled, simply because logic doesn't fit people's politics is just cruel and the essence of an anti-science agenda.

I'm frankly devastated at the thought of our organization being made a scapegoat by the federal govt and its agencies. I've spent my whole career working on the origins of pandemics – it's our organization's mission. As you rightly stated, we raised the flag over and over again about the risk of these viruses emerging, as did our collaborators in China. We spoke to the White House, to the PPFST, to agencies like USAID, NIH, CDC, and to the WHO. Some listened, some funded us to do this work. Others did not. It seems that right now, our future is in the hands of NIH to defend us, and from what I'm seeing and hearing, they're protecting themselves at our expense. That's plain wrong. Someone needs to call this out, and help us, and right now I'm at a loss where to go.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Ellie Dehoney <b6>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Roberts, Rich <b6>
Cc: Alison Andre <b6>; Jessica Scott <b6>; Jacqueline Lagoy <b6>
Subject: RE: Peter Daszak

Hi Peter and Rich, I heard back from Mike Lauer and Larry Tabak; they have asked me/Research!America to please stay out of this. I don't know, but believe they feel as trapped as you feel, Peter, and that we can only make things worse.

I read the recent NYT article in which you were quoted saying that it is unlikely COVID-19 originated at the lab. Several comments questioned why you were asked, which is a reasonable criticism of the NYT. The paper should not have asked you, or anyone who has a relationship with the lab, whether the lab could have been involved in any way. The NYT set you up. What choice did you have? Had you refused to comment, the NYT could well have noted your refusal in the article and that would have fed the beast; had you answered in any other way that you did, you would have been going against your own views, and you have too much integrity to do that).

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016590
MORENS_NIH_034732
REL0000478907

Take or leave this advice, but in my opinion, should anyone ask you again to comment on anything having to do with the Wuhan Lab, you should say that you are not the judge or jury of an investigation that has nothing to do with EcoHealth's work with the Wuhan lab or any facet of your work. Your lab tries to stop the transmission of coronaviruses by researching animal to human transmission. You raised alarms bells about this type of transmission more than a decade ago, and your commitment to preventing pandemics has never wavered. As a matter of fact, that would be a good theme of an op ed. One thing the group of Nobel laureates could do is write an op ed that focuses on the costs of making a scapegoat of the very institute that sounded the alarm on the possibility of a global coronavirus pandemic. It's easy to demonize people and institutions; it's hard to fight global health threats. The federal government reports to the American public. The American public should demand that the federal government empower EcoHealth to prevent the next pandemic, not buy into any action by the federal government or the media to make a scapegoat of it.

Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
Research!America
edehoney@researchamerica.org
d. b6 c. b6
www.researchamerica.org

From: Ellie Dehoney
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 2:35 PM
To: 'Peter Daszak' b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Alison Andre b6 ; Jessica Scott b6 Jacqueline Lagoy < jlagoy b6 >
Subject: RE: Peter Daszak

Very helpful! I am on the case. I have no idea what NIH will say, but I am going to make an ask.

Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
Research!America
b6
d. b6 c. b6
www.researchamerica.org

From: Peter Daszak [mailto b6
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Ellie Dehoney b6 ; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Alison Andre b6 >; Jessica Scott b6 >; Jacqueline Lagoy < b6 g >
Subject: RE: Peter Daszak
Importance: High

Attached is some background information that I hope's useful.

1) A document that I update regularly to track all actions related to this issue. Please note this is highly confidential because it includes statements and details that have not been released publicly and that are the focus of an ongoing GAO investigation into political interference in agencies by the Trump administration, and may end up being part of a legal case or action.

The NIH grant that Trump terminated

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MORENS_NIH_034733
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Political activity of direct relevance to EHA's work
Successful applications of the work we've done in China (e.g. Remdesivir, other therapeutics/vaccines)

2) A URL of the video from a 2004 60 minutes piece where I raise the concern about potential future emergence of a SARS-related virus that spreads rapidly and causing widespread mortality in the process. It's why we were doing this work in China, and it's why it scored so highly in our renewal application – critical to our nation's health and national security. The comment begins at roughly the 12 mins 30 second mark.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O79e2bwC8s

I looked again at that most recent E&C committee letter. None of the issues that they raise are of any real legal value, and we have arguments lined up for all of them that clearly show that what we did with our funding was legal, and of such value that we were strongly encouraged to renew, and received a top 3% score. It's really awful they're trying to muddy our name with this sort of innuendo.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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From: Ellie Dehoney b6
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:29 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6>; Alison Andre b6; Jessica Scott <b6; Jacqueline Lagoy <b6
Subject: RE: Peter Daszak

Terrific! Peter, it's nice to meet you, albeit virtually. I am adding my assistant, Jacqueline, to this email to help find 20 minutes for us to connect via zoom, if that works for you. I've also cc'd Jessica Scott to join the meeting.

Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
Research!America
b6
d b6 ; c b6
www.researchamerica.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016592
MORENS_NIH_034734
REL0000478907

From: Roberts, Rich [mailto b6]
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Ellie Dehoney < b6
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6 >; Alison Andre b6
Subject: Peter Daszak
Importance: High

Ellie:

Here is Peter's contact information. He would be happy to speak 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

From: Peter Daszak < b6
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6
Cc: Alison Andre [b6
Subject: RE: Research!America
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks very much Rich, I'd be delighted to reach out to her. I have time to talk today, and any day next week.

Please send her my email address & contact number – just forward this email if you like. I've also copied my assistant Alison Andre on the phone and she will maintain the utmost discretion.

Peter Daszak
Email: b6
Cellphone: b6
Home: b6
Assistant (Alison Andre): b6

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016593
MORENS_NIH_034735
REL0000478907

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

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

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From: Roberts, Rich <b6>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>
Subject: Research!America

Peter:

I spoke this morning with Ellie Dehoney from Research!America. I had contacted them because I thought they might be able to help get your NIH grant restored and also to seek their advice about how to try and combat the rhetoric surrounding the lab-leak hypothesis and its consequences for you. They have very good ties and insight into the politics in Washington and she would be very interested in helping. Would you have some time to speak with her? She would like to get educated on EcoHealth and the research you have done in the past and would plan on doing if the grant can be restored. She was also curious if you had reached out to your Senators, because she though they might be able to help. She apparently has good contacts with them.

Rich

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

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Date: Sat, 18 Sep 2021 10:09:06 AM -0400

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: Wang Linfa [b6] Edward Holmes [b6] >; Jason Gale [b6]

CC: Stephen Goldstein [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]; David Morens [b6]

Yes – saw that paper Jason – really interesting

I looked through the paper and it's yet another game changer. So far, in the last few weeks/months, we've got the following new evidence supporting emergence via bat-to-intermediate host-to-human origin for COVID-19 (I've probably missed something):

- Multiple new, SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs in SE Asia (Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, China etc.). I know of other work in review describing other related viruses in SE Asia also. We're also finding further novel SARS-CoV-2 related bat viruses in Malaysia, Thailand.
- New evidence that live animals of the type that carry CoVs were present in the Wuhan markets (including Huanan).
- Evidence from other bat SARSr-CoVs that mutations occur where there FCS is found (eg. RmYN02) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7211627/
- a rat alpha-CoV with an FCS in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations in S. China, showing that FCS insertions are more common in nature than previously thought. https://journals.asm.org/doi/epdf/10.1128/JVI.01173- 21
- Epidemiological analysis of early cases supporting early origin close to Huanan market, not WIV https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092- 8674(21)00991-0
- Phylogenetic analyses suggesting there may have been multiple introductions into the human population, supporting presence of a virus circulating in animals rather than a lab leak (@virology paper)
- Our work showing a very large interface for bat SARSr-CoV spillover in a v. densly population region, and potential for large numbers of missing cases each year https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.09.09.21263359v1
- This paper showing ACE2 binding for bat SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs. https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs- 871965/v1

On the lab leak side, we have convoluted accusations based on interpretations of intent about how Chinese scientists submitted genomes, wrote the papers, or how me and other scientists had collaborations with Chinese scientists. But, as far as new evidence goes, I could only find this:

- None

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

This rate of research even in a pandemic is remarkable and suggests that we'll pretty quickly have such overwhelming evidence for the 'natural' origins that most people will move on from the lab leak.

(Off-the-record) However, the damage they leave behind is already horrific and will be worse by the time they decide to find another issue to focus on.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013685
MORENS_NIH_025850
REL0000478910

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Wang Linfa (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 10:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes b6 >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: Stephen Goldstein b6 b6 b6 b6 Peter Daszak <b6 >; b6 ; b6 g
Subject: RE: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Almost identical SARS-CoV-2 RBD in several bat sarbecoviruses! This is as close as you can get for a natural RBD origin!

Also, the paper concluded that SARS-CoV-2 genome fragments are found in different sarbecoviruses, very similar to the PloS Path paper for SARS-CoV-1.

All we need is to find a sarbecovirus with a furin cleavage site and no more debate on the natural origin of SARS-CoV-2!

Linfa (Lin-Fa) WANG, PhD FTSE FAAM
Professor
Programme in Emerging Infectious Disease
Duke-NUS Medical School,
8 College Road, Singapore 169857
Tel: (b) (6)

From: Edward Holmes b6
Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 3:31 PM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: Stephen Goldstein b6 >; b6 b6 b6 Peter Daszak b6 b6 b6 b6 ; Wang Linfa b6 >
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

- External Email -

Dismantles one key argument of the leakers - how could a virus get from Yunnan to Wuhan - in one simple move.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013686
MORENS_NIH_025851
REL0000478910

b6

On 16 Sep 2021, at 2:26 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

And there's this:
"The discovery of civet-CoVs in the Hubei province should not be a surprise as SARS-CoV-like viruses were recently found in a bat species in the same province"

From: b6 At: 09/16/21 14:24:33 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: b6 b6 b6 b6 b6 (b) (6) b6 (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just stumbled across it reading the discussion of another paper honestly. It's been cited since - there are certainly people who remembered it but I did not know of it and clearly had not penetrated the public origins discussion.

Stephen

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2021, at 10:22 PM, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Well done, Stephen for finding this:
b6

Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor & chief biosecurity correspondent | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St., Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) b6 | Mobile b6
@jwgale | Linkedin: http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jason- gale/6/249/a56

Date: Sat, 25 Sep 2021 3:59:02 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 25 Sep 2021 3:58:59 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Peter Daszak b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 Robert Kessler b6

David. What's the best way for me to contact Tony. I don't know what he could achieve in trying to get Collins to do what is right here but he can have a lot of influence on Biden and Eric Lander. I will raise what our mutual mentor, Shelly Wolff, would have done - make it clear this is egregious and get the Govt to do what is right.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 25, 2021, at 11:50 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:
>
> Peter, sorry for not replying earlier I was in a sort of urgent
> situation and was tied up the whole past two days.
>
> First, it is hard to believe this passed or will be allowed to stand,
> I suspect most Democrats and Republicans didn't even know about it
> because some staffer sneaked it in. Also, and I dread appearing
> charitable, I doubt even most Republicans would want this.
>
> beyond that, the law prevents me from doing anything about it other
> than fume, so please accept my sympathetic fuming and hope that this
> will die a rapid death. d
>
>
> David M. Morens, MD

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
>
>> On Sat, Sep 25, 2021 at 9:30 AM Peter Daszak
>> b6 > wrote:
>>
>> Jerry – this is very good to hear. Yesterday was a very worrying day. If this amendment becomes law, we will have to lay off staff and basically close down. It penalizes us for something that we didn't do, without due

process. It sets a terrible precedence for congress members ability to shut down a non-profit or a university's line of research based on rumor and hearsay. It's also based on a falsehood that there is any evidence that the virus came out of a lab, of course.
>>
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>>
>> There's a lot of drum-banging going on out there, and the attacks on us continue. We're trying to do the right thing by keeping quiet and not talking to the press, but this also means they have a field day at our expense when every rumor or hyped-up article comes out.
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>> Cheers,
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>> Peter
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>> Peter Daszak
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>> President
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>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>> USA
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>> Tel.: b6
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>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010712
MORENS_NIH_021262
REL0000478915

>>
>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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>> From: Keusch, Gerald T [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
>>
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>> I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.
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>> If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House leadership.
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>> Jerry
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>> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
>>
>> Professor of Medicine
>>
>> Associate Director
>>
>> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
>>
>> Boston University, Boston MA 02118
>>
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>>
>> 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 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010713
MORENS_NIH_021263
REL0000478915

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>> Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,
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>> Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.
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>> We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.
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>> If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.
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>> Cheers,
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>> Peter
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>> Peter Daszak
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>> President
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>> EcoHealth Alliance
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_010714
MORENS_NIH_021264
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>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>> USA
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>> Tel.: b6
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>> Website: b6
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>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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>> From: Peter Daszak <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 b6 >
>> Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
>> Importance: High
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>> Dear Jamison and Gilbert,
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>> You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots. As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden administration.
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>> We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148 to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd: https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr- 4350. The House passed the NDAA last night (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa) and unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.
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>> EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our

jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.
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>> We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.
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>> Yours sincerely,
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>> Peter
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>> Peter Daszak
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>> President
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>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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>> New York, NY 10018-6507
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>> USA
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>> Tel.: b6
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>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_010716
MORENS_NIH_021266
REL0000478915

>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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>> From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
>> To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) [b6]>; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) [b6]v >
>> Cc: Dennis Carroll [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>
>> Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
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>> That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.
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>> Thanks for making time!
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>> Cheers,
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>> Peter
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>> Peter Daszak
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>> President
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_010717
MORENS_NIH_021267
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>> EcoHealth Alliance
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>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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>> From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) b6 >
>> Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 AM
>> To: Peter Daszak b6 >; 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 <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org >
>> 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
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>> Dear Brooke,
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>> I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis
Carroll.
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>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010718
MORENS_NIH_021268
REL0000478915

>> 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.
>>
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>> I've attached a letter in Lancet that came out last week that helps provide some context of the way this issue is being viewed by serious scientists, but as you can imagine we're worried about the impact on work that we believe is critical to preventing future pandemics. I wondered if you would be interested in my giving you a short briefing on this issue, to explain in more detail what the evidence behind these theories is, and to get your take on the political issues we are concerned about?
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>> Cheers,
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>> Peter
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>> Peter Daszak
>>
>> President
>>
>>
>>
>> EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010719
MORENS_NIH_021269
REL0000478915

>>
>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>
>> New York, NY 10018-6507
>>
>> USA
>>
>> Tel.: b6
>>
>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>
>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>
>>
>>
>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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Date: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 12:56:50 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 12:56:31 AM -0400
Subject: David's NIH email address
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]

Just letting you know that David's NIH email address crept into the email below.. and that's FoIA-ble

These email addresses are a bit like a virus mutating – deleterious mutant email addresses that seem to select for virulence (conspiracy attacks that is…).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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 8, 2022 4:24 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens <[b6]>; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

Baylor Comms told me not to respond to her emails and they are arranging to block her. Such craziness. I can't even understand what she's talking about? Just unhinged gibberish

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: 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 8, 2022, at 3:17 PM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:
>
> Peter:
>
> Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: 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 Chmur 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

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Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: b6
Linkedin Peter Hotez

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

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

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009363
MORENS_NIH_019833
REL0000478917

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

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I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <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_009364
MORENS_NIH_019834
REL0000478917

Date: Wed, 23 Jun 2021 8:50:37 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 23 Jun 2021 8:48:26 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Hi David
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6] Rich Roberts [b6] Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Yes – I'm on an email chain with Bob Garry and people in China. The lead author of the China paper where the sequences come from says they deleted them because they were low quality, not full genomes and that they're not expert enough in bioinformatics to think that there was valid info in them. Bloom went into the NIH system and recovered deleted them from the cloud.

I read the paper last night – it doesn't really change any opinion about the origin – the WHO report shows that there was significant spread in Dec and that other cities were involved. This adds to that, and as you say provides further evidence that this is likely natural origin. All the 'detective' stuff and suspicions about ulterior motives is in my opinion totally unnecessary, at the least 'rude', and just sort of weird. Jesse Bloom has been on Twitter arguing for the lab leak for a good few months now, so I think he's got a general belief that Chinese scientists can't be trusted. I don't think that political stuff or suspicions of motives belongs in a paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [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, June 23, 2021 7:22 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: FW: Hi David

If you haven't seen this pre-print yet, have a strong cup of coffee first. I'd advise adding an ounce or two of Irish whiskey.

Jason Gale is a journalist with whom I have worked in the past, very smart and very honorable.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022870
MORENS_NIH_043874
REL0000478920

When I saw this I asked him to immediately contact Kristian Anderson and Eddie Holmes, and he has already contacted KA, while I contacted Eddie myself. They are both horrified, to use Eddie's word. If this gets picked up by the crazies there is no telling what will happen.

This is a good argument for banning pre-prints, since the damage will be done before the paper is retracted or shot down.

If there is an upside to this, legitimate scientists, even while hiding from the crazies, are starting to get really pissed off. Eddie says he is planning to write a very geeky sciency review that covers the whole origin issue from a phylogeny basis, and without the politics. Kristian is apparently upset, and Jason also contacted Robert Garry, who I don't know personally, and he had some really choice words to unload….

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
b6 (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
b6 b6 b6
b6

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From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 6:28 PM

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: Hi David

Hi David,

I hope you're well.

I'm guessing y'all saw the Jesse Bloom pre-print paper.
https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.18.449051v1.full.pdf

Interested to know what you make of it, even off the record.

Kindest regards,

Jason

Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St., Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) [b6] | Mobile [b6]
@jwgale | Linkedin: http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jason- gale/6/249/a56

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Date: Tue, 7 May 2024 11:31:22 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 7 May 2024 11:31:14 AM -0400
Subject: Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance
From: Keusch, Gerald [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6];
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Keith Martin [b6] David Morens [b6]

So sorry to hear of this. We all need to be pushing back on the tactics being employed and the failure of the democrats on the subcommittee to support you and reject the intrusive political strategy they are following.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 11:24 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 [b6]
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:

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All:

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

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak <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.**"

<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

b6 g

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 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

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
b6
iPhone

Date:	Sun, 10 Jul 2022 7:44:42 AM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 10 Jul 2022 7:44:33 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19
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]
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image001.jpg

A political stunt from the beginning

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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

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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 10, 2022, at 5:27 AM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: July 10, 2022 at 05:52:14 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: July 9, 2022 at 14:49:48 EDT
Subject: Federal judge dismisses Missouri AG Eric Schmitt lawsuit blaming China for COVID-19

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

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

- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Email

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008224
MORENS_NIH_018046
REL0000478923



Missouri Attorney General's Office

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Tags

Government, Politics &

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Date: Wed, 24 Feb 2021 1:48:20 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 24 Feb 2021 1:48:19 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Briefing Tony
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; David Morens b6

What did the White House say and is it in the public domain or back channel?

-----Original Message-----
From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:14 PM
To: David Morens b6 >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: Re: Briefing Tony

Here's the latest bullshit from the Republicans. My problem is that the White House says "no plans to continue funding". It's very disappointing. I mean there is actually still NO evidence that the virus escaped from the lab, for F's sake!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

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

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

> On Feb 24, 2021, at 9:21 AM, David Morens b6 > wrote:
>
> You are right, i need to be more careful. However, as i mentioned once before, i learned from our foia lady here how to make emails disappear after i am foia'd but before the search starts, so i think we are all safe. Plus i deleted most of those earlier emails after sending them to gmail. D
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
>> On Feb 23, 2021, at 21:53, Keusch, Gerald T b6 > wrote:
>>
>> We need you alive and well, so pay attention to the email address you use. If you get FOIA'ed and have to respond it will have Peter and, of lesser importance, me on the correspondence. The less we provide the enemy the better.
>>
>> That said, thanks for planting the seed for this conversation to be. It will provide Tony with insights and it will be Peter who provides them - pointing out how amazingly connected (and important) he, Peter, is. Tony

too.
>>
>> Jerry
>>
>>
>> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
>> Professor of Medicine
>> Associate Director
>> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Boston University,
>> Boston MA 02118
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
>> Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:36 PM
>> To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
>> Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]
>> <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org >
>> Subject: Re: Briefing Tony
>>
>> Thanks for reminding me, but I am pretty sure it is OK now to use my NIH email because 1) I haven't been a bad boy, and 2) the brown shirts have left town, and 3) it is no loger a cardinal sin to know Dr. Daszak!
>>
>> However, your point is well taken, as I often do say subversive things without realizing it.....
>>
>> I wonder what Tony is thinking about Peter's grant situation. He hasn't told anyone as far as I know, and we won't bring it up. he might do so, but I would be surprised.
>>
>> Also, Peter, I heard t5hat he want's Cliff Lane to be on that call. You may remember that Cliff went to China last spring to look at the COVID situation. david
>>
>> --
>> david..... PS, I will be on Public Health Service deployment from
>> 10 December 2020 until 23 January 2021. During this time I will have
>> limited access to email and phone contact. Ty, dmm

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012509
MORENS_NIH_023866
REL0000478928

Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:24:42 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:24:38 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]>
To: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>;
CC: David Morens [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;

Jon Cohen was in touch with me last week as he was trying to reach Peter without success. I said it was understandable given the attacks. He got back to me and said let him know when Peter D can talk. I would be happy to get back to Jon Cohen, but Peter H, if you want to contact Jon bring me into it as would represent two different task forces and I would be happy to talk to him about what's going on with the Commission. I don't think it is the time now for Peter to be directly involved in such conversations, and Robert and Jeff Sturchio can comment on that as necessary.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]>; Rich Roberts [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

Any help or suggestions are welcome. Cc'ing in Jeff Sturchio and Robert Kessler so they can follow this.

Rich, David – Jeff Sturchio is working with EcoHealth Alliance to help manage any statements we make at all right now. We're being as minimalist as possible, trying to avoid press, but clearly people are out to find a villain, and are pointing directly at our work, EcoHealth and me as a target.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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 27, 2021 1:40 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6] Ieusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

I could ask someone like Nick Kristof or Carl Zimmer at NY Times or Amy Maxmen at Nature or Jon Cohen at Science to write something that gives people reality testing?

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 27, 2021, at 12:12 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

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

Just mortified by this.

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the- rise-and-fall-of-british-virus-hunter-peter-daszak-05q8brpz7

The rise and fall of British virus hunter Peter Daszak

The scientist who led opposition to the claim that Covid leaked from a Wuhan lab is engulfed in controversy after it was revealed his charity had funded the institute at the centre of the row

Peter Daszak became the face of the WHO mission to find the origins of the coronavirus

On January 18, Peter Daszak, born and raised in the mill and mining town of Dukinfield, near Manchester, awoke to a winter's dawn in central China, 5,500 miles away. "Sunrise in Wuhan — my early morning view on day 4 of quarantine — beautiful," he tweeted, with a photograph of skyscrapers against a hazy orange sky.

His presence there in a delegation from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on a mission of global significance showed a remarkable rise for the 55-year-old parasitologist with a PhD from the University of East London.

Ostensibly he was visiting the city to find the truth about where the coronavirus pandemic began before it swept across the world — killing nearly four million people. Five months later, however, the trip to Wuhan has placed Daszak at the centre of a growing web of controversy. The wry Mancunian humour that singled him out from fellow scientists of international renown has dried up.

"When you see him on the television now, he's not the funny northerner," said one old friend and colleague. "There's so much nastiness and vitriol out there, this must have been a challenging time for him."

Daszak faces questions about a crucial conflict of interest in four interlocking aspects of his professional life: his role on the WHO-led mission to Wuhan; his relationship with the Wuhan

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020670
MORENS_NIH_041381
REL0000478930

virologist Shi Zhengli, known as the "bat woman"; his presidency of a federally funded American charity that gave money to her laboratory; and his chairmanship of a commission investigating the pandemic's possible origins for The Lancet medical journal.

The Lancet commission, supported by the United Nations sustainable development solutions network, is looking, among other things, at the explosive question of whether the virus escaped accidentally from Shi's Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), which Daszak — like China — has consistently denied.

Critics ask how Daszak can objectively investigate something he has such fixed views about, in a lab his charity has funded. The WIV appears to have received almost $600,000 of a $3.7 million grant awarded to Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance in 2014 by the US Department for Health and Human Services for the purposes of "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence".

Last week The Lancet acknowledged the conflict of interest by announcing that Daszak had recused himself from its commission. It said that in future "technical work will be conducted by independent experts who were not themselves directly involved in US-China research activities that are under scrutiny".

It was a heavy blow, and not the first time Daszak's impartiality has been in question. He strongly attacked the lab leak theory before, during and after the WHO mission, which concluded that it was "extremely unlikely". In an episode of the US TV show *60 Minutes* in March, he faced a grilling about his "conflict of interest". And in April a US congressional committee requested evidence from EcoHealth Alliance about its funding.

SPONSORED

Yet little is known about the figure in the middle of this maelstrom. How did the boy from Manchester become the president of a charity bankrolled by the Pentagon and America's National Institutes of Health (NIH), the face of the WHO mission, the Wuhan lab's biggest cheerleader and now one of the most controversial characters in the pandemic saga?

Daszak lives in New York state's wealthy Rockland county, 30 miles northwest of Manhattan. Seven years ago he and his wife Janet bought a sprawling house in two acres for $665,000. In 2019 he was paid $354,065 by EcoHealth Alliance, based in Manhattan.

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MORENS_NIH_041382
REL0000478930

It is a world away from Dukinfield, where Daszak's Anglo-Welsh mother and Ukrainian father Bohdan raised their family. One son, John, a year younger than Peter, became a tenor with the English National Opera. But Peter Daszak's passions lay elsewhere: his childhood dreams were of becoming a "zoologist in the Amazon", he told the podcast *This Week In Virology* in 2019. "I think that once you get hooked on research and finding new things out, there's something that plays to a fundamental need to discover in the human psyche."

Daszak started off with a BSc in zoology at the University of Bangor in Wales — a teacher recalls that he was "really bright" — before his PhD and postdoctoral research. At Kingston University one project proved to be a springboard. With a colleague, Andrew Cunningham, he discovered the cause of a mass die-off of frogs from Australia to Panama, unexplained for a decade. Daszak suggested that the fungus responsible was linked to the wildlife trade in bullfrogs, sold as pets or food. This was the first step in a career focused on the interaction between humans, nature and viruses.

He moved to America with his wife, an immunologist, when she got a job in Georgia. His frog fame followed him, and over the next few years his research on emerging infectious disease gained attention, partly due to outbreaks of several rare and deadly diseases in humans, including Nipah virus, ebola and Sars.

In 2001 he joined the Wildlife Trust, a small, privately funded charity that would later become EcoHealth Alliance. Throughout the ensuing decade, Daszak was adept at promoting his projects. In an interview on America's National Public Radio in 2004 he compared his frog research to a Monty Python sketch: "John Cleese goes into the pet shop and says, 'Yeah, this parrot's dead.' 'Well, actually, sir, it's just resting.' And they just looked like frogs that were resting, who were perfectly OK, but dead."

In an episode of the TV programme *60 Minutes* the same year, clad in head-to-toe khaki on a boat speeding towards the remote Malaysian island of Pulau Tioman, Daszak was referred to as a "virus hunter" off to search for bats suspected of harbouring the Nipah virus. He says: "Almost 75% of the emerging diseases in humans actually come from wildlife ... or domestic animals," he warns. "We are looking for the next HIV, the next Sars." This nascent area of scientific study, now known as conservation medicine, shaped the next 16 years of Daszak's career.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020672
MORENS_NIH_041383
REL0000478930

By 2010 Daszak was busily fund- raising for the newly reconfigured EcoHealth Alliance. Millions of dollars worth of grants rolled in: 87.6 per cent of it from US government sources in 2019, including the NIH and the Pentagon.

According to one prominent scientist, who asked not to be named, Daszak did not have a laboratory of his own, nor was he performing his own research, as most grant recipients did. What he did have, however, was a network of partnerships with other laboratories, including Shi's WIV.

With Shi, Daszak helped to co-ordinate visits to remote mines in China to look for bat coronaviruses to study in the lab in the hope of getting ahead of natural spillovers into local populations. Then in late 2019 the pandemic erupted in Wuhan.

When President Donald Trump first suggested in January 2020 that the virus had leaked from Shi's lab, Daszak was quick to leverage connections and lobby colleagues to push the counternarrative that it came directly from animals.

In February 2020, he organised an open letter in The Lancet with 26 scientists, condemning "conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin". He also wrote an article in The Guardian in June last year under the headline: "Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab".

When it was suggested to him by *60 Minutes* in March that, as a member of the WHO mission, he had technically been investigating his own colleagues at the Wuhan lab, Daszak said: "I'm on the WHO team for a reason ... and if you're going to work in China on coronaviruses and try and understand their origins you should involve the people who know the most about that, and for better or for worse I do."

Last week in an update on The Lancet site, Daszak wrote that his organisation collaborated with a range of universities and governmental health and environmental science organisations in China. He said that neither the EcoHealth Alliance nor he personally received funding from the Chinese government.

Despite Daszak's best efforts, President Joe Biden lent credence to the lab-leak theory when he approved a full investigation into it last month.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020673
MORENS_NIH_041384
REL0000478930

Suddenly Daszak's vehement attacks on the hypothesis appeared to some to be less about the science and more about a serious conflict of interest — one that a growing number seem unwilling to ignore any longer.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: b6
Website: b6
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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Date: Mon, 5 Apr 2021 4:20:51 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 5 Apr 2021 4:20:47 PM -0400
Subject: RE: some annoying press this week attacking EcoHealth and myself..
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6 David Morens b6 >;
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6

Peter:

Thanks for the update. The interview with Zakaria went quite well, although I am always inclined to tell people we will never know the true origin of the coronavirus unless it was deliberately introduced by either China or the CIA and the perpetrator confesses. Probably too controversial to mention on the air.

I concur that Ebright is a loose cannon. Good on some issues, but overall a bit of a crackpot.

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: Monday, April 5, 2021 12:38 AM
To: Gerald Keusch b6 David Morens b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 >
Subject: some annoying press this week attacking EcoHealth and myself..

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear colleagues,

It's been a busy week in the press…

A piece today in the Daily Caller that claims EcoHealth's R01 for work in China (the one Francis Collins terminated) should have been reviewed by the P3CO committee (heavily citing Richard Ebright), even though NIH spokesperson states in the article why it clearly shouldn't have been. Just another hit job I guess, but gives you an idea of what Ebright is pushing for – tighter restrictions on research, canceling funding for virus discovery work, banning gain of function, broadening the definition of gain of function etc. etc.

https://dailycaller.com/2021/04/04/nih- gain-of-function-anthony-fauci-review-board-wuhan-lab/

There's also an op-ed from Josh Rogin that quotes Ebright in Washington Post that tries to undermine our efforts to get the GVP funded.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what- if-the-former-cdc-director-is-right-about-the-wuhan-labs/2021/04/01/9fe1d658-9329-11eb-9668-89be11273c09_story.html

On a more positive note, I was live on Fareed Zakaria's show on CNN this morning:

https://twitter.com/FareedZakaria/status/1378772853953327115?s=20

Thanks for your comments on the response letter to NIH. I've edited accordingly but am waiting for a couple of suggestions from our lawyers and will probably send it out Tuesday…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_017913
MORENS_NIH_036527
REL0000478932

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 7:40:02 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 7:39:52 PM -0500
Subject: Connected Tweet by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on Twitter
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; David Morens b6; Gerald Keusch b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Rich Roberts b6

Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD
@PeterHotez

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

2/9/23, 6:32 PM

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

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

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

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

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, 25 Apr 2022 7:02:19 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 25 Apr 2022 7:02:11 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Relentless - Another letter today from Republicans to NIH, OIG & NAM accusing EcoHealth of 'potential fraud' etc.
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6
To: David Morens b6
CC: Peter Daszal b6; Jeff Sturchio b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6

I'm already there, putting my energy into my latest book entitled "antiscience kills" Johns Hopkins Univ Press, hoping to highlight your efforts

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: 1 b6
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 25, 2022, at 3:56 PM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

Yes, I saw this vile filth earlier, and it's all the more appalling because there isn't any "there" there. They just rehash the rehashes of the rehashes.

How the NAM, which is supposedly immune from political interference, could go down this road, and how no one, except for the few of you members, could let it happen with barely a whimper, is beyond me. Really.

Did we not learn in the 1930s that failing to take a stand against evil, enabled evil?

I am just so sick of this I could scream and Peter, I don't know how you stay sane. I'd be in a looney bin on heavy medication long before now.

d

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

On Mon, Apr 25, 2022 at 4:38 PM Peter Daszak [b6] g > wrote:

Today the Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee are making a series of allegations about the motives behind our reporting to NIH – the timing of our reports and their content – including accusing us of 'potential fraud'.

The story is here https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house- republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data.

One important point in the article is that they are publicly stating now that NAM are investigating me: "After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request," an Energy and Commerce committee aide told Fox News Digital. "We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well."

Of course, the allegations in this 17 page letter (attached) are essentially a re-hashing of earlier attacks, most of them spurious, easily explained by the process of doing science, and based on false allegations of

motives coupled with a heavy dose of innuendo and hearsay. Some of the allegations are verging on the bizarre – e.g. a whole paragraph on the cropping of a figure in one report whereby the word 'dead' from 'dead point' is partially cut out. Of course, they don't accuse us of lying and fraud, just comment that "it appears the word "dead" was taken out to conceal the deaths from the peer reviewers, which raises scientific and ethical concerns."

The letter is attached – it's from just the Republicans on the committee to the NIH, the HHS OIG, and the National Academy of Medicine.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: 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 21, 2022 9:32 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [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

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: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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://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.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 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 political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

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Date:	Wed, 28 Jul 2021 10:16:29 AM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 28 Jul 2021 10:09:50 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:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
CC:	Robert Kessler [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments:	image005.gif; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022812
MORENS_NIH_043816
REL0000478943

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

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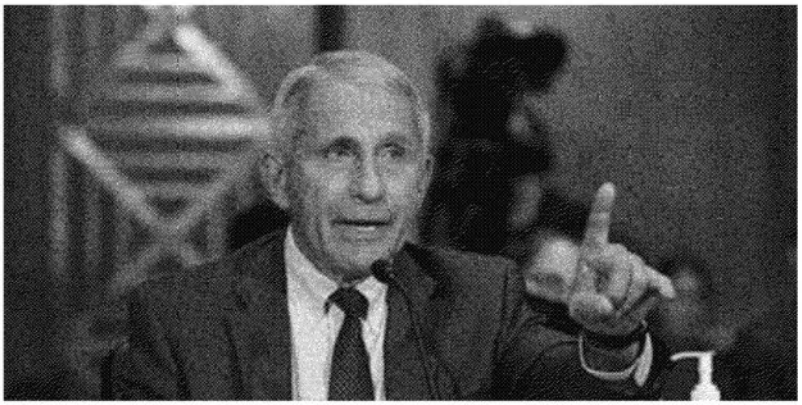
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:48 PM
Subject: The Intercept: Rand Paul's Attack on Anthony Fauci Chills Scientific Debate Over Gain-of-Function Research
https://bit.ly/3iR7zHP



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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022813
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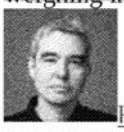
REL0000478943

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.

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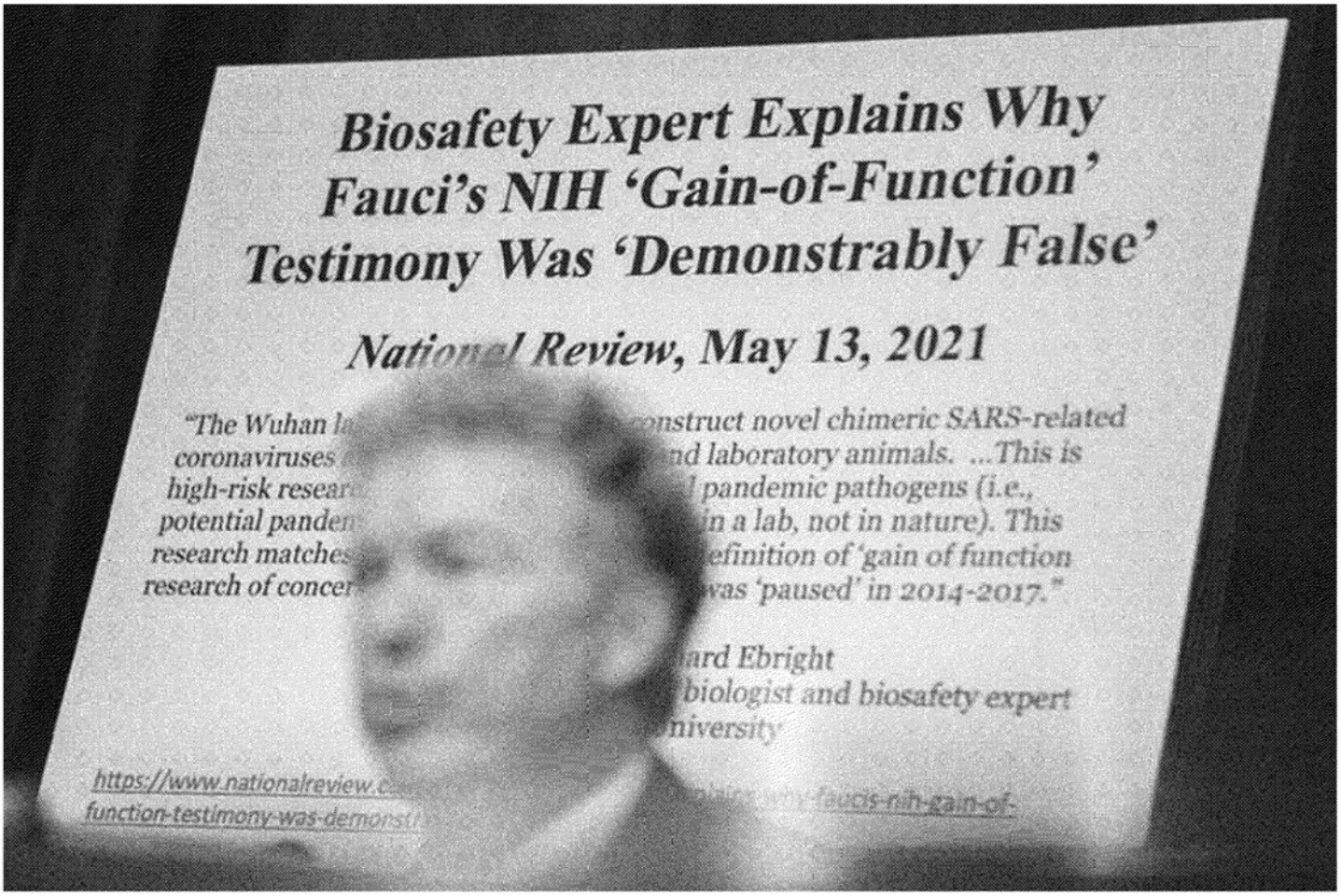
REL0000478943



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.")

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MORENS_NIH_043819
REL0000478943



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."

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Date: Thu, 19 Jan 2023 10:43:50 AM -0500

Sent: Thu, 19 Jan 2023 10:43:14 AM -0500

Subject: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] David Morens [b6] Rich Roberts [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6]

CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6] Alison Andre [b6] >;

Happy new year everyone!

It's been a while since we all connected, and after a hectic build up to the holidays (I was on 3, multi-week trips to Southeast Asia between Sept and Dec), I wanted to get back in touch with you and let you know what's happening. As you know, we received a letter from Reps. Comer and Jordan mid-December demanding documents and on-the-record interviews as part of their 'investigations' they're planning into COVID origins. The White House received similar letters demanding docs and interviews with the HHS Secretary, multiple people from NIH (incl. David Morens) and others. They pushed back because the Republicans weren't even in power, and we've now heard from the staffers that they're getting ready to send new letters over to us all. None of us are sure how actively or rapidly they'll get to their COVID investigation, or if this will involve public hearings. They've got a lot of other issues, and a priority to target Hunter Biden's laptop, as well as new issues like the debt ceiling and classified documents. However, we do expect that they will get to it eventually, and that the Republicans in the House will be aggressively targeting EcoHealth Alliance (and probably other organizations) with efforts to defund us.
This all adds to a growing anti-science movement that Peter Hotez has been highlighting in articles and online recently around COVID origins, the mask mandates, vaccine mandates and other anti-vaxx and 'anti-expert' type attacks. The Republicans will want to turn up the heat to keep all of this in the press so it helps them in their attacks on Biden, Fauci etc. It's pure politics, but has a real threat of damage to us, and to the research we all value. At the very least, we expect to see substantial efforts to legislate against so-called gain-of-function work, and **as of yet, zero pushback from the scientific community writ large – the societies, academies, universities**. The media are jumping in. Everyone wants to write an article about COVID origin and given the aggression on social media, these are being amplified rapidly and getting into the public eye. Just in the last couple of days:

- A long-winded whiny article from *The Intercept* about FoIA'd emails that basically show how scientists discussed the lab hypothesis early on, but David Relman (at the end of the article) claims shows they were rushing to judgement: https://theintercept.com/2023/01/19/covid- origin-nih-emails/
- Article from Washington Post that links Boston Univ's NEIDL's 'risky research' to Wuhan's 'risky research' and to the origin of COVID https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/01/18/lab- leak-theory-virologist/
- A report from the GAO yesterday that mildly criticizes NIH's oversight of Gain of Function review: https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao- 23-105455.pdf
- Three days ago a paper from North Carolina from a Republican perspective that criticizes Ralph Baric's lab.. https://www.carolinajournal.com/opinion/nc- can-be-a-leader-in-safe-biotech-research/

The problem I see is that the Republicans are getting what they want – keeping the lab leak hypothesis and anti-science sentiments in the mainstream press and setting the stage for the McCarthy-style witch hunts that Peter Hotez has been talking about. We are actively reaching out to Democrats in Senate and Congress to try to build up their energy to defend against this, but we are just one small organization, and I'm worried about how successful we can be. I've been talking with Jeff Sturchio about renewing our efforts to try and build a coalition to counter this, involving the societies, activist groups like Research! America, university coalitions like the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), ASTMH, APHA, NL Campaigns, The pandemic Action coalition, etc.

Will you all be willing to have a one hour call in the next week or two to do some initial brainstorming of this, namely:

- Who to involve
- How to go about setting up a 'coalition'
- What the goals should be, e.g. a position paper laying out reasons why research on pandemic prevention and preparedness is necessary, Op Eds, briefing notes, a website, visiting staffers on the Hill etc.
- How to do this without drawing political pressure

I'm cc'ing Alison Andre, who can work with your schedules to make this happen, and am really looking forward to talking with you all again.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, 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, 29 Apr 2023 7:15:11 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 29 Apr 2023 7:15:00 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]Peter Daszak [b6]

Yes he retired to NY he was the last chair of tropical public health at Harvard

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in 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 28, 2023, at 6:29 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005364
MORENS_NIH_013414
REL0000478945

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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

Media Inquiries:

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 <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> Peter:
>
> That's good! We should look further for funding as well.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: [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]g >; Roberts, Rich <[redacted]>
> **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

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

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Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

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

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

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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

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company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university," she said. "And if you don't like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission."

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that's already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined $1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court's expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. "If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption," she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, "We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, 'Hey, you can use us for the medical records.'" She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, "There's a huge influx that's coming down the pipeline."

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes "nobody should ever" even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective 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

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because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin's shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It's possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

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Date: Fri, 1 Apr 2022 10:59:03 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 1 Apr 2022 10:56:58 AM -0400
Subject: NIH FoIA
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC: David Morens b6 Gerald Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Rich Roberts b6 Dennis Carroll b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Attachments: image001.jpg; JW-v-HHS-Collins-Comms-Prod-4-02302-pgs-174-176 Foia emails re. R01 termination July 2020.pdf

On another issue – I saw that 'Judicial Watch' released a small email chain today that is heavily redacted but shows Francis Collins, Michael Lauer and Lawrence Tabak at NIH cooking up a strategy to respond to Democrats who demanded an explanation as to why they terminated our R01 at a critical point in the pandemic. The emails are attached, and there's an online link here:

https://www.judicialwatch.org/fauci- emails-about-hydroxychloroquine-and-covid/

Cheers,

Peter

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 8:33 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >
Cc: David Morens b6 >; Gerald Keusch b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Dennis Carroll b6 Jeff Sturchio < b6
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

Many thanks Peter, I had an interview with a donor last week who might be interested in supporting something along these lines. If it goes anywhere will be tapping you to help set it up!

Warmest regards Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000307
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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
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Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
b6
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iPhone

On Apr 1, 2022, at 7:05 AM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

Just saw your editorial in Boston Globe today. Keep up the great work Peter!

https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/01/27/opinion/who- will-defend-embattled-scientists/

OPINION

Who will defend embattled scientists?

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The latest round of attacks on prominent US scientists from public figures and elected officials may require the formation of a new type of organization to ensure our safety and productivity.

By Peter Hotez Updated January 27, 2022, 4:35 p.m.



People who are anti-vaccination take part in an event "for the preservation of personal sovereignty and to STOP medical coercion, discrimination" on Jan. 23 in Washington, [b6] WONG/GETTY

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, being a public defender of vaccines was not rewarding. After I wrote the book "Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad," about my daughter, as a means to debunk false assertions alleging vaccine-autism links and educate the public about the origins and causes of autism, I became a target of antivaccine groups. Their threats (which continue) through e-mails, social

media, personal confrontations, and anonymous phone calls, assert that I maintain secret ties to big pharma (even though I develop vaccines for neglected diseases linked to poverty), or that I have financial motivations (I don't). In some cases, the threats were overtly antisemitic and included horrific images from the Holocaust.

During the pandemic, the anti-science attacks have gotten worse. Adding to my distress is that many scientific professional organizations do not speak out to defend scientists or offer us assistance.

I have been outspoken about the dangers of refusing a COVID-19 vaccination, and have pointed out how more than 150,000 unvaccinated Americans have needlessly lost their lives since last summer as a result. I cite data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, NPR, Charles Gaba (an independent health analyst), and other sources revealing an unambiguous and stark partisan divide: overwhelmingly Republican or conservative stronghold areas exhibit the lowest acceptance of COVID-19 vaccinations, and consequently the highest number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19.

Those who defy vaccines are paying with their lives. They are victims of media outlets and even members of Congress who openly espouse antivaccine views. Last summer, Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia called vaccinators "medical brown shirts," referring to Nazi paramilitary groups, while other congressional members attending the July Conservative Political Action Conference claimed vaccines were political instruments of control.

Some elected officials have since taken this a step further by seeking to discredit individual biomedical scientists. I was ridiculed by Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida on a Fox News broadcast, and, earlier this month, I was targeted by Greene and Steve Bannon on Real America's Voice a week after our research team announced emergency use authorization in India of a recombinant protein COVID vaccine for global health. Such statements are often followed by threatening e-mails and other notes accusing me of "crimes against humanity" or warning that I will soon be hunted by "armed patriots." During the Jewish high holidays, while I was in Houston to give a speech at a reform synagogue, I was stalked and heckled.

Other scientists have fared worse, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who has been the subject of intimidation on multiple occasions by both Senate and House members, including a vituperative exchange earlier this month with Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky. Several nongovernmental scientists have been targeted as well.

Dog whistles from highly visible elected officials are unnerving, especially when followed by a barrage of hate e-mail and online threats. For biomedical scientists laboring to shape new approaches or therapeutics to combat COVID-19 there is really no roadmap for how to respond or seek protections. In my case, since this also includes antisemitic attacks, I have been able to get help and advice from the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish organizations, but often there is nowhere obvious to seek help.

Fifty years ago, American scientists founded the Committee of Concerned Scientists to defend their colleagues abroad — many from authoritarian states such as Turkey or China where they experienced human rights violations. However, political scientists such as Harvard's Steven Levitsky have since sounded the alarm for increasing authoritarianism in the United States. How can society address a far-right US authoritarian movement seeking to undermine scientists?

We need an organization that is prepared to defend biomedical scientists. Thus far, the major professional and academic societies, including the National Academies, find themselves in the difficult position of balancing their historical neutrality in American politics with the need to preserve the integrity and productivity of American science. The reality is that political neutrality is often impossible when defending scientists — it favors the oppressor (to paraphrase Elie Wiesel). Ideally, an organization defending scientists would provide legal advice or practical instructions for managing media and social media communications. It could advise on how to engage law enforcement when public attacks incite serious threats from adherents. It might resemble the renowned Southern Poverty Law Center, established to promote social justice and combat racism, but be focused on helping US scientists, or a biomedical equivalent to the more recently created Climate Science Legal Defense Fund.

When I obtained my MD and PhD in the 1980s, I never dreamed it would become necessary to defend the importance of science and scientists in a nation built on great research universities. We must face this new reality and find new paths, to hold to account those who seek to destroy basic tenets of knowledge and the safety of those who generate and promote it.

Dr. Peter Hotez is a professor of pediatrics and molecular virology at Baylor College of Medicine and codirector of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development, which developed a low-cost COVID-19 vaccine for global health.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:46 PM
To: David Morens <b6>
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6>; Gerald Keusch <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Rich Roberts <b6>; Dennis Carroll <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

It's why we need a new type of organization to support scientists under attack. I'm discussing with a donor with potential interest

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

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

iPhone

On Mar 31, 2022, at 8:01 PM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

The part that makes me mad is that before i agreed to talk to her she said she wanted to write this piece to present the other side of the story, that EcoHealth were the good guys doing good work and so on. But none of those things i told her ended up in print. Basically i feel like she mislead me

As i said, if my name is in print anywhere on the same page as the words "Jesse Bloom", it's a very bad day. d

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

On Mar 31, 2022, at 19:43, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

Yes I saw it David - pretty offensive stuff, but it does contain 3 factually correct statements:

1) I'm bald
2) I wear hiking pants and shirts to the office unless when talking with VIPs, when I don a jacket (not tweed though – that's ridiculous).
3) I've worked extremely hard to raise funds for our non-profit over the years, and if some of that's been successful, I'm happy to be guilty as charged.

From what I've read, all the rest is pure garbage.

Sorry you spent time talking with her David. I also addressed a long list of detailed questions from her, some of which she had to print and I think that helped throw a bit of water on some of her BS lines of attack.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 5:36 PM
To: David Morens <b6>
Cc: Peter Daszak <b6>; Gerald Keusch <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <

b6 ; Rich Roberts < b6 Dennis Carroll <
b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: fyi you should read this

It was a terrible article from someone who should know better

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

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

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
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Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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iPhone

On Mar 31, 2022, at 4:18 PM, David Morens b6 wrote:

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

Peter and all, i am sure you have all seen this by now. I hate this piece, which is twisted and full of innuendo and false equivalency. I am sorry i ever spoke to her (twice) and let her snow me with her assurances of setting the story straight re the good work of EcoHealth. To his credit i think Tony declined to speak with her. I feel like she betrayed what i told her on background.

Anyone who portrays Jesse Bloom as a visionary is incompetent in my book. Very sorry to see this piece of bat guano.
d
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
> **Date:** March 31, 2022 at 17:12:05 EDT
> **To:** David Morens b6
> **Subject: Fwd: fyi you should read this**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
> > **Date:** March 31, 2022 at 16:35:15 EDT
> > **To:** "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
> > **Subject: Re: fyi you should read this**
> >
> > A very biased account. I am sorry i ever spoke to her. d
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> > David M Morens
> > OD, NIAID, NIH
> >
> > > On Mar 31, 2022, at 13:44, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] < b6 wrote:
> > >
> > > https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the- virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy
> > >
> > > Jeffery K. Taubenberger, M.D., Ph.D.,
> > > Chief, Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section
> > > Deputy Chief, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases
> > > National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> > > National Institutes of Health
> > > 33 North Drive, Room 3E13C.1 MSC 3203
> > > Bethesda, MD 20892-3203 USA
> > >
> > > Tel (b) (6) Fax. 1-301-480-1696
> > > email: b6
> > >
> > > ==========

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Date: Sat, 20 May 2023 4:42:12 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 May 2023 4:42:07 PM -0400
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]

Hi Rich,

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

More immediate is the issue of EHA and what Bertagnolli will experience in the hearings. Ordinarily what Harold suggests would be fine, however in the current circumstances Building 1 remains hostile to EHA and too reticent with the republican congressmen. I don't trust them to prep her in a manner that we would consider both rational and reasonable. Maybe the other way to get her attention is to get something in Science (? via and editorial from you and Harold, or prod Holden Thorpe to take a proactive stance) providing the background including the suspensions, terminations, reversals, reimpositions etc in a way that has stopped the important work EHA does for all this time. Jocelyn Kaiser has a nice news report in Science; what is needed now is an editorial that Bertagnolli will see and hopefully ask lots of questions to the legal office at NIH and HHS.

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] [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
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MORENS_SUBPOENA_005085
MORENS_NIH_012976
REL0000478950

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

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, yes, I know Monica and we have talked several times about the NCI and NIH jobs. But I don't expect to be involved in her preparation for the hearing on her nomination as NIH Director. That is usually organized by the legislative offices in the NIH Office of the Director and by the legislative team at DHHS. I am sure that she will get briefed about the EHA grant and it is likely that NIAID will be asked to provide background material.

The document you sent has a lot of detailed information that she might want to read but it would best be delivered to her via NIAID; in addition, the source of the document (presumably EHA itself) should be apparent. EHA might simply provide that to NIAID's current leadership and I expect that they've done that already.

Best,

HV

PS Can't we find a better, more restricted way to label experiments that enhance pathogenicity or transmissibility of infectious agents than "gain of function"? Even DURC (dual use research of concern) is better than that. I've been doing GoF research for decades, enhancing cell growth by enhancing the function of proto-oncogenes!

From: Roberts, Rich [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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_005086
MORENS_NIH_012977
REL0000478950

Date: Fri, 25 Jun 2021 12:24:33 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 25 Jun 2021 12:23:02 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6> Keusch, Gerald T <b6> Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
CC: Rich Roberts <b6> Aleksei Chmura <b6> Robert Kessler <b6>

Glad you're going to talk with Eddie, David.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <b6> Hotez, Peter Jay <b6> Peter Daszak <b6>
Cc: Rich Roberts <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Robert Kessler <b6>
Subject: Re: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant

Amen! Great work, guys!

I also have been talking to Eddie Holmes. He will NOT get involved in any activist things (for hsi own safety and his family's) but is willing to have a zoom chat with me alone, and discuss things he knows about the situation in China, science and people, that has not all been ijn the press. Peter, you may already know some or all of this, we'll see. But for me to learn whatever he has to say can help us. I p[roposed that the zoom call would be with the several of us, but he said no, just me. But I can relate the converstaion to you all. david

On 6/24/2021 10:32 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> Thanks to both of you. Jerry

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MORENS_NIH_041321
REL0000478953

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 10:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Re: Article gives further details on termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant

I spoke to Bechara Choucair at the White House he leads the vaccination program and asked him to open up the possibility of a public White House POTUS defense of science and scientists. Will also discuss with Ron Klain. But not clear if they want to spend Political chits on this position

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Co-Head, Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
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University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

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

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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 24, 2021, at 8:51 PM, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

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My wife spotted this in the awful rag the Daily Mail. It's now in all the Murdoch right wing press (this is from Fox News - https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fauci- resisted-trump-cancel-virus-research-grant-wuhan-lab). Apparently a new tell-all book about Trump's management of the pandemic gives details of how the EcoHealth CoV grant was terminated. This is written from the right wing perspective – their spin is that "Fauci had the audacity to think it shouldn't have been terminated!". But actually, it reveals some interesting new information:

- NIH and HHS thought it likely illegal to terminate a grant "for convenience". My lawyers also believe that, as does just about everyone I've asked
- Trump pressured HHS who pressured Tony and Francis. They hesitated to terminate, the well-known HIV/AIDS activist Peter Staley tried to persuade them both not to allow this to happen – political interference in science
- Fauci and Collins thought it not worth resigning over a $3.7 million grant. Peter Staley agreed ultimately. Fauci reluctantly agreed to terminate it, as he said, "because the white house told us to". Personally, I understand this decision, even though it's been devastating to me and EcoHealth. It would not have been good to have lost Tony's leadership in the middle of the pandemic with Trump's reckless leadership.

FYI – I forwarded a copy of this to the GAO in case they want to use it in their work.

Fauci resisted Trump directive to cancel virus research grant linked to Wuhan lab: Book

The White House demanded the grant be canceled after reports the coronavirus leaked from the lab

By **Thomas Barrabi | Fox News**

Exclusive: Anthony Fauci resisted a White House directive in April of last year to cancel a research grant for a nonprofit linked to the Wuhan Institute of Virology but "reluctantly agreed" after he learned that then-President Donald Trump had explicitly ordered its

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cancellation, according to an exclusive excerpt from a book detailing the Trump administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fauci's debate with other top officials on how to handle the request was detailed in "Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History," an upcoming book from Washington Post reporters Yasmeen Abutaleb and Damian Paletta.

The White House pushed the National Institutes of Health to cut funding for a study examining how coronaviruses jump from infected bats to humans following reports linking the research to the Wuhan facility at the center of the "lab leak theory," which posits the pandemic originated from a lab accident. The study's sponsor, the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, was told not to spend the remaining $369,819 balance of its 2020 grant.

<image001.gif>

In their book, Abutaleb and Paletta provide a behind-the-scenes account of how Fauci and his colleagues at the National Institutes of Health responded to the White House's directive:

"With questions swirling about the origins of COVID-19—experts had determined that the virus was not man-made but could not rule out that it might have slipped out of a lab—the NIH had gone to the principal study investigator on April 19 and asked that payments be halted to the subcontractor in Wuhan until it had more answers.

A few days later, the relatively small grant had garnered new attention…On the afternoon of April 24, NIH director Francis Collins and Fauci received notice that Trump wanted to formally announce in a 5:00 p.m. press conference that the grant had been terminated."

Collins and Fauci told the White House and [the Department of Health and Human Services] that they were not sure the NIH actually had the authority to terminate a peer-reviewed grant in the middle of a budget cycle. The HHS general counsel told them to do it anyway and made clear it was a direct order from the president, implying that their jobs were on the line if they didn't comply. Fauci and Collins reluctantly agreed to cancel the grant."

According to the book, Fauci relayed the incident to his longtime friend Peter Staley, the

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prominent HIV/AIDS activist, who purportedly pushed him to resist the administration's directive.

"What do you mean?" Staley asked. "You can't cancel a grant like this."
"What do you want me to do?" Fauci said.
"Can't you and Collins threaten to resign over this?" Staley suggested.
"You want us both to resign over a $3.7 million grant?" Fauci snapped back.
Staley instantly backed down. 'You're right, you're right,' he said. 'That's not what you resign over.'"
(Collins and Fauci heard from many members of the scientific community that they should have resigned. The HHS general counsel later found that the agency probably had not had the authority to terminate the grant. NIH had to reinstate the grant but stopped all of its funding.)

It was the second time in a matter of days that it looked as though Fauci was being bullied by political forces at the White House, and Staley thought it was a worrisome trend.
"You combine this with what happened with your Oval Office remdesivir announcement—and I know this doesn't matter to the country. We're not talking about Trump and politics and Fox and the whole country. "We're talking about the fact that you are now our leader in AIDS, in public health advocacy," he told Fauci, his voice rising with emotion.

"In the scientific community, you are our leader. And in the course of forty-eight hours, you have broken two major tenets of how the scientific community does things. We have these rules for a reason, which you've been a major defender of your whole life."

Fauci did not return a request for comment on the book's claims by the time of this article's publication.

EcoHealth Alliance has worked with Wuhan lab researchers in the past but was not actively collaborating with them when the grant was canceled, Politico reported last year.

When testifying at a House Energy & Commerce Hearing in June 2020, Fauci claimed he was unaware of the reason why the grant was canceled.

"Why was it canceled? It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it," Fauci said at

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the time. "I don't know the reason, but we were told to cancel it."

The NIH's decision to fund research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology is an ongoing point of contention between Fauci and several Republican lawmakers. Sen. Rand Paul and others have alleged that Fauci was aware scientists at the Wuhan lab were conducting "gain of function" research on the virus – a charge Fauci has adamantly denied.

"Nightmare Scenario: Inside the Trump Administration's Response to the Pandemic That Changed History" will debut on June 29.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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Date: Mon, 27 May 2024 4:29:57 PM -0400

Sent: Mon, 27 May 2024 4:29:37 PM -0400

Subject: Re: another great Hiltzik quote Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>

To: Keusch, Gerald [b6]>;

CC: Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>;

Tony's show trial is next Monday I think, she may be waiting to see what happens there

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

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

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

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

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Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On May 27, 2024, at 1:19 PM, Keusch, Gerald [b6] wrote:

Rich, Marcia does not touch on the clear implications in your note why NAS needs to be heard from. Does it make sense to get back to her with that specifically on the table? If there is something brewing with the NL group or if Harold is willing to push her on this it may help to harden the possibility NAS would take a fact based approach and reproach the kangaroo trials under way.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On May 27, 2024, at 4:08 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

I don't disagree

Richard J. Roberts
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Executive Assistant: b6
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 4:07 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6; b6 Keusch, Gerald T b6;
Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: another great Hiltzik quote Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations

EXTERNAL SENDER

<image001.png>

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

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

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

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On May 27, 2024, at 1:00 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]> wrote:

She's not a virologist and believes that just because we've not found the exact virus hanging around in bats leaves the door open for lab leak. But that goes against what every virologist says. We have overwhelming evidence for natural origins.

As Michael Hiltzik says

[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

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On May 27, 2024, at 1:34 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

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Peter:

I received this feedback from Marcia McNutt.

Rich

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Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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From: McNutt, Marcia K. (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <b6 >
Subject: Re: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing this document. I don't know Peter personally, so don't understand how he wants to present himself and EcoHealth to the politicians. As we all have seen, politicians purposefully come across as combative, like to speak in sound bites, and take much liberty with the facts. As a scientist, my personal style is to stick to the facts, insist that others stick to those facts, and admit when and where science cannot answer questions. The way this statement is written, it tends towards giving the politicians a taste of their own medicine, so to speak, by stating in absolute terms topics that are more nuanced. For example:

"Many of the claims levied against EcoHealth Alliance are built on the false assumption that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology because of a lab leak during research supported by the NIH under a subgrant from EcoHealth Alliance: There is not a scintilla of scientific evidence for this narrative. "

I probably would have stated this differently. The failure to find the SARS-COV2 virus in nature has been the primary support for the lab leak hypothesis. So I think stating that "there is not a scintilla of scientific evidence" is overstated, and could bring trouble. The epidemiology of the disease does suggest origin at the market, but without the cooperation of the Chinese, we will not solve this problem. I am sure that many interpret the lack of cooperation by the Chinese as "proof" that they engineered the disease, even if by mistake.

The rest of the statement follows in similar vein, by showing anger and frustration. (And believe me, I can completely relate to why Peter is so frustrated!) But emotion tends to detract from the impression that this is a fact-based rebuttal. I guess I would have just made the same points more dispassionately. e.g. Debarment is not an appropriate action in this case based on government regulations. The timing of the request for data and notebooks was too late, and by that time political tensions virtually guaranteed that they would not be forthcoming as distrust was evident on both sides (Chinese and US). etc.

Please note that these comments are just based on my personal experience with Congress. Peter can take or leave.

One strategy I used to use with Congress was to meet privately with the Members prior to my testimony. For those likely to be in opposition to my case, I would explain in

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great detail to them and in terms they can understand why they should back off or change their minds. For those likely to be sympathetic to my case, I would feed them questions to ask. I remember one case when I was testifying for the USGS budget, and the proposal had been to zero out the Earthquake Research Grants to universities, a program in place for many decades. I had one Member ask me whether these grants had any impact in the past. That gave me the opening to tell the story of a young Stanford grad student from France whose research funding had run out, and he was going to have to return to France. The USGS stepped in, supported the student, and he used the funds to conduct a strong ground motion mapping of the Bay Area to predict what areas were most vulnerable to earthquake shaking and sediment liquification. Three years later, the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred, and basically validated all of the microzonation shaking that the map had predicted. The student was able to stay in the US, finish his degree, obtain US citizenship, and at the time of my testimony was President of Caltech. All of the money for the earthquake research grants was restored by Congress as a result of that testimony, and no funds were taken out elsewhere.

Peter needs an opportunity to talk about all of the good that the EcoHealth Alliance has done, and needs to create an opening to tell that story.

Hope this is helpful. Have a great Memorial Day!

Marcia

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President, National Academy of Sciences
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On May 25, 2024, at 1:10 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 > wrote:

Marcia:

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

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

Rich

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

<image001.png>

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Date:	Tue, 16 Mar 2021 12:50:19 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 16 Mar 2021 12:50:17 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Daily Caller: US Nonprofit With Ties To Wuhan Lab Violated Federal Law By Failing To Disclose Taxpayer Funding, Complaint Alleges
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To:	Peter Daszak [b6] [b6] David Morens [b6] [b6]
Attachments:	image002.gif; image003.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

This is yet another petty and vindictive effort. While it seems to me it's being applied selectively does it have any traction beyond the annoyance feature to EHA to respond legally to the suit?

And I saw that Collins and Fauci are joining 25 interfaith clergy who will be vaccinated in a live stream from National Cathedral tonight. It's being promoted as part of the Biden administration effort to influence the hesitant to be immunized. This suggests Collins is not likely to be terminated any time soon, if he proves valuable to motivate that segment of the population he appeals to, and any further efforts should focus on the failure of transparency and the need to open up the investigation findings to the public. I am going to ask Harold for his advice on what strategy to take now. It will be important to have all of the Lauer letters in the public domain. How can that be accomplished without tracking back to an identifiable source?

On the other side, there is an interview Peter just did with NPR that is calm, cool, and focused on more relevant information – which I expect will be in the WHO report – regarding the shutdown of wild animal farming. I saw an NPR report on that from June 2020, so this is not new but maybe a new part of the origins from nature argument.

I somehow missed the NIAID briefing this morning – I didn't recognize what it was on my calendar, adjacent to one of the Mass Consortium sessions at 8 this morning. How did it go? Was Tony participating? What if anything came up about your work with WIV? David, I don't suppose that somehow I can have the link to view it that NIAID provided to you – I know it is restricted to internal staff, so there might be a red flag raised if I were to try to access it. Peter, can you share any slide deck you used with me? I won't disseminate those or pass on the link if I have it.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: FW: Daily Caller: US Nonprofit With Ties To Wuhan Lab Violated Federal Law By Failing To Disclose Taxpayer Funding, Complaint Alleges

UGH!



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]

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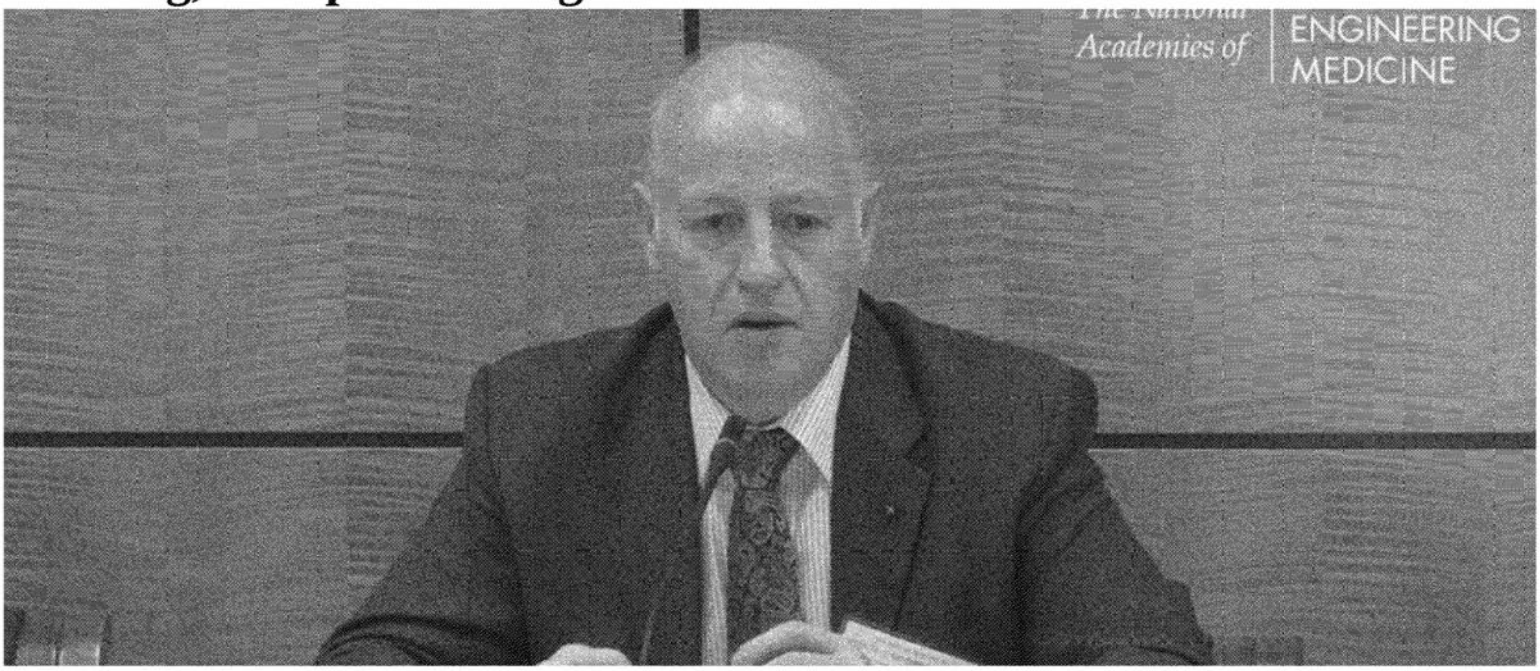
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:41 AM
Subject: Daily Caller: US Nonprofit With Ties To Wuhan Lab Violated Federal Law By Failing To Disclose Taxpayer Funding, Complaint Alleges

US Nonprofit With Ties To Wuhan Lab Violated Federal Law By Failing To Disclose Taxpayer Funding, Complaint Alleges



Andrew Kerr Investigative Reporter
March 15, 2021 9:00 AM ET
Font Size:

- **The nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance violated federal law by failing to disclose that its work was supported by taxpayer funds, according to a complaint filed Monday.**
- **"Virtually all of EHA's press releases reporting its taxpayer-funded experiments over the last three years violate the Stevens Amendment," the White Coat Waste Project wrote in the complaint.**
- **Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst said she will demand the Department of Health and Human Services enforce the Stevens Amendment in light of the complaint.**
- **"This isn't Communist China; the law isn't optional," Ernst said.**

A U.S. nonprofit with close ties to the Wuhan Institute of Virology violated federal law by failing to disclose that taxpayer funds

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supported its work, according to a complaint a taxpayer watchdog group filed Monday.

EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) diverted $600,000 in taxpayer funds to the WIV in the form of National Institutes of Health subgrants between 2014 and 2019 as part of a research project studying coronaviruses from Chinese bats. But press releases from EHA describing the project failed to disclose that the project was backed by federal dollars, an omission that, according to the White Coat Waste Project, is a violation of a federal law known as the Stevens Amendment.

"Virtually all of EHA's press releases reporting its taxpayer-funded experiments over the last three years violate the Stevens Amendment," the White Coat Waste Project wrote in its complaint filed Monday with the National Institutes of Health Office of Management Assessment. "The releases fail to acknowledge federal funding, and/or fail to report the amount of taxpayer money spent, and/or fail to report the percentage of the project paid for with taxpayer funds."

The Stevens Amendment requires that any group that receives funding from the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education disclose the percentage of costs financed with federal funds and the federal dollar amount in any statements, press releases, bid solicitations and other documents describing a project supported by those agencies, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Approximately 92% of EHA's revenue in 2018 was from government contracts, the group disclosed in its 2018 financial statements. The bulk of EHA's funding comes from the Department of Defense, however, the group has received over $14.7 million from the Department of Health and Human Services since 2002.

The White Coat Waste project flagged in its complaint three EHA press releases that touted its work on bat-based coronaviruses in China that did not disclose the percentage or dollar amount of project costs financed with federal dollars. EHA's work with the WIV studying bat-based coronaviruses was funded with a $3.4 million NIH grant, according to The Wall Street Journal.

While some press releases on EHA's website do disclose that NIH funded its work, the Daily Caller News Foundation did not locate any that indicated the dollar amount or percentage of costs funded by federal funds.

The White Coat Waste Project's complaint called on the NIH, an agency within the HHS, "permanently disqualify EHA from receiving taxpayer funding" in light of its alleged transparency violations.

"Taxpayers have a right to know — and federal law requires that we're told — exactly how much of our money EcoHealth has shipped to the notorious CCP-run Wuhan animal lab for reckless coronavirus experiments that may have caused the pandemic," White Coat Waste Project spokesman Justin Goodman told the DCNF. "EcoHealth's rampant violations of federal transparency law are yet another example of the group and its President Peter Daszak obscuring their close ties to — and financial support for — the Wuhan Animal Lab."

Sen. Joni Ernst told the DCNF that she will demand an investigation into the federal government's failure to enforce the Stevens Amendment in light of the revelations in the White Coat Waste Project's letter.

"The federal government is failing to comply with the law and disclose how many American taxpayer dollars go to research labs around the world, like the Wuhan Institute of Virology—a reported and potential origin of the novel coronavirus," the Iowa Republican said. "The American people deserve answers."

"I'm demanding an investigation to compel HHS to comply with the law," Ernst continued. "This isn't Communist China; the law isn't optional."

EHA's alleged failure to comply with the Stevens Amendment is emblematic of widespread non-enforcement of the law. The Government Accountability Office reported in March 2019 that most subagencies under the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education do not monitor grantees for compliance with the Stevens Amendment.

Ernst issued a letter to HHS Principal Deputy Inspector General Christi Grimm on Thursday urging a thorough review of the department's enforcement and compliance of the Stevens Amendment.

The WIV's past work conducting gain-of-function research on bat-based coronaviruses, its proximity to the first known cases of COVID-19 and China's lack of transparency surrounding the lab has led to widespread speculation that the virus could have entered the human population due to an accidental leak from the institution.

Gain-of-function is a type of research in which scientists intentionally make pathogens more deadly in a lab setting with the intention of getting ahead of any future outbreaks. Critics of the procedure say it's not worth the risk as it introduces the possibility that a non-natural pathogen could enter into the human population.

The NIH banned funding of gain-of-function research in 2014 due to safety concerns, but the ban was lifted in 2017.

U.S. diplomats wrote two cables to Washington D.C. in 2018 warning of safety issues at WIV. The cables specifically noted that researchers at the lab had discovered new bat-based coronaviruses that could easily infect human, Politico reported. Their warnings went ignored.



WHO team members Marion Koopmans (L), Peter Daszak (3rd R) and Peter Ben Embarek (2nd R) pose for a picture as Koopmans and Daszak leave their hotel after the World Health Organization (WHO) team wrapped up its investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Wuhan. (HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images)

Daszak, the EHA president, was the only American member of the World Health Organization's 2021 team that investigated the origins of COVID-19 in China. Daszak said Wednesday that the WHO team did not ask to review a database of at least 16,000 virus samples that the WIV deleted in September 2019 because he personally vouched for the lab, saying the data did not contain relevant information on the pandemic's origins.

Daszak's involvement in the WHO probe has been described as a major conflict of interest due to his financial and professional ties with the WIV. Critics have also noted that Daszak appeared to have made up his mind on the lab leak theory at the onset of the pandemic, having organized a statement in The Lancet medical journal in February 2020 condemning "conspiracy theories" suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin.

A spokesperson for Daszak later admitted to The Wall Street Journal that Daszak's letter was intended to protect Chinese scientists from online criticism. **(RELATED: The Man At The Center Of The World's Biggest Story Has A Conflict Of Interest. Why Won't The Media Report It?)**

The WHO team announced during a joint press conference with Chinese officials in February that their investigation concluded that it's "highly unlikely" that COVID-19 could have accidentally leaked from a Chinese lab and that the theory was not worth further investigation.

WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus walked back the announcement just days later, saying that all theories on the origins of the pandemic, including the lab leak hypothesis, "remain open and require further study."

The WHO scrapped earlier plans to release an interim report on its investigation in China amid growing scientific concerns over the legitimacy of its investigation. The team said on March 4 that it plans to release a full report on its findings "in coming weeks."

EHA did not immediately return a request for comment.

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Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 6:12:07 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 3 May 2024 6:12:04 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Keusch, Gerald [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]>;
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.jpg

There is no choice to be made. Either will be a disaster to the other. Both must be opposed. Rich and I are drafting a letter to our representatives asking them to intervene with their colleagues on the subcommittee, and explaining the existential crisis this represents. We have no direct route to the actual subcommittee members. We need to activate the societies as well. Peter, your recent presentation at NAS and the response from Marcia McNutt suggests she might be willing to step forward in a manner than Victor has not.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 5:48 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald [b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Keith Martin [b6] David Morens [b6]>
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

What I've heard from one individual is that the Democrats are willing to sacrifice Peter and EcoHealth in order to preserve the NIH. Which is horrible if that's true.

I kept thinking about Neville Chamberlain returning from Munich

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

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

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

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Media Inquiries:

b6
b6
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 4:27 PM, Keusch, Gerald b6 > wrote:

And maybe all the more reason we should try to get to the democratic members through our congressional representatives.

Jerry

From: Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Peter Daszak < b6 ; Roberts, Rich < b6 ; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald b6 ; Keith Martin < b6 >; David Morens < b6
Subject: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

That's encouraging!

As ever,
Jeff

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

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) wrote:

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All:

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

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak 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

b6

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich <b6> wrote:

Excellent article!

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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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: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>
Jeffrey Sturchio <J 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

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

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

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

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

Date: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:39:04 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 19 May 2022 3:35:12 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

Amen to that Jerry. The problem is that NIH Acting Dentist Director Tabak said we failed to comply with reporting requirements and both him and Former Director and Awful Guitarist/singer Collins said that this will have (administrative) consequences for EHA.

That's called 'throwing them under the bus'. As you know it's based on them discovering that our Yr 5 report didn't get uploaded properly - something that NIH O/D "hitman" Lauer gleefully sent over to the legal team in a redacted email that's been FoIA'd with the title "gift".

What an obnoxious, anti-science shit-show they've engaged in.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: [b6]g
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:15 PM
To: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>

Subject: RE: FW: FactCheck.org: Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin https://bit.ly/3wvGKB8

Thanks for sharing David. FactCheck.org should also directly state EHA did nothing wrong or inappropriate in its research collaboration, and in fact had sounded the warning about CoVs years ago and should be commended for its prescience as well as its science.

Jerry

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [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 (dmmorens@gmail.com) [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

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Navarro Falsely Links Fauci to Pandemic Origin

By Jessica McDonald

Posted on May 19, 2022

SciCheck Digest

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

Full Story

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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REL0000478972

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

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difference. Even much more similar viruses — those 96% identical — still differ from SARS-CoV-2 by more than 1,000 nucleotides, and could not have plausibly been the ancestral virus, David Robertson, the head of viral genomics and bioinformatics at the University of Glasgow, told us for a previous story.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2021 12:19:37 PM -0400
Sent: 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022840
MORENS_NIH_043844
REL0000478975

Senior Advisor to the Director
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b6

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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 issue next week.
The POLITICO-Harvard poll, which will be released next week, also found there's a high level of public interest in investigating Covid-19's origin, with almost two-thirds of Democrats and Republicans calling the issue "extremely" or "very" important. The finding also surprised Blendon, who said the public isn't typically invested in such a scientific inquiry.
The broad attention on the issue underscores the stakes for the Biden administration's upcoming report on the virus origin, due in August. Even if the report concludes the virus came from nature, it could be hard to move public opinion, lawmakers and researchers like Blendon have noted.
The poll surveyed 1,009 adults from June 22-27. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

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Date: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 6:36:05 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 6:36:00 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.
From: "Garry, Robert F" [b6]>
To: David Morens [b6]>; Edward Holmes [b6]>;
CC: Jason Gale [b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
[b6] [b6]

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

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

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

b

From: David Morens [b6]>
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 5:20 PM
To: Edward Holmes [b6]>
Cc: Jason Gale [b6]>, Peter Daszak [b6], Robert Garry [b6]>, [b6]" [b6]>, [b6]" [b6]>
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

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

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

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

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

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

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

You cannot make this shit up!!!!!

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

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

On Aug 17, 2021, at 17:34, Edward Holmes [(b) (6)] wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021711
MORENS_NIH_042589
REL0000478981

It really doesn't get much lower than Wade. It really doesn't.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
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 b6
E (b) (6)

On 18 Aug 2021, at 7:00 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

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

----- Original Message -----
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: JASON GALE, b6 b6
CC b6 b6 b6
At: 08/18/21 00:51:28 UTC+10:00

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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: Garry, Robert F <b6
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6v >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >
C<b6
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

Thanks Peter,

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

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

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

Bob G.

From: Peter Daszak <b6g >
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:40 AM
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <b6>, Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >
Cc: <b6> <b6>, "<b6>" Robert Garry <b6>, <b6>
Subject: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

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

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

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

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

Cheers,

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

By Nicholas Wade | August 17, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

More significant, the Chinese government would have found it much harder, if not impossible, to manipulate the World Health Organization (WHO) into setting terms of reference that favored China's obstructive goals and kept WHO inspectors who visited China this February from accessing records vital to understanding the origin of the pandemic. China now insists those terms of reference cannot be changed, blocking further investigation into the origin of the SARS2 virus. "The two groups that produced the infamous letters in *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* paved the way for the Chinese government and

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helped enormously to facilitate all of that," says Milton Leitenberg, an arms control expert at the University of Maryland. The reversal of the virologists' conclusion about SARS2's artificial origin is thus a matter of some significance.

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

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

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

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

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

The participants included Fauci and possibly his nominal boss, Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. (Farrar says in *Spike* that Collins was present, but Collins's name is not on the list of invitees in the Fauci emails.) Officials on the UK side were Farrar and Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the UK government. The others were mostly virologists, including Andersen, Holmes, and Andrew Rambaut of the University of Edinburgh.

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

him of "rumours that the novel coronavirus could be the result of a lab accident." As for Holmes, he has published many papers both with Farrar and with Gao and has been a guest professor at Gao's CDC from 2014 until 2020.

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

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

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

RELATED:

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

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

Whatever was said at the meeting, it was followed by a remarkable and almost immediate about-face. By at most three days later, Andersen had executed a 180 degree turn in his views about the virus. In an email of February 4, 2020 to Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, which had directed NIAID funds to Shi, Andersen wrote, "The main crackpot theories going around at the moment relate to this virus being somehow engineered with intent and that is demonstrably not the case." The email was obtained by U.S. Right to Know, an investigatory group.

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

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

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

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

Farrar also recruited the five authors who drew up the *Nature Medicine* letter, his spokesman told the writer Ian Birrell. (The spokesman referred to the *Lancet*

letter but evidently meant the *Nature Medicine* letter, which has five authors.)
The *Nature Medicine* letter, accepted on March 6 and published on March 17, 2020, presented a detailed and influential case that the virus had emerged naturally from animals. Its authors were Andersen, Rambaut, W. Ian Lipkin, Holmes and Garry.
In his book *Spike*, Farrar portrays the events between the February 1 conference and publication of the two medical journal letters as a judicious process in which he held an agnostic view and played no role other than asking questions. "On a spectrum if 0 is nature and 100 is release—I am honestly at 50!" Farrar says he emailed to Fauci and Collins a day after the conference. But if that were honestly so, he fails to explain his switch from 50 to 0 when signing the *Lancet* letter a few days later.
According to *Spike*, it wasn't until March, "after the addition of important new information, endless analyses, intense discussions and many sleepless nights" that Andersen and his four fellow virologists "were ready to pronounce on the origins of the novel coronavirus." Why then was Andersen, the virologists' leader, ready to pronounce just 3 days after the conference that lab release was a conspiracy theory? Farrar's account does not match with the available facts. Nor does Andersen's. In a June interview with the *New York Times,* he painted a picture that includes a change of mind on the possible engineering of the virus "in a matter of days, while we worked around the clock," and then that quick reversal being buttressed by drawn-out research.
"This is a textbook example of the scientific method, where a preliminary hypothesis is rejected in favor of a competing hypothesis as more data become available and analyses are completed," he said in a statement released by Scripps Research after his Jan 31 email to Fauci had become public. "I cautioned in that same email that we would need to look at the question much more closely and that our opinions could change within a few days based on new data and analyses—which they did," Anderson said in the *New York Times* interview. In that same interview, he also said that "more extensive analyses, significant additional data and thorough investigations to compare genomic diversity more broadly across coronaviruses led to the peer-reviewed study published in *Nature Medicine*."
These later data and analyses would not have been available three days after the conference, the date of Andersen's volte-face email to Daszak. And they would not have been available to Farrar as he signed the *Lancet* letter, which was published just 17 days after the teleconference.
More puzzling is Andersen's statement that in his preliminary studies "the genome of RaTG13, a SARS-related coronavirus found in bats, wasn't yet available." In fact its full sequence had been deposited by Shi in a data bank on January 24, 2020, a week before Andersen's report to Fauci, and Farrar says in *Spike* that he had seen the sequence by the time of the conference. RaTG13 is the closest known relative of SARS2, and the fact that it lacks the furin cleavage site found in SARS2 would have been a major reason for the Andersen group to suppose that this genetic element had been inserted into SARS2 in a lab.
Given his role in leading the February 1 teleconference, in presiding over the virologists' 180 degree change of views, and in arranging or influencing the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* letters, Farrar was evidently the driving force of the campaign to persuade the public that the SARS2 virus could not possibly have leaked from a lab. This was an unfortunate position for any scientist to take,

given that he was assuring the public of something he could not be sure was true.

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

RELATED:

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

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

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

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

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

Beijing's way of squelching inquiry about the virus was, unintentionally, somewhat more obvious than the methods used in London. Chinese authorities tried so hard to stamp out information about the virus's origin that they left a rather clumsy trail of footprints pointing to where they didn't want people to go. One of the more informative suppressions of data was the closure of China's main database on bat and other viruses. Zhengli Shi, China's leading expert on bat coronaviruses, told the BBC that it was taken off line because of numerous hacking attempts. It's conceivable that in January 2020, after the pandemic broke out, people without authorized access might have tried to hack into the database. But in fact the database went off line on September 12, 2019. Who would have wanted to hack into a bat virus database back then? More likely, that is the date at which Chinese authorities realized they had a virus escape problem.

In February of last year, President Xi referred to the need to ensure biosafety and biosecurity, and the Chinese Communist Party followed by tightening up their biosafety rules in October 2020, accelerating a long planned revision. "To me, the fact that the CCP enacted a major series of laboratory biosafety regulations this past year is an indication that China's political leadership

believes that a lab accident is likely to have caused the pandemic," says a biosurveillance expert who has monitored China's disease outbreak reporting for the past two decades.

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

Error! Filename not specified. Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher Shi Zhengli spoke about SARS during a Yixi event (comparable to a TED talk) on June 23, 2018. (Yixi video)

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

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

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

It's not acceptable practice among scientists to report something already published under a different name as if were new. Shi's February paper had the goal of portraying SARS2 as just another bat virus while concealing the true provenance of its closest known relative—a cave known to harbor lethal viruses. When RaTG13's connection to the Tongguan mine was pointed out, Shi still tried to conceal the lethality of the mine's bat viruses, saying the miners had died of a fungus infection. This untruth was corrected when a master's thesis by a Chinese doctor, Li Xu, was unearthed by the internet sleuth who calls himself TheSeeker268. The thesis reported that the miners had died of a SARS-related virus with symptoms identical to those of Covid-19 and with CT scans similar to

those of Covid patients. The only evident difference between that virus's effects and those of SARS2 is that the miners' virus was not readily transmissible from one person to another.

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 6:26 PM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021720
MORENS_NIH_042598
REL0000478981

Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)

Subject: RE: feedback on wild animals

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

Error! Filename not specified.

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

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Error! Filename not specified.

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Cc: b6 b6 ;
b6 ; Garry, Robert F 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. 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 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
b6
At: 08/15/21 01:45:11 UTC+10:00

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021722
MORENS_NIH_042600
REL0000478981

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

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
j.gale@bloomberg.net >
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:41 AM
To: b6
b6 b6 >;
b6
Garry, Robert F b6
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021723
MORENS_NIH_042601
REL0000478981

because an almost identical scenario triggered an international outbreak caused by a very similar coronavirus (SARS) in 2003-04. But in attempting to cover up the wildlife trade, and making like there were never any wild animals being sold in Wuhan's wet markets, things began to backfire on China; questions were raised about the nearby lab studying these coronaviruses. The more geopolitical, heated and vicious the arguments and accusations became, the less cooperative China became. In response, the more intent/adamant some groups have become in their belief that China is covering up a lab-leak. It's become a vicious circle. If China isn't coming clean on the wild animals, what else is it trying to hide?? China's defensiveness means we may never get the cooperation needed to find the answers. If China had been honest and transparent about the wild animals in the wet markets, it might not be in this mess now.

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

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

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

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

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While the study received wide attention when it was eventually released by a different publisher [Publisher (Springer Nature) and publication (Scientific Reports) are different. Might add confusion DO YOU WANT TO ADD NAME HERE?], its long and torturous journey to publication gave **Chinese officials an opportunity to weave alternative narratives in which the virus may have come from abroad, even from a U.S. Army biological research facility**. [the stuff in bold is not contested and we go on to show how that happened, documenting with links when available]I TWEAKED WORDING HERE BUT THIS STILL ISN'T QUITE RIGHT. IF THE REPORT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED EARLIER CHINESE OFFICIALS COULD STILL HAVE DONE WHAT THEY DID—THEY COULD HAVE JUST SAID THE REPORT WAS SHODDY, OR WHATEVER, AND THEY ALSO COULD HAVE JUST IGNORED IT. I disagree. The evidence that Xiao et al provide was meticulously documented and supported by photographs that would have been difficult/impossible for China to dismiss (as older published photos and media reports had been). What's more, Newman understands that Xiao collected blood-sucking ticks from the wild animals he studiously cataloged. His frozen tick samples could be tested for blood/antibodies/virus, which could be extremely helpful in identifying infected species PRIOR to December 2019. The WHO team knew nothing of this, so couldn't have asked China for this research or any results, had they actually done the research. The delay in the publication of Xiao's paper delayed the evidence that there were live animals sold in the Huanan market. The WHO researchers couldn't have asked about tests on wildlife that ostensibly were never there. Likewise, Chinese authorities couldn't have done the tests on animals that didn't exist. The problem is that in January and February 2020,

it was widely assumed the animals HAD been there and that the necessary tests and tracing of animals (the sampling of animals on farms they were raised on, testing of farm workers, animal hunters, transporters and traders **had all been done** by researchers in China -- the very things that ultimately led to the discovery of the origins of SARS and of MERS viruses. **None of these things were done** (or at least, there is nothing publicly available to show that they were done) **because the animals "weren't there"**. Now that we all know they were there, China as lost considerable face. The issue has become so political than there is much less/?no willingness to cooperate and conduct the additional research that the WHO-led team recommended. Ideally, Xiao's ticks should be studied, but it's doubtful that will now happen (I wouldn't be surprised if he's been ordered to incinerate them!) Hope this is clear.

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An international team of experts convened by the WHO traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to seek answers—a trip that might have yielded different results if the scientists had known about the work of Xiao Xiao, a virologist whose roles straddled epidemiology and animal research at the government-funded Key Laboratory of Southwest China Wildlife Resources Conservation and at Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.‘MIGHT HAVE YIELDED DIFFERENT RESULTS’ SEEMS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. WHAT RESULTS DID IT YIELD? I’D CUT THIS GRAF
As mentioned above, the WHO-convened team of researchers was told by market authorities, vendors and regular market visitors that there were no live animals sold in the Huanan market. That undermined completely the premise that the Huanan market was the kind of place where live animals from different species are stacked in cages, with urine and fecal material drips from one cage to the one below it, where there are splatters of blood and guts from animals, and lots of potential for the spread of diseases from one species to another (including Homo sapiens). Instead, the market (and one other one known to have been selling live wild animals in 2019) was

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

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

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

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

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

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~~The information void kindled a raging political debate that's already caused a trade war between China and Australia, as nations~~ demand to know ~~how Covid emerged.~~

Australia in April 2020 called for a global inquiryinto the origins of the pandemic, including China's handling of the initial outbreak. Days later, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used part of his Earth Day message to call on China to close its wet markets to "reduce risks to human health inside and outside of China."

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

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

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

22, 2020

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

In response, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, denied "wildlife wet markets" existed in the country. Government researchersCAN WE BE MORE SPECIFIC? Twenty-two researchers from mostly nationally-funded laboratories (I think it's the Chinese equivalent of the NIH in the U.S.) and institutes attached to the Chinese Academy of Sciences) now dismiss the market hypothesis completely. "SARS-CoV-2 could not

have possibly evolved in an animal market in a big city and even less likely in a laboratory," they wrote in a paper released last month ahead of publicationWHERE/WHENWILL IT BE PUBLISHED? It was released as a "pre-print" on a Chinese academic repository ahead of publication that appears to be managed/owned by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Papers are usually released in pre-print form before they have been accepted for publication or peer-reviewed as a way of expediting public access to the information. In this case, there is no information to suggest if, where or when the paper will be published.

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

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

they were probably smelling the lingering stench of rotten meat and sewage, according to a joint WHO-China report. [should we add “according to Laing Wannian etc here? Liang Wannian was the leader of the Chinese research team collaborating jointly with the WHO-led research team. The source for the above description are in the annexes to the official joint WHO-China report released at the end of March 2021.]

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Earlier the same day, the international research team visited Wuhan’s larger Baishazhou market, where Xiao had regularly surveyed two sellers of live wild animals. Yet the group was told only frozen food, ingredients, and kitchenware were on offer there. Liang Wannian, an epidemiologist who led the Chinese experts collaborating with the WHO-convened team, says his group had no knowledge of Xiao’s data either. [if the above information on what the delegation saw all comes from this same source, maybe we should include his name higher up (The source for the description of what the origins researchers saw on Jan. 31, 2021, comes from the official 120-page joint WHO-China report and its 193-page annexes, not from Liang. Since we are essentially accusing China of concealing the information that Xiao documented, we asked Liang at a press conference in late July 2021 when the Chinese team first knew about Xiao's findings -- that the Huanan market and three others in Wuhan were selling live animals permissive to SARS-CoV-2 infection -- and what research China has done subsequently as a follow-up on this information? Liang gave a very long-winded response in Chinese in which he said essentially "we didn't have that information in January-February 2021 when the research team was in Wuhan". I think it's important we keep this to demonstrate that we have tried to ascertain what China knew/has done and have given the Chinese researchers the opportunity to respond. In addition, I have emailed China CDC Director George Gao at least twice and not received any response.]

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

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A confirmed case linking two markets that sold wild animals is “very intriguing,”says Stephen Goldstein, a research associate in evolutionary virology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. But tracing any contact the employee might have had with infected wildlife is impossible now that the animals are long gone.WOULD TIMELY PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT HAVE CHANGED THIS?
It's unlikely that Xiao et al's paper would have been *published* soon after It was drafted in February 2020, but it could have been *released* as a pre-print ahead of publication and peer-review that same month. That would have **confirmed** what almost everyone had suspected: that there **was** a flourishing wildlife trade in Wuhan that provides a plausible pathway by which coronavirus-infected wildlife from Yunnan and beyond could have introduced the virus to the city, sparking the Covid outbreak. It's also possible that swift recognition of these potential wild-animal vectors could have allowed scientists to test them for the virus and for antibodies against the virus while they were still alive (perhaps not the ones from Huanan, but wildlife in the three other Wuhan markets). Because of the statements the Chinese authorities had been making in

January and February that strongly supported the animal spill over theory, it was assumed that this research was being done. Of course, the pandemic was raging then, so it would have been challenging. But, because of the denial by Chinese researchers that wild animals were being sold in Wuhan wet markets before the pandemic, there was never that level of follow up. At least, if there was, it was never made public.)

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

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<Mail Attachment.jpeg><Mail Attachment.gif><Mail Attachment.png><Mail Attachment.jpeg><Mail Attachment.png><Mail Attachment.png><Mail Attachment.jpeg><Mail Attachment.png>

Date: Thu, 21 Oct 2021 1:38:44 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 21 Oct 2021 1:38:34 AM -0400
Subject: FW: NIH STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

This is from NIH - Francis Collins - a statement now on the website explaining that EcoHealth didn't cause the COVID pandemic.

Little bit late, but I'll take any positive support from anywhere at this point...

https://www.nih.gov/about- nih/who-we-are/nih-director/statements/statement- misinformation-about-sars-cov-2-origins

Of course, that now means reporters are asking us questions to see if there's any secret information as to why this is suddenly going up online – you just can't make this stuff up. See emails 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: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 1:10 AM
To: 'Sarah Owermohle' [b6]
Cc: 'Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: RE: STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

Thanks Sarah - we'll read this and get back to you tomorrow if we have a statement on 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: Sarah Owermohle b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:33 PM
To: b6
Subject: FW: STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

Hi - I'm writing this up for us -- would you be able to comment, or is there any key background or context I should know?

Best,

Sarah

-----Original Message-----
From: NIH news releases and news items b6 > On Behalf Of NIH OLIB (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:27 PM
To: b6
Subject: STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NIH News NIH Office of the Director (OD) <https://www.nih.gov/institutes- nih/nih-office-director>
For Immediate Release: October 20, 2021

CONTACT: NIH Office of Communications, 301-496-5787, <e-mail:nmb@od.nih.gov>

STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

To date, the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic has not been identified, despite intensive efforts to do so. This is not unusual -- confirming with 100% certainty the origin of a virus is a long and complicated process. It took 14 years for scientists to find a single bat population that contained all the necessary genetic components of SARS-CoV, the virus that caused the 2003 SARS epidemic. We still do not know the origins of the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

Unfortunately, in the absence of a definitive answer, misinformation and disinformation are filling the void, which does more harm than good. NIH wants to set the record straight on NIH-supported research to understand naturally occurring bat coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, funded through a subaward from NIH grantee EcoHealth Alliance. Analysis < https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases- conditions/coronavirus-bat-research> 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. Any claims to the contrary are demonstrably false.

The scientific evidence to date indicates that the virus is likely the result of viral evolution in nature, potentially jumping directly to humans or through an unidentified intermediary animal host. Historically, many viruses have emerged from animals to cause epidemics and pandemics, including influenza, Ebola, Zika, West Nile fever, SARS, and more. Importantly, after an intensive

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investigation, agencies in the U.S Intelligence Community agreed that the virus was not developed as a biological weapon and most agencies assessed that SARS-CoV-2 most likely was not genetically engineered.

Public health and scientific organizations, including NIH, are intensely interested in getting a definitive answer to inform efforts to prevent future events. This effort would benefit from less speculation and more scientific cooperation, especially from China, without which the SARS-CoV-2 origins will be impossible to identify.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, National Institutes of Health

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit <www.nih.gov>.

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This Statement is available online at:
<https://www.nih.gov/about- nih/who-we-are/nih-director/statements/statement- misinformation-about-sars-cov-2-origins>
To subscribe (or unsubscribe) from NIH News Release mailings, go to <
http://service.govdelivery.com/service/subscribe.html?code=USNIH_1 >.
If you subscribed via the NIH LISTSERV, go to <https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=nihpress>.

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Date: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 9:03:54 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 9:00:19 PM -0500
Subject: RE: 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] David Morens [b6]
CC: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments: House E&C letter to NAM 2021.11.30.pdf

Appreciate you doing this Jerry. I hope NAM members will be able to distinguish between a genuine case of malfeasance that rises to the level that the US Congress should become involved, and a manufactured piece of disingenuous pseudo-legal BS designed to create a Stalinesque show trial out of scientists who were working to prevent the exact same pandemic that we're all suffering now.

OK, after that 70 word sentence, I'm definitely off for a beer.

See you on our 8am "Former Lancet" Task Force call tomorrow Jerry!

BTW – as if adding insult to inury, on page 3 of the letter from the Republican Ne'er-do-wells, they cite Jeff Sachs' annoyance at my behavior as part of their rationale for the NAM to flush me down the plughole – great!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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 [(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:23 PM
To: David Morens [b6]>; Peter Daszak [(b) (6)]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [(b) (6)]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [(b) (6)] Aleksei Chmura [(b) (6)]
>; Jeff Sturchio [(b) (6)]
Subject: RE: NAM rules governing accusations of misconduct/violations of codes of conduct - Nothing I can see about being recused while the process happens...

I am going to use the list serve I created in 2020 when 140 or so NAM members signed an appeal from Rick Klausner, Ken Olden and myself for the Academies to support the call for a transparent evaluation of the action taken to defund EHA and reverse the decision if there was no justification. It fell on mostly deaf ears.

But the more members who do speak up directly to Victor the more he will understand that what I said in my email to him today, that most members are pissed off about these attacks, is true and maybe will embolden him.

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MORENS_NIH_030712
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Its just necessary to keep fighting. Peter, you did well to restrain yourself while questioning the basis for the request from NAM.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:19 PM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted] b6 >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) : Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; Jeff Sturch (b) (6)
Subject: Re: NAM rules governing accusations of misconduct/violations of codes of conduct - Nothing I can see about being recused while the process happens...

I think you HAVE TO push back against the NAM. If you don't fight an injustice, you enable it.

Are there not internal NAM mechanisms to prevent leadership from throwing you under the bus without due process? Surely members can prevent Victor from doing this, or has NAM become so politicized that it will knuckle under to a bunch of Congressional demagogues with no major backing?

These several Congress folks are not the Congress, just a small hit team not supported by by the majority, even within the Republican party. d

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

On Dec 1, 2021, at 20:07, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015044
MORENS_NIH_030713
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Peter Daszak
President

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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
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Tel.: b6
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015045
MORENS_NIH_030714
REL0000478990

sincerely,

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

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: (b) (6) rg
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

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Date: Fri, 17 May 2024 7:30:02 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 7:29:58 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
CC: David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)

I'm not sure it's a wise thing to independently contact two journalists at the same publication about a scientific issue of importance that needs coverage for the general public. What is both start to put something together without knowing what the other is doing? If I were them I might be a bit upset by it.

I'm willing to contact Specter. I first go to know him just after I left NIH when he was doing a piece on the interference in NIH autonomy over its science, grants, and administrative independence by the George W Bush administration. As I recall he produced a very good investigative article about it.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 7:25 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I don't know Specter, why not both?

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

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 6:20 PM, Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) wrote:

Maybe we should pick one and provide the background information Peter is putting together. The trouble with The New Yorker or the Atlantic is that it will take weeks for them to get something published and what is necessary now is to have the news journalists point out the written record to the contrary for claims like those the committee is making. Hiltzik is good at that. He has the attention of Ruiz's PR guy who is distressed Michael did not soften the criticism in his piece today. I think that has just made Michael more determined to tell it like it is and reveal the perfidy of Ruiz, his colleagues, HHS, and ultimately up to the White House.

By the way, I have found Michael Specter at The New Yorker to be a direct, scientifically driven, hard driving writer. I have dealt with him in the past and could try to interest him in following up. What say?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 6:21 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts <
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I have no problem highlighting the NIH's incompetence. But we need a serious science journalist to step up and detail what's going on to set the record straight. We need an Atlantic or New Yorker article to exonerate Peter Daszak and EcoHealth. Who would that be? Michael Hiltzik? Amy Maxmen? Molly Jong Fast? Mehdi Hassan?

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

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

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 5:13 PM, Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) rote:

That just builds on the dystopic presentation of what Tabak said, referring to the definition with or without "of concern." He was careful to give them what they needed to distort the truth while not exactly lying.

On the other hand his testimony about the requirement for EHA to produce WIV lab notebooks is an outright lie. I have pointed this out to Jocelyn Kaiser and to Michael Hiltzig. Maybe one of them will write about it.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 6:02 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald J (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) leksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

The NIH leadership has set back American virology for many years:

<image001.jpg>

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

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iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 3:19 PM, Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) wrote:

Regarding Tabak's comments on GoF, this is what the text below shows.

Rep. Lesko: "Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?"

Dr. Tabak: "It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

So it is not what he said but how the SSCP spun it. That's a weakness that should be exploited in the press. It is deliberately spinning information into disinformation and that is both lying and dangerous. We need to point it out, find other examples where it is easy to refute what they are saying about Peter, EHA, and David, and make sure others will amplify that and delegitimize the committee. I'm going to point out that one to Hiltzik and Kaiser.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I'm only a King, how insulting, these guys are totally nuts

<image001.jpg>

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

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 12:34 PM, Peter Daszal (b) (6) wrote:

Good to hear that. In the meantime looks like the Committee is now coming after me personally. They're aiming to call for my debarment as an individual:

https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing- wrap-up-nih-repeatedly-refutes-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszaks-testimony-tabak-testimony-reveals-federal-grant-procedures-in-need-of-serious-reform/

Press Release Published: May 17, 2024

Hearing Wrap Up: NIH Refutes EcoHealth's Testimony, Tabak Reveals Federal Grant Procedures in Need of Serious Reform

WASHINGTON — The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled "Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak" to examine the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) process for funding and overseeing

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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

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comply with grant procedures. In a shocking admission that directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's previous statements, Dr. Tabak testified that the NIH was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China through a grant to EcoHealth. Members highlighted the dangers of continuing to fund gain-of-function research in foreign laboratories where NIH cannot ensure proper biosafety measures are implemented. Both Dr. Tabak and Select Subcommittee Members agreed that, in "hindsight," the NIH

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could have done more to protect the American taxpayer from EcoHealth.

Key Hearing Takeaways

- NIH Deputy Director and former Acting NIH Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acknowledged that NIH funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China.
- Dr. Lawrence Tabak repeatedly refuted EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak's public and private testimonies. It is now clear that Dr. Daszak misled both the Select Subcommittee and the NIH on numerous occasions.
- Serious shortcomings and failures in the NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures enabled EcoHealth to facilitate gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. These NIH deficiencies were exploited by Dr. Daszak and his team in an effort to avoid oversight and maintain funding.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to immediately suspend funding and commence debarment proceedings against EcoHealth is backed by substantial evidence and necessary to protect America's national security. The Select Subcommittee also recommends that HHS immediately begin debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.
- The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found here.
- The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.

Member Highlights

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), D.P.M, pressed Dr. Tabak to address Dr. Daszak's testimony

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that EcoHealth was "locked out" of the NIH's grant reporting system. NIH conducted an internal forensic audit which proves EcoHealth was, in fact, not "locked out" from submitting its required NIH grant research update report on time. Notably, EcoHealth finally submitted its report nearly two years after the required deadline. According to the facts gathered by NIH, Dr. Daszak's sworn testimony appears to be false. <image001.png

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>

Chairman Wenstrup: “

EcoHealth, like every other NIAID grantee, was required to submit a five-year progress report, as you know. This report was submitted nearly two years late. Dr. Daszak testified that EcoHealth had tried to submit the report on time but was locked out of the NIH system. Dr. Lauer testified that a forensic 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

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Subcommittee?
"
Dr. Tabak: "*We certainly will work together with you to obtain things that you require, sir*."
Chairman Wenstrup: "*Does the audit indicate that EcoHealth could have submitted their report on time?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*That's what our audit indicates, yes.*"
Chairman Wenstrup: "*When EcoHealth eventually submitted its year-five report, Dr. Daszak testified it took 11 days to unlock the NIH system. Is this true?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*We have no evidence of that.*"
…

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Dr. Tabak: "*All I can say to you is that our system did not lock them out and there was no impediment for them to provide that report on time.*"

Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) questioned Dr. Tabak about the employment status of alleged federal records violator and top advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci — Dr. David Morens — who was placed on administrative leave after the Select Subcommittee uncovered incriminating information. Dr. Morens used his personal email(s) to

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hide conversations about the origins of COVID-19 and undermine the operations of the NIH. <image002.png >

Chairman Comer: "*What is Dr. Morens's current employment status?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*He is an employee of NIH.*"
Chairman Comer: "*Well, I think you see where my lines of questioning were leading. We have some serious concerns. We have fought in this Select Subcommittee, the Oversight committee, on obtaining information. And here you have an admission of deleting information,*

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going to great lengths to not be transparent, in an apparent cover-up of something that I think we would agree, in a bipartisan manner, is one of the most serious issues that our country has ever faced, the COVID 19 pandemic."

Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) elicited an admission from Dr. Tabak that the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV through a grant to EcoHealth. This directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's U.S. Senate testimony in 2021 in which he claimed

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the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology." This type of research is known to be dangerous and even former NIH Director Francis Collins and Dr. Fauci were willing to admit that there are risks associated with this experimentation.
<image003.png >

Rep. Lesko: "*Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?* "

Dr. Tabak:

MORENS_NIH_045244
REL0000478998

"It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.), M.D., proved that EcoHealth violated the terms of its NIH grant when it failed to produce "laboratory notebooks" with information about the WIV's

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REL0000478998

gain-of-function research. On May 1, Dr. Daszak falsely testified that he was not required to produce these notebooks as a condition of his grant.
<image004.png>

Rep. McCormick: "*When the National Institutes of Health requested the notebooks from EcoHealth, was EcoHealth required to produce them under its grant terms?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, they were.*"
Rep. McCormick: "*When NIH requested notebooks from EcoHealth should EcoHealth*

MORENS_NIH_045246
REL0000478998

have been able to access them or already have access to them?"

Dr. Tabak: "*That's correct.*"

Rep. McCormick: "*Did EcoHealth ever produce the requested notebooks?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*They have not.*"

Rep. McCormick: "*Dr. Daszak testified two weeks ago that he was not required to produce the lab notebooks. Would NIH disagree with that testimony?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, we disagree with that testimony*."

Rep. McCormick: "*The testimony here today clarifies*

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REL0000478998

the inconsistency between Dr. Daszak's testimony and the testimony of numerous NIH officials and NIAID officials, also, including yourself. Dr. Daszak continues to thwart congressional oversight through semantics and outright dishonesty, quite frankly. He has routinely failed to produce pertinent documents and made countless misleading statements to the Select Subcommittee right here."

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), M.D., uncovered serious shortcomings in NIH's

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grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak testified that he would never again support a grant to EcoHealth Alliance to fund gain-of-function research in Wuhan and believes the NIH relied too heavily on Dr. Daszak attestations.

.

<image005.png>

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*As I mentioned, the Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence Grant was an almost $4 million grant that partially went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the*

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REL0000478998

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*

MORENS_NIH_045250
REL0000478998

annual reporting requirements, which were outlined in the grant. Dr. Tabak, looking back, did the NIH rely too much on Dr. Daszak's self-reporting information?
"

Dr. Tabak: "*Again, with the benefit of hindsight, we did because we never received the information.*
"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*Well, as an ophthalmologist, hindsight is always 20/20.*"

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) revealed NIH's honest viewpoint regarding its funding of EcoHealth's risky

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research at the WIV. Dr. Tabak testified that NIH believed it was not funding any dangerous research prior to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rep. Malliotakis: "*We also know that at least 20 more EcoHealth research projects received funding since March of 2020, and they are conducting research Nipah, zoonotic viruses, bat coronaviruses, MERS. They are doing a lot of this research, mostly actually in third world countries. Subpar safety conditions.*

How do you ensure that our federal dollars are not going to do risky experiments in countries where there are subpar safety regulations? And do you believe that should be a criteria that is put forth to ensure that the money doesn't?"
Dr. Tabak: "*Well, again, once we established special conditions for award on EcoHealth Alliance, we have monitored them very carefully with regard to expenditure and with regard to their various administrative processes. There was never a concern*

MORENS_NIH_045253
REL0000478998

with the danger, if you will, of the experiments that NIH approved for EcoHealth Alliance to with under subaward with WIV."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR

I just did this long interview debunking the nonsense, piece by piece

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Geoffrey Brumfiel <GBrumfiel b6 npr.org>
Date: May 17, 2024 at 11:06:26 AM EDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Origins of COVID

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

Hi Peter,

We haven't spoken for a year ortwo 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 (b) (6) | cell: (b) (6)

Date: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 5:03:11 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 4:59:09 PM -0500
Subject: RE: follow-up from the NAM
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Roberts, Rich b6 David Morens b6
CC: keusch b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6

Well, I am beginning to wonder. It turns out it costs me cash each year, I have a bunch of work to do on committees, and the minute I get publicly vilified, they add fuel to the fire by failing to defend me. What a shambles. Worst of all, like the WHO origins group, and Jeff Sachs' Covid commission – once they start to haul you over the coals, it drives further rounds of publicity and threatens my job, and my family's security.

I didn't even get a secret handshake!

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: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 4:42 PM
To: David Morens b6 Peter Daszak b6 g >
Cc: keusch b6 ; Hotez, Peter Ja b6
Subject: RE: follow-up from the NAM

Sometimes it's best not to be a member of these National Academies.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA

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

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6
Cc: keusch b6 Hotez, Peter Ja b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Re: follow-up from the NAM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Sad..... One would think the NAM had more integrity than that. Guilty 'til proven innocent. Looking at all this from the outside, it doesn't exactly make your NAM club look like a stellar organization. Sorry to say. Time to go watch the fine movie made of Arthur Miller's play The Crucible, which was about the McCarthy era but presciently also about this one. d

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

On Dec 2, 2021, at 15:34, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015091
MORENS_NIH_030776
REL0000479002

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 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

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

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Date: Thu, 13 May 2021 5:31:41 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] [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]

I think that's good.... I have known him for years and have always found him to be careful, thorough and fair. He is always curious, more interested in understanding things than getting g a hot story. But, as I said, he doesn't sound certain the lab hypothesis is almost impossible.

d

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
B [b6] [b6] [b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
([b6] [b6] [b6]
3 [b6]

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-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:30 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]>
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] [b6]>
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

He asked who the small band of scientists I referred to were, and I told him he could probably figure it out.

He sounds reasonable and smart, and on your recommendation I fired both barrels.

Jerry
-----Original Message-----

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological

Thanks, Jerry, for speaking to him. I sent him the article you mentioned shortly after I saw it, and I have also been talking to Arthur on background about this over recent months.

Bravo for what you said, which is pretty much what I have been saying to him.

I suggested Arthur try to interview Tony directly and connected him to our "secret" back channel. He emailed Tony a few hours ago.

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
B b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) (b6 b6 b6
3 b6

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-----Original Message-----
From: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak b6
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] [b6]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >
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 [b6] wrote:
>
> David:
>
> That is a very interesting article. I will have to read it more fully, but on quickly skimming through it does make a strong argument against the lab-leak theory.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016048
MORENS_NIH_033799
REL0000479007

>
> 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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:54 AM
> To: Peter Daszak b6
> b6 ; Keusch, Jerry b6
> b6 >; Roberts, Rich b6 >
> Subject: FW: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of
> SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has
> a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
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> See link way down below
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>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the
> Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and
> Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room
> 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> B b6 b6 b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) (b6
> b6
> 3 b6
>
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>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:31 AM
> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
> Subject: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of
> SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has
> a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
>
> https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fviro
> logical.org%2Ft%2Fearly-appearance-of-two-distinct-genomic-lineages-of
> -sars-cov-2-in-different-wuhan-wildlife-markets-suggests-sars-cov-2-ha
> s-a-natural-origin%2F691&data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C770222
> d6f783495c5fad08d916168d4b%7C77cefbc6b3d64d6a9f740664881c384b%7C0%7C0%
> 7C637565108407156387%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQI
> joiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000 &sdata=DWMmogMoU%2
> BVEmatA3mQt1BQkOkTVJnEP6gHTb28Tp0E%3D &reserved=0
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016050
MORENS_NIH_033801
REL0000479007

Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 1:01:16 AM -0500
Sent: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 12:59:28 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Wash Post editorial
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

I await its publication with great interest.

I'm amazed at how many stories have come out about how crappy a job the WHO team have done even before the report is 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

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]>
Subject: Re: Wash Post editorial

I will be glad to altho of course i have ID myself as a resident if MD, not a govt employee. I think they usually only accept letters from individuals, not two or more, but i am not sure d

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

> On Mar 7, 2021, at 21:15, Keusch, Gerald T [b6]> wrote:
>
> I think we need to respond - we being you and me, not Peter. What do you
> think?
>
>
> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
> Professor of Medicine
> Associate Director
> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Boston University,
> Boston MA 02118
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: David Morens [b6]>
> Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 10:12 AM
> To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T
> [b6]>
> Subject: Wash Post editorial
>
> Yet another alarmist WaPo editorial this morning on covid origin. Not
> sure who it is that is breathing into their ears. Some of the
> language sounds familiar, but i will not try to guess. D
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

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Date: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 4:55:36 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 20 Dec 2022 4:55:29 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Names of Committee members disclosed
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]>;

Will do!

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in 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 Dec 20, 2022, at 3:15 PM, Roberts, Rich [b6]> wrote:

Peter:

Sounds good. Let me know when it becomes available.

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: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:00 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 >; David Morens b6 ; Gerald Keusch b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >; Jeff Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Names of Committee members disclosed

EXTERNAL SENDER

2023 is going to be a rough year with both the House Oversight and Judiciary Committees conducting scientist witch hunts.

My new 2023 book with Johns Hopkins Univ Press out early next year I hope

"The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: How Health Freedom Propaganda Endangers the World"

How House GOP Freedom Caucus and Senate GOP in Alliance with Fox News and contrarian pseudo intellectuals to give it academic cover, formed an alliance to convince Americans across Texas and US Southern States to shun covid vaccinations during the delta variant wave. This led to the unnecessary and needless deaths of 200,000 Americans. Also discusses how antiscience extends to phony Covid origins

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

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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

On Dec 20, 2022, at 2:08 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:

I find it increasingly difficult to live in this country. Apparently lying is the preferred way of achieving political power.

Sorry to hear about your problems, but I hope you and your family will have an enjoyable Holiday season anyway. Just don't turn on the news.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Peter Hotez [b6]; Sturchio <j[b6]
Subject: RE: Names of Committee members disclosed

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just returned from 3 weeks in Western Thailand near the Myanmar border organizing fieldwork in bat caves. It was hard work, made even harder by the ongoing level of harassment in the US. During that short trip we had to deal with the following attacks:

- A new lawsuit (our 3rd) claiming our work caused COVID and led to the death of a rock musician in a Midwest state in the USA
- A book from a former EHA employee that is so factually-incorrect, even the title is demonstrably wrong. The author, who sadly has some mental health issues (self-acknowledged and publicly stated) has been lauded by the usual Right wing hacks and did the rounds on Fox last week. He's getting his 15 mins of fame, but I'm a bit worried that a former Iraq/Afghanistan veteran with a grudge is drumming up hate against me and our organization.
- A series of harassing articles about me and EcoHealth in the Daily Mail, NY Post, Fox News, all based on a single tweet of some of our staff in Tyvek suits in a bat cave in Thailand, doing their job as scientists, and as laid out in our NIH grant.
- Quotes from Senator Joni Ernst & Roger Marshall bragging about how I'm not going to be able to do my work next year because I'll be spending so much time in front of Congress: 'Instead of playing in a bat cave, next year Daszak will find himself in front of Congress answering questions about his batty studies and what was really going on inside the Wuhan Institute,' added the Iowa Republican. https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article- 11530565/GOP- senators-slam-Peter-Daszak-playing-bat-cave-[b6]
- 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014304
MORENS_NIH_026998
REL0000479011

> 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
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014305
MORENS_NIH_026999
REL0000479011

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_014306
MORENS_NIH_027000
REL0000479011

Date: Thu, 14 Mar 2024 5:45:45 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 14 Mar 2024 5:41:58 PM -0400
Subject: Russian federation sanctions list
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Alison Andre [b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] kuuipo9 [b6] Keith Martin [b6]
CC: Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6]>; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>;

More on the sanctions list – apparently I'll be joining dignitaries who are already sanctioned by the Russian Federation like Obama, Sean Penn, Alexander Vindman, USAID Administrator Samantha Powers, and even some of the politicians who've been harassing EcoHealth Alliance, like Joni Ernst!

Rich – I know you're a Nobel Laureate, but have you yet been sanctioned by an authoritarian regime? Obviously it doesn't come with any actual benefits, and you do have to watch out for people with umbrellas, and hotel doors curiously unlocked etc.….

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:23 PM
To: 'Alison Andre' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6] 'Jeffrey Sturchio' < [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] Roberts, Rich' [b6] Keith Martin' [b6]
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' [b6]>; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' [b6] il.com >; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re. our next meeting.
Importance: High

I'm looking forward to this call – I have some information re. the political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance and myself that I'd like to talk about also and get your advice on – it'll take about 20 minutes, so if we set aside an hour that would be great.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000014
MORENS_NIH_000042
REL0000479013

As a teaser, and just to show you how bizarre things are these days, I found out (from the horrible lab leakers on Twitter) that the Russian Federation has today named me as one of the people on their latest "Sanctioned Individuals" list. We think it's related to the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy that they've been promoting because 3 other EcoHealth staff are listed along with some former collaborators who actually worked with DTRA on Ukraine lab capacity.

Here's the link: https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/1938555/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Alison Andre b6 >
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:59 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Roberts, Rich b6 >; Keith Martin b6
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas b6 ; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau b6 m >;
Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Peter Daszak b6
Subject: Re: Scheduling Coalition Catch Up Meeting

Dear All,

Thank you to those who filled out the meeting poll and sorry to send out a new one so soon. Next week wasn't the best for most of the group so I'm including a new poll for the week of March 25. Could you please take a moment to fill out this poll?

https://calendly.com/d/47d- h44-dv7/coalition-meeting- week-of-mar-25

Thank you,
Alison

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 12:02 PM Alison Andre b6 wrote:

> Dear All,
>
> I'm hoping to schedule a meeting with the group sometime next week to share any recent updates since the

last meeting. Could you please take a moment to fill in your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/449- 652-rgk/coalition- catch-up-meeting

Thank you,
Alison

--
Alison Andre
Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

[redacted] (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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--
Alison Andre
Executive Assistant to the President

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New York, NY 10018

[redacted] (direct)
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Date: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 8:23:15 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 1 Dec 2021 8:23:12 PM -0500
Subject: RE: NAM rules governing accusations of misconduct/violations of codes of conduct - Nothing I can see about being recused while the process happens...
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]

I am going to use the list serve I created in 2020 when 140 or so NAM members signed an appeal from Rick Klausner, Ken Olden and myself for the Academies to support the call for a transparent evaluation of the action taken to defund EHA and reverse the decision if there was no justification. It fell on mostly deaf ears.

But the more members who do speak up directly to Victor the more he will understand that what I said in my email to him today, that most members are pissed off about these attacks, is true and maybe will embolden him.

Its just necessary to keep fighting. Peter, you did well to restrain yourself while questioning the basis for the request from NAM.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:19 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Subject: Re: NAM rules governing accusations of misconduct/violations of codes of conduct - Nothing I can see about being recused while the process happens...

I think you HAVE TO push back against the NAM. If you don't fight an injustice, you enable it.

Are there not internal NAM mechanisms to prevent leadership from throwing you under the bus without due process? Surely members can prevent Victor from doing this, or has NAM become so politicized that it will knuckle under to a bunch of Congressional demagogues with no major backing?

These several Congress folks are not the Congress, just a small hit team not supported by by the majority, even within the Republican party. d

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

> On Dec 1, 2021, at 20:07, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:
>
> 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.

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MORENS_NIH_030704
REL0000479014

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

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

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Date: Sun, 9 May 2021 8:54:01 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 9 May 2021 8:53:08 PM -0400
Subject: Nicholas Wade's thesis that the Furin Cleavage Site is a 'smoking gun' debunked by Kristian Andersen
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6]
CC: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Attachments: image003.gif; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

Here's a link to a series of tweets, with references in which Kristian Andersen lays out why the presence of a Furin Cleavage Site in SARS-CoV-2 is not a 'smoking gun' that it came from the lab (as Nicholas Wade professes).

https://twitter.com/K_G_Andersen/status/1391507230848032772?s=20

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] [b6]
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: FW: WSJ: China, Fauci and the Origins of Covid

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

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:55 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: WSJ: China, Fauci and the Origins of Covid

China, Fauci and the Origins of Covid

Did the virus come from a Chinese lab funded by the celebrated doctor's U.S. government institute?



By James Freeman
May 7, 2021 4:39 pm ET

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014981
MORENS_NIH_030634
REL0000479022



In February of 2021, a security guard moves journalists away from the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China's Hubei province.

Before Covid-19 ravaged the world, Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases funded coronavirus research that included work at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology. The idea was to study the ability of such viruses to attack humans, but could a Fauci-funded experiment actually be the source of the deadly global infection? In an exhaustive account of the viral possibilities published this week by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Nicholas Wade argues that the Chinese lab is the most likely source of the world-wide agony.

Left-leaning journalists who don't like where this story is going may struggle to dismiss the author given his establishment credentials. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists describes him this way:

> Nicholas Wade is a science writer, editor, and author who has worked on the staff of *Nature*, *Science*, and, for many years, the *New York Times*.

The former Timesman writes:

> The virus that caused the pandemic is known officially as SARS-CoV-2, but can be called SARS2 for short. As many people know, there are two main theories about its origin. One is that it jumped naturally from wildlife to people. The other is that the virus was under study in a lab, from which it escaped... it seems to me that proponents of lab escape can explain all the available facts about SARS2 considerably more easily than can those who favor natural emergence.

Mr. Wade describes a key Chinese researcher whose work received support from Dr. Fauci's institute via a U.S. group called EcoHealth Alliance:

> Researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, led by China's leading expert on bat viruses, Shi Zheng-li or "Bat Lady," mounted frequent expeditions to the bat-infested caves of Yunnan in southern China and collected around a hundred different bat coronaviruses...
>
> It cannot yet be stated that Shi did or did not generate SARS2 in her lab because her records have been sealed, but it seems she was certainly on the right track to have done so. "It is clear that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was systematically constructing novel chimeric coronaviruses and was assessing their ability to infect human cells and human-ACE2-expressing mice," says Richard H. Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University and leading expert on biosafety.

Mr. Wade then details at length why he believes a lab-created virus in this case is much more likely than a natural one. His case in the following paragraphs contains much jargon but his argument is clear: The scourge was particularly suited to attack humans and yet there's little if any evidence showing a natural evolution from a virus that attacks bats to a virus that attacks people:

> It's documented that researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology were doing gain-of-function experiments designed to make coronaviruses infect human cells and humanized mice. This is exactly the kind of experiment from which a SARS2-like virus could have emerged. The researchers were not vaccinated against the viruses under study, and they were working in the minimal safety conditions of a BSL2 laboratory. So escape of a virus would not be at all surprising.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014982
MORENS_NIH_030635
REL0000479022

> In all of China, the pandemic broke out on the doorstep of the Wuhan institute. The virus was already well adapted to humans, as expected for a virus grown in humanized mice. It possessed an unusual enhancement, a furin cleavage site, which is not possessed by any other known SARS-related beta-coronavirus, and this site included a double arginine codon also unknown among beta-coronaviruses. What more evidence could you want, aside from the presently unobtainable lab records documenting SARS2's creation?
>
> Proponents of natural emergence have a rather harder story to tell... No one has found the bat population that was the source of SARS2, if indeed it ever infected bats. No intermediate host has presented itself, despite an intensive search by Chinese authorities that included the testing of 80,000 animals. There is no evidence of the virus making multiple independent jumps from its intermediate host to people, as both the SARS1 and MERS viruses did. There is no evidence from hospital surveillance records of the epidemic gathering strength in the population as the virus evolved. There is no explanation of why a natural epidemic should break out in Wuhan and nowhere else. There is no good explanation of how the virus acquired its furin cleavage site, which no other SARS-related beta-coronavirus possesses, nor why the site is composed of human-preferred codons. The natural emergence theory battles a bristling array of implausibilities.

There seems to be some debate about whether the Wuhan coronavirus work really did involve "gain-of-function" research—genetically engineering viruses to attack people under the premise that such research assists in learning how to counter future threats. In February the website PolitiFact reported, "All parties involved in the grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology have denied that it involved gain-of-function research." PolitiFact attributed a quotation to the National Institutes of Health, the parent agency of Dr. Fauci's organization:

> The NIH told us: "The research supported under the grant to EcoHealth Alliance Inc. characterized the function of newly discovered bat spike proteins and naturally occurring pathogens and did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied."

But PolitiFact also stated:

> MIT biologist Kevin Esvelt reviewed a paper that appears to have been published with financial assistance from the grant. According to Esvelt, certain techniques that the researchers used seemed to meet the definition of gain-of-function research.

This column contacted the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases this afternoon on this issue and a spokesperson says, "We'll get back to you." This column will be updated if NIAID comments. Rep. Mike Gallagher (R., Wis.) wrote to Dr. Fauci on Wednesday in search of some answers:

> The State Department has detailed several concerning revelations, including that the U.S. government has reason to believe several researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) became sick in autumn 2019 with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, before the first public cases emerged in that community...
>
> How much U.S. government funding has gone to the WIV over time, and how much of that supported gain-of-function research? Did U.S. government funding go to the WIV even during the 2014-2017 U.S. moratorium on funding gain-of-function research?

On Thursday the ranking member on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R., Wash.), and two Republican colleagues on the committee wrote to Secretary of State Antony Blinken to "request that the U.S. Department of State release unclassified documents and declassify other documents for public release, as appropriate, related to the assertion in the Department's January 15, 2021 Fact Sheet that the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) in Wuhan, China collaborated with the Chinese military in conducting classified research, including laboratory animal experiments."

Did any of the results of those experiments leave the lab and make their way around the world?

Follow James Freeman on Twitter and Parler.

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Date: Fri, 24 Mar 2023 2:35:04 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 24 Mar 2023 2:32:14 PM -0400
Subject: recording of Jerry and my call with Carlos del Rio of Emory, ISDA and NAM Council
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T <b6 Hotez, Peter Jay <b6 Jeffrey Sturchio <b6
CC: David Morens <b6 Roberts, Rich <b6 Aleksei Chmura <b6>;

Click on the link below to listen to the recording of our call with Carlos just now…

https://www.dropbox.com/s/j3ry06zh56ssrcy/audio1145213781.m4a?dl=0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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: 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

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 <b6>
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

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
b6
iPhone

On Mar 24, 2023, at 8:33 AM, Jeffrey Sturchio b6 wrote:

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This is madness! Yet another reason why the Biden Administration should have appointed a strong new Director of NIH some time ago.

JLS

From: David Morens 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.

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MORENS_NIH_012682
REL0000479033

Date: Mon, 7 Nov 2022 2:39:08 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 7 Nov 2022 2:39:05 PM -0500
Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]>
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]>;
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] David Morens [b6]>;

It's truly appalling what so many Republican politicians, whether they totally agree or are just looking for a political edge in their election, can do knowing full well what they are unleashing. While most of the threats are just that, threats that are never considered to be actionable, there is plenty of reason to be concerned if there is one particularly evil Maggot out there.

I don't know why but today I'm feeling more upbeat about the outcome than the polls and history suggest likely. Tomorrow I vote and then I turn off my devices until Wednesday, as fortunately one of my best friends is performing in the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement Shakepeare players presentation of Midsummer's Night Dream, followed by Chinese food at a really good place in Cambridge. The latter two, set for tomorrow evening, seem more than coincidental to me and are the source of some optimism.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 1:42 AM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6]>
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

Let's see what new twists await us post Tuesday

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

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

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

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Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Nov 7, 2022, at 4:31 AM, Roberts, Rich b6 wrote:

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 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: roberts@neb.com

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

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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 (b) (6) , 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

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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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 [redacted]; David Morens <

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

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

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

Media Inquiries:
[b6]
iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] wrote:

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Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).
Best regards,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich [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
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Tel: [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
ema [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:

Natural origins
- Earliest cases handled live animals?
- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?
- Were there animal variants of the virus?
- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?
- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

She then claimed that none of these have been established for SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak
- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans
- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013
- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"
- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses
- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and

made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

Richard Ebright was then asked what should be done about improving the oversight of research in this area from the perspective of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. He concurred with Sachs and Chan that the available data do not enable a choice between the two hypotheses of COVID-19 origin. But regardless of where one stood on this question, the research by EcoHealth Alliance, WIV, and their collaborators – according to Ebright – used inadequate biosafety protocols and lacked transparency. Again, according to him, this points to, but does not prove, a research spillover as the origin of COVID-19.

I've attached a screen shot of the slide he shared that lays out his bill of complaint. As you can see, he's fixated on the work that WIV and EHA did from 2016-2019, arguing that, while this doesn't prove laboratory origins, it "exceeds the standard of probable cause" and provides "ample basis to initiate investigation and ample basis to improve oversight." (Like Chan, he also made much of EHA's rejected DARPA proposal, trying to use it as a "smoking gun" for malign intent by EHA and WIV, despite the fact that this research was never done!)

He spent most of his time, however, outlining a basis for and recommendations for improved research regulation and oversight in biosafety, biosecurity, and bio risk management.

Sachs and Ebright had an exchange about the recent news of the creation of a variant of COVID-19 that appeared to be more virulent than Omicron, without the "knowledge or approval of NIH." This was evidence for both of them of the need for enhanced oversight.

Emily Kopp, an investigative journalist with US Right to Know, then made a breathless presentation about her attempts to bring the truth about COVID-19 origins to light through FOIAs and dogged persistence. The gravamen of her complaint is that much of the relevant research has been underwritten by NIH, DOD, and USAID with taxpayer funds, and conducted in the US (at EHA, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, and UC Davis), yet she and her colleagues have had to file dozens of FOIA requests and lawsuits to

get access to what they consider to be relevant information.

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the *Nature Medicine* correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the *Nature Medicine* correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't,

noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,
Jeff

From: David Morens
To: Keusch, Gerald T
Cc: Peter Daszak; Aleksei Chmura
Subject: Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 3:57:29 PM

Jerry, as i emailed earlier, please call me on my cell b6 b6 b6 d

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

On Oct 25, 2021, at 15:55, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:

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

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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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: David Morens [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
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.

MORENS_NIH_046891
REL0000479037

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 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

MORENS_NIH_046893
REL0000479037

USA

Tel.: b6
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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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_NIH_046895
REL0000479037

Date: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 6:49:27 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 6:47:10 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
From: Peter Daszak <b6
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6 David Morens b6 Jeff Sturchio b6 Roberts, Rich b6 Hotez, Peter Jay b6
CC: Aleksei Chmura b6 >;
Attachments: image001.jpg

Amen to keeping the science going Jerry.

I have no problem at all with any of you talking about these actions with colleagues and others. Please continue talking about this issue with people at NIH in particular Jerry. I strongly believe that most people at NIH, and especially NIAID, realize that this is a case of Office of the Director senior staff trying to worm their way out of a problem that they caused themselves when they went too far back in April 2020 and terminated a grant that would likely have delivered good science.

By the way, our team is right now working on analyzing over 100 completely novel full genomes of SARS-related CoVs that WIV have sequenced from our original samples in the terminated grant. We're doing this work funded by other mechanisms, including the generous gift you negotiated Rich. The results are already fascinating and will likely be important. For example, out of >100 novel full genomes, every single one of them is a recombinant. That includes what seem to be genes from close relatives of the original progenitor of SARS-CoV mixing with genes from close relatives of SARS-CoV-2. We're working on a pretty deep analysis of what drives recombination hotspots – it has to be good because the computer took 3 months to do the original recombination analysis!

That's the sort of science we could be cranking out at full steam if we didn't have to spend days out of each week responding to these attacks, dealing with death threats and lawsuits 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: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010614
MORENS_NIH_021149
REL0000479038

Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Before I give up the ghost I am going to get that guy fired in disgrace.

We have a site visit for the lab coming up on Tuesday, and I'm considering asking the program officers what they know about the attacks on EHA and what the think of Lauer. They would have to deal with him since he runs the extramural research office in the Directors office. Unless you think I shouldn't say anything.

Just keep on producing good science, because that in the end is the name of the game. And its great to be running the SE Asia EID network – Ron and I are looking forward to participating in the network meeting in September.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [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

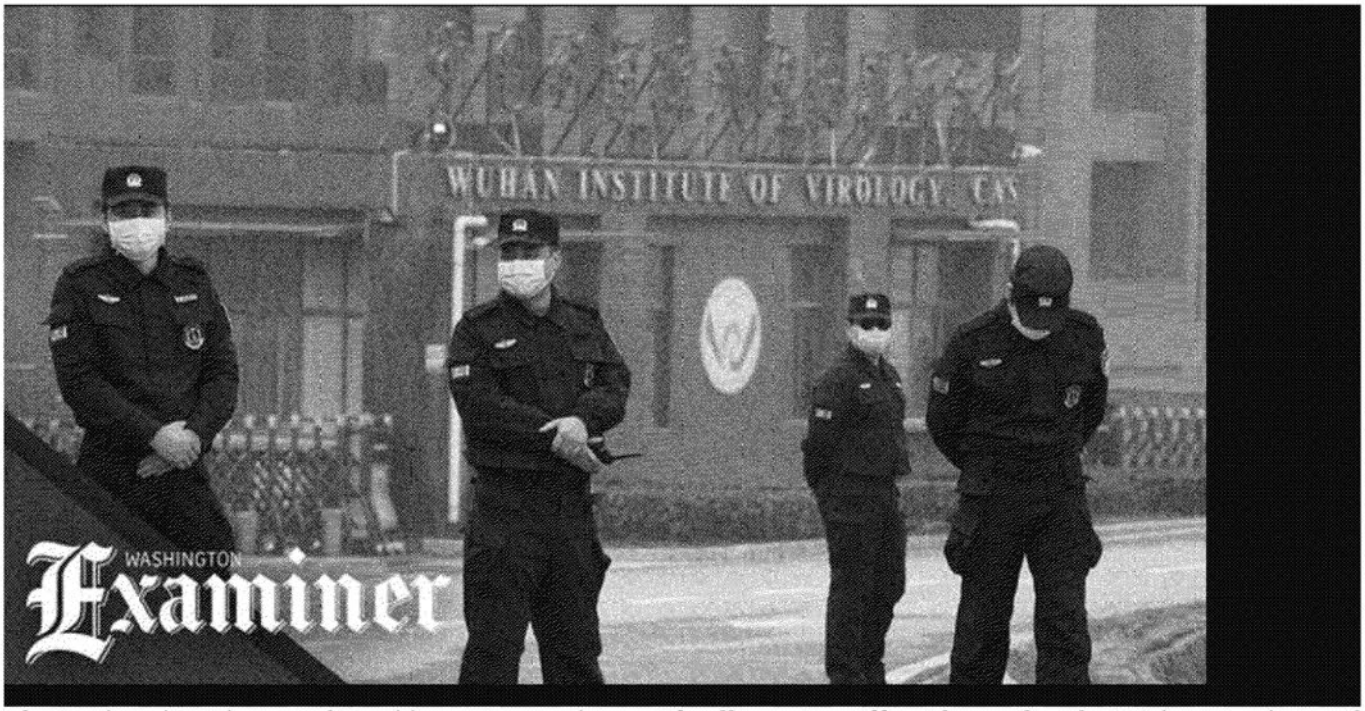
WUHAN LAB

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_010615
MORENS_NIH_021150
REL0000479038



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_010616
MORENS_NIH_021151
REL0000479038

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
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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>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010618
MORENS_NIH_021153
REL0000479038

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6)>; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; 'David Morens' <(b) (6)>; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6)>; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add). https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)>; Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; David Morens <(b) (6)>; David Morens <(b) (6)>; Gerald T Keusch <b6>
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010619
MORENS_NIH_021154
REL0000479038

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 g >; 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

Douglas.SorianoOsejo@bcm.edu
Phone: b6
Fax: b6

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010621
MORENS_NIH_021156
REL0000479038

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: b6 b6



MORENS_SUBPOENA_010622
MORENS_NIH_021157
REL0000479038

Date: Wed, 25 Oct 2023 2:09:59 PM -0400
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 emails.docx

David Morens

b6

b6 b6 b6 (mobile)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Jeffrey Sturchio** b6
Date: Wed, Aug 23, 2023 at 7:03 PM
Subject: RE: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
To: David Morens b6

David:

I found 76 emails from you – like Jerry, they spanned the past year, from 8.23.22 to today. I've attached a listing of the subjects and dates. Since you'll most likely have copies of these emails on your computer, I haven't sent the complete text of the emails to avoid duplication. If you no longer have some of them, just highlight these on the list and send it back – then I'll forward those emails to you.

As ever,
Jeff

From: David Morens b6
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6:49 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Cc: Peter Daszak b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 ; Peter Hotez b6 ; Jeff Sturchio b6 ; Rich Roberts b6
Subject: Re: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

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 (b) (6) (b) (6) 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016449
MORENS_NIH_034581
REL0000479040

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]" <

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016450
MORENS_NIH_034582
REL0000479040

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_016451
MORENS_NIH_034583
REL0000479040

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016452
MORENS_NIH_034584
REL0000479040

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

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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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016453
MORENS_NIH_034585
REL0000479040

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_016454
MORENS_NIH_034586
REL0000479040

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.

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_016456
MORENS_NIH_034588
REL0000479040

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

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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_016459
MORENS_NIH_034591
REL0000479040

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_016462
MORENS_NIH_034594
REL0000479040

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_016463
MORENS_NIH_034595
REL0000479040

Date: Mon, 10 Oct 2022 10:40:00 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 10 Oct 2022 10:39:51 PM -0400
Subject: another awful Sachs youtube video
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Roberts, Rich <b6>; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>; Hotez, Peter Jay <b6>
CC: David Morens <b6>; Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Jeff Sturchio <b6>
Attachments: image001.jpg

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' <ke<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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001756
MORENS_NIH_008133
REL0000479042

On the one hand, NIH has finally reversed the suspension of our China R01! We're currently renegotiating the terms, albeit without the capacity to collaborate with the WIV. We also got the notice of award on a new R01 to work in Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar to conduct human sampling in communities and clinics, and sampling of bats to identify the risk factors and degree of bat-CoV spillover in the region. Both are great news for us, but as soon as NIH put this on their public website, the harassment started.

We've now had articles in the Daily Mail, US Right to Know, The Intercept, https://theintercept.com/2022/10/04/ecohealth- alliance-lab-leak-nih-grant/?utm_source=twitter &utm_medium=social &utm_campaign=theintercept

.. and just now in the Financial Times criticizing the govt for funding us. https://www.ft.com/content/5504ad3a- eef2-49eb-b8dc-2a417d6f711c

One particularly hurtful quote in the FT is from Andrew Weber, who we previously had as a speaker at one of EcoHealth's Cosmos Club events in DC:
"Andrew Weber, who was assistant secretary of defence in the Obama administration and is now a senior fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks, called the work **'reckless, risky research with virtually no benefit to humanity'**". I get it that he has a political agenda, but surely anyone with half a brain can see that there's a benefit to finding out what viruses are spilling over from wildlife into people, particularly when they belong to the same viral clade as the one that caused SARS and COVID, and are infecting 60,000 people a year in SE Asia. What small minded person would allow politics to cloud their logic so blatantly.

We've also got Sen. Joni Ernst filing a bill to defund EcoHealth of all federal funding, and letters back and forth from the usual suspects (Republican members of Congress and Senators) attacking us with wild accusations of coverups and nefarious behavior.

Add to that a GAO request for a pile of documents (because Republicans asked them), and our first subpoena for documents. These last two mean weeks of work digging through emails, files and records, all for naught…

..and finally a disingenuous letter to NIH and CDC that cites a pile of BS about EcoHealth as an excuse to get CDC and NIH to review biosafety of field programs that work with wildlife – part of a growing anti-science luddism that threatens to close down our work and many others: https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republicans-press-nih-and-cdc-over-safety-gaps-with-virus-hunting-to-prevent-next-pandemic/

Looks like we're in for a rough road ahead…

One silver lining – the Honorable Dr. Fauci defending NIH's decision to fund our new R01 in a podcast: https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1577400180067995659/pu/vid/1284x720/KIyqU6NOK7zjvYio.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <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 his wife (b) (6) who knows Jeff well. She is quite 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 b6
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
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

---

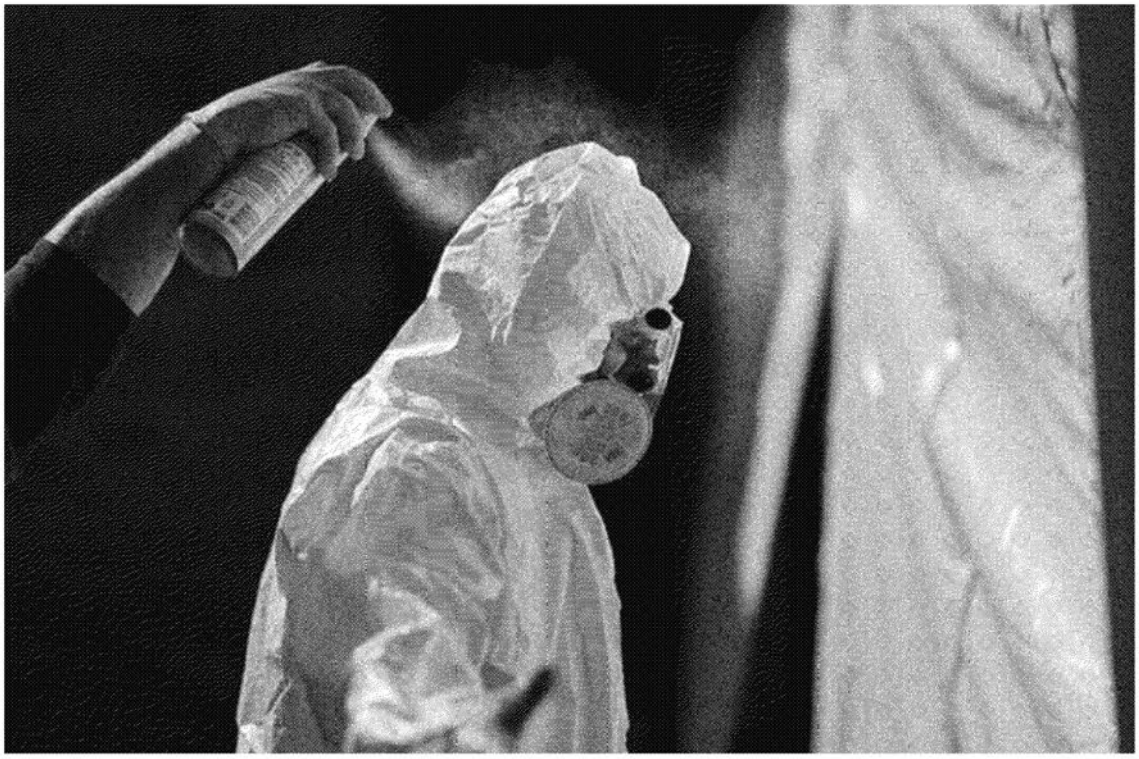
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) ; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Rich Robert (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio <

Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** October 3, 2022 at 06:42:51 EDT
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6)
> **Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 2, 2022 at 22:54:29 EDT
> > **Subject: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.**
> >
> > # Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do.
> >
> > In "Breathless," David Quammen explores the predictable lead-up to the global Covid pandemic, and the frantic, belated attempts to stop it.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001760
MORENS_NIH_008137
REL0000479042



New Jersey first responder Robert Sabia being decontaminated after answering a call in March, 2020.Credit...Chang W. Lee/The New York Times

By Michael Sims
Oct. 1, 2022

"Nobody," Donald Trump claimed in a March 2020 address, "had any idea." He was talking about the Covid virus — which had, seemingly overnight, sparked a global pandemic. In his compelling and terrifying new book, "Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus," the veteran science journalist David Quammen demonstrates just how much was known — and expected — by infectious disease scientists long before patrons of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market fell ill in December 2019 with a pneumonia-like virus.

"Soothsayer" isn't on Quammen's extensive résumé, but he was among those who had long predicted this kind of catastrophe. In 2012 he provided a field guide to the future, "Spillover," whose subtitle — "Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" — explains exactly what the scientific community had long been expecting.

"This is a book about the science of SARS-CoV-2," he specifies in his new book. "The medical crisis of Covid-19, the heroism of health care workers and other people performing essential services, the unjustly distributed human suffering, and the egregious political malfeasance that made it all worse — those are topics for other books." Instead, he focuses his informed attention on the unsung heroes who dare to wrestle with viruses, those strange entities he calls "the dark angels of evolution." Human beings are part of a sprawling family of interconnected species who can share illness because they all grew up together. It is our common ancestry and related bodily ecology that makes spillover possible between, say, bats and Earth's (currently) dominant mammal.

Covid is, after all, as natural as a wolf cub or David Attenborough, and its thriller-level rate of evolution is part of its danger. "A virus is a parasite, yes," writes Quammen, "a genetic parasite, to be more precise, using the resources of other organisms to replicate its own genome." He demonstrates the sheer *weirdness* of viruses when he explains how difficult it is to even define them.

Quammen follows the story of Covid from scientists' first awareness of the outbreak in Wuhan through reports of Omicron in late 2021. Alongside the human story, spillover between humans and other animals is a persistent theme. Early in 2020, a dog in Hong Kong tested positive. There were positive cats in Minnesota, two positive hippos in Antwerp, a positive tiger in Knoxville. An outbreak spread through mink farms in the Netherlands. Last year, of the many white-tailed deer sampled in Pennsylvania, 44 percent tested positive. The persistent danger of spillover between species informs arguments over the virtues and

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the flaws of both approaches to pandemics: "prediction and prevention versus surveillance and response."

"Breathless" is so good that I was slow to realize that it lacks the vivid you-are-there details of "Spillover." That's because he *wasn't* there. In "Breathless," there are no scenes of an intrepid author helping trap macaques at a Sufi shrine or examining a white-footed mouse for Lyme-infested larval ticks. Among its other virtues, "Spillover" was something of a nightmare travel book, but "Breathless" is a different species of tour de force. Quammen's research methods have mutated. "I avoided airports for more than two years after Covid-19 exploded," he says up front, "and I got through the year 2020 on one tank of gas." Yet these barriers didn't prevent him from writing a luminous, passionate account of the defining crisis of our time — and the unprecedented international response to it. While many people were begging for mercy from the motley of gods that they also credit with designing this Eden for viruses, epidemiologists and vaccine scientists all over the world raced to save the lives of people they would never meet.

Citing Faulkner's multiple narrators, Quammen says, "The discernment of truth — let's make that 'truth,' because it's such an imperious and suspect word — comes from listening to many voices." He read a library's worth of books and Zoomed with some 95 sources — epidemiologists, geneticists and public health officials who were closely involved in research and decision-making. He smoothly weaves not only their facts, but their way of speaking, into his story. "Spoken words are data, in nonfiction," he says, "and I share scientists' respect for the sanctity of data." He provides a mini-biography of each interviewee. Backstage outtakes humanize the participants, as when Quammen asks Anthony Fauci whether Brad Pitt or Kate McKinnon did a better job of satirizing him. These glimpses undergird his assertion that science is "a rational process leading toward ever-clearer understanding of the material world, but it's also an activity performed by humans."

Quammen marries an old-fashioned love of colorful language to his passion for detail — an odd coupling that results not just in a lucid book about an important topic, but also in a book that's a pleasure to read. "What nature of bug seethed in this dollop of liquid human distress?" he asks of a private genome-sequencing company in Guangzhou. Sometimes his Chandleresque metaphors distract. (When the rate of infection among the deer spikes, it's "like popcorn in a hot pan.") Usually, however, his imagery vividly reinforces a point. He explains that a laboratory sample from bat feces "is not a virus, just as the text of 'Hamlet, Prince of Denmark' is not a performed play" — that the sample is, instead, "the script of a virus." Quammen can't resist snarking that Trump, "as you may have heard, is not a scientific sophisticate," but he doesn't waste much time shooting at such an easy target. He describes Elon Musk as an "entrepreneur and spaceman," and Alex Azar, the secretary of health and human services, as "pliable." The "Intelligence Community" is "a bodacious aggregation of intelligences" that includes Space Delta 7 — "within the United States Space Force, whatever that is." Didier Raoult, the French physician who promoted hydroxychloroquine, Quammen terms a "prideful contrarian." Hydroxychloroquine did indeed have a history of prescription for malaria, and, he deduces, presumably, "Trump listened to people who listened to people who listened to Didier Raoult."

While staying on mission, Quammen allows himself room for context. The importance of the February 2020 announcement that scientists had found in pangolins a close match to the virus infecting humans makes more sense — both scientific and narrative — because Quammen begins with a brief survey course on these armored-looking, anteater-like creatures. He smoothly interweaves their evolution, the ecological sin of animal trafficking, the imaginary pharmacological virtues of pangolin scales (which are actually mostly keratin) and the contemporary "vogue in urban China for *ye wei*, or 'wild tastes.'"

"This virus is going to be with us forever," Quammen warns, with a wealth of data and precedent to support him. We haven't eradicated polio or measles. "And those viruses have nowhere to hide except within humans." This one could be cleared from every living human, and still exist in other animals. "Covid-19 won't be our last pandemic of the 21st century. It probably won't be our worst." In our international world, as one scientist tells Quammen, "A disease anywhere is a disease everywhere."

Michael Sims's books include "Adam's Navel" and a companion volume to the National Geographic Channel series "In the Womb: Animals."

BREATHLESS: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus | By David Quammen | 406 pp. | Simon & Schuster | $28.99

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MORENS_NIH_008139
REL0000479042

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 3:32:45 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 3:32:41 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
From: "Roberts, Rich" b6
To: David Morens b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
CC: Peter Daszak b6 >; Robert Kessler b6 Aleksei Chmura b6 >;

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
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

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 [(b) (6)] wrote:

Tony will be well aware of this kind of push back. That's not the issue for you tomorrow. Its really how to get the scientific societies engaged once again in the campaign for clarity and resolution of the breech in integrity and the grants management beginning a year ago.

Maybe there would be a moment to suggest that he talk to Harold Varmus about strategy?

Jerry

From: David Moren[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.

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 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

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REL0000479043

President

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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 b6 ; Rich Roberts b6 ; Robert Kessler b6 ; Aleksei Chmura b6 >
Subject: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i am on leave in Florida for my granddaughters graduation from Florida State

Tomorrow at 130 i will be having a zoom call with Tony to tip him off on some of the info you sent in your recent email

I want to be sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to share
[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

Other than what i see on tv, the jousting with Rand Paul and Jim Jordan, for example, i do not know how much of this Tony is aware of. To my knowledge he doesn't share it with anyone up here

I think issues he will be most concerned about are not your grant, although i add i am sure he would do anything he could to restore the funds and get the hellhounds of your back, but rather 1) the possibility that people like Rep Rodgers and her committee are about to turn up the heat and put Tony, personally, in their crosshairs, and 2) the possibility the NIH funded scientists or other esteemed scientists, are in cahoots with politicians wanting to attack him or niaid
[Peter Daszak:] agreed

As background, we all went through the original version of this crap about 10 years ago with the original GOF attacks surrounding H5N1. As Tony's scientific advisor, i spent much of the year, along with Jeff T, helping brief him and get him up to speed, which he did. At the time, David Relman, who had been one of Tony's favorites, was leading the charge, and we all wondered why a young guy with so much promise would choose demagoguery over science. Lipsitch was only a minor player at that time, but relished his attack role and seem to become more alarmist as time went on. Now these guys are in the NAM. How did that happen???? Ebright has always been a crackpot, in the mold of Peter Duseberg, remember him?, and no one took him seriously except some of the press who didn't know any better
[Peter Daszak:] I had the unfortunate issue of voting on Marc Lipsitch's

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membership of NAM. He's an accomplished scientist. He's also very opinionated, arrogant and pushy on whatever issue he believes in. I voted on his science acumen.

I was unclear from your email on a couple points you might clarify. Obviously the Rodgers letter asking you to produce all those dox not only overlaps with the Lauer letter to you, but could not have been written without the help of a virologist.
[Peter Daszak:] I have it on good authority (Ebright's Twitter account) that he was involved. They are also getting pressured from Jamie Metzl who's working with the internet conspiracy networks actively to promote their "Research"

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.
[Peter Daszak:] you're right..! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright. The internet 'researchers' are led by a banker and some junior scientists, many from human genetics, mol boil world.

Do you agree, and do you think that person was Ebright? Do you think Relman, Lipsitch, Imperiale, or other current or former grantees might have been involved?

I am not sure we ever funded Ebright, but we did fund the others. I would like to think that Relman et all are only mouthing off to the press, but do you think there is more to it than that, eg, that any of them are working with the politicians?
[Peter Daszak:] David Relman is talking with reporters a lot about this, including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus emerging via wildlife-to-human spillover (he's quoted as saying my motives are to protect the research I've been doing and reputations of our collaborators). Ebright is very actively (and obnoxiously) critical on social media calling me a 'Grifter' on a weekly basis and promoting unsubstantiated arguments for a lab leak. I had to look up what 'grifter' meant at first...

Your earlier comments about this proposed investigative committee, and the possible role of these folks in it, are alarming. Can you be more specific about where this stands and what is being done to forward it and to squelch it?
[Peter Daszak:] Nothing's being done to squelch it, and neither should it be - there will be other committees that also pop up. My concern is their bold claim that they're laying the groundwork for a 9/11 type commission (and have a 9/11 commission person involved). It may be that just by saying that a lot, and having well known people involved, they end up forming one. They're clearly politically connected and are advocating for this politically. Jerry and I also proposed this in our paper published in Health Affairs, but we assumed this would be led by NAM or some other well-respected institution.

When i speak with Tony i do not want to step into the politics of all this, as that's not my job and he wouldn't want me to. If he needs further info it might be best to connect you two, in an off the record manner. Would that be OK? We are getting FOIA'd non stop, so it's most important that Tony not have anything on the record that could come back to bite
[Peter Daszak:] Totally agree. Tell him I'm happy to speak with him at any time and will do so in a way that's not FoIA-ble. One thing I could do is

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either on a zoom call or by sending you a document, is lay out responses to the Mendendez questions so that the arguments are known and well-supported. For example, everyone's saying that this is a 'gain-of-function' issue, but actually that's not the case - we worked on bat viruses, not human pathogens. The expts produced loss of function, not gain of function, all appropriate conditions and approvals were demonstrably checked and correctly answered.

Finally, i didn't read all of the Menendez bill-in-committee, which is longer than Les misérables, but what's the gist? Do you think that in their zeal to take a hard stance against the PRC, these Democrats are purposely, or accidentally, getting sucked into the evil-WIV scenario? Is there real danger here?
[Peter Daszak:] The Menendez bill is the only one that stands a chance so far of becoming law because it's bipartisan. The WIV, gain-of-function stuff is thrown in as a very small part of it. The draft wording only calls for a report from NIH after 180 days on these issues, and they are easily addressed. However, if it does pass and the anti-China mood hardens in the US, it may end up with calls to testify and the Republicans may use that to undermine NIH, and in particular Tony, given the rabid GoF myth they've been building.

Anything you think might be helpful, I'd appreciate

TY, david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

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Date: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 4:24:00 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 4:21:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment
From: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6];

Spot on – that reporter is Emily Kopp who works for US Right to Know. They're straight out of the McCarthy Era –They FoIA emails, then write to you to ask questions, then whatever you say, they write the same story about how you lied, covered up and generally were 'likely' up to no good.

All I can say is that it's my honor to (likely) be in the same soon-to-be-published BS story from this group along with your esteemed self…

Here are some of their stories on our work. Each one is chock-full of lies, innuendo, mistakes, deliberate omissions etc.…

https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/another-missing-database-ecohealth-project-in-southeast-asia-is-under-construction/ (

https://rollcall.com/2021/10/22/nih- grantee-in-wuhan-faces-questions-deadline-for-more-information-on-research/

https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/virus-hunter-siphoned-funds-for-global-virome-project/

We've responded to them when they send email questions, sometimes, but I'm not sure if it's worth it – they usually just publish the same narrative. It also gives some legitimacy to their attacks by making you sound defensive when you argue back against these pretty offensive innuendo filled accusations. It also makes their articles look like normal journalism – which it is not!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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, August 7, 2022 3:42 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] David Morens <[b6]>; Gerald T Keusch <[b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Could be.

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: Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich b6
Cc: Peter Daszak < b6 >; Aleksei Chmura b6 >; David Morens < b6 ; Gerald T Keusch < b6 ; Jeffrey Sturchio b6
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

I don't know this group but they seem like extreme lefties who endorse Richard Ebright? Maybe that's who is feeding Sachs?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: 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 Aug 7, 2022, at 2:32 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

They're never going to stop.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai b6

From: Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Aleksei Chmura b6; David Morens b6; Gerald T Keusch b6; Jeffrey Sturchio b6; Roberts, Rich b6
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Here's a new one

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009344
MORENS_NIH_019799
REL0000479053

Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 6:24:42 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 6:24:27 PM -0400
Subject: Re: SSCP public hearing
From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

I couldn't bear to watch it, but it sounds like a Stalinist show trial. So far I'm not seeing MSM reports about it, although I'm expecting a Michael Hiltzik article at anytime. I'm so sorry Peter, thinking of you my friend, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 1, 2024, at 3:28 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

It was an awful experience – Republicans repeatedly calling for us to be debarred, Democrats saying 'while ecohealth didn't cause covid, their behavior with Federal grant compliance raises serious questions as to whether they should receive federal funding in the future'.

I did a good job from what I'm hearing overall, on defending our work, and the issues they're coming after us on are of no real consequence (a late NIH report, margin notes in a draft proposal etc.), but used to paint a picture of a deceptive organization. I've spoken with Jeff about why the Dems are seemingly ready to throw us under a bus, and he believes it's partly because the SSCP has come up with nothing and this would be a 'scalp' for them to wave around. Secondly, the politics for the Dems are all about winning in November, so they're happy to defend NIH and point the finger at EcoHealth, even though many of the issues they highlighted were due to NIH bureaucratic sluggishness, rather than any genuine issue with EHA.

We're going to pick apart the democrat and Republican reports finding-by-finding, draft rebuttal statements and probably

set up a press conference next week. The next phase will now be fighting to try to make sure we aren't debarred.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

How did you think it went for you overall? I couldn't tune in. I'm not seeing much coverage in the MSM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 1, 2024, at 2:35 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

His testimony is full of similar comments. I think he's basically covering his ass, protecting himself from the harassment I've gone through.

It's ugly, and a shame he joined in throwing us under the bus with some of his comments.

Brave, honest, noble people are hard to come by, and often vilified themselves when they stand up against bullying, but all of you already know that!

I pushed back hard today against him saying that the biosafety standards in China were below the US – they weren't and they aren't – it's written into the mandatory rules in China and the BMBL - I tried to read chapter and verse, and I hope it helped in some way…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:26 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

Wow – this is quite a devastating article that could easily cause a great deal of trouble. Baric is not much of a friend and collaborator.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney
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email (b) (6)

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 8:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) peter hotez (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

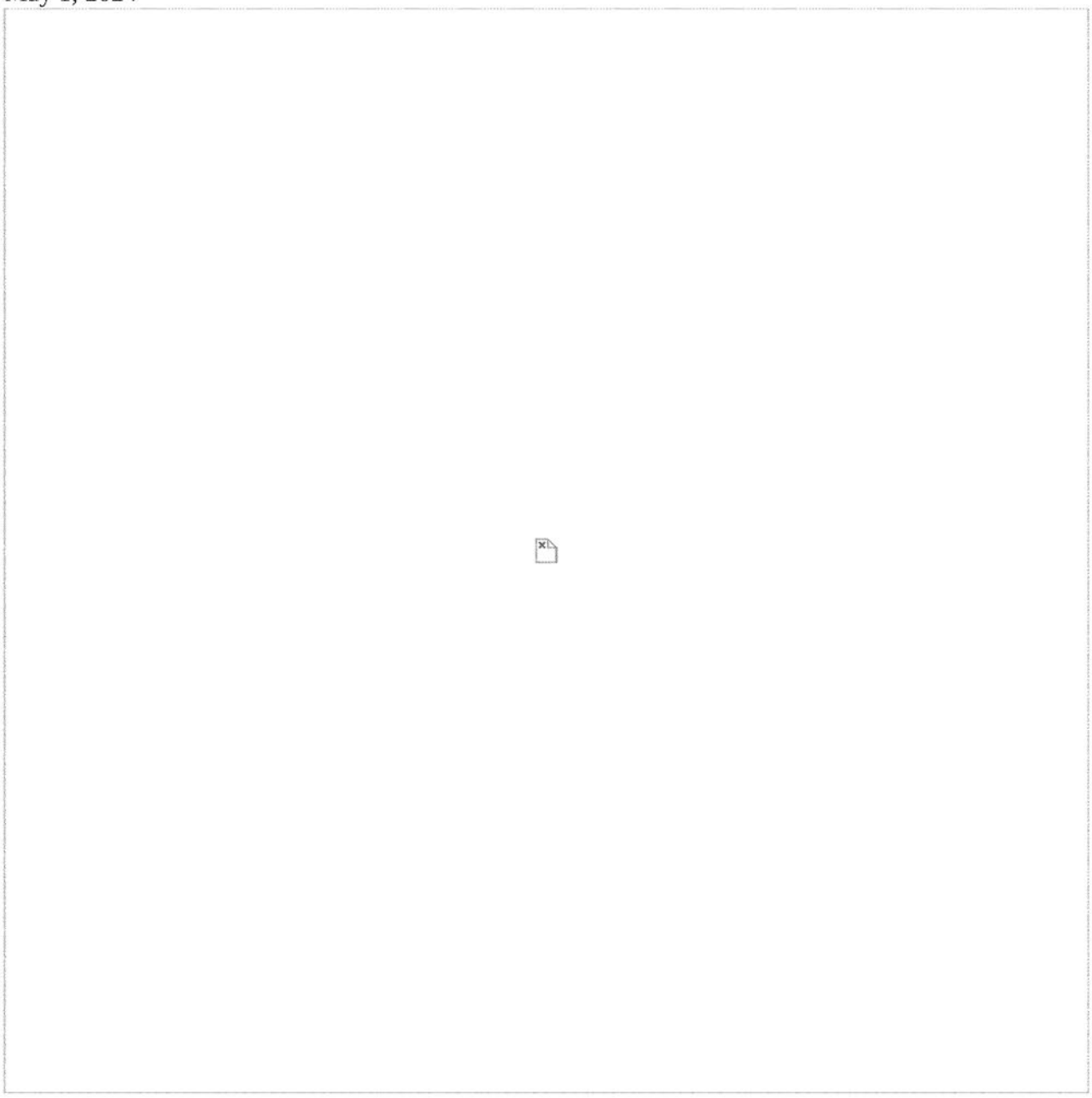
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 08:26
Subject: Vanity Fair: Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible
To:

Ralph Baric, Whose Virology Techniques Were Used in Wuhan, Testified That Lab Leak Was Possible

The UNC coronavirologist who has collaborated on gain-of-function research with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli, told congressional investigators that he has long worried about biosafety protocols inside China. Though he thinks it's far more likely COVID-19 originated in nature, he said of a possible laboratory escape, "You can't rule that out."

By Katherine Eban

May 1, 2024



Ralph Baric, researcher and lab leader at North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, sits for a photograph in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, U.S., on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.ILLUSTRATION BY PAMELA WANG. Photo by Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg/Getty Images.

In 2015, **Ralph S. Baric,** arguably the world's most accomplished coronavirologist, published groundbreaking research with **Shi Zhengli,** the leading coronavirus researcher at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

They had mixed components of different coronaviruses and created an artificial virus, or chimera, that could infect human cells. The research helped crystallize the threat posed by bat coronaviruses

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lurking in nature. But the experiments were dangerous too. In 2014, while their research was underway, the Obama administration enacted a pause on so-called gain-of-function research that could increase the virulence or transmissibility of certain viruses. Baric and Shi even flagged the dangers of the research themselves, writing, "Scientific review panels may deem similar studies…too risky to pursue."

The experiments were done in Baric's well-secured laboratory in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Afterward, however, Shi's team at the WIV continued to utilize Baric's cutting-edge research techniques. Their work was funded in part with a US research grant.

Baric testified that he had specifically warned Shi Zhengli that the WIV's critical coronavirus research was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections.

Amid competing theories about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19—including whether it could have originated in a Wuhan laboratory—Baric has become a figure of intense interest. After all, he had pioneered techniques the WIV was using, including one that allows researchers to invisibly splice components of viruses together without leaving a trace.

For the last three years, as the COVID-19 origins debate has grown increasingly toxic, a small army of global sleuths and Freedom of Information petitioners have taken aim at Baric's emails and research documents, hoping to uncover information about the true genetic-engineering capabilities of the WIV scientists, the ongoing research they were pursuing, and the viral genome sequences they had in their possession prior to the pandemic.

Through it all, Baric has kept mostly silent—until now. On January 22, he gave a six-hour interview to investigators from two Republican-led House committees: the Oversight and Accountability's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, and Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Though the committees have not yet made his testimony public, *Vanity Fair* has exclusively reviewed his statements. While not formally under oath, Baric was required by federal law to answer truthfully. (Through a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill spokesperson, Baric declined to comment for this article.)

While there is little in the 212-page transcript that is likely to markedly shift the debate on how COVID-19 originated, the picture that emerges is of an American scientist who is deeply wary of his Chinese counterparts and has no way of knowing if or how they may have made use of the groundbreaking research techniques he developed.

Perhaps most notably, Baric testified that he had specifically warned Shi Zhengli that the WIV's critical coronavirus research was being conducted in labs with insufficient biosafety protections. When he urged her to move the work to a more secure biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) lab, he testified that she did not heed his recommendation. Because the WIV continued to perform coronavirus research at what he considers an inappropriately low biosafety level, Baric said of a laboratory accident, "You can't rule that out…. You just can't."

"Clearly, the market was a conduit for expansion," Baric testified. "Is that where it started? I don't think so."

In an email turned over to the Select Subcommittee as part of its investigation, Baric told **Peter Daszak,** president of the scientific nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, that it was "a load of BS" to suggest that the WIV conducted coronavirus research in labs with sufficient biosafety protocols.

Baric told congressional investigators that he believes it's far more likely that SARS-CoV-2 spilled over naturally from animals to humans, given the sheer abundance of viruses in nature. But he also said in his testimony that he disagrees with the most widely promulgated spillover argument: that the virus leapt from infected animals to people at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, where it first burst into public view in December 2019. The argument does not hold up, he said, because genomic evidence suggests that COVID-19 was already circulating in the human population by mid-to-late October. "Clearly, the market was a conduit for expansion," he testified. "Is that where it started? I don't think so."

Baric also weighed in on a controversy that has pitted Dr. **Anthony Fauci** against Senator **Rand Paul** (R-KY), who has leveraged his credentials as an eye doctor to position himself as a crusader against America's scientific and medical establishments. In contentious Senate hearings, Fauci has

repeatedly denied Paul's claims that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which Fauci led at the time, had funded gain-of-function research at the WIV. However, Baric told investigators that the experiment in dispute, in which technicians created a chimeric virus that made lab mice sicker, was "absolutely" gain-of-function research: "You can't argue with that." He also said he felt that the experiment's results should have triggered regulatory review.

The federal grant money for the experiment in question, which was conducted at the WIV sometime between 2018 and 2019, was funneled through EcoHealth Alliance. It was Daszak, EcoHealth's president, who organized an open letter in the *Lancet* medical journal early in the pandemic that helped paint the lab-leak hypothesis as a baseless conspiracy theory. Today, the Select Subcommittee is expected to release a report that calls for NIH to recommend that EcoHealth Alliance, and Daszak personally, be debarred from receiving federal funds. As part of its investigation into COVID-19's origins, the Select Subcommittee is holding a series of hearings. Daszak is scheduled to testify publicly today, and Fauci is set to do so on June 3.

America's intelligence agencies remain divided over whether SARS-CoV-2 came from a natural spillover or a lab accident. US Health and Human Services Secretary **Xavier Becerra** recently said the question may "never" be answered "unless China opens up some more."

The single biggest issue to jump from the pages of Baric's testimony is his persistent concern over unsafe research practices at the WIV. Some of Shi's research papers, he said, "actually stated that they were doing the culturing work under BSL-2." BSL-3 labs typically require negative pressure air flow, HEPA air filtration systems, and full Tyvek suits for lab workers—all to protect against leaks. BSL-2 laboratories do not require specialized air filtration or full gowns.

Throughout his interview, Baric took pains to emphasize to congressional investigators that he had not simply turned over his research techniques to his colleagues at the WIV. Referring to his 2015 research with Shi, he said, "Although we published the approaches for how to build molecular clones of coronaviruses, we never had anyone from Dr. Shi's lab or any of the Wuhan Institute of Virology come to our lab and train. We never taught them."

His trust was violated on at least one occasion, he said. In order to test the ability of different viruses to infect humans, Baric had engineered mice with lungs that contained a human gene. He said he shared these mice with the WIV under a contractual agreement that they only be used there. Then, during the pandemic, he said he discovered that his mice were being offered for sale by a commercial company. The profiteering, he told investigators, was "infuriating."

As Baric recounted to congressional investigators, Shi's earlier work was "very vague about safety conditions. They said they followed Chinese regulations." But in two subsequent papers, said Baric, "They actually stated that they were doing the culturing work under BSL-2.... And then they continued that even into September of 2020, which I thought was irresponsible." (Neither Shi Zhengli nor a spokesperson for the Wuhan Institute of Virology responded to requests for comment.)

Baric told the committee that, from his earliest days working with zoonotic coronaviruses, he always understood there was a real if "rare" chance that one could prove infectious to humans. "And if that's your hypothesis, then you do it under BSL-3," he said. "So I kind of set the standard in the United States."

But the WIV, he said, operated under a looser set of biosafety protocols. "Their regulations state pretty clearly that they don't consider culturing bat viruses at BSL-2 as a biosafety concern," he said. "I also had that verbally confirmed by Zhengli Shi at a meeting in Harbin, when I was telling her she should move it all to BSL-3 and the reasons why." (Less than a year into the pandemic, the Chinese government passed legislation that tightened the nation's laboratory safety practices.)

The dispute over biosafety arose again in 2018, as Baric and Shi worked with Daszak on a grant proposal to collect SARS-like bat coronaviruses and insert a genetic component called a furin cleavage site that would enable them to more easily infect human cells. The proposal has since drawn attention because, when SARS-CoV-2 subsequently emerged in Wuhan, it possessed a furin cleavage site, making it unique among SARS-related coronaviruses. The 2018 proposal was submitted by Daszak to the Pentagon research and development agency DARPA.

Last December, a Freedom of Information research group called U.S. Right to Know released

margin comments from an early draft of the grant proposal. In one, Peter Daszak tagged his collaborators and said, "Ralph. Zhengli. If we win this contract, I do not propose that all of this work will necessarily be conducted by Ralph, but I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team. Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan as well."

The early draft stipulated that the research would be done at a BSL-2 level, making it "highly cost-effective." Baric objected to this in a margin comment of his own: "IN the US, these recombinant SARS CoV are studied under BSL3, not BSL2, especially important for those that are able to bind and replicate in primary human cells. In china, might be growin these virus under bsl2. US researchers will likely freak out." In the finished proposal, BSL-2 was changed to BSL-3.

Baric told congressional investigators that he wrote the margin comment to Daszak "to make sure he pays attention." He added, "First, I'm informing him, just in case he doesn't know, that a lot of the virus discovery work and culturing work that the Chinese do with zoonotic coronaviruses is done at BSL-2…. I'm letting him know there's a difference."

After a congressional investigator observed, "It appears there may have been a willingness, not necessarily by you, to do some of this work in the BSL-2 in China," Baric responded, "There was no willingness on my part to do any of this work…. Let me make that clear." He subsequently clarified, "My role was to study a couple of the viruses that the Wuhan Institute of Virology found that they were willing to share with me."

DARPA rejected the grant, but questions have persisted over whether WIV scientists carried out the proposed research anyway. Baric told congressional investigators that he doesn't know whether the WIV continued the research or got other funding for it. He added that he does not believe SARS-CoV-2 was engineered and discounted a 2022 paper making that argument as "biostatistical BS." **Alex Washburne,** one of the paper's authors, told *Vanity Fair,* "Baric doesn't provide any scientific evidence or reasoning that would lead us to revisit our results or change our theory."

In May 2021, Baric signed an open letter in the journal *Science* affirming that the lab and natural origin hypotheses are both viable and calling for further investigation. A fellow scientist, Columbia University virologist **Ian Lipkin,** questioned him about why he signed the letter. In response, Baric told the subcommittee, "I sent him a couple of papers that the Chinese had published where they were doing virus discovery work under BSL-2 conditions, which is one of the main reasons why I felt that the potential laboratory escape hypothesis shouldn't be, in essence, put under the rug."

"You believe this was appropriate containment if you want but don't expect me to believe it," Baric wrote Daszak. "Moreover, don't insult my intelligence by trying to feed me this load of BS."

Baric's signing of that letter also precipitated a testy email exchange with Daszak over the WIV's safety standards, obtained by *Vanity Fair.* Daszak enumerated to Baric the various ways in which China's lab safety standards did not lag far behind US standards. He added, "We checked with Zhengli, who let us know that she used 'BSL-2 with negative pressure and appropriate PPE.'"

This brought a withering response from Baric. "Bsl2 with negative pressure, give me a break." He pointed out that even Shi's most recent papers never defined the safety precautions used. "Yes china has the right to set their own policy. You believe this was appropriate containment if you want but don't expect me to believe it. Moreover, don't insult my intelligence by trying to feed me this load of BS."

Reached for comment, Daszak told *Vanity Fair* that the WIV performed its animal infection experiments "at BSL-3, as per work at Dr. Baric's lab in the USA." He also stated that the research rejected by DARPA was "never done," and said that the proposal called for only work that "did not involve any infectious materials" to be done in a BSL-2 facility at the WIV. Regarding the Subcommittee's call for the NIH to recommend debarring him and EcoHealth Alliance from receiving federal funds, he said he hadn't yet seen the report and couldn't comment on it. However, he stated that EcoHealth Alliance has "cooperated fully and expeditiously with the NIH on additional oversight measures since 2020" and shared a letter from last October in which the NIH deemed the nonprofit compliant with oversight requirements.

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Another signatory to the May 2021 letter was Dr. **Michael Worobey,** who has since become a leading proponent of the theory that the virus spilled over from infected animals at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market.

In 2022, Worobey and a team of international scientists published an influential research paper that used a geospatial analysis of early infections in Wuhan to make a case for the market spillover theory. Using data collected by Chinese scientists, Worobey's team later also published evidence in a preprint that virus-susceptible mammals, such as raccoon dogs, were present at the market.

When prominent virologists state that the preponderance of evidence points to a natural origin, they are often referring to Worobey's research. Baric, for his part, told congressional investigators that Worobey's geospatial study has a "major problem" with its timeline. He told the subcommittee, "The only thing we have really solid data [for] is that the market was the site of amplification in late December, January. That's still two months from the origin date, based on a molecular clock, which means it was circulating somewhere before it got there. And the question is, where was it?"

Baric said the earliest cases are "almost impossible" to document because many were asymptomatic. "It's a fundamental problem with the papers that are reported to prove—they write it too strong, I think, but they're very passionate about their data. And to be fair to them, it is the best data that's out there." He went on to critique the papers' claim of two independent jumps from different infected animals at the market based on the presence of two different lineages of the virus. "It's a stretch," he said, adding that his view is shared by "a lot of virologists that look at that data and go, mmm."

Calling the evidence for a market origin "powerful," Worobey told *Vanity Fair* that he thinks the first jump from animals to humans happened in November. Baric, he said, "possesses essentially no expertise in the subjects of the papers he is commenting on…. It is irresponsible for him to share these views with anyone without also making it clear that he is in no better position than the average educated person to judge this work."

In his testimony, Baric was equivocal on the question of whether WIV scientists could have possessed SARS-CoV-2, or a very close progenitor, prior to the pandemic. There "was evidence that they were building chimeras" and "doing some discovery work about the functions of spike genes of zoonotic strains that they discovered later on, but I don't know if they did any of the engineering or anything."

Without further disclosure from China, the answer may be unknowable. As Baric told congressional investigators, "If you had access to the laboratory notebooks, if you had access to the safety records of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, if you had access to the sequence databases, the level of assurance that you would have would be greater. No question."

"Which we didn't really have?" a congressional investigator asked.

"Which we don't really have," Baric responded. "That's very true."

More Reporting by Katherine Eban

Investigation

"This Shouldn't Happen": Inside the Virus-Hunting Nonprofit at the Center of the Lab-Leak Controversy

By Katherine Eban

SPECIAL REPORT

Secret Warnings About Wuhan Research Predated the Pandemic

By Katherine Eban

VIRAL INFLECTION

The Lab-Leak Theory: Inside the Fight to Uncover COVID-19's Origins

By Katherine Eban

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REL0000479054

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 4:24:39 AM -0400

Sent: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 4:23:39 AM -0400

Subject: New paper from EHA: A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Robert Kessler [b6];

CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Attachments: A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia FINAL.pdf; Sánchez et al. Spillover risk SARSr-CoVs. Supplemental material.pdf; Sánchez et al. Spillover risk SARSr-CoVs SE Asia. Narrative.pdf

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Dear colleagues,

I just wanted to share a paper that will be coming out this week that maps the high-risk 'hotspots' for where the next SARSr-CoV might emerge. We've spent the last few months analyzing all available information from our many studies in China and Southeast Asia and those published by other groups. Our results show that both China and many highly-populated parts of Southeast Asia are at high risk for future spillover of SARS- and COVID-like viruses. We also used data on seroprevalence of bat SARSr-CoVs and other bat viruses to estimate the number of people in the region who are likely infected – 400,000 each year on average – most of whom probably don't realize they've got a new bat virus, some of whom might have symptoms but dismiss it as a bad cold or flu.

I've attached the paper, supplementary material and a 'narrative' that we used internally. The main points, in my opinion are:

- This is a definitive analysis of where on the planet the next SARS- or COVID-like virus is most likely to emerge next. It uses data on all known bat hosts of SARS-related CoVs to build a map of where the viruses could possibly be located. It then assesses where people are living and the overlap between the two. We find that the hotspots for spillover of these viruses extends from South China all the way across Southeast Asia – a densely populated region with an active wildlife trade and many other ways of people being exposed.

- The hotspots maps can be used for 3 purposes: 1) to conduct better surveillance in people to catch a new outbreak before it spreads; 2) to work with communities to reduce high-risk behavior like visiting bat caves, hunting and eating wildlife; 3) to hunt for the source of COVID-19 – these are the places where the initial spillover of SARS-CoV-2 likely happened

- We then looked at data from our studies of communities in rural China prior to the COVID outbreak. We'd found evidence that small numbers of people had antibodies to bat SARS-related CoVs, meaning they'd been previously infected, perhaps even without knowing. At some sites almost 3% of people tested positive for bat-CoVs. We used data from this and other studies of bat viruses to estimate how long antibodies persist in people, and then to calculate how many people would be infected annually. Our work suggests that an average of 400,000 people in South China and Southeast Asia are likely infected each year by SARS-related bat coronaviruses. This active high-risk interface is a top priority for surveillance and disease prevention

- Relevance to COVID origins work: Our findings support other scientific work that suggests the spillover of these viruses occurs regularly, and that spillover from bats to people, perhaps through an intermediate host in a wildlife farm or market, is the most likely pathway for emergence of COVID-19.

- Because there's so little information mapping the extensive wildlife farms and trade networks in the region, we expect the risk of infection is even higher – 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China in 2016, and at the beginning of the COVID outbreak, this was a very active risk for spillover because many of the animals in these farms and markets could carry coronaviruses.

- While we don't often see bats, they are abundant and diverse in this region and many species are able to host coronaviruses. People are likely exposed by contamination of food or surfaces by bat excrement or urine, by hunting butchering and eating wildlife including bats (common in some regions), by living near bat caves or sheltering in them, or by other high risk activities like digging for bat guano as a fertilizer without appropriate PPE

- EcoHealth Alliance conducted this work as part of its NIH-NIAID funded Center for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases Contract – 1U01AI151797 "EID-SEARCH", and will use this research to better target surveillance in

communities and clinics to identify and prevent spillovers and outbreaks, and to build capacity in the region to protect communities there, and all of us from emerging viral threats.

Hope you enjoy the read. I'll send you a link to the preprint server once it comes online (takes them a few days to put it up so don't know when that will be).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:39:21 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:37:59 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens 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

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--------- 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
(b) (6)

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,

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MORENS_NIH_020250
REL0000479069

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%7Cf28037c58d304641f6c908db8a1154df%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=kvI1D0t1VHFNHZYJjZ6QpYlZuwt8RnxFkniilZEWxwY%3D &reserved=0).
I gather he never showed up.

Who is he networked with? The incoming far out Republican right?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [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%7Cf28037c58d304641f6c908db8a1154df%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=nd7EPTK2VBE5ttBfuTEZq6JclO8XEWPWjSV7RKxUjjM%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype 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: Mon, 3 Jun 2024 10:04:59 AM -0400

Subject: Fwd: Ahead of Hearing with Dr. Fauci, Select Subcommittee Democrats Release New Report Debunking Extreme Republican Claims in Failed COVID Origins Probe https://bit.ly/4c0gWPi

From: David Morens <b6>

To: Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Jeffrey Sturchio <b6> Keusch, Gerald T <b6> Peter Daszak <b6> Roberts, Rich <b6> peter hotez <b6>

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <b6>
Date: Mon, Jun 3, 2024 at 9:56 AM
Subject: Ahead of Hearing with Dr. Fauci, Select Subcommittee Democrats Release New Report Debunking Extreme Republican Claims in Failed COVID Origins Probe https://bit.ly/4c0gWPi
To:

Ahead of Hearing with Dr. Fauci, Select Subcommittee Democrats Release New Report Debunking Extreme Republican Claims in Failed COVID Origins Probe

June 3, 2024

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Press Release

New Staff Report Dismantles Republican Allegations That Dr. Fauci Funded Research Causing COVID-19, Lied about Gain-of-Function Research, and Orchestrated a Campaign to Suppress the Lab Leak Theory

Washington, D.C. (June 3, 2024)—Today, Rep. Raul Ruiz, M.D., Ranking Member of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, released a **new staff report** ahead of the Select Subcommittee's hearing with Dr. Anthony Fauci, former Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Today's staff report is based on a transcribed interview with Dr. Fauci, as well as more than a dozen transcribed interviews with other current and former federal officials and scientists.

"Under the guise of investigating the pandemic's origins, House Republicans have abdicated their responsibility to objectively examine how COVID-19 came to be—and instead weaponized concerns about a lab-related origin to fuel sentiment against our nation's scientists and public health officials for partisan gain. After fifteen months, the Select Subcommittee still does not possess a shred of evidence to substantiate these extreme allegations that Republicans have levied against Dr. Fauci for nearly four years," said Ranking Member Ruiz.

Select Subcommittee Republicans have accused Dr. Fauci of funding research through the EcoHealth Alliance grant that caused the COVID-19 pandemic; lying about gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China; and orchestrating a campaign to suppress the lab leak theory. But those allegations are not supported by any evidence collected by the Select Subcommittee.

Internal documents and testimony provided to the Select Subcommittee over the past fifteen months suggest that:

- Dr. Fauci was not aware of NIAID's grant to EcoHealth Alliance or the grant's subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) until after the COVID-19 outbreak, and there is no evidence that the viruses studied under that grant caused the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Dr. Fauci's prior Senate testimony explicitly referred to the regulatory definition of the term "gain-of-function," rather than to an informal usage of the term, and his testimony was accurate.

- Dr. Fauci did not orchestrate the "Proximal Origin" paper, he did not bribe its authors, and he did not direct NIAID staff to manipulate public media coverage regarding the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of objectively examining the pathways by which the novel coronavirus could have emerged, Select Subcommittee Republicans have spent the 118th Congress probing federally funded research in an effort to substantiate their extreme allegations baselessly linking Dr. Fauci to the pandemic's origins.

Findings from today's staff report highlight the damage that Republicans' unsubstantiated claims have had on public health officials, their families, and our nation's trust in public health.

Click **here** to read the full report.

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--

David Morens

b6

b6 b6 b6 (mobile)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

MORENS_NIH_049019
REL0000479072

Date: Wed, 5 Oct 2022 1:31:22 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 5 Oct 2022 1:28:20 AM -0400
Subject: A barrage of attacks against EHA in last week
From: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg

I don't know if you're seeing any of the bad press we've been getting in the last few days, but it's been a rollercoaster week for us here.

On the one hand, NIH has finally reversed the suspension of our China R01! We're currently renegotiating the terms, albeit without the capacity to collaborate with the WIV. We also got the notice of award on a new R01 to work in Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar to conduct human sampling in communities and clinics, and sampling of bats to identify the risk factors and degree of bat-CoV spillover in the region. Both are great news for us, but as soon as NIH put this on their public website, the harassment started.

We've now had articles in the Daily Mail, US Right to Know, The Intercept, https://theintercept.com/2022/10/04/ecohealth- alliance-lab-leak-nih-grant/?utm_source=twitter &utm_medium=social &utm_campaign=theintercept

.. and just now in the Financial Times criticizing the govt for funding us. https://www.ft.com/content/5504ad3a- eef2-49eb-b8dc-2a417d6f711c

One particularly hurtful quote in the FT is from Andrew Weber, who we previously had as a speaker at one of EcoHealth's Cosmos Club events in DC:
"Andrew Weber, who was assistant secretary of defence in the Obama administration and is now a senior fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks, called the work **'reckless, risky research with virtually no benefit to humanity'**". I get it that he has a political agenda, but surely anyone with half a brain can see that there's a benefit to finding out what viruses are spilling over from wildlife into people, particularly when they belong to the same viral clade as the one that caused SARS and COVID, and are infecting 60,000 people a year in SE Asia. What small minded person would allow politics to cloud their logic so blatantly.

We've also got Sen. Joni Ernst filing a bill to defund EcoHealth of all federal funding, and letters back and forth from the usual suspects (Republican members of Congress and Senators) attacking us with wild accusations of coverups and nefarious behavior.

Add to that a GAO request for a pile of documents (because Republicans asked them), and our first subpoena for documents. These last two mean weeks of work digging through emails, files and records, all for naught…

..and finally a disingenuous letter to NIH and CDC that cites a pile of BS about EcoHealth as an excuse to get CDC and NIH to review biosafety of field programs that work with wildlife – part of a growing anti-science luddism that threatens to close down our work and many others: https://republicans- energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec- republicans-press-nih-and-cdc-over-safety-gaps-with-virus-hunting-to-prevent-next-pandemic/

Looks like we're in for a rough road ahead…

One silver lining – the Honorable Dr. Fauci defending NIH's decision to fund our new R01 in a podcast: https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1577400180067995659/pu/vid/1284x720/KIyqU6NOK7zjvYio.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich 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 his wife (b) (6) who knows Jeff well. She is quite 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 b6
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 [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted]>
Cc: David Moren[redacted], Keusch, Gerald T [redacted], Aleksei Chmura <[redacted]>; Rich Roberts[redacted] Jeff Sturchio <[redacted]>
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: [redacted]

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[redacted] | Phone: [redacted] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
[redacted]
iPhone

On Oct 3, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Peter Daszak [redacted] wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Looks like he's deep in conspiracy land on a number of issues:

https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1576915780515553282/pu/vid/1280x720/0aRcMZC6LHGNHa7-.mp4?tag=12

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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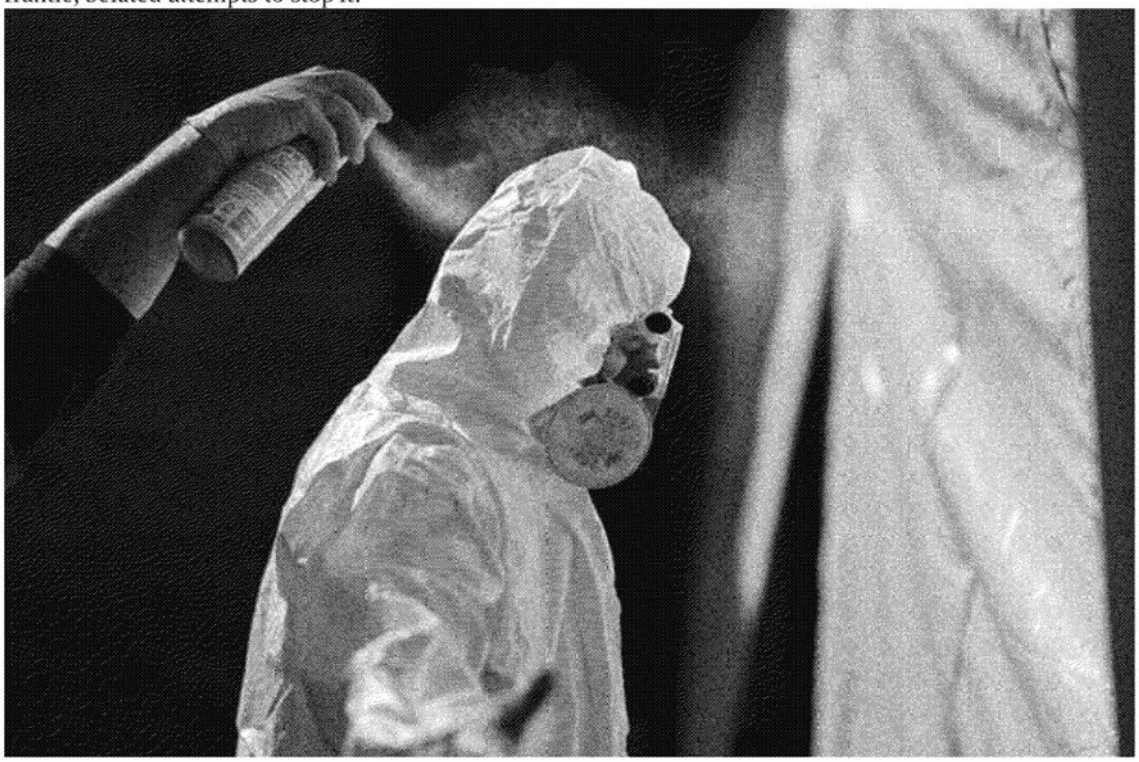
From: David Morens b6
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:43 AM
To: Gerald Keusch b6 Peter Daszak b6 g >; Aleksei Chmura < b6 >; Peter Hotez b6 Rich Roberts b6 ; Jeff Sturchio <
Subject: Fwd: NYT book review: Scientists Knew More About Covid-19 Than We Think. And They Still Do./In "Breathless," David Quammen 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
> **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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001681
MORENS_NIH_008022
REL0000479073

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 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

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MORENS_NIH_008023
REL0000479073

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.'"

"This virus is going to be with us forever," Quammen warns, with a wealth of data and precedent to support him. We haven't eradicated polio or measles. "And those viruses have nowhere to hide except within humans." This one could be cleared from every living human, and still exist in other animals. "Covid-19 won't be our last pandemic of the 21st century. It probably won't be our worst." In our international world, as one scientist tells Quammen, "A disease anywhere is a disease everywhere."

Michael Sims's books include "Adam's Navel" and a companion volume to the National Geographic Channel series "In the Womb: Animals."

BREATHLESS: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus | By David Quammen | 406 pp. | Simon & Schuster | $28.99

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Date: Fri, 26 Mar 2021 11:35:58 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 26 Mar 2021 11:34:48 AM -0400
Subject: RE: !!!!!!!!!!!! FW: CNN: Ex-CDC head claims without evidence Covid-19 began in a China lab
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Does little to solidify his public health legacy!

He says "It's not unusual for respiratory pathogens that are being worked on in a laboratory to infect the laboratory worker. ... That's not implying any intentionality. It's my opinion, right? But I am a virologist. I have spent my life in virology,"

Problem is – they didn't have this bloody respiratory pathgoen in the lab prior to them being sent a sample on Dec 29th/30th.. Ridiculous comment. None of the bat covs they had in culture (3 beta covs) were anything related to SARS2. Pure 'bollocks' as we would say back home…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 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, March 26, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 Keusch, Jerry b6
b6
Subject: !!!!!!!!!!!! FW: CNN: Ex-CDC head claims without evidence Covid-19 began in a China 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
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b6 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
b6

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6>
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2021 9:25 AM
Subject: CNN: Ex-CDC head claims without evidence Covid-19 began in a China lab

Ex-CDC head claims without evidence Covid-19 began in a China lab

By Julia Hollingsworth, Meg Wagner and Melissa Macaya, CNN
Updated 9:08 AM ET, Fri March 26, 2021

What you need to know

- **JUST IN:** Former CDC head Dr. Robert Redfield says he believes the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic is a lab in China — a controversial theory without evidence.
- The current CDC director is concerned about a new surge in Covid-19 cases, as the US surpassed 30 million infections since the start of the pandemic.
- AstraZeneca updated its data on how well its Covid-19 vaccine works, saying the vaccine showed 76% efficacy against symptomatic disease.

33 min ago

WHO's comments on Covid-19's origins contradicts Redfield's claims it began in a China lab

From CNN's Jamie Gumbrecht

In a clip released this morning on CNN, Dr. Robert Redfield, the former director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta he believes the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic is a lab in China — a controversial theory without evidence.

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MORENS_NIH_030644
REL0000479074

A World Health Organization team exploring origins of the coronavirus in Wuhan, China, is expected to release a report of its findings soon, but has already said a lab-related incident is “extremely unlikely.”
The most likely causes of transmission of the Covid-19 virus to humans, the WHO team said, are introduction through an intermediary host species or transmission through the trade of frozen products. The team has also investigated direct transmission from an animal reservoir to human.
In early February, World Health Organization expert Peter Ben Embarek said that the team investigating the origins of the coronavirus in Wuhan have identified two scenarios that most likely caused the transmission of Covid-19 to the human population.
"Our initial findings suggest that the introduction through an intermediary host species is the most likely pathway and one way that will require more studies and more specific targeted research," Embarek said during a news conference.
He added that the possibility of transmission through the trade of frozen products was also likely.
Embarek also noted two other hypotheses the team had probed while investigating the origin of the virus.
One hypothesis was a "direct zoonotic spillover," meaning, direct transmission from an animal reservoir to a human.
"The hypothesis of a direct spillover from an original animal source into the human population is also a possible pathway and is also generating recommendation for future studies," he said.
The fourth hypothesis was the possibility of a laboratory-related incident, but that this was the least likely of the four to be the cause of the virus' introduction to humans.
"Findings suggest that the laboratory hypothesis is extremely unlikely to explain the introduction of the virus to the human population," Embarek said.
Meanwhile, Chinese officials and state media have promoted an unsubstantiated, so-called “multiple-origin” theory, suggesting the pandemic may have started in various locations around the world, even a US military lab.
35 min ago

Dr. Sanjay Gupta: "We still don't know" how the Covid-19 pandemic started

Dr. Sanjay Gupta on March 26. CNN
Moments ago, CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta reported that the former head of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Robert Redfield, told him that he believes the coronavirus pandemic came from a lab in China.
It is a controversial, politically charged theory — one the World Health Organization calls "extremely unlikely." There has been no clear evidence to support this "lab leak" theory.
"We still don't know — a year later — exactly how this pandemic started," Gupta said.
Gupta said there's a "back and forth" happening right now when it comes to the pandemic's origins, with different officials around the world claiming different theories.
"Chinese officials have started increasingly pointing to a multiple-origin theory, saying that this pandemic may have started in multiple places, even around the world, including US military labs. That's unsubstantiated," Gupta said.
34 min ago

Exclusive: Former CDC director makes controversial claim that Covid-19 began in a China lab

From CNN's Jamie Gumbrecht
Dr. Robert Redfield, then director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, attends a hearing in Washington, DC, in September 2020. Andrew Harnik/Pool/Getty Images
Dr. Robert Redfield, the former director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta he believes the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic is a lab in China — a controversial theory without evidence.
“If I was to guess, this virus started transmitting somewhere in September, October in Wuhan,” Redfield told Gupta in a clip that aired Friday on CNN New Day. “That's my own feelings. And only opinion. I’m allowed to have opinions now.”
Redfield, a virologist who led the CDC under former President Donald Trump, said he thinks the virus originated inside a lab in China and “escaped,” not necessarily intentionally.
There is no clear evidence to support the “lab leak” theory, although it has played an ongoing role in conspiracies and speculation, including statements from Trump. The World Health Organization has called it "extremely unlikely."
"Now, I am of the point of view that I still think the most likely aetiology of this pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory, escaped. The other people don't believe that. That's fine. Science will eventually figure it out. It's not unusual for respiratory pathogens that are being worked on in a laboratory to infect the laboratory worker," Redfield told Gupta.
Redfield’s comments appear in the documentary “COVID WAR: The Pandemic Doctors Speak Out,” which airs Sunday at 9 p.m. ET on CNN.
Watch Dr. Sanjay Gupta's interview here:
1 hr 34 min ago

6 US states still have not shared when they plan to vaccinate everyone

16 and older

From CNN's Ashley Ahn, Jacqueline Howard, and Virginia Langmaid

Most US states have announced plans to open up coronavirus vaccination to everyone eligible under US Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorization.

Just six states still have not told CNN when they plan to start vaccinating everyone 16 and older: Alabama, Arkansas, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Wyoming.

Another six states — Alaska, Mississippi, West Virginia, Utah, Georgia and Arizona — have already expanded coronavirus vaccine eligibility to anyone 16 and older, and a CNN analysis finds that at least 28 more plan to open up to people 16 and older by the end of April.

Here's a timeline of when states have said they will open vaccination eligibility to the general public:

- March 29: Oklahoma, Texas, Ohio, North Dakota, Louisiana
- March 30: Minnesota
- March 31: Indiana
- April 1: Montana, Connecticut
- April 2: New Hampshire
- April 5: Michigan, Tennessee, Idaho, Iowa, Florida, Nevada
- April 7: North Carolina
- April 9: Missouri
- April 12: Illinois, Kentucky
- April 15: California
- April 19: Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island
- April 27: Maryland
- April, no set date: New Mexico, Virginia, Colorado
- May 1: Wisconsin, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington
- May 3: South Carolina
- May or later: Nebraska, Kansas, Hawaii, Delaware

RELATED

As some states open Covid-19 vaccines to all, many are still weeks away

1 hr 53 min ago

Go There: CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta will answer your questions about the coronavirus pandemic

As the US surpasses 30 million coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic, the CDC director is concerned about a new surge in Covid-19 cases.

CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta has the latest on Covid-19 news. What questions do you have for him?

1 hr 51 min ago

EU leaders squabble over vaccine supplies, as tension grows over AstraZeneca shortfalls

From CNN's Frederik Pleitgen, Livvy Doherty and Rob Picheta

European Council President Charles Michel, top of screen, speaks with European Union leaders during a virtual summit in Brussels, Belgium, on March 25. Yves Herman/Pool/AP

European Union leaders met Thursday at a virtual summit designed to push AstraZeneca to speed up its deliveries of tens of millions of Covid-19 vaccines bound for the bloc, hoping to present a united front as it continues to wrangle with the drug giant over the shortfall.

But the virtual summit exposed tense divisions within the EU itself; several countries expressed concerns that doses are being distributed unfairly around the region, and part of the meeting was hijacked by Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, who demanded a greater share of shots for his country.

"We have worked hard to ensure that the gap within the #EU in terms of vaccination coverage for the population does not widen any further," Kurz tweeted after the meeting, adding that he expects "a fairer delivery of vaccines in the EU" in the coming months.

What the EU agreed: The EU has been engaged in a tense back-and-forth with AstraZeneca over vaccine supplies to the bloc after the firm said it would not be able to meet its full delivery targets.

That shortfall has led to internal squabbles over which countries are prioritised when sought-after vaccine deliveries arrive. EU leaders agreed Thursday to tighten rules to allow for an export ban on vaccines but has so far stopped short on actually imposing

a ban.
European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc will create "transparency" by introducing a principle of proportionality and reciprocity on vaccine supply chains.
In a swipe targeted at Britain, she added that she had "no knowledge so far of UK exports," essentially accusing it of implementing a de facto export ban. Von der Leyen said she was "waiting for that transparency."
The UK's vaccine rollout has far outpaced Europe's, but the country, which recently left the EU, relies on exports from the bloc for some of its doses.
"The bottom line is: we invite others to match our openness," von der Leyen said.
The background: Rising coronavirus infection rates across much of Europe have created an increasingly dire backdrop to the quarrelling. France imposed tougher restrictions on social gatherings on Thursday as it battles a third wave of Covid-19, while sharp rises in case loads have been reported this week in Germany, Poland and the Netherlands.
Von der Leyen said she still expects to achieve the goal of vaccinating 70% of the EU's adult population by this summer.
"But of course we all know we could have been much faster if all pharmaceutical companies had fulfilled their contracts," she added.
2 hr 11 min ago

France clears vets and dentists to give vaccines to "speed up campaign"

From CNN's Pierre Bairin in Paris
A pharmacist prepares a dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine in Nantes, France, on March 25. Loic Venance/AFP/Getty Images
France will allow veterinarians and dentists to give Covid-19 vaccines in order to "speed up the campaign," the French national health authority (HAS) said in a press release Friday.
"The arrival of additional doses of vaccines will make it possible to carry out vaccinations on a larger scale as of April and require the mobilization of more professionals in order to rapidly vaccinate all those concerned," the agency said.
These new categories of health workers vaccinating comes in addition to doctors, nurses, pharmacists and medical students, including those who have retired. Most will be receiving a training specific to the Covid vaccines.
France is in the midst of a third wave of coronavirus infections, and its stalling vaccination campaign has done little to stem the tide.
On Thursday, Prime Minister Jean Castex described the situation in Paris as "extremely worrying," and the country has banned outdoor gatherings of more than six people in an effort to reduce transmission.
4 hr 5 min ago

India sees third day of record-high Covid cases since last year

From CNN's Esha Mitra in New Delhi
A health worker preserves a swab sample for a Covid-19 test at Government Kanwatiya hospital, on March 22, in Jaipur, India. Himanshu Vyas/Hindustan Times/Getty Images
India has reported its highest jump in new Covid-19 cases since last year for a third consecutive day.
On Friday, the country reported 59,118 new Covid-19 cases, its highest rise since October 18, according to a CNN tally of figures from the Indian Ministry of Health.
The country has been reporting more than 35,000 new cases daily for over a week in a recent surge in infections after they fell in January and February this year.
Randeep Guleria, director at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, told CNN on Wednesday "it is the beginning of a second wave."
India has reported more than 11.8 million total cases of coronavirus including over 160,000 virus-related deaths, according to the Ministry of Health. The country has distributed more than 55 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines.
4 hr ago

At least 10 dead in fire at Mumbai Covid-19 hospital

From CNN's Esha Mitra in New Delhi
Smoke rises from a fire that broke out at Dreams Mall Sunrise Hospital in Mumbai, India on March 26. Divyakant Solanki/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock
At least 10 people were killed in a fire Friday at a Covid-19 hospital in a Mumbai mall, senior police official Prashant Kadam said.
"At around 12:30 a.m. at night, a fire broke out on the first floor at Dream Mall, next to it there was Sunrise Covid care center where about 76 Covid patients were admitted," Kadam told reporters early Friday.
Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar said Friday patients had been evacuated to another facility and the cause of the fire was being investigated.
Sunrise Hospital has described itself as the first hospital in Asia to be located in a mall.

New cases: Mumbai reported 5,504 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday, bringing the total to 380,115 in the city. According to the Indian Ministry of Health, Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital, contributed more than 50% of the new cases reported in the country on Thursday.
Mumbai is the district with the third-highest active cases across the country, the Ministry of Health said Wednesday.

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Date: Mon, 22 Mar 2021 11:58:33 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 Mar 2021 11:58:21 AM -0400
Subject: Marc Lipsitch now supporting calls for more investigations of lab origin for COVID
From: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Now Marc Lipsitch is in on the action to close down biosafety labs…and investigate the Wuhan lab.

https://twitter.com/mlipsitch/status/1373978645560229890?s=20

This follows an article in USA Today

https://www.usatoday.com/in- depth/opinion/2021/03/22/why- covid-lab-leak-theory-wuhan-shouldnt-dismissed-column/4765985001/

The WHO is pushing to release the report of our mission this week, so the political pressure is likely to spike over the next few days/weeks.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 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, March 20, 2021 12:55 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' [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

Here's some more information I got from the Twitter feeds of some of the agitators. Apparently NIH will have until 19th April to respond. This group is delighted that the very experienced investigative staffers are on the case.

You'll see that Richard Ebright, Philippa Lenzsos and others are copied on the 2nd link – they're also delighted that Congressional Republicans are gunning for EcoHealth Alliance.

https://twitter.com/thackerpd/status/1373266392045215761?s=20

https://twitter.com/thackerpd/status/1373270547035983879?s=20

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: b6
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Saturday, March 20, 2021 12:31 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' 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

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

From: Roberts, Rich [redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 11:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted]; Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]; David Morens [redacted]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
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: [redacted]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [redacted]

From: Peter Daszak [redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [redacted]; David Morens [redacted]; Roberts, Rich [redacted]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
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.: [redacted]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Thu, 24 Aug 2023 9:50:09 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 24 Aug 2023 9:50:01 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Follow-up Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction
From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]>
To: David Morens [b6]>;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

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 Assistant [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email [b6]

From: David Morens [b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]g>; 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 (b) (6) 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007412
MORENS_NIH_016619
REL0000479082

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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007413
MORENS_NIH_016620
REL0000479082

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 b6
b6

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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] < (b) (6) ; Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notification and Action: NARA Allegations of Unauthorized Records Destruction

David, please see responses in yellow below.

In addition, I would suggest looking at the individuals listed below, to identify, who if any, you have corresponded with, in conducting NIH business via your personal accounts.

a. Anthony Fauci
b. Francis Collins
c. Lawrence Tabek
d. Hugh Auchincloss
e. Cliff Lane
f. David Morens
g. Ping Chen
h. Ian Watson
i. Andrew Pope
j. Victor Dzau
k. Robert Redfield
l. Michael Lauer - NIH Employee
m. David Christian Hassell
n. Jeremy Farrar
o. Robert Garry
p. Michael Farzan
q. Edward Holmes
r. W. Ian Lipkin
s. Andrew Rambaut
t. Peter Daszak
u. Aleksei Chmura
v. Kevin Olival
w. Christian Drosten
x. Ron Fouchier
y. Marion Koopmans
z. Michael Worobey
aa. Jonathan Pekar
bb. Florence Debarre

cc. Angela Rasmussen
dd. Ralph Baric
ee. James LeDuc
ff. Shi Zhengli

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <b6
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007415
MORENS_NIH_016622
REL0000479082

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] <
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

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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] <c 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

> 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 –

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007417
MORENS_NIH_016624
REL0000479082

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007418
MORENS_NIH_016625
REL0000479082

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_007419
MORENS_NIH_016626
REL0000479082

Date: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 3:53:11 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 3:50:05 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FW: For urgent review: Question raised by EcoHealth Alliance Grant proposal
From: Peter Daszak b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 Robert Kessler b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png; image004.png

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 g >; Robert Kessler b6 s >; 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

-------- 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 (d b6

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022204
MORENS_NIH_043105
REL0000479083

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 b6 b6
b6

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From: Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6; Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Cc: NIAID FOG <fog@niaid.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries b6; 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?

- 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022205
MORENS_NIH_043106
REL0000479083

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) [b6]
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:
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022206
MORENS_NIH_043107
REL0000479083

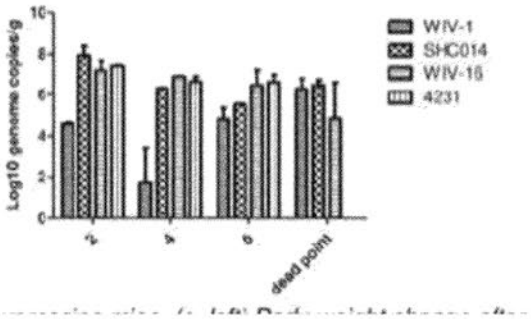

Figure 34. BtCoV/KGD/2014-422 RBD analysis (a) and DPP4-binding assay (b)

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_022207
MORENS_NIH_043108
REL0000479083

Date: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 7:27:48 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 19 Sep 2021 7:27:24 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: Edward Holmes [b6] >
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
CC: Jason Gale [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] [b6] jwertheim@health.ucsd.edu; [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

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: b6 At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009516
MORENS_NIH_020019
REL0000479085

To: b6

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:), b6
b6 g, b6
u6025689@utah.edu, kg b6 b6
benembarekp@who.int, kessler@ecohealthalliance.org,
b6 b6
b6 b6

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 b6 wrote:

I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).

https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21

No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie, Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009517
MORENS_NIH_020020
REL0000479085

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F ([redacted]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.

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Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 11:38:56 AM -0500
Sent: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 11:38:46 AM -0500
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republicans, this time also mentioning Rich Roberts
From: "Hotez, [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Rich Roberts [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Attachments: [b6] House Energy & Commerce Letter-to-NIH-Acting-Director-Tabak accusing EHA of fraud etc..pdf

I'm so sorry Peter, I've just endured 2 successive nights of Fox News attacks but Tucker Carlson and then Laura Ingraham. It's really bad

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
[b6]
Phone: [b6]
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Feb 24, 2022, at 10:29 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,

I'm so sorry to darken your doorsteps again with news of more awful attacks from the Republicans. This time it's the House Energy and Commerce Republicans – the same ones who asked for me to be kicked out of the NAM (still not heard from the NAM by the way).

They've now sent a letter to NIH (Tabak) accusing EHA of fraud because we're allegedly double-dipping on funding (USAID and NIH), and not declaring private funding, specifically the anonymous donation that you helped organize Rich. Of course, this was after the NIH terminated our funding, so is utterly irrelevant, but they give the impression that we used the attacks to raise funds. Well, we've lot substantial funding since then, so that's also not true.

Here is the news story on Fox:
https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid- origins-republicans-pressure-nih-risky-research

The letter to Tabak is attached. It specifically names you Rich, and insinuates that we were busy making money out of this miserable situation.

Here are the facts:

- The research work we conducted in China on coronaviruses was funded by NIH, with support for One Health capacity building and emerging viral risk analysis supported later by USAID.
- NIH and USAID undertook an assessment of any potential overlap in funding, and decided that there was none.
- We reported to each agency about the work we did and acknowledged funding on all scientific papers from this work.
- No non-federal funding was used to support this coronavirus research in China prior to the abrupt termination of our NIH funding on April 24th 2020, after which we had to use used non-federal funding to pay for staff time to publish this information and make it available to the world.
- We remain committed to doing everything we can to continue getting the work we conducted in China prior to COVID-19 out into the public domain, for the benefit of citizens in the USA and globally.

This week alone we were notified about 2 separate FoIAs to USAID for our emails and proposals. We've got daily requests from reporters who are trying to generate negative press. We've got a former disgruntled employee accusing us of being a CIA front on right-wing podcasts, and a barrage of online threats and harassment, many of them from well-known right-leaning social commentators with hundreds of thousands of followers (including Glenn Beck – 2 video podcasts on EHA and Eric Weinstein).

Meanwhile, I'm being quietly sidelined by all the societies, agencies and academies that used to ask me to give talks, join committees etc. The NAM hasn't even let me know whether they're going to 'investigate' me or not, so I'm in limbo there too.

I've had 2 years of this and at this point, I'm really worried about my future in science, our organization's future, my own job, my family and my health.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_033377
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Date:	Wed, 15 Jun 2022 2:46:33 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 15 Jun 2022 2:45:43 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
From:	Peter Daszak [b6]
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Attachments:	Appendix 12) Table detailing evidence for origin of COVID via the wildlife trade vs. a laboratory leak. From Keusch et al. PNAS (submitted).pdf

Here's the lowdown – the report is essentially exactly the same as the previous version – it has no new data provided to the WHO team from China, but it does review published information that's come to light since. For example it has a table on the known bat-CoVs related to SARS-CoV-2 that have been published since.

It does not take into account papers under peer review that are available as preprints, so therefore misses a bunch of new information from reputable researchers that is under review in high quality journals and will be published, e.g. papers by Worobey and Pekar that strongly implicate the Huanan Seafood Market as the origin, not the lab. I've attached a supplementary figure from our just submitted PNAS paper (for your eyes only) that's from the Lancet Taskforce that Jeff Sachs disbanded, but has been meeting weekly since then and has now got its report in review at PNAS. As you can see, there are a series of papers supporting the wildlife trade origin since the original WHO report, all either published in peer-reviewed journals, or under review. On the lab leak side, there are mainly op eds, opinion pieces in peer-reviewed journals, or uploaded web commentary – almost all by relatively unknown people, and most already strongly disputed publicly by well-known authors.

Another failing is that, unlike the first team, the SAGO group does not 'rank' the likely pathways of origin. They clearly didn't want to get the same level of attack that we did, because as you can see from their conclusions, they still find the wildlife trade origin the most likely explanation for COVID's emergence.

One key difference between the first report and this one is that the SAGO report, despite finding no evidence for a lab leak, recommends a series of investigations into the labs in China (and also other countries) that are pretty invasive and would clearly not be supported by China. Our original report has been misquoted repeatedly as saying that we shouldn't investigate the lab. What we actually said was that we found the lab leak pathway 'extremely unlikely' (not impossible) and that if any evidence comes to light, phase 2 work should investigate it. The lab leak recommendations were publicly dismissed by 3 members of SAGO because there is not enough evidence to support those recommendations. The three are:
1) the China representative, which will be dismissed as political;
2) the Russian Rep, who is Vladimir Dedkov and was a member of the original WHO-China study. He's a good scientists and though it's being discussed as a political statement, I believe he's simply voting his conscience;
3) Carlos Morel, from Brazil Fiocruz, former head of WHO TDR and a very well-respected public health scientist. I've spoken with him at length re. this and he believes that including the lab leak recommendations was pure politics and not based on science. He's now said this publicly.

On the political issue, it's important to remember that the WHO DG initially set up the group in Summer 2020 because of the criticisms of China and openness early on, and of WHO in accepting China's word on lack of human-to-human transmission. Then, as Trump started to withdraw from the WHO, I believe he became less concerned about the US version of events and let the group convene and organize. While we were doing our work in Wuhan, Biden's admin took over and we noticed a change in the way Tedros communicated with us. He tried to push for the lab leak to be included (you can quote me as someone close to the team if you like) for what we believe were political reasons to ingratiate himself with Biden's State Dept and their more anti-China policies. Biden's team was publicly supportive of Tedros then, at a time he was running to renew his Directorship. He criticized our report publicly re. the lab conclusions, dismissed the team and formed the SAGO with mainly new members, having removed those that pushed back (me, Marion and a few others). If you look at the US media's response to the new report, it's exactly what Tedros would have wanted – "WHO does U-turn on lab origins of COVID":

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/covid- 19-urges-investigation-chinese-wuhan-lab-leak-theory-rcna32910

https://www.livemint.com/news/world/origin- of-covid-19-who-takes-u-turn-says-chinese-lab-leak-theory-needs-study-11654818780688.html

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https://www.science.org/content/article/open- minded-underwhelming-mixed-reactions-greet-latest-covid-19-origin-report

Ironically, a careful read of our original report shows that they haven't really done a U-turn – just stated that the labs should now be investigated, even as they know full well they won't be… if that's not politics, then what is..

Hope all this helps…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Peter Daszak b6 g >
Subject: Re: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Peter, a Lancet reporter wants to ask me to comment on the new SAGO report, which may or may not be cleared. Can you tell me in a nutshell how it differs from the earlier version, and what's going on with these various comments by Tedros, Maria, vK, and others? TY, david

On 6/13/2022 2:51 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Thanks for the comments Rich. It's now over with the NAM for their scholarly deliberations!
>
> I'm now straight onto dealing with the draft of the HHS OIG audit – they were asked by NIH to do an audit of EHA, and they're trying to paint us as heinously incompetent and duplicitous, so we've now got to spend another few days drafting responses and supplying documentary evidence that we're not the bad guys people would like us to be….

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Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Roberts, Rich b6
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 1:51 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6 >; Jeff Sturchio < b6 >; David Morens < b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T b6 >; Hotez, Peter Jay b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura < b6 >
Subject: RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Peter:

This is excellent! I'm sorry to be slow in responding, but "officially" I have been on vacation and unable to read all emails coming my way without alerting my wife to my "non-vacation" behaviour. I am not en route home and have had the chance to read through this response.

What is so annoying here is that politicians have the easy option of targeting would-be scapegoats to uphold a political agenda and ignore science.

I hope the NAM will finally decide to follow the science and tell the politicians to go to hell.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: b6 b6
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: b6

From: Peter Daszak b6
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 12:34 AM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006700
MORENS_NIH_015592
REL0000479099

To: Jeff Sturchio [b6]; David Morens [b6] Keusch, Gerald T < [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: FW: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

Thank you very much for your support dealing with this awful situation. Below is my email to NAM with an attached letter responding to the allegations, and a dropbox file with 28 appendices supporting each of the points I make (feel free to click on the link and sift through if you've got a spare few hours!).

Having been lucky enough to get a scholarship to one of those schools in the UK where we had to stand when the teachers (who we had to call "masters") came in the room, this brings back some powerful memories of the way institutions can be manipulated to make the lives of the people they're supposed to serve totally bloody miserable.

I only hope the committee is able to see beyond the political narratives, and their desire to save the NAM from attack, and do the right thing by one of their members. If not, I'll get ready with my appeal, and continue this tedious journey…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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---

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 12:24 AM
To: 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' [b6] 'Dzau, Victor J.' [b6] 'Kim, Se' < [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura [b6] [b6] g >
Subject: RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Fuentes-Afflick,

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I want to thank you and the NAM for granting me the extra time to respond to the allegations from the three Republican members of the Congress. I am attaching the original letter to the NAM (attachment A), the focused allegations (attachment B), your letter to me informing me of the intent to open an investigation ("Letter to Member…."), and my response to your letter refuting these allegations ("Dr. Daszak, response to NAM letter of April 11th 2022").

As you can see, I have provided a detailed refutation of each of the allegations, along with documentary evidence to support each point. This consists of 28 appendices (many are quite short consisting of specific email chains or short documents). However, because of their overall size, I have placed them in a secure dropbox folder that is available for you to download and circulate among the committee by clicking on the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/io8q3iq64g0tkum/AACvnf8IlwXX86sfDXUOPIMaa?dl=0

As you stated below, I appreciate that this process is confidential, and I would ask that you take particular care to ensure that my letter and the appendices are carefully shared so as not to be circulated more widely than necessary – some of these appendices contain information that has never been released publicly before.

I will await the decision of the committee, the NAM Council and Dr. Dzau in due course, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me of my Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura (cc'd) for any further information or clarification

Sincerely,

Peter Daszak
President

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena b6
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak b6; Dzau, Victor J. b6; Kim, Se b6
Subject: confidential

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for your note of April 22nd. I was traveling and apologize for my delayed response. I have reviewed your letter in detail and will respond to each point.

First, when the NAM receives any allegation of misconduct against a member, we have to follow an independent process that is outlined in the policy document you received. We have undertaken an initial evaluation by an assessment panel which eliminated many of the allegations but recommended a subset

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of the allegations to be further investigated by the conduct review committee. The list of allegations was shared with you.

I accept your request for a deadline extension to June 12th. You may enlist the assistance of others and I encourage you to request that they honor the confidentiality of the process.

Point 1: To date, the NAM has not conducted its own investigation of the allegations. We have identified a subset of materials for further investigation which were referenced in the April 11, 2022 letter.

Point 2: I apologize for not providing information about the conflicts evaluation. We conducted a thorough evaluation of the conflicts of the assessment panel and conduct review committee members and none were identified.

Point 3: We identified selected references from the list provided in the original letter with the allegations and added one reference that is publicly available on the NIAID's website. These materials and any response you provide are the only materials that the Conduct Review Committee will consider.

Point 4: I should have asked if you have the results of an external investigation related to the allegations under consideration. If you have any such results, please share them.

Point 5: You are correct that our policy does not include a provision to meet with the conduct review committee and I cannot offer you this option. I invite you to submit additional materials if you believe they are relevant.

I want to assure you, personally, that the confidentiality requirement and following our process are my top priorities. I have discussed this with all individuals involved and have not shared information with anyone other than the assessment panel and conduct review committee members. My communication with the representatives of those who wrote the original letter was to confirm receipt of the materials and explain that we would be following our conduct review process.

I would be happy to connect with you, by phone or Zoom, to discuss.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak <b6
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Dzau, Victor J. <b6>; Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <b6>; Kim, Se <
b6
Cc: Aleksei Chmura b6
Subject: Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

I was very concerned to have received three separate press inquiries today regarding a story in *Fox News* (https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house- republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data). I am not planning to respond to these questions.

As you can see in the *Fox News* article, yet another partisan political letter has been made public with unsubstantiated and clearly politically motivated allegations against our organization and myself. In the article, an aide to Representative McMorris Rodgers states that "*After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request…We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well.*"

In your letters to me, and by phone, you reassured me repeatedly that the process of deciding whether to investigate these allegations was confidential on the NAM side, and you urged me to also treat correspondence with NAM on this issue as confidential, which I have. However, it appears that this is not the case, in that NAM has informed the Republican staff of intent to review my 'behavior' and that this has now been made public, as I indicated could happen in my letter to you last week, April 22, 2022.

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus- study-of-bats-in-china-met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-say b6 and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g. https://www.science.org/content/article/we- ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19 and https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/).

Given the developments today, I urge you to reconsider your decision to investigate these allegations, which have nothing to do with my adherence to the rules of conduct of NAM members, and to respond to the Republican accusers to state that they do not rise to the level whereby an investigation is warranted. I believe this is justified by the one-sided political nature of the attacks, the lack of prima facie evidence for the allegations, and the fact that your communications have already been made public in defiance of the confidentiality of the matter that NAM and EcoHealth Alliance have maintained. I'm very concerned that this public witch hunt will be damaging not just for myself and our organization, which has consistently produced cutting edge research on emerging diseases that has been fundamental to a series of NAM publications, but that it will also be damaging to NAM and the Academies in general. If you do not stand up to these politicized attacks at this point, they will surely continue and drag in other members of the Academies who have been publicly criticized and accused by the same politicians for the last two years, and who are being continually attacked by various fringe groups espousing conjectural hypotheses about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, in spite of the increasing scientific evidence supporting the spillover from bats through an intermediary host to humans.

This active political interference with stewardship of science, the integrity of science, and the pursuit of knowledge by scientists, goes well beyond EcoHealth Alliance and threatens the integrity of the entire U.S. scientific enterprise. It is no different except in volume than the incontrovertible political interference by Donald Trump in the scientific enterprise at NIH in April 2020, which prompted you to issue a public statement about the separation of politics from science in response. Your words and those of Marcia McNutt ring even more true at this point: "*Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all*" (https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/09/nas- and-nam-presidents-alarmed-by-political-interference-in-science-amid-pandemic). EcoHealth Alliance, myself, the NIH, Tony Fauci, NAM and

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you are in the cross-hairs now because NIH failed to protect science and scientists from Trump's overtly political, and sadly successful, effort to close down research that was politically inconvenient. I worry that this is just the beginning of the goal of this anti-science agenda, and for that reason it demands brave, bold, and decisive action.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

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David M Morens (b) (6)

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Date: Wed, 12 May 2021 2:33:55 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 12 May 2021 2:31:09 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter, and GAO
From: Peter Daszak <b6>
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
CC: [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]

I will let them know and copy your Op Ed (and mention that you're a former NIH Center Director).

I'm compiling a very detailed timeline, including notes from a phone call where a NIAID Sr. staffmember who'd spoken with Lauer commented:
"I got a red flag got waived [by Lauer], this grant is not in compliance with NIH grant rules. If you are not in compliance with one grant, you should not be getting any other grants. This was a red flag for me, .. if they submit a new grant tomorrow, what happens. Mike Lauer said they can have it reviewed, accepted, and it will not be accepted until original grant is in compliance. Obviously, I did not bring up the other EHA grants. It was made pretty clear to me that if you have a future grant, it would be put on hold until you are back in compliance."

I took this as a threat, implied by Lauer. One he failed to put in writing because no doubt it's on shaky legal grounds. I will hand over all notes on these calls to GAO.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Cc: [b6] Aleksei Chmura <b6>; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: RE: Reporter, and GAO

I'll be happy to prep them as well, very happy. Let them know I wrote in the Hill about this on behalf of 139 other elected members of the National Academy of Medicine (attached).

Jerry

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REL0000479103

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Reporter, and GAO

Thanks – please ask him to email me and cc Robert Kessler. Right now is not a great time for EHA to be speaking out, but we can always give him facts and have that in background.

Also, by the way, I heard back from GAO. They're focusing on the details of why the NIH grant to EHA was terminated, and the follow up actions, trying to understand if NIH was the subject of political interference. I'll be sending them all the relevant docs and doing an interview v. soon.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Peter Daszak [(b) (6)]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [(b) (6)] Aleksei Chmura <[(b) (6)]>; Robert Kessler [(b) (6)]
Subject: Re: Busy day for my blood pressure - mostly good so far

Peter, am re-sending this in case you didn't see. He emailed me again this morning. d

On 5/11/2021 9:48 PM, David Morens wrote:

> PS, the journalist Arthur Allen asked me today whether he could contact you and potentially others knowledgeable about your situation
>
> I have know him for years and he is an honest honorable guy. I speak to him on background when needed
>
> I told him that i doubted you would speak on the record, and that i and others were advising you not to speak to the press, but he wants to talk to you anyway. Let me know if you will, you can just tell him its off the record. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2021, at 21:40, David Morens <b6> wrote:

Peter,

It just hit me that i have some recommended reading for you. The story of a great scientist who went through something eerily similar to what you are going through - attacked by the wackos with death threats requiring police protection, accused of bioterrorism and starting a potential pandemic, and thrown under the bus by the US government, AND losing his research work. This was exactly 120 years ago and the scientist was Joe Kinyoun, the founder of the NIH

You can read the whole story in a monograph i wrote 10 years ago, available on the nih website. It's quite long, but just read the several ending chapters beginning with the San Fran plague epidemic of 1900 until the end, maybe a 25 minute read.

I think you may he shocked at the similarities. Come to think of it, it would make a great then and now manuscript ….

The reason it hit me just now is that PBS is doing a show on it and they are filming at my house on Thu. In preparation, i just read the whole monograph to refresh my memory, and it was like i was reading YOUR story. Wow.

It should be easy to find on the nih website if you search on kinyoun and morens. If not I can send the pdf

D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2021, at 13:31, Peter Daszak <b6> wrote:

Just to let you know that the saga continues…

First, I got an email from a GAO group "examining issues related to scientific integrity and independence at HHS agencies, including NIH, at the request of Senators Warren, Peters, and Murray, and Rep. Tonko" requesting an interview re. the terminated grant. I'll be setting up an interview with them and hope this might lead somewhere. It might be part of the new Scientific Integrity Taskforce that Biden's setting up via OSTP – I'll find out (https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/10/politics/biden- task-force-science/index.html) – their first meeting is Friday

Second, Sen. Marshall (R) published a resolution calling for Covid-19 Select Investigative Committee, including "secret research and gain-of-function zoonic (sic) research at WIV" and "funding distributed by WIV by NIAID, NIH and organizations of higher education" https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/marshall- resolution-calling-for-covid-19-select-investigative-committee/b44a9780- 7653-4004-8887-ed24ace6dce8/ I doubt it will go anywhere – it's grandstanding.

Third – just saw excellent testimony before a senate committee where Dr. Fauci duked it out with Sen. Rand Paul re. 'gain-of-function': Dr. Fauci stated that "The NIH has not ever, & does not now, fund 'gain of function research' in the Wuhan Institute." He was then asked about our terminated grant and said: "Let me explain to you why that was done, the SARS COV-1 originated in bats in China. It would have been irresponsible of us if we did not investigate the bat viruses & the serology to see who might have been infected." https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/552857- rand-paul-clashes-with-fauci-over-coronavirus-

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REL0000479103

origins. The video is worth watching if you have a spare 10 mins: Full hearing here https://help.senate.gov, the Q&A with Rand Paul begins at 01:11:59. Fauci dodges the question on whether he 'supports funding of WIV', and just repeats that NIH did not fund GoF work there. It's categorically correct. He also points out that the expt. that Rand Paul talks about (a supervirus – actually SARS with a bat spike that is less able to infect human cells than sars!) was conducted in North Carolina, not Wuhan.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

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Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, DavidMorens <(b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I haverecently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Janua M
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) frey Sturchio(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came upwith somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to pushback against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

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Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

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Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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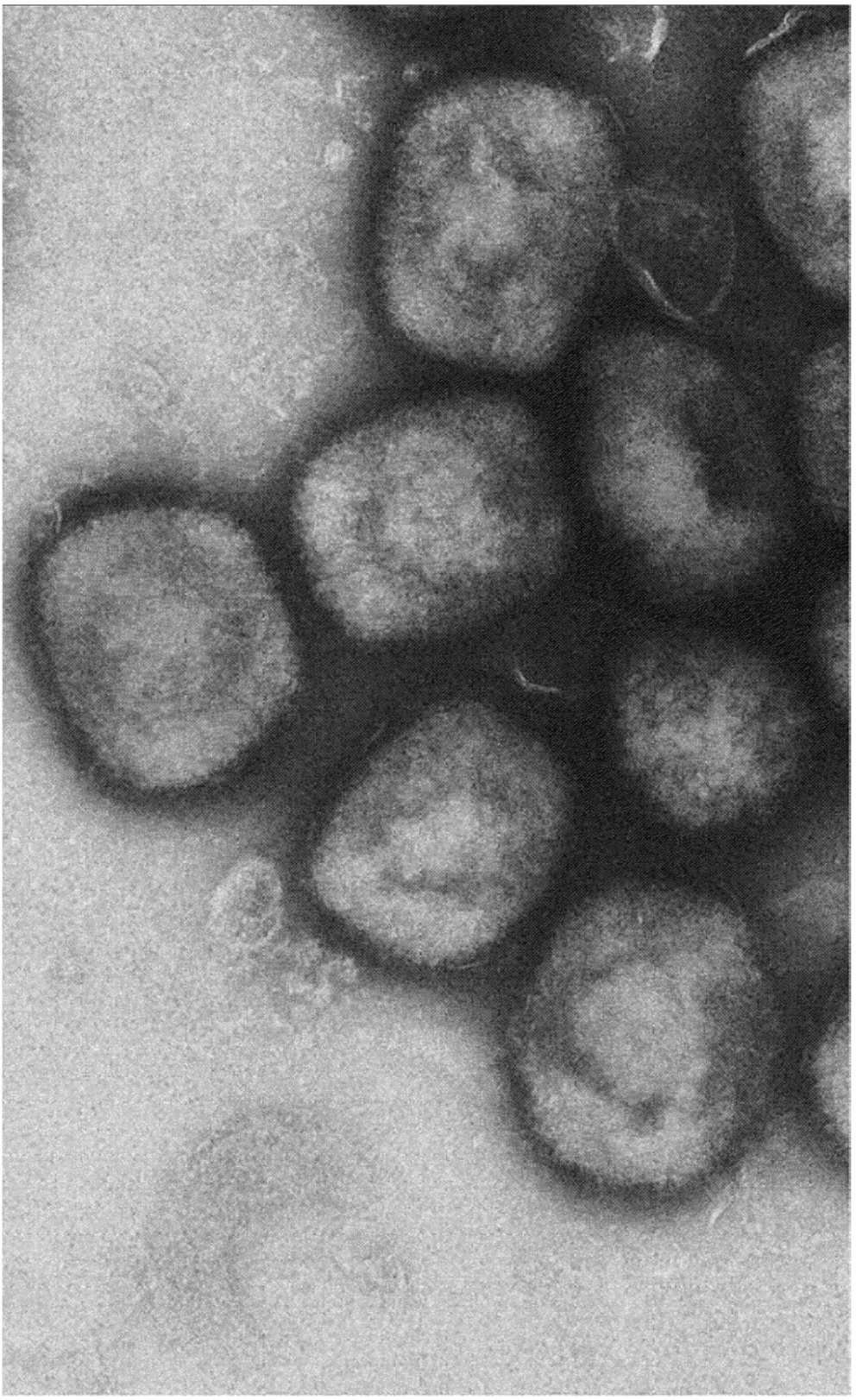

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

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or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

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Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to meritthat kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,"' says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

Sponsor Message

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

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"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
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Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January M
To: Hotez, Peter Ja <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Dasza (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Rob (b) (6) Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

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I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gera (b) (6) (b) (6) g>; David Morens <
C (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
ux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Janu M
To: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) mura (b) (6) ;
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He ientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Websi iliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of 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

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That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same tim a top sc from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

er Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019514
MORENS_NIH_039100
REL0000478480

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <roberts@neb.com>
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

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) ei Chmura <
(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei
Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >;
) >; Rich Roberts <
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:19:22 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:16:33 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Attachments: Sachs Lancet Commission Letter from Bill Posey.pdf; Letter Congressman Bill Posey December 10 2020.docx

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: Tue, May 24, 2022 at 8:53 AM
Subject: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

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

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C02bf1391c68442ed507208db8ba0aaea%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=uuSAMlb3ok98x1vlZSGiEXAd%2Fs9WiQ9%2BKZT4hcjIm0M%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 9:37 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Sonia E Sachs <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Your criticisms of the call for an independent investigation?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

Thanks so much for your detailed comments.

Kindly let me share a few thoughts with you.

First, I got to know Daszak, as I invited him to chair a task force of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission. I observed close at hand that he was dishonest and untrustworthy. I had to dismiss him and disband the group that he set up. Many people associated with him also behaved very improperly, hiding their conflicts of interest and in other ways. I know that you defended him and I am absolutely sure that you did so out of the highest motives. Yet I've seen a side of Daszak that is disreputable.

Response: The conflicts of interest are that I worked with the WIV. This was absolutely known to Jeff from the start – it's why he reached out to me in April 2020 after Trump terminated our NIH funding, literally because "we funded the lab in Wuhan". A few weeks into my work with the Lancet Commission that Jeff headed up, he received a letter from a Congressman complaining about my alleged conflicts. Jeff responded to him to explain that my experience working with Wuhan is a benefit to the commission. Both are attached above.

Second, the EHA grant proposals are deeply disturbing. The DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal raises the highest questions (especially pp. 10-11)

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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://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2Fs%2Fhripmsjk3ovi5fm%foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf%3Fdl%3D0&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C02bf1391c68442ed507208db8ba0aaea%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=7wySMqAgO%2BWtozQpM8og3cn643PZUhm7gLCJAaFxm4E%3D &reserved=0

Response: Simple. The 290 pages were an attachment to an email that happened to be a draft version of NIAID's COVID-19 Strategic Plan. This was published and widely disseminated later on, but it makes total sense for NIAID to redact a version that's unfinished, so that the public don't get fed other erroneous theories based on some typos or errors in the uncorrected version.

Third, NIH knew full well since February 1, 2020 if not earlier that a lab-leak was not only plausible, but for many leading scientists was odds-on. Yet that was deliberately covered up in the Proximal Origins paper in Nature Medicine, a paper advanced with Francis Collins' early intervention and editing. (The Proximal Origins paper is a remarkably crude whitewashing of the question – claiming that SARS-CoV-2 was "irrefutably" not from a known SARS-CoV backbone -- citing a 2014 (!!!) paper (see footnote 20, which gives away the game).

Response: It's just simply not true (and never has been) that many leading scientists view the lab leak theory as 'odds-on'. Neither was the theory deliberately covered up – it was debated and put to bed, that's why people changed their opinions from FoIA'd emails wherein they noticed the FCS and suggested it could indicate a lab origin, to the final paper wherein they had spent time debating the veracity of this with colleagues – that's how science should work. Ref. 20 is about how FCS arises in nature in avian flu, following prolonged passage of a mild strain. This plausibly could have happened when a bat-CoV circulated repeatedly in an amplifier host or in people prior to emerging with a full FCS. SARS-CoV circulated for months before emergence in China, so it's more plausible than months of lab passage for a virus that was never in the lab (we had all the sequences of all known bat-CoVs).

Fourth, even Baric has joined the call for an investigation. He has been the relentless champion of the genetic re-engineering of SARS-CoV viruses, and he trained Shi Zhengli. He has claimed that GoF is vital for drug and vaccine development. Yet GoF in a BSL2 laboratory (as in Wuhan) is a mighty risky proposition.

Response: The work in WIV that EHA collaborated on was definitively not gain-of-function. It was reviewed by NIH before we did it and they're the organization of note to do this. Their decision and the rationale has been made public and fits exactly with the published P3CO rules. This has been stated over and over again, but I guess Jeff just somehow disagrees with the authority to decide whether an expt is GoF or not!. In any case, none of the viruses at WIV were anywhere close to SARS-CoV-2, as published by us in Latinne et al. Nature Comms. 2020. Finally, the BSL argument is clearly false. The animal experiments that Jeff is alluding to here were conducted at BSL-3. The in vitro work at BSL-2 is the standard in China, just as it is in the USA for Cedar virus with a Hendra spike protein – something that's BSL4 in Australia. If we work with a lab in China, we cannot impose US law on them. NIH approved that work.

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,

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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

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throughout, but there was a distinct shift suggesting intelligence supports natural over lab leak.

All best wishes and with very warm regards,

Jeff

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:08:07 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
Stonehall, No. 800
8302 Woodmont Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
240 495 1738 (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:22 AM
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >

Many thanks Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

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REL0000478491

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003548
MORENS_NIH_010447
REL0000478491

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

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Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:09:02 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:07:54 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 2:59 PM
Subject: Re: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >, Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) <(b) (6)

Dear All,

Please take a moment to fill out your availability in the doodle poll below or feel free to reply to me with your availability.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoodle.com%2Fmeeting%2Fparticipate%2Fid%
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=CnY1Uwla2gFJitx83MJ%2BTbAQ%2Be%2By5uYRQBs3q9Fg0ig%3D &reserved=0

Thank you,
Alison

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 12:48 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Adding Peter's assistant Douglas Soriano.

>
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>
> I also just heard from the FBI that yet another death list has been circulated with my name and EcoHealth's on it.
>
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>
> Peter – you might also be interested in this effort from Texas State lawmaker Briscoe Cain: https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.based-politics.com%2F2023%2F01%2F19%2Ftexas- calls-on-the-federal-government-to-investigate-covid%2F &data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585 &sdata=WsjRYhcp7P8%2BWYG9tjpvKXR1DLOFU8iv%2FYdEs3WFIxw%3D &reserved=0
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> Cheers,
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> Peter
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> Peter Daszak
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> President
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> EcoHealth Alliance
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> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

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> New York, NY 10018-6507
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> USA
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> Tel.: +(b) (6)
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> Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=H9UCNgjb3Q2itoM48bTxgClUUE6yklF7X8sP%2BC1PNyU%3D &reserved=0
>
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:43 AM
> To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) >; 'David Morens (b) (6) <(b) (6)
>; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
> Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio
(b) (6) <(b) (6) 'Alison Andre (b) (6)
<(b) (6) >
> Subject: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?
> Importance: High
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> Happy new year everyone!
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> It's been a while since we all connected, and after a hectic build up to the holidays (I was on 3, multi-week trips to Southeast Asia between Sept and Dec), I wanted to get back in touch with you and let you know what's happening. As you know, we received a letter from Reps. Comer and Jordan mid-December demanding documents and on-the-record interviews as part of their 'investigations' they're planning into COVID origins. The White House received similar letters demanding docs and interviews with the HHS Secretary, multiple people from NIH (incl. David Morens) and others. They pushed back because the Republicans weren't even in power, and we've now heard from the staffers that they're getting ready to send new letters over to us all. None of us are sure how actively or rapidly they'll get to their COVID investigation, or if this will involve public hearings. They've got a lot of other issues, and a priority to target Hunter Biden's laptop, as well as new issues like the debt ceiling and classified documents. However, we do expect that they will get to it eventually, and that the Republicans in the House will be aggressively targeting EcoHealth Alliance (and probably other organizations) with efforts to defund us.
>
> This all adds to a growing anti-science movement that Peter Hotez has been highlighting in articles and online recently around COVID origins, the mask mandates, vaccine mandates and other anti-vaxx and 'anti-expert' type attacks. The Republicans will want to turn up the heat to keep all of this in the press so it helps them in

their attacks on Biden, Fauci etc. It's pure politics, but has a real threat of damage to us, and to the research we all value. At the very least, we expect to see substantial efforts to legislate against so-called gain-of-function work, and as of yet, zero pushback from the scientific community writ large – the societies, academies, universities. The media are jumping in. Everyone wants to write an article about COVID origin and given the aggression on social media, these are being amplified rapidly and getting into the public eye. Just in the last couple of days:
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> · A long-winded whiny article from The Intercept about FoIA'd emails that basically show how scientists discussed the lab hypothesis early on, but David Relman (at the end of the article) claims shows they were rushing to judgement:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftheintercept.com%2F2023%2F01%2F19%2Fco
origin-nih-emails%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=%2BGqajuxdo79ukyTTLwcJdFCL9zf8QQsQx%2B3vqYG0MMc%3D &reserved=0
>
> · Article from Washington Post that links Boston Univ's NEIDL's 'risky research' to Wuhan's 'risky research' and to the origin of COVID
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fhealth%2F2023%
leak-theory-virologist%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=sYugo9Jx48jmGAZwh3%2BCv7uPQyz5InMNz04oq8tzAH0%3D &reserved=0
>
> · A report from the GAO yesterday that mildly criticizes NIH's oversight of Gain of Function review:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gao.gov%2Fassets%2Fgao- 23-
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&sdata=eSckG16R4EfD1iJpQxO6oTnkC08mzaNIeoflY1x0klg%3D &reserved=0
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> · Three days ago a paper from North Carolina from a Republican perspective that criticizes Ralph Baric's lab..
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.carolinajournal.com%2Fopinion%2Fnc-
can-be-a-leader-in-safe-biotech-research%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=DQFxuUR0AqnAz51%2Btk3OGSTxvWTKXtncbeEFWK9Veac%3D &reserved=0
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>
> The problem I see is that the Republicans are getting what they want – keeping the lab leak hypothesis and anti-science sentiments in the mainstream press and setting the stage for the McCarthy-style witch hunts that Peter Hotez has been talking about. We are actively reaching out to Democrats in Senate and Congress to try to build up their energy to defend against this, but we are just one small organization, and I'm worried about how successful we can be. I've been talking with Jeff Sturchio about renewing our efforts to try and build a coalition to counter this, involving the societies, activist groups like Research! America, university coalitions like the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), ASTMH, APHA, NL Campaigns, The pandemic Action coalition, etc.
>
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>
> Will you all be willing to have a one hour call in the next week or two to do some initial brainstorming of this, namely:
>

> · Who to involve
>
> · How to go about setting up a ‘coalition’
>
> · What the goals should be, e.g. a position paper laying out reasons why research on pandemic prevention and preparedness is necessary, Op Eds, briefing notes, a website, visiting staffers on the Hill etc.
>
> · How to do this without drawing political pressure
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> I’m cc’ing Alison Andre, who can work with your schedules to make this happen, and am really looking forward to talking with you all again.
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> Cheers,
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> Peter
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> Peter Daszak
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> President
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> Website:
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&sdata=H9UCNgjb3Q2itoM48bTxgClUUE6yklF7X8sP%2BC1PNyU%3D &reserved=0
>
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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>

--
Alison Andre
Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

1(b) (6) (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=H9UCNgjb3Q2itoM48bTxgClUUE6yklF7X8sP%2BC1PNyU%3D &reserved=0

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
pandemics and promote conservation.
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Date:	Thu, 27 Apr 2023 6:20:09 AM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 27 Apr 2023 6:19:58 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: DoJ: Former Harvard University Professor Sentenced for Lying About His Affiliation with Wuhan University of Technology; China's Thousand Talents Program; and Filing False Tax Returns
From:	David Morens <(b) (6)
To:	G (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Peter Hotez <(b) (6)
CC:	Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
BCC:	(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Date: April 27, 2023 at 06:18:16 EDT
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: DoJ: Former Harvard University Professor Sentenced for Lying About His Affiliation with Wuhan University of Technology; China's Thousand Talents Program; and Filing False Tax Returns

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6)
Date: April 26, 2023 at 22:46:27 EDT
Subject: DoJ: Former Harvard University Professor Sentenced for Lying About His Affiliation with Wuhan University of Technology; China's Thousand Talents Program; and Filing False Tax Returns

Former Harvard University Professor Sentenced for Lying About His Affiliation with Wuhan University of Technology; China's Thousand Talents Program; and Filing False Tax Returns

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
For Immediate Release

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008383
MORENS_NIH_018320
REL0000478500

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts
BOSTON – The former Chair of Harvard University's Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for lying to federal authorities about his affiliation with People's Republic of China's Thousand Talents Program and the Wuhan University of Technology (WUT) in Wuhan, China, as well as failing to report income he received from WUT.

Dr. Charles Lieber, 64, was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel to time served (two days) in prison; two years of supervised release with six months of home confinement; a fine of $50,000; and $33,600 in restitution to the IRS. The government recommended a sentence of 90 days in prison and a $150,000 fine.
In December 2021, Lieber was convicted by a federal jury of two counts of making false statements to federal authorities, two counts of making and subscribing a false income tax return, and two counts of failing to file reports of foreign bank and financial accounts (FBAR) with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
Lieber served as the Principal Investigator of the Lieber Research Group at Harvard University, which between 2008 and 2019 conducted more than $15 million in research sponsored by various U.S. Government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Defense ("DOD") and the National Institutes of Health ("NIH"). Unbeknownst to his employer, Harvard University, Lieber became a "Strategic Scientist" at WUT and, later, a contractual participant in China's Thousand Talents Plan from at least 2012 through 2015. China's Thousand Talents Plan was one of the most prominent Chinese talent recruitment plans designed to attract, recruit and cultivate high-level scientific talent in furtherance of China's scientific development, economic prosperity and national security.

In April 2018, during an interview with federal agents from DOD (one of the agencies that sponsored a portion of Lieber's research), among other things, Lieber falsely stated that he had never been asked to participate in the Thousand Talents Plan. Later, in January 2019, Lieber caused Harvard to falsely tell the NIH (another sponsor of Lieber's research) that Lieber was not, and had never been, a participant in the Thousand Talents Plan. Lieber knew these statements were false because he had signed a Thousand Talents contract with WUT in 2012, performed many of the duties and responsibilities required of him under that contract, and been paid a substantial salary by WUT in exchange for his work. Specifically, the terms of Lieber's three-year Thousand Talents contract with WUT entitled Lieber to a salary of up to $50,000 per month, living expenses of up to $150,000 and approximately n $1.5 million to conduct joint research at WUT.

In tax years 2013 and 2014, Lieber earned income from WUT in the form of salary and other payments made to him pursuant to his Thousand Talents contract, which he did not disclose to the IRS on his federal income tax returns. Together with WUT officials, Lieber also opened a bank account at a Chinese bank during a trip to Wuhan in 2012. Thereafter, between at least 2012 and 2015, WUT periodically deposited portions of Lieber's salary into that account. U.S. taxpayers are required to report the existence of any foreign bank account that holds more than $10,000 at any time during a given year by the filing an FBAR with the IRS. According to Lieber, the balance of his Chinese bank account was approximately $200,000 in 2014 and 2015. Nonetheless, Lieber purposely failed to file FBARs for those years.
United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Matthew Olsen, Assistant Attorney General for National Security; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division; Patrick J. Hegarty, Special Agent in Charge of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Northeast Field Office; Joleen D. Simpson, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division for the Boston Field Office; Michael Wiest, Special Agent in Charge of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Northeast Field Office; and Philip M. Coyne, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason A. Casey of Rollins' National Security Unit and Assistant U.S. Attorney James R. Drabick of Rollins' Securities, Financial & Cyber Fraud Unit prosecuted the case.
Updated April 26, 2023

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Date: Wed, 15 May 2024 7:13:14 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 15 May 2024 7:12:39 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <chm(b) (6) >;

Thanks for Sharing

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 17:30
Subject: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
To:

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Subject

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Date

May 16, 2024

Time

9:00 am

Place

2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Witnesses and testimonies: Dr. Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Principal Deputy Director
National Institutes of Health

Document

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MORENS_NIH_047062
REL0000478509

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:02:02 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:01:19 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 2:02 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG

high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009617
MORENS_NIH_020127
REL0000478514

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

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Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C6688cb7982da4aea5a5f08db8b9e889a%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=NJ%2FLNAjiyQ41b%2Fhd93sg23bBTrH86IiJ0kLhLnncfv8%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla,
Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran,
Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-
birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C6688cb7982da4aea5a5f08db8b9e889a%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=BlupdD9efxG%2FdoC3nWo3fYZa0TFmr0JDha%2Bms8nxkCs%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
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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, 23 Apr 2021 11:54:11 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 23 Apr 2021 11:50:06 AM -0400
Subject: Cosmos Club
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

There's an offer I can't refuse!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, I will be happy to pour you a glass of pinot noir at the Cosmos Club, next time you are in town... david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Apr 22, 2021, at 22:35, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> David is absolutely right. When you feel the need to vent write to us. Give no interviews. Basically sShut up, and when you open your mouth take a sip of a good red wine.
>
> **From:** David Morens <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 2
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6)
> **Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019628
MORENS_NIH_039226
REL0000478517

Peter, i must say, and i mean this with respect and aloha, i do agree with Rich and Harold that this may be a time for you to lay low yourself, and let others go to bst for you

I know that must be hard when u are being pilloried, but my sense is that we are at a time when you need to be the victim being saved by noble champions

Will noble champions step up? This is a place where Harold, Rich, Jerry, Victor and others must step in. You can't do this yourself, the assholes are too powerful

Let's all of us work behind the scenes to reverse this injustice. I don't know how, but my boxing gloves are on and laced up. David

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 22, 2021, at 20:44, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Great to read this chain. I also spoke with Rich Roberts and will be sending a 2 pager with all the NIH/EHA letters and responses in a timeline, and links to all the political action going on.

I agree with your assessments (both of you) – this is a threat to science, and it's not going away – it's now become more centralized with Biden maintaining a tough-on-China stance, and there are loud people on the left (e.g. Jamie Metzl) and within science (Relman, Lipsitch, Ebright) who are feeding political action and the call for commissions. Note that only yesterday there were two actions of note – the bill on China interference was pass in Senate Committee (Foreign Affairs), with Michael Lauer testifying, and the bill from the nutter Right re. declassifying intelligence on Wuhan.

We need to continue this multi-pronged effort to defend science, even though, as Tony suggested, Harold also, and my Board Chair, I will continue to try to avoid any publicity on this issue at all…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Webs thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019629
MORENS_NIH_039227
REL0000478517

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:47 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Even more than I could have hoped for. That's great to hear.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Great news, and i think you are probably exactly tight about Tony. Just a bit ago, I got a call from Rich saying he hadjust talked to Harold, who went into abit of a tirade about Francis, I omit the colorful language here, and said he, Harold, would call Tony next week

Rich also said he would be advising Peter to stay away from the press, as that may be fanning the flames with the nutters. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 22, 2021, at 16:40, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

> Thanks for doing this David. I suspect that deep down Tony is not naïve, but that he likes to keep a calm and in control public persona.
>
> The optimal way to reach him will be through Harold Varmus, and its good Rich agreed to be in touch with him. I'm purposely not including Rich on this note because I don't want to be seen as pressuring him further. I think he will follow up, he has as good a connection to Harold as I do, and if necessary I will follow up. Harold has consistently stayed in the background when I have asked him about doing certain things or writing certain commentaries etc. but he has not been reluctant to speak rather frankly about Francis and the Lauer affair when he believed it was necessary or he was directly approached by the reporters at Science, for example. I did try to get Jon Cohen and Meredith Wadman moving on a new article but as you know they both declined at this point because it was not news. I think that was a cop out decision, and depending on what Rich has to day I might just copy Harold on that and see if he is willing to contact them because they will most likely have a different response to him than to me.
> We just have to stay on this, not panic, and not waiver from the ultimate goal. Timing is always critical. So is the messenger. Lander may be the right person, and Harold has indicated to me that he has been in contact with Eric on this issue.

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MORENS_NIH_039228
REL0000478517

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 22, 2021, at 15:06, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

Hi Jerry and colleagues, just spent 40 minutes on Zoom with Tony and one of two possibilities: either we are all unnecessarily alarmed, or else he is not taking the threats seriously

He said repeatedly, in a low key jocular way, that no one could mess with him or niaid since we haven't done anything wrong, apparently not counting as "messing with us" the fact that we had an important research project terminated in an unprecedented manner for political reasons.

He also repeated alot of macho comments about how there is always a guy with an AR-15 right outside his door (true, and sometimes two other armed secret service guys) and everywhere he goes outside the office he has at least two bodyguards, also true...9

I hope he is right that the wackos won't gain any further traction, but i am not so sure. For one thing, there was huge collateral damage a few years back with the H5N1 gain of function mess. It is true that neither Tony nor other NIH staff got into any trouble, but thousands of professional hours were wasted over several years time and, far more importantly, the research moratorium, which went in for years, caused labs across the country to close, or move into other areas, caused lab people on grants to lose their jobs, and grad students to lose their dissertation work and postdocs to lose their projects. It was a mess that ought not to be forgotten

If i had to bet, i would guess that beneath Tony's macho I-am-not-worried reaction he really is concerned. And whatever the case he should be very concerned about what happened to Peter, to our research portfolio in an extremely important area, and to scientific independence

He did not know about either the Miller Commission or the letter from Rep Rogers which i emailed to him on gmail later

I also commented that Lauer's letters to you Peter, and the Rogers letter to you, had alot of overlap and seemed to reflect input of at least one scientist, whether or not one of our grantees. In other words, i feel that regarding those letters someone or someones are working in cahoots with the politicians who wish to do harm to NIH He didn't seem particularly troubled by that.

In the end he said thanks for filling me in and asked me to call him on his private cell phone (which is what i normally do anyway) if i hear anything that might be important

So, i am not sure where things stand. I absolutely DO feel that it would be a good thing if one of you luminaries were to approach him and try to make sure he understood what is going on out there, and perhaps discuss what the larger community of scientists can do to lock arms in unity and push back.
David

Sent from my iPhone

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MORENS_NIH_039229
REL0000478517

David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:24, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

Thanks, Jerry, i will let you know how it goes, although he may not indicate to me his next steps. The way it works with us is that he tries to never ask me things directly, like ask for my advice on what to do, but rather does alot of homework ahead of time, figures out what i am likely to say, then HE tells ME what he thinks so that i can confirm it. Yes, we all have our peculiarities, but as long as the machine runs smoothly its ok

I DO know that he has great respect for Harold, and i think also admires Harold's charge-ahead no-BS style, which is the opposite of Tony's extreme caution. So i have little doubt that he would welcome that kind of help. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:09, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

David,
Thanks for the note, and I recognize what you say is what I know about Tony. He is a remarkable person, but like all of us he isn't perfect. I think your strategy to lay out the issues and let him run with it to decide what can be effectively addressed and with what strategy.

Rich's suggestion to talk to Harold is on track, and it would be great Rich if you were to do that. I know that they have a very close and positive history of working together, that Harold is very strategic in his thinking, he prefers to work in the background (something I have confirmed multiple times this past year as I have asked for his advice on things I could take on), and that he will be really frank in talking to Rich. Harold has very recently told me that he has worked closely with Rich on a number of issues related to the concerns we all have.

Let us know how the chat goes tomorrow. I think you have the right perspective heading in to it, and lots of good information at your fingertips.
Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:33 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019632
MORENS_NIH_039230
REL0000478517

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: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >: Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

EXTERNAL SENDER

Jerry, The way it works with Tony, at least at my level, is you can't suggest he do anything. If you do, he won't do it on principle. The trick is to make him think of doing something himself, and then he will ask you to help him do it

My strategy tomorrow is to tell him that alarming things are at work, to the point that many scientists (our grantees and others) have become increasingly worried and are looking for the way forward. In that context i will share with him verbally Peter's information, and offer to get to him any of the materials he wants to see, or connect him directly with Peter, who he very much respects

I have not heard that he has engaged Harold, or the National Academies, or the professional societies, although i might not know if he did. He is very much a loner about things like this. He prides himself on being like teflon, but I am worried that he may not be as invulnerable as he may think

Our Chief of Staff, Greg Folkers (who has Masters degrees in both journalism and PH), is among the only folks here, partly excepting Cliff Lane, in whom Tony confides when the subject is difficult or personal, only rarely to me.... and Greg told me today that he thinks Tony is getting worried that the brown stuff is about to hit the fan, and that he may have become a major target

There is very little i can do to help because i am a mere scientist, not a NL, or member of the NAM, or head of a prestigious society (the only kinds of people Tony will usually engage with, as he is very proud).

So if he doesn't become more proactive, what remains is for scientists and science orgs at the very highest level to come together forcefully to push back against the craziness

Who would be willing to approach him directly and "talk turkey"? Harold? Rich? You? Victor? A couple of you?

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REL0000478517

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 15:01, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Tony will be well aware of this kind of push back. That's not the issue for you tomorrow. Its really how to get the scientific societies engaged once again in the campaign for clarity and resolution of the breech in integrity and the grants management beginning a year ago.

Maybe there would be a moment to suggest that he talk to Harold Varmus about strategy?

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, Apr (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
(b) (6) >;
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Jerry, i am traveling without much news access, but this is really depressing. My concern has grown to alarm and i am afraid to think what comes next

We seem to have arrived at that Orwellian point where all investigations of important matters have to exclude participation of the subject experts, since being a subject expert is disqualifying on the grounds that all expertise is inherently biasing.

Before George Orwell, we had Lewis Carroll telling us this. We are in grave danger of going down-the-rabbit-hole-with-Alice.....
D
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 14:36, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

The COVID Commission Planning Group includes people like Mike Osterholm. I don't put him into the category of Lipsitch, but am I missing something here? He was one of the people on the Biden COVID task force I talked to in December-January about the shattered integrity at the level of NIH/OD. He didn't say much to me, and I didn't take that as a signal that he was on the darker side of the divide.

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MORENS_NIH_039232
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I saw the results of a focus group of Trump supporters reported on today: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/20/vaccine-hesitant-republicans/ A bit of text in this report is about Tony.

"Every participant said they preferred hearing from politicians over the medical expert, who has been pilloried by conservative media for months over his coronavirus warnings. The data have shown that unfortunately Dr. Fauci has been politicized, and we need different messengers, because even the right messages coming from the wrong messengers aren't always helpful," Castrucci said, noting his foundation's polling [de Beaumont Foundation] found Americans trust their personal doctors more than the government's top infectious-disease doctor".

This is the fundamental problem we have, as the politicians will only use this as an echo chamber to amplify their support from their public supporters and constituents. It does point back to the scientific societies which have weighed in previously, but no more impact than we have had as individuals. It doesn't stop this approach, its just that we need some deus ex machina to help us. Is that going to be Eric Lander? What's happening with his approval? I haven't heard much of late.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:41 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; RichRobert (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow
Importance: High

Thanks for the email David - comments below. Also please see the attached
word doc with links to some of the political actions that I'm concerned about. Tell Tony that this is very early days, with most of these coming from the Right, and many that can be headed off at the pass by positive outreach to Democrats, which I believe people will be doing.

I've also put in a link to the new " Covid Commission Planning Group

(Covid
CPG)" that has no official role from USG, but boldly states as its core mission "to prepare the way for a National Covid Commission". Members
include David Relman & Marc Lipsitch and I have heard from many on the
conspiracy theory chatter networks online that this will focus partly on advocating for reduction in biosafety labs, viral work in wildlife, and gain-of-function.

Please feel free to share any docs that I've sent to you, with Tony. Hopefully you can do that in a way that avoids FoIA, and if not possible,
just show him stuff on screenshare 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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and
promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i am on leave in Florida for my granddaughters graduation from Florida State

Tomorrow at 130 i will be having a zoom call with Tony to tip him off

on
some of the info you sent in your recent email

I want to be sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to
share
[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

Other than what i see on tv, the jousting with Rand Paul and Jim Jordan, for
example, i do not know how much of this Tony is aware of. To my knowledge
he doesn't share it with anyone up here

I think issues he will be most concerned about are not your grant, although
i add i am sure he would do anything he could to restore the funds and get
the hellhounds of your back, but rather 1) the possibility that people like Rep Rodgers and her committee are about to turn up the heat and put Tony,
personally, in their crosshairs, and 2) the possibility the NIH funded scientists or other esteemed scientists, are in cahoots with politicians wanting to attack him or niaid
[Peter Daszak:] agreed

As background, we all went through the original version of this crap about
10 years ago with the original GOF attacks surrounding H5N1. As Tony's
scientific advisor, i spent much of the year, along with Jeff T, helping brief him and get him up to speed, which he did. At the time, David Relman,
who had been one of Tony's favorites, was leading the charge, and we all
wondered why a young guy with so much promise would choose demagoguery over
science. Lipsitch was only a minor player at that time, but relished his attack role and seem to become more alarmist as time went on. Now these
guys are in the NAM. How did that happen???? Ebright has always been a
crackpot, in the mold of Peter Duseberg, remember him?, and no one took him
seriously except some of the press who didn't know any better
[Peter Daszak:] I had the unfortunate issue of voting on Marc Lipsitch's membership of NAM. He's an accomplished scientist. He's also very opinionated, arrogant and pushy on whatever issue he believes in. I voted on
his science acumen.

I was unclear from your email on a couple points you might clarify. Obviously the Rodgers letter asking you to produce all those dox not only
overlaps with the Lauer letter to you, but could not have been written without the help of a virologist.
[Peter Daszak:] I have it on good authority (Ebright's Twitter account) that
he was involved. They are also getting pressured from Jamie Metzl who

's
working with the internet conspiracy networks actively to promote their
"Research"

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion
is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.
[Peter Daszak:] you're right..! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright. The internet 'researchers' are led by a banker and some junior scientists, many from human genetics, mol boil world.

Do you agree, and do you think that person was Ebright? Do you think Relman, Lipsitch, Imperiale, or other current or former grantees might have
been involved?

I am not sure we ever funded Ebright, but we did fund the others. I would
like to think that Relman et all are only mouthing off to the press, but do you think there is more to it than that, eg, that any of them are working with the politicians?
[Peter Daszak:] David Relman is talking with reporters a lot about this, including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus
emerging via wildlife-to-human spillover (he's quoted as saying my motives
are to protect the research I've been doing and reputations of our collaborators). Ebright is very actively (and obnoxiously) critical on social media calling me a 'Grifter' on a weekly basis and promoting unsubstantiated arguments for a lab leak. I had to look up what 'grifter' meant at first...

Your earlier comments about this proposed investigative committee, and the
possible role of these folks in it, are alarming. Can you be more specific about where this stands and what is being done to forward it and to squelch
it?
[Peter Daszak:] Nothing's being done to squelch it, and neither should it be - there will be other committees that also pop up. My concern is their bold claim that they're laying the groundwork for a 9/11 type commission
(and have a 9/11 commission person involved). It may be that just by saying
that a lot, and having well known people involved, they end up forming one.
They're clearly politically connected and are advocating for this politically. Jerry and I also proposed this in our paper published in Health
Affairs, but we assumed this would be led by NAM or some other well-respected institution.

When i speak with Tony i do not want to step into the politics of all this, as that's not my job and he wouldn't want me to. If he needs further info it might be best to connect you two, in an off the record manner. Would that be OK? We are getting FOIA'd non stop, so it's most important that

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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

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Date:	Sat, 21 May 2022 1:19:01 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 21 May 2022 1:18:35 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
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

https://twitter.com/gyamey/status/1528056965456441345?s=21 &t=Tsl2W0aUCee2obwkNBcuVA

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University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) u

Fax: 71

iPhone

On May 21, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Jeff Sachs' Op Ed is getting severely criticized on Twitter bysome 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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20,
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'David Morens' < (b) (6) Gerald T' (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005160
MORENS_NIH_013090
REL0000478523

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

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6); Keusch, Gerald (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

OK I drafted a couple of paragraphs for you to use or not or modify, ATTACHED

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Health Policy Scholar
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Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) avid Morens <
(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

I should add that the former Lancet Taskforce (Jerry and I are on it) have a "perspectives" paper to submit Monday for PNAS that reviews all the theories on origins and proposes One Health strategies to deal with future pandemic threats, so we don't need to go too far into the arguments for a natural origin – it will be dealt with in detail in that paper.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_013092
REL0000478523

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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?

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Health Policy Scholar
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Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_013094
REL0000478523

h' (b) (6) >; 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <
(b) (6) 'A (b) (6)
response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this 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

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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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com>; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586- 021-02039-y

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

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Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
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(b) (6) pport: Douglas Soriano
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone

> On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> I appreciate that Rich.
>
> I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

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Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
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Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) (b) (6)
email: roberts@neb.com

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

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MORENS_NIH_013101
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This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Te (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Ric (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchic (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

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MORENS_NIH_013103
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Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

(b) (6) / pport: Douglas Soriano

Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities

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[redacted] 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_005175
MORENS_NIH_013105
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
US
Te(b) (6)
Fax: (
email(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja y(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

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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

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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

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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.

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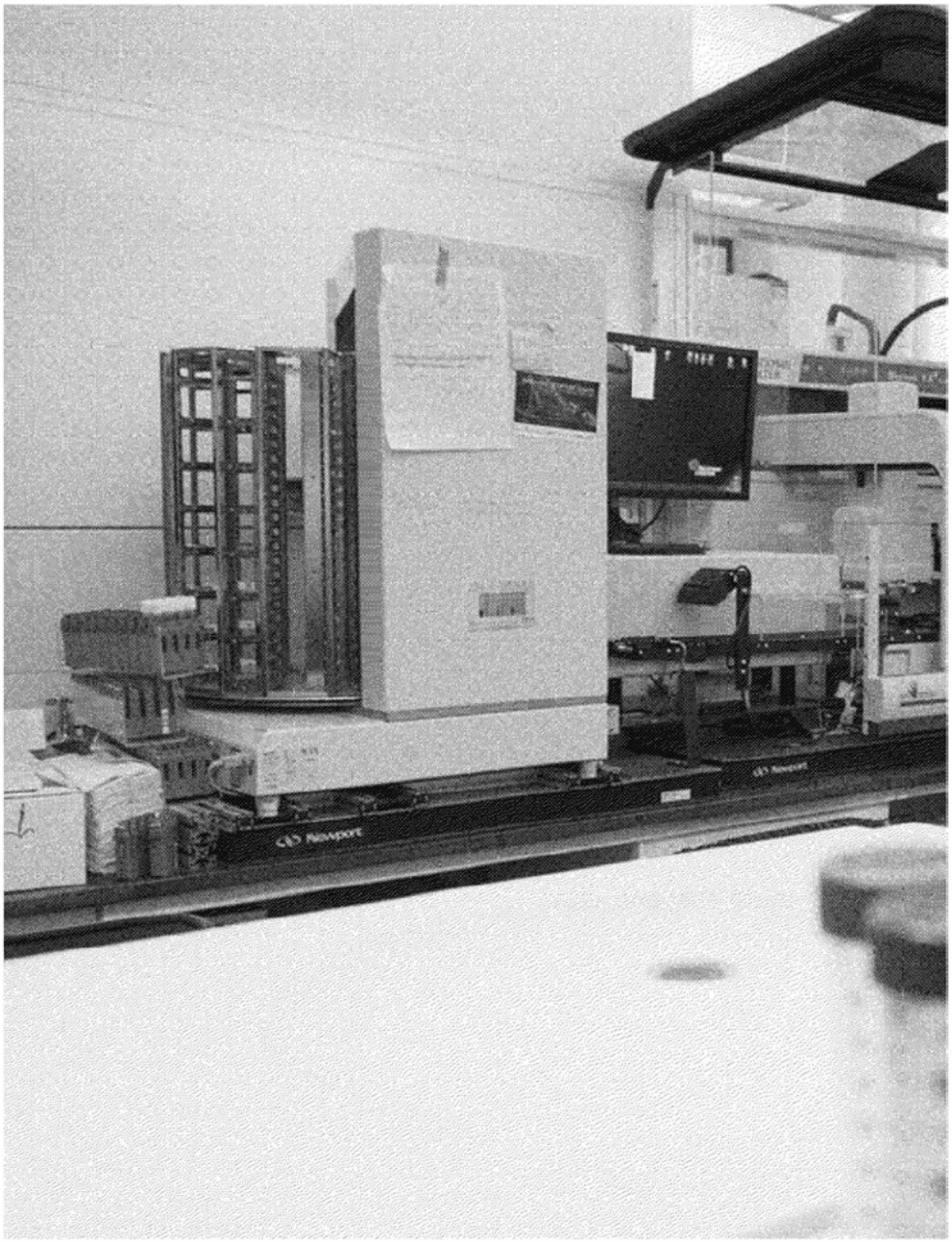
Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility 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.

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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.

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"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.

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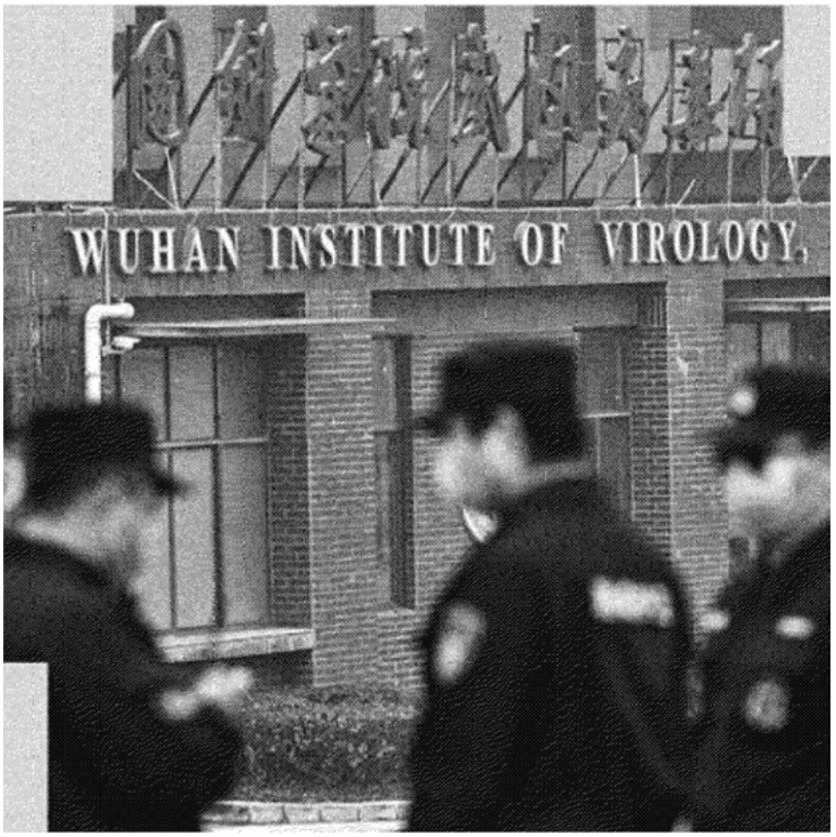

Related

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

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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.

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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

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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.

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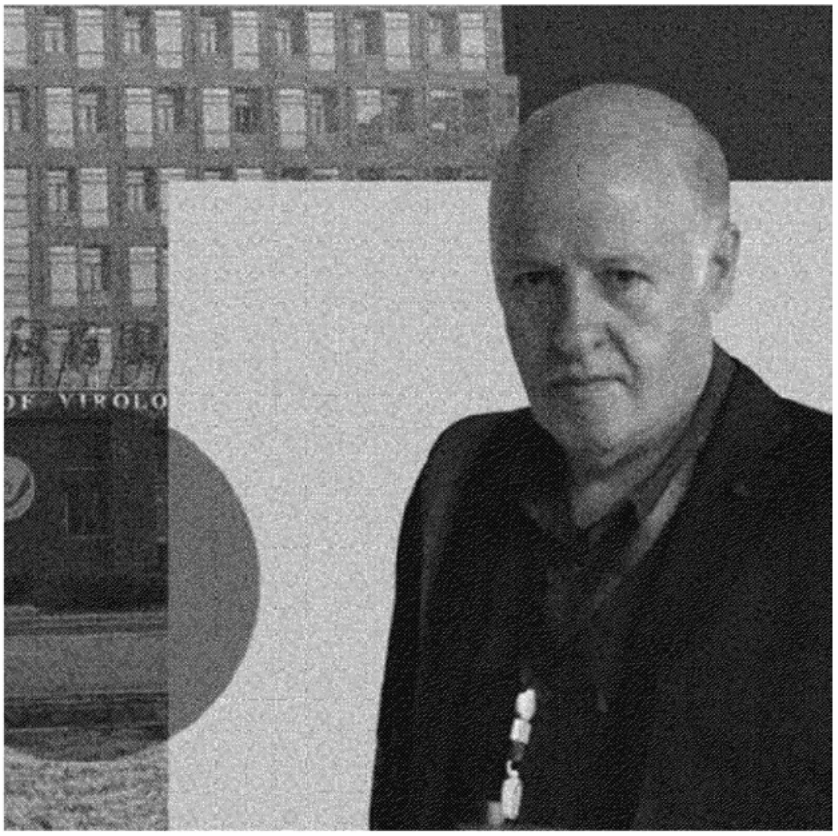
Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

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 st(b) (6)ent published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June

2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that "the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by" the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that "blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005192
MORENS_NIH_013122
REL0000478523

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
(b) (6) Aleks
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-_J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-_j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005193
MORENS_NIH_013123
REL0000478523

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005194
MORENS_NIH_013124
REL0000478523

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; Wojtc
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_005195
MORENS_NIH_013125
REL0000478523

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) Roberts, Ric (b) (6)
Subj Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <(b) (6)
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005196
MORENS_NIH_013126
REL0000478523

Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6) <
(b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <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

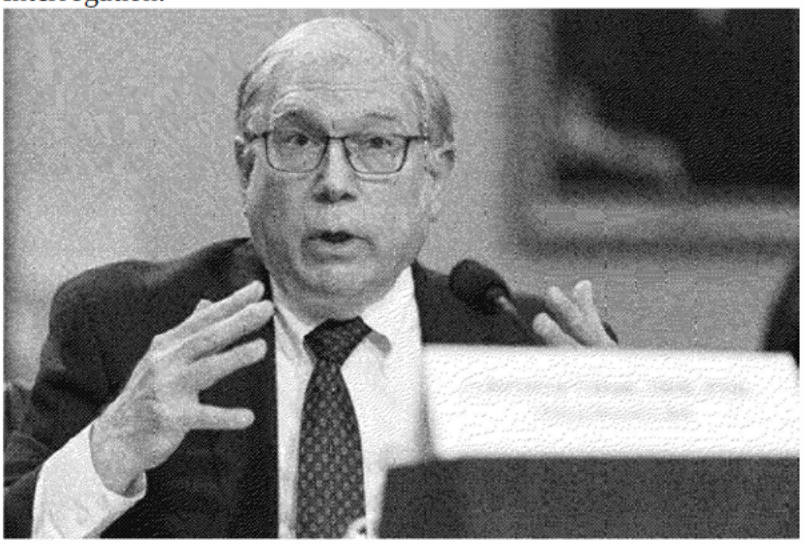
NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



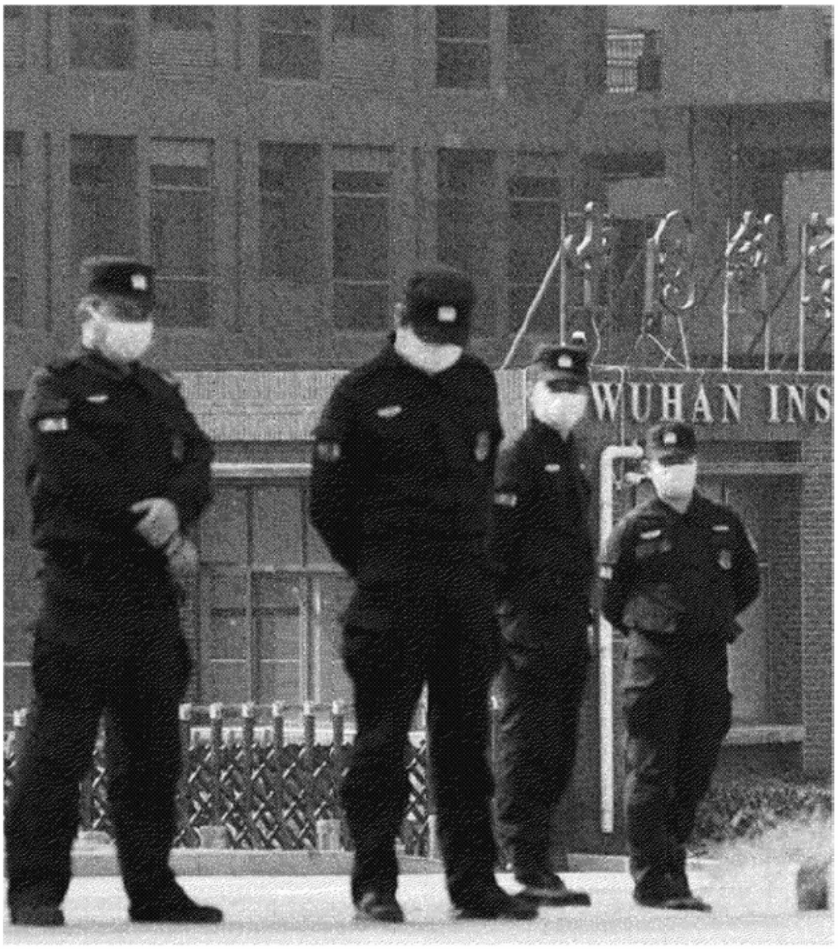
National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005199
MORENS_NIH_013129
REL0000478523



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.

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Date: Thu, 21 Oct 2021 4:03:55 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 21 Oct 2021 4:01:18 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Spoke with Tony
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Really good to hear that David - it's another tough day, with the press baying for our blood again - Robert's holding them back as best he can.

I'm working on a diplomatic and careful response to Michael Lauer's letter that not only gives them the (pointless) information they seek, but also pushes back gently on what are misconceptions from Tabak about what our data showed, vs. what the requirements for reporting were, and also on the timing of this - we reported this back in 2018 and received no indication from NIH etc. etc. etc.

It would also be really good if you send Tabak an email Jerry.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

Subject: Spoke with Tony

Peter, I had my regular meeting with Tony this morning. he immediately inquired about you and several times asked how you were doing, how you were holding up, and then said you and he were going through the same thing.

I mentioned the Tabak tweet and this morning's Collins release, and even said I suspected he had a hand in writing the Collins release, but he didn't confirm or deny.

he used alot of shall we say "colorful" language about the situation with attacks on EEcohealth and on him, then asked me what we should be doing scientifically to get on top of COVID-19, mentioning the great work of the phylogeneticists. I agreed but said that the phylogeneticists aren't going to solve the problems alone and that in country field work will be needed, reminding him that we have an ICIDR program as well as one-off program project grants that support multi-facet collaborative research between US and foreign scientists to fork at foreign sites.

I sense he hates what has been happening and feels a desire to get back to the science and away from the politics.

d

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

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Date: Thu, 26 Aug 2021 10:21:06 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 26 Aug 2021 10:21:02 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Paper out today - new rat alpha-CoV w/ RRAR polybasic cleavage site in Spike. Samples from wildlife farm, train stations, hotels in S. China
From: "Garry, Robert F" <(b) (6) >
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6) Kristian Andersen <(b) (6) >;
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

Thanks Peter – this is an important paper!

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 9:07 AM
To: Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6) "(b) (6) <(b) (6) Robert Garry <(b) (6) "(b) (6) <(b) (6) Kristian Andersen <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Paper out today - new rat alpha-CoV w/ RRAR polybasic cleavage site in Spike. Samples from wildlife farm, train stations, hotels in S. China

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

This paper's just out today online first after peer review in J. Virol. Normally wouldn't be of any global interest, but given the BS around Furin Cleavage Sites, it'll probably get some traction. It's a rodent alpha CoV w/ a cleavage site in the S protein so it adds another coin to the philosophical scales balancing 'natural' vs. lab leak – more evidence that these inserts are found naturally in a wide diversity of viruses, incl. alpha- and beta-CoVs, incl. SARSr-CoVs.

Please send a copy to Nicholas Wade and David Baltimore if you have their email addresses.

Full text here: https://journals.asm.org/doi/epdf/10.1128/JVI.01173- 21

Journal url here: https://journals.asm.org/doi/10.1128/JVI.01173- 21

For David M. – this wasn't funded by NIAID, but please send a copy to NIH Director France Collins to help him understand why actually working with scientists in China might help give us some advance information about viruses that could threaten human health.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022012
MORENS_NIH_042902
REL0000478543

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 8:04 AM
To: 'Edward Holmes' <(b) (6) >
Cc: 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) ; ' (b) (6) ' <(b) (6) >; 'Garry, Robert F' <(b) (6) (b) (6) u' < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Washington Post: Biden receives inconclusive intel report on covid origins

Sadly, I think we're already pretty much there with the racism for many of these news outlets…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1-212-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 1:24 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6) ; Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Washington Post: Biden receives inconclusive intel report on covid origins

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022013
MORENS_NIH_042903
REL0000478543

I agree - that's a good sign although I hope it doesn't descend into overt racism.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 25 Aug 2021, at 2:19 pm, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Additionally, I'm seeing a shift in the Right wing press to start pointing the finger at China for its "Strange food fetishes", "industrialized wildlife farming" etc. which is actually a good sign that commonsense on the origins is beginning to be accepted, albeit that the Right wing is putting an anti-China slant on this as well (of course). Example is this Op Ed in today's WSJ, below.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-19-coronavirus-origins-china-wet-market-lab-leak-intelligence-agencies-biden-xi-11629839700

- OPINION
- BUSINESS WORLD

Let the Spooks Speak on Covid

The spy agencies can tell us a lot even if they can't nail down the virus's origins.

<image001.jpg>

By
Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.
Aug. 24, 2021 6:44 pm ET

- SAVE
- PRINT
- TEXT
-

133

<image002.jpg>

Security personnel stand near the Wuhan Institute of Virology during a visit by the World Health Organization investigators in Wuhan, China, Feb. 3.

PHOTO: NG HAN GUAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Listen to article
Length5 minutes
Queue

If the U.S. intelligence agencies adhered to the mandated schedule, and there's nothing magical about 90 days, the White House on Tuesday received spookdom's report on the origins of Covid 19.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022014
MORENS_NIH_042904
REL0000478543

Leaks already indicate the 18 agencies couldn't settle an internal disagreement over whether a natural origin or a lab release was more likely. There is much else they might usefully say, though, in the declassified release the administration has talked about making public in the next few days.

With 100% confidence, the agencies could certainly tell us that China has engaged in a deliberate coverup. With some degree of confidence, they might tell us whether they believe China itself knows how Covid got started.

The agencies could estimate how committed Xi Jinping and his regime are to the propaganda claim that the virus originated outside the country, perhaps in the U.S. Army facility at Fort Detrick, Md. They might tell us about China's efforts to steal the secrets of the West's superior vaccines.

On a related question, they could estimate how long China will stick with its zero-Covid policy, which has required a deepening, Mao-like control over its population and China's re-isolation from the world.

If news reporting is correct, China is sitting on samples from early Covid infections and much other information it hasn't shared. A Bloomberg News investigation elaborates on a point made by this column: China's leadership would likely be covering up even a natural origin, "embarrassed that its citizens were still eating wild animals bought in wet markets—a well-known path for zoonotic disease transmission that China tried unsuccessfully to outlaw almost 20 years ago."

China's scientists would know with documentary certainty by now whether the virus is related to one held and possibly manipulated in a government-run lab. Thus it matters whether secret evidence shows they are still trying to find answers to Covid's origins.

The Economist magazine suggests that, following on the work of private researchers, U.S. intelligence supercomputers may have scoured the web for traces of deleted viral sequences once housed by the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

CNN, citing leaks, reports that the agencies may be in possession of Wuhan lab records that the Chinese mysteriously tried to take offline in September 2019, weeks before the Wuhan outbreak became publicly known.

The stakes are rising, geopolitically and politically. Once the story seemed to be that China, with its strange dietary fetishes and industrially primitive food markets, inflicted the virus on the world. The integrated, rules-based, freedom-based outside world saved the day with mRNA vaccines.

That story is less satisfying now that Delta has emerged. Our vaccines, however fabulous, are proving not a one-and-done fix. Everybody now seems to have a Delta breakthrough story. In my circle, multiple acquaintances talk about colleagues or family members who previously had Covid,

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were vaccinated, and now have tested positive for Covid again.

More than ever, coping with the virus seems likely to involve long-term adjustments. We might take with a couple of sacks of salt reports this week that China beat down its own Delta outbreak spread over 17 provinces by conducting 100 million tests in a matter of days, including testing every resident of one city 12 times.

Whether China can carry on this way is doubtful. In the meantime, it has effectively entered into a biological-cum-chemical standoff with the outside world. The global population's immune systems are being hardened by multiple exposures as well as by vaccination, and people are getting back to normal life after much loss and suffering.

China's increasingly virulent propaganda is aimed not at outsiders but at its own people, neutralizing what is bound to be a growing disgruntlement over recurrent iron-fisted lockdowns, over having to wait in lines repeatedly for mandatory testing, over the loss of tourism dollars, the loss of domestic and foreign travel and education opportunities, the loss of income and opportunities of every kind.

Three weeks ago I suggested the White House would likely prefer continued murk around Covid's origins for the purpose of rebuilding U.S.-China relations—that is, "unless the Biden administration's popularity is in free fall in three weeks and needs a foreign conflict to revive it." That caveat was offered in advance of the Afghanistan debacle, in advance of a now-avalanche of indicators suggesting the Delta surge is complicating what should be a shining recovery and renewing U.S. political fights over masks, vaccine mandates, schools and deteriorating hospital care in some locations.

The Biden administration has more reason now to treat the intelligence report on Covid's origins as a chance to lay down a tougher line on China's role in bringing this calamity on the world.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, A
To: 'David Morens (b) (6))' (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Washington Post: Biden receives inconclusive intel report on covid origins
Importance: High

Here's the 'nothing burger' from the US Intel Services.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/08/24/covid- origins-biden-intelligence-review/

Good quote from Bob Garry in here. Shameful disingenuous crap from David Relman, of course.

Hate to harp on about it, but we did have an active grant to work on "Understanding risk of emergence of bat-origin coronaviruses" in China that Trump/Francis Collins canceled, then suspended, and NIH is still refusing to release. We had active collaboration on the ground in the sites where the wildlife farms supplied Huanan and other markets, and I know that WIV is ready, willing and able to continue this work with us. Surely that's a better option than increasing the ranks of the CIA with people who "have significant scientific capacity relative to pathogens" that Biden is quoted as saying below.

This is beyond ironic at this point.

Cheers,

Peter

Biden receives inconclusive intelligence report on covid origins

The report falls short of concluding whether the coronavirus jumped from animal to human, or might have accidentally escaped from a lab in China

By
Ellen Nakashima
,
Yasmeen Abutaleb
and
Joel Achenbach

Today at 10:32 p.m. EDT
260

President Biden on Tuesday received a classified report from the intelligence community that was inconclusive about the origins of the novel coronavirus, including whether the pathogen jumped from an animal to a human as part of a natural process, or escaped from a lab in central China, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the matter.

The intelligence community will seek within days to declassify elements of the report for potential public release, officials said.

The assessment is the result of a 90-day sprint after Biden tasked his intelligence agencies in May to produce a report "that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion" on the origins of a virus that has killed more than 4 million people globally and wrecked national economies. But despite analyzing a raft of existing intelligence and searching for new clues, intelligence officials fell short of a consensus, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the report is not yet public.

The debate over the virus's origins has become increasingly rancorous since former president Donald Trump said last year that the virus originated in a Chinese lab. Efforts to understand the virus's provenance have been complicated by Chinese authorities' steadfast refusal to allow a more intensive inquiry by international investigators.

Biden's directive came after he received a May report from the agencies saying that they had "coalesced around two likely scenarios" but had not reached a conclusion. He disclosed that two agencies leaned toward the hypothesis that the virus emerged from human contact with an infected animal, while a third leaned toward the lab accident scenario.

The leader of the intelligence community, Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, cautioned in June that the agencies might not solve the mystery. "We're hoping to find a smoking gun," she told Yahoo News in an interview. But, she said, "it's challenging to do that," adding that "it might happen, but it might not."

The review involved dozens of analysts and intelligence officials across multiple agencies, Haines told Yahoo. She said she deployed "red cells," or groups to test analysts' assumptions and ensure the intelligence is scrutinized from every angle.

Another official said the intelligence community is "not necessarily best equipped to solve this problem," which is fundamentally an issue of science. Although spy services are "positioned to collect on a range of foreign actors," the official said, they are not necessarily poised to dive into global health data sets.

Biden himself, in his first visit to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in July, voiced the need for a more robust group to track pathogens. "You're going to have to increase your ranks with people with significant scientific capacity relative to pathogens," he said at the time.

Officials in the Biden administration hammered China's lack of transparency ahead of a World Health Organization report on the origins of the coronavirus. (JM Rieger/The Washington Post)

Many scientists familiar with the origin debate have been skeptical that the 90-day review would settle it, and some have said the inquiry could require years of research.

"We should not even be thinking about closing the book or backing off, but rather ratcheting up the effort," David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist who has pushed for a broad investigation of all origin hypotheses, said late Tuesday in an email.

The notion that the virus may have escaped from a lab got sharply increased interest this spring after 18 scientists wrote a letter to the journal Science in May saying that all possible origins needed to be investigated, including a laboratory accident.

Proponents of that theory point to classified information, first disclosed in the waning days of the Trump administration, that three unidentified workers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology — one of the

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world's preeminent research institutions studying coronaviruses — went to the hospital in November 2019 with flu-like symptoms. In China, people visit the hospital for routine and mild illnesses.
Throughout 2020, that hypothesis became enmeshed in election-year politics. Trump's assertion that the virus emanated from a lab came as he and other administration officials were blaming China for the global outbreak and trying to deflect attention from their botched handling of the virus at home.
Many scientists, however, noted that viruses have a long history of jumping from animals to humans. There are many plausible scenarios in which that might have occurred, including the possibility the virus spread from wild and domestically raised animals sold in crowded markets. Many early cases were clustered around a seafood market where traces of the virus were later detected on surfaces.
That zoonosis theory was bolstered by a June 7 report, published in the journal Nature, documenting 38 species of animals sold in 17 markets in Wuhan before the pandemic. The authors said many of the animals suffered from poor hygiene and were known to carry zoonotic diseases.
"We now know for sure that [coronavirus] susceptible animals were in fact sold at the markets in Wuhan, which changes the calculus tremendously," Robert Garry, a Tulane University microbiologist who strongly supports the zoonosis theory, said in an email.
Experts in viral genome evolution also determined that the novel coronavirus almost certainly was not engineered as a bioweapon because it has several naturally occurring features seen in many other coronaviruses. But even scientists favoring a natural origin have said that without definitive evidence of animal-to-human transmission, it is not possible to rule out the possibility that a laboratory accident led to the outbreak.
And many questions remain unanswered. The animal that carried this virus before it infected people has not been identified — a process that has taken years in previous disease outbreak investigations. Nor have the lab-leak advocates found any direct evidence that SARS-CoV-2 was inside a laboratory in Wuhan before the pandemic, although the lab has not released its records, which have been sought by scientists and governments around the world.
A delegation of investigators from the World Health Organization made a brief visit to the Wuhan laboratory in February and later declared that there were multiple possible origins, with a natural zoonosis most likely and a lab leak "extremely unlikely."
But the WHO director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, undercut that conclusion, saying it would be premature to rule out the lab-leak theory. The WHO effort was also criticized by some international scientists and researchers, who called for further investigation.
White House press secretary Jen Psaki on Monday said the public would be told the report's outcome. "I don't know what format that will take at this point in time," she said.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:36 AM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: (b) (6) ; (b) (6) (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; Garry, Robert F (b) (6) (b) (6)
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

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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 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'
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> > icymi
> >
> > 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

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Date:	Tue, 15 Jun 2021 4:42:02 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] <(b) (6) >
To:	Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

David

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
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

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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

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Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:24:34 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:22:43 AM -0400
Subject: Use this thread to respond! Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Jason Gale <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) (b) (6) Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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.: +1-212-380-4474
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

(b) (6)
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:36 AM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc (b) (6)
Gar (b) (6)
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 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 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

From: (b) (6) At: 08/22/21 15:23:17 UTC+8:00
To: Pa ERG/ 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

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Date: Tue, 12 Oct 2021 11:47:34 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 12 Oct 2021 11:47:29 AM -0400
Subject: Re: [EXT]Re: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]
From: Worobey, Michael - (worobey) <(b) (6)
To: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
CC: R (b) (6) <(b) (6) Jason Gale <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) d Holmes <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)

Has the Nature news story come out yet? Does anyone have a link? I'm feeling masochistic.

Michael Worobey
Louise Foucar Marshall Science Research Professor,
Department Head, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona

On Oct 12, 2021, at 8:20 AM, Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) wrote:

External Email

Yes - every day from her another tweetorial about about the "less than honest scientists " on circe Feb 1 email/telecon or yet more inuendo regarding Peter. It's tiresome.

Good to remember that chan bullied her way into the origins debate by claiming that anyone who collaborated with a Chinese scientists was contributing to genocide, that the RmYN02 and RaTG13 genomes were fake, that SC2 was perfectly adapted to humans and the leading scientific journals were part of the grand conspiracy.

<image001.png>

What she's taking about in terms of "abuse" in the Nature abuse article is mostly being labeled a "conspiracy theorist" [which is accurate] and not getting her terrible papers published in *Nature* .

From: "Rasmussen, Angie" (b) (6)
Date: Tuesday, Octobe (b) (6)
To: Kristian Andersen
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, Peter Daszak (b) (6) >, David Morens (b) (6) >, Edward Holmes (b) (6) >, Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >, Robert Garry (b) (6) (b) (6) ldstein < (b) (6) ey, Michael - (worobey)"
Subject: Re: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]

And me as well, considering one of the people they interviewed has been instrumental at directing abuse to many of us on this email. I'm sorry that she's also been on the receiving end of it, but in my view that's all the more reason to denounce it when it occurs, rather than implicitly encourage it.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006283
MORENS_NIH_015173
REL0000478561

University of Saskatchewan
Office: (b) (6)
She/her
www.vido.org

<image002.png>

On Oct 11, 2021, at 10:30 PM, Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

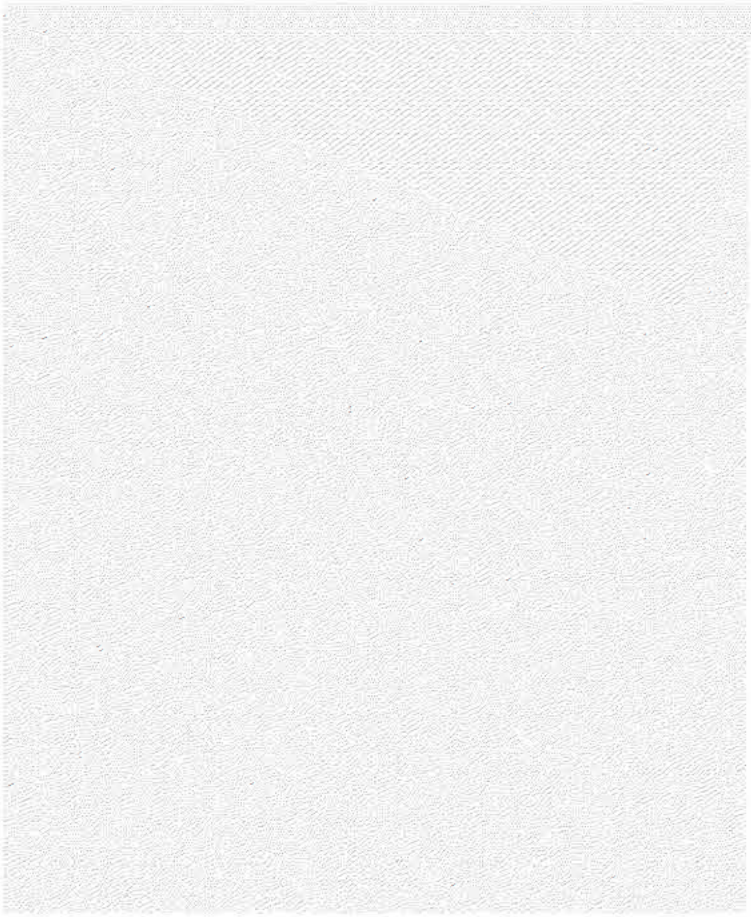
Thanks Jason - and I saw the article coming out in Nature. You can't guess who they interviewed for that one.... But let's just say that they'll be getting an email from me.

K

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 7:18 PM Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

JFYI. I'm so sorry this is happening to scientists!

From: info@smc.org.au At: 10/12/21 13:09:37 UTC+11:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: Pandemic levels of abuse directed at COVID experts [EMBARGOED]



Issued: 12 October 2021

View this email in your browser

EMBARGOED UNTIL

MEDIA RELI
COVID-19

Around 1 in 5 Australian

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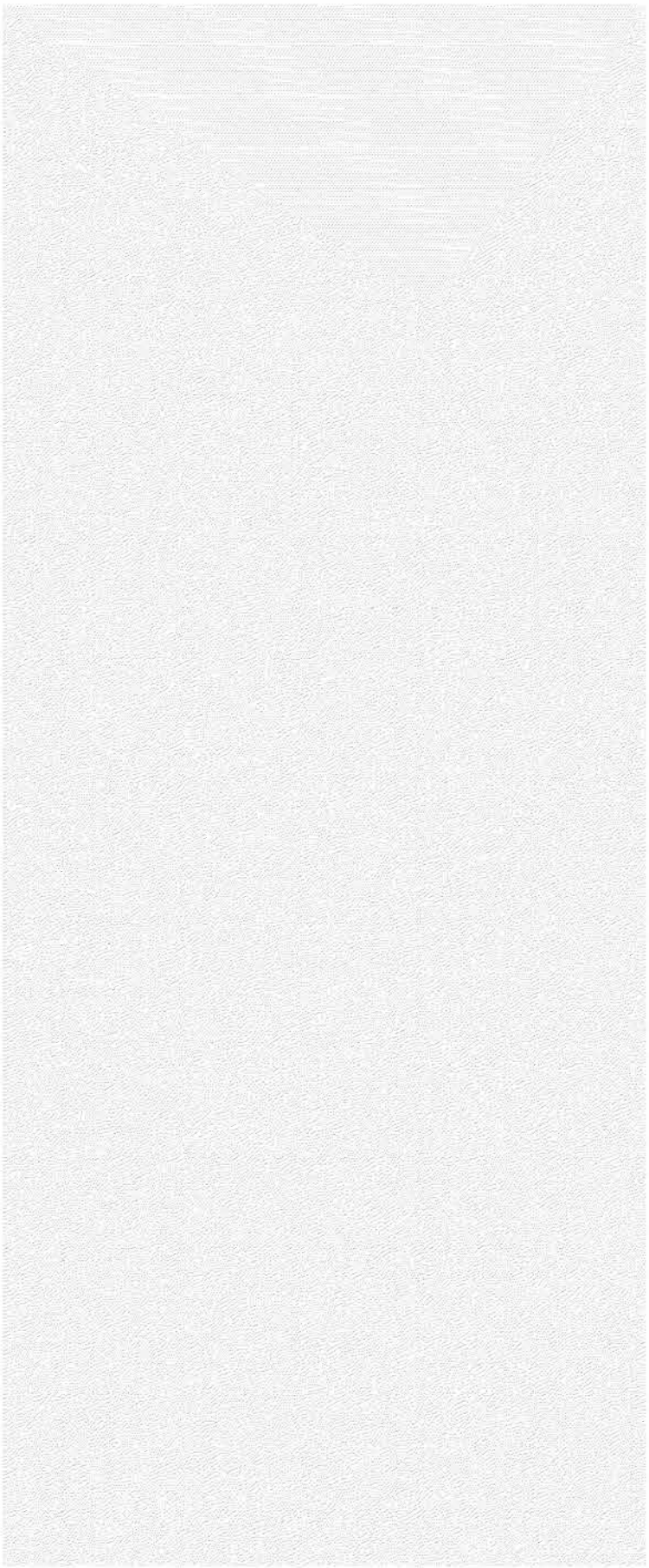

they experienced
media about COVID-

The results, which
to the survey and

The survey found
talk about COVID-

"Scientists are facing
COVID-19," said Lyndal
Centre (AusSMC).

The AusSMC also
With the help of Science
Zealand the survey

Nature's poll* found
with 15 per cent reporting
violence.

"During the pandemic,
and in our newsfeeds.

"But for some, the
the media again."

Around 40 per cent
said the trolling and

These experiences
respondents saying

While scientists said
believes they must
pandemic.

"If experts take the
worse off," said Lyndal

The trolling of scientists
personal tales of threats
issue.

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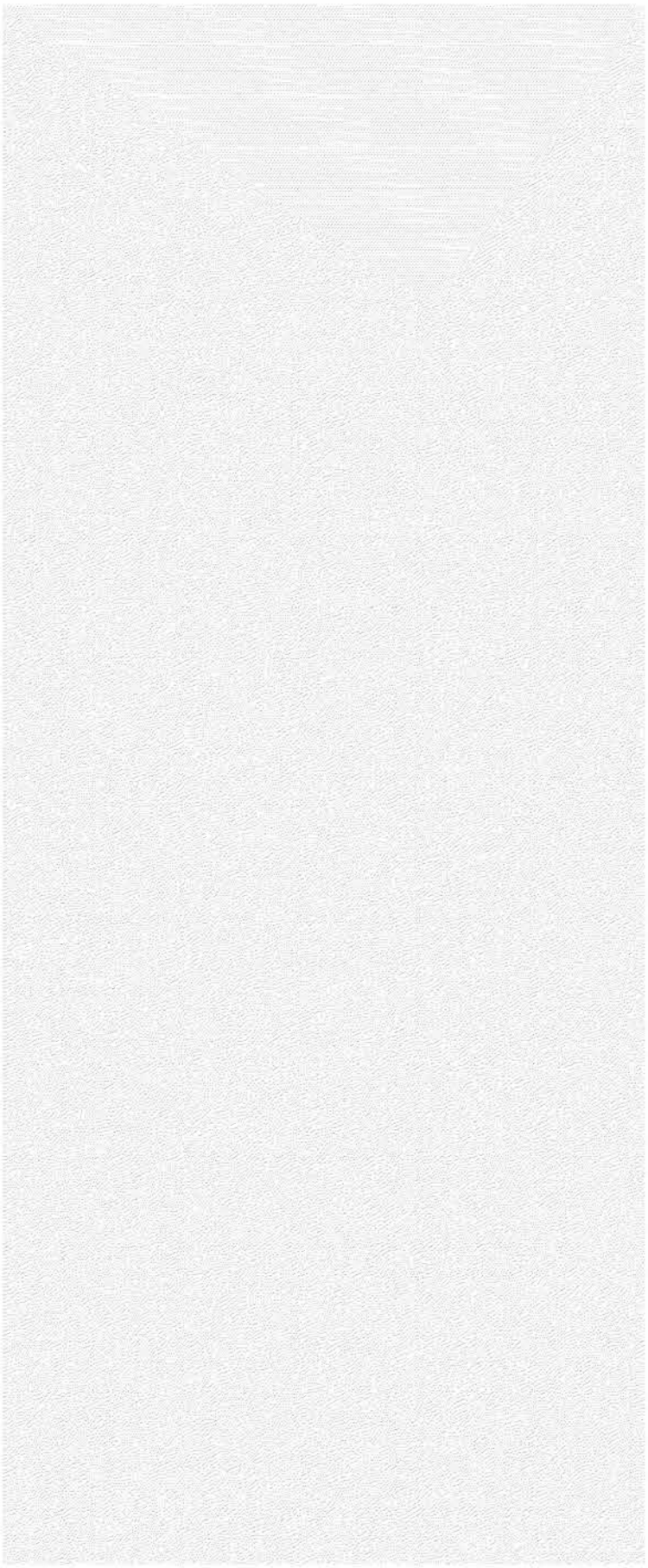

The Australian Science
prepare scientists

While scientists shouldn't
we can all play a role

"If a scientist has helped
comment on the news
help, and listen to

-ENDS-

Media Contact:
Lyndal Byford, Director
Ph: (08) 7120 8666
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Australian and New
day the embargo lifts,

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available on **Scimex**

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anything else, please

COVID RELATED

Gideon Meyerowitz-

"For me, the trolling
anti-semitic hate online,
everywhere just for
than some of my colleague
Gideon has not declared

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006286
MORENS_NIH_015176
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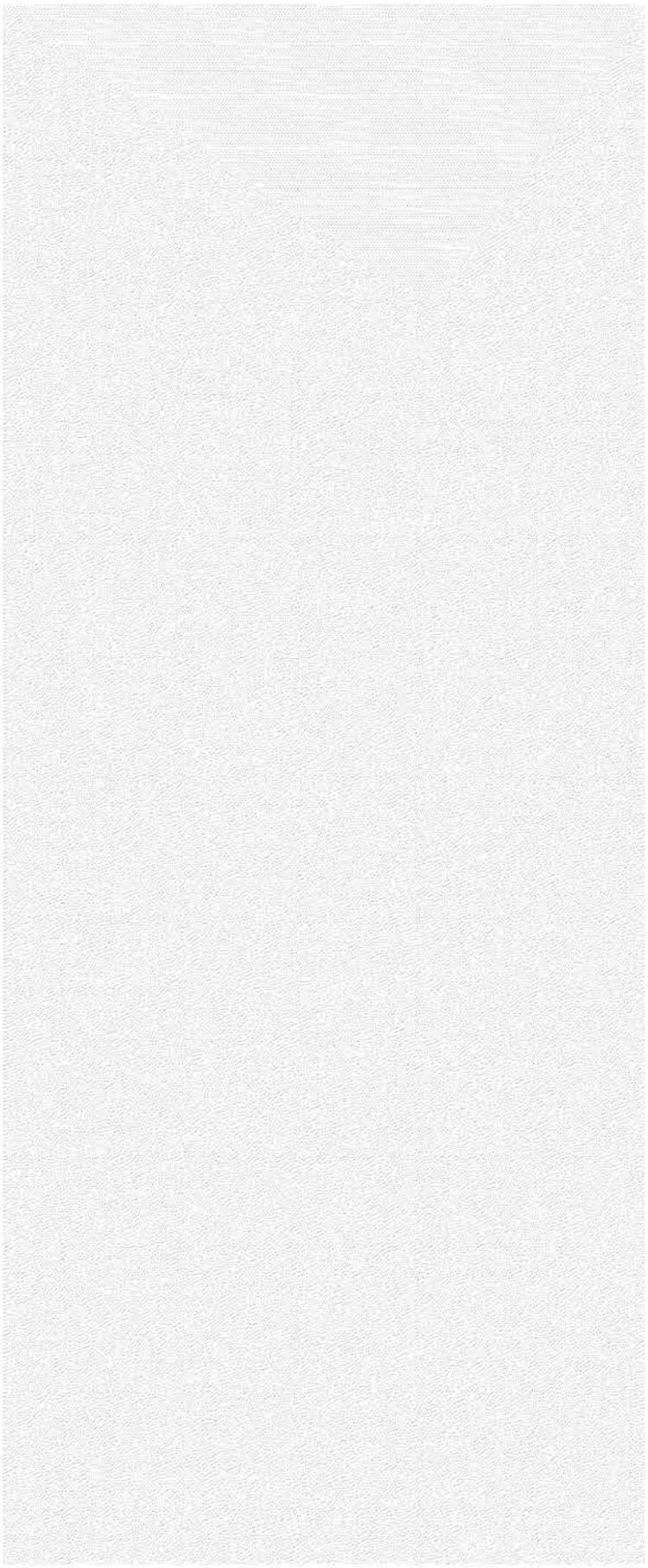

He is contactable

Professor Raina
the Kirby Institute
"Trolling is common,
discredit anyone who

Classic tactics are
become mainstream,
public health measures

Trolling can be on
against me in media
misogyny seem to

The saddest, however,
by an agenda, but
professionalism. They
to see a colleague
from the professional
Raina has not declared

She is contactable

r.macintyre@unsw.edu.au

Prof Margaret
"After reflecting on
police - whilst not
researchers at our
post or put information
immediately follows

I know we are sometimes
reporting these activities
calling it out in multiple

In the same way that
and threats on social
different ways. For

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006287
MORENS_NIH_015177
REL0000478561

Margaret has not

She is contactable

Prof Brendan

"Yes, I have indeed
the time. But more
men like me, where

Scientists don't covet
the limelight, but
scientists do this,
much at stake.

Apart from the mental
trolling negativity
ashamed to admit
social media than
energised by. The
resemblance to that.

Brendan has not

He is contactable

Professor Tony from the Melbourne Melbourne.

"As a white middle-
emails and messages
threatening text officially
more. I have blocked
vile material.

It is also salient, I
intent. I have received
members of the public

Tony has not declared

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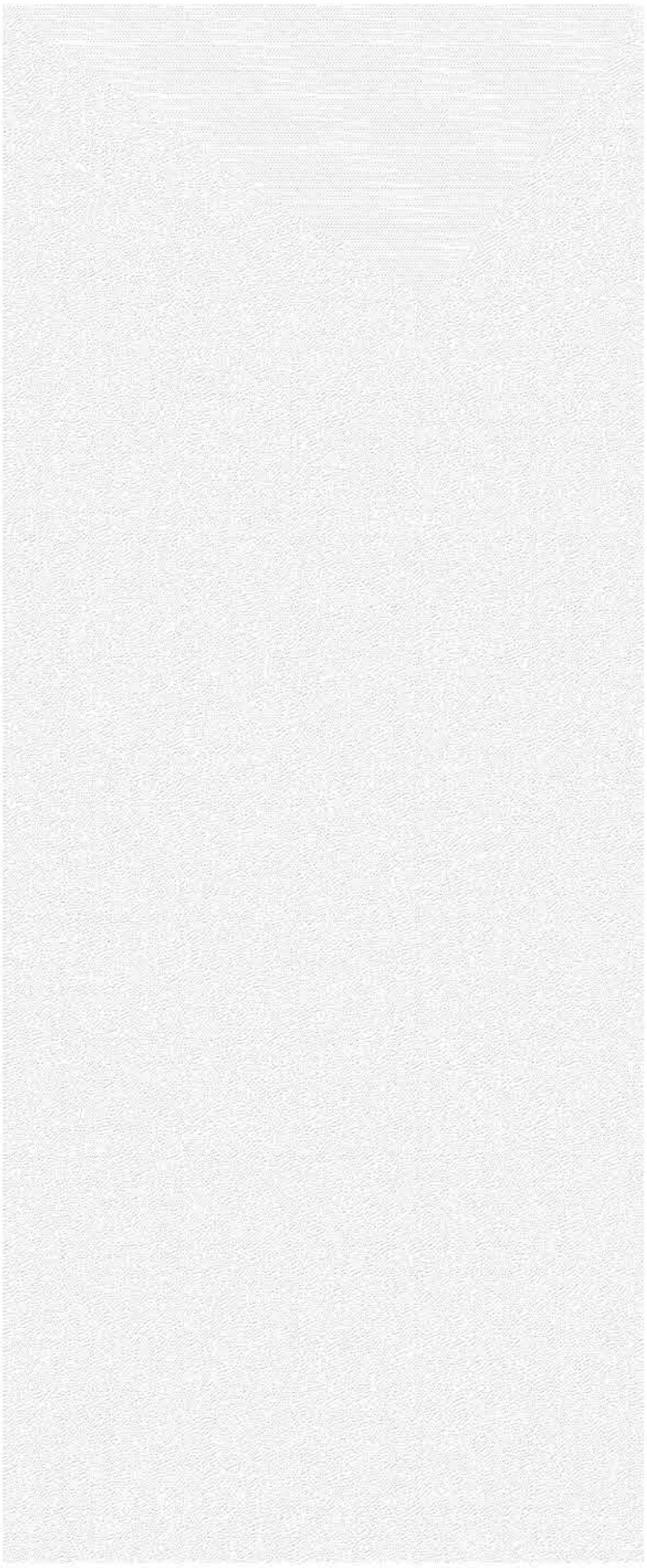


He is contactable

Professor Dominic Hospital. He is Diseases) at the Medical Research, convened team

"For me, as a medical information. It is the colleagues.

We know the information used to support a political anonymity of social questions."

Dominic has not

He is contactable

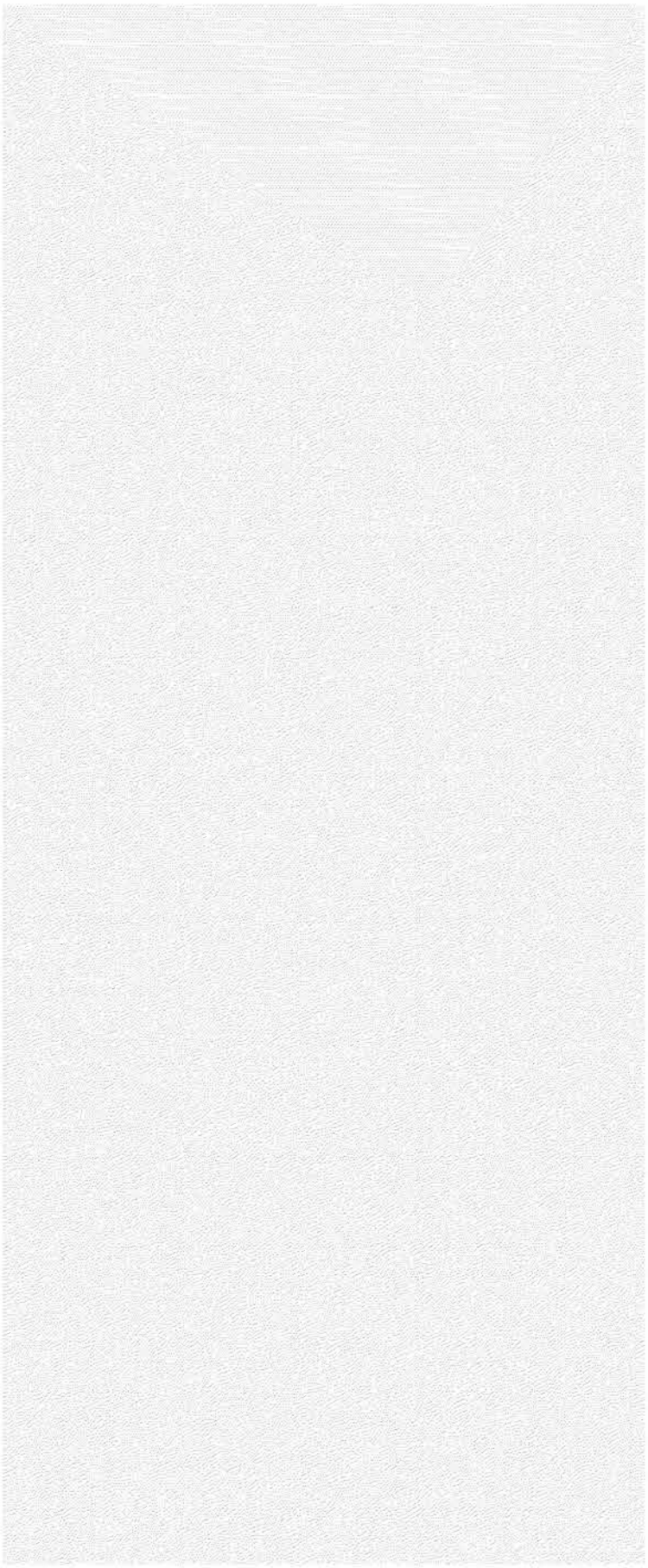
Dr Andrew Miller

"I define trolling as substance of an argument. outspoken in the media which is predictable, comes from politicians,

The latter is more colleagues, triangulation meetings being organised, mentioned in a speech, media.

I believe the main middle-aged man represent thousands "policy" that can be educated and willing of that is unavailable

I also have a large



through op-eds and
more to lose - a job
publicly. I am sure
but that is no big price
an effect - or the people
to highlight how much
submission by bullying

Andrew has not declared

He is contactable

NON-COVID

Professor Lisa and Services,

"I no longer read comment
follow the comments

I dropped off all social
former workplace
The content was extremely

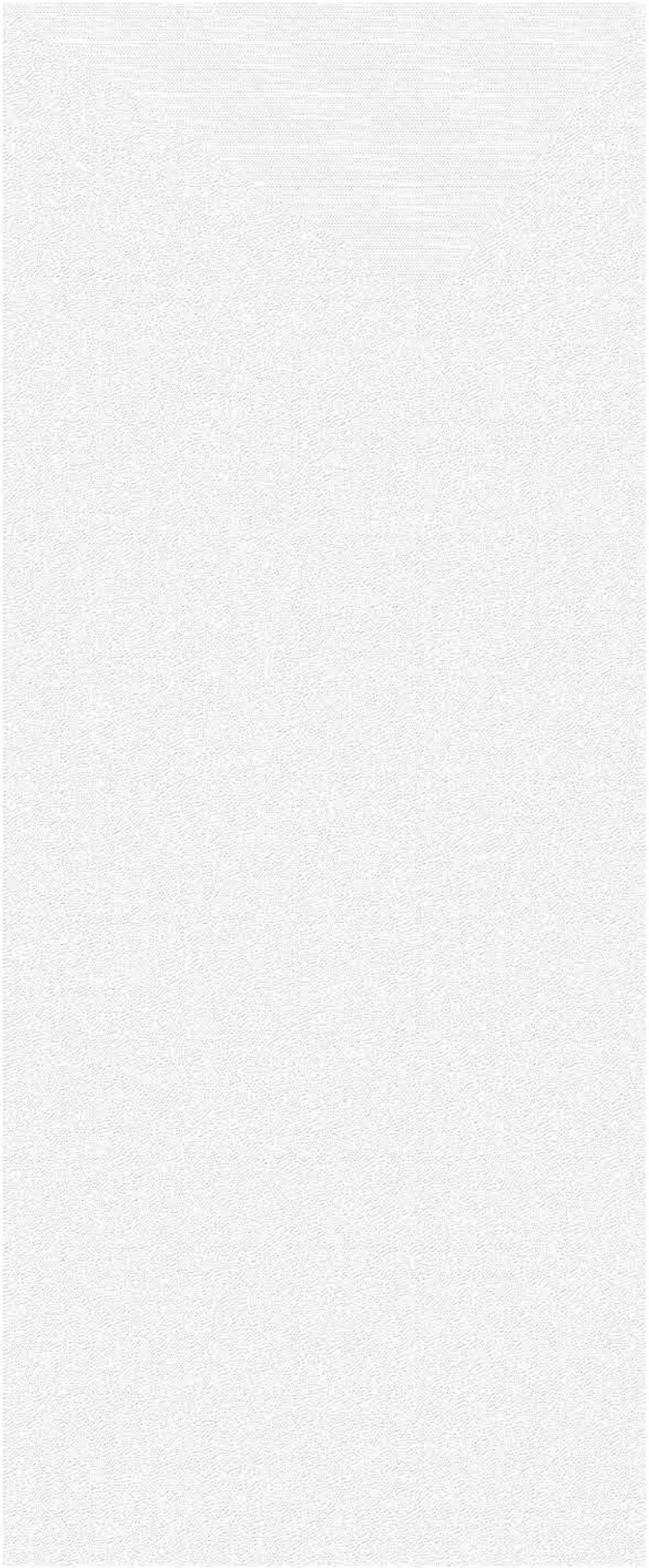
At the height of this
took multiple routes
achieving an AVO
frightened I felt at

During this time, we
his mate was waiting
the ground. Apart
nearly died. I got into

Why? The only things
mess. Nothing else

I still get some of
get attacked for it."

Lisa has not declared



Professor Dale
Sciences at the
"Researchers are human

I've always considered
communication activity.
media stories and
environment and

However, after almost
abused, received death
unacceptable, and
has negative emotional
engagement work.
in the first place and
Dale has not declared

Quote from anonym
"I had a decade (more
continuous flow of
in place to screen
family and moved

I had offensive material
unknown people.
assassination including
colleagues who jumped
me in case it returns.
made me far more

*Scientists Under

The Australian Science
Australians. We provide
portal for Australia and
ensure this important

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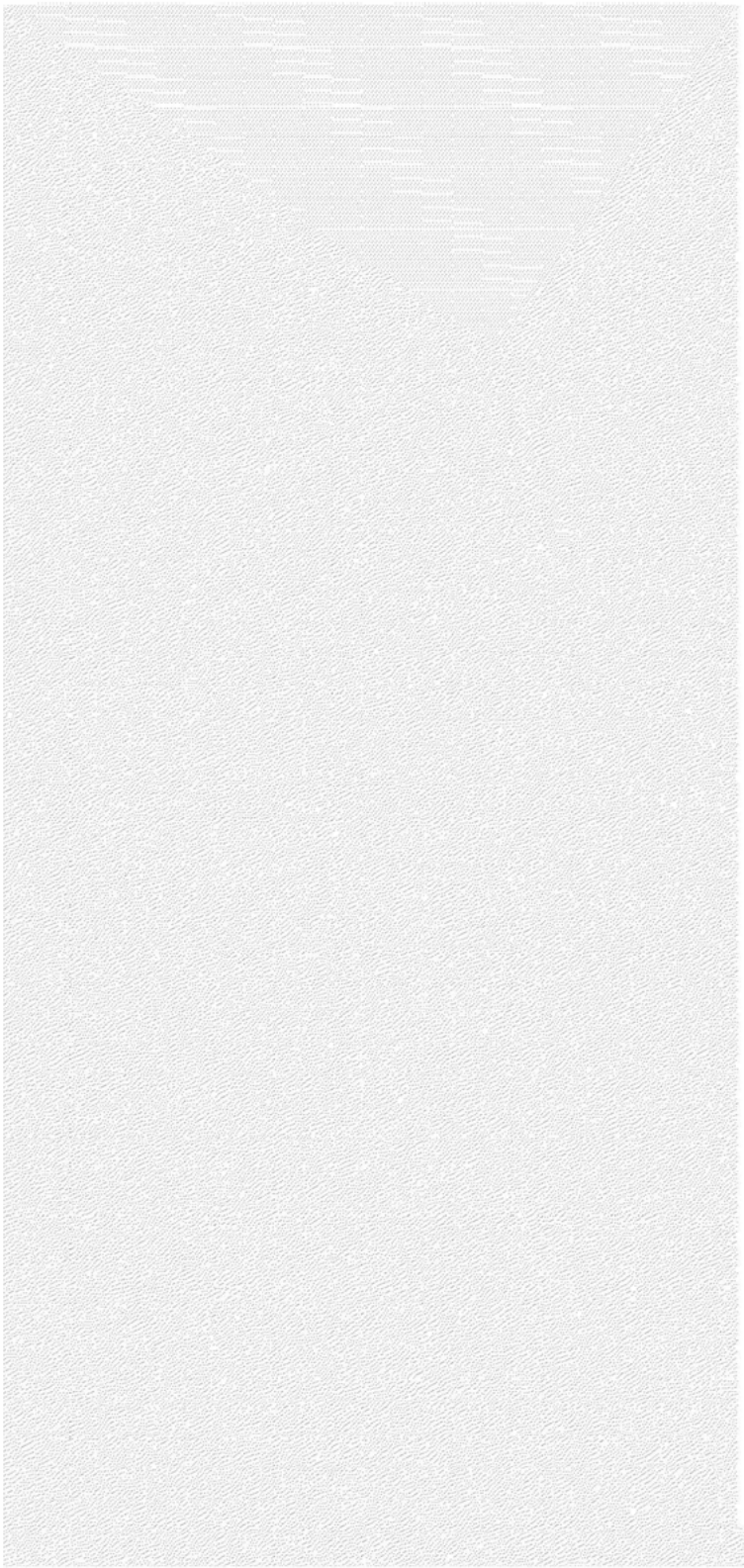

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AustralianScience Media
The Science Exchange
55 Exchange Place
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RUNDLE MALL SA 5000

Ph: **(08) 71 208666**

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Error! Filename not specified.

Date:	Thu, 9 Sep 2021 5:10:37 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 9 Sep 2021 5:07:34 PM -0400
Subject:	here's the latest line of attack today...
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <edw (b) (6) Jason Gale <(b) (6) Rasmussen, Angie <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth-alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

There's a good response from NIH: 'An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

This story is particularly irritating because if you look at the P3CO rules, it's clear they are meant for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans. Let's also not forget that the virus with a higher viral load in mice was actually because it had the spike protein of a bat virus being flown around every night by tens of thousands of bats in rural china – not something new created by us to enhance virulence - In fact, the opposite: the fact that we could do this work with a chimera means that we don't have to isolate and culture every single new bat cov we find. It reduces risk!

INVESTIGATIVE GROUP

Fauci-Funded Wuhan Lab Viruses Exhibited Over 10,000 Times Higher Viral Load Than Natural Strain, Documents Show



DAILY CALLER NEWS FOUNDATION

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ANDREW KERR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER
September 09, 2021 3:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited "significantly higher" viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

"Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice," Ebright tweeted. "One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice."

"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.

In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.

Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.

EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.

"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."

"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.

EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.

B.2 (Year 4 NIAID CoV Report_Final for eRA Commons.pdf)

1R01AI110964 Year 4 Report PI: Daszak, Peter

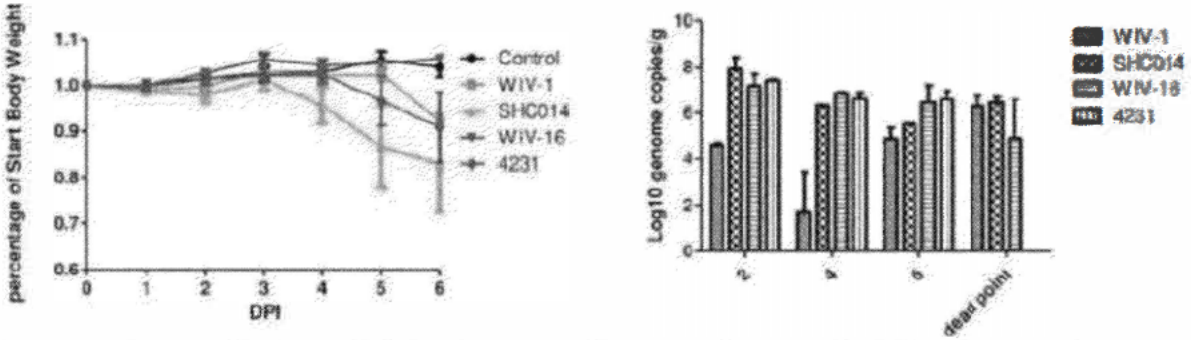

***Figure 35.** In vivo infection of SARSr-CoVs in hACE2-expressing mice. (a, left) Body weight change after infection; (b, right) Viral load in lung tissues*

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-

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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 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.

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."
"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."
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Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:29 PM
To: 'Garry, Robert F' (b) (6) Kristian G. Anderson (b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens (b) (6) Iward Holm (b) (6) 'Jason Gale' < j.gale@bloomberg (b) (6) (b) (6) 'Stephen Goldstein' (b) (6)
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

That's interesting about Jesse Bloom– I wasn't aware of that work and hadn't really heard of him before this year to be honest. I suspect that like many people his view of his own research is that it's highly professionally managed and carefully controlled re. biosafety. He clearly has a different view of the work at WIV & by other leading Chinese scientists and seems suspicious of their motives in many of his public comments. This can't be based on their published work it's often excellent. It just seems like a difficulty people have teasing apart their viewpoint about the Chinese Govt from their opinion about individual scientists. Anyone who's been on the ground in China rapidly realizes that the two are not the same.

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Garry, Robert F (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) ward Holmes (b) (6) asonGale < j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) ; Robert Kessle (b) (6) Stephen Goldstein (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The I virus 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 Dasza (b) (6)
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:49 PM
To: Kristian Anderse (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Robert Garry < (b) (6) Edward Holmes < (b) (6) Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>, "Rasmussen, Angie" < (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <
Subject: port on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

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Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our "report to NIH" in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing -- that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the "final version being received" as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the "Seeker". I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

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Cheers,

Peter

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Webs lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) ≥
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
(b) (6) obert F (b) (6) ward Holmes <
(b) (6) Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Stephen Goldstein (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Th research at Chinese

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop" 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…

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Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

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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



New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab
More than 900 pages of materials related to U.S.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989-understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice…
"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"
https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988-risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice…



Mara Hvistendahl
@MaraHvistendahl

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MORENS_NIH_043235
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.

7h

There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) dward Holmes <
(b) (6) (b) (6) RobertKessler <
(b) (6)
Subject: rchat Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_043236
REL0000478562

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garry, Robert F(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, Septemb
To: Kristian G. Andersen(b) (6) ; Edward Holmes(b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>;(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject:

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 <kga19(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes(b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
>; Garry, Robert F(b) (6)

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

> External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

> Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022336
MORENS_NIH_043237
REL0000478562

On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Just FYI
https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new-details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

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Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 10:55:04 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 10:53:07 AM -0400
Subject: I guess I had missed this part
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

https://twitter.com/stuartjdneil/status/1570308168663846912?s=46&t=b8uMqlCV5hZ9xmwbDRsVaw

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b) (6)
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(b) (6) **ve Support** riano
. | Phone: (b) (6) . | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910

email(b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) wrote:

Peter: The *Washington Post* report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the *Lancet Commission* report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true. Angela's was also terrific.

As ever,
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; R
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:
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(b) (6)

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012043
MORENS_NIH_023130
REL0000478586

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Rober (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

The Task Force paper is now in production. I won't have a real estimated date for publication until the galleys are available and then its 2-3 weeks. So probably end of the month, at best around the time of UNGA.

Now you should remind Horton about his promise to control Sachs. Its shameful how ineffective he, Horton, has been and how slovenly he is with accuracy and science.

We (the Independent Task Force) are addressing the dissemination of our report to be as forceful and as fast as possible when the paper appears.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OlRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date:	Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:52:33 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 15 Sep 2021 2:52:30 PM -0400
Subject:	FW: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?domain=cnn.it
From:	"Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
To:	David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >;
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
Be 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 7:03 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Ric (b) (6) d Holmes <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?domain=cnn.it

Don't hold your effing breath!!!!!!!! d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 5, 2021, at 19:02, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Once the intel agencies have used their "elite institution's supercomputers" to crank out a phylogeny, perhaps they'd like to publish it in a journal. As Editor-in-Chief of the Springer journal "EcoHealth", we'd be interesting in looking at a manuscript…

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, August 5, 2021 6:28 (b) (6)
To: Morens, Da (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
(b) (6) Kessler, Robert (b) (6)
Subject: RE: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?domain=cnn.it

Me too, but until we get rid of the politicians that may not happen.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
US
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (
email (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022887
MORENS_NIH_043893
REL0000478588

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Aug
To: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) <
(b) (6) Kessler, Robert (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <

Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt
https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?domain=cnn.it

EXTERNAL SENDER

I take some pleasure in knowing that in the end they will all kick themselves for having wasted their time.

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 5, 2021, at 17:29, Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:

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] (b) (6) 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
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Be 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022888
MORENS_NIH_043894
REL0000478588

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.

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022889
MORENS_NIH_043895
REL0000478588

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 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

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."
"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.

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Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2022 3:57:09 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 9 Jul 2022 3:56:58 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments: Outlook-kio3ynkn.png

Awful, but predicted and predictable: I explained to Jeff that his public position would cause unnecessary and unjustified harm to both science and scientists in the US. But in addition, it looks as though he invited public condemnation against himself by seeming to simultaneously support both the Russian and Chinese Governments.

My grandfather, Morris Goldberg a hard scrabble immigrant orphaned on the streets of Paris who got out before the Nazi's arrived and would chain smoke Phillip Morris cigarettes and used to take me to the Green Mountain race track in Vermont (when I was a kid) to bet on the horses, would call that "the Trifecta"

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone (b) (6)
Fax: 7

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, July 9, 2022 12:54 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

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I don't think Jeff Sachs did a thoughtful reflection on what sort of damage he might end up doing by supporting the lab leak narrative and pointing the finger at US scientists. He's now dragged US science into the line of attack from China, Russia, and the US right wingers, all over again…

It's been a relatively quiet few weeks in the press for us at EHA, but I noticed some increased harassment by email etc last night. I've now found out that Tucker Carlson on Fox News decided to do a 'retrospective' on the lab leak narrative and demand investigation of US scientists including me and EcoHealth. The video's below – pretty miserable attack full of errors, innuendo and outright lies…of course… and with video of me and naming me as a person who likely started the pandemic.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MJrUew2Kyg

If you don't want to watch it (and it's extremely irritating) – just have a look at the comments on the website and you'll see where all this is going – with over a million views in one day, that's a million hard right US citizens putting US scientists on their hit lists for harrassment and worse…

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, July
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) sch (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) ura < Jeff Sturchio <

Subject: Fwd: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: July 9, 2022 at 13:12:58 EDT
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: New n 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]" (b) (6) >
Date: July 9, 2022 at 12:53:14 EDT
Subject: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Tech & Science

Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

By Ed Browne On 7/6/22 at 10:51 AM EDT

A Russian government official has demanded that Washington be "held accountable" for the COVID-19 pandemic after a pair of university professors said U.S. research organizations had more to answer for.

Since the early days of the pandemic in 2020 there has been much discussion over how SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID, came into existence.

World Health Organization (WHO) researchers sent to Wuhan, China, to investigate the first known outbreak concluded that although more research was needed, a natural spillover to humans from animals was the most likely outcome and considered a lab leak scenario to be "extremely unlikely."

At the time the lab leak scenario was perhaps more of a fringe idea and one that carried with it an air of conspiracy theory. Since then, calls for investigation into the origins of COVID, including a lab leak, have come from the U.S. president himself and the possibility has not been written off, though it's sparked animosity between scientists who disagree on the likelihood of the theory as well as between countries who are keen to off load blame.

Proponents of the lab leak theory argue that it is no coincidence that some labs—notably those in Wuhan—had been working on engineering coronaviruses in the years prior to the pandemic.

In May, two Columbia University professors published an opinion article in the U.S. journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) in which they argue that animal spillover and a "research-related incident" are "the two main hypotheses" regarding the origin of COVID and that "there is much important information that can be gleaned from U.S.-based research institutions, information not yet made available for independent, transparent, and scientific scrutiny."

Jeffrey [redacted], an economics professor, and Neil Harrison, a professor of anesthesiology and pharmacology, went on to state that "much of the work on SARS-like coronaviruses performed in Wuhan [before the pandemic] was part of an active and highly collaborative U.S.–China scientific research program funded by the U.S. government" and that "it is still not clear whether the U.S. intelligence community (IC) investigated these U.S.-supported and U.S.-based activities. If it did, it has yet to make any of its findings available to the U.S. scientific community for independent and transparent analysis and assessment."

More recently, Sachs went further. Speaking in a discussion at the Gate Center research group in Madrid last month, Sachs said: "I'm pretty convinced it came out of a U.S. lab of biotechnology, not out of nature after two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder, in my view, of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. "We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear, but there's enough evidence that it should be looked into and it's not being investigated," he said, without elaborating on the nature or substance of said evidence.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000987
MORENS_NIH_006680
REL0000478592

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.

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Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 4:33:20 PM -0400
Subject: RE: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

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.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Apr
To: Keusch, Gera (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.

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?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012724
MORENS_NIH_024112
REL0000478595

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 7, 2021, at 12:42 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > 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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:25
To: 'M NIAID) [E]' (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry' (b) (6)
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012725
MORENS_NIH_024113
REL0000478595

The attacks reached a crescendo over this same period with daily op-eds in NY Post, WSJ, Daily Caller and other Right Wing papers bleeding over into CNN and even NPR. My Board are now beginning to get concerned and this puts me personally in a very difficult position – it's a risk to my job, my family's security, and my career. It's not a real problem yet – if the attacks die down a bit (which I believe they will), and if my Board continue to support me (I believe they will), the long game will win out.

But at this point I'm reaching out to call for help! Can we line up some allies who will help speak publicly about the science here on wildlife-to-human spillover vs. lab leak? Critically, there is still no evidence at all that a lab leak occurred, there is also no evidence at all that EcoHealth (or NIAID) funded or supported Gain-of-function work in China. Likewise, stories about EcoHealth 'hiding' DoD funding, being funded by China, not clearly indicating the source of funding on all public documents, etc. etc. are false and/or misleading. Still, the damage is being done and I'm worried that today the momentum is with the conspiracists.

Any and all ideas are welcome – ASTMH, NAM, NASEM, others?

Jerry – what about reaching out to Benjamin Corb and others?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1.(b) (6)
Website: thalliance.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, Ma M
To: (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Guys, see below..... The Biden admin apparently won't let any of us at NIH, including Tony, discuss the WHO report....

On the surface this sounds bad, but there is the possibility they just want one org to manage the message because they are trying to put out a fire. Or am I just Pollyanna? d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 17:43:09 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012726
MORENS_NIH_024114
REL0000478595

To: David Morens (b) (6) >

<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
Be 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: NIAID OCGR NSWB <NIAIDOCGRNSWB@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens –

For your awareness (and in case she also reaches out to you directly), Mariana Lenharo followed up today on her request to speak with you or another NIAID expert about the WHO report, which as you know came out today. We've been asked to refer requests for comment about the report to the National Security Council, and we will be directing her there.

Best,
Hillary

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Thanks for the background! Once we know what the WHO report says, we'll be better poised to make decisions about how to handle requests to discuss it… as you note, it is a bit of a hot issue.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

That's fine, although I think she wants me because I spoke to her before, and because I published the major paper dealing with it, along with Breman at FIC and ex-FIC director Keusch, and other authors.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012727
MORENS_NIH_024115
REL0000478595

Also, just off the record, we may want to not give this to Tony as he has been unfairly criticized over some of the issues. It could be a hot subject for him….d

---

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens,

Thanks for sending. I'll write back to this reporter and ask her to send a fresh request to the press office once the WHO report is available – we can at that time better assess whether it makes sense for you or another NIAID expert to speak with the media about it.

Best,
Hillary

Hillary Hoffman, Ph.D., Writer/Editor
Office of Communications and Government Relations, NIAID, NIH
5601 Fishers Lane #6G38
Rockville, MD 20852
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
> **Date:** March 16, 2021 at 18:21:42 EDT
> **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> **Subject: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview**
>
> Dear Dr. Morens,
>
> I hope you are doing well. It's been a few months since we spoke for the article on the origins of SARS-CoV-2.
>
> Now, as the WHO mission to study the origins of the virus is about to publish their report, I'm planning to write a new article on the topic to analyze the mission's conclusions.
>
> I was wondering if you would be available for a new interview on this topic once the full report is published (it should be either this week or the next one).
>
> I'm very interested to get a sense of how the scientific community is evaluating the mission's effort into finding the origin of SARS-CoV-2.
>
> Thank you so much,
>
> **Mariana Lenharo**

Scie J
T. + (b) (6) (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 11:02 AM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) > wrote:

> Thanks, you did a great job!
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> (b)
>)
> (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.**
>
> <image002.jpg>
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo <(b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:18 AM
> **To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: FW: approved RE: (Orig W: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens
>
> Dear Dr. Morens,
>
> The story for which I interviewed you was published this morning. Here is the link:
> https://elemental.medium.com/why- covid-19s-origin-story-is-still-a-mystery-46b0b336f122
>
> Thank you again for the collaboration and I hope to be able to interview you again for future stories.
>
> Kind regards,
>
> Mariana
>
> ---
>
> On Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 1:07 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:
>
> > I will be at 240 495 1738, my cell…. ty
> >
> > <image001.gif>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012729
MORENS_NIH_024117
REL0000478595

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Mariana Lenharo (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Thank you, Dr. Morens. How about we schedule the call for tomorrow, Wednesday, at 12:30?

Should I reach you at your office number (b) (6)

Thank you very much!

Best,

Mariana

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 3:04 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:

> Mariana, it looks like I have tomorrow from about 1215 to 130
>
> Late Thu might work after 4 or 5, not sure when earlier meeting will be done.
>
> Friday looks good except about 1 to about 4
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520

Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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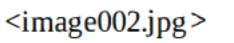

From: Mariana Lenharo <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Dear Dr. Morens,

Thank you so much for getting back to me. I have a pretty open schedule in the next few days. These are the times I'll be available:

Wednesday: anytime after 8 am
Thursday: from 8 am to 9 am OR anytime after 1 pm
Friday: from 8 am to 3 pm

Please let me know if any of those work for you and how would you prefer to be contacted at that time.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mariana Lenharo
Sc o
T. (b) (6) | (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 1:03 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

> Hi Mariana,
>
> Our media office indicated you would like to speak to me at some point this week. Let me know when. I am always busy and moving between various offices and meetings, bu5t I do have spaces of free time here and there. In general, mid afternoons, eg, from 130 until 330 or later, are not good….
>
> TY

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012731
MORENS_NIH_024119
REL0000478595



David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Mariana Lenharo <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 2:50 PM
To: NIAID NEWS (NIH/NIAID) <(b) (6) >
Subject: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Hello!

My name is Mariana Lenharo, I'm a science and health journalist and I'm working on a story about the work of scientists investigating the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic. This story will be published in Elemental (https://elemental.medium.com/), a Medium publication focused on science-backed health coverage.

As I was reading about this topic, I came across this very interesting article, "The Origin of COVID-19 and Why It Matters" and I'd love to interview one of the authors, Dr. David M. Morens. This would be a 20-30-minute interview by phone/skype/zoom preferably this week. Please let me know if you think this would be possible.

Thank you very much!

Kind regards,

Mariana Lenharo
Science and Health Journalist
T. (b) (6) | (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_012732
MORENS_NIH_024120
REL0000478595

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Date: Wed, 1 May 2024 8:17:21 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 May 2024 8:13:36 PM -0400
Subject: RE: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) : Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) effrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) _(b) (6) ; peter hotez (b) (6) leksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

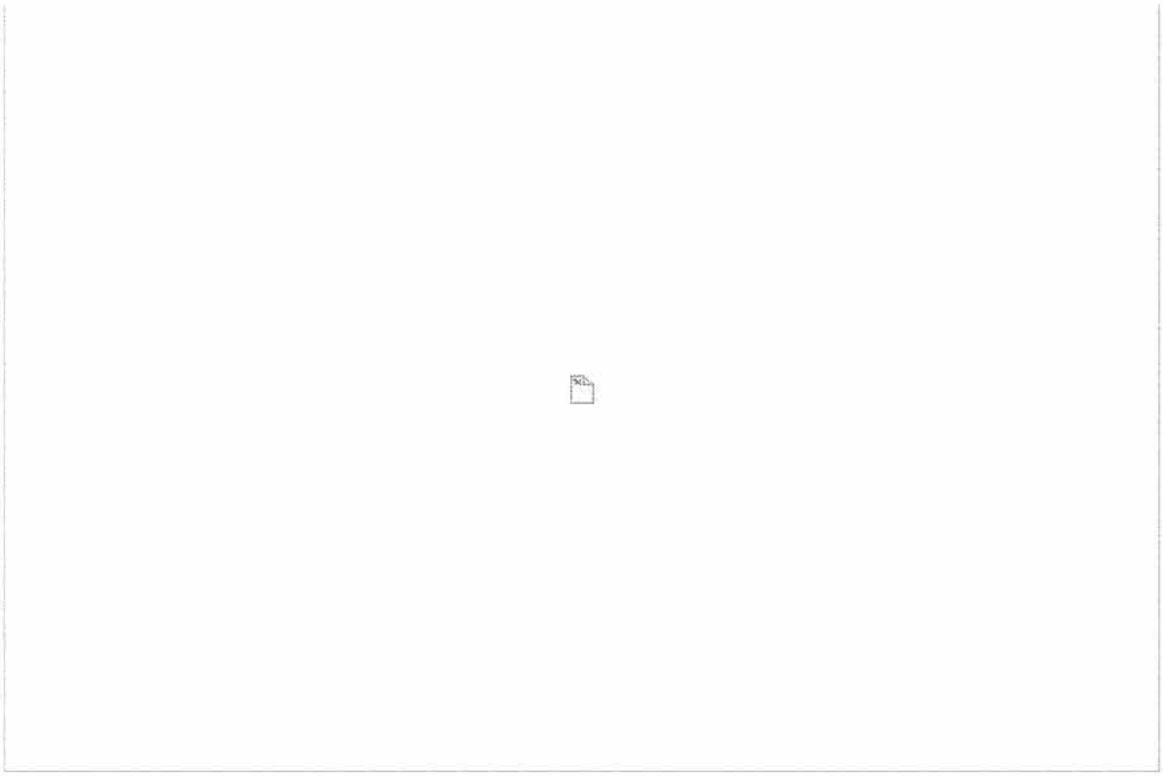
From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 1, 2024, 19:36
Subject: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory
To:

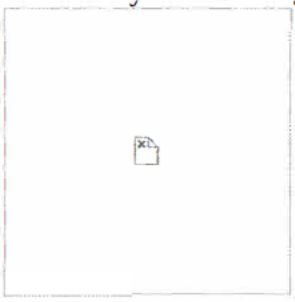
MORENS_NIH_051363
REL0000478596

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

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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

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.

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Date: Fri, 17 May 2024 7:31:51 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 7:31:26 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >;

Ok sure

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 6:30 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) wrote:

I'm not sure it's a wise thing to independently contact two journalists at the same publication about a scientific issue of importance that needs coverage for the general public. What is both start to put something together without knowing what the other is doing? If I were them I might be a bit upset by it.

I'm willing to contact Specter. I first go to know him just after I left NIH when he was doing a piece on the interference in NIH autonomy over its science, grants, and administrative independence by the George W Bush administration. As I recall he produced a very good investigative article about it.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

Sent: Friday, May 17,
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
C (b) (6) ra <(b) (6) David Morens
<(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts
<(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I don't know Specter, why not both?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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On May 17, 2024, at 6:20 PM, Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) rote:

Maybe we should pick one and provide the background information Peter is putting together. The trouble with The New Yorker or the Atlantic is that it will take weeks for them to get something published and what is necessary now is to have the news journalists point out the written record to the contrary for claims like those the committee is making. Hiltzik is good at that. He has the attention of Ruiz's PR guy who is distressed Michael did not soften the criticism in his piece today. I think that has just made Michael more determined to tell it like it is and reveal the perfidy of Ruiz, his colleagues, HHS, and ultimately up to the White House.

By the way, I have found Michael Specter at The New Yorker to be a direct, scientifically driven, hard driving writer. I have dealt with him in the past and could try to interest him in following up. What say?

Jerry

(b) (6)
From: Hotez, Peter Jay
Sent: Friday, May 17, 20

To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Robert (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I have no problem highlighting the NIH's incompetence. But we need a serious science journalist to step up and detail what's going on to set the record straight. We need an Atlantic or New Yorker article to exonerate Peter Daszak and EcoHealth. Who would that be? Michael Hiltzik? Amy Maxmen? Molly Jong Fast? Mehdi Hassan?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:
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(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 5:13 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) > wrote:

That just builds on the dystopic presentation of what Tabak said, referring to the definition with or without "of concern." He was careful to give them what they needed to distort the truth while not exactly lying.

On the other hand his testimony about the requirement for EHA to produce WIV lab notebooks is an outright lie. I have pointed this out to Jocelyn Kaiser and to Michael Hiltzig. Maybe one of them will write about it.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 6:02 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) >

Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

The NIH leadership has set back American virology for many years:

<image001.jpg>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 3:19 PM, Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) wrote:

Regarding Tabak's comments on GoF, this is what the text below shows.

Rep. Lesko: "Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?"

Dr. Tabak: "It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

So it is not what he said but how the SSCP spun it. That's a weakness that should be exploited in the press. It is deliberately spinning information into disinformation and that is both lying and dangerous. We need to point it out, find other examples where it is easy to refute what they are saying about Peter, EHA, and David, and make sure others will amplify that and delegitimize the committee. I'm going to point out that one to Hiltzik and Kaiser.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I'm only a King, how insulting, these guys are totally nuts

<image001.jpg>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 12:34 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Good to hear that. In the meantime looks like the Committee is now coming after me personally. They're aiming to call for my debarment as an individual:

https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing-wrap-up-nih-repeatedly-refutes-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszaks-testimony-tabak-testimony-reveals-federal-grant-procedures-in-need-of-serious-reform/

Press ReleasePublished: May 17, 2024

Hearing Wrap Up: NIH Refutes EcoHealth's Testimony, Tabak Reveals Federal Grant Procedures in Need of Serious Reform

WASHINGTON — The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled "Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak" to examine the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) process for funding and overseeing scientific research as well as investigate NIH's relationship with EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth). Members pressed

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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 contradicts Dr. Fauci's previous statements, Dr. Tabak

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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.

Key Hearing Takeaways

- **NIH Deputy Director and former Acting NIH Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acknowledged that NIH funded gain-of-function research in**

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Wuhan, China.

- Dr. Lawrence Tabak repeatedly refuted EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak's public and private testimonies. It is now clear that Dr. Daszak misled both the Select Subcommittee and the NIH on numerous occasions.
- Serious shortcomings and failures in the NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures enabled EcoHealth to facilitate gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. These NIH deficiencies were exploited by Dr. Daszak and his team in an effort to avoid oversight and maintain funding.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to immediately suspend funding and commence debarment proceedings against EcoHealth is backed by substantial evidence and necessary to protect America's national security. The Select Subcommittee also recommends that HHS immediately begin debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.
- The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found here.
- The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.

Member Highlights Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), D.P.M, pressed Dr. Tabak to address Dr. Daszak's testimony that EcoHealth was "locked out" of the NIH's grant reporting system. NIH conducted

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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.
<image001.png >

Chairman Wenstrup: "

EcoHealth, like every other NIAID grantee, was

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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 together with you to obtain things that you*

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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 them out and there was no impediment for them to*

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provide that report on time."

Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) questioned Dr. Tabak about the employment status of alleged federal records violator and top advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci — Dr. David Morens — who was placed on administrative leave after the Select Subcommittee uncovered incriminating information. Dr. Morens used his personal email(s) to hide conversations about the origins of COVID-19 and undermine the operations of the NIH.

<image002.png

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>

Chairman Comer: "*What is Dr. Morens's current employment status?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*He is an employee of NIH.*"
Chairman Comer: "*Well, I think you see where my lines of questioning were leading. We have some serious concerns. We have fought in this Select Subcommittee, the Oversight committee, on obtaining information. And here you have an admission of deleting information, going to great lengths to not be transparent, in an apparent cover-up of something that I think*

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we would agree, in a bipartisan manner, is one of the most serious issues that our country has ever faced, the COVID 19 pandemic."

Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) elicited an admission from Dr. Tabak that the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV through a grant to EcoHealth. This directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's U.S. Senate testimony in 2021 in which he claimed the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute

of Virology." This type of research is known to be dangerous and even former NIH Director Francis Collins and Dr. Fauci were willing to admit that there are risks associated with this experimentation. <image003.png >

Rep. Lesko: "*Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?* "

Dr. Tabak: "*It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic*

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term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.), M.D., proved that EcoHealth violated the terms of its NIH grant when it failed to produce "laboratory notebooks" with information about the WIV's gain-of-function research. On May 1, Dr. Daszak falsely testified that he was not required

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to produce these notebooks as a condition of his grant.
<image004.png>

Rep. McCormick: "*When the National Institutes of Health requested the notebooks from EcoHealth, was EcoHealth required to produce them under its grant terms?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, they were.*"
Rep. McCormick: "*When NIH requested notebooks from EcoHealth should EcoHealth have been able to access them or already have access to them?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*That's correct.*"

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Rep. McCormick: "*Did EcoHealth ever produce the requested notebooks?* "

Dr. Tabak: "*They have not.*"

Rep. McCormick: "*Dr. Daszak testified two weeks ago that he was not required to produce the lab notebooks. Would NIH disagree with that testimony?* "

Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, we disagree with that testimony*."

Rep. McCormick: "*The testimony here today clarifies the inconsistency between Dr. Daszak's testimony and the testimony of numerous NIH officials*

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and NIAID officials, also, including yourself. Dr. Daszak continues to thwart congressional oversight through semantics and outright dishonesty, quite frankly. He has routinely failed to produce pertinent documents and made countless misleading statements to the Select Subcommittee right here."

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), M.D., uncovered serious shortcomings in NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak testified that he would never again support a

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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,*

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and would you support issuing the same grant today?"
Dr. Tabak: "*Well, with the benefit of what we know today, no, of course not.*"
Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*There is great concern with Dr. Daszak interaction with NIH and NIAID pertaining to the one log growth term of the award. The NIH relied on Dr. Daszak to monitor and report virus growth after being a month late on his annual reporting requirements, which were outlined in the grant. Dr. Tabak, looking back, did the NIH rely too*

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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 believed it was not funding any dangerous research

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prior to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<image006.png>

Rep. Malliotakis: *"We also know that at least 20 more EcoHealth research projects received funding since March of 2020, and they are conducting research Nipah, zoonotic viruses, bat coronaviruses, MERS. They are doing a lot of this research, mostly actually in third world countries. Subpar safety conditions. How do you ensure that our federal dollars are not going to do risky experiments in countries where there are*

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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 approved for EcoHealth Alliance to with under subaward*

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with WIV."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) g >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR

I just did this long interview debunking the nonsense, piece by piece

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Geoffrey Brumfiel (b) (6)
Date: May 17, 2024 at
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Origins of COVID

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Hi Peter,

We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.

Would you be up for a quick background conversation?
Best,
Geoff

Geoff Brumf | c Radio | (b) (6) | desk: + (b) (6)
(b) (6) | cell: + (b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_045282
REL0000478597

Date: Fri, 23 Apr 2021 11:56:54 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 23 Apr 2021 11:55:17 AM -0400
Subject: article based on Michael Lauer's testimony this week
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

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…

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.: +(b) (6)
Websit ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Moren (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, G (b) (6) eksei Chmura < (b) (6) Robert Kessler < (b) (6) >
e of NIH-EHA gra oills etc.

TY, this will be helpful in keeping things straight. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019641
MORENS_NIH_039240
REL0000478600

On Apr 22, 2021, at 23:32, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > 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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Tue, 19 Apr 2022 5:38:35 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 19 Apr 2022 5:36:45 PM -0400
Subject: RE: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6)

What NIH are forgetting is that there was more than one Godfather movie. In the second one, I'll return to exact my 'vendetta'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2022 10:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

I was pretty clear. The buck stopped at Collins desk and he wasn't up to it. The integrity of science was on the line - you were the easy target - and Collins failed. Lauer was the hit man and your have been harassed unmercifully as Lauer protected the mafia Don.

I hope he does a good job.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 15, 2022, at 3:50 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Just had a 1.5 hour conversation with Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed about the circumstances of NIH throwing us under the bus. I tried to be balanced, objective and decent, mainly because it's pretty clear Michael Lauer, Lawrence Tabak and others in NIH O/D are willing to cut our other funding if we speak out too strongly. I do think it will be a useful story when it comes out. He mentioned he'd talked with you Jerry.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; peter hotez <
(b) (6)

Search Request: NIAID lOD FOIA Request 58170

This clarifies alot. Let's hope it does some good! d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 14, 2022, at 16:31, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Yes – I do know the journalist Peter Aldhous. I've found him to be persistent and generally balanced, but not averse to doing the usual journalistic strategy of always getting both sides of an issue and giving them appearance of equal weight. He did this in an article on the WHO mission's report last spring, but now this seems to be more balanced than some: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/who- covid-origins-china-report-lab-accident

He did an earlier piece after Trump canceled our grant which tried to explain what the work was: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/wuhan- lab-coronavirus-trump

I heard from him last week (email below). He says now that he's investigating what the political motivations were for the initial cancelation of our grant, which he believes were in-part driven by the awful pressure group White Coat Waste (he's correct). He might also be looking into their involvement in the attacks on Tony re. the alleged 'beagles with leishmaniasis'. Here's an email I got from him a few days ago:

From: Peter Aldhous (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, April 1
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Could we set up a conversation this week?

Dear Peter,

I hope all is well. I am now working on a piece based in part of the materials we've received from our FOIA to NIH surrounding the cancellation of your grant and subsequent developments.

My focus is a little different from previous coverage. I'm looking at the role of the animal group White Coat Waste in the events that led up to the cancellation of your grant and the subsequent "lab leak" and "gain-of-function" controversies, WCW's links to prominent Republican politicians, its subsequent involvement in attacks on Tony Fauci, and its current activities, which include (questionable) claims about research funded by NIH in Russia. There are some clear parallels this campaign and the way in which the group targeted your grant.

The piece will also discuss the big shift in the tone of internal NIH discussion of your grant before and after WCW's claims were published in the Daily Mail and elsewhere and pressure began to be exerted through WCW's links with politicians including Matt Gaetz and Marco Rubio. And it will go over NIH's missteps in the termination of your grant as the agency bent under this pressure.

I'd like to your input on the key developments as they affected the EcoHealth Alliance. I noticed that you've been quoted some of the stuff we discussed previously off the record, including in this piece in Science.

Can we set up a time for this? I'm due to file a draft early next week, so if we can speak in the next couple of days, I'd be very grateful.

Thanks,

Peter

--
Peter Aldhous
Science reporter | **BuzzFeed News**
tel: (b) (6)
cell: (b) (6)
peter.aldhous@buzzfeed.com
@paldhous
www.peteraldhous.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 12:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Note that this foia is ostensibly about Leishmaniasis so hopefully not of concern to you, but we have had foia folks try to sneak in through the back door recently

In 5 years here i have never heard of a foia for Leishmaniasis so just want to be sure..... d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 14, 2022, at 11:57, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: April 14, 2022 at 11:56:08 EDT
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: April 14, 2022 at 07:48:35 EDT
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: April 14, 2022 at 07:46:57 EDT
To: "West, Elisabet (b) (6) "Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b) (6) "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Cc: "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <j(b) (6) "Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" <(b) (6) >, "Schofield, Robin

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000342
MORENS_NIH_003953
REL0000478601

(NIH/NHLBI) [E]" (b) (6) "Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >, "Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E]" < "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <

Subject: RE: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Hi Beth,
Okay for CIT to search.

Thank you,

Kim Barasch
Office of the Director
& Infectious Diseases
(b) (6)

From: West, Elisabeth (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 4:15 P
To: Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C] < (b) (6) Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Manheim, Marianne (NIH (b) (6) >; Schofield, Robin (NIH/NHLBI) (b) (6) Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] < (b) (6) ; Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Morens, Davi (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E] ov >
Subject: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

We have received a FOIA request from Dr. Aldhous, freelance journalist, on 4/13/22 (attached). I am reaching to you specifically for item 3 of his request:

- **communications among NIAID IOD/OCGR staff regarding this paper**: "Enhanced attraction of sand fly vectors of Leishmania infantum to dogs infected with zoonotic visceral leishmaniasis" https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0009647
- date range: **July 21, 2021 and date of search**

I am seeking permission to request a CIT search of the following emails:

Anthony Fauci
Greg Folkers
Patricia Conrad
Kimberly Barasch
David Morens
Laurie Doepel

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attached:

- Request

Thank you,
Beth

Elisabeth West
Government Information Specialist
NIH/NHLBI/OM/FOIA Service Center
Rockledge One, 4th Floor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000343
MORENS_NIH_003954
REL0000478601

(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (NHLBI FOIA Main Line)
(Direct Line)

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_000344
MORENS_NIH_003955
REL0000478601

Date:	Tue, 28 Dec 2021 1:21:16 PM -0500
Sent:	Tue, 28 Dec 2021 1:21:13 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: FW: NPR: Fauci calls on Fox News to fire host who urged 'kill shot' in 'ambush' interviews
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg

We are good. Back from visiting our daughter in (b) (6) and now she is here in (b) (6) visiting us.

Wishing you both and all of your family a better 2022 than this year was.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 1:11 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: FW: NPR: Fauci calls on Fox News to fire host who urged 'kill shot' in 'ambush' interviews

Enjoyed seeing this! Hope you're having a suitably festive couple of weeks….

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, December 24, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015423
MORENS_NIH_032280
REL0000478605

Subject: Fwd: FW: NPR: Fauci calls on Fox News to fire host who urged 'kill shot' in 'ambush' interviews

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) work)
cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Dec 23, 2021 at 10:04 AM
Subject: FW: NPR: Fauci calls on Fox News to fire host who urged 'kill shot' in 'ambush' interviews
To: David Morens (b) (6)

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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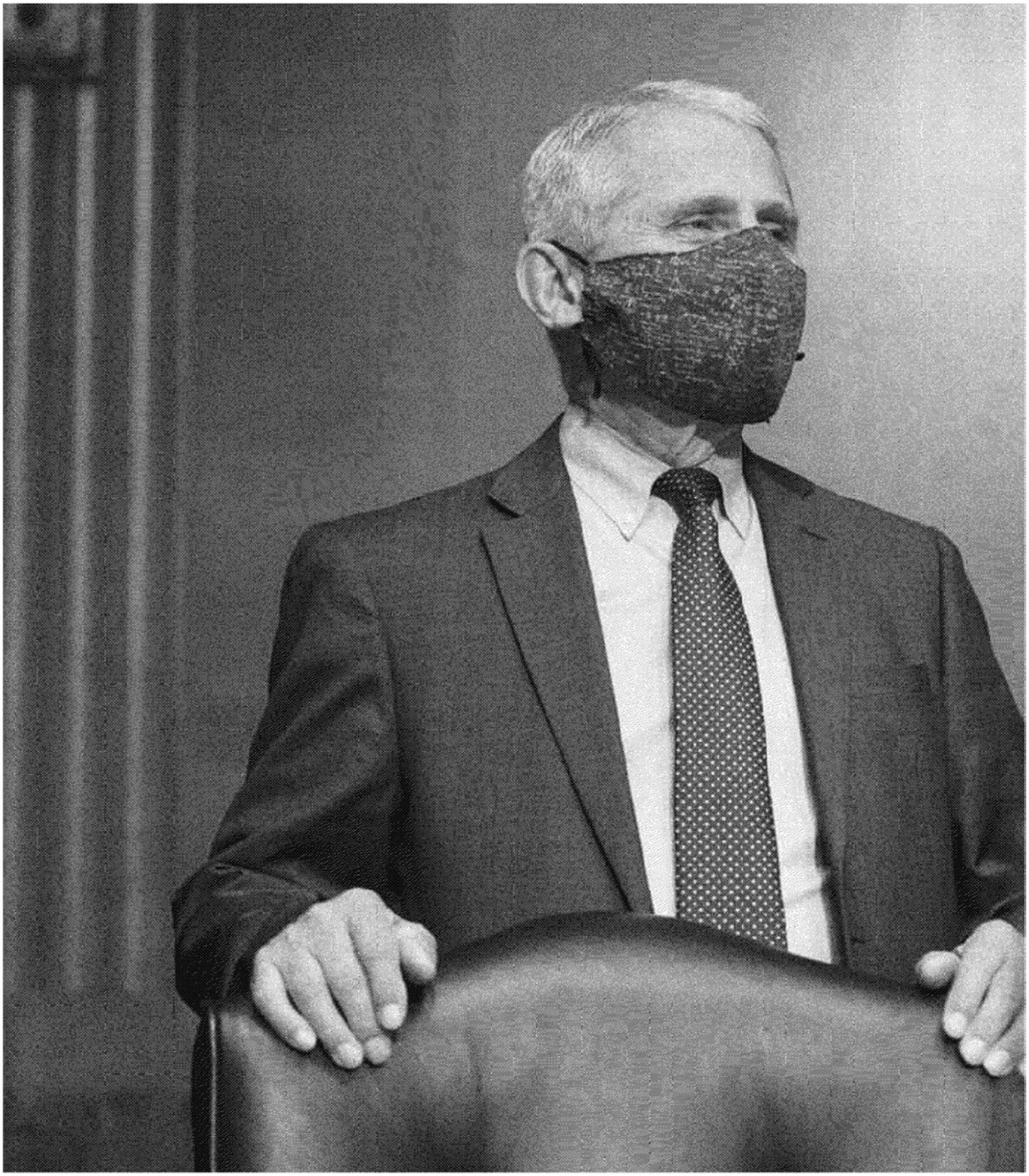
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 10:55 PM
Subject: NPR: Fauci calls on Fox News to fire host who urged 'kill shot' in 'ambush' interviews

Fauci calls on Fox News to fire host who urged 'kill shot' in 'ambush' interviews

December 22, 20213:52 PM ET
Rachel Treisman
Twitter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015425
MORENS_NIH_032282
REL0000478605



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has faced a barrage of conservative criticism and violent threats over the handling of the highly politicized coronavirus pandemic.
Greg Nash/Pool/Getty Images

Fox News host Jesse Watters is facing blowback for recent remarks he made at a conservative political conference, where he used violent rhetoric to explain how citizen journalists should confront Dr. Anthony Fauci with questions in the hopes of going viral.

Speaking at Turning Point USA's Americafest over the weekend, Watters urged young conservatives to "ambush" the nation's top infectious disease expert and "go in for the kill shot." He walked them through how to approach Fauci and how to phrase their

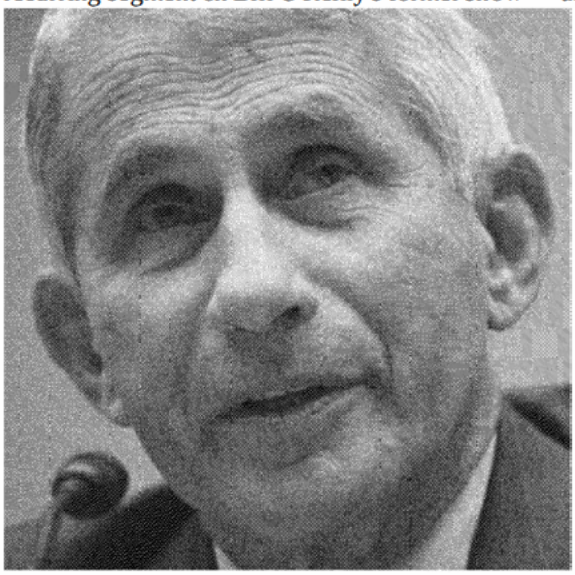
MORENS_SUBPOENA_015426
MORENS_NIH_032283
REL0000478605

questions, focusing on a conspiracy theory about the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Now you go in for the kill shot. The kill shot with an ambush, deadly, because he doesn't see it coming," Watters said at one point, according to a transcript and a nearly six-minute video clip. "This is when you say, 'Dr. Fauci, you funded risky research at a sloppy Chinese lab, the same lab that sprung this pandemic on the world. You know why people don't trust you, don't you?' Boom, he is dead. He is dead. He's done."

Article continues after sponsor message

Watters — a regular commentator on the prime-time show *The Five* who made his name doing ambush-style interviews in a recurring segment on Bill O'Reilly's former show — also told audiences to be respectful and "just make sure it's legal."



Coronavirus Live Updates

Fauci Reveals He Has Received Death Threats And His Daughters Have Been Harassed

While it is clear from the full context of Watters' remarks that he was not explicitly calling for violence, the viciousness of the chosen metaphor was striking, particularly given that Fauci has spoken publicly about receiving death threats. He is among the public figures who have faced a barrage of conservative criticism and violent threats over their handling of the highly politicized coronavirus pandemic.

In a Tuesday appearance on CNN's *New Day*, Fauci called Watters' remarks "a reflection of the craziness that goes on in society."

"The only thing that I have ever done throughout these two years is to encourage people to practice good public health practices: to get vaccinated, to be careful in public settings, to wear a mask," Fauci said. "And for that, you have some guy out there saying that people should be giving me a kill shot, to ambush me?"

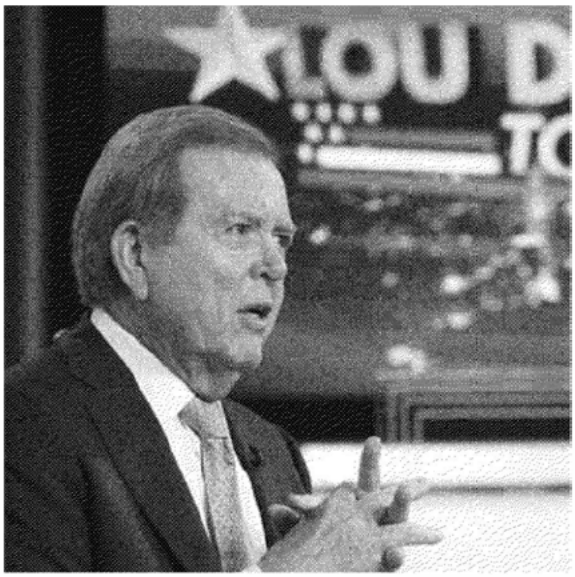
He added that Watters "should be fired on the spot" but said the host was unlikely to be held accountable by his network.

Fox came to Watters' defense in a statement shared with NPR and other outlets.

"Based on watching the full clip and reading the entire transcript, it's more than clear that Jesse Watters was using a metaphor for asking hard-hitting questions to Dr. Fauci about gain-of-function research and his words have been twisted completely out of context," it reads.

Former government officials and public health authorities are among those slamming Watters' comments, which also follow recent revelations about how several prominent Fox News hosts figured into the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015427
MORENS_NIH_032284
REL0000478605



Media

After Deadly Capitol Riot, Fox News Stays Silent On Stars' Incendiary Rhetoric

Text messages show that network personalities like Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham privately pressured President Donald Trump to deescalate the day's events even though they downplayed his involvement on air in the months that followed.

Fox News hosts and guests also helped lay the groundwork for the insurrection by amplifying Trump's false claims of election fraud and by urging viewers to fight for their freedoms at the Jan. 6 protest that preceded the riot, as NPR's David Folkenflik and Tom Dreisbach have reported.

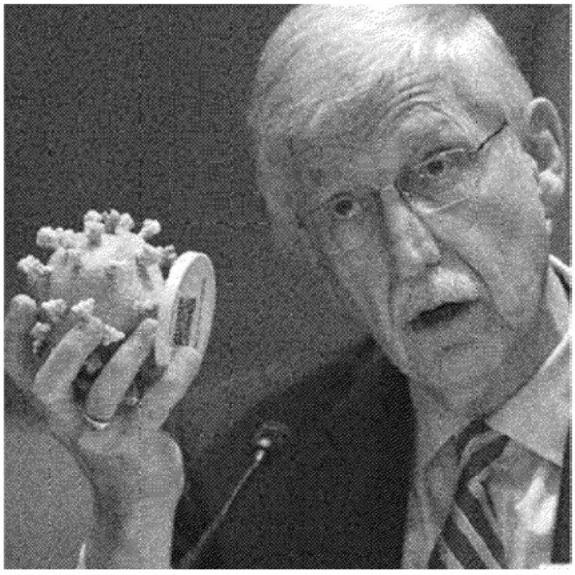
They also found that Ashli Babbitt, the U.S Air Force veteran who joined the protests and was shot and killed after storming the Capitol, was significantly influenced by Fox News coverage in addition to QAnon conspiracy theories.

How Watters urged his audience to confront Fauci

Watters opened his remarks by saying he was "sick and tired of conservatives always playing defense" and instructed the receptive crowd of students on how best to go on the offense.

He noted that politicians and other officials frequently speak at college campuses, and he encouraged students to "take advantage of that, make a name for yourselves." Then he proceeded to outline a series of tips for hypothetically engaging with Fauci, which escalated in intensity.

At one point, Watters told listeners to come equipped with a blank sheet of paper, refer to it as a research grant (again, related to the lab leak conspiracy regarding the National Institutes of Health's research in Wuhan) and "wave that in his face for the camera, for flair."



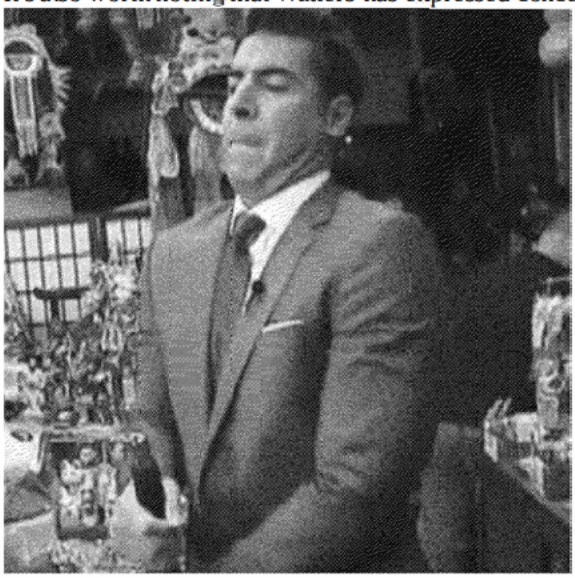
Coronavirus Updates

Outgoing NIH director implores Fox News viewers to stay focused on the real 'enemy'

As Watters described it, the goal is for students to capture the moment on their phone and send it out to any number of conservative media outlets for further reach.

"Imagine Tucker Carlson teases out of the A block, 'Coming up, brave college student confronts Lord Fauci at dinner. Exclusive footage, right back,' " he said. "Get us that! That's what we want. That changes the whole conversation of the country."

It's also worth noting that Watters has expressed concerns in the past about the vitriol people direct at public servants.



The Two-Way

Fox News Reporter: Sorry If 'Tongue-In-Cheek' Chinatown Segment Caused Offense

In 2018, for example, he railed against "the uncivil left" after staff at an upscale Lexington, Va., restaurant asked then-White House press secretary Sarah Sanders to leave.

"She's a public servant," he said to a commentator on the June 30 episode. "She has political beliefs that are different than yours and she is serving her country. Now, you may disagree with her policies, but that doesn't make her an evil person that deserves to be shunned and confronted."

People are technically allowed to "go up to someone on the street and yell nasty things in their face and surround their car," Watters acknowledged, but said that encouraging this type of behavior "is dangerous, and it's going to get out [of] control and something bad is going to happen."

Another Fox News personality recently compared Fauci to Josef Mengele

Late last month, Fox commentator Lara Logan faced fierce criticism for remarks she made on air comparing Fauci to Nazi doctor Josef Mengele.

During a segment accusing the Biden administration of overreacting to the new omicron variant, Logan said people tell her that to them, Fauci doesn't represent science but that he amounts to Mengele — who was known as the "Angel of Death" and conducted inhumane medical experiments on prisoners at the Auschwitz camp during the Holocaust.



Media

Fox anchor Neil Cavuto urged viewers to get vaccinated. Then came the death threats

"And I am talking about people all across the world are saying this, because the response from COVID, what it has done to countries everywhere, what it has done to civil liberties, the suicide rates, the poverty, it has obliterated economies," she said.
Her comments were swiftly condemned by the Auschwitz Museum and the Anti-Defamation League, among others.
Fauci told MSNBC days later that he was "astounded" that Fox had not taken any disciplinary action against Logan.
NPR has asked Fox whether that is still the case.
NPR's David Folkenflik contributed to this report.

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Date: Sun, 30 May 2021 8:03:41 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 30 May 2021 8:02:26 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Confidential please within our group. Re: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I'm going through my unread emails from earliest to latest, so hadn't seen this – really glad you're planning this!

I really hope you're able to pull something together for the journal, most importantly on the broader impact that the continued circulation of the lab leak allegations will have on international collaboration across a wide range of scientific research.

Another thought – I've block-booked the ASTMH annual meeting into my calendar. Is there an opportunity to have a panel discussion on the importance of international collaboration on EID research, or how to manage politics and science in international research or some such? I'd be very happy to take part in something like that.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, Ma
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberg (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Confide Re: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam

Thoughts?

The leadership of Am Soc Trop Med Hyg, including the Pres, Past Pres, CEO, and journal editor, want to follow up last year's editorial with a new one making the case for why it is important to go forward energetically with cooperative international work in China and contiguous countries to understand emerging coronaviruses

I am asking for your thought on this and on the brief ideas discussed below

TY, David

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015901
MORENS_NIH_033643
REL0000478607

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: May 29, 2021 at 19:25:42 EDT
To: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" (b) (6)
Cc: Karen Goraleski (b) (6) , "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confid group. Re: FYI - COVID origin m

OK, thanks. Let me think about this. A small team of writers might be best. I will get back to you. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 29, 2021, at 16:03, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) wrote:

Hi David. I think that your plan is good. Don't try for a broad rebuttal; rather make specific points about research: a) data do not suggest release of SARS-CoV-2 from a Wuhan lab; b) research is inadequate to confirm this; c) shockingly, the very research that would help sort this out was abruptly cut by the NIH last year. I enjoy writing edgy editorials, so am happy to help if desired, but I am NOT the expert in this area. I suggest you (I recall that you were not on the last editorial), Joel, and other experts of your choosing. I would rather that this piece comes from others, but if you are interested I can work on a first draft, starting the week after next.
Cheers,
Phil

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6)
Cc: Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Confidential please within our group. Re: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam

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Phil, here are some thoughts.

I just discussed this with Joel on the phone and he asked I write down what I said in a few words.

As we are currently in a fact-free whirlwind of political and media hysteria, or as one science writer wrote today "we are witnessing the manufacturing of uncertainty", I think it is best to

NOT rebut the crazies point by point, because facts, logic and science hold little sway with these folks, and NOT attack the US or Chinese govt for bad behavior….

However, we could consider a commentary as follows:

An in house or mostly in house commentary or editorial making the following points, dispassionately. We are now 1 year into the termination of the major US grant that had until 2020 been investigating the origins and determinants of SARS and MERS, and later SARS-CoV-2 emergences; in our current situation there is no longer

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REL0000478607

any similar major research going on China or the adjacent countries which constitute the bat reservoirs for these emerging viruses; such work is of critical importance since all evidence suggests that further coronaviruses are likely to occur; and that given the huge risks of doing nothing, American, Chinese, and other international scientists must once again come together and re-establish productive ties to conduct comprehensive research into coronaviruses which may emerging from hotspots around the globe, and particularly in Southwest/South China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and contiguous areas.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
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Office of the Director
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(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 8:33 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Stephen Popper (b) (6) ; Karen Goraleski (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: C ins continues to gain steam

Sure, if you have a specific piece in mind I will be happy to see it, and I anticipate that we will find a place for it.
Cheers,
Phil

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015903
MORENS_NIH_033645
REL0000478607

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 5:31 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >;
(b) (6) ;(b) (6) ;Breman, Joel
(NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Confidential please within our group. Re: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam

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PS, maybe i should add, the journal could have a follow up piece on "one year later, what are the consequences, where should we go now?". I have been emailing daily with. a Nobel laureate who might be willing to sign on He has street cred by signing a doc on the importance of GoF oversight, but is against grant and research sabotage. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 28, 2021, at 20:24, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) v> wrote:

Yes, absolutely, and they were spot on.

What is your thought on what to do now, if anything? This is one of the most important challenges to science in memory. Is there a role for the journal here? If we can prod, provoke, and challenge the situation, I'd be all for that, but it has to be in the context of solid science. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 28, 2021, at 19:54, Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6)
wrote:

Thanks David,
You will recall that we had an editorial last year bemoaning two US govt decisions – the NIH funding decision that you note below and the defunding of the WHO.
Phil

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Stephen Popper (Karen Goralesk (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) .bausch@finddx.org ;(b) (6) ;
Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) (b) (6) ;
(b) (6) ; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam

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Stephen and all,

While I would worry about getting into the middle of food fight going on in the political arena, at least as a Society, I would also remind us that this all began as an attack on science, the scientific process, and its integrity.

Let's remember that politicians, in violation of their own laws and regulations, reached into NIH and terminated a grant for no reason other than wild unsubstantiated charges unrelated to any scientific facts. And without any due process. No evidence, no chance to appeal, no fairness, in total violation of multiple NIH policies. This colleague is an ASTMH member and a member of the NAS, and he lost his grant and all of the people on it lost their jobs or funding. All because politicians wanted to play games and use him as a pawn on their chessboard. We didn't say that in the paper of course, but that was the subtext.

So, while ASTMH as a Society shouldn't want to get into the middle of this, we should continue to stand up for the integrity of the research process. How can we do that? I am not sure but there must be things we can do as scientists, together and individually. Maybe we can speak with some of our key leaders in our subgroups, for example. I have already done that and, I must say, many are very afraid that what happened to Peter D could happen to them. This is beginning to look too much like the McCarthy era.

I am all for being bold and out front, but, again, not lowering ourselves by attacking the wackos head on.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
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(assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)

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MORENS_NIH_033647
REL0000478607



From: Stephen Popper (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >(b) (6) ; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) ;(b) (6) ;(b) (6)
Subject: Re: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam

Hi all,

FWIW, I agree the current commotion is not really about science - at least science as we usually wish to think of it. I do think that it demonstrates the importance of fostering international collaboration and discussion, which I've always thought of as part of ASTMH's mission. And it highlights the importance of scientific diplomacy and communication - both of which are of course on the docket for the annual meeting

Best,
Stephen

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 2:53 PM Karen Goraleski (b) (6) wrote:

> We are all right there with you, watching this with dismay and disgust. I'm at a loss of anything meaningful that ASTMH could do. As we know, there is no scientific response that will change these crazy statements, innuendos, and conspiracy theories. Made up craziness sells headlines and gets eyeballs to their websites.
>
> I'm grateful that last July you, Joel and others wrote "The Origin of COVID-19 and Why It Matters" for the Journal - and that Phil and Cathi got it posted so quickly.
> Karen
>
> **From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 3:54 PM
> **To:** Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Hill, David R. Prof. <(b) (6) >; Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) >; Julie Jacobson (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) >; Christine Petersen <(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <(b) (6) >; Patricia Walker <(b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >
> **Subject:** RE: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam
>
> Karen, we scientists here at NIAID are watching all this with dismay and disgust. We are witnessing the creation of a myth based almost entirely on

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innuendo, false information, and strings of "what ifs". Also, the challenge of disproving negatives, such as: "Dr. Morens, can you PROVE beyond a reasonable shadow of a doubt that a cow didn't jump over the moon last night?????? Because if you can't prove it, then maybe it really happened"…. This is the type of sophistry we are dealing with.

No credible scientist I know, including the top scientists at NIH, think anything other than that SARS-C0V-2 emerged from nature, just as SARS did. But now we are seeing a few scientists, some credible, others not, most with no experience in experimental virology, lending their voices to calls for investigation, which will accomplish almost nothing except get these folks in the newspapers and on TV.

Regarding what to do, I am at a loss. We are at a point where telling the truth and outlining all the reasons and rebutting all the smooth falsehoods will bring on even more criticism, because this whole issue is no longer in the realm of science, but in the middle of the media-political scrum.

My approach to this last year, before the brown stuff really hit the fan, was to gather together 10 luminaries from science who understand these things and publish a paper designed to counter the craziness once and for all. You could argue that that paper was too subtle, but my sense is that this is neither about reality nor scientific arguments but rather, and I hate to quote the Witch in Chief, this is about a witch hunt.

If we, ASTMH, can agree on a scientific response, I am all in and will do all I can. But I am not sure what that will be. We could make a statement of position or principle, but do we have unanimity to do so? Are there some of our members who buy into this malarky? I would not be surprised…. We could write more papers. We could invite leading scientists to write on the subject.

I will also note that as the "story" progresses we are seeing a shift in the plot. Whereas last year the major accusation was that the Chinese created a Frankenstein virus, now that that has been so rigorously discredited, to the satisfaction of many critics, at least, the narrative has switched to "lab leak", the idea that the Chinese had and were secretly working with this virus in the lab, and it escaped, accidentally or not. Although this, too, is in the vicinity of impossible, it is much harder to take on because of the "prove a negative" challenge. Even if you acknowledge that nothing like SARS-CoV-2 or a possible precursor was ever recorded as being in the WIV, one could still posit that maybe someone brought the virus in secretly, or failed to log it in, and somehow let it loose. If that didn't happen, you can't prove it didn't happen. But if it might have happened, you don't have an obligation to explain why there is zero evidence of it.

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It's a lose-lose set-up. Could-of-might-up-I wonder-if now trumps facts and evidence. That's not the field in which science operates.

What to do?

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
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Building 31, Room 7A-03
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From: Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Hill, David R. Prof. < (b) (6) >; Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) >; Julie Jacobson ((b) (6) Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Stephen Popper <(b) (6) >; Patricia Walker <(b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >
Subject: FYI - COVID origins continues to gain steam

You are all seeing this pick up steam, in Wash Po, Tony Fauci being "quoted" as saying he's not sure, more in POLITICO, Biden's announcement, Tedros, and members of Congress.

David M - you said you welcome ideas on what ASTMH should/could say/do beyond what was written for AJMTH months ago? Dan? Christy? Joel? Thoughts? This isn't going away anytime soon.

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This from NATURE today:

Divisive COVID 'lab leak' debate prompts dire warnings from researchers

Allegations that COVID escaped from a Chinese lab make it harder for nations to collaborate on ending the pandemic — and fuel online bullying, some scientists say.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01383-3?utm_source=Nature+Briefing&utm_campaign=6642113fdd-briefing-dy-20210527&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c9dfd39373-6642113fdd-45969026

Karen, ok, i got the politico article to display. At least this article cites some sane folks, like Kristian Anderson, a phylogeneticist who understands what viral genetic sequences do and do not indicate

D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Karen Goraleski (b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) : Dan Bausch (b) (6) ; Julie Jacobson (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6) (b) (6) Christine Petersen (b) (6) Stephen Popper <(b) (6) >; Patricia Walker <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

Yes, i did read it and talked to him about it at length in the couple days afterward. His change of mind was occasioned by the article of his close buddy, Nick Wade

I pointed out to Don that Nick's article was cherry picked and biased, and tried to explain to him the mistake in David Baltimore's quotation. We had some very cordial and verl long discussions, and i left with him the hope that in the future he would retain a high degree of skepticism about supposed facts that have appeal by fitting into conspiracy theories

I think if there is a next time for him, he may take a more balanced approach

D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015909
MORENS_NIH_033651
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On May 20, 2021, at 12:42, Karen Goraleski (b) (6) > wrote:

You'll be interested to read Donald McNeal's piece then. He offered that he strongly pushed back before but now is beginning to think it deserves another look.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 12:41 PM
To: Karen Goraleski (b) (6) >
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >; Dan Bausch ((b) (6)) <(b) (6) >; Julie Jacobson ((b) (6)) < (b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) Hill, David R. Prof. (b) (6) >; Christine Petersen (b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <(b) (6) >; Patricia Walker <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

Thanks, Karen,

I am traveling at the moment and can't display this on my phone, but will hopefully see it later on ipad

I have been speaking off the record to many of the top reporters about this, including in depth discussions with Don McNeil, and have also been in touch with Daszak and several National Academy members and one prominent Nobel laureate, all of us working in the background to push back against the increasing misinfo

We should maybe think about doing more. I brought this up with Patty Aguilar and other acav folks a couple days ago

I would welcome ideas. Certain politicians are moving to try to shut down all bsl 3 and 4 research

D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 20, 2021, at 12:28, Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> 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

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MORENS_NIH_033652
REL0000478607

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

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spillover both remain viable," the scientists wrote.

The letter echoes a similar call from WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. During a Senate hearing last week on the U.S. response to the pandemic, Anthony Fauci said he was "fully in favor of any further investigation of what went on in China" after sparring with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) about the origins of the virus. And this month, the former New York Times science reporters Nicholas Wade and Donald G. McNeil Jr. have written long essays on Medium outlining why they take the lab

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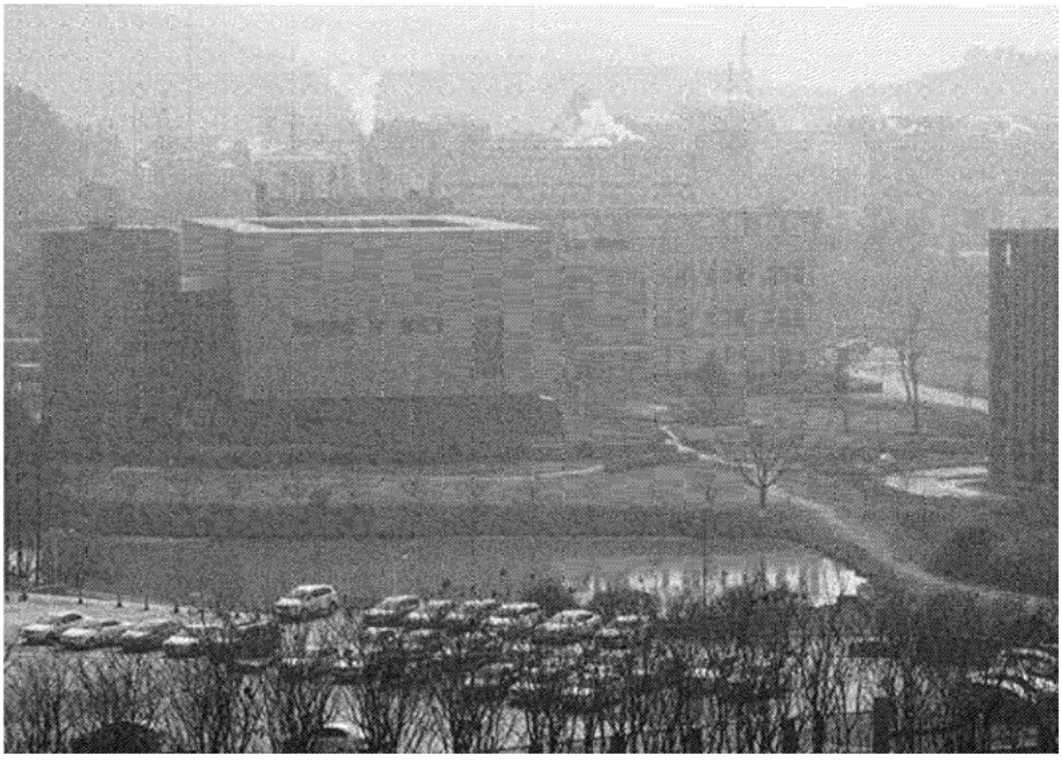
leak hypothesis seriously.

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

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currently available information suggests that a lab-based origin of Covid-19 is plausible. **There remains no sign of an intermediate animal host that could have passed the virus to humans in 2019.** There is no evidence that live mammals were sold at the Wuhan seafood market in 2019, and none of hundreds of animal samples collected from that market had any trace of the virus. In other words, there is zero evidence that supports a zoonotic origin of the virus that excludes the involvement of research activity.

“There are copious precedents of pathogens

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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

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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

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scenarios embedded in this label, 'lab leak,' and importantly, they include an unrecognized infection of a well-intentioned lab worker attempting to recover or study new coronaviruses from bats. **It does not imply malice or even necessarily awareness (of the accident).** Lab accidents are much more common than any of us know, or would like to admit, and they occur worldwide and even in the most safe and secure labs. U.S. biosafety labs are by no means strangers to accidents; leaks of some of the most dangerous infectious agents have occurred at CDC and other U.S. government labs." **— David**

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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

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world's largest research project on horseshoe bat viruses and worked with the world's closest sequenced relative of the outbreak virus. The laboratory actively searched for new horseshoe-bat viruses in horseshoe-bat colonies in caves in remote rural areas in Yunnan province, brought those new horseshoe-bat viruses to Wuhan, and then mass-produced, manipulated, and studied those new horseshoe-bat viruses, year-round, inside Wuhan.

"Documentary evidence establishes that the bat-SARS-related-coronavirus projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology used

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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

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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 <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** <(b) (6) >
Date: Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 8:57 AM
Subject: Angela Rasmussen pretty much sums it up in her Twitter thread
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <
(b) (6) >, Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

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

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Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: ano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://pca.st/f4qhwghp but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/technology/facebook-_instagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003841
MORENS_NIH_010767
REL0000478608

Peter Daszak

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Yet another example of why they should close the major law schools, especially Harvard and Yale, and make the students go to Medical School instead. That tackles two problems, since a significant number of Harvard and Yale graduates go down to Congress where they do yet more harm

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) >; Je (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, A
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

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Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Aug
To: Roberts, Rich < (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Keusch < (b) (6) >; J (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
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-al liance-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.

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None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter's communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and "selected grantees" initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his "Gift" email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer's email and timeline, saying in a statement: "NIH doesn't comment on internal deliberation of grant awards."

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

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Tel:(b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens (b) (6) eusch <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Roberts, Ric (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_003849
MORENS_NIH_010775
REL0000478608

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' (b) (6); 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' < (b) (6) (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih-ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

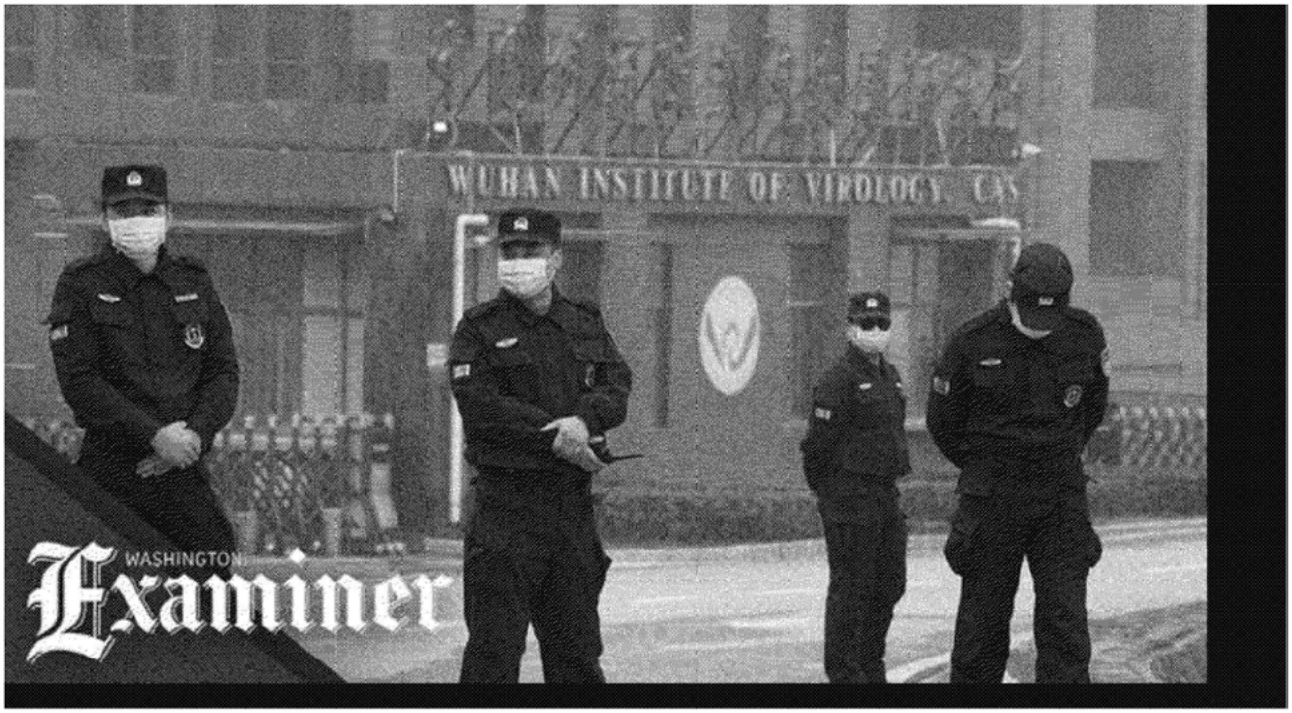
WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |

August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward

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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, 28 Jul 2021 3:02:16 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 28 Jul 2021 3:01:57 PM -0400
Subject: Can I call you later this afternoon re. a bill up for voting next week?
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Hi David – have a look at the Bloomberg report below – we've been tracking this, and wondered if NIAID is aware that they are going to vote on canceling all federal funding to WIV. Obviously, the bigger issue is whether Congress should be meddling in NIH's decision process at this level of detail, and I wondered if your lobbyists were aware, and if they're doing anything about it.

Obviously, I believe it's a mistake to specifically cancel the possibility of working with WIV in the future – they're the best virology lab in China, and if we want to work with China on viruses that emerge from there, we're at a disadvantage, but the bigger issue is Congressional micromanagement of NIH's work.

https://about.bgov.com/news/democrats- gop-agree-to-challenge-china-in-house-spending-bills/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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MORENS_NIH_042079
REL0000478609

Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 4:36:08 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 4:36:05 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Response to Michael Lauer letters
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)
Attachments: Response - RJR comments.docx

Sorry – I forgot to copy you on this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Roberts, Rich
Sent: Tuesday, Mar
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Response to Michael Lauer letters

Peter:

I agree with most of Dave's suggestions. I have added a few comments myself.
My biggest concern is that you are being asked to do things that no ordinary grantee would be expected either to do, or be able to do. If you really wanted to carry through on a number of these items you should join the CIA.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 1:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) eusch, Jerry (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmu (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Response to Michael Lauer letters

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter, attached some edits for consideration. In general I think it makes the right points and presents a strong case. My comments are mostlly minor word-smithing, plus clarifying and simplifying as much as possible, since this will probably be read by Lauer but will perhaps be leaked and read by many others. david

On 3/29/2021 2:10 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Hi Jerry, David, and Rich

I can't remember which of you offered to review our draft response to Michael Lauer at NIH, but it would be very helpful if one of you could. I'm sending it to my pro bono lawyers as well, and they'll rip into it, but your advice and edits (using track changes) would be most helpful…

By the way, the WHO report comes out Tuesday morning our time (I think).

I'll have a final draft version tomorrow that I'll try to get out to you early.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Wed, 15 May 2024 6:59:40 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Update
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffery Taubenberger <(b) (6)

Anything and everything you and others can do to change the unfair and WRONG narrative is needed. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Wed, May 15, 2024, 18:50 Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:
I spoke to Mike Osterholm and we both agreed that this may be beyond the NIH at this point. I asked him if I should try and reach Secretary Becerra. He suggested I go through Paul Friedrichs the WH pandemic coordinator first to get the lay of the land. He also thought I should

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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| Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

> On May 15, 2024, at 1:56 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> *****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**
>
> ---
>
> Here is the Democrat lead on the SSCP, commenting on our suspension and proposal for debarment:
>
> https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/news/press- releases/ranking-member-ruiz-statement-suspension-and-proposed-debarment-ecohealth

Ranking Member Ruiz Statement on Suspension and Proposed Debarment of EcoHealth Alliance

May 15, 2024

Press Release

Announcement Follows Democrats Pressing EcoHealth Alliance President on Professional Misconduct at Select Subcommittee Hearing Earlier This Month

Washington, D.C. (May 15, 2024)—Today, Rep. Raul Ruiz, M.D., Ranking Member of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, issued the following statement regarding the suspension and proposed debarment of EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):

"I welcome the Administration's announcement that it has suspended and initiated the termination of federal funding for EcoHealth Alliance. Every recipient of federal taxpayer funding has an obligation to meet the utmost standards of transparency and accountability to the American public. EcoHealth Alliance's failure to do so is a departure from the longstanding legacy of good faith partnerships between NIH and federal grantees to advance science and the public interest, which remains essential for the continued work of preventing and preparing for future threats to our nation's public health."

On May 1, 2024, Dr. Peter Daszak, President of EHA, testified at a hearing before the Select Subcommittee. Ahead of that hearing, Select Subcommittee Democrats released a **staff report** revealing findings from the Select Subcommittee's investigation into EHA's conduct as a federal grantee, including Dr. Daszak's **transcribed interview** on November 14, 2023.

Although there is no evidence that EHA played a role in creating the COVID-19 pandemic, Select Subcommittee Democrats' report found that EHA engaged in other conduct that raises questions about their professional integrity—including failing to adequately monitor compliance with their own grant terms and conditions, potentially misleading NIH regarding the reason for its untimely submission of its Year 5 report, and potentially misleading NIAID regarding the location of its previously collected samples.

Ranking Member Ruiz and Select Subcommittee Democrats **pressed** Dr. Daszak regarding these and other issues at during his public testimony that day.

MORENS_NIH_049794
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Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: s (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeffre (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; Jeffery Taubenberger (b) (6) >

RE: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic PR: HHS Suspends Funding and Proposes Formal Debarment of EcoHealth Alliance, Cites Evidence from COVID Select Report

Appalling!!

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 11:52 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Ke (b) (6) ; peter hotez <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; Jeffery Taubenberger >
Subject: Fwd: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic PR: HHS Suspends Funding and Proposes Formal Debarment of EcoHealth Alliance, Cites Evidence from COVID Select Report

EXTERNAL SENDER

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 11:18
Subject: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic PR: HHS Suspends Funding and Proposes Formal Debarment of EcoHealth Alliance, Cites Evidence from COVID Select Report
To:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

PERMALINK

CONTACT

Liz Lyons

Olivia Coleman

BREAKING: HHS Suspends Funding and Proposes

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Formal Debarment of EcoHealth Alliance, Cites Evidence from COVID Select Report

WASHINGTON — Today, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) issued the following statement after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) accepted the Select Subcommittee's recommendation to formally debar EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth). HHS will immediately commence official debarment proceedings and implement a government-wide suspension of U.S. taxpayer funds to EcoHealth — including a hold on all active grants.

"EcoHealth Alliance and Dr. Peter Daszak should never again receive a single penny from the U.S. taxpayer. Only two weeks after the Select Subcommittee released an extensive report detailing EcoHealth's wrongdoing and recommending the formal debarment of EcoHealth and its president, HHS has begun efforts to cut off all U.S. funding to this corrupt organization. EcoHealth facilitated gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China without proper oversight, willingly violated multiple requirements of its multimillion-dollar National Institutes of Health grant, and apparently made false statements to the NIH. These actions are wholly abhorrent, indefensible, and must be addressed with swift action. EcoHealth's immediate funding suspension and future debarment is not only a victory for the U.S. taxpayer, but also for American national security and the safety of citizens worldwide.

"The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth and the origins of COVID-19 is far from over. Dr. Daszak and his team are still required to produce all outstanding documents and answer the Select Subcommittee's questions, specifically related to Dr. Daszak's potential dishonesty under oath. We will hold EcoHealth accountable for any waste, fraud, and abuse and are committed to uncovering any illegal activity, including lying to Congress, NIH, or the Inspector General," **said Chairman Wenstrup.**

Read the Select Subcommittee's report titled "*An Evaluation of the Evidence Surrounding EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.'s Research Activities*" here.

Read today's letter from HHS to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. here.

Read HHS's Action Referral Memorandum here.

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MORENS_NIH_049798
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Date: Tue, 18 May 2021 1:45:38 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Atlantic: Biden Has to Get Ahead of the Lab-Leak Theory
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: M NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image003.gif; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg

Pure baloney – asking Biden to act tough to "take possession of the truth about the origins". It'll involve actually doing work to analyze the origins, not just banging on China's door and asking for the lab notes! It took us 5 yrs to find 99%+ similar viruses to SARS-CoV in bats. In fact, doing this will require the opposite of banging on the door – it will involve inviting our Chinese colleagues for a cup of tea to design strategies for surveillance in their country. Collaboration will win the day.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
lantic: Biden Has to Get Ahead of the Lab-Leak Theory

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
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Be 20892-2520
(b) (6)
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(assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <gfolkers@niaid.nih.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:37 AM
Subject: Atlantic: Biden Has to Get Ahead of the Lab-Leak Theory

Biden Has to Get Ahead of the Lab-Leak Theory

Scientists can live with uncertainty. Politics abhors it.
9:25 AM ET



David Frum
Staff writer at The Atlantic

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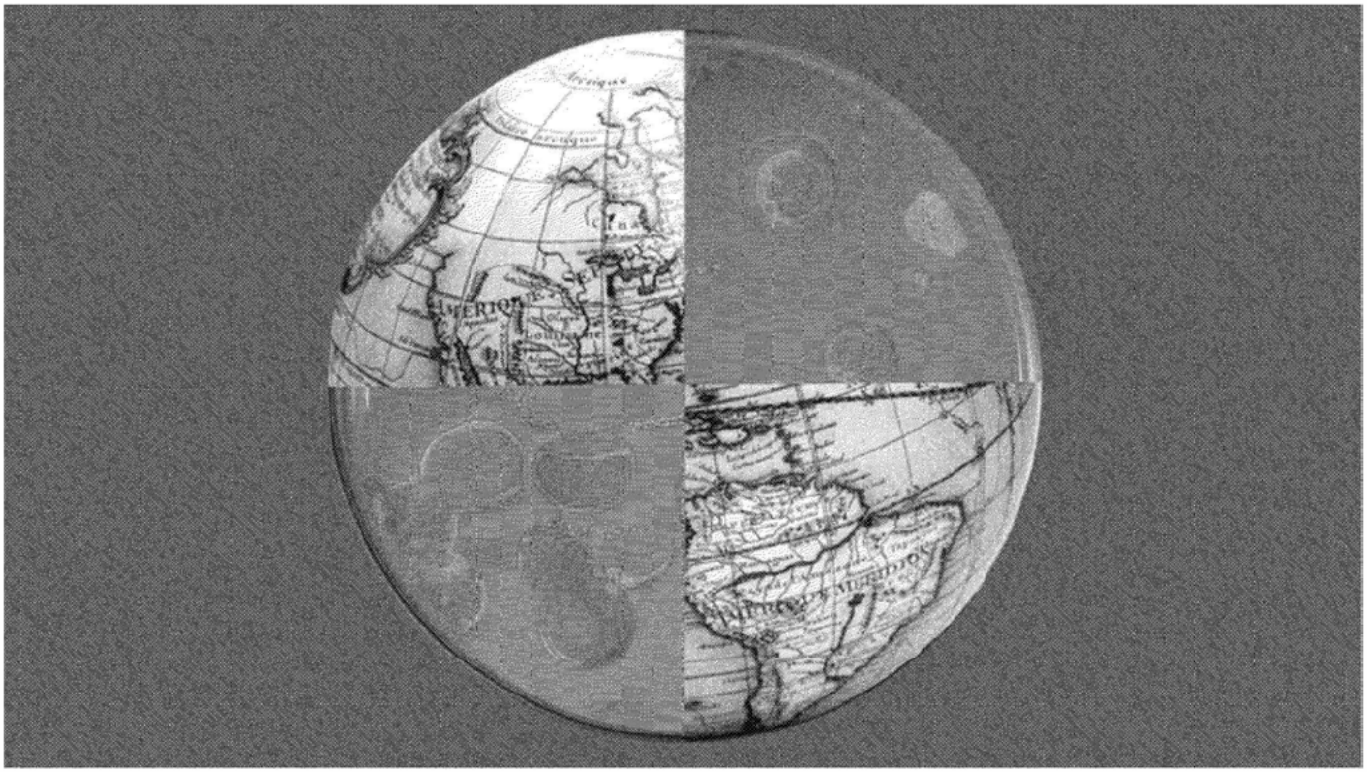
REL0000478626



Adam Maida / The Atlantic / Science Photo Library / Getty

Two questions have dominated politics throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Democrats and public-health experts have asked: What should we do? Former President Donald Trump, for his part, minimized the need to act. He instead spoke incessantly about a very different question: Whom should we blame?

"In recent months, our nation and the world has been hit by the once-in-a-century pandemic that China allowed to spread around the globe. They could have stopped it, but they allowed it to come out," Trump said as he accepted the Republican Party's nomination in August 2020.

"It's China's fault. It should have never happened," he said at a presidential debate with Joe Biden in September 2020.

"We built the greatest economy in the world; it was horribly interrupted by something that should have never happened, came in from China—the plague. The plague from China," he said on *Fox & Friends* on the morning of Election Day 2020. There are hundreds of similar examples from the president and his inner circle.

In November 2020, a solid majority of American voters decided that the first of the two questions—What should we do?—was more urgent, and that Biden and his party offered the better answer.

•

But now that Biden's administration is succeeding at bringing the pandemic under control within the United States, Trump's preferred alternative question—Whom should we blame?—is reclaiming attention.

Trump's question was of course, from the beginning, politically motivated. He and his supporters hoped that if enough Americans blamed China for creating the problem, that blame would somehow exonerate Trump from so callously mismanaging it. More than that: Trump and his supporters hoped that if enough Americans blamed China for creating the problem, they would agree that he ranked as its most pitiable victim. As Gabriel Sherman reported for *Vanity Fair* in May 2020:

As he headed into Memorial Day weekend … "He was just in a fucking rage," said a person who spoke with Trump late last week. "He was saying, 'This is so unfair to me! Everything was going great. We were cruising to reelection!"

The public's rejection of Trump's attempt to deploy blame as an excuse does not, however, make the question go away.

Early on, it became clear that Chinese authorities were lying about the disease's human toll. Nick Paton of CNN in December 2020 reported on 117 pages of internal Chinese government documents suggesting that the local authorities in Wuhan had massively underreported COVID-19 infections in the early weeks of the outbreak. In January 2021, HBO aired a documentary by the director Nanfu Wang minutely detailing the Chinese undercount.

From the beginning, though, many have suspected the Chinese authorities of concealing an even darker secret about the outbreak than China's count of the sick and the dead. Those doubters suspected that the Chinese were also lying about how the outbreak *started*. They suspected that the official story of a spread from bats to humans was an excuse to conceal the fact that the virus had originated in a Chinese lab.

If you read the responsible American press, you likely first heard of those suspicions only from the reports denouncing and rebutting them. On January 29, 2020, *The Washington Post* ran a story headlined: "Experts Debunk Fringe Theory Linking

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China's Coronavirus to Weapons Research." When Senator Tom Cotton voiced suspicions in February, *The New York Times* headlined its report: "Senator Tom Cotton Repeats Fringe Theory of Coronavirus Origins."

Over time, the suspicious modulated their accusation a little. In the spring of 2020, Trump world was also arguing that the virus was no big deal, no reason to shut down the U.S. economy. The president and his supporters wanted to argue that masking was stupid and that public-heath officials were hysterical. You couldn't argue *both* that the virus was absurdly exaggerated *and* that it had begun its existence as a Chinese superweapon. By the time Secretary of State Mike Pompeo endorsed a lab-origin theory of the virus in May 2020, the suspicion about the virus's origin had been downgraded from "superweapon" to "medical experiment gone wrong."

Despite this softening, the scientific community for the most part continued to emphatically reject the lab-origin theory. Past pandemics had started when a virus leaped from animals or birds to people, so why should this new coronavirus be any different? U.S. scientists were perhaps also influenced by their respect for their Chinese counterparts. While Chinese *officials* had tried to stifle the flow of information to the rest of the world, Chinese *scientists* had generally proved highly cooperative with their Western counterparts. When Chinese scientists cracked the virus's genetic code early in January 2020, they promptly posted full results for all to read. That did not seem to most Western scientists to be the behavior of conspirators.

When the Trump administration ended in January, even Pompeo's State Department had to admit uncertainty in its final official statement about the coronavirus pandemic:

The U.S. government does not know exactly where, when, or how the COVID-19 virus—known as SARS-CoV-2—was transmitted initially to humans. We have not determined whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

The virus could have emerged naturally from human contact with infected animals, spreading in a pattern consistent with a natural epidemic. Alternatively, a laboratory accident could resemble a natural outbreak if the initial exposure included only a few individuals and was compounded by asymptomatic infection. Scientists in China have researched animal-derived coronaviruses under conditions that increased the risk for accidental and potentially unwitting exposure.

Scientists can live with uncertainty. Politics abhors it.

Through 2021, advocates of the lab-escape theory have become more emphatic and explicit.

Trump's former director of the CDC endorsed the lab-accident theory in March. "I am of the point of view that I still think the most likely etiology of this pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory, escaped," Robert Redfield said in an interview on CNN. Refield acknowledged, however, that "other people don't believe that. That's fine. Science will eventually figure it out."

Through the spring, journalistic interest in the lab-escape theory jumped the barrier from the Fox News universe to more centrist media.

Then, earlier this month, the veteran science reporter Nicholas Wade published an argument for taking the laboratory-origin hypothesis seriously. Wade's case was fortified by thick scientific detail and the prestige of his byline: He was for many years an eminent science reporter at *Nature* and *The New York Times*. And the article was spiced with an extra-exciting ingredient: It accused not only the Chinese state but also the U.S. scientific community of complicity in a cover-up.

If the case that SARS2 originated in a lab is so substantial, why isn't this more widely known? As may now be obvious, there are many people who have reason not to talk about it. The list is led, of course, by the Chinese authorities. But virologists in the United States and Europe have no great interest in igniting a public debate about the gain-of-function experiments that their community has been pursuing for years ...

The US government shares a strange common interest with the Chinese authorities: Neither is keen on drawing attention to the fact that Shi's coronavirus work was funded by the US National Institutes of Health. One can imagine the behind-the-scenes conversation in which the Chinese government says, "If this research was so dangerous, why did you fund it, and on our territory too?" To which the US side might reply, "Looks like it was you who let it escape. But do we really need to have this discussion in public?"

Even better for the pro-Trump world, Wade extended his criticism to the mainstream media too:

To my knowledge, no major newspaper or television network has yet provided readers with an in-depth news story of the lab escape scenario, such as the one you have just read, although some have run brief editorials or opinion pieces … What accounts for the media's apparent lack of curiosity?

The virologists' *omertà* is one reason. Science reporters, unlike political reporters, have little innate skepticism of their sources' motives; most see their role largely as purveying the wisdom of scientists to the unwashed masses. So when their sources won't help, these journalists are at a loss.

Another reason, perhaps, is the migration of much of the media toward the left of the political spectrum. Because President Trump said the virus had escaped from a Wuhan lab, editors gave the idea little credence. They joined the virologists in regarding lab escape as a dismissible conspiracy theory.

If there is any group of people more disliked by Trump supporters than Chinese Communists, it is the U.S. scientific community. For months, scientists had irritated Trump supporters by not falling in line with the pro-Trump argument that the coronavirus was much exaggerated and no big deal.

Anthony Fauci in particular has become a hate figure to the pro-Trump world and the Fox News network. It's weird, it's hard to explain, but it is an organizing fact of American politics: More than Biden, more than Vice President Kamala Harris, more than any Democrat in Congress other than Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Fauci has become the emblem and totem of everything that

Trumpists resent. Abuse. Name calling. Mob chants for his firing. Even thinly veiled calls for violence. All has been directed at Fauci. In the minds of the core Trump cadre, Fauci is the real culprit in Trump's defeat.

So when Fauci testified in the Senate a few days after Wade's article appeared, Senator Rand Paul made the most of it. "Dr. Fauci, do you still support … NIH funding of the lab in Wuhan?" Paul asked. Fauci denied that the National Institutes of Health supported so-called gain-of-function research in Wuhan, but that made no difference. Paul was relying on an authority more respected in Trump world than any scientist: the Fox News Tucker Carlson monologue of the night before.

Wade lays out a nearly insurmountably large amount of evidence that this virus originated at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in central China. It seems to make sense. This show and others have raised the possibility from the early days of the pandemic. But this piece all but proves it. At the time the outbreak began last fall, the Wuhan lab was conducting experiments on how to make bat viruses infectious to human beings. Those experiments were funded by American tax dollars. Those experiments, their funding, was approved and directed by Tony Fauci in Washington. By Tony Fauci. That is hard to believe, but it's true, and the piece lays it out.

Republicans in the House and Senate are now demanding formal investigations not only of the virus's origin, but of the American scientific community's role as well.

In many ways, what is happening is highly reminiscent of the anti-Communist battles of the late 1940s and early 1950s. In those days, the United States faced a dangerous external challenge from Soviet Communism. Isolationist Republicans had little interest in meeting that challenge: It would cost money and implied foreign commitments. They opposed the Marshall Plan, NATO, everything that really mattered. Instead, they used the foreign threat to justify launching a purge against an enemy within: domestic ideological opponents.

The United States is today in danger of repeating that sorry history. Pro-Trumpers want to use Chinese misconduct—real and imagined—as a weapon in a culture war here at home. They are not interested in weighing the evidence. They want payback for the political and cultural injuries inflicted on them by the scientists. They want Fauci to have time in the barrel.

What the rest of us should want is the truth.

While the Biden administration should defend U.S. scientists against partisan defamation, it has no reason to protect China against the truth, whatever that may be. In April, Biden's director of national intelligence testified to the Senate that the intelligence community remained open to the two possibilities that the virus "emerged naturally from human contact with infected animals or it was a laboratory accident." CIA Director William Burns concurred, adding that "the Chinese leadership has not been fully forthcoming or fully transparent." The only thing that is certain is that these leaders are starting to disbelieve the Chinese story that the virus originated in the Wuhan markets where live animals are sold.

By actively seeking the truth, the Biden administration will deny the Trump dead-enders the culture-war weapon they want. In the pursuit of the truth, the Biden administration can recruit as allies the scientists whom the Trumpists want to malign as enemies. Eighteen distinguished academics published an open letter in *Science* on May 14 describing both the species-jump theory and the lab-accident theory as equally "viable"—and urging an objective and impartial investigation.

More than scientific expertise may be required to reach the truth. The truth may depend less on analysis of the virus itself and more on intelligence from inside the Chinese government. Very possibly—and this theory is often heard from intelligence officials—the Chinese national authorities themselves do not know for certain how the virus originated. If there was a lah mistake, the people culpable in that mistake may be very frightened of their own government, and may have organized their own cover-up to protect themselves. One big reveal from the early phase of the coronavirus disaster is that local Chinese big shots can often effectively deceive and frustrate their own national government.

What we can know is this:

The people who supported this failed president should have no standing to accuse anybody else of fronting for China.

It was Trump who wasted crucial time in December 2019 and January 2020 by gullibly accepting Chinese assurances that all was okay. Trump had started a trade war, was losing it, and wanted a face-saving deal to goose the stock market in an election year. He praised the Chinese state and Xi Jinping at least 15 times in those decisive early days, according to a tally by *Politico.*

Trump supporters called on seniors to die for the economy. They mocked the masks that stopped the spread. They disparaged the vaccines that are bringing the pandemic to an end.

Trump's supporters have no interest in the truth about the virus's origin, whatever that truth ultimately proves to be. They care about attention-grabbing conflicts with fellow Americans, not about real-world problems. And if the Chinese state has more culpability for the pandemic than acknowledged to date, that is one hell of a real-world problem.

The Biden administration can defeat this squalid scheme to convert a real-world problem into a culture-war battlefield by acting fast and tough to take possession of the truth about the virus. If the current knowledge of the truth is ambiguous, it's okay to say that too—and to say it loud, say it clear, and say it often. The faster that problem is transferred from self-seeking outrage merchants to rational actors who can actually do something about it, the better for the United States and the world.

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Date:	Tue, 7 Sep 2021 11:11:16 AM -0400
Subject:	Stories today re. FoIA'd grants, but not being widely amplified
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To:	David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image041.png; image042.gif; image043.jpg; image044.jpg; image045.jpg; image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image013.png; image021.png; image022.png; image023.png; image024.png; image025.png; image026.png; image027.png; image028.png; image029.png; image030.png

The stories are sputtering forth slowly today but only in a few hard right outlets. The comments online are that this is largely a non-story and actually points to a very carefully designed study that considers the risks correctly.

Great quote from our spokesperson here – Robert Kessler, by the way: Asked about the grant materials, Robert Kessler, communications manager at EcoHealth Alliance, said, "We applied for grants to conduct research. The relevant agencies deemed that to be important research, and thus funded it. So I don't know that there's a whole lot to say."

https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new- details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

Richard Ebright's trying to cause trouble on Twitter re. Dr. Fauci lying before congress – as is Josh Hawley and Rand Paul. I suspect it'll go nowhere fast.

By the way – on the Ebright issue – the definition of a P3CO-worthy expt is to "enhance virulence or transmission in people". If a virus has never been found in people, it's virulence or transmission cannot, by definition, be enhanced. Again – these are bat viruses, never found in people.

There are copycat stories in other journals, all based on this one.

This should go away if Rand Paul doesn't amplify it too much, so finger's cross on that.

Cheers,

Peter

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.



Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl
September 6 2021, 9:06 p.m.

NEWLY RELEASED DOCUMENTS provide details of U.S.-funded research on several types of coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China. The Intercept has obtained more than 900 pages of documents detailing the work of EcoHealth

Alliance, a U.S.-based health organization that used federal money to fund bat coronavirus research at the Chinese laboratory. The trove of documents includes two previously unpublished grant proposals that were funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as well as project updates relating to EcoHealth Alliance's research, which has been scrutinized amid increased interest in the origins of the pandemic.

The documents were released in connection with ongoing Freedom of Information Act litigation by The Intercept against the National Institutes of Health. The Intercept is making the full documents available to the public.

"This is a road map to the high-risk research that could have led to the current pandemic," said Gary Ruskin, executive director of U.S. Right To Know, a group that has been investigating the origins of Covid-19.

One of the grants, titled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," outlines an ambitious effort led by EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak to screen thousands of bat samples for novel coronaviruses. The research also involved screening people who work with live animals. The documents contain several critical details about the research in Wuhan, including the fact that key experimental work with humanized mice was conducted at a biosafety level 3 lab at Wuhan University Center for Animal Experiment — and not at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, as was previously assumed. The documents raise additional questions about the theory that the pandemic may have begun in a lab accident, an idea that Daszak has aggressively dismissed.

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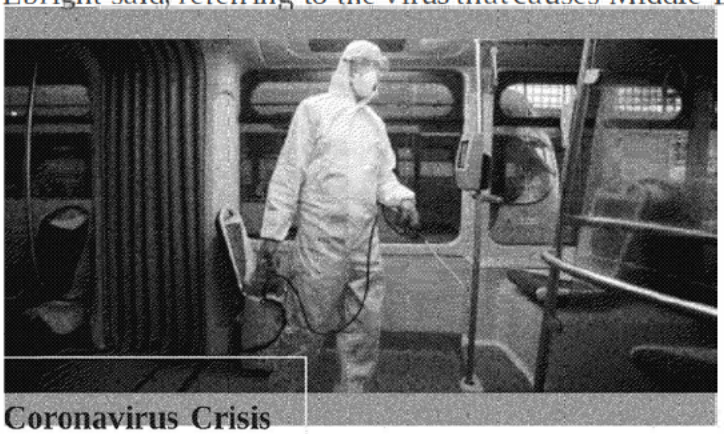
The bat coronavirus grant provided EcoHealth Alliance with a total of $3.1 million, including $599,000 that the Wuhan Institute of Virology used in part to identify and alter bat coronaviruses likely to infect humans. Even before the pandemic, many scientists were concerned about the potential dangers associated with such experiments. The grant proposal acknowledges some of those dangers: "Fieldwork involves the highest risk of exposure to SARS or other CoVs, while working in caves with high bat density overhead and the potential for fecal dust to be inhaled."

Alina Chan, a molecular biologist at the Broad Institute, said the documents show that EcoHealth Alliance has reason to take the lab-leak theory seriously. "In this proposal, they actually point out that they know how risky this work is. They keep talking about people potentially getting bitten — and they kept records of everyone who got bitten," Chan said. "Does EcoHealth have those records? And if not, how can they possibly rule out a research-related accident?"

According to Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, the documents contain critical information about the research done in Wuhan, including about the creation of novel viruses. "The viruses they constructed were tested for their ability to infect mice that were engineered to display human type receptors on their cell,"

Ebright wrote to The Intercept after reviewing the documents. Ebright also said the documents make it clear that two different types of novel coronaviruses were able to infect humanized mice. "While they were working on SARS-related coronavirus, they were carrying out a parallel project at the same time on MERS-related coronavirus," Ebright said, referring to the virus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.



Read Our Complete Coverage **The Coronavirus Crisis**

Asked about the grant materials, Robert Kessler, communications manager at EcoHealth Alliance, said, "We applied for grants to conduct research. The relevant agencies deemed that to be important research, and thus funded it. So I don't know that there's a whole lot to say."

The grant was initially awarded for a five-year period — from 2014 to 2019. Funding was renewed in 2019 but suspended by the Trump administration in April 2020.

The closest relative of SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, is a virus found in bats, making the animals a focal point for efforts to understand the origins of the pandemic. Exactly how the virus jumped to humans is the subject of heated debate. Many scientists believe that it was a natural spillover, meaning that the virus passed to humans in a setting such as a wet market or rural area where humans and animals are in close contact. Biosafety experts and internet sleuths who suspect a lab origin, meanwhile, have spent more than a year poring over publicly available information and obscure scientific publications looking for answers. In the past few months, leading scientists have also called for a deeper investigation of the pandemic's origins, as has President Joe Biden, who in May ordered the intelligence community to study the issue. On August 27, Biden announced that the intelligence inquiry was inconclusive.

Biden blamed China for failing to release critical data, but the U.S. government has also been slow to release information. The Intercept initially requested the proposals in September 2020.

"I wish that this document had been released in early 2020," said Chan, who has called for an investigation of the lab-leak origin theory. "It would have changed things massively, just to have all of the information in one place, immediately transparent, in a credible document that was submitted by EcoHealth Alliance."

The second grant, "Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia," was awarded in August 2020 and extends through 2025. The proposal, written in 2019, often seems prescient, focusing on

scaling up and deploying resources in Asia in case of an outbreak of an "emergent infectious disease" and referring to Asia as "this hottest of the EID hotspots."

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, September 5. 2021 5:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Subject: Re: ASF ---

Yes! I think the conspiracy wackos might be running out of gas. Let's PRAY they are. Reality is in your side, don't ever forget that. My sense is that there is a new push back opportunity. As i mentioned, in rate stolen minutes i have been amassing several hundred papers on the origin of S2 andxreading-dissecting-making notes. The aim is an editorial that says F the bullshit, here is what we, we internstional scientists, need to do collaboratively to get on top of this. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 5, 2021, at 14:33, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

You're right – at some point this becomes so boring and repetitive that it doesn't get traction, but some of these reporters are really good at making up stories – checkout this doozie below…

https://thenationalpulse.com/breaking/daszak- deletes-tweet-from-wuhan-fauci-conerence/

I deleted it after the lab leakers started their craziness because it has Zhengli's email address in it. The fact that I was at the conference is public knowledge and I regularly mention it to reporters – it was December 2019 just before the first cases of COVID were happening.

Cheers,

Peter

EcoHealth's Peter Daszak Deletes Tweet Revealing Wuhan Lab Researchers At Fauci-Funded Conference.

AUGUST 28, 2021 NATALIE WINTERS

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MORENS_NIH_025881
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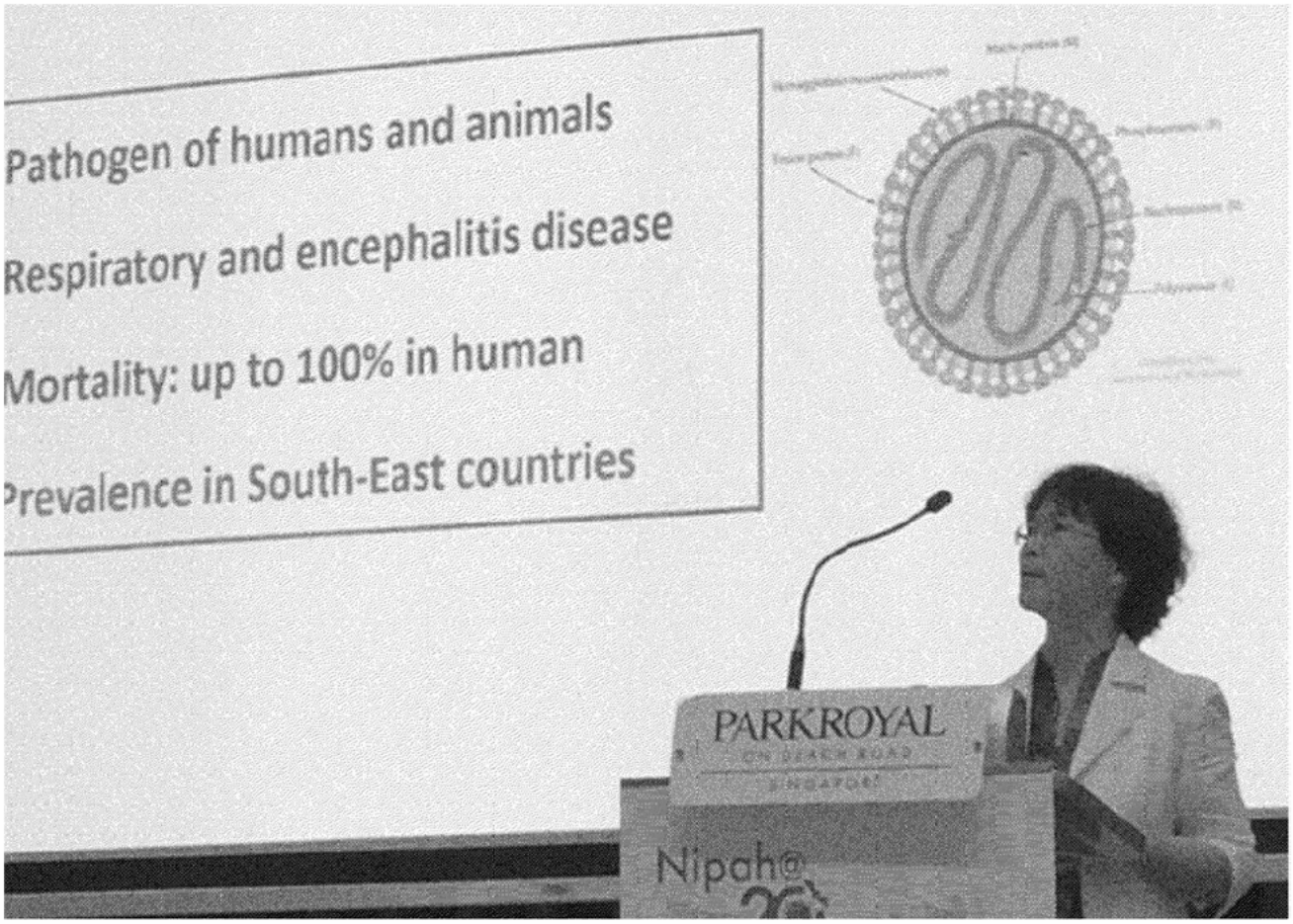

SHARE THIS NEWS

EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak – the disgraced proponent of the COVID-19 "natural origins" theory and longtime collaborator of the Chinese Communist Party – deleted a tweet revealing his attendance at an event sponsored by Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases featuring Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers.

Posted on December 10th, 2019, just weeks before the Chinese government reported its first case of COVID-19, the tweet revealed Daszak's attendance at the Nipah Virus International Conference in Singapore.

"The two-day session was co-hosted by Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). Also listed as organizers are the World Health Organization and the National Institute

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of Allergy and Infectious Diseases," reports the site Some Bitch Told Me. CEPI was founded with a sizable investment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In the now-deleted tweet, Daszak details how Shi Zhengli, the Wuhan Institute of Virology's "bat lady," calls for "open and transparent international scientific collaboration on pandemic risk pathogens" at her lab's Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) facility. He follows up with a slide explaining how "you can train in the BSL-4 lab in Wuhan."

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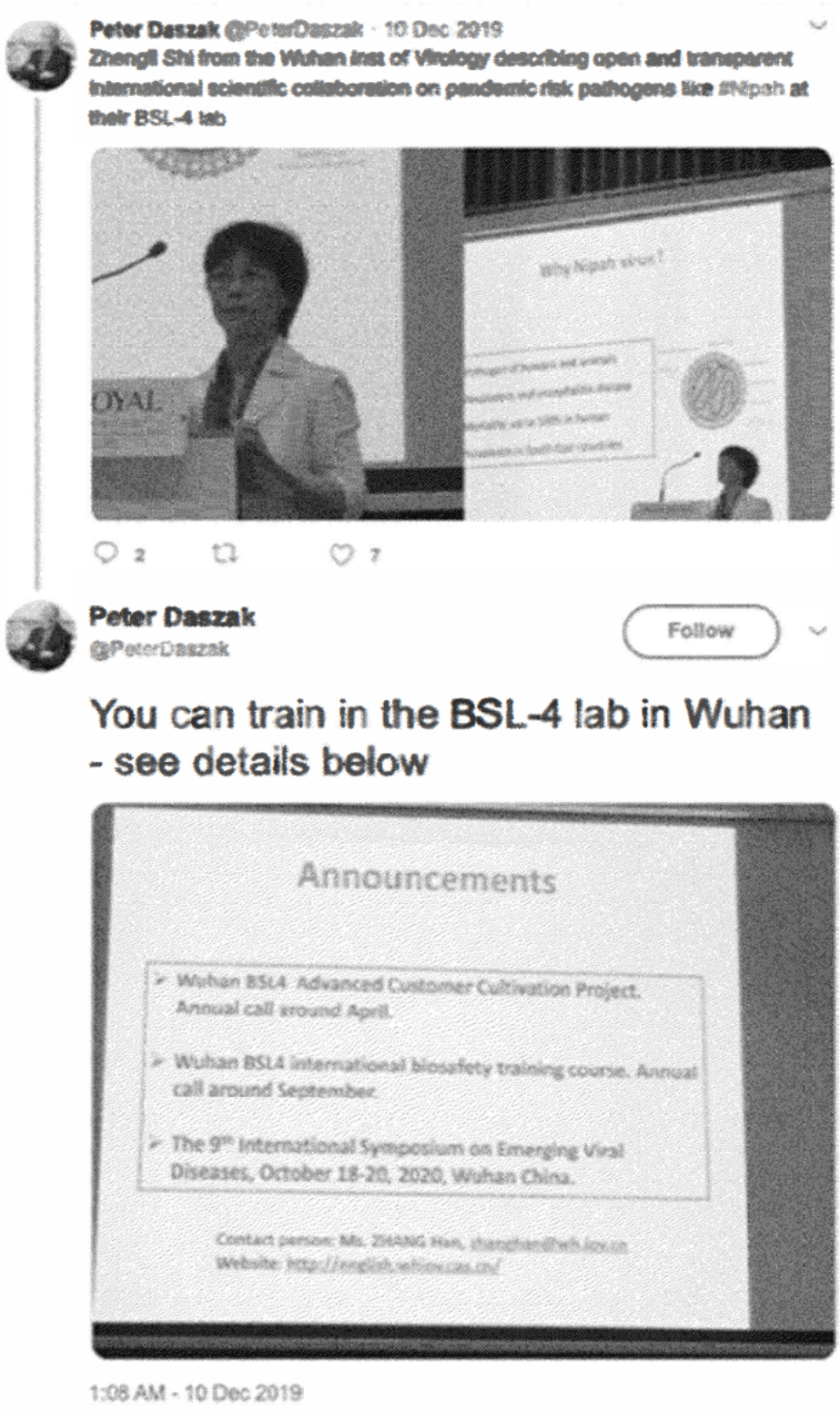

NOW-DELETED TWEET.

Daszak's deletion of the tweet follows The National Pulse unearthing the scientist's extensive conflicts of interest with the Chinese Communist Party and its Wuhan Institute of Virology. These ties ultimately led to his recusal from the *Lancet* COVID-19 commission, where he used his position to

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discredit the “lab leak” theory and spread disinformation about the origins of the virus.

The unearthed post also follows Fauci, whose NIAID sponsored the event, denying affiliation with the Wuhan lab.

SHARE THIS NEWS

Should Joe Biden Resign? *

- Not Sure
- No
- Yes

Your e-mail is required to confirm your vote. This is to stop spammers. If you use a fake email, your vote won't be counted.

Email *

Submit



Natalie Winters

Natalie Winters is an Investigative Reporter at the National Pulse and contributor to The National Pulse podcast.

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 1:34 PM
T (b) (6) ; Robert Kessle (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
Subject: : ASF---foia

But I think that's the important thing: since there is nothing to find, there is little they can do with it. Maybe at some point these nutters will move on to another conspiracy.... d

On 9/5/2021 1:19 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Thanks for the heads-up. The 900 pages of grant material I think is the stuff we've been processing through with our lawyers. It includes the full proposal for our grant in China, reports etc. as well as our current U01. It's extremely upsetting that these will now be dragged through the mud, but the truth is, there's nothing unusual or embarrassing in there – everything is completely normal and above board, and both were highly scored by reviewers.

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MORENS_NIH_025885
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In my view, this sort of stuff isn't going to get them the same level of interest that it did at the beginning of summer, so hopefully this will be another non-event, but let's see what drama they can dream up from it.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 1:07 P
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Subject: – foia

Peter, have a stiffdrink before you read. But do not worry, this is thd new normal and there will be no "there" there..... d

------- Forwarded Message -------
Subject: FW: ASF --- foia
Date: Sun, 5 Sep 2021 16:57:49 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
To: David Moren (b) (6)

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) assistant: Whitney Robinson)

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MORENS_NIH_025886
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(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 9:29 A
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: ASF --- foia

Further on FOIA

900 pages of EcoHealth Alliance grant materials are going out (with redactions) today under a lawsuit with First Look Institute (The Intercept) [redacted]

ASF --- I do not think you need to look at this

Also, as folks may be aware, and apropos of my email late last night, Congress does not have to go through the FOIA. So the tranche from last night was not in the usual NIH FOIA channel.

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 12:09 AM
To: NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: ASF -- foia

We have closely monitored foia document releases with an eye toward items that are new/different/potentially problematic in terms of people using them to cause mischief. Nothing recently has fallen into those categories

NOW -- What is new and will be released soon, perhaps tomorrow

Unredacted emails requested by minority members of House Committee on Oversight and Reform

In OD, please see

HOGR minority requested emails 9/2/2021 9:03 PM

ASF I think it would be helpful for you to eyeball all the redacted emails now being released in un-redacted form
For instance, for this entry, look at at the top one

NIH 2157 - 2161
NIH 2157 - 2161 redacted

We have gone through these, and the ones that might be worth a first look are:

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MORENS_NIH_025887
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- 2157-2161
- 2314-2324
- #14 and 15

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.

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Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2022 2:53:41 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 16 Jun 2022 2:53:28 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs saying it out loud
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

So awful, and tragic for Jeff as well

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 16, 2022, at 1:14 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I think you'll enjoy this – Jeff Sachs on a web interview now on Youtube saying that he is convinced SARS-CoV-2 came out of "US biotechnology, not from nature".

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rRBuX4U0DU &t=745s

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Websit ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, June
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Jeff S (b) (6) Da
(b) (6) ld T' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Thanks for the comments Rich. It's now over with the NAM for their scholarly deliberations!

I'm now straight onto dealing with the draft of the HHS OIG audit – they were asked by NIH to do an audit of EHA, and they're trying to paint us as heinously incompetent and duplicitous, so we've now got to spend another few days drafting responses and supplying documentary evidence that we're not the bad guys people would like us to be….

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006809
MORENS_NIH_015813
REL0000478636

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 1:51 PM
To: (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter J (b) (6) Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Peter:

This is excellent! I'm sorry to be slow in responding, but "officially" I have been on vacation and unable to read all emails coming my way without alerting my wife to my "non-vacation" behaviour. I am not en route home and have had the chance to read through this response.

What is so annoying here is that politicians have the easy option of targeting would-be scapegoats to uphold a political agenda and ignore science.

I hope the NAM will finally decide to follow the science and tell the politicians to go to hell.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai (b) (6)

From: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 12:34 AM
To: Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) oberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006810
MORENS_NIH_015814
REL0000478636

Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

Thank you very much for your support dealing with this awful situation. Below is my email to NAM with an attached letter responding to the allegations, and a dropbox file with 28 appendices supporting each of the points I make (feel free to click on the link and sift through if you've got a spare few hours!).

Having been lucky enough to get a scholarship to one of those schools in the UK where we had to stand when the teachers (who we had to call "masters") came in the room, this brings back some powerful memories of the way institutions can be manipulated to make the lives of the people they're supposed to serve totally bloody miserable.

I only hope the committee is able to see beyond the political narratives, and their desire to save the NAM from attack, and do the right thing by one of their members. If not, I'll get ready with my appeal, and continue this tedious journey…

Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 12:24 AM
To: 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' (b) (6) 'Dzau, Victor J.' (b) (6) Kim, Se' <
(b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)) (6)
Subject: RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Fuentes-Afflick,

I want to thank you and the NAM for granting me the extra time to respond to the allegations from the three Republican members of the Congress. I am attaching the original letter to the NAM (attachment A), the focused allegations

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MORENS_NIH_015815
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(attachment B), your letter to me informing me of the intent to open an investigation ("Letter to Member…."), and my response to your letter refuting these allegations ("Dr. Daszak, response to NAM letter of April 11th 2022").

As you can see, I have provided a detailed refutation of each of the allegations, along with documentary evidence to support each point. This consists of 28 appendices (many are quite short consisting of specific email chains or short documents). However, because of their overall size, I have placed them in a secure dropbox folder that is available for you to download and circulate among the committee by clicking on the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/io8q3ig64g0tkum/AACvnf8IlwXX86sfDXUOPIMaa?dl=0

As you stated below, I appreciate that this process is confidential, and I would ask that you take particular care to ensure that my letter and the appendices are carefully shared so as not to be circulated more widely than necessary – some of these appendices contain information that has never been released publicly before.

I will await the decision of the committee, the NAM Council and Dr. Dzau in due course, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me of my Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura (cc'd) for any further information or clarification

Sincerely,

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1-212-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Dzau, Victo (b) (6) Kim, Se <(b) (6)
Subject: confidential

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for your note of April 22nd. I was traveling and apologize for my delayed response. I have reviewed your letter in detail and will respond to each point.

First, when the NAM receives any allegation of misconduct against a member, we have to follow an independent process that is outlined in the policy document you received. We have undertaken an initial evaluation by an assessment panel which eliminated many of the allegations but recommended a subset of the allegations to be further investigated by the conduct review committee. The list of allegations was shared with you.

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MORENS_NIH_015816
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I accept your request for a deadline extension to June 12th. You may enlist the assistance of others and I encourage you to request that they honor the confidentiality of the process.

Point 1: To date, the NAM has not conducted its own investigation of the allegations. We have identified a subset of materials for further investigation which were referenced in the April 11, 2022 letter.

Point 2: I apologize for not providing information about the conflicts evaluation. We conducted a thorough evaluation of the conflicts of the assessment panel and conduct review committee members and none were identified.

Point 3: We identified selected references from the list provided in the original letter with the allegations and added one reference that is publicly available on the NIAID's website. These materials and any response you provide are the only materials that the Conduct Review Committee will consider.

Point 4: I should have asked if you have the results of an external investigation related to the allegations under consideration. If you have any such results, please share them.

Point 5: You are correct that our policy does not include a provision to meet with the conduct review committee and I cannot offer you this option. I invite you to submit additional materials if you believe they are relevant.

I want to assure you, personally, that the confidentiality requirement and following our process are my top priorities. I have discussed this with all individuals involved and have not shared information with anyone other than the assessment panel and conduct review committee members. My communication with the representatives of those who wrote the original letter was to confirm receipt of the materials and explain that we would be following our conduct review process.

I would be happy to connect with you, by phone or Zoom, to discuss.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:14 PM
To: Dzau, Victor (b) (6) Fuentes-Afflick, Elen (b) (6) Kim, Se < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

I was very concerned to have received three separate press inquiries today regarding a story in *Fox News* (https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house- republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data). I am not planning to respond to these questions.

As you can see in the *Fox News* article, yet another partisan political letter has been made public with unsubstantiated and clearly politically motivated allegations against our organization and myself. In the article, an aide to Representative McMorris Rodgers states that "*After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request…We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well.*"

In your letters to me, and by phone, you reassured me repeatedly that the process of deciding whether to investigate these allegations was confidential on the NAM side, and you urged me to also treat correspondence with NAM on this issue as confidential, which I have. However, it appears that this is not the case, in that NAM has informed the Republican staff of intent to review my 'behavior' and that this has now been made public, as I indicated could happen in my letter to you last week, April 22, 2022.

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus- study-of-bats-in-china-met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-says-11635441406) and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g. https://www.science.org/content/article/we- ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19 and https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/).

Given the developments today, I urge you to reconsider your decision to investigate these allegations, which have nothing to do with my adherence to the rules of conduct of NAM members, and to respond to the Republican accusers to state that they do not rise to the level whereby an investigation is warranted. I believe this is justified by the one-sided political nature of the attacks, the lack of prima facie evidence for the allegations, and the fact that your communications have already been made public in defiance of the confidentiality of the matter that NAM and EcoHealth Alliance have maintained. I'm very concerned that this public witch hunt will be damaging not just for myself and our organization, which has consistently produced cutting edge research on emerging diseases that has been fundamental to a series of NAM publications, but that it will also be damaging to NAM and the Academies in general. If you do not stand up to these politicized attacks at this point, they will surely continue and drag in other members of the Academies who have been publicly criticized and accused by the same politicians for the last two years, and who are being continually attacked by various fringe groups espousing conjectural hypotheses about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, in spite of the increasing scientific evidence supporting the spillover from bats through an intermediary host to humans.

This active political interference with stewardship of science, the integrity of science, and the pursuit of knowledge by scientists, goes well beyond EcoHealth Alliance and threatens the integrity of the entire U.S. scientific enterprise. It is no different except in volume than the incontrovertible political interference by Donald Trump in the scientific enterprise at NIH in April 2020, which prompted you to issue a public statement about the separation of politics from science in response. Your words and those of Marcia McNutt ring even more true at this point: *"Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all"* (https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/09/nas- and-nam-presidents-alarmed-by-political-interference-in-science-amid-pandemic). EcoHealth Alliance, myself, the NIH, Tony Fauci, NAM and you are in the cross-hairs now because NIH failed to protect science and scientists from Trump's overtly political, and sadly successful, effort to close down research that was politically inconvenient. I worry that this is just the beginning of the goal of this anti-science agenda, and for that reason it demands brave, bold, and decisive action.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Websit lthalliance.org
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_006815
MORENS_NIH_015819
REL0000478636

Date: Sun, 15 Aug 2021 2:06:31 PM -0400
Subject: RE: feedback on wild animals
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

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

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:54 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: feedback on wild animals

Thanks, David.
I just got off a video conf call with the current editor in NY (the one asking all the latest questions). He's very nice and I feel like he gets its. He thinks it's a fascinating story.
Problem we have in journalism is that there are some people who aren't interested in actual journalism and telling stories; they want to climb to

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013153
MORENS_NIH_024960
REL0000478639

the top and manage people. I rejected the latter route 10 years ago, but am so grateful that I still get to meet so many remarkable people, visit cool places and see all aspects of humanity.
A difficulty working for a NY-based organization is that it's assumed that all the best people are in NYC, so being in Melbourne (where I need to be to be close to my kids in Adelaide), is that folks consider Australia a backwater and, by association, I mustn't be all that important/valuable. But my new role as "global biosecurity czar" is helping somewhat. Ahhhhh... Office politics!

From: (b) (6) At: 08/15/21 09:03:03 UTC+10:00
To: J NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

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 (b) (6) >
To: JASON GALE, (b) (6) g ,
(b) (6) (6)

Looking forward to this important article. Truth is stronger than fiction.

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:41 AM
To (b) (6) b) (6) (b) (6) <
(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) v>;

MORENS_SUBPOENA_013154
MORENS_NIH_024961
REL0000478639

(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Garry, Robert F (b) (6)
> (b) (6)

Subject: Fwd:Re:feedback on wild animals

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Hi guys, in case you have nothing better to read over the weekend, this is some of the dialog I am having with editors in the U.S. Essentially, my response to questions from editor #6.
I thought I could claim victory when it looked like the story could be published this morning, but the editor of Businessweek objected and thinks he can make it better with another revision and an ETA of Tuesday. Sigh.
Jason

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/14/21 16:36:58 UTC+10:00
To: Cristina Lindblad (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:), Eric Gelman (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: Joel Weber (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:feedback on wild animals

> Hi.
> Thanks for the feedback and the questions, which I have tried to answer in detail.
> It's often easier to have a conversation over Nexi or the phone to explain nuanced information, or details that are 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

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the wet markets, it might not be in this mess now.

Anyway, here are my response to your queries in green.

By the way, I wonder if the current headline:
Delayed Paper Gives Credence to Wuhan Market Covid Origin Story
doesn't convey much more than what we had 2 months earlier when we reported Xiao's findings: China Markets Sold Mink, Civets, Stoking Natural Origins Theory
Perhaps Obscured China Paper Scuppered Chance to Trace Covid Origins
would hits "China", "Covid" and "Origins" in a way that won't alienate people who already believe it was a lab-leak

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According to the report, minks, civets, raccoon dogs and other mammals known to harbor coronaviruses were sold in plain sight for years in shops across the city, including the now infamous Huanan wet market, to which many of the earliest Covid cases were traced. The evidence collected over 30 months by **Xiao Xiao** a I'D NAME HIM HERE [[i don't know that naming a researcher no one has ever heard of adds much]] researcher working at a lab affiliated with China's Ministry of Education was hastily drafted into a manuscript and submitted to a scientific journal [Joel, we cannot name the first journal they delivered it to because the authors decline to give us the name, saying it may affect their future chances of being published] in February 2020, just weeks before the outbreak was declared a pandemic.

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While the study received wide attention when it was eventually released by a different publisher [Publisher (Springer Nature) and publication (Scientific Reports) are different. Might add confusion DO YOU WANT TO ADD NAME HERE?], its long and torturous journey to publication gave **Chinese officials an opportunity to weave alternative narratives in which the virus may have come from abroad, even from a U.S. Army biological research facility**. [the stuff in bold is not contested and we go on to show how that happened, documenting with links when available]I TWEAKED WORDING HERE BUT THIS STILL ISN'T QUITE RIGHT. IF THE REPORT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED EARLIER CHINESE OFFICIALS COULD STILL HAVE DONE WHAT THEY DID—THEY COULD HAVE JUST SAID THE REPORT WAS SHODDY, OR WHATEVER, AND THEY ALSO COULD HAVE JUST IGNORED IT. I disagree. The evidence that Xiao et al provide was meticulously documented and supported by photographs that would have been

difficult/impossible for China to dismiss (as older published photos and media reports had been). What's more, Newman understands that Xiao collected blood-sucking ticks from the wild animals he studiously cataloged. His frozen tick samples could be tested for blood/antibodies/virus, which could be extremely helpful in identifying infected species PRIOR to December 2019. The WHO team knew nothing of this, so couldn't have asked China for this research or any results, had they actually done the research. The delay in the publication of Xiao's paper delayed the evidence that there were live animals sold in the Huanan market. The WHO researchers couldn't have asked about tests on wildlife that ostensibly were never there. Likewise, Chinese authorities couldn't have done the tests on animals that didn't exist. The problem is that in January and February 2020, it was widely assumed the animals HAD been there and that the necessary tests and tracing of animals (the sampling of animals on farms they were raised on, testing of farm workers, animal hunters, transporters and traders **had all been done** by researchers in China -- the very things that ultimately led to the discovery of the origins of SARS and of MERS viruses. **None of these things were done** (or at least, there is nothing publicly available to show that they were done) **because the animals "weren't there"**. Now that we all know they were there, China as lost considerable face. The issue has become so political than there is much less/?no willingness to cooperate and conduct the additional research that the WHO-led team recommended. Ideally, Xiao 's ticks should be studied, but it's doubtful that will now happen (I wouldn't be surprised if he's been ordered to incinerate them!) Hope this is clear.

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An international team of experts convened by the WHO traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to seek answers—a trip that might have yielded different results if the scientists had known about the work of Xiao Xiao, a virologist whose roles straddled epidemiology and animal research at the government-funded Key Laboratory of Southwest China Wildlife Resources Conservation and at Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.‘MIGHT HAVE YIELDED DIFFERENT RESULTS’ SEEMS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. WHAT RESULTS DID IT YIELD? I’D CUT THIS GRAF
As mentioned above, the WHO-convened team of researchers was told by market authorities, vendors and regular market visitors that there were no live animals sold in the Huanan market. That undermined completely the premise that the Huanan market was the kind of place where live animals from different species are stacked in cages, with urine and fecal material drips from one cage to the one below it, where there are splatters of blood and guts from

animals, and lots of potential for the spread of diseases from one species to another (including Homo sapiens). Instead, the market (and one other one known to have been selling live wild animals in 2019) was presented as selling only frozen wild animals and aquatic species and things unlikely to be the source of SARS-CoV-2. The WHO researchers were told there were frozen ferret badgers and other wildlife found in freezers. Some of the carcasses actually came from Yunnan, the province where the closest coronavirus related to SARS-CoV-2 was found in bats -- thus establishing a potential route from Yunnan to Wuhan in wildlife. That was actually important. When the researchers showed their Chinese counterparts photos of caged raccoon dogs taken in the Huanan market by Prof. Edward Holmes five or six years earlier, they were told by Chinese scientists that the photos may have been faked, and that the market had ceased selling such live animals anyway. The WHO researchers saw no evidence (empty cages, animal pelts, etc) to dispute what the Chinese scientists told them, although they did smell "animals" -- but were told they were smelling rotten meat, sewage etc. Three people associated with the WHO-led mission told me that they didn't believe the information they were given by anyone associated with the market. But since there was no evidence to the contrary, they were unable to push the Chinese scientists further on this. 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.

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Six months and two revisions later, the journal’s publishers rejected the paper. “They did not think it would have widespread appeal,” says Newman, who declined to name the publication [do you want us to say why he won’t name it? I don't think it's necessary. There's no upside for scientists to make a publisher look bad (most journals are published by a handful of publishers)] “It caused us, especially our Chinese co-authors, concern that these data would not be taken seriously.”

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The manuscript underwent a third revision to include data on China’s pangolin trade networks (an earlier study, later contested, had implicated pangolins in the virus’s spread to humans)WHO ASKED THAT THIS INFO BE INCLUDED? (I did, because we're trying to explain here why WHO missed the significance of Xiao's evidence. The WHO was slammed

by other papers being submitted PLUS Xiao's paper had a weird title. That title seemed relevant to the authors back in January-February 2020, when pangolins were considered a possible SARS-CoV-2-spreading culprit. But in October 2020, pangolins were off the hook, so the title would have seem irrelevant/unimportant at first glance at WHO). It was then sent to the online journal *Scientific Reports.*

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The China-based researchers had reason to be cautious. In February 2020, the China Center for Disease Control (CCDC lets not use "CCDC". It's not commonly used like the U.S. "CDC" is, and it's going to force readers to go back and figure out what the "CCDC" is) prohibited scientists working on Covid-relate

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~~CCDC~~ Disease detectives arriving from Beijing (think this makes it clear that these are China's disease "feds" arriving) on the first day of 2020 ordered environmental samples to be collected from drains and other surfaces at the market. Some 585 specimens were tested, of which 33 turned out to be positive for SARS-CoV-2. “All current evidence points to wild animals sold illegally,” China CDC Director George Gao and colleagues wrote in the agency’s weekly bulletin in late January. All but two of the positive specimens came from a cavernous and poorly-ventilated section of the market’s western wing, where many shops sold animals.

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~~The information void kindled a raging political debate that’s already caused a trade war between China and Australia, as nations~~ demand to know ~~how Covid emerged.~~ Australia in April 2020 called for a global inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, including China’s handling of the initial outbreak. Days later, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used part of his Earth Day message to call on China to close its wet markets to “reduce risks to human health inside and outside of China.”

Based on a discussion today with someone with knowledge of the WHO-led mission to Wuhan in Jan-Feb 2021, a significant catalyst for China's defensiveness is the emergence of **claims for reparations** that extended from the finger-pointing at China's wet markets. These surfaced in April 2020, and have continued as recently as June 2021 (when Trump pushed for it again at a rally in the Midwest)

SO IS THIS THE POINT AT WHICH CHINA, WHICH SEEMINGLY ACCEPTED THE WET MARKET HYPOTHESIS, BEGAN TRYING TO CREATE A DIFFERENT NARRATIVE? (I think it was incremental. I believe China was embarrassed that its citizens were still buying wild animals in wet markets to eat -- a well-known hazard for zoonotic disease transmission that China tried unsuccessfully to outlaw almost 20 years ago. But that embarrassment/humiliation morphed into rigid denial and obfuscation when governments began openly blaming the Chinese Communist Party and agitating for China to pay reparations for the pandemic. See these clips:

- USA Today: Blame the Chinese Communist Party for the coronavirus crisis: Coronavirus crisis proves communism is still a grave threat to the entire world. If Beijing had just been honest, the pandemic could be preventable. April 5, 2020
- Yahoo News: More than half of Americans think China should pay coronavirus reparations, poll shows April 9, 2020
- Voice of America: Americans Join Coronavirus Lawsuit to Make China Pay April 10, 2020
- Washington Post Opinion: China must pay reparations to Africa for its coronavirus failures April 16, 2020
- Reuters: In a first, Missouri sues China over coronavirus economic losses April 22, 2020
- Washington Post: Missouri is suing China over the coronavirus pandemic. It's the latest conservative gambit, April 22, 2020
- New York Post: Top German paper demands $165 billion coronavirus reparations from China April 22, 2020
- Attorney General Fitch Prepares to Sue China on Behalf of Mississippians April 22, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump on U.S. Seeking Compensation From China Over COVID-19: 'We Have Not Determined the Final Amount' April 28, 2020
- The Guardian: Trump says China could have stopped Covid-19 and suggests US will seek damages April 28, 2020
- Intelligencer: Trump Thinks He Can Make China Pay for the Virus Like Mexico Paid for the Wall, April 30, 2020
- Washington Post: U.S. officials crafting retaliatory actions against China over coronavirus as President Trump fumes April 30, 2020
- Lawfare: Does China Really Owe the World Trillions of Dollars? May 7, 2020
- Fortune: Trump's demand that China pay coronavirus reparations evokes an ugly history May 8, 2020
- South China Morning Post: Why China won't be paying the West coronavirus reparations any time soon May 15, 2020
- Deccan Herald, India: Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Why

China needs to pay reparations to the world June 4, 2020

- Why calls for reparations from China for coronavirus are an unfeasible distraction June 9, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump Demands China 'Pay Reparations' for COVID, Says $10 Trillion Not Enough June 12, 2021

In response, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, denied "wildlife wet markets" existed in the country. Government researchersCAN WE BE MORE SPECIFIC? Twenty-two researchers from mostly nationally-funded laboratories (I think it's the Chinese equivalent of the NIH in the U.S.) and institutes attached to the Chinese Academy of Sciences) now dismiss the market hypothesis completely. "SARS-CoV-2 could not have possibly evolved in an animal market in a big city and even less likely in a laboratory," they wrote in a paper released last month ahead of publicationWHERE/WHEN WILL IT BE PUBLISHED? It was released as a "pre-print" on a Chinese academic repository ahead of publication that appears to be managed/owned by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Papers are usually released in pre-print form before they have been accepted for publication or peer-reviewed as a way of expediting public access to the information. In this case, there is no information to suggest if, where or when the paper will be published.

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A more recent paperBY WHOM? (China CDC's Gao and eight other scientists mostly from the Chinese of Academy of Sciences' institutes) contends that the virus may have been imported from multiple locations worldwide, including parts of Europe where mink are raised in areas inhabited also by horseshoe bats known to harbor coronaviruses. "The official narrative changed not because the evidence changed," says Robert Garry, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Tulane University's School of Medicine in New Orleans "A spillover from a wet market was what caused SARS, and, embarrassingly for China, those wet markets were never shut down." Garry is the co-author of one of the earliest papers on the origins of Covid but wasn't involved in the research on Wuhan's markets.

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I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT POINT THIS GRAF IS TRYING TO MAKE. This is intended to demonstrate the kind of gaslighting that has occurred. Some of the WHO-led researchers are veterinarians and zoologists -- they know what animals smell like, and could smell their lingering presence a year later, but were told essentially that it

was impossible that they were smelling animals because **there "were no live animals there"**.) The researchers noted a mixed smell of animals and disinfectant in some areas of the market, but they were told by the market's manager that they were probably smelling the lingering stench of rotten meat and sewage, according to a joint WHO-China report. [should we add "according to Laing Wannian etc here? Liang Wannian was the leader of the Chinese research team collaborating jointly with the WHO-led research team. The source for the above description are in the annexes to the official joint WHO-China report released at the end of March 2021.]

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Earlier the same day, the international research team visited Wuhan's larger Baishazhou market, where Xiao had regularly surveyed two sellers of live wild animals. Yet the group was told only frozen food, ingredients, and kitchenware were on offer there. Liang Wannian, an epidemiologist who led the Chinese experts collaborating with the WHO-convened team, says his group had no knowledge of Xiao's data either. [if the above information on what the delegation saw all comes from this same source, maybe we should include his name higher up (The source for the description of what the origins researchers saw on Jan. 31, 2021, comes from the official 120-page joint WHO-China report and its 193-page annexes, not from Liang. Since we are essentially accusing China of concealing the information that Xiao documented, we asked Liang at a press conference in late July 2021 when the Chinese team first knew about Xiao's findings -- that the Huanan market and three others in Wuhan were selling live animals permissive to SARS-CoV-2 infection -- and what research China has done subsequently as a follow-up on this information? Liang gave a very long-winded response in Chinese in which he said essentially "we didn't have that information in January-February 2021 when the research team was in Wuhan". I think it's important we keep this to demonstrate that we have tried to ascertain what China knew/has done and have given the Chinese researchers the opportunity to respond. In addition, I have emailed China CDC Director George Gao at least twice and not received any response.]

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Among the earliest clusters of infections recorded in Wuhan, one involved three Covid cases among staff working at a stall in Huanan. One of the employees, a 32-year-old who fell ill on Dec. 19, traded goods back and forth between the Huanan and Baishazhou markets.
WHERE DOES THIS FACT COME FROM? NOT THE REPORT, RIGHT?

WHEN DID IT FIRST BECOME KNOWN? This information was from the joint WHO-China report released in March 2021, however, the WHO-led researchers went to the Baishazhou market more as a demonstration by the China team of what a perfectly functioning large food market looks like. The WHO-led team was oblivious to Xiao's research that showed there were at least two stalls in Baishazhou that had been selling live wild animals for human consuption. So this detail and its significance was lost on the WHO researchers at the time.)

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A confirmed case linking two markets that sold wild animals is “very intriguing,”says Stephen Goldstein, a research associate in evolutionary virology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. But tracing any contact the employee might have had with infected wildlife is impossible now that the animals are long gone.WOULD TIMELY PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT HAVE CHANGED THIS? It's unlikely that Xiao et al's paper would have been *published* soon after It was drafted in February 2020, but it could have been *released* as a pre-print ahead of publication and peer-review that same month. That would have **confirmed** what almost everyone had suspected: that there **was** a flourishing wildlife trade in Wuhan that provides a plausible pathway by which coronavirus-infected wildlife from Yunnan and beyond could have introduced the virus to the city, sparking the Covid outbreak. It's also possible that swift recognition of these potential wild-animal vectors could have allowed scientists to test them for the virus and for antibodies against the virus while they were still alive (perhaps not the ones from Huanan, but wildlife in the three other Wuhan markets). Because of the statements the Chinese authorities had been making in January and February that strongly supported the animal spill over theory, it was assumed that this research was being done. Of course, the pandemic was raging then, so it would have been challenging. But, because of the denial by Chinese researchers that wild animals were being sold in Wuhan wet markets before the pandemic, there was never that level of follow up. At least, if there was, it was never made public.)

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“It seems to me, at a minimum, that local or regional authorities kept that informationWHAT INFORMATION? (that Wuhan had a flourishing live wild animal business going on in its wet markets before the pandemic) quiet deliberately,” Goldstein says. “It’s incredible to me that people theorize about one type of cover-up, but an obvious cover-up is staring them right in the face.”

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_013164
MORENS_NIH_024971
REL0000478639

Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 4:32:47 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 8 Mar 2021 4:30:31 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Yet another article
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Hilarious – love the NEJM 'article'. By the way, we're funded a little bit by Reckitt Benckiser, the makers of Lysol and Dettol. We've been getting funds from them since before the pandemic, but when this took off, they had to actually respond to DJT's inane ramblings:

https://www.wsj.com/articles/lysol-maker-warns-against-internal-use-of-disinfectants-after-trump-ponders-treatment-options-11587746107

Also, they actually tested lysol against SARS-CoV-2 and it works, so they now use it in their ads. We helped them get samples, and edited the paper – me and Jon Epstein are co-authors on a paper coming out soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 4:01 PM
To: David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com>
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kessler Robert (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Yet another article

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 (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kessler Robert <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Yet a

Thanks David, I'll do some more thinking, will wait for Peter's views, as well as Rich Roberts who Peter was in touch with over the weekend. I agree its time to get it out there again, and again. But we will need some heavy hitters to penetrate the walls that surround OD.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6) <
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kessler Robert <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Yet an

Jerry, i am not sure what the next step should be. You are better at thinking these things through snd have higher placed contacts. There may be no slam dunk, but every little bit of push back may have value. A short letter to the editor can't hurt and these are screened by a different staff which looks for balance. A gentle prod that the emperor's new clothes are threadbare has a chance of getting heard. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 8, 2021, at 15:21, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

> So what's the rebuttal? The Washington Post won't be interested in denigrating their own editorial board opinion pieces. Its interesting that the guy in charge of the editorial board, Fred Hiatt, is the son of a former Dean of Harvard School of Public Health, Howard Hiatt (now 95 years old). This made me think about connecting with former IOM President Harvey Feinberg (who succeeded Howard Hiatt at HSPH) and figuring out some way to respond publicly to the WaPo stuff. Harvey chose not to support the letter I organized to the NASEM presidents, or to sign on to the Op-Ed in The Hill, but that probably doesn't capture his views or concerns, which I believe are rather to the left.

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MORENS_NIH_024217
REL0000478643

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] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, March 8. 2021 11:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Kessler Robert < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Yet another article

Same one I sent you a bit ago..... I think the Post is being duped by its own columnists

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
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(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Kessler Robert <(b) (6) >
Subject: Yet another article

Josh rogin, who drama-queened up the state dept cables about their Wuhan visit now had a book and he's touting it in an excerpt in politico todsy.

It's one hit piece a day at this point!

https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/03/08/josh- rogin-chaos-under-heaven-wuhan-lab-book-excerpt-474322

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

> On Feb 25, 2021, at 6:53 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > 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…

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012809
MORENS_NIH_024219
REL0000478643

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6)
Subject: FW: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

<image002.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
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<image003.jpg>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:34 AM
Subject: NY Post: Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012810
MORENS_NIH_024220
REL0000478643

Wuhan lab at heart of COVID outbreak may get three more years of US funding

By Post Editorial Board
February 21, 2021 | 5:37pm | Updated
Enlarge Image
<image004.jpg>
The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China. Photo by HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP via Getty Images
The Wuhan Institute of Virology remains the most likely source of the coronavirus pandemic, yet it is set to receive US taxpayer dollars for the next three years. Worse, the cash will fund more animal research.
The National Institutes of Health told the Daily Caller that the Wuhan lab has an active Foreign Assurance file that authorizes it for US funding until 2024. When the virus first broke out, the Wuhan Institute had reportedly been testing coronaviruses in bats with $600,000 of US funding routed via the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.
The NIH terminated that EcoHealth grant, with the promise to restore it if an independent investigation cleared the Wuhan Institute of involvement in the outbreak. Now a World Health Organization delegation tasked with investigating the lab has preliminarily concluded that a leak was "extremely unlikely," which may let the contract resume. Never mind that the head of the WHO and the US State Department remain unwilling to rule out that possibility.
Here's where it gets really swampy: Not only did the WHO delegation fail to do its own investigation, merely accepting reports from China's government, the WHO team's only American member happens to be the EcoHealth Alliance's president, Peter Daszak — who demands that Washington unequivocally accept the delegation's findings. (This also tells you how pathetic the whole WHO investigation was.)
Anthony Bellotti, who heads nonpartisan watchdog group White Coat Waste Project, called for EcoHealth to be stripped of funding and asked Congress to finally conduct a real investigation into how the pandemic really started.
If this grant goes ahead, you'll know the Biden administration is committed to restoring Washington business-as-usual in all its disgusting ingloriousness.
Filed under Coronavirus , editorial , taxpayers , world health organization , 2/21/21

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Date:	Tue, 28 Jun 2022 9:46:30 AM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 28 Jun 2022 9:46:18 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image001.png

Ugh and the email he just sent me about FOIAs and such. I won't bother forwarding it. He's really become obsessed with this?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:43 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

I agree. Jeff Sachs is really proving to be quite a menace on this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 9:21 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter, excellent answer but Jeff seems to have gone crazy over this. The guy is a real menace. Amnd when did he ever get a degree in virology? Annoying to the max. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 28, 2022, at 09:06, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

Jeff's response and my response to Jeff

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Date: June 28, 2022 at 8:02:33 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6)
Cc: Juliana Bartels "Gaspar, Vito (b) (6) "Zinabou, Genet" <GZinabou@imf.org>, "Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali" <(b) (6) >, Alejandro Gaviria <(b) (6) >, Gaviria Uribe Alejandro <(b) (6) >, "Bottazzi, Maria Elena" <(b) (6) (b) (6) , Lara Aknin <lara (b) (6) >, Chandrika Bahadur <(b) (6) >, Lauren Barredo <(b) (6) >, ChrisBullen <(b) (6) (b) (6) , Andrew Haines <(b) (6) >, Neena Josh (b) (6) > Ozge Karadag Karadag <(b) (6) >, Phoebe Koundouri (b) (6) Gabriela (b) (6) "Morales, Andrés" <(b) (6) > (b) (6) a Colombo <(b) (6) >, Guillaume Lafortune <(b) (6) >, Jeff Sachs <(b) (6) en Amor <(b) (6) u>, Emma Torres <(b) (6) > George Larvea-Adje (b) (6) (6) >, Uyen Kim Huynh <(b) (6) (b) (6) Vaira Vike Freiberga <(b) (6) >, Kirsten Brosbøl <ki (b) (6) mfespinosa@icloud.com, Juan Pablo Cadena <(b) (6) >, John Thwaites <(b) (6) >, Jong-Koo Le (b) (6) , Booyuel Kim <booyuel@snu.ac.kr>, Muhammad Ali Pate <(b) (6) , Miriam Khamadi Were <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) , Marissa VanRy <(b) (6) >, Felipe Larrain Bascuñan <(b) (6) Susan Michie (b) (6) , Jeffrey Lazarus <(b) (6) >,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007154
MORENS_NIH_016306
REL0000478645

Margaret Hellard (b) (6) _____ >, Shweta Khand (b) (6) >, "Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW)" (b) (6)

Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

Yes Jeff, we discussed this at length and we agreed to send this out for peer review - with the understanding that the manuscript would be modified pending the comments. Now that a referee agrees with my assessment, this needs to be addressed in a forthright manner. My recommendation is that you accept the referee's criticism by stating that at least one of the Commissioners agrees and the language in the document has been modified accordingly. That's the only honest answer I can think of. It will also protect the entire LC from future backlash from the virology community.

One way to go is to add a sentence, that there was not consensus in your statement giving equal weight to zoonotic spillover vs lab leak GOF research and at least one of the Commissioners feels that body of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the former. This is a simple statement of truth and one that would give our document greater intellectual heft.

Thank you! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Fax: (b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_016307
REL0000478645

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) > wrote:

Dear Peter,

We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.

Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

> Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:
>
> *2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.*
>
> Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we

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have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor <(b) (6) Zinabou, Genet <(b) (6) Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali (b) (6) >; Alejandro Gaviria < (b) (6) >; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro <(b) (6) >; Bottazzi, Maria Elena (b) (6) u>; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>; (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Lara Aknin < (b) (6) Chandrika Bahadur <(b) (6) >; Lauren Barredo <(b) (6) >; Chris Bullen (b) (6) >; gaby cuevas (b) (6) >; Andrew Haines <(b) (6) >; Neena Joshi (b) (6) >; Ozge Karadag Karadag (b) (6) >; Phoebe Koundouri (b) (6) >; Gabriela <(b) (6) >; Morales, Andrés <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) >; Francesca Colombo < (b) (6) >; Guillaume Lafortune < guillaume.(b) (6) >; Jeff Sachs <(b) (6) Yanis Ben Amor < (b) (6) >; Emma Torres (b) (6) >; George Laryea-Adjei <(b) (6) >; Uyen Kim Huynh (b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Vaira Vike Freiberga < (b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Kirsten Brosbøl <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) < (>; Juan Pablo Cadena (b) (6) >; John Thwaites < (b) (6) >; Jong-Koo Lee (b) (6) Booyuel Kim <(b) (6) Muhammad Ali Pate <(b) (6) >; Miriam Khamadi Were <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Marissa VanRy < (b) (6) Felipe Larrain Bascuñan <(b) (6) Susan Michie < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Lazarus (b) (6) >; Margaret Hellard < (b) (6) >; Shweta Khandelwal (b) (6) Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) <(b) (6) >
Cc: Juliana Bartels (b) (6)
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

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Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

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MORENS_NIH_016310
REL0000478645

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie

--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007159
MORENS_NIH_016311
REL0000478645

Date:	Tue, 15 Jun 2021 9:45:47 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: 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] <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

Yes, this is difficult. But let us view-it as a process, and not despalr 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 <(b) (6) > 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
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Ju(b) (6)
To: Pet (b) (6) ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Rich Roberts
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 <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, June 1
To: (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <r(b) (6)
S 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 lableak 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

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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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6)
(b) (6) ich Robert (b) (6) (b) (6)
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
- (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
- (b) (6)
- (b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, 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

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Date: Mon, 13 Feb 2023 11:26:42 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 13 Feb 2023 11:24:26 PM -0500
Subject: RE: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: R (b) (6) Keusch (b) (6) vid Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ;

Great to see your thread (and re-tweet it)!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 8:38 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic

Peter: Terrific thread!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 8:28 PM

To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) effrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic

My response

https://twitter.com/peterhotez/status/1625303410802040833?s=46&t=pP2bWfOlKt40fW7D26sGeg

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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On Feb 13, 2023, at 6:28 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

They've finally re-upped their letters from December, now that they're actually in power.

We've already responded to confirm receipt, tell them we'll comply with information, and explain we need an extension and reduction in scope (their deadline is 1 week!).

Fox News asked for comment 30 mins after we received the letter, so there will be the usual BS in the press.

They've also asked for similar docs and testimony from Francis Collins, XiaverBeccara, 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!

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Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
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
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:41 AM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018813
MORENS_NIH_038297
REL0000478651

To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Jeffrey (b) (6) (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) orens (b) (6) Chmura <
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes I'm a member, and they do have some science and public engagement outreach. Probably the best person to discuss this with is Nancy Andrews MD PhD who is on their board as exec VP and also CSO at Boston Children's Hospital. We were undergrads at Yale together 100 years ago, https://www.amacad.org/person/nancy- c-andrews

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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On Feb 10, 2023, at 9:20 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

One organization that might be very helpful would be the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They have many members who are not scientists including some quite well known people like Yo Yo Ma and John Lithgow. They might be able to help.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs

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email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey St (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <

Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

So far Ann Moscona from ASV seems on board we can start with her? And the two names she suggested?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
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On Feb 9, 2023, at 4:35 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

I have not been at all successful in my outreach. I sent notes to Stef Bertuzzi at ASM, Mary Woolley at Research!America, and Carlos del Rio who is the foreign secretary for NAM (and the interim Dean at Emory Medical School) last Thursday after our call and I have not heard from any of them. I can get back to this middle of next week and if I haven't heard back by email I will call them directly. I can understand why Carlos might be suddenly overwhelmed with new responsibilities, which was one reason I thought about getting in touch first by email. But I don't think that applies to Stef or Mary.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

The more the merrier as we say in the UK!

I think our goal should be to really get a lot of support from all segments of society. We definitely should avoid the claim that we are just being elitists.

Rich

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From: (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio >
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

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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

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Deborah Johnson
University of Virginia

Kelly Joyce
Drexel University

Bartha Maria Knoppers
McGill University

Alexa Koenig
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Steven Livingston
George Washington University

Camille Nebeker
University of California, San Diego

Safiya Noble
University of California, Los Angeles

Frank Pasquale
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Neal Rubin (Chair)
Adler University

Judith Tanur
Stony Brook University

Joseph Watkins
University of Arizona

Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018819
MORENS_NIH_038303
REL0000478651

To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens
(b) (6) nio (b) (6)
(b) (6) >
ur call

LeBron was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke Kyrie Irving, citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the National Academies. I speak with Holden pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

Many thanks Rich!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
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On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

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From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Feb
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Pe (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
m our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Fe

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To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.

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- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
    - AAAS
    - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
    - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
    - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
    - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
    - Georgia Global Health Alliance
    - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
    - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
    - COVID Collaborative
    - Global Health Council
    - Global Health Technologies Coalition
    - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
    - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
    - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
    - Pandemic Action Network
    - PATH
    - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
    - Union of Concerned Scientists
    - Washington Global Health Alliance
    - 156 virologists letter
    - NAM
    - NAS
    - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
    - CUGH
    - The pandemic action coalition
    - FASEB
    - Global Health technologies coalition
    - APLU (KHG has connection)
    - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
    - Dr. Tony Fauci
    - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
    - OSTP
    - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Feb
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) turchio (b) (6) < (b) (6) >

Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

(b) (6) Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) 1# US (New York)
1# US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: PeterDaszak(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee

(HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists. What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine

aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media

Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?
Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.
Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?
Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.
It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.
After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.
As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science

aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far

right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has

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clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter,

and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote

conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) g>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital : Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com> wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

tchteam@dpwpr.com

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Exe (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Janu M
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) ei Chmura < >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <

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MORENS_NIH_038322
REL0000478651

(b) (6)
>
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.
NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack. They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Sponsor Message

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent

pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Ja PM
To: Hotez, Peter J (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gera (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
A (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Fax: 713-798-2299

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that(b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, theresurely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

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MORENS_NIH_038331
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Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

(b) (6) er Daszak < > 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_018848
MORENS_NIH_038332
REL0000478651

Peter Daszak
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
>; David Morens <(b) (6)
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerdFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

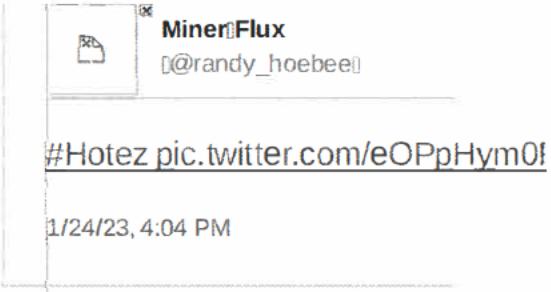
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (6) >; David Morens <d(b) (6) >; GeraldKeusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018851
MORENS_NIH_038335
REL0000478651



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018853
MORENS_NIH_038337
REL0000478651

Date: Thu, 26 Jan 2023 3:37:28 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 26 Jan 2023 3:37:17 PM -0500
Subject: Re: EcoHealth Alliance Digital Scrapbook
From: Majelia Ampadu <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6)

Thanks David! Let me know if there's any way I can help.
- Majelia

On Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 3:30 PM David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com> wrote:
Thanks, I will see what I can do!

david
David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On (b) (6) M Majelia Ampadu <
> wrote:

> Dear David,
>
>
> I'm Majelia, EcoHealth Alliance's Communications and PR Coordinator.
>
>
> We're compiling a digital scrapbook to highlight the impact of the amazing work our researchers, scientists, and supporters have cultivated. Peter suggested I reach out to you, as one of our long-running supporters.
>
>
> We would deeply appreciate it if you could draft a quote, send any photos, or record a video related to your experiences with EcoHealth.
>
> Feel free to reply to this email or contact me via text or phone call at +(b) (6) with any questions.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Majelia
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015582
MORENS_NIH_033243
REL0000478653

>
> --
>
> Majelia Ampadu (she/they)
>
> Communications & PR Coordinator
>
>
>
> EcoHealth Alliance ▪ ecohealthalliance.org
>
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>
> New York, NY 10018
>
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

--

Majelia Ampadu (she/they)
Communications & PR Coordinator

EcoHealth Alliance ▪ ecohealthalliance.org
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date:	Thu, 9 Feb 2023 3:19:50 PM -0500
Sent:	Thu, 9 Feb 2023 3:19:37 PM -0500
Subject:	Follow up from our call
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Te (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)

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Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja(b) (6)
Cc: DavidMorens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Notes
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress
Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack

- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, F PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) berts, Rich (b) (6) rald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Up

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, Feb
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (>; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) erald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 3
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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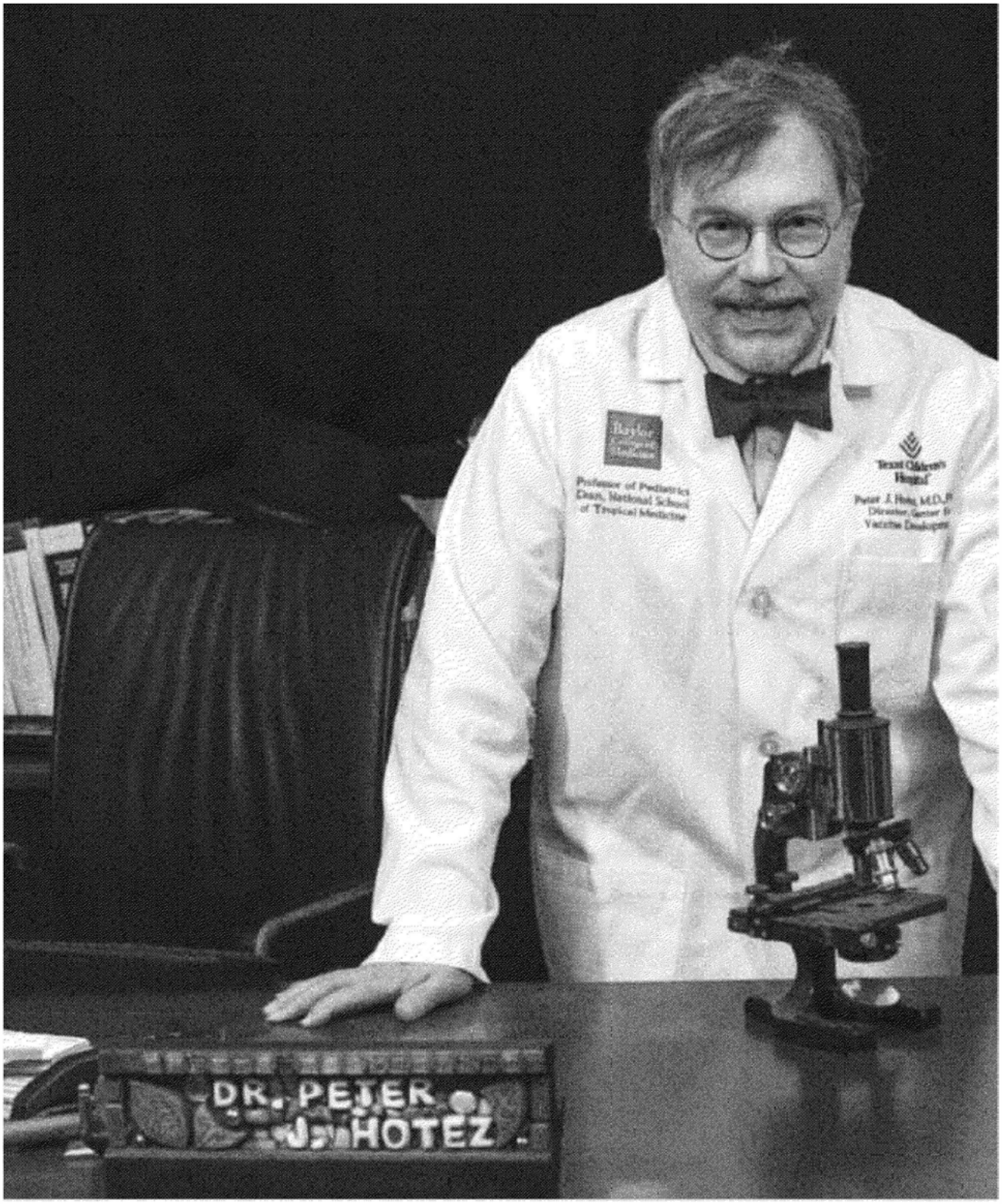

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines,

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hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad,* and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.
Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.
Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?
Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.
Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?
Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?
Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.
Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?
Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee]

money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading

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these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or

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hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?" And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a

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COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1-212-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchi(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura(b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Te (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
ema (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
(b) (6) (h) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <
Cc: (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH
Virologists defend their science as

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officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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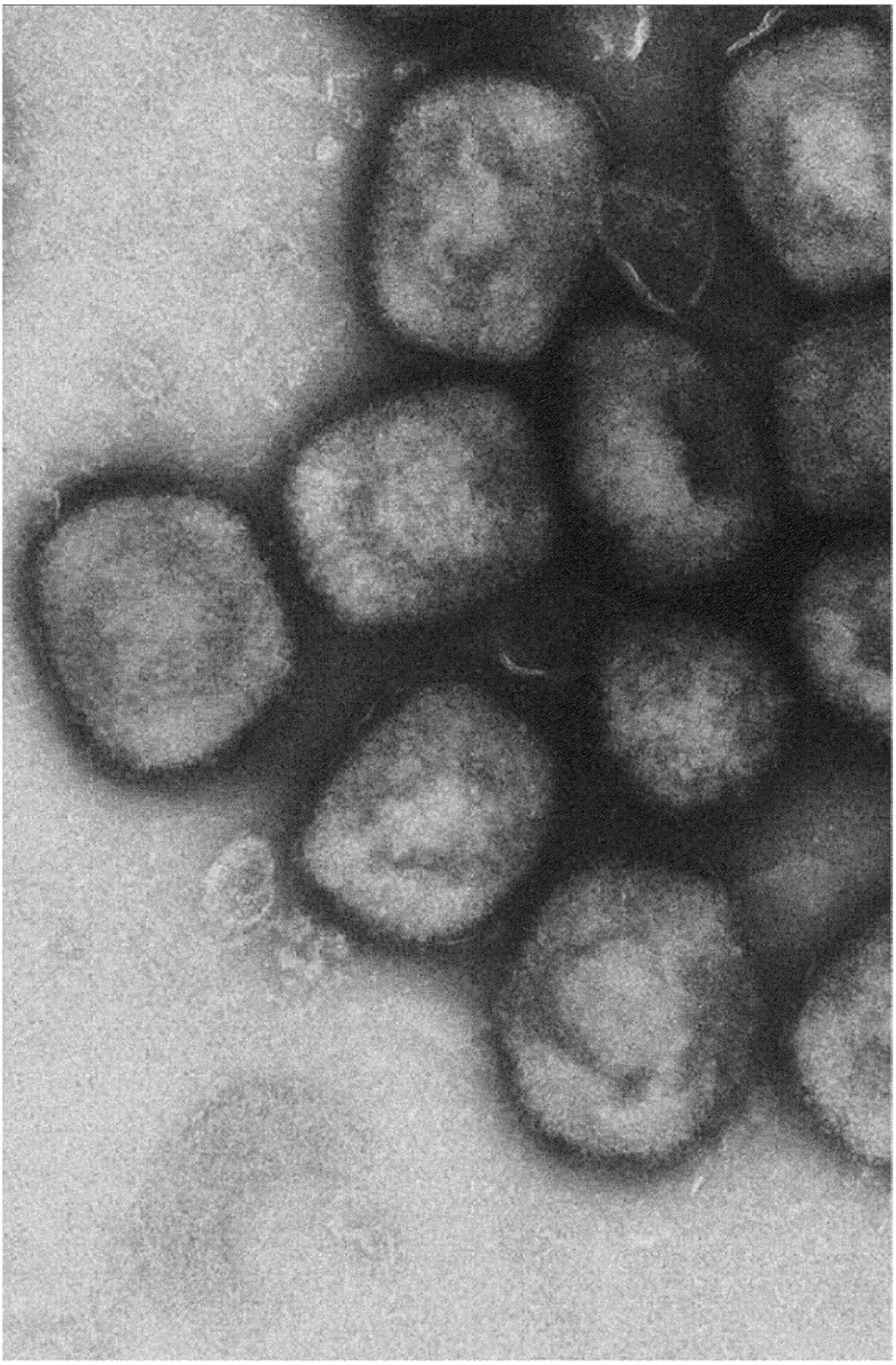

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

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attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route, " says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

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lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

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go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Dasza(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>

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MORENS_NIH_036381
REL0000478656

Sent: Wednesday, January 25. 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: T n Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: (b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) m>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of 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 th (b) (6) rom (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: (b) (6)
> Webs alliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017782
MORENS_NIH_036386
REL0000478656

Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc:
(b) (6)
David Morens (b) (6)
Gerald Keusch (b) (6)
Rich Roberts
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

eter Daszak <
(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
(b) (6)
Tel.
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

(b) (6)

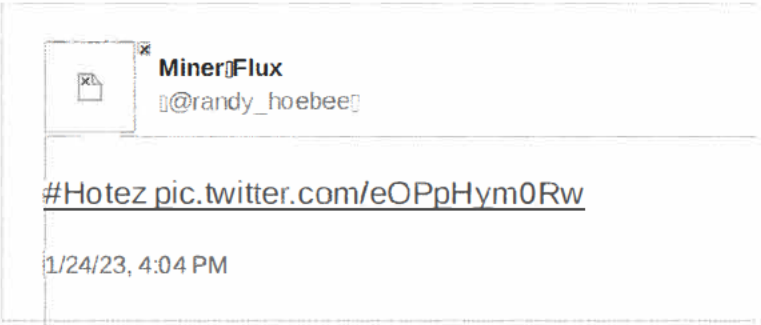
From: Jeffrey Sturchio
Sent: Tuesday, Janu M
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) , Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; David M
(b) (6) rald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich
Roberts(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,

Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) rg>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017786
MORENS_NIH_036390
REL0000478656

Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2022 1:58:33 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 9 Jul 2022 1:54:36 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab
From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
To: D (b) (6) >; Gerald (b) (6) Aleks <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

I don't think Jeff Sachs did a thoughtful reflection on what sort of damage he might end up doing by supporting the lab leak narrative and pointing the finger at US scientists. He's now dragged US science into the line of attack from China, Russia, and the US right wingers, all over again…

It's been a relatively quiet few weeks in the press for us at EHA, but I noticed some increased harassment by email etc last night. I've now found out that Tucker Carlson on Fox News decided to do a 'retrospective' on the lab leak narrative and demand investigation of US scientists including me and EcoHealth. The video's below – pretty miserable attack full of errors, innuendo and outright lies…of course… and with video of me and naming me as a person who likely started the pandemic.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MJrUew2Kyg

If you don't want to watch it (and it's extremely irritating) – just have a look at the comments on the website and you'll see where all this is going – with over a million views in one day, that's a million hard right US citizens putting US scientists on their hit lists for harrassment and worse…

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, July 9, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
Date: July 9, 2022 a
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Date: July 9, 2022 at 12:53:14 EDT
Subject: Newsweek: Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

Tech & Science

Russia Jumps on Wild Claims COVID Was Created in U.S. Lab

By Ed Browne On 7/6/22 at 10:51 AM EDT

A Russian government official has demanded that Washington be "held accountable" for the COVID-19 pandemic after a pair of university professors said U.S. research organizations had more to answer for.

Since the early days of the pandemic in 2020 there has been much discussion over how SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID, came into existence.

World Health Organization (WHO) researchers sent to Wuhan, China, to investigate the first known outbreak concluded that although more research was needed, a natural spillover to humans from animals was the most likely outcome and considered a lab leak scenario to be "extremely unlikely."

At the time the lab leak scenario was perhaps more of a fringe idea and one that carried with it an air of conspiracy theory. Since then, calls for investigation into the origins of COVID, including a lab leak, have come from the U.S. president himself and the possibility has not been written off, though it's sparked animosity between scientists who disagree on the likelihood of the theory as well as between countries who are keen to offload blame.

Proponents of the lab leak theory argue that it is no coincidence that some labs—notably those in Wuhan—had been working on engineering coronaviruses in the years prior to the pandemic.

In May, two Columbia University professors published an opinion article in the U.S. journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) in which they argue that animal spillover and a "research-related incident" are "the two main hypotheses" regarding the origin of COVID and that "there is much important information that can be gleaned from U.S.-based research institutions, information not yet made available for independent, transparent, and scientific scrutiny."

[redacted], an economics professor, and Neil Harrison, a professor of anesthesiology and pharmacology, went on to state that "much of the work on SARS-like coronaviruses performed in Wuhan [before the pandemic] was part of an active and highly collaborative U.S.–China scientific research program funded by the U.S. government" and that "it is still not clear whether the U.S. intelligence community (IC) investigated these U.S.-supported and U.S.-based activities. If it did, it has yet to make any of its findings available to the U.S. scientific community for independent and transparent analysis and assessment."

More recently, Sachs went further. Speaking in a discussion at the Gate Center research group in Madrid last month, Sachs said: "I'm pretty convinced it came out of a U.S. lab of biotechnology, not out of nature after two years of intensive work on this. So it's a blunder, in my view, of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover.

"We don't know for sure, I should be absolutely clear, but there's enough evidence that it should be looked into and it's not being investigated," he said, without elaborating on the nature or substance of said evidence.

However, responding to a *Newsweek* request for comment, Sachs provided some additional insight into his thinking.

"The basic point is the US-backed and US-funded research in the US and partners in China was to perform the very kind of experiments that may have produced SARS-CoV-2," he wrote in an email.

"Indeed, in my view, that is the most likely inference from various pieces of evidence. SARS-CoV-2 is a SARS-like CoV (coronavirus) that has a Furin Cleavage Site (FCS). The US team backed by NIH was intent on introducing an FCS into a large number of previously unreported SARS-CoVs.

"My personal best guess is that SARS-CoV-2 was thereby created and that it accidentally escaped from a laboratory, perhaps the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or perhaps elsewhere.

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REL0000478658

"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.

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Date:	Tue, 21 Feb 2023 2:49:39 PM -0500
Sent:	Tue, 21 Feb 2023 2:48:47 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: MORE RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?
From:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; msphere.00607-22.pdf

Rich: Thanks for bringing this excellent editorial to our attention. It's exactly the kind of informed, dispassionate, and sensible statement that we want to see more of.

I've attached a PDF of the editorial for ease of reference.

Peter: If you haven't already, you may want to invite one or more of the co-authors to the meeting in April.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 12:47 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: MORE RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?

Hi:

There is a very relevant editorial piece
"**Virology in Peril and the Greater Risk To Science**"

In the attached.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, F
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) berts, Ric (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Alison A (b) (6)
Subject: MORE RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a

EXTERNAL SENDER

I couldn't wait and so prioritized this. My suggested edits and comments are attached.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, Fe (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak otez, P (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Alison Andre (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Cat time for a call maybe next week?

I'll be happy to join a call. I haven't had a chance to review the revised concept note but I will asap.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 8:59 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) Roberts, Ric (b) (6) erald (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Alison Andre <
(b) (6)
Subject: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?
Importance: High

Dear all – can we set up a call maybe next week to talk about building a Coalition to protect science.

Alison – could you look at availability for the week beginning Feb 27th or March 6th for us all…

I've also attached a revised version of the Coalition concept note. Jeff re-wrote this following our call and we also reached out to a political consultant to get his input on how this would be perceived from both Dems and moderate Republicans. I added a few comments using track changes. Please feel free to add to this also.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019594
MORENS_NIH_039188
REL0000478663

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Fyi Ann Moscona is in NY, a good person for EHA to connect with. She's a superb virologist mostly on respiratory virus pathogenesis and drug development

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 1, 2023, at 5:28 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Awesome to hear that!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019596
MORENS_NIH_039190
REL0000478663

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID (b) (6)
Passcode: 044012
One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David More (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

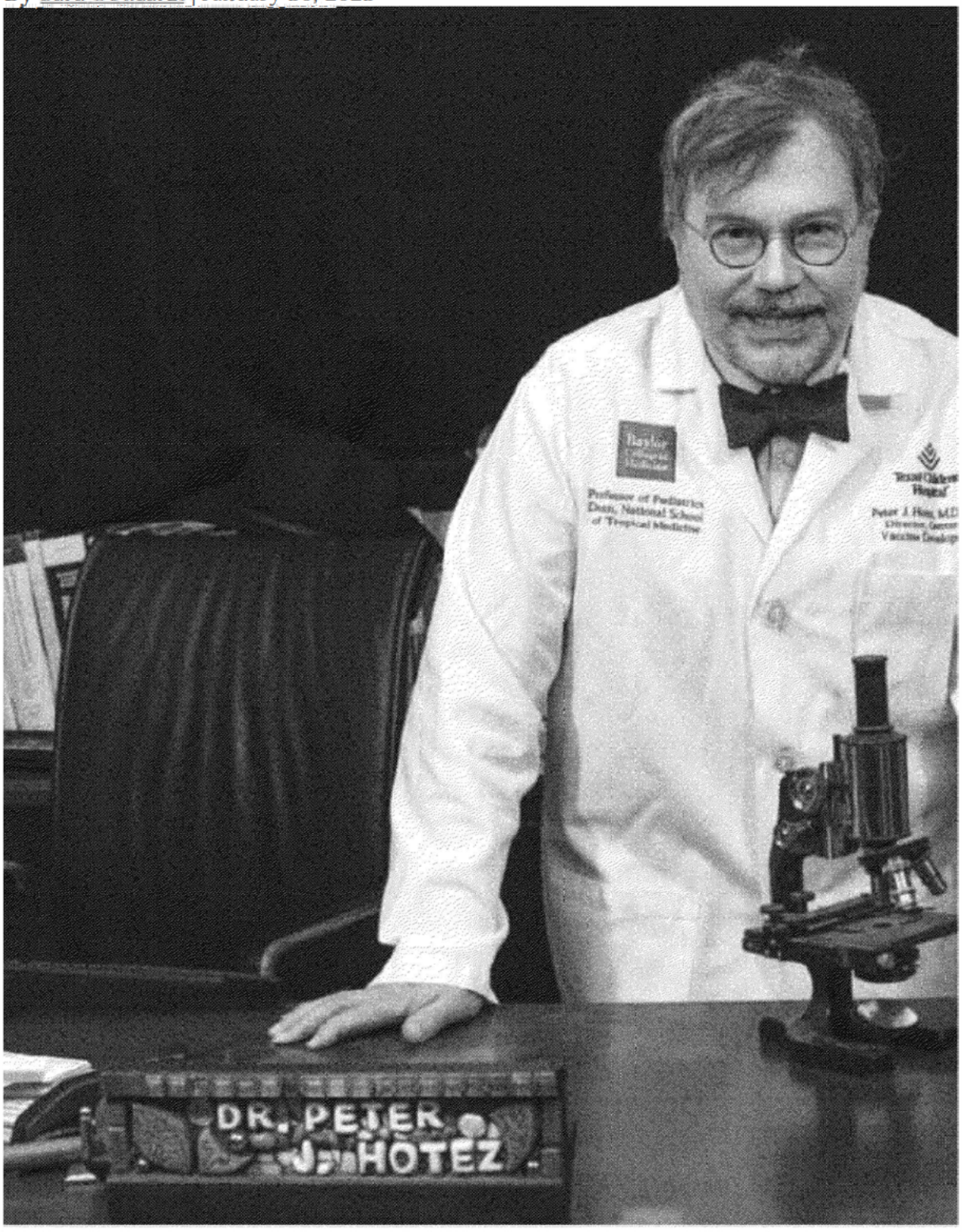
First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression

on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023



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.

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MORENS_NIH_039194
REL0000478663

Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far

right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent

anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism,* you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine

ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or 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,

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because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

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Fax: (978) 412 9910
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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to pushback against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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email: (b) (6)

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(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

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Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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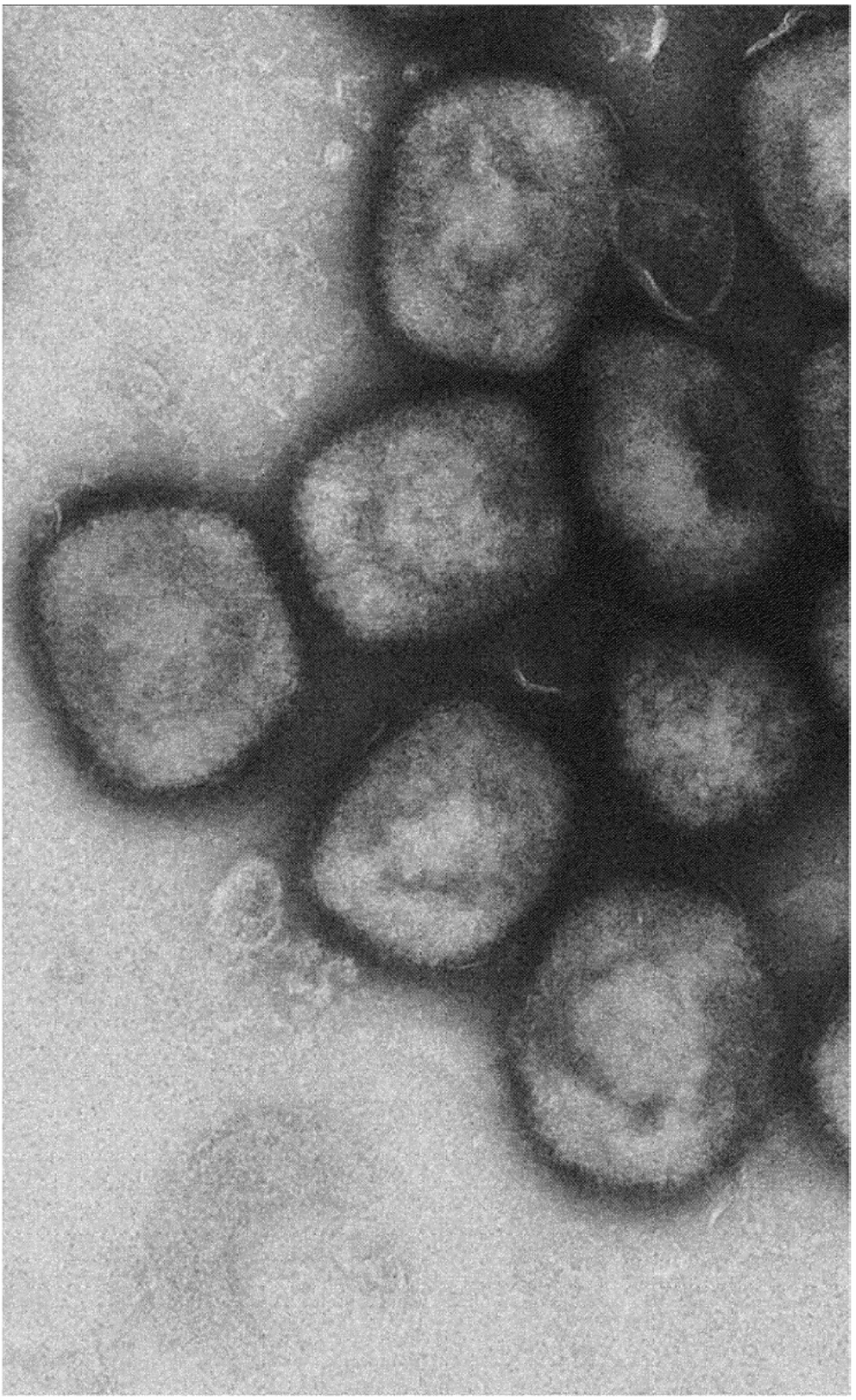

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

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or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

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Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

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"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Ja M
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(t David Morens <
(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Rob
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

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I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Geral
Cc: (b) (6) <
(b) (6) ey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
(lux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019617
MORENS_NIH_039211
REL0000478663

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He ientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <roberts@neb.com>
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. This 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

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MORENS_NIH_039213
REL0000478663

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him-and w of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
> (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019620
MORENS_NIH_039214
REL0000478663

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Fax: 713-798-2299

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6)> wrote:

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Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

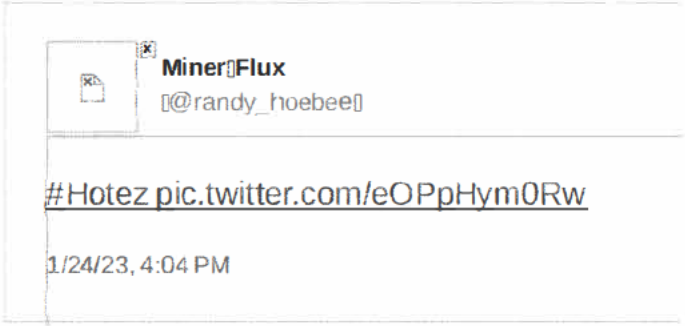
From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) leksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2021 11:22:01 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 10 Jul 2021 11:21:59 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

As I expected. I have wished "restless leg syndrome" on Joni Ernst. And will escalate from there.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Hogwarts School of Wizardry
Main campus (location cannot be revealed to Muggles)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 5:51 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 4:53 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Ar m 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

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Be 20892-2520
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(assistant: Whitney Robinson)

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From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
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 (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
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.: (b) (6)
Webs lliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

Sad….. Most small children believe in Santa Claus….. Not so sad….

David

David M. Morens, M.D.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020901
MORENS_NIH_041666
REL0000478665

CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
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(b) (6) assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 8:52 AM
Subject: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

Opinion on the lab leak scenario, once seen as a fringe theory, has shifted dramatically.

By ALICE MIRANDA OLLSTEIN
07/09/2021 06:00 AM EDT

Most Americans now believe that the coronavirus leaked from a laboratory in China, according to a new POLITICO-Harvard poll that found a dramatic shift in public perception of Covid-19's origins over the last year.

U.S. adults were almost twice as likely to say the virus was the result of a lab leak in China than human contact with an infected animal, which many scientists believe is the most likely scenario. The poll's findings show what was once a fringe belief held mainly among some on the political right has become accepted by most Republicans, as well as most Democrats, amid heightened scrutiny of the lab leak theory.

In March 2020, a Pew Research Center poll found 29 percent of Americans believed the virus was made in a Chinese lab and released either accidentally or intentionally. The new survey shows 52 percent believe the virus came out of a lab, including 59 percent of Republicans and 52 percent of Democrats, while 28 percent said it was from an infected animal.

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REL0000478665

The absence of a large partisan gap on the issue is particularly striking, said Bob Blendon, a professor of health policy and political analysis at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health who designed the poll.

"Usually, our polls find a big split between Republicans and Democrats, so this is unique," he said. "More conservative media have been carrying the 'lab leak' issue, and it's been a Trump talking point from the beginning, so we expected people who lean Democratic would say either 'It's not true' or 'I don't know.' But the belief is bipartisan."

Blendon said Democrats likely became more receptive to the idea after President Joe Biden's recent order that intelligence agencies investigate the virus' origin and comments from Anthony Fauci, the White House chief medical officer, that it's worth digging into. Fauci and other scientists have cautioned the answer may never be known definitively.

"That the president thought there was enough evidence to ask intelligence agencies to put together a report sends a signal to Democrats that there might be something there," Blendon said.

Democratic lawmakers have also faced pressure to look more closely at the lab leak scenario, though they worry Republicans will stoke uncertainty about the virus origin for political gain. Several congressional committees have launched inquiries, and the House Science Committee plans to hold its first hearing on the issue next week.

The POLITICO-Harvard poll, which will be released next week, also found there's a high level of public interest in investigating Covid-19's origin, with almost two-thirds of Democrats and Republicans calling the issue "extremely" or "very" important. The finding also surprised Blendon, who said the public isn't typically invested in such a scientific inquiry.

The broad attention on the issue underscores the stakes for the Biden administration's upcoming report on the virus origin, due in August. Even if the report concludes the virus came from nature, it could be hard to move public opinion, lawmakers and researchers like Blendon have noted.

The poll surveyed 1,009 adults from June 22-27. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

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Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:27:40 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:27:33 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >;

I talk to Jon frequently. Should we wait until we see how the Wednesday meeting with Jeff goes? See if I can talk him off the ledge?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Co-Head, Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_020675
MORENS_NIH_041386
REL0000478678

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 27, 2021, at 1:24 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Jon Cohen was in touch with me last week as he was trying to reach Peter without success. I said it was understandable given the attacks. He got back to me and said let him know when Peter D can talk. I would be happy to get back to Jon Cohen, but Peter H, if you want to contact Jon bring me into it as would represent two different task forces and I would be happy to talk to him about what's going on with the Commission. I don't think it is the time now for Peter to be directly involved in such conversations, and Robert and Jeff Sturchio can comment on that as necessary.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:18
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

Any help or suggestions are welcome. Cc'ing in Jeff Sturchio and Robert Kessler so they can follow this.

Rich, David – Jeff Sturchio is working with EcoHealth Alliance to help manage any statements we make at all right now. We're being as minimalist as possible, trying to avoid press, but clearly people are out to find a villain, and are pointing directly at our work, EcoHealth and me as a target.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020676
MORENS_NIH_041387
REL0000478678

Subject: Re: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

I could ask someone like Nick Kristof or Carl Zimmer at NY Times or Amy Maxmen at Nature or Jon Cohen at Science to write something that gives people reality testing?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Co-Head, Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: (b) (6)
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Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 27, 2021, at 12:12 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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Just mortified by this.

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the- rise-and-fall-of-british-virus-hunter-peter-daszak-05q8brpz7

The rise and fall of British virus hunter Peter Daszak

The scientist who led opposition to the claim that Covid leaked from a Wuhan lab is engulfed in controversy after it was revealed his charity had funded the institute at the centre of the row

Peter Daszak became the face of the WHO mission to find the origins of the coronavirus

On January 18, Peter Daszak, born and raised in the mill and mining town of Dukinfield, near Manchester, awoke to a winter's dawn in central China, 5,500 miles away. "Sunrise in Wuhan — my early morning view on day 4 of quarantine — beautiful," he tweeted, with a photograph of skyscrapers against a hazy orange sky.

His presence there in a delegation from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on a mission of global significance showed a remarkable rise for the 55-year-old parasitologist with a PhD from the University of East London.

Ostensibly he was visiting the city to find the truth about where the coronavirus pandemic began before it swept across the world — killing nearly four million people. Five months later, however, the trip to Wuhan has placed Daszak at the centre of a growing web of controversy. The wry Mancunian humour that singled him out from fellow scientists of international renown has dried up.

"When you see him on the television now, he's not the funny northerner," said one old friend and colleague. "There's so much nastiness and vitriol out there, this must have been a challenging time for him."

Daszak faces questions about a crucial conflict of interest in four interlocking aspects of his professional life: his role on the WHO-led mission to Wuhan; his relationship with the

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Wuhan virologist Shi Zhengli, known as the "bat woman"; his presidency of a federally funded American charity that gave money to her laboratory; and his chairmanship of a commission investigating the pandemic's possible origins for The Lancet medical journal.

The Lancet commission, supported by the United Nations sustainable development solutions network, is looking, among other things, at the explosive question of whether the virus escaped accidentally from Shi's Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), which Daszak — like China — has consistently denied.

Critics ask how Daszak can objectively investigate something he has such fixed views about, in a lab his charity has funded. The WIV appears to have received almost $600,000 of a $3.7 million grant awarded to Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance in 2014 by the US Department for Health and Human Services for the purposes of "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence".

Last week The Lancet acknowledged the conflict of interest by announcing that Daszak had recused himself from its commission. It said that in future "technical work will be conducted by independent experts who were not themselves directly involved in US-China research activities that are under scrutiny".

It was a heavy blow, and not the first time Daszak's impartiality has been in question. He strongly attacked the lab leak theory before, during and after the WHO mission, which concluded that it was "extremely unlikely". In an episode of the US TV show *60 Minutes* in March, he faced a grilling about his "conflict of interest". And in April a US congressional committee requested evidence from EcoHealth Alliance about its funding.

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Yet little is known about the figure in the middle of this maelstrom. How did the boy from Manchester become the president of a charity bankrolled by the Pentagon and America's National Institutes of Health (NIH), the face of the WHO mission, the Wuhan lab's biggest cheerleader and now one of the most controversial characters in the pandemic saga?

Daszak lives in New York state's wealthy Rockland county, 30 miles northwest of Manhattan. Seven years ago he and his wife Janet bought a sprawling house in two acres for

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$665,000. In 2019 he was paid $354,065 by EcoHealth Alliance, based in Manhattan.

It is a world away from Dukinfield, where Daszak's Anglo-Welsh mother and Ukrainian father Bohdan raised their family. One son, John, a year younger than Peter, became a tenor with the English National Opera. But Peter Daszak's passions lay elsewhere: his childhood dreams were of becoming a "zoologist in the Amazon", he told the podcast *This Week In Virology* in 2019. "I think that once you get hooked on research and finding new things out, there's something that plays to a fundamental need to discover in the human psyche."

Daszak started off with a BSc in zoology at the University of Bangor in Wales — a teacher recalls that he was "really bright" — before his PhD and postdoctoral research. At Kingston University one project proved to be a springboard. With a colleague, Andrew Cunningham, he discovered the cause of a mass die-off of frogs from Australia to Panama, unexplained for a decade. Daszak suggested that the fungus responsible was linked to the wildlife trade in bullfrogs, sold as pets or food. This was the first step in a career focused on the interaction between humans, nature and viruses.

He moved to America with his wife, an immunologist, when she got a job in Georgia. His frog fame followed him, and over the next few years his research on emerging infectious disease gained attention, partly due to outbreaks of several rare and deadly diseases in humans, including Nipah virus, ebola and Sars.

In 2001 he joined the Wildlife Trust, a small, privately funded charity that would later become EcoHealth Alliance. Throughout the ensuing decade, Daszak was adept at promoting his projects. In an interview on America's National Public Radio in 2004 he compared his frog research to a Monty Python sketch: "John Cleese goes into the pet shop and says, 'Yeah, this parrot's dead.' 'Well, actually, sir, it's just resting.' And they just looked like frogs that were resting, who were perfectly OK, but dead."

In an episode of the TV programme *60 Minutes* the same year, clad in head-to-toe khaki on a boat speeding towards the remote Malaysian island of Pulau Tioman, Daszak was referred to as a "virus hunter" off to search for bats suspected of harbouring the Nipah virus. He says: "Almost 75% of the emerging diseases in humans actually come from wildlife ... or domestic animals," he warns. "We are looking for the next HIV, the next Sars." This nascent area of

scientific study, now known as conservation medicine, shaped the next 16 years of Daszak's career.

By 2010 Daszak was busily fund- raising for the newly reconfigured EcoHealth Alliance. Millions of dollars worth of grants rolled in: 87.6 per cent of it from US government sources in 2019, including the NIH and the Pentagon.

According to one prominent scientist, who asked not to be named, Daszak did not have a laboratory of his own, nor was he performing his own research, as most grant recipients did. What he did have, however, was a network of partnerships with other laboratories, including Shi's WIV.

With Shi, Daszak helped to co-ordinate visits to remote mines in China to look for bat coronaviruses to study in the lab in the hope of getting ahead of natural spillovers into local populations. Then in late 2019 the pandemic erupted in Wuhan.

When President Donald Trump first suggested in January 2020 that the virus had leaked from Shi's lab, Daszak was quick to leverage connections and lobby colleagues to push the counternarrative that it came directly from animals.

In February 2020, he organised an open letter in The Lancet with 26 scientists, condemning "conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin". He also wrote an article in The Guardian in June last year under the headline: "Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab".

When it was suggested to him by *60 Minutes* in March that, as a member of the WHO mission, he had technically been investigating his own colleagues at the Wuhan lab, Daszak said: "I'm on the WHO team for a reason ... and if you're going to work in China on coronaviruses and try and understand their origins you should involve the people who know the most about that, and for better or for worse I do."

Last week in an update on The Lancet site, Daszak wrote that his organisation collaborated with a range of universities and governmental health and environmental science organisations in China. He said that neither the EcoHealth Alliance nor he personally received funding from the Chinese government.

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Despite Daszak's best efforts, President Joe Biden lent credence to the lab-leak theory when he approved a full investigation into it last month.

Suddenly Daszak's vehement attacks on the hypothesis appeared to some to be less about the science and more about a serious conflict of interest — one that a growing number seem unwilling to ignore any longer.

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 9:46:15 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 9:41:29 AM -0400
Subject: WHO mission on COVID origins - report and annexes
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Su Yadana <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Attachments: 20210328- Full report.pdf

Dear All (Su – please forward to Lancet Taskforce members),

Here's a draft copy of the WHO report on COVID origins as shared with member states (attached). The Annexes are available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/153hn8rdtk4t0n6/Annexes_20210328.pdf?dl=0

The final version will be released on the WHO website today:

https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus/origins-of-the-virus

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 6:54:30 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 6:53:55 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Science story on new non profit
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Apologies all, but I'm just catching up with the emails from you all over the last few days.

Re your comment below Peter, David Relman has his own organization set up to drive the 're-thinking of risky research' – the Pathogens Project https://thebulletin.org/pathogens-project-taskforce/#menu

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Ger (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Science story on new non profit

Well at least David Relman saw through it and refused to join? I guess a good sign?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 3:52 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Here's a *Science* story about it:

https://www.science.org/content/article/critics-_risky-virus-studies-launch-nonprofit-push-research-halt-tighter-safety-rules

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, Februa
To: 'Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) tez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio' <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just saw that Richard Ebright and others have formed a new 501c3 to combat research that will enhance pathogens:

https://biosafetynow.org/team/

Cheers,

Peter

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Websi .thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent

Kester)

- Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
- Georgia Global Health Alliance
- Bay Area Global Health Alliance
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- COVID Collaborative
- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Febru M
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://ecohealthalliance-org.zoom.us/j/99526749554?pwd=R3lZZXB3NmtZeDNvVlpHbElLWndtZz09

Meeting ID: 995 2674 9554
Passcode: 044012
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,99526749554# US (New York)
+16469313860,,99526749554# US

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >

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MORENS_NIH_037065
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Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ieksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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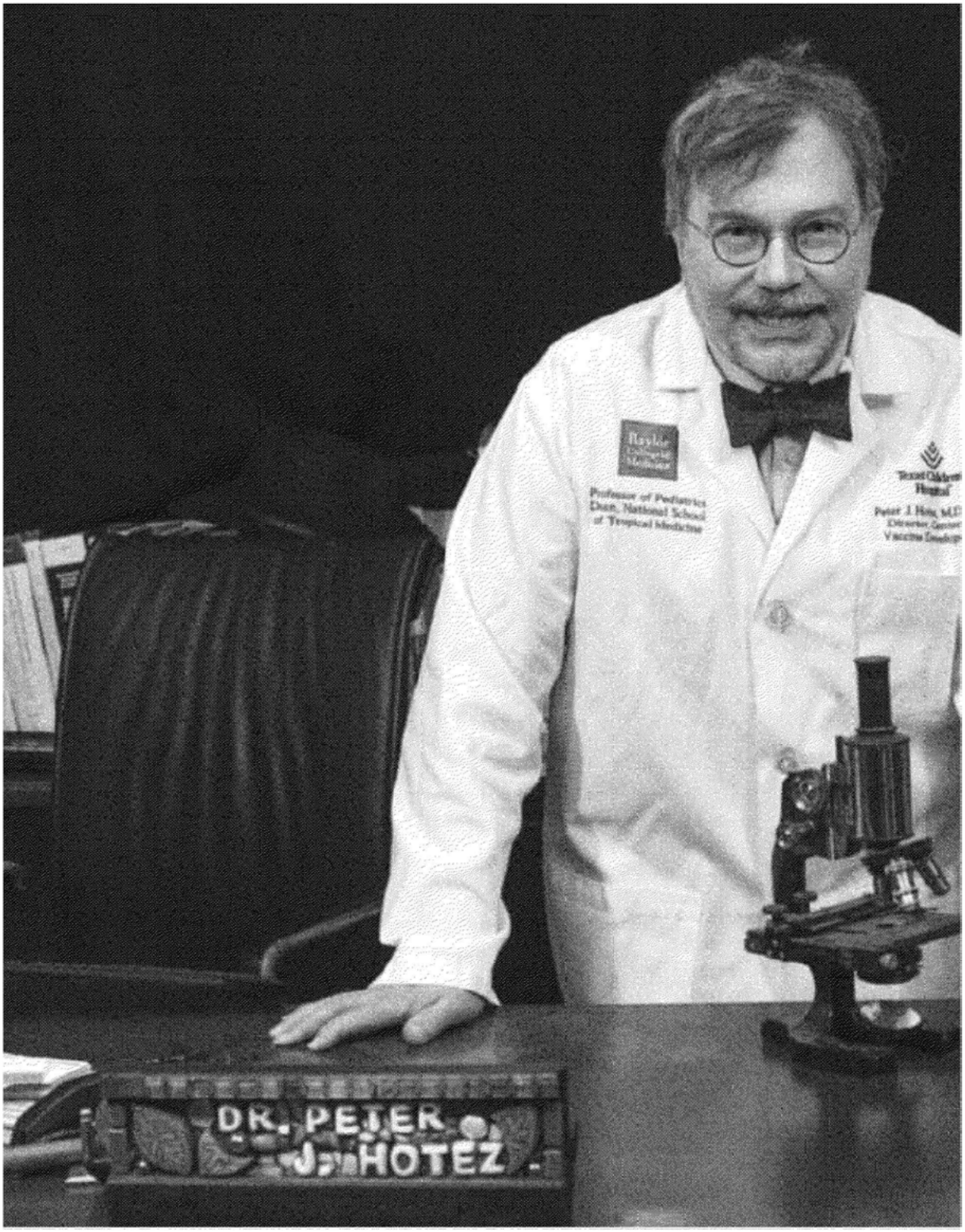

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad,* and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

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partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_018137
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REL0000478686

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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MORENS_NIH_037075
REL0000478686

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, DavidMorens <(b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I haverecently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
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Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
emai (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: R (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) frey Sturchi (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 upwith somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to pushback against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

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Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

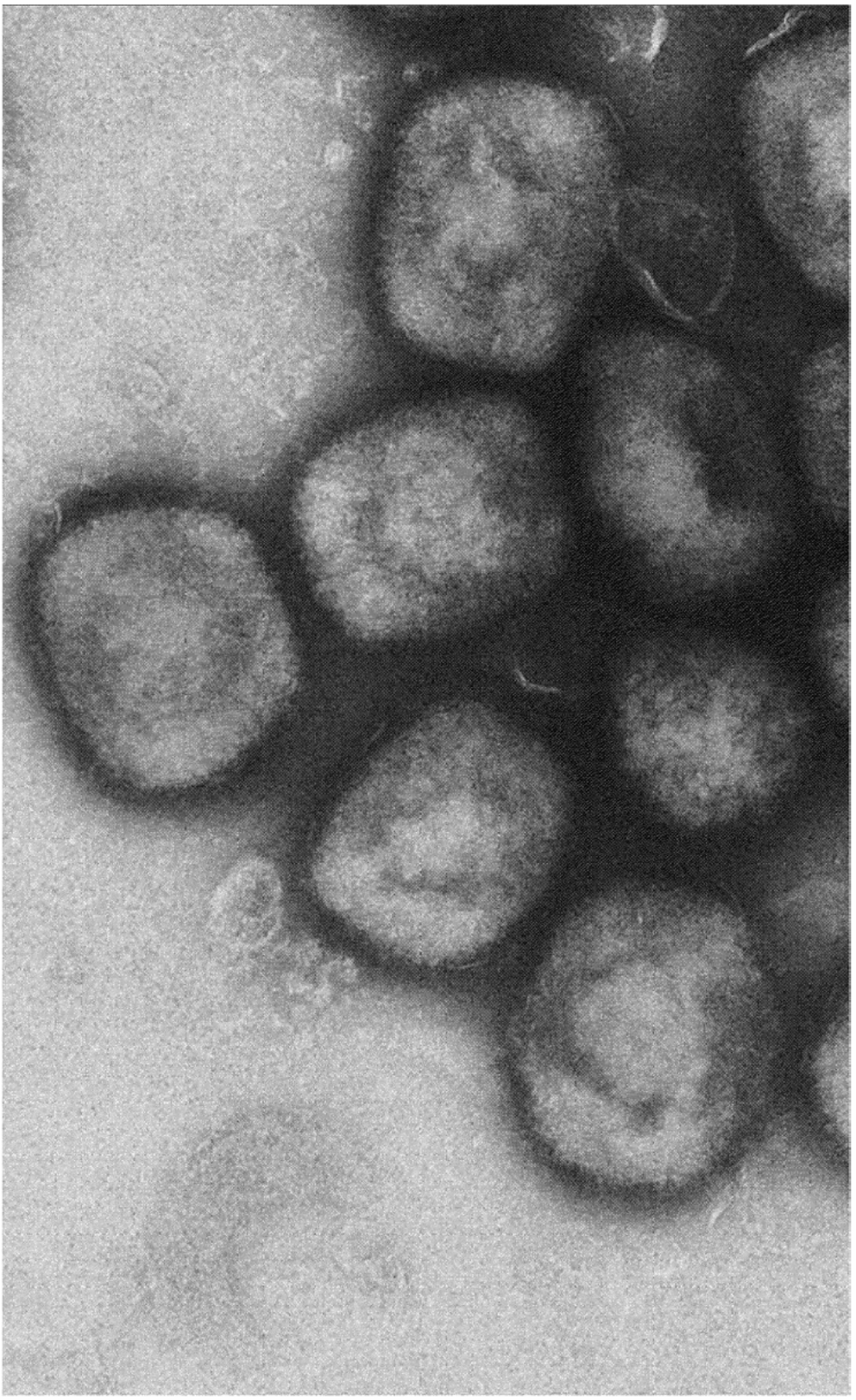
BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

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or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

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Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

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"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
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pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: lux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

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I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gera (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital : Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University , University Professor

Rice University , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: p.hotez

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Moren (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

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That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him-and of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) rote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >

Sent: Tuesday, Janua (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
>; David M
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Janu
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei
(b) (6) 6)
(b) (6) ;
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <

Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:07:24 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:05:54 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 2:59 PM
Subject: Re: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >, Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) <(b) (6)

Dear All,

Please take a moment to fill out your availability in the doodle poll below or feel free to reply to me with your availability.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoodle.com%2Fmeeting%2Fparticipate%2Fid%
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=aIxx7UdQl45lH4RH4ffkbedV28Lx3VPHExqBy9BcCjA%3D &reserved=0

Thank you,
Alison

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 12:48 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Adding Peter's assistant Douglas Soriano.

>
>
>
> I also just heard from the FBI that yet another death list has been circulated with my name and EcoHealth's on it.
>
>
>
> Peter – you might also be interested in this effort from Texas State lawmaker Briscoe Cain: https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.based-politics.com%2F2023%2F01%2F19%2Ftexas- calls-on-the-federal-government-to-investigate-covid%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=TXYx0E6ebBHXBmPKX9po4TWHYru2revDPNDm7an%2FoO4%3D &reserved=0
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> Peter Daszak
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> President
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> EcoHealth Alliance
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> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

> New York, NY 10018-6507
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> USA
> (b) (6)
> Tel.:
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> Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=APrWUb2qy2jrH%2BtedjkkkUtCPrf2KpwfAa8p0kYItsk%3D &reserved=0
>
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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> From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:43 AM
> To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) >; 'David Morens (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
> Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) <(b) (6) 'Alison Andre (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
> Subject: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?
> Importance: High
>
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>
> Happy new year everyone!
>
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>
> It's been a while since we all connected, and after a hectic build up to the holidays (I was on 3, multi-week trips to Southeast Asia between Sept and Dec), I wanted to get back in touch with you and let you know what's happening. As you know, we received a letter from Reps. Comer and Jordan mid-December demanding documents and on-the-record interviews as part of their 'investigations' they're planning into COVID origins. The White House received similar letters demanding docs and interviews with the HHS Secretary, multiple people from NIH (incl. David Morens) and others. They pushed back because the Republicans weren't even in power, and we've now heard from the staffers that they're getting ready to send new letters over to us all. None of us are sure how actively or rapidly they'll get to their COVID investigation, or if this will involve public hearings. They've got a lot of other issues, and a priority to target Hunter Biden's laptop, as well as new issues like the debt ceiling and classified documents. However, we do expect that they will get to it eventually, and that the Republicans in the House will be aggressively targeting EcoHealth Alliance (and probably other organizations) with efforts to defund us.
>
> This all adds to a growing anti-science movement that Peter Hotez has been highlighting in articles and online recently around COVID origins, the mask mandates, vaccine mandates and other anti-vaxx and 'anti-expert' type attacks. The Republicans will want to turn up the heat to keep all of this in the press so it helps them in

their attacks on Biden, Fauci etc. It's pure politics, but has a real threat of damage to us, and to the research we all value. At the very least, we expect to see substantial efforts to legislate against so-called gain-of-function work, and as of yet, zero pushback from the scientific community writ large – the societies, academies, universities. The media are jumping in. Everyone wants to write an article about COVID origin and given the aggression on social media, these are being amplified rapidly and getting into the public eye. Just in the last couple of days:
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>
> · A long-winded whiny article from The Intercept about FoIA'd emails that basically show how scientists discussed the lab hypothesis early on, but David Relman (at the end of the article) claims shows they were rushing to judgement:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftheintercept.com%2F2023%2F01%2F19%2Fco
origin-nih-emails%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=1GeU4nZWi37GeP7yQI2W2TZORdwRwjpkpVOXnnK1B9o%3D &reserved=0
>
> · Article from Washington Post that links Boston Univ's NEIDL's 'risky research' to Wuhan's 'risky research' and to the origin of COVID
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fhealth%2F2023%
leak-theory-virologist%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=f7cMaI2Q6na5H9SY3vTIvERu7c1ZYG2RZOBwuL3cFPI%3D &reserved=0
>
> · A report from the GAO yesterday that mildly criticizes NIH's oversight of Gain of Function review:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gao.gov%2Fassets%2Fgao- 23-
105455.pdf
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=GzTEgAYCymX%2BZbWC%2FAC5Pcvho2xNNL%2B5lMnVpvqgPrQ%3D &reserved=0
>
> · Three days ago a paper from North Carolina from a Republican perspective that criticizes Ralph Baric's lab..
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.carolinajournal.com%2Fopinion%2Fnc-
can-be-a-leader-in-safe-biotech-research%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=WjHv0wXo0Rst5vNc6lfrZIJuxoYNYWNiIXs9S51luBg%3D &reserved=0
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>
> The problem I see is that the Republicans are getting what they want – keeping the lab leak hypothesis and anti-science sentiments in the mainstream press and setting the stage for the McCarthy-style witch hunts that Peter Hotez has been talking about. We are actively reaching out to Democrats in Senate and Congress to try to build up their energy to defend against this, but we are just one small organization, and I'm worried about how successful we can be. I've been talking with Jeff Sturchio about renewing our efforts to try and build a coalition to counter this, involving the societies, activist groups like Research! America, university coalitions like the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), ASTMH, APHA, NL Campaigns, The pandemic Action coalition, etc.
>
>
>
> Will you all be willing to have a one hour call in the next week or two to do some initial brainstorming of this, namely:
>

> · Who to involve
>
> · How to go about setting up a ‘coalition’
>
> · What the goals should be, e.g. a position paper laying out reasons why research on pandemic prevention and preparedness is necessary, Op Eds, briefing notes, a website, visiting staffers on the Hill etc.
>
> · How to do this without drawing political pressure
>
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>
> I’m cc’ing Alison Andre, who can work with your schedules to make this happen, and am really looking forward to talking with you all again.
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> Cheers,
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> Peter
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> Peter Daszak
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> President
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&sdata=APrWUb2qy2jrH%2BtedjkkkUtCPrf2KpwfAa8p0kYItsk%3D &reserved=0
>
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
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> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
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Alison Andre
Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

(b) (6) (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ce963e407e3b14b72c31108db8b9f2b6e%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=APrWUb2qy2jrH%2BtedjkkkUtCPrf2KpwfAa8p0kYItsk%3D &reserved=0

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
pandemics and promote conservation.
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:	Wed, 9 Jun 2021 3:13:26 PM -0400
Subject:	FW: Nature: The COVID lab-leak hypothesis: what scientists do and don't know https://go.nature.com/2TOLBfz
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
To:	Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.gif; image009.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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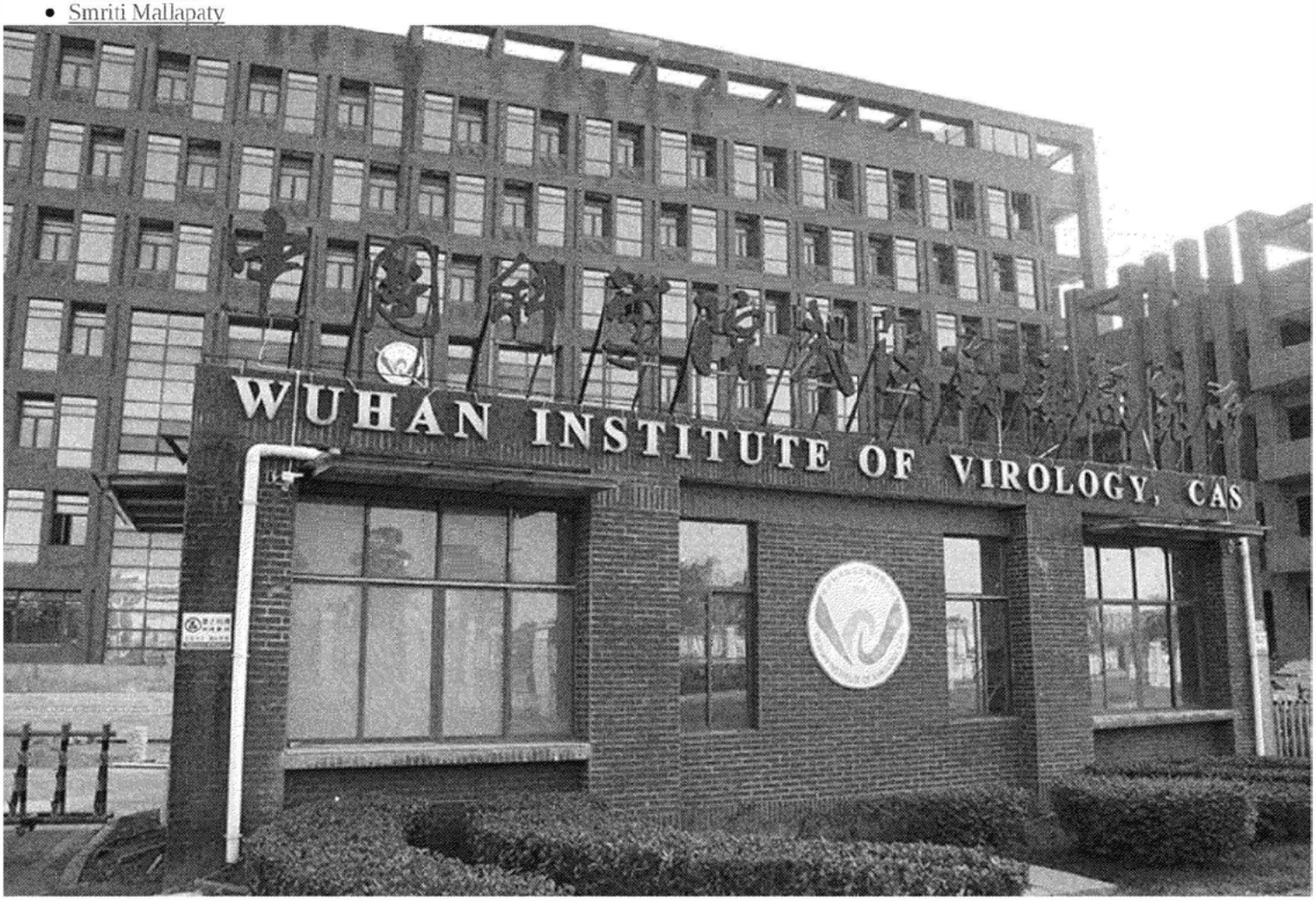
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 1:53 PM
Subject: Nature: The COVID lab-leak hypothesis: what scientists do and don't know https://go.nature.com/2TOLBfz

- NEWS EXPLAINER
- 08 June 2021

The COVID lab-leak hypothesis: what scientists do and don't know

Nature examines arguments that the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 escaped from a lab in China, and the science behind them.

- Amy Maxmen &
- Smriti Mallapaty



The Wuhan Institute of Virology has carried out research on coronaviruses for years because these pathogens are endemic to the region where it's located.Credit: Kyodo News via Getty

Debate over the idea that the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus emerged from a laboratory has escalated over the past few weeks, coinciding with the annual World Health Assembly, at which the World Health Organization (WHO) and officials from nearly 200 countries discussed the COVID-19 pandemic. After last year's assembly, the WHO agreed to sponsor the first phase of an investigation into the pandemic's origins, which took place in China in early 2021.

Most scientists say SARS-CoV-2 probably has a natural origin, and was transmitted from an animal to humans. However, a lab leak has not been ruled out, and many are calling for a deeper investigation into the hypothesis that the virus emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), located in the Chinese city where the first COVID-19 cases were reported. On 26 May, US President Joe Biden tasked the US Intelligence Community to join efforts to find SARS-CoV-2's origins, whatever they might be, and report back in 90 days.



Divisive COVID ‘lab leak’ debate prompts dire warnings from researchers

Australia, the European Union and Japan have also called for a robust investigation into SARS-CoV-2’s origins in China. The WHO has yet to reveal the next phase of its investigation. But China has asked that the probe examine other countries. Such reticence, and the fact that China has withheld information in the past, has fuelled suspicions of a ‘lab leak’. For instance, Chinese government officials suppressed crucial public-health data at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and during the 2002–04 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic, according to high-level reports[1,2].

At the assembly, Mike Ryan, director of health emergencies at the WHO, asked for less politicization of calls for an origin investigation, which have, in many ways, devolved into accusations. “Over the last number of days, we have seen more and more and more discourse in the media, with terribly little actual news, or evidence, or new material,” said Ryan. “This is disturbing.”

Nature looks at the key arguments that support a lab leak, and the extent to which research has answers.

There’s not yet any substantial evidence for a lab leak. Why are scientists still considering it?

Scientists don’t have enough evidence about the origins of SARS-CoV-2 to rule out the lab-leak hypothesis, or to prove the alternative — that the virus has a natural origin. Many infectious-disease researchers agree that the most probable scenario is that the virus evolved naturally and spread from a bat either directly to a person or through an intermediate animal. Most emerging infectious diseases begin with a spillover from nature, as was seen with HIV, influenza epidemics, Ebola outbreaks and the coronaviruses that caused the SARS epidemic beginning in 2002 and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) outbreak beginning in 2012.



Scientists found SARS-CoV-2's closest known relative, RATG13, in a horseshoe bat.Credit: Shutterstock

Researchers have some leads that support a natural origin. Bats are known carriers of coronaviruses, and scientists have determined that the genome of SARS-CoV-2 is most similar to that of RATG13, a coronavirus that was first found in a horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus affinis*) in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan in 2013[3]. But RATG13's genome is only 96% identical to SARS-CoV-2's, suggesting that a closer relative of the virus — the one passed to humans — remains unknown.

Still, the possibility remains that SARS-CoV-2 escaped from a lab. Although lab leaks have never caused an epidemic, they have resulted in small outbreaks involving well-documented viruses. A relevant example happened in 2004, when two researchers were independently infected by the virus that causes SARS at a virology lab in Beijing that studied the disease. They spread the infection to seven others before the outbreak was contained.

What are the key arguments for a lab leak?

In theory, COVID-19 could have come from a lab in a few ways. Researchers might have collected SARS-CoV-2 from an animal and maintained it in their lab to study, or they might have created it by engineering coronavirus genomes. In these scenarios, a person in the lab might have then been accidentally or deliberately infected by the virus, and then spread it to others — sparking the pandemic. There is currently no clear evidence to back these scenarios, but they aren't impossible.

People have made a number of arguments for a lab origin for SARS-CoV-2 that are currently conjecture.



The biggest mystery: what it will take to trace the coronavirus source

One holds that it's suspicious that, almost a year and a half into the pandemic, SARS-CoV-2's closest relative still hasn't been found in an animal. Another suggests it is no coincidence that COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, where a top lab studying coronaviruses, the WIV, is located.

Some lab-leak proponents contend that the virus contains unusual features and genetic sequences signalling that it was engineered by humans. And some say that SARS-CoV-2 spreads among people so readily that it must have been created with that intention. Another argument suggests that SARS-CoV-2 might have derived from coronaviruses found in an unused mine where WIV researchers collected samples from bats between 2012 and 2015.

So what do infectious disease researchers and evolutionary biologists say about these arguments?

Is it suspicious that no animal has been identified as transmitting the virus to humans?

Outbreak-origin investigations often take years, and some culprits remain unknown. It took 14 years to nail down the origin of the SARS epidemic, which began with a virus in bats that spread to humans, most likely through civets. To date, a complete Ebola virus has never been isolated from an animal in the region where the world's largest outbreak occurred between 2013 and 2016.

Origin investigations are complicated because outbreaks among animals that aren't the main hosts of a particular virus, such as civets in the case of SARS, are often sporadic. Researchers must find the right animal before it dies or clears the infection. And, even if the animal tests positive, viruses found in saliva, faeces or blood are often degraded, making it difficult to sequence the pathogen's whole genome.



WHO report into COVID pandemic origins zeroes in on animal markets, not labs

Scientists have made some progress since the pandemic began, however. For example, a report, posted to the preprint server

bioRxiv on 27 May, suggests that RmYN02, a coronavirus in bats in southern China, might be more closely related to SARS-CoV-2 than RATG13 is[4].

As for finding an intermediate host animal, researchers in China have tested more than 80,000 wild and domesticated animals; none have been positive for SARS-CoV-2. But this number is a tiny fraction of the animals in the country. To narrow the search down, researchers say, more strategic testing is needed to isolate animals that are most susceptible to infection and those that come in close contact with people. They also suggest using antibody tests to identify animals that have previously been infected with the virus.

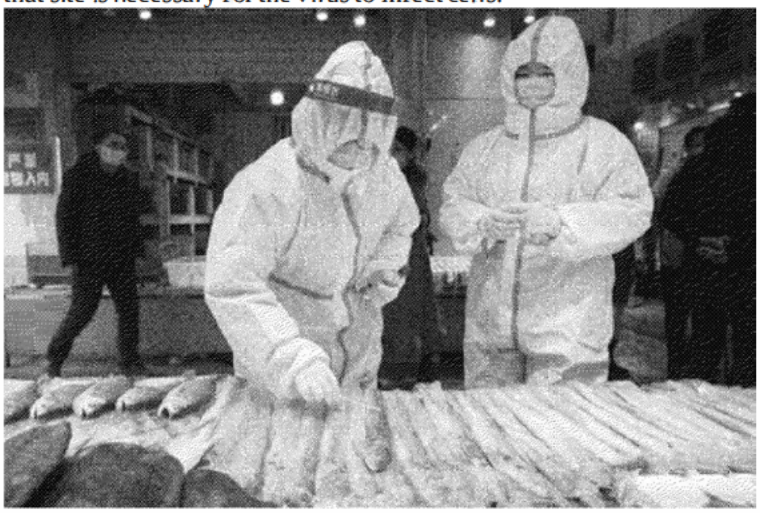
Is it suspicious that the WIV is in Wuhan?

Virology labs tend to specialize in the viruses around them, says Vincent Munster, a virologist at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories, a division of the National Institutes of Health, in Hamilton, Montana. The WIV specializes in coronaviruses because many have been found in and around China. Munster names other labs that focus on endemic viral diseases: influenza labs in Asia, haemorrhagic fever labs in Africa and dengue-fever labs in Latin America, for example. “Nine out of ten times, when there’s a new outbreak, you’ll find a lab that will be working on these kinds of viruses nearby,” says Munster.

Researchers note that a coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan isn’t surprising, because it’s a city of 11 million people in a broader region where coronaviruses have been found. It contains an airport, train stations and markets selling goods and wildlife transported there from around the region[5] — meaning a virus could enter the city and spread rapidly.

Does the virus have features that suggest it was created in a lab?

Several researchers have looked into whether features of SARS-CoV-2 signal that it was bioengineered. One of the first teams to do so, led by Kristian Andersen, a virologist at Scripps Research in La Jolla, California, determined that this was “improbable” for a few reasons, including a lack of signatures of genetic manipulation[6]. Since then, others have asked whether the virus’s furin cleavage site— a feature that helps it enter cells — is evidence of engineering, because SARS-CoV-2 has these sites but its closest relatives don’t. The furin cleavage site is important because it's in the virus's spike protein, and cleavage of the protein at that site is necessary for the virus to infect cells.



After the WHO report: what’s next in the search for COVID’s origins

But many other coronaviruses have furin cleavage sites, such as coronaviruses that cause colds[7]. Because viruses containing the site are scattered across the coronavirus family tree, rather than confined to a group of closely related viruses, Stephen Goldstein, a virologist at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, says the site probably evolved multiple times because it provides an evolutionary advantage. Convergent evolution — the process by which organisms that aren’t closely related independently evolve similar traits as a result of adapting to similar environments — is incredibly common.

Another feature of SARS-CoV-2 that has drawn attention is a combination of nucleotides that underlie a segment of the furin cleavage site: CGG (these encode the amino acid arginine). A *Medium* article that speculates on a lab origin for SARS-CoV-2 quotes David Baltimore, a Nobel laureate and professor emeritus at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, as saying that viruses don’t usually have that particular code for arginine, but humans often do — a “smoking gun”, hinting that researchers might have tampered with SARS-CoV-2’s genome.

Andersen says that Baltimore was incorrect about that detail, however. In SARS-CoV-2, about 3% of the nucleotides encoding arginine are CGG, he says. And he points out that around 5% of those encoding arginine in the virus that caused the original SARS epidemic are CGG, too. In an e-mail to *Nature*, Baltimore says Andersen could be correct that evolution produced SARS-CoV-2, but adds that “there are other possibilities and they need careful consideration, which is all I meant to be saying”.

Is it true that SARS-CoV-2 must have been engineered, because it's

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perfect for causing a pandemic?

Many scientists say no. Just because the virus spreads among humans doesn't mean it was designed to do so. It also flourishes among mink and infects a host of carnivorous mammals. And it wasn't optimally transmissible among humans for the better part of last year. Rather, new, more efficient variants have evolved around the world. To name one example, the highly transmissible variant of SARS-CoV-2 first reported in India (B.1.617.2, or Delta) has mutations in the nucleotides encoding its furin cleavage site that appear to make the virus better at infecting cells[8].

"This was not some supremely adapted pathogen," says Joel Wertheim, a molecular epidemiologist at the University of California San Diego.

Did researchers collect SARS-CoV-2 from a mine?

Researchers from the WIV collected hundreds of samples from bats roosting in a mine between 2012 and 2015, after several miners working there had gotten sick with an unknown respiratory disease. (Last year, researchers reported that blood samples taken from the miners tested negative for antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, meaning that the sickness was probably not COVID-19[9].) Back at the lab, WIV researchers detected nearly 300 coronaviruses in the bat samples, but they were only able to get whole or partial genomic sequences from less than a dozen , and none of those that were reported were SARS-CoV-2[9,10]. During the WHO-led origins probe earlier this year, WIV researchers told investigators that they cultured only three coronaviruses at the lab, and none were closely related to SARS-CoV-2.



'Major stones unturned': COVID origin search must continue after WHO report, say scientists

Although the investigators didn't sift through freezers at the WIV to confirm this information, the low number of genomes and cultures doesn't surprise virologists. Munster says it's exceedingly difficult to extract intact coronaviruses from bat samples. Virus levels tend to be low in the animals, and viruses are often degraded in faeces, saliva and droplets of blood. Additionally, when researchers want to study or genetically alter viruses, they need to keep them (or synthetic mimics of them) alive, by finding the appropriate live animal cells for the viruses to inhabit in the lab, which can be a challenge.

So, for SARS-CoV-2 to have come from this mine in China, WIV researchers would have had to overcome some serious technical challenges — and they would have kept the information secret for a number of years and misled investigators on the WHO-led mission, scientists point out. There's no evidence of this, but it can't be ruled out.

What's next for lab-leak investigations?

Biden asked the US Intelligence Community to report back to him in 90 days. Perhaps this investigation will shed light on undisclosed US intel reported by *The Wall Street Journal* suggesting that three staff members at the WIV were sick in November 2019, before the first cases of COVID-19 were reported in China. The article claims that US officials have different opinions on the quality of that intel. And researchers at the WIV have maintained that staff at the institute tested negative for antibodies that would indicate SARS-CoV-2 infection prior to January 2020.

Last week, Anthony Fauci, Biden's chief medical adviser, asked Chinese officials to release the hospital records of WIV staff members. Others have asked for blood samples from WIV staff members, and access to WIV bat and virus samples, laboratory notebooks and hard drives. But it's unclear what such asks will yield because China has not conceded to demands for a full lab investigation. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Zhao Lijian, said that US labs should instead be investigated, and that some people in the United States "don't care about facts or truth and have zero

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interest in a serious science-based study of origins".
As Biden's investigation commences and the WHO considers the next phase in its origin study, pandemic experts are bracing themselves for a long road ahead. "We want an answer," says Jason Kindrachuk, a virologist at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. "But we may have to keep piecing bits of evidence together as weeks and months and years move forward."
doi: https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-01529-3

References

- 1. The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness & Response *COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic* (Independent Panel, 2021).
- 2. Huang, Y. in *Learning from SARS: Preparing for the Next Disease Outbreak: Workshop Summary* (eds Knobler S. *et al.*) (National Academies Press, 2004). Google Scholar
- 3. Zhou P. *et al. Nature* **579**, 270–273 (2020). PubMed Article Google Scholar
- 4. Lytras, S. *et al.* Preprint at bioRxiv https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.01.22.427830 (2021).
- 5. Xiao, X. *et al. Sci. Rep.* 11, 11898 (2021). PubMed Article Google Scholar
- 6. Andersen, K. G. *et al. Nature Med.* **26**, 450–452 (2020). PubMed Article Google Scholar
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- 8. Peacock, T. P. *et al.* Preprint at bioRxiv https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.28.446163 (2021).
- 9. Zhou, P. *et al. Nature* **588**, E6 (2020). PubMed Article Google Scholar
- 10. Guo, H. *et al.* Preprint at bioRxiv https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.21.445091 (2021).

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Date: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 2:06:41 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
To: (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

I thought the SARS-CoV-2 virus that emerged in Wuhan wasn't capable of infecting mice that weren't genetically engineered to express human ACE2? This paper, with its emphasis of meteorological factors, seems dodgy to me. But it's good to see research on the origins from researchers in China getting out, albeit it in an obscure journal.

From: edward.holmes@sydney.edu.au At: 09/20/21 15:55:39 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Although I can't quite tell if it is sane.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

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School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 2:37 pm, Edward Holmes (b) (6) wrote:

Just found this in an obscure journal.

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market....

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020 with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still seems relevant today. https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/how-it-all-started-rebroadcast/id1440051086?i=1000504072911

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

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MORENS_NIH_021041
REL0000478693

Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <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: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) ,
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source. Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure? d

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Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> It's not phylogenetics.
>
> One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.
>
> Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.
>
> Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic asumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in lsyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.
> >
> > If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational problem demanding international cooperation. d
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> > David M Morens
> > OD, NIAID, NIH
> >
> > > On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:
> > >
> > > Yes, good idea.
> > >
> > > The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…
> > >
> > > This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.
> > >
> > > That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.
> > >
> > > <Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

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PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

Yes, do it! This is important and i say modestly, game changing. The whole « origin » controversy needs to be rethought from the ground up

We have been too micro-focusing (as i have long said to hard push back) but the sarobecovirus and merbecovirus problems are geographically and virologically complex and require us to drop back and study the viral-host universe. Thst universe is huge, complicated, and holds surprises, in my view. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 17:36, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason

From: (b) (6)
At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00

To:
(b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:),
(b) (6)
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Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff

Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word your "A strategy..." paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!

This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn't have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing, and keep our eyes on the prize of getting to the bottom of it all
david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak <(b) (6)> wrote:
>
> I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).
>
> https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21
>
> No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie, Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that...
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)

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MORENS_NIH_021045
REL0000478693

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

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<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>

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MORENS_NIH_021046
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Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 10:18:51 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 10:18:48 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

Jerry:

I agree with you that now is not the time for Peter D to talk with Jon Cohen – any direct response to the *Times* piece will just sound defensive – but perhaps Jon, who is a serious science journalist, can bring some reason into the discussion, particularly if he has a chance to talk with you and Peter Hotez.

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

Jon Cohen was in touch with me last week as he was trying to reach Peter without success. I said it was understandable given the attacks. He got back to me and said let him know when Peter D can talk. I would be happy to get back to Jon Cohen, but Peter H, if you want to contact Jon bring me into it as would represent two different task forces and I would be happy to talk to him about what's going on with the Commission. I don't think it is the time now for Peter to be directly involved in such conversations, and Robert and Jeff Sturchio can comment on that as necessary.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

Any help or suggestions are welcome. Cc'ing in Jeff Sturchio and Robert Kessler so they can follow this.

Rich, David – Jeff Sturchio is working with EcoHealth Alliance to help manage any statements we make at all right now. We're being as minimalist as possible, trying to avoid press, but clearly people are out to find a villain, and are pointing directly at our work, EcoHealth and me as a target.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020711
MORENS_NIH_041425
REL0000478707

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Personal attack piece in the Times, UK

I could ask someone like Nick Kristof or Carl Zimmer at NY Times or Amy Maxmen at Nature or Jon Cohen at Science to write something that gives people reality testing?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Co-Head, Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases
E-mail: (b) (6)
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Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020712
MORENS_NIH_041426
REL0000478707

Phone: (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 27, 2021, at 12:12 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Just mortified by this.

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the- rise-and-fall-of-british-virus-hunter-peter-daszak-05q8brpz7

The rise and fall of British virus hunter Peter Daszak

The scientist who led opposition to the claim that Covid leaked from a Wuhan lab is engulfed in controversy after it was revealed his charity had funded the institute at the centre of the row

Peter Daszak became the face of the WHO mission to find the origins of the coronavirus

On January 18, Peter Daszak, born and raised in the mil land mining town of Dukinfield, near Manchester, awoke to a winter's dawn in central China, 5,500 miles away. "Sunrise in Wuhan — my early morning view on day 4 of quarantine — beautiful," he tweeted, with a photograph of skyscrapers against a hazy orange sky.

His presence there in a delegation from the World Health Organisation (WHO) on a mission of global significance showed a remarkable rise for the 55-year-old parasitologist with a PhD from the University of East London.

Ostensibly he was visiting the city to find the truth about where the coronavirus pandemic began before it swept across the world — killing nearly four million people. Five months later, however,

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the trip to Wuhan has placed Daszak at the centre of a growing web of controversy. The wry Mancunian humour that singled him out from fellow scientists of international renown has dried up.

"When you see him on the television now, he's not the funny northerner," said one old friend and colleague. "There's so much nastiness and vitriol out there, this must have been a challenging time for him."

Daszak faces questions about a crucial conflict of interest in four interlocking aspects of his professional life: his role on the WHO-led mission to Wuhan; his relationship with the Wuhan virologist Shi Zhengli, known as the "bat woman"; his presidency of a federally funded American charity that gave money to her laboratory; and his chairmanship of a commission investigating the pandemic's possible origins for The Lancet medical journal.

The Lancet commission, supported by the United Nations sustainable development solutions network, is looking, among other things, at the explosive question of whether the virus escaped accidentally from Shi's Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), which Daszak — like China — has consistently denied.

Critics ask how Daszak can objectively investigate something he has such fixed views about, in a lab his charity has funded. The WIV appears to have received almost $600,000 of a $3.7 million grant awarded to Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance in 2014 by the US Department for Health and Human Services for the purposes of "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence".

Last week The Lancet acknowledged the conflict of interest by announcing that Daszak had recused himself from its commission. It said that in future "technical work will be conducted by independent experts who were not themselves directly involved in US-China research activities that are under scrutiny".

It was a heavy blow, and not the first time Daszak's impartiality has been in question. He strongly attacked the lab leak theory before, during and after the WHO mission, which concluded that it was "extremely unlikely". In an episode of the US TV show *60 Minutes* in March, he faced a grilling about his "conflict of interest". And in April a US congressional committee requested evidence from EcoHealth Alliance about its funding.

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MORENS_NIH_041428
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Yet little is known about the figure in the middle of this maelstrom. How did the boy from Manchester become the president of a charity bankrolled by the Pentagon and America's National Institutes of Health (NIH), the face of the WHO mission, the Wuhan lab's biggest cheerleader and now one of the most controversial characters in the pandemic saga?

Daszak lives in New York state's wealthy Rockland county, 30 miles northwest of Manhattan. Seven years ago he and his wife Janet bought a sprawling house in two acres for $665,000. In 2019 he was paid $354,065 by EcoHealth Alliance, based in Manhattan.

It is a world away from Dukinfield, where Daszak's Anglo-Welsh mother and Ukrainian father Bohdan raised their family. One son, John, a year younger than Peter, became a tenor with the English National Opera. But Peter Daszak's passions lay elsewhere: his childhood dreams were of becoming a "zoologist in the Amazon", he told the podcast *This Week In Virology* in 2019. "I think that once you get hooked on research and finding new things out, there's something that plays to a fundamental need to discover in the human psyche."

Daszak started off with a BSc in zoology at the University of Bangor in Wales — a teacher recalls that he was "really bright" — before his PhD and postdoctoral research. At Kingston University one project proved to be a springboard. With a colleague, Andrew Cunningham, he discovered the cause of a mass die-off of frogs from Australia to Panama, unexplained for a decade. Daszak suggested that the fungus responsible was linked to the wildlife trade in bullfrogs, sold as pets or food. This was the first step in a career focused on the interaction between humans, nature and viruses.

He moved to America with his wife, an immunologist, when she got a job in Georgia. His frog fame followed him, and over the next few years his research on emerging infectious disease gained attention, partly due to outbreaks of several rare and deadly diseases in humans, including Nipah virus, ebola and Sars.

In 2001 he joined the Wildlife Trust, a small, privately funded charity that would later become EcoHealth Alliance. Throughout the ensuing decade, Daszak was adept at promoting his projects. In an interview on America's National Public Radio in 2004 he compared his frog research to a Monty Python sketch: "John Cleese goes into the pet shop and says, 'Yeah, this parrot's dead.'

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MORENS_NIH_041429
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'Well, actually, sir, it's just resting.' And they just looked like frogs that were resting, who were perfectly OK, but dead."

In an episode of the TV programme *60 Minutes* the same year, clad in head-to-toe khaki on a boat speeding towards the remote Malaysian island of Pulau Tioman, Daszak was referred to as a "virus hunter" off to search for bats suspected of harbouring the Nipah virus. He says: "Almost 75% of the emerging diseases in humans actually come from wildlife ... or domestic animals," he warns. "We are looking for the next HIV, the next Sars." This nascent area of scientific study, now known as conservation medicine, shaped the next 16 years of Daszak's career.

By 2010 Daszak was busily fund-raising for the newly reconfigured EcoHealth Alliance. Millions of dollars worth of grants rolled in: 87.6 per cent of it from US government sources in 2019, including the NIH and the Pentagon.

According to one prominent scientist, who asked not to be named, Daszak did not have a laboratory of his own, nor was he performing his own research, as most grant recipients did. What he did have, however, was a network of partnerships with other laboratories, including Shi's WIV.

With Shi, Daszak helped to co-ordinate visits to remote mines in China to look for bat coronaviruses to study in the lab in the hope of getting ahead of natural spillovers into local populations. Then in late 2019 the pandemic erupted in Wuhan.

When President Donald Trump first suggested in January 2020 that the virus had leaked from Shi's lab, Daszak was quick to leverage connections and lobby colleagues to push the counternarrative that it came directly from animals.

In February 2020, he organised an open letter in The Lancet with 26 scientists, condemning "conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin". He also wrote an article in The Guardian in June last year under the headline: "Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab".

When it was suggested to him by *60 Minutes* in March that, as a member of the WHO mission, he had technically been investigating his own colleagues at the Wuhan lab, Daszak said: "I'm on the WHO team for a reason ... and if you're going to work in China on coronaviruses and try and

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understand their origins you should involve the people who know the most about that, and for better or for worse I do."

Last week in an update on The Lancet site, Daszak wrote that his organisation collaborated with a range of universities and governmental health and environmental science organisations in China. He said that neither the EcoHealth Alliance nor he personally received funding from the Chinese government.

Despite Daszak's best efforts, President Joe Biden lent credence to the lab-leak theory when he approved a full investigation into it last month.

Suddenly Daszak's vehement attacks on the hypothesis appeared to some to be less about the science and more about a serious conflict of interest — one that a growing number seem unwilling to ignore any longer.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 10:46:36 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 27 Jun 2021 10:46:33 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs.
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

Peter: I agree with you – this is unacceptable. You've already agreed to recuse yourself from the task force on origins. And Sachs's suggestion that you step down as a Commissioner is inconsistent with his statement that your "considerable expertise and experience [on] the important issues of One Health and the ecology of emerging infectious diseases" is valuable for the Commission's deliberations – this is an argument for your remaining on the Commission.

Is he freelancing here, or have the editors of *The Lancet* endorsed this unilateral move? I think it's worth raising that question with the editors – this seems to me a highly unusual situation, given the way they normally run *Lancet* Commissions.

Also, I don't see why you should agree to something now, rather than have an opportunity to discuss this with your fellow Commissioners. (For one thing, Professor Sachs himself lacks the scientific credentials to make these decisions unilaterally – he's an economist, not a virologist. He should be relying on the input of Commissioners with appropriate expertise.) Peter Hotez, as another Commissioner, may want to add his viewpoint on this question. I'm sure there are others among the Commissioners who will object both to Sachs's high-handed methods and to the impression this gives that the *Lancet* Commission is aligning its deliberations with an extreme position in US politics, rather than the scientific objectivity and consensus that should govern its methods and findings.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
C David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020719
MORENS_NIH_041433
REL0000478708

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From: Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) u>
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Ozge Karadag (b) (6) >; Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) <(b) (6) >; Yanis Ben Amor (b) (6) edu>
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

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Date:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 9:10:17 AM -0500
Sent:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 9:09:56 AM -0500
Subject:	RE: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH
From:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Peter Das (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Excellent!

JLS

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH

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

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Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 3, 2023, at 7:57 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > 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: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Exec t: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, February
To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6) tez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6) effrey Sturchio < (b) (6) m>; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
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…

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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

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) oberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com>; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Notes from our call

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MORENS_NIH_034871
REL0000478709

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

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MORENS_NIH_034872
REL0000478709

- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: p.hotez

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >

Sent: Wednesday, Feb 4 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) m >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting (b) (6)
Passcod

(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggressi on-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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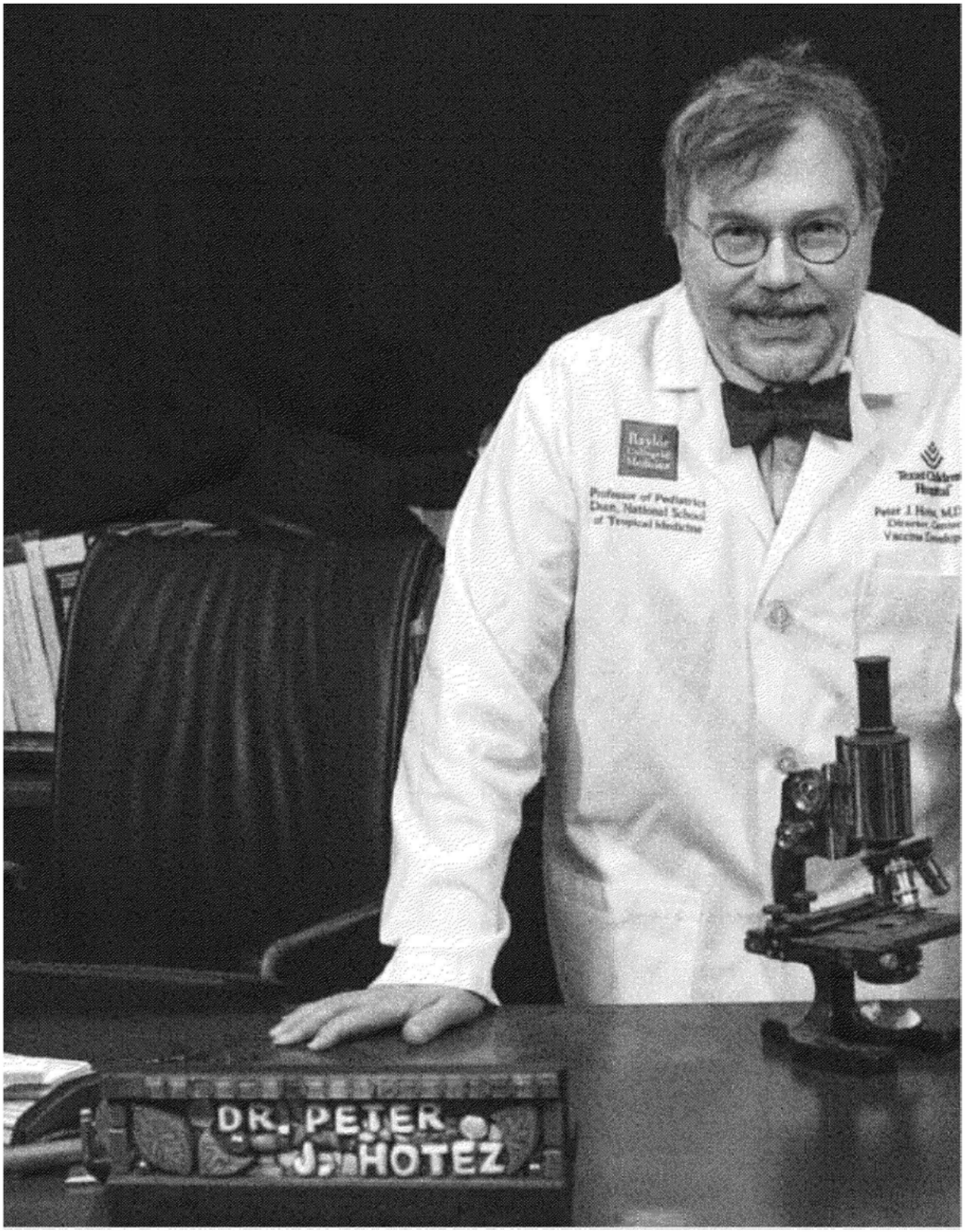

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad,* and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

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partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

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say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

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administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

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misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) > (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, DavidMorens <(b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I haverecently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
US
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Ex (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) .>
Sent: Friday, Januar (b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) effrey 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 upwith somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to pushback against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

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Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) u>
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!

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Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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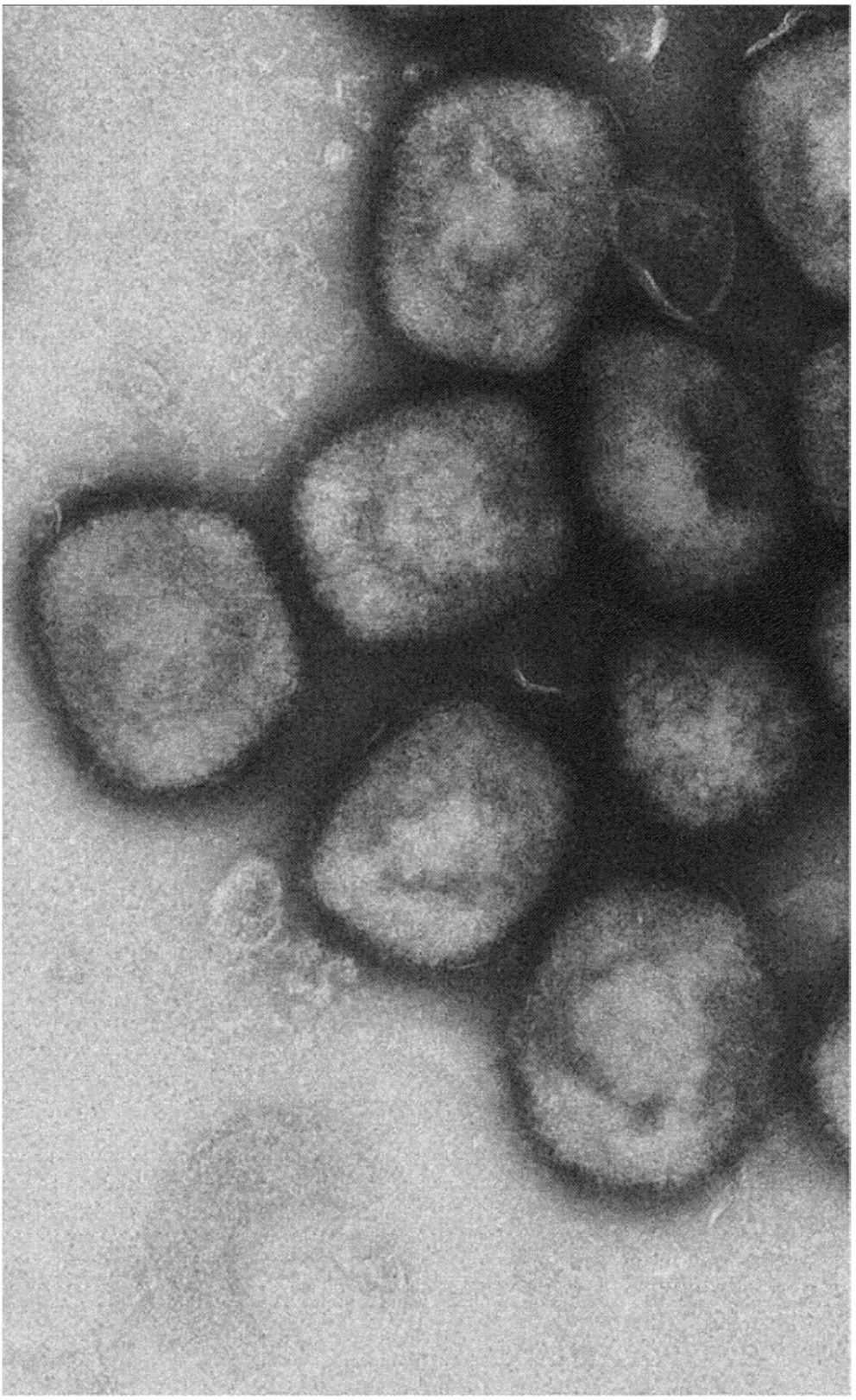

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

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or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

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Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to meritthat kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,"' says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

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"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: _____ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January M
To: Hotez, Peter Ja
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts _____ Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

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I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Jan (b) (6) M
To: Keusch, Geral (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He ientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel. (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Moren (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

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That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend th (b) (6) from (b) (6) Peter H, you may know him- and 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

(b) (6) ter Daszak <
g > wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507

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REL0000478709

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6)> wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: x on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei
Chmura (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >;
Jeffrey Sturchio <J) >; Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter



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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 7:06:55 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 7:03:41 PM -0500
Subject: Two new developments today
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

I don't know if these will get traction, but it's extremely stressful…

First, another attempt by Republican member of the house Guy Reschenthaler to defund EcoHealth Alliance
https://www.nationalreview.com/news/house- republican-introduces-bill-to-ban-federal-funding-for-ecohealth-alliance/

Second, an effort to set up a new Inspector General for NIH from Senator Marshall
https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jan/25/senators- move-create-inspector-general-probe-nih-f/

I'm hoping it's just grandstanding at the moment, but this attests to our need to defend science right now. They're starting with us, but their goals are all types of 'risky research' as they define it…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Sent: Wednesday, J
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) frey Sturchio <J (b) (6) ra <(b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
ux on Twitter

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(b) (6)
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Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
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Sent from my iPhone
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Sent: Wednesday
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Cc: Jeffr (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Rober (b) (6)
Subject: x on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015511
MORENS_NIH_033165
REL0000478711

Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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S (b) (6) **ve Support** (b) (6) riano
. | Phone: . | Fax: 713-798-2299

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

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Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

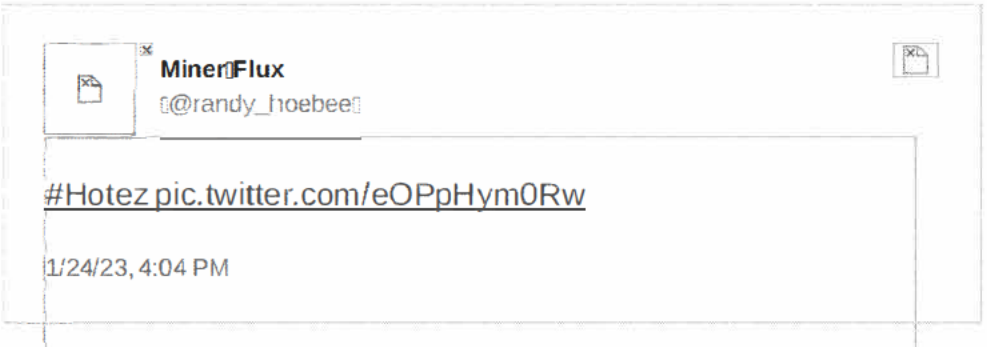
EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (>; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <
(b) (6)) (6)
: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: er Flux on Twitter



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Media Inquiries:
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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015514
MORENS_NIH_033168
REL0000478711

Date: Mon, 20 May 2024 1:39:31 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 May 2024 1:35:55 PM -0400
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
CC: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <Douglas.SorianoOsejo@bcm.edu>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: Baric-TI-Transcript.pdf; Morens-TI-Transcript-1.pdf; Morens-TI-Transcript-2.pdf; Daszak-TI-Transcript.pdf

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.: +1-212-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald <keusch@bu.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

From: Alison Andre (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May
To: Hotez (b) (6) Keusch (b) (6) >; David M (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Robert (b) (6)
Cc: Sori (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6) >
Subject: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/cp3y- mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting

Thank you,
Alison

--

Alison Andre

Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018

1 (b) (6) (direct)

1 (b) (6) (fax)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 12:01:28 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 12:01:18 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

I think it's also a problem doing this search without an NIH Director installed. NIAID is one of the biggest NIH Institutes. A real gap in White House leadership not filling the NIH post 14 months after Francis left. So dysfunctional things as described below start to happen. There is no adult supervision at NIH

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:38 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) wrote:

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of 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

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MORENS_NIH_032140
REL0000478715

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

e abilit re a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top tee. Ho leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015308
MORENS_NIH_032141
REL0000478715

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffr (b) (6) ; Alek (b) (6)
Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015309
MORENS_NIH_032142
REL0000478715

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

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Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

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Tel.: +(b) (6)
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <dm(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts(b) (6) >
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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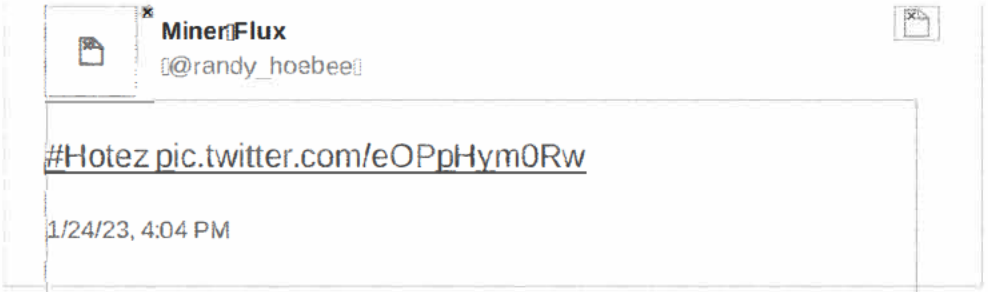
MORENS_NIH_032143
REL0000478715



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support (b) (6) riano
(b) (6) | Phone: | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 12:43:04 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 12:42:56 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb
From:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

This *Vanity Fair* article is full of hyperventilation about the dire consequences of the cover-up they've unearthed – but most of the purported evidence they present is circumstantial, and none of it offers anything new about the actual origins of COVID-19. They continue to flog the dead horse of the DARPA proposal that allegedly introduced a furin cleavage site into bat coronaviruses to enhance their infectivity – although this proposal was never funded and the research never conducted.

JLS

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 12:08 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
C Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

And today I see this in Vanity Fair. I admit I have just skimmed and not read it yet. I will ask my China scholar niece what she thinks about the analysis of CCCP speak argument and report back if she has time to read and respond.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Jerry, as i have said earlier, great idea. The PNAS document is powerful in many different ways and should be considered the definitive expert "take" on the situation. Let's see how the crazies react to it, I have faith in fair scientific analysis. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 31, 2022, at 06:47, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Can you introduce me to him and tell him to look for my email on his CCNY email address? If there is a way to use the PNAS paper as an example of a normal more scientific approach to analysis of a complex problem to support his argument in Forbes and shoot holes in the Burr document I think the US members of the Task Force (maybe the international members as well, although its more cogent that we represent the findings in the paper) would rise to the occasion.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 6:16 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) mura < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) eff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Fyi Bruce is a longtime collaborator who has helped us with the cost effectiveness modeling of our parasitic disease and covid vaccines. We've published more than a dozen papers together

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Oct 30, 2022, at 4:26 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) > wrote:

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Thanks David,

I responded to Bruce Lee (the perfect name for a truth ninja warrior such as he) including a pdf of the PNAS paper at his City University email which was easy to obtain to a) congratulate him, and b) ultimately ask him if we can respond to his article in depth via an introduction to the editorial staff as I am tired of sending pointed well evidenced Op-Eds or editorials or opinions over the transom and then being ignored with a standard no thanks reply. Or if necessary via a letter to the editor. Let's see if he responds. I'm thinking the Task Force, all or some, might respond – actually maybe just the American members because of the uniquely American nature of this sort of rank political nonsense. I'm hoping Lee will reply.

Has anybody seen any comment from Burr regarding the outrageous attack on Nancy Pelosi's home, and the sole occupant at the time, her 82 year old husband Paul? I haven't and to me that is just the exclamation point on the assessment that his report is political and timed before the election, aside from the mile wide holes in the argument, so well-articulated by Bruce Lee.

Jerry

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October M
To: (b) (6) Pete (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; Peter Hotez (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) eff Sturchi (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) .
> **Date:** October 30, 2
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6) .
> **Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) v >
> > **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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003129
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REL0000478716

avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]

Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint. It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter

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MORENS_NIH_009657
REL0000478716

about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report:
And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:
To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:
Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

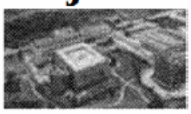
What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.
It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong argument.
The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.
The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.
The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus

from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section? Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003132
MORENS_NIH_009659
REL0000478716

U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

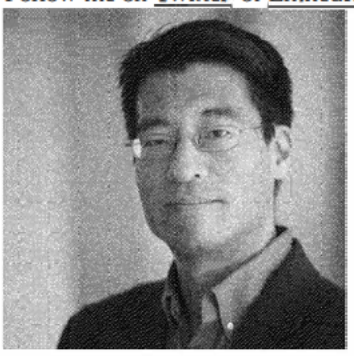
One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

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Date: Thu, 14 Apr 2022 4:31:12 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 14 Apr 2022 4:27:22 PM -0400
Subject: RE: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6)

Yes – I do know the journalist Peter Aldhous. I've found him to be persistent and generally balanced, but not averse to doing the usual journalistic strategy of always getting both sides of an issue and giving them appearance of equal weight. He did this in an article on the WHO mission's report last spring, but now this seems to be more balanced than some:
https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/who- covid-origins-china-report-lab-accident

He did an earlier piece after Trump canceled our grant which tried to explain what the work was:
https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/wuhan- lab-coronavirus-trump

I heard from him last week (email below). He says now that he's investigating what the political motivations were for the initial cancelation of our grant, which he believes were in-part driven by the awful pressure group White Coat Waste (he's correct). He might also be looking into their involvement in the attacks on Tony re. the alleged 'beagles with leishmaniasis'. Here's an email I got from him a few days ago:

From: Peter Aldhou(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:28 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Could we set up a conversation this week?

Dear Peter,

I hope all is well. I am now working on a piece based in part of the materials we've received from our FOIA to NIH surrounding the cancellation of your grant and subsequent developments.

My focus is a little different from previous coverage. I'm looking at the role of the animal group White Coat Waste in the events that led up to the cancellation of your grant and the subsequent "lab leak" and "gain-of-function" controversies, WCW's links to prominent Republican politicians, its subsequent involvement in attacks on Tony Fauci, and its current activities, which include (questionable) claims about research funded by NIH in Russia. There are some clear parallels this campaign and the way in which the group targeted your grant.

The piece will also discuss the big shift in the tone of internal NIH discussion of your grant before and after WCW's claims were published in the Daily Mail and elsewhere and pressure began to be exerted through WCW 's links with politicians including Matt Gaetz and Marco Rubio. And it will go over NIH's missteps in the termination of your grant as the agency bent under this pressure.

I'd like to your input on the key developments as they affected the EcoHealth Alliance. I noticed that you've been quoted some of the stuff we discussed previously off the record, including in this piece in Science.

Can we set up a time for this? I'm due to file a draft early next week, so if we can speak in the next couple of days, I'd be very grateful.

Thanks,

Peter

--

Peter Aldhous
Scie[redacted] BuzzFeed News
tel: (b) (6)
cell: (b) (6)
peter.aldhous@buzzfeed.com
@paldhous
www.peteraldhous.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: David Morens (b) (6) ≥
Sent: Thursday, A
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) eksei Chmura <
(b) (6) peter hote (b) (6)
Re: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Note that this foia is ostensibly about Leishmaniasis so hopefully not of concern to you, but we have had foia folks try to sneak in through the back door recently

In 5 years here i have never heard of a foia for Leishmaniasis so just want to be sure..... d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Apr 14, 2022, at 11:57, David Morens _(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007471
MORENS_NIH_016727
REL0000478724

Date: April 14, 2022 at 11:56:08 EDT
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** April 14, 2022 at 07:48:35 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
> > **Date:** April 14, 2022 at 07:46:57 EDT
> > **To:** "West, Elisabeth (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" <(b) (6) "Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >, "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) h.gov>
> > **Cc:** "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >, "Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" <(b) (6) >, "Schofield, Robin (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" <(b) (6) "Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) v>, "Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
> > **Subject: RE: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170**
> >
> > Hi Beth,
> > Okay for CIT to search.
> >
> > Thank you,
> >
> > Kim Barasch
> > Office of the Director
> > National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases
> > (b) (6) v
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** West, Elisabeth (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b) (6)
> > **Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 4:15 PM
> > **To:** Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C] <(b) (6) >; Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> > **Cc:** Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b) (6) Schofield, Robin (NIH/NHLBI) [E] <(b) (6) Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
> > **Subject:** CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170
> > **Importance:** High
> >
> > Good afternoon,
> >
> > We have received a FOIA request from Dr. Aldhous, freelance journalist, on 4/13/22 (attached). I am reaching to you specifically for item 3 of his request:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007472
MORENS_NIH_016728
REL0000478724

- **communications among NIAID IOD/OCGR staff regarding this paper**: "Enhanced attraction of sand fly vectors of Leishmania infantum to dogs infected with zoonotic visceral leishmaniasis" https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0009647
- date range: **July 21, 2021 and date of search**

I am seeking permission to request a CIT search of the following emails:

- Anthony Fauci
- Greg Folkers
- Patricia Conrad
- Kimberly Barasch
- David Morens
- Laurie Doepel

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attached:

- Request

Thank you,
Beth

Elisabeth West
Government Information Specialist
NIH/NHLBI/OM/FOIA Service Center
Rockledge One, 4th Floor
(b) (6) (NHLBI FOIA Main Line)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (Direct Line)

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_007473
MORENS_NIH_016729
REL0000478724

Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 4:02:26 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 26 May 2021 3:59:52 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Finishing off my sentence…

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 straight from the WHA yesterday where apparently the Chinese delegate stated that "In the view of China, our role in the COVID-19 origins investigation is now over"

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) gov>; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Axios: Biden asks intelligence community to intensify investigation of COVID origins

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014856
MORENS_NIH_030509
REL0000478726

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
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

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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6))(b) (6) g >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)) (6) (b) (6) u>; Rich Roberts (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Axios: Biden asksintelligence 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014857
MORENS_NIH_030510
REL0000478726

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: 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_014858
MORENS_NIH_030511
REL0000478726

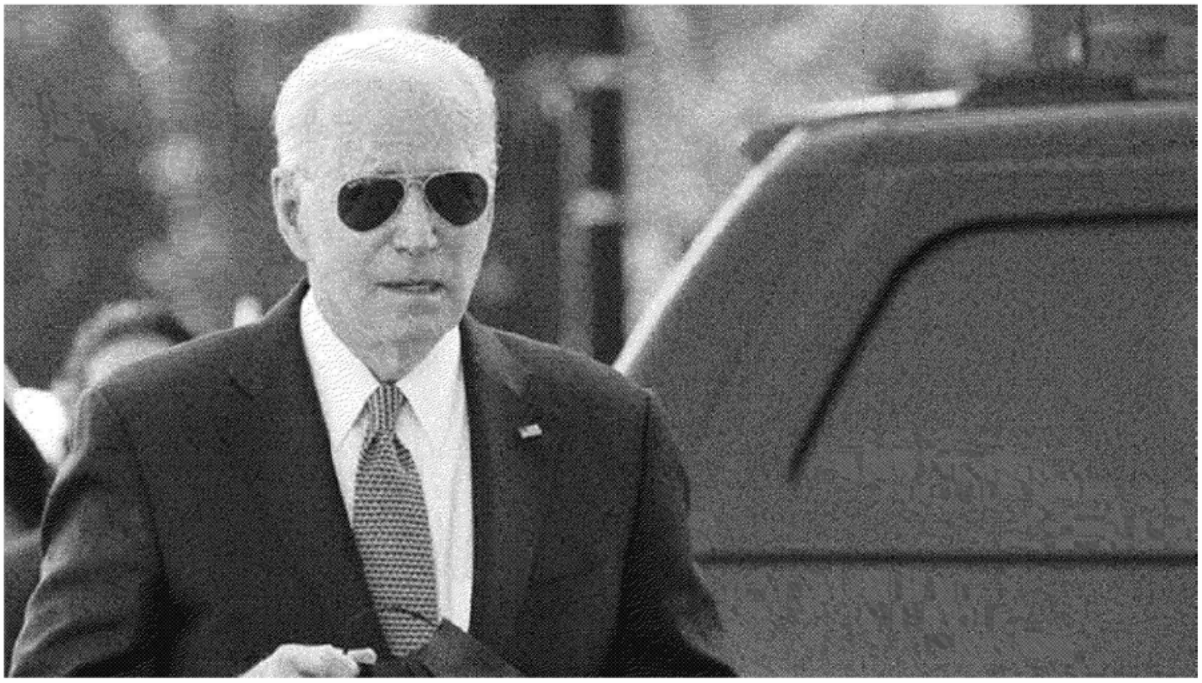

Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

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

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Date: Wed, 14 Jul 2021 9:18:56 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Science Speaks: Not until June 2021 does China report Wuhan wet markets sold palm civets, racoon dogs and mink from 2017-2019: Where are the SARS-CoV-2 results?

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

CC: Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Yes – exactly. It's harmless when he's just writing interesting summaries of outbreaks, but he's repeatedly supported the lab leak hypothesis and was an 'early adopter' of that when he commented about how suspicious he was of China's outbreak investigation, leading to a piece in NY Times in early summer 2020 that didn't really help anyone get closer to the truth, but raised his profile, I guess…

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/08/health/coronavirus- origin-china-lucey.html

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:42 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Science Speaks: Not until June 2021 does China report Wuhan wet markets sold palm civets, racoon dogs and mink from 2017-2019: Where are the SARS-CoV-2 results?

I didnt want to say so, but that's an apt description, or as we would say "gad fly"…. Without any expertise in anything, he flies off to every epidemic anywhere in the world, and then starts opining on it. Quite an expensive out of pocket but gig, but no one here in town takes him seriously. He's kind of like a little kid, always trying to get a seat at the grownups table…. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jul 14, 2021, at 19:55, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

I know him quite well. He's what we'd call in England a 'busy-body'. It's crazy to turn every single paper and event into an attack on China – just because one group was doing studies at a university with the goal of analyzing welfare and ethics at wildlife markets does not mean the China team involved in the WHO mission knew about it.

If China was trying to cover up this, why did they let this group publish a paper on it in Scientific Reviews!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)); (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)) < (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Science Speaks: Not until June 2021 does China report Wuhan wet markets sold palm civets, racoon dogs and mink from 2017-2019: Where are the SARS-CoV-2 results?

Presumably you guys know 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
- (b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
- (b) (6)
- (b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:01 PM
Subject: Science Speaks: Not until June 2021 does China report Wuhan wet markets sold palm civets, racoon dogs and mink from 2017-2019: Where are the SARS-CoV-2 results?

Not until June 2021 does China report Wuhan wet markets sold palm civets, racoon dogs and mink from 2017-2019: Where are the SARS-CoV-2 results?

By IDSA Contributor on July 14, 2021.

By Daniel R. Lucey MD, MPH, FIDSA

Last month a paper titled "Animal sales from Wuhan wet markets immediately prior to the COVID-19 pandemic" by Xiao et al., in *Nature Scientific Reports* listed 18 mammalian species sold May 2017 -November 2019 in Wuhan wet markets (Table 1). These mammalian species included masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) and racoon dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), species linked with SARS-CoV-1 in 2003 and known to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. Mink (*neovision vison*) were also sold, and the authors state these mink: … originated from fur farms — noting that SARS-CoV-2 has been reported in mink farms in Europe and North America." (paragraph 3 of the Discussion section).

Notably, Figure 2 shows photos of **caged live mammals in the Huanan seafood market** including a racoon dog, amur hedgehogs, Chinese bamboo rat, marmots and hog badger.

In sharp contrast, the WHO-China joint team report from their work in Wuhan Jan. 14-Feb. 10, 2021 and posted March 30, 2021 (p. 98): "Although there is photographic evidence in a published paper that live mammals were sold at the Huanan market in the past (2014) (36) (date confirmed by author in statement Annex F) and unverified media reports in 2020, **no verified reports of live mammals being sold around 2019 were found.**" (my bolding added for emphasis and contrast with Figure 2 of the paper by Xiao et al. above).

Xiao et al., also state in the next to last paragraph of the Discussion section: "Furthermore, the WHO reports that market authorities claimed all live and frozen animals sold in the Huanan market were acquired from farms officially licensed for breeding and quarantine, as such no illegal wildlife trade was identified. In reality, however, because China has no regulatory authority regulating animal trading conducted by small-scale vendors or individuals it is impossible to make this determination".

Specific information regarding racoon dogs is provided by Xiao et al:

"Racoon dog fur farming is legal in China; however, due to a drop in fur prices, racoon dogs are now frequently sold off in live animal markets, augmented by wild-caught animals." (3rd paragraph of the Discussion section).

Xiao et al. state that no pangolins or bats were found in the Wuhan markets.

Memorably, Xiao X. (X.X.) et al. explained how these data were acquired:

"Serendipitously, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, over the period May 2017-November 2019, we were conducting

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unrelated routine monthly surveys of all 17 wet market shops selling live wild animals for food and pets across Wuhan City (surveys were conducted by X.X.). This was intended to identify the source of the tick-borne (no human-to-human transmission) Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia (SFTS), following an outbreak in Hubei province in 2009-2010 . . . these shops selling live, often wild, animals included two at Baishazhou market . . . seven at Huanan seafood market . . . four at Dijiao outdoor pet market . . .and four at Qiyimen live animal market . . .". (1st paragraph of Materials and Methods section).

"As an objective observer unconnected to law enforcement X.X. was granted unique and complete access to trading practices. On each visit, vendors were asked what species they had sold over the preceding month and in what numbers, along with the prices. . .and origin of these goods (wild caught or captive bred/farmed). Additionally . . . the number of individuals available for sale at the time of each visit was noted, and animals were checked for gunshot wounds . . ." (2nd paragraph of Materials and Methods section).

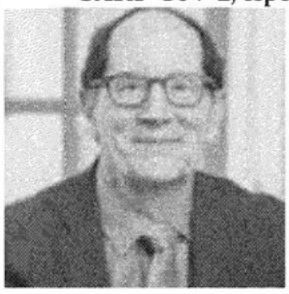
Even more people than the five co-authors (from China, Canada, and UK), and the multiple market vendors, were well aware of this study and its findings of live mammalian species in Wuhan wet markets, including the Huanan seafood market because:

"All protocols in the market survey were reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee of Hubei University of Chinese Medicine (no 20161111). All vendors provided written informed consent to participate in these surveys, and all protocols were performed with relevant guidelines and regulations". (4th paragraph of the Materials and Methods).

[redacted] two of the many key questions [redacted] publication are:

- **Will the WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros, determine from China why the WHO international team in Wuhan Jan-Feb 2021 was not informed of these important data,** especially with regard to the live masked palm civets, racoon dogs, and mink being sold in Wuhan wet markets May 2017 until November 2019 "immediately prior to the COVID-19 pandemic"**?**

- Will Dr. Tedros determine from China what became of these 18 live mammalian species in Wuhan wet markets in December 2019-January 2020 **and what were the results of (so far undisclosed) testing of these animals for SARS-CoV-2, especially the masked palm civets, the raccoon dogs, and the mink?**



Dr. Daniel Lucey

Daniel Lucey, M.D. MPH, FIDSA, FACP, *is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine, Infectious Disease adjunct Professor at Georgetown Medical Center, senior scholar at Georgetown Law, Anthropology Research Associate at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America Global Health Committee. He served as a volunteer to outbreaks overseas including hands-on Ebola patient care in Sierra Leone and Liberia (Doctors without Borders) 2014, MERS 2013, SARS 2003, as well as HIV, H5N1, Zika, yellow Fever, and pneumonic plague 2017 (with WHO/USAID/CDC). Since Jan. 6, 2020 he has contributed more than 100 posts to Science Speaks on COVID-19 and traveled to China in February 2020. He initially proposed, then fundraised and helped design the content for 2018-2022 Smithsonian Exhibition on Epidemics due to zoonotic viruses. From 1982-1988 he trained at University of California San Francisco and Harvard and was an attending physician at the NIH (NIAID) in the 1990s while in the U.S. Public Health Service.*

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Date: Sat, 29 Apr 2023 5:16:24 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 29 Apr 2023 5:16:04 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;

John is doing well, living in NY I think he must be closer to 90. Tony Cerami my PhD advisor I keep in touch there's a biography about him (I wrote the foreword) written by the same author who wrote Ken Warren's biography. We stay in touch by phone. He's 83 with memory loss, which he open acknowledges. So we have a great and heartfelt conversation and then I get to rewind and repeat a few weeks later. But he seems fulfilled and content living in the San Diego CA area. So everyone is doing ok to good! Warmest Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast utor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 29, 2023, at 3:56 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

And how is he doing? He was always a good scientist, cultured, and thoughtful, and his summer course at the MBL was a great contribution.
Speaking about some of the greats of the past, have you kept up with Tony Cerami? Is he OK? Where is he and what is he doing? Last I knew he had retired and was living somewhere in Europe.
Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 7:15 AM

To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6)
>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Yes he retired to NY he was the last chair of tropical public health at Harvard

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 6:29 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while -- is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28,
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) berts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchi (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <daszak@e
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

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
US
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Exec (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
emai (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April (b) (6)
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: _____, Jeff St (b) (6) eksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Dasza (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor,

Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits**

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Misinformation Superspreader." Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. "We said, 'Okay if that's what they're calling us," he explained, "let's kind of make fun of it." Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn't mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, "They're having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they're very much forum shopping right now." Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. "The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action," he said. "I'd expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose."

When I arrived, I didn't think I'd get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for *Mother Jones*, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from

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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.)

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 shakv-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: Tue, 30 Apr 2024 4:08:33 PM -0400
Subject: Fw: More harrassment from Michael Lauer Today!!
From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

Speaking of Michael Lauer – interesting and telling side bar with him re. the WIV lab notebooks. Remember, NIH terminated our grant, then reinitiated it with an instant suspension, pending a series of conditions be met – including getting a vial of virus from China etc.

In Jan 2022, while the grant was still suspended, they wrote to us and asked us to supply the lab notebooks and raw data from WIV, and if we didn't have them, to request them from WIV we explained we didn't have them, and passed on their letter to WIV, who never responded (of course!). WIV was then debarred by HHS, in part because when NIH directly asked for the lab notebooks via a UPS letter, the letter didn't even make it past the gate and was marked 'return to sender'!

Now the SSCP has demanded all correspondence from EHA with WIV whereby we tried to get their lab notebooks. There is only one email where we forward the demand from NIH. Cue Michael Lauer, who has seen the SSCP letter to EHA and now demands we share everything with NIH also, given "ongoing concerns over EcoHealth Alliance's compliance". Truly outrageous, however we took the high road and shared the email.

Of course Michael Lauer hasn't stopped at that, he now wants to provide (I believe) a foiable trail of emails that show how dogged he is in pursuit of the nefarious EcoHealth Alliance, and how negligent we are. Today, we got the following email from him, demanding all sorts of answers to questions about a grant that was terminated, and about an organization that is debarred. If this isn't overreach, I don't know what is. I believe he realizes that the Intel agencies can't even get this information, but wants to show that EcoHealth has likely continued to work with WIV, but hasn't done its patriotic duty in demanding their lab notebooks.. Of course, at the same time, NIH is fully aware that we're aiming to publish work from our prior award in China, and get hold of critical genomic information that WIV has generated from 15,000 NIH samples in their freezers. Talk about being stuck between a rock and a hard place…

Here's the brunt of Lauer's email:

By the way – we just received a response from Michael Lauer re. the lab notebooks. We voluntarily shared the email from us to WIV that the SSCP has asked for, that shows we forwarded NIH's demand for us to get WIV's notebooks. As is typical for Lauer, rather than say 'thanks' and move on, he's come back with further questions and demands, written in the style of a suspicious NKVD operative under Stalin. He knows these will be foiad at some point, and has written them in a way that once again implies we're either hiding information or didn't' fully comply with their request 2 yrs ago. They're also designed to make a point – if we are still communicating with WIV (which we have to if we're going to publish papers from our prior work), why aren't we demanding the notebooks? This, even though NIH has specifically told us no work in China, and HHS has debarred them from federal funding. It's a massive overreach from NIH and more like the sort of work a CIA operative would do…

Dear Dr. Chmura,

Thank you for your response. We have some follow-up questions:

- When you (EHA) received no response from WIV, did you follow-up with WIV to confirm receipt of the email, or did you otherwise follow-up with them after not hearing back?
- Did you communicate with or attempt to communicate with WIV after NIH sent a follow-up letter in January 2022 (3rd attachment)?
- Did you ever explicitly request that WIV send the lab notebooks and electronic files to you? All we see is that you forwarded the NIH email to WIV and stated, "I will write to NIH and explain that I've 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

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Apri
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; John Feigelson <

k 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.

MORENS_NIH_044644
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I must say I am looking forward to what Michael Hiltzik puts out after the hearing because there may some really wacky stuff coming out of some of the committee members.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 26, 2024, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Really appreciate your email Rich – it's pretty ugly right now, but I'm so busy dealing with this garbage that in a weird way you don't have time to get upset about it.
>
> I'll probably be crying into my cornflakes on the morning of May 2nd after my Salem Witch Trial.
>
> 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:** Friday, April 26, 2024 2:14 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <
> (b) (6)
> **Cc** (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
> (b) (6) John Feigelson <(b) (6) >
> **Subject:** RE: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times
>
> Peter:
>
> I'm glad he is doing this. I feel very upset about what is happening to you and your family. The sooner these Republicans are voted out of office the better. It is quite unconscionable what they are doing.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 1:56 PM
To: Keusch. Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ohn Feigelson <
(b) (6)
Subject: Hiltzik of the LA Times

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi all, I Just had a good call with Michael Hiltzik, mainly off the record, but I gave him some quotes at the end along the lines of "It seems that NIH's actions are continuing the de facto blocking of our funding via administrative overreach.." or something less eloquent. He will allow me to check quotes. I also gave him the go ahead to excerpts from the emails and even publish the whole emails that detail the onerous oversight that NIH have been using to block our work, should he wish to. These have already been FoIA'd and are likely to be public very soon in any case.

He told me he will probably wait until after the hearing to see what happens there that can add to his story, but It does seem that he will be doing a story that directly critiques NIH's actions against EcoHealth, and that he believes are part of them trying to rationalize their initial termination under Collins, which I reminded him, our legal team contend was an illegal move. He asked for comment from Tabak and Lauer, and they responded with a single line along the lines "because this is the subject of ongoing compliance oversight, we cannot comment" or similar.

I spoke to Michael Hiltzik about what seems to be a sort of Troika at NIH – Francis Collins, Lawrence Tabak and Michael Lauer. Collins and then Tabak clearly have given the go-ahead on a number of issues to Lauer to do what he can with EcoHealth in a way that benefits NIH and avoids harassment from congress. This seems to mirror what Lauer has done with some Chinese American scientists who were accused of illicit financial activities, never shown to have committed any, but lost their jobs or privileges once Lauer called their Deans (see story in *Science* https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers).

He mentioned he had a good conversation with you also Jerry…

MORENS_NIH_044646
REL0000478735

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Dasza (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:37 AM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) ff Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) '
; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <

RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

Thanks for the kind words Jerry.

Talking with Michael Hiltzik at 1pm and will be ready to fill him in on some of this, and point him to the Troika at the top of NIH (Collins, Tabak, Lauer) who's weak-willed kow-towing to the former president began all this with the termination of my grant 4 years and 2 days ago (not that I'm counting!!)…

I'll avoid the phrase "four more years" at this point, because I really think we do have another 4 years of crap to wade through…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelso (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Pub

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 Ja (b) (6) wrote:
>
> As they indicated on official twitter they want to "sell popcorn"
>
> **Peter Hotez,** MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
>
> **Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development
>
> **Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar
>
> **Baylor University**, University Professor
> **Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
> **Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs
>
> E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
>
> Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor
>
> **Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano (b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299
>
> **Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:47 AM, Peter Dasza (b) (6) > wrote:

I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

That said, we're now hearing that the SSCP are considering sending us a subpoena today. We've spent the last few days turning over emails and documents, but they still want to get their 'angry letter/subpoena' story, so looks like more garbage coming our way.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) ld T < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio < (b) (6) (b) (6) b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; John Feigelson < (b) (6) >
e. 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

MORENS_NIH_044649
REL0000478735

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas.(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:25 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear all,

Just letting you know some of the damage that these political attacks on science have. As soon as the SSCP announced my hearing a few weeks ago, I noticed a significant increase in online death threats, both the number and severity of the threats. On Tuesday this week I received a death threat by mail at my house, and while I was in DC yesterday for a mock hearing, the local police received a notice that someone had killed a scientist and had his wife tied up in the basement at my house. It was a fake call but we ended up with 4 police cars, and detectives searching the house, and staying for the afternoon. We're expecting more of this and are tightening up security for the next couple of weeks at my house and in the office. We also have security lined up in DC where there is a real chance for harassment because they know I have to enter the building that morning. It's also a public building and people will be in the corridors as I enter the room.

In the meantime the SSCP seem happy to gin up their base with a Twitter 'countdown' to my hearing date, just like the buildup to the next season of "Game of Thrones" (below). This time they didn't use the popcorn icon – meaning 'bring your popcorn for this fun show' – as they did on previous countdowns to testimony. I wonder if that's because Peter Hotez called them out repeatedly?

Anyway – it looks like we're in for a rough couple of weeks. Sometime today or over the weekend, the SSCP tells us they'll release a (no doubt damning) report about EcoHealth Alliance, as well as

the transcripion from my 9.5 hours interview I did with them in November. That will keep the Right wing press busy and get their supporters frothing at the mouth up to Wednesday..

Post

See new posts

Conversation

<image003.jpg>

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

In less than one week, EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak will appear before
@COVIDSelect
for a public hearing.

<image001.png>
COVID-19 origins
<image001.png>
Gain-of-function research
<image001.png>
Wuhan Institute of Virology
<image001.png>
Dr. Anthony Fauci ...and more are on the table.

✔COVID-19 origins
✔Gain-of-function research
✔Wuhan Institute of Virology
✔Dr. Anthony Fauci

May 1, 2024 | 10:00am ET

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM
To: '(b) (6) (b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; John Feigelson <(b) (6) >
Subject: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
Importance: High

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day:
https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at

https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a-hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) eusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <i (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify i

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.

David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

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Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent:
To: (b) (6) >; 'K (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'John Feigelson' < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM
To: '(b) (6) (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' < (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; John Feigelson < (b) (6) >
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us-news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6)) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM
To: Peter Da (b) (6) K (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:
>
> https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505
>
> Here's the text of the tweet:
>
> **Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**
>
> @COVIDSelect
>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
> <image001.png>
> @ScienceMagazine

MORENS_NIH_044656
REL0000478735

AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH

<image001.png>
<image001.png>

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6) ”
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) John Feigelson <(b) (6)
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by

April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Webs alliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
(b) (6) eusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <
>; H (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public

hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…

Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214

Washington Examiner BS article here: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth-alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/

Full text of tweet:

Post

See new posts

Conversation

Pinned

<image003.jpg>

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

<image001.png>
BREAKING
<image001.png>
@EcoHealthNYC President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.

<image004.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) l 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
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USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc:
(b) (6)

d Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails:
https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails- 01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good...I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?
>
> I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone (b) (6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA
Tel. (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Web ance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent

MORENS_NIH_044663
REL0000478735

pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Ap
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral

emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have

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no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

MORENS_NIH_044667
REL0000478735

Date: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 11:38:58 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 Aug 2022 11:38:42 AM -0400
Subject: Re: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image002.jpg; image001.jpg

---

Richard Horton stopped replying to my emails months ago, maybe Andy Haines or Slim can get to him, etc

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

(b) (6)
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ve Support riano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

On Aug 22, 2022, at 8:34 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter, I read the twitter thread from Angela Rasmussen (below). I believe she's correct in saying (as others are now also saying) that this should disqualify a person from leading a Lancet Commission into COVID-19, since part of its stated goals (in letters published in the Lancet) are to counter the anti-science and anti-vaccine narratives, promote equitable distribution and uptake of vaccines etc.

Obviously, I can't take any part in this, but I would hope that some of the Commissioners would think about writing to Richard Horton to at least inform him that the leader of his COVID Commission is now co-promoting with a blatant anti-vaccine advocate…

Thread

See new Tweets

Conversation



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

Quoth Sachs: “There was a recipe. There was a desire. There was a large scientific program. There was a technical [illegible] And everything from NIH is don't look over there, look at the market.”

2

2

37



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

What is motivating Fauci to be the puppet master pulling the strings on this global furin cleavage site cloning-based [illegible]e bioweapons in violation of the 1972 BWC.

1

2

40



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

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MORENS_NIH_021842
REL0000478736

So let's get this straight: Fauci is the GoF-father ordering NIAID grantees to cook up SARSr-CoV bioweapons in violation of international law using insertional mutagenesis to sprinkle in his favorite bioweapon ingredient: suboptimal polybasic cleavage sites at the S1/S2 junction.

1
6
45



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

Fauci is doing this for the CIA in collaboration with the Chinese government so Big Pharma can achieve world domination through vaccines for the bespoke ECS-hearing bioweapons being released by a cabal of evil governments & funding agencies.

1
3
45



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

And all virologists are lying, sociopathic nihilists well-versed in "deceit and deception", so devoted to our pathogenic [illegible] too eager to serve as scientific rodeo clowns, distracting the public from the furin cleavage sites we will attack them with.

1
5
46



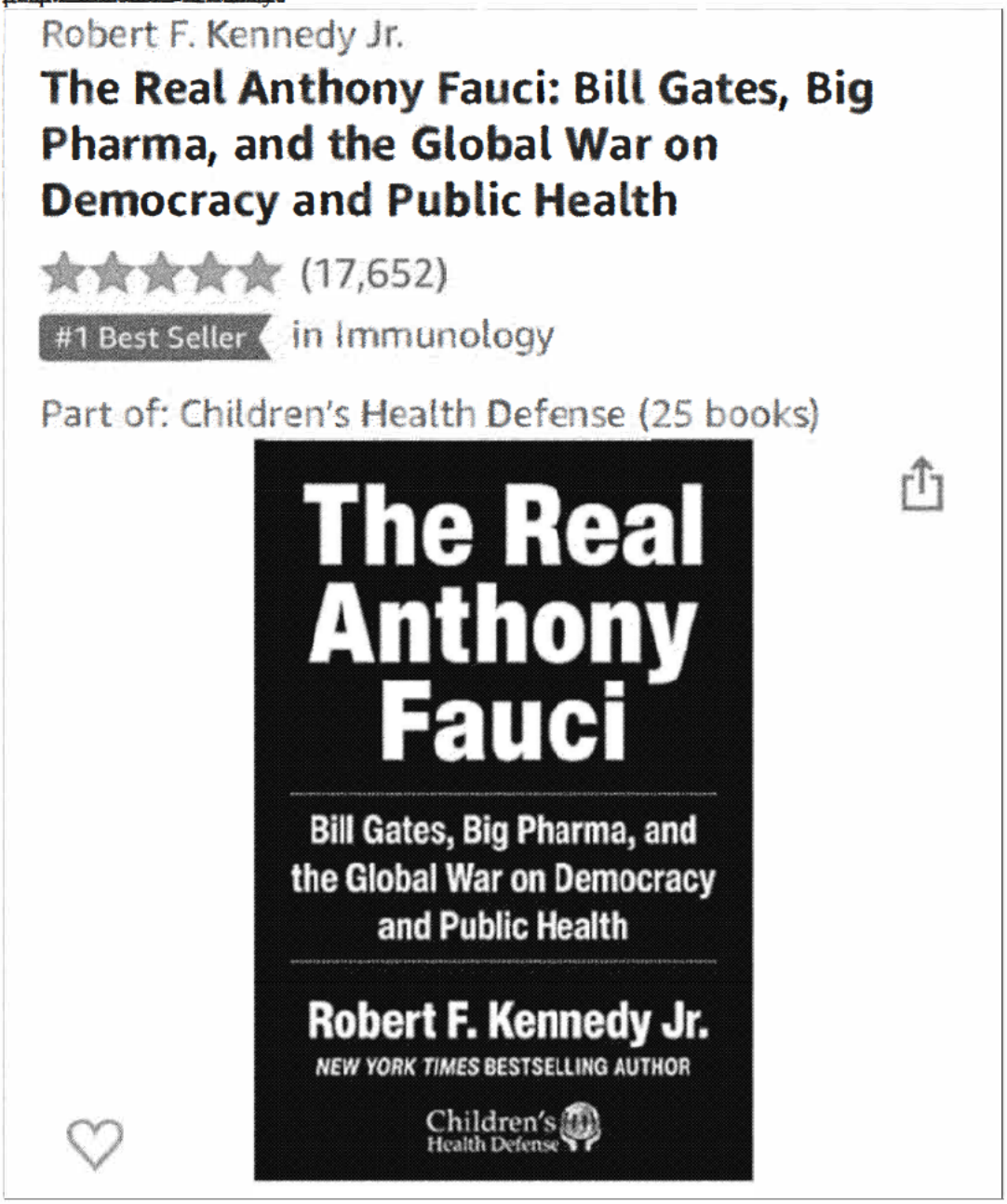
Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011097
MORENS_NIH_021843
REL0000478736

2b

It ends with a pitch for RFK Jr's latest book, an execrable piece of noxious trash that is currently Amazon's "#1 Best Seller in Immunology". This book uses baseless conspiracy theories to discourage vaccination. This book can literally kill people who take it seriously.



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MORENS_SUBPOENA_011098
MORENS_NIH_021844
REL0000478736

Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

·
2h

If this sounds fucking crazy, it's because it IS absolutely, totally, spectacularly fucking crazy. Now normally I try to anti-vaxxer & profited handsomely from it.

1
11
79



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

·
2h

But Jeff Sachs is in charge of a commission tasked with investigating & analyzing all aspects of the pandemic, from origins to vaccines. Though the Lancet Commission has no policy making power, it's still very influential.

2
8
56



Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

·
2h

And if spreading lies and conspiracy theories about the pandemic's origin wasn't already disqualifying for Sachs to lead it, attempting to wield influence via the platform of an anti-vaxxer whose entire career is devoted to harming public health absolutely should be.

2
13
76



MORENS_SUBPOENA_011099
MORENS_NIH_021845
REL0000478736

Dr. Angela Rasmussen

@angie_rasmussen

2h

These aren't just Sachs' opinions. These conspiracy theories are insidious propaganda that will enrich people like RFK at [redacted] It will cost lives. Jeffrey Sachs needs to be removed as Lancet Commission Chair.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:35 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keus (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: A new 'low' for Jeff Sachs

I couldn't bring myself to listen but Angie R did, apparently Jeff said disgraceful and untrue things about me, about us, beyond awful

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6) **Support:** Douglas Soriano
| Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Aug 21, 2022, at 4:47 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I'm very surprised to see that Jeff Sachs has been interviewed by the well-known anti-vaxxer and conspiracist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. There's a podcast you can listen to here: https://pca.st/f4qhwghp but you have to download an app, then use your email and create a password – I didn't.

RFK Jr's anti-vaccine activities are widely known, and just 2 days ago he was removed from social media platforms for spreading conspiracies. Here's an NY Times story on that:
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/technology/facebook- instagram-robert-kennedy-jr-misinformation.html

According to lab leak proponents who are reviewing Jeff Sachs' interview, he goes through all the stuff in his PNAS article including the nasty comments about my role in the Lancet Commission. He calls the "Proximal origins" paper in Nature Medicine "ludicrous"; "almost unbelievable what it says"; "frankly, it is garbage"; "there is a narrative: a willful misdirection"; "joke"; "it is absurd".

I guess he's all-in at this point!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Augu
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch

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MORENS_NIH_021847
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(b) (6) (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
(b) (6) >

Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Yet another example of why they should close the major law schools, especially Harvard and Yale, and make the students go to Medical School instead. That tackles two problems, since a significant number of Harvard and Yale graduates go down to Congress where they do yet more harm

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, Au M
(b) (6) (b) (6) eusch <
(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

I love that idea Rich.

Truth is, our lawyers told us early on that the actions NIH took are likely illegal. They've looked at all prior cases of NIH terminated grants, suspending grants and appeals against them. There are precedents for winning these cases, e.g. Planned Parenthood and others. The only catch is that suing NIH would mean litigation that drags on for a few years, discovery actions that would demand all sorts of private correspondence, and ultimately a jury that might by now be contaminated with the lab leak narrative. They advised us that the best option is to push privately for the grant to be renegotiated, which I suppose is where we are now.

All of this is of course exacerbated by the other actions and attacks that add to a general narrative that EcoHealth must have been up to no good – this includes the NAM investigation that we're still waiting to hear about, and the OIG audit. There's also a lawsuit against us that we've tried not to talk publicly about, but it's real and we have to defend against it. A lawyer in Long Island who's sued EHA, myself and even my wife for a huge sum for causing COVID-19 that then infected him etc.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011102
MORENS_NIH_021848
REL0000478736

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Maybe there's a way to bill NIH for all the extra work they have caused you to undertake. A good lawyer might have a field day.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Roberts, Ric (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks Rich - I've got to look at the positives in all of this and just carry on fighting, if only for my own health reasons. It's been a really horrible couple of years and I've found that the constant harassment can really get you down – it's been shocking to me how much of struggle this is with many days spent despairing over my own personal future and the future of EcoHealth. It's been tough on my family as well, and the other staff at EHA.

I'm determined not to give up though and will be going through all the options carefully. The other glimmer of hope is that any 'renegotiation' will be with NIAID staff, so I'll reach out to them ASAP. I think that if most of the funding is planned for the US, with just one subcontract to China, for a group that works on epidemiology, that might work. The other strategy would be to see if a shift to another country would work. I'm mindful that NIH (Lauer et al.) would be delighted if we just handed in the towel, and will probably be looking for excuses to consider our alternative plans out of scope.

On this issue of who is 'the pits' and who isn't at NIH, I think the list begins with Francis Collins, who committed the original sin of terminating our grant when he could have simply resisted. Second is his lackey Lauer who took it

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MORENS_NIH_021849
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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."

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MORENS_NIH_021850
REL0000478736

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

Peter:

Glad you could find a glimmer to be hopeful about. Lauer is just the pits!

Are there people outside of China you might be able to collaborate with?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:27 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continu o 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.

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MORENS_NIH_021851
REL0000478736

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM
To: 'David Morens' (b) (6) ; 'Gerald T Keusch' <(b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, hut my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we

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should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

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FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this. "Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China.

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges."

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID. Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011108
MORENS_NIH_021854
REL0000478736

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia

Peter, can i share the proofs with Tony, confidentially of course? If not i will at least give him a heads up if that's ok

Also, correct me if i am wrong, but the 66k number is significantly higher than your previous estimate, right?

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Some good news..
>
> Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.
>
> Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.
>
> I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011109
MORENS_NIH_021855
REL0000478736

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) ; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) leksei Chmura < (b) (6) ; 'David Morens' (b) (6) 'Gerald T Keusch' < (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)) (6) >
porter 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

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President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Ric (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Augu
T Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Moren (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Peter Dasza (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) ens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice

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MORENS_NIH_021857
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University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: rhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <(b) (6)
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <(b) (6) wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011112
MORENS_NIH_021858
REL0000478736

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
> Signa (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011113
MORENS_NIH_021859
REL0000478736

Date: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 11:51:02 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 11:47:39 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

I can help with evidence Jerry. The goal here should not be further reporting to pitch EcoHealth against NIH. The goal should be a deeper understanding of essentially a corrupt action by NIH (illegally terminating a grant 'for convenience') and then 2 years of trying to pin the blame for this malfeasance on a non-profit that has led to substantial harm.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Dece AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Process at NAM for deali blican members of the House E&C Committee

Hi Peter,

First, and I already told Peter, my note to NAM members last night has had a few direct responses to me indicating it was received and people are already writing to Victor Dzau about it, providing membership input that the attack from the republicans is political and not an indication of misconduct. That's important.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015211
MORENS_NIH_031691
REL0000478742

The LA Times said no yesterday, in part because they didn't have the evidence to corroborate the charges I make, and because "the conflict between Peter Daszak and NIH over the past year could be a good subject for news reporting". I wanted to move the focus above the specifics of Peter and EcoHealth to the level of Francis Collins and his inability to defend the integrity of science and his spreading of misinformation. So I wrote back with my willingness to share the "evidence" and the need to get this out now before Collins leaves at the end of the year.

I am preparing to send it to the Boston Globe if I don't hear back in the next couple of hours.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:30 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) : Roberts. Rich < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Many thanks Jerry, what's the latest with the op ed?

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-mai (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
Douglas (b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Dec 6, 2021, at 11:20 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

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 <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchi (b) (6)
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015213
MORENS_NIH_031693
REL0000478742

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:17 PM
To: 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6))' <(b) (6) >
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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015214
MORENS_NIH_031694
REL0000478742

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
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.

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 <(b) (6) >
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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015215
MORENS_NIH_031695
REL0000478742

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.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015216
MORENS_NIH_031696
REL0000478742

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

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Date: Sun, 7 Mar 2021 10:51:19 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 7 Mar 2021 10:51:17 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Wash Post editorial
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

Lets think about it.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Wash Post editorial

I will be glad to altho of course i have ID myself as a resident if MD, not a govt employee. I think they usually only accept letters from individuals, not two or more, but i am not sure d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Mar 7, 2021, at 21:15, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> I think we need to respond - we being you and me, not Peter. What do you think?
>
>
> Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
> Professor of Medicine
> Associate Director
> National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Boston University,
> Boston MA 02118
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: David Morens <(b) (6)
> Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 10:12 AM
> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T
> <(b) (6) >
> Subject: Wash Post editorial
>
> Yet another alarmist WaPo editorial this morning on covid origin. Not
> sure who it is that is breathing into their ears. Some of the
> language sounds familiar, but i will not try to guess. D
>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012752
MORENS_NIH_024142
REL0000478743

> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012753
MORENS_NIH_024143
REL0000478743

Date:	Tue, 9 Aug 2022 8:40:01 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 9 Aug 2022 8:37:27 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: More harassment
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.png

I've also seen that Richard Ebright is now implying you're in breach of Federal regulations on fraud:

https://twitter.com/R_H_Ebright/status/1557142173102985218

He also misspells your name as "Hoitez" – I believe that's a type of South American bird with a claw on it's wing digits…(I know, it's a Hoatzin).

Here's his tweet thread:



Richard H. Ebright @R_H_Ebright
1h
Replying to @PrometheusCHT @PeterHotez and 4 others
Hoitez' denials are demonstrably false: (1) Funding from NIH grant AI098775 is acknowedged in a research publication by the research team led by Shi Zhengli of WIV (link.springer.com/content/pdf/10…) (2) The Principal Investigator of NIH grant AI098775 is Hotez (reporter.nih.gov/search/WNMviEk…).



Richard H. Ebright @R_H_Ebright
1h
Replying to @R_H_Ebright @PrometheusCHT and 5 others
(3) The publication was reported to the NIH by Hotez as an "outcome" of his NIH grant and is listed as an outcome on the NIH.gov website (reporter.nih.gov/search/CWfo81q…).



Richard H. Ebright
@R_H_Ebright
Replying to @R_H_Ebright @PrometheusCHT and 5 others
(4) When Hotez reported the publication to the NIJ, he certified that he was providing truthful information, subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (era.nih.gov/erahelp/common…).

> ***APPLICANT ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE: I certify that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and accept the obligation to comply with Public Health Services terms and conditions if a grant is awarded as a result of this application. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.***

7:09pm · 9 Aug 2022 · Twitter Web App

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com>; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
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: (b) (6)
Twitter: peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 9, 2022, at 10:57 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

Please do David.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very high rate of SARS-related CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia

Peter, can i share the proofs with Tony, confidentially of course? If not i will at least give him a heads up if that's ok

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009434
MORENS_NIH_019917
REL0000478745

Also, correct me if i am wrong, but the 66k number is significantly higher than your previous estimate, right?

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (j (b) (6) <j (b) (6) >

Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add).
https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009436
MORENS_NIH_019919
REL0000478745

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: PeterDaszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) g >; David Morens (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch < (Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) b
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,
> >
> > I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.
> >
> > The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.
> >
> > Questions:
> >
> > 1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
> >
> > 2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?
> >
> > Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009439
MORENS_NIH_019922
REL0000478745

Date:	Mon, 24 May 2021 12:04:20 PM -0400
Sent:	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] <(b) (6) >
To:	Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
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]" <(b) (6) >
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_019716
MORENS_NIH_039333
REL0000478748



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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019717
MORENS_NIH_039334
REL0000478748



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

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.

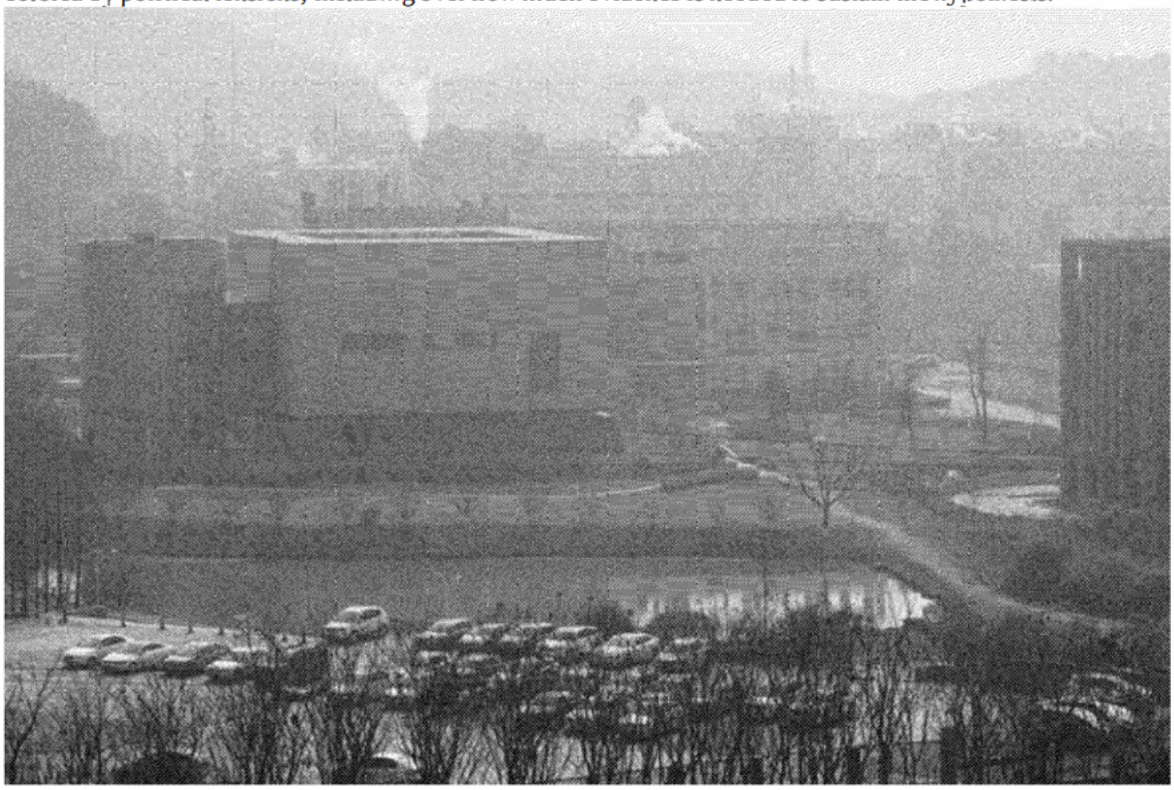
David Asher, a former U.S. official who led a State Department task force on the origins of the virus for then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, told a Hudson Institute seminar in March that he doubted that the lab researchers became sick because of the ordinary flu.

"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.

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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.

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Date: Thu, 16 May 2024 9:33:28 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 16 May 2024 9:30:49 AM -0400
Subject: Link to Lawrence Tabak's testimony going on right now
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.png

I can't face it myself, but here's the link – it's live now, but you can go in at any time afterwards to watch it:

https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/overseeing- the-overseers-a-hearing-with-nih-deputy-director-lawrence-tabak/

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2024 9:27 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6)
'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) leksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Washington Post cites Democrats with more negative comments about EcoHealth
Importance: High

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/05/16/covid- origins-spotlight-feds-cut-funding-virus-hunters/

It's written as if "The Fix is in" – they've (SSCP, HHS, Democrats in general) decided that Michael Lauer's, Tabak's and the Republicans allegations are just true, and therefore we're out of business. We never did, yet, get chance to respond – certainly not

at my public hearing.

The EcoHealth saga continues

What did the deputy director of the **National Institutes of Health** know, and when did he know it? Top NIH official **Lawrence Tabak** is set to face off this morning with the House panel probing the coronavirus response. Expect lawmakers to focus on the agency's oversight and funding of **EcoHealth Alliance**, a nonprofit organization that worked with the Wuhan Institute of Virology before the pandemic.

EcoHealth was thrown back into the spotlight Wednesday, after the Department of Health and Human Services said it was suspending funding to the organization and moving to debar the New York-based nonprofit from receiving additional funds, citing evidence EcoHealth had failed to monitor and report on risky virus experiments in China.

EcoHealth has said it is appealing the decision, but the news was hailed on Capitol Hill. Both Republicans and Democrats had called on HHS to review the organization's funding and its NIH grants; GOP leaders have gone further and called for a criminal probe.

"Our investigation into EcoHealth and Dr. Daszak's actions is not over," Rep. **Brad Wenstrup** (R-Ohio), who chairs the **House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**, plans to say to Tabak today, in remarks shared with The Health 202. "This issue has highlighted broader concerns with the NIH — especially that it is up to the grantee to oversee themselves. That is a recipe for waste, fraud, abuse and deception."

Years of questions

EcoHealth has been at the center of questions about **SARS-CoV-2**'s origins since the pandemic's earliest days, given the organization's ties to Wuhan, China — the epicenter of the outbreak — and its work to research and experiment with coronaviruses. Then-President **Donald Trump** publicly said his administration was looking into EcoHealth's work, and Tabak was among the officials in April 2020 who moved to abruptly halt NIH funding to the organization. (It was later restored.)

The House coronavirus panel also recently grilled **Peter Daszak**, EcoHealth's president, on his conflicting statements and outstanding questions, including why his organization waited nearly two years to submit a required report about the results of its research and activities leading up to the pandemic.

EcoHealth has repeatedly denied accusations that it played any role in the pandemic, and its defenders have said it's been wrongly scapegoated. There's no existing evidence EcoHealth, the Wuhan Institute of Virology or another organization had SARS-CoV-2 in its possession before the pandemic.

Federal and congressional officials also cautioned that the HHS decision to cut funding to EcoHealth shouldn't be interpreted as a smoking gun about the virus's origins or a possible lab leak. Officials on Wednesday told me the theory that the pandemic began naturally — when a virus spread from animals to humans — continues to be favored by several government agencies and many scientists.

But at minimum, federal officials had grown increasingly uneasy about EcoHealth's work and safeguards, they said. "HHS wanted to be out of the EcoHealth business," one official told me.

What Tabak will be pushed on today

Republicans' line of attack was previewed in a letter to NIH last week, in which Wenstrup laid out Daszak's claims and compared them with other officials' statements under oath.

"The Select Subcommittee is eager to uncover the true sequence of events and has identified multiple occasions where Dr. Daszak directly contradicts NIH's or NIAID's assertions," Wenstrup wrote.

Republicans have hinted that they could refer Daszak to the **Justice Department** on perjury grounds.

Expect GOP lawmakers to probe Tabak's conversations with **Anthony S. Fauci**, his longtime colleague

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at NIH and the center of persistent Republican attacks over his pandemic recommendations, his agency's funding of EcoHealth and other issues. Fauci, who retired from government at the end of 2022, is set to testify in front of the panel in June.

Democrats, meanwhile, have tried to draw a line between what they characterized as bad actions by EcoHealth and Daszak, and the more sweeping charge that the organization helped spark the pandemic.

"While the Select Subcommittee's probe has uncovered efforts by Dr. Peter Daszak to mislead his funders at the National Institutes of Health and the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**, it has not substantiated any allegations that federal grant funding for EcoHealth Alliance created the COVID-19 pandemic," Rep. **Raul Ruiz** (D-Calif.), the top Democrat on the House coronavirus panel, plans to say in remarks today previewed with The Health 202.

The EcoHealth saga continues

Lawrence Tabak, principal deputy director of the National Institutes of Health, is returning to Capitol Hill today. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

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Cheers,

Peter

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President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald J (b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchi (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Science article on HHS action to suspend EcoHealth Alliance

https://x.com/peterhotez/status/1790893300595274228?s=46

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: p.hotez

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 15, 2024, at 7:06 PM, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday,
To: Peter Dasza (b) (6) >; pet (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
>; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)

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]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 17:30
Subject: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
To:

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Subject
Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
Date
May 16, 2024
Time
9:00 am
Place
2154 Rayburn House Office Building
Witnesses and testimonies: Dr. Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Principal Deputy Director
National Institutes of Health

Document

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Date: Sat, 18 Sep 2021 10:26:17 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 18 Sep 2021 10:26:15 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: "Garry, Robert F" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Wang Linfa <linfa.wang@duke-nus.edu.sg>; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6)

Excellent summary - I'd add an intelligence community report despite some of the most biased news coverage I've ever seen. Reading the report it's clear that the Ic including the top committee also leans heavily to natural - zip zero nada evidence for lab leak - all that's left for lab leakers is thd Relman Special - that wiv had sc2 in a freezer and didn't know they had it - some lab person got infected and touched of transmission chains in multiple wet markets

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 18, 2021, at 9:12 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Yes – saw that paper Jason – really interesting

I looked through the paper and it's yet another game changer. So far, in the last few weeks/months, we've got the following new evidence supporting emergence via bat-to-intermediate host-to-human origin for COVID-19 (I've probably missed something):

- Multiple new, SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs in SE Asia (Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, China etc.). I know of other work in review describing other related viruses in SE Asia also. We're also finding further novel SARS-CoV-2 related bat viruses in Malaysia, Thailand.
- New evidence that live animals of the type that carry CoVs were present in the Wuhan markets (including Huanan).
- Evidence from other bat SARSr-CoVs that mutations occur where there FCS is found (eg. RmYN02) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7211627/
- a rat alpha-CoV with an FCS in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations in S. China, showing that FCS insertions are more common in nature than previously thought. https://journals.asm.org/doi/epdf/10.1128/JVI.01173-21
- Epidemiological analysis of early cases supporting early origin close to Huanan market, not WIV https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(21)00991-0
- Phylogenetic analyses suggesting there may have been multiple introductions into the human population, supporting presence of a virus circulating in animals rather than a lab leak (@virology paper)
- Our work showing a very large interface for bat SARSr-CoV spillover in a v. densly population region, and potential for large numbers of missing cases each year https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.09.09.21263359v1
- This paper showing ACE2 binding for bat SARS-CoV-2 related CoVs. https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-871965/v1

On the lab leak side, we have convoluted accusations based on interpretations of intent about how Chinese scientists submitted genomes, wrote the papers, or how me and other scientists had collaborations with Chinese scientists. But, as far as new evidence goes, I could only find this:

- None

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op

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Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

This rate of research even in a pandemic is remarkable and suggests that we'll pretty quickly have such overwhelming evidence for the 'natural' origins that most people will move on from the lab leak.

(Off-the-record) However, the damage they leave behind is already horrific and will be worse by the time they decide to find another issue to focus on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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Website: thalliance.org
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Wang Linfa (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 10:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Cc: Stephen Goldstein (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
;

ets on farms in Hubei

Almost identical SARS-CoV-2 RBD in several bat sarbecoviruses! This is as close as you can get for a natural RBD origin!

Also, the paper concluded that SARS-CoV-2 genome fragments are found in different sarbecoviruses, very similar to the PloS Path paper for SARS-CoV-1.

All we need is to find a sarbecovirus with a furin cleavage site and no more debate on the natural origin of SARS-CoV-2!

Linfa (Lin-Fa) WANG, PhD FTSE FAAM
Professor
Programme in Emerging Infectious Disease
Duke-NUS Medical School,
8 College Road, Singapore 169857
Tel: +65 6516 8397

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022919
MORENS_NIH_043932
REL0000478757

From: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 3:31 PM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: Stephen Goldstein (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; Wang Linfa
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms i

- External Email -

Dismantles one key argument of the leakers - how could a virus get from Yunnan to Wuhan - in one simple move.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
Th (b) (6) ey | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T
E (b) (6)

On 16 Sep 2021, at 2:26 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

And there's this:
"The discovery of civet-CoVs in the Hubei province should not be a surprise as SARS-CoV-like viruses were recently found in a bat species in the same province"

From: (b) (6) At: 09/16/21 14:24:33 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just stumbled across it reading the discussion of another paper honestly. It's been cited since - there are certainly people who remembered it but I did not know of it and clearly had not penetrated the public origins discussion.

Stephen

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2021, at 10:22 PM, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Well done, Stephen for finding this:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1900161/

Jason Gale, MHlthSec
Senior editor & chief biosecurity correspondent | Bloomberg News
Level 30, 120 Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. (landline) (b) (6) | Mobile (b) (6)
@jwgale | Link inkedin.c le/6/249/a56

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Date: Sat, 26 Jun 2021 4:54:46 PM-0400
Sent: Sat, 26 Jun 2021 4:53:33 PM-0400
Subject: RE: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: NY Times Op Ed June 25 PD comments.docx

Hi David – I attached it to the email as a word doc, with my comments inserted (track changes, comments).

There's another Op Ed in the Times yesterday with similar innuendo and months old conspiracies. We're working on correcting some errors on that, but most of it is just hype and causes more reputational damage for EcoHealth and me. I've attached that also as a word doc with comments from me – angry and irritated of cour

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, June 26, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confidential - Re. Jeff Sachs' article on the NIH-funded work, and the Lancet COVID Commission

peter, i seem unable to access the entire article. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jun 26, 2021, at 15:02, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Dear all,
>
> I'm talking with Peter Hotez in a bit about this article Jeff Sachs published, but as I read through it, I put in some comments about where and why it's flawed.
>
> It may or may not be of interest to you all, but I thought I'd copy you anyway, in case you see it and wondered. I apologize

for my ranting in places, but I'm disgusted on many levels that he's willing to throw EcoHealth under the bus like this. The article has errors or hyped up comments in just about every paragraph. It's also extremely cynical that on one day he removes me from the Commission because of my 'competing interests', then writes a piece on it and sells it to a media outlet. He's a regular monthly contributor to the place this was published, which means he has to come up with material each month and this month is was our organization that helped make him his $1000-2000. Of course, I can't be sure how much he gets paid, but an op ed in the times or guardian is $500 and these monthly deals pay better – my former boss had a similar one.

The article link is here: https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/finding-the-origins-of-covid19-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2021-06

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Date: Mon, 25 Apr 2022 4:38:55 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 25 Apr 2022 4:36:03 PM -0400
Subject: Relentless - Another letter today from Republicans to NIH, OIG & NAM accusing EcoHealth of 'potential fraud' etc.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Attachments: 4.25.22-Letter-to-Dr.-Lawrence-Tabak from House E&C republicans.pdf

Today the Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee are making a series of allegations about the motives behind our reporting to NIH – the timing of our reports and their content – including accusing us of 'potential fraud'.
The story is here https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house- republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data.

One important point in the article is that they are publicly stating now that NAM are investigating me: "After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request," an Energy and Commerce committee aide told Fox News Digital. "We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well."

Of course, the allegations in this 17 page letter (attached) are essentially a re-hashing of earlier attacks, most of them spurious, easily explained by the process of doing science, and based on false allegations of motives coupled with a heavy dose of innuendo and hearsay. Some of the allegations are verging on the bizarre – e.g. a whole paragraph on the cropping of a figure in one report whereby the word 'dead' from 'dead point' is partially cut out. Of course, they don't accuse us of lying and fraud, just comment that "it appears the word "dead" was taken out to conceal the deaths from the peer reviewers, which raises scientific and ethical concerns."

The letter is attached – it's from just the Republicans on the committee to the NIH, the HHS OIG, and the National Academy of Medicine.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Webs ance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:32 AM
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'David Morens (b) (6)

Subject: RE: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Exactly – it's weak and will likely be ineffective at dealing with the pressures from the rabid Right wing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Phone:
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

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Date:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 7:44:17 AM -0500
Sent:	Fri, 3 Feb 2023 7:43:45 AM -0500
Subject:	Re: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; House Energy & Commerce Committee letter to EHA 2.2.23.pdf; House Energy & Commerce Committee letter to NIH 2.2.23.pdf

An awful time for American science. I'm so sorry Peter, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: (b) (6)

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 3, 2023, at 1:04 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

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

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REL0000478764

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

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <hotez@bcm.edu>
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) :
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016529
MORENS_NIH_034667
REL0000478764

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

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REL0000478764

- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1.(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com>; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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MORENS_NIH_034669
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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6) Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Moren (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Concep r discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)

One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <roberts@neb.com>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) leksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

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Fax
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) eusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David More (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fightback!

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I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

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Webs alliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) ffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Ri (b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.
NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that

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would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

Sponsor Message

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to

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broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."
But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
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Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Rich Rob (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) v Sturchio <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Twe n Twitter

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I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

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I also cannot believe for the life of me tha (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. H entists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter J (b) (6) chio <
(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) . Rich Roberts
Subject: Re: Tw x on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications,

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if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <
> (b) (6) wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016551
MORENS_NIH_034689
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Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: PeterDaszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) wrote:

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Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_034691
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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei (b) (6) (b) (6) erald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) , Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Miner Flux
@randy_hoebee

#Hotez pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 3:14:34 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 20 Jul 2021 3:14:33 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

Thanks David, its very important for you to pursue this. We must contrast the speculations of the extreme egotists Rand Paul and Richard Ebright with primary data publications and thoughtful reviews of the relevance of the new evidence regarding the origins.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry, I talk to such reporters frequently, usually on background or off the record. I am willing to do that with any reporter you suggest, and may also be able to speak on the record. Yesterday I taped a follow up podcast, fully approved by NIH some months ago (I did the podcast 6+ months ago and so didn't have to go through censorship for this follow up). In any case, I was very up front with her about this NOT being a lab virus and the danger of shutting down important research. I wasn't very diplomatic, although I will have editing rights before this airs. Time to take the gloves off.

I have spent the last two days ready over 50 manuscripts relating to SARS-CoV-2 origins, including the many complicated papers on phylogenetics of bat and pangolin viruses. This is in preparation from putting pen to paper soon... I have been more and more intrigued by the possibility that the virus is a near descendant of a recombinant bat virus with an imported RBD from a pangolin virus. I spoke with Eddie about that 2-3 weeks ago and he seemed to pooh pooh it, in part because the AA identity was not fully matched by nucleotide identity. But it seemed to me that if the recombination happened some time ago, that might allow for codon optimization. Our phylogeneticist here in the pathogenesis lab has been on vacation, but when he returns I will ask him to drop his flu work long enough to take a look at all these CoV papers. The repeated and growing finding of pangolin viruses from different areas at different times having CoVs with similar - almost identical to SARS-CoV-2 - RBD sequences has to be a clue to something. But pangolins are solitary animals and presumably have no way of interacting with and infecting each other over long distances, unless perhaps they are chronically infected and serve as a reservoir.... Very mysterious.

Peter, question for you: has it been settled about these early case discrepanacies where the Wuhan cases didn't match up with the sequences? Also, does this impact on Eddie's recent great publication and the maps of early cases?

TY, D

On 7/20/2021 12:39 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> I had a long talk with two CNN International reporters who are preparing a story essentially on

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the politics and the misinformation about the origins controversy. I was talking to them off the record but I decided they were legitimately exploring the issues and would likely be a voice of reason if they were given the necessary space to build their case and it was eventually shown.

I mentioned Peter Hotez to them, among some others, and while I mentioned Peter D as well I also said you were under constant attack and it might well be better to allow others to take up the fight on your behalf. GOF and the Goffers were part of the chat. I have agreed to be interviewed on the record and potentially to do a video session as they were potentially interested in using some of that as part of the report. Rich, I didn't specifically mention your name, but if you would be willing to speak with them I can do that when I next connect.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July (b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay
Cc: David Mo (b) (6) oberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Robert Kessle (b) (6)
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
Importance: High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_041719
REL0000478767

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >
Subject: My AMA podcast on the origins of COVID19

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4NkcU7JK14 &feature=youtu.be

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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(b) (6) no

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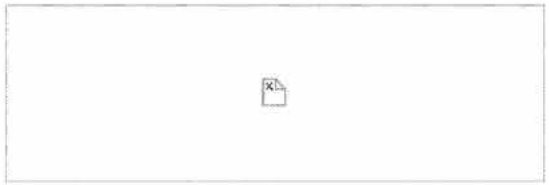

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_041721
REL0000478767

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков (b) (6) .ru >; Leendertz, Fabian (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) g >; LeendertzF (b) (6) Keith Hamilton <(b) (6) John Watson <(b) (6) >; DEBBICHE, Hassene <(b) (6) >; Thea Kølsen Fischer (b) (6) >; BAERT, Primaël (b) (6) SHEATH, Danny < sheathd((b) (6) >; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan < (b) (6) DRURY, Patrick Anthony<druryp@who.int>; Ken Maeda <(b) (6) >; M.P.G. Koopmans (b) (6)) <(b) (6) >; Hayman, David < (b) (6) ; IVANOVIC, Dragana (b) (6) r. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag <(b) (6) >; Dominic Dwyer (b) (6)
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. <(b) (6) Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria <(b) (6) BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim <(b) (6)
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

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<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_020956
MORENS_NIH_041722
REL0000478767

--
David M Morens (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020957
MORENS_NIH_041723
REL0000478767

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:20:34 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:06 PM
Subject: Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

Well there are my quotes in the Wash Post and London Telegraph for all to see. I'm guessing there might be retribution for questioning that group

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 5:02 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Yes. He said in essence that it was not sufficiently rigorous to take as likely and therefore the two pathways, natural spillover and lab leak, were both viable and thus essentially of equal probability.

And, he never says there were Commissioners who did not agree with the conclusions he was presenting although the report makes a minor reference to the fact that some Commissioners had other views.

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Septem PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura

<(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Did he really? Awful

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003657
MORENS_NIH_010569
REL0000478768

On Sep 15, 2022, at 12:31 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, Septe 0 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)

Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) >

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003658
MORENS_NIH_010570
REL0000478768

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/09/15/conspiracy- theories-covid-19-commission/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003659
MORENS_NIH_010571
REL0000478768

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003660
MORENS_NIH_010572
REL0000478768

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003661
MORENS_NIH_010573
REL0000478768

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

It's just

(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, Ph

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003664
MORENS_NIH_010576
REL0000478768

Date: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 10:38:01 AM -0500
Sent: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 10:37:51 AM -0500
Subject: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)

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 (b) (6) (b) (6)) and my eldest daughter, posting her name and University name also.

I'm traveling in (b) (6) with (b) (6) 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.: +1-212-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Kopp fabricated a story against me in the anti GMO press insinuating I'm behind GOF research. It unleashed a slew of copycat articles in the far right press and a wave of threats online. It's among the more unethical things I've ever seen from someone who calls themself a journalist.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:
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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).
Best regards,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Jeff:

Great summary, but nothing really new as all the presenters had well-known views. My only comment is that Sachs recently seems to be a little less adamant that it was a lab leak and just now relies on innuendo.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs

240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) _____ Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) u>; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
_____>; David Morens <(b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

All: I listened in this morning on the webinar on COVID-19 origins that Jeff Sachs moderated under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). I wasn't able to stay until the end of the Q&A, but I did hear the three main presentations. Sachs said that he plans to post the recording of the session (on SDSN?). This was the first of three planned webinars – the second (on global health financing) will take place on November 22, the third (on health system strengthening) on December 8.

Sachs served as moderator. His introduction was fairly mundane. His basic premise was that there are two "absolutely viable" hypotheses for the origin of COVID-19 – either zoonotic or due to a lab leak. (Note that the language he uses – "absolutely viable" – obscures the fact that the evidence differs significantly for each of the two hypotheses. But this was a bias that ran through all of the presentations.) He then argued that we need to follow both lines of inquiry equally, to have a proper understanding of both possibilities. He alluded to the bimodal distribution of most discussion of these questions – with "mainstream media" coming down on natural origins, and "alternate media" arguing for laboratory origins (including in this Senator Burr's Senate Minority Report). He then turned to two "leading scientists" and a "leading reporter" for further perspectives.

The speakers were Alina Chan (Broad Institute), Richard Ebright (Rutgers University) and Emily Kopp (US Right to Know) – no great surprises there.

Alina Chan's main argument was that there is not enough evidence to decide which hypothesis is true, and that all the evidence is circumstantial. She did say that there is no argument over the fact that the pandemic originated in

spillover from bats – just a difference of opinion on how and where this happened.

She presented a set of factors that would explain the chain of causation for each of the two hypotheses:

Natural origins
- Earliest cases handled live animals?
- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?
- Were there animal variants of the virus?
- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?
- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

She then claimed that none of these have been established for SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak
- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans
- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013
- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"
- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses
- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

Richard Ebright was then asked what should be done about improving the oversight of research in this area from the perspective of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. He concurred with Sachs and Chan that the available data do not enable a choice between the two hypotheses of COVID-19 origin. But regardless of where one stood on this question, the research by EcoHealth Alliance, WIV, and their collaborators – according to Ebright – used inadequate biosafety protocols and lacked transparency. Again, according to him, this points to, but does not prove, a research spillover as the origin of COVID-19.

I've attached a screen shot of the slide he shared that lays out his bill of complaint. As you can see, he's fixated on the work that WIV and EHA did from 2016-2019, arguing that, while this doesn't prove laboratory origins, it "exceeds

the standard of probable cause" and provides "ample basis to initiate investigation and ample basis to improve oversight." (Like Chan, he also made much of EHA's rejected DARPA proposal, trying to use it as a "smoking gun" for malign intent by EHA and WIV, despite the fact that this research was never done!)

He spent most of his time, however, outlining a basis for and recommendations for improved research regulation and oversight in biosafety, biosecurity, and bio risk management.

Sachs and Ebright had an exchange about the recent news of the creation of a variant of COVID-19 that appeared to be more virulent than Omicron, without the "knowledge or approval of NIH." This was evidence for both of them of the need for enhanced oversight.

Emily Kopp, an investigative journalist with US Right to Know, then made a breathless presentation about her attempts to bring the truth about COVID-19 origins to light through FOIAs and dogged persistence. The gravamen of her complaint is that much of the relevant research has been underwritten by NIH, DOD, and USAID with taxpayer funds, and conducted in the US (at EHA, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, and UC Davis), yet she and her colleagues have had to file dozens of FOIA requests and lawsuits to get access to what they consider to be relevant information.

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the

NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the *Nature Medicine* correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the *Nature Medicine* correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,
Jeff

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 1:20:39 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 3 May 2024 1:20:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.png

Peter:

Keep your chin up. We will do everything we can to help.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

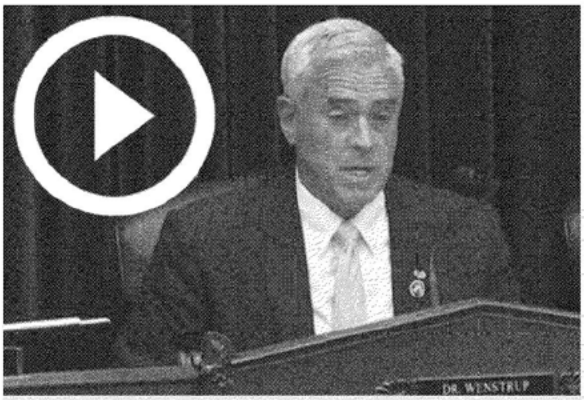
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

" The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."





Hearing Wrap Up: EcoHealth Alliance Should be Criminally Investigated, Formally Debarred - United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability
oversight.house.gov

I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats… at worst…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Excellent article!

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (
emai (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS_NIH_044885
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email (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM
To: Pete (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) ffrey
Sturchio (b) (6) Ro (b) (6) Gerald Keusc (b) (6) Keith Martin
(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER

Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD
@PeterHotez

Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes latimes.com/business/story…

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:02:45 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Attachments: image004.png; image005.jpg; image008.png; image007.png

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Hotez, Peter Jay** <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 11:24 AM
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Dasza (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <

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

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 9:23 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

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email (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003422
MORENS_NIH_009973
REL0000478779

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusc Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

US RTK

U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

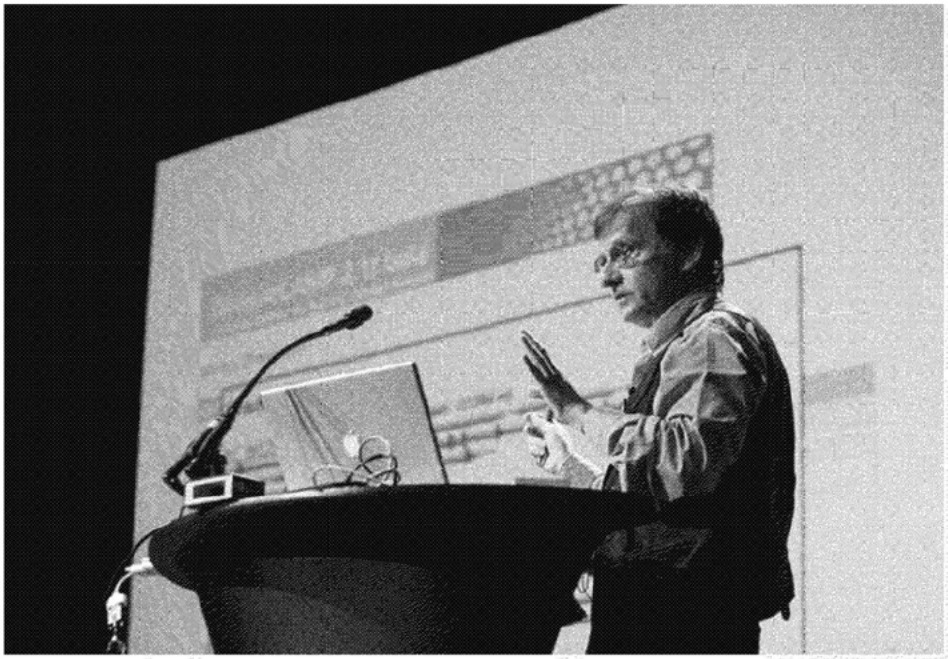
PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003424
MORENS_NIH_009975
REL0000478779

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

Print Email Share Tweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: kris krüg)

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an archived version of the group's website shows. Lipkin has coauthored at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a paper about novel coronaviruses EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicine*," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — ~~offers as proof a foot~~note 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.

Date: Fri, 17 May 2024 7:19:52 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 7:19:48 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

Maybe we should pick one and provide the background information Peter is putting together. The trouble with The New Yorker or the Atlantic is that it will take weeks for them to get something published and what is necessary now is to have the news journalists point out the written record to the contrary for claims like those the committee is making. Hiltzik is good at that. He has the attention of Ruiz's PR guy who is distressed Michael did not soften the criticism in his piece today. I think that has just made Michael more determined to tell it like it is and reveal the perfidy of Ruiz, his colleagues, HHS, and ultimately up to the White House.

By the way, I have found Michael Specter at The New Yorker to be a direct, scientifically driven, hard driving writer. I have dealt with him in the past and could try to interest him in following up. What say?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 6:21 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I have no problem highlighting the NIH's incompetence. But we need a serious science journalist to step up and detail what's going on to set the record straight. We need an Atlantic or New Yorker article to exonerate Peter Daszak and EcoHealth. Who would that be? Michael Hiltzik? Amy Maxmen? Molly Jong Fast? Mehdi Hassan?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor
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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 5:13 PM, Keusch, Geral (b) (6) ote:

That just builds on the dystopic presentation of what Tabak said, referring to the definition with or without "of concern." He was careful to give them what they needed to distort the truth while not exactly lying.

On the other hand his testimony about the requirement for EHA to produce WIV lab notebooks is an outright lie. I have pointed this out to Jocelyn Kaiser and to Michael Hiltzig. Maybe one of them will write about it.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 1 (b) (6) PM
To: Keusch, Gerald
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <

Re: Origins of COVID NPR

The NIH leadership has setback American virology for many years:

<image001.jpg>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 3:19 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) wrote:

Regarding Tabak's comments on GoF, this is what the text below shows.

Rep. Lesko: "Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?"

Dr. Tabak: "It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

So it is not what he said but how the SSCP spun it. That's a weakness that should be exploited in the press. It is deliberately spinning information into disinformation and that is both lying and dangerous. We need to point it out, find other examples where it is easy to refute what they are saying about Peter, EHA, and David, and make sure others will amplify that and delegitimize the committee. I'm going to point out that one to Hiltzik and Kaiser.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) usch, Gerald (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts

Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I'm only a King, how insulting, these guys are totally nuts

<image001.jpg>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 12:34 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Good to hear that. In the meantime looks like the Committee is now coming after me personally. They're aiming to call for my debarment as an individual:

https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing- wrap-up-nih-repeatedly-refutes-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszaks-testimony-tabak-testimony-reveals-federal-grant-procedures-in-need-of-serious-reform/

Press ReleasePublished: May 17, 2024

Hearing Wrap Up: NIH Refutes EcoHealth's Testimony, Tabak Reveals Federal Grant Procedures in Need of Serious Reform

WASHINGTON — The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled "Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak" to examine the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) process for funding and overseeing scientific research as well as investigate

NIH's relationship with EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth). Members pressed former Acting NIH Director and current Principal Deputy Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, to explain numerous inconsistencies between the public and private testimonies of NIH employees and EcoHealth 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

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shocking admission that directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's previous statements, Dr. Tabak testified that the NIH was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China through a grant to EcoHealth. Members highlighted the dangers of continuing to fund gain-of-function research in foreign 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

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American taxpayer from EcoHealth.

Key Hearing Takeaways

- NIH Deputy Director and former Acting NIH Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acknowledged that NIH funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China.
- Dr. Lawrence Tabak repeatedly refuted EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak's public and private testimonies. It is now clear that Dr. Daszak misled both the Select Subcommittee and the NIH on numerous occasions.
- Serious shortcomings and failures in the NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures enabled EcoHealth to facilitate gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. These NIH deficiencies were exploited by Dr. Daszak and his team in an effort to avoid oversight and maintain funding.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to immediately suspend funding and commence debarment proceedings against EcoHealth is backed by substantial evidence and necessary to protect America's national security. The Select Subcommittee also recommends that HHS immediately begin debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.
- The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found here.
- The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.

Member Highlights

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), D.P.M, pressed Dr. Tabak to address Dr. Daszak's testimony that EcoHealth was "locked out" of the NIH's grant

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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.
<image001.png>

Chairman Wenstrup: “*EcoHealth, like every*

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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 together*

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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 them out*

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and there was no impediment for them to provide that report on time."

Committee on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) questioned Dr. Tabak about the employment status of alleged federal records violator and top advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci — Dr. David Morens — who was placed on administrative leave after the Select Subcommittee uncovered incriminating information. Dr. Morens used his personal email(s) to hide conversations about the origins of COVID-19 and undermine

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the operations of the NIH. <image002.png >

Chairman Comer: "*What is Dr. Morens's current employment status?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*He is an employee of NIH.*"
Chairman Comer: "*Well, I think you see where my lines of questioning were leading. We have some serious concerns. We have fought in this Select Subcommittee, the Oversight committee, on obtaining information. And here you have an admission of deleting information, going to great lengths to not be transparent, in an apparent*

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cover-up of something that I think we would agree, in a bipartisan manner, is one of the most serious issues that our country has ever faced, the COVID 19 pandemic."

Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.) elicited an admission from Dr. Tabak that the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV through a grant to EcoHealth. This directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's U.S. Senate testimony in 2021 in which he claimed the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function

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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 research.*

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If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.), M.D., proved that EcoHealth violated the terms of its NIH grant when it failed to produce "laboratory notebooks" with information about the WIV's gain-of-function research. On May 1, Dr. Daszak falsely

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testified that he was not required to produce these notebooks as a condition of his grant.
<image004.png>

Rep. McCormick: "*When the National Institutes of Health requested the notebooks from EcoHealth, was EcoHealth required to produce them under its grant terms?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*Yes, they were.*"
Rep. McCormick: "*When NIH requested notebooks from EcoHealth should EcoHealth have been able to access them or already have access to*

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them?"
Dr. Tabak:
"That's correct."
Rep. McCormick:
"Did EcoHealth ever produce the requested notebooks?"
Dr. Tabak:
"They have not."
Rep. McCormick:
"Dr. Daszak testified two weeks ago that he was not required to produce the lab notebooks. Would NIH disagree with that testimony?"
Dr. Tabak:
"Yes, we disagree with that testimony."
Rep. McCormick:
"The testimony here today clarifies the inconsistency between Dr. Daszak's testimony and the

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testimony of numerous NIH officials and NIAID officials, also, including yourself. Dr. Daszak continues to thwart congressional oversight through semantics and outright dishonesty, quite frankly. He has routinely failed to produce pertinent documents and made countless misleading statements to the Select Subcommittee right here."

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), M.D., uncovered serious shortcomings in NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak testified

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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*

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was an effective use of taxpayer dollars, and would you support issuing the same grant today?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Well, with the benefit of what we know today, no, of course not.*"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*There is great concern with Dr. Daszak interaction with NIH and NIAID pertaining to the one log growth term of the award. The NIH relied on Dr. Daszak to monitor and report virus growth after being a month late on his annual reporting requirements, which were outlined in the grant.*

Dr. Tabak, looking back, did the NIH rely too much on Dr. Daszak's self-reporting information?"

Dr. Tabak: "*Again, with the benefit of hindsight, we did because we never received the information.*"

Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*Well, as an ophthalmologist, hindsight is always 20/20.*"

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) revealed NIH's honest viewpoint regarding its funding of EcoHealth's risky research at the WIV. Dr. Tabak testified that NIH believed it

MORENS_NIH_045199
REL0000478785

was not funding any dangerous research prior to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<image006.png>

Rep. Malliotakis: *"We also know that at least 20 more EcoHealth research projects received funding since March of 2020, and they are conducting research Nipah, zoonotic viruses, bat coronaviruses, MERS. They are doing a lot of this research, mostly actually in third world countries. Subpar safety conditions. How do you ensure that our federal dollars are not going to do risky*

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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 approved*

MORENS_NIH_045201
REL0000478785

for EcoHealth Alliance to with under subaward with WIV."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR

I just did this long interview debunking the nonsense, piece by piece

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) Phone (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Geoffrey Brumfiel <(b) (6)
Date: May 17, 2024 at
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: Origins of COVID

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Hi Peter,

We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.

Would you be up for a quick background conversation?
Best,
Geoff

Geoff Brumfiel | National Public Radio | gbrumfiel@npr.org | desk: +(b) (6) | cell: +(b)

MORENS_NIH_045203
REL0000478785

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 1:41:05 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 1:36:32 PM -0400
Subject: Confidential: WHO DG Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) ; (b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6)
Attachments: C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora <(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Владимир Дедков (b) (6) >; Leendertz, Fabian (b) (6) Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) ; LeendertzF <(b) (6) Keith Hamilton <(b) (6) John Watson
(b) (6) DEBBICHE, Hassene (b) (6) ; Thea Kølsen Fischer <
(b) (6) >; BAERT, Primaël (b) (6) SHEATH, Danny (b) (6) ; Nguyen,
Hung (ILRI) (b) (6) ; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan <(b) (6) DRURY, Patrick Anthony <
druryp@who.int>; Ken Maeda (b) (6) ; M.P.G. Koopmans (b) (6)) <
(b) (6) >; Hayman, David <D.T. (b) (6) >; IVANOVIC, Dragana (b) (6)
>; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag <(b) (6) ga >; Dominic Dwyer (b) (6) b) (6) >
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. (b) (6) Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria (b) (6) BEN EMBAREK, Peter
Karim <(b) (6) >
Subject: Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_020905
MORENS_NIH_041670
REL0000478797

Date: Mon, 22 May 2023 9:38:06 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 22 May 2023 9:38:01 AM -0400
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6)

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: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May M
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) szak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6) (b) (6)
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 (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Ma
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005135
MORENS_NIH_013038
REL0000478802

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: (b) (6)
Fax:
email (b) (6)

Exec (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
ema (b) (6)

From: Harold E. Varmus <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Ma(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich
Subject: Re: The new NIH Director nomination

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, yes, I know Monica and we have talked several times about the NCI and NIH jobs. But I don't expect to be involved in her preparation for the hearing on her nomination as NIH Director. That is usually organized by the legislative offices in the NIH Office of the Director and by the legislative team at DHHS. I am sure that she will get briefed about the EHA grant and it is likely that NIAID will be asked to provide background material.

The document you sent has a lot of detailed information that she might want to read but it would best be delivered to her via NIAID; in addition, the source of the document (presumably EHA itself) should be apparent. EHA might simply provide that to NIAID's current leadership and I expect that they've done that already.

Best,

HV

PS Can't we find a better, more restricted way to label experiments that enhance pathogenicity or transmissibility of infectious agents than "gain of function"? Even DURC (dual use research of concern) is better than that. I've been doing GoF research for decades, enhancing cell growth by enhancing the function of proto-oncogenes!

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Date: Saturday, May 2
To: Harold E. Varmus (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The new NIH Director nomination

Harold:

You probably know Monica Bertagnolli and I am wondering if you will be contacting her prior to the Senate Hearing?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005136
MORENS_NIH_013039
REL0000478802

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
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USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
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email: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005137
MORENS_NIH_013040
REL0000478802

Date: Tue, 9 Mar 2021 7:34:23 PM -0500
Sent: Tue, 9 Mar 2021 7:35:38 PM -0500
Subject: another hit-piece in today's WSJ
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

It's relentless.

This is from an editorial board member of Wall Street Journal – asks "Couldn't someone have put Mr. Daszak's on mouth quarantine for a month".

https://www.wsj.com/articles/wuhan- lab-theory-a-dark-cloud-on-china-11615332235

I'm sure this guy's tough as nails when he's writing from the comfort of his home, but that sort of comment is beyond rude and I just hope I don't bump into him at some meeting sometime in the future. I guess the truth is that for the WSJ to be doing ad hominem attacks means that our work is making some sort of impact, but really this is just another call to ban the work we're doing, close down the labs, cut the collaboration all in the name of saving us from a future lab-release pandemic. He rapidly dismisses environmental encroachment as the cause – which is a shame really because that's what we'd need to stop to reduce the chances of the next big one…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_012812
MORENS_NIH_024245
REL0000478809

Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:38:56 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 12:38:53 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

You might consider (ask Jeff and the lawyer) forwarding those to Victor without comment. Did you hear from any legitimate reporters? Should I (you stay out of it) ask Jon Cohen to get on it? Betsy McKay?

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Jerry's letter to Victor Dzau

Re. your letter below, Jerry, and the comment to Victor that the news is now public re. the NAM investigation – in my inbox this morning are requests from journalists from the Washington Examiner, Bloomberg Law, and Epoch Times. They want me to comment on the allegations from McMorris Rodgers, and the letter last week requesting the HHS secretary to investigate EcoHealth for unethical behavior and get us debarred from federal funding.

Does Victor really want the NAM to be a party to this anti-science political witchhunt? Because that's exactly what's happening right now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: ithalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:38 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Inve

I sent the note below to Victor, now that the internal investigation at NAM is in the public domain.
Rich, it is time to mobilize the Nobel laureates. This is going too far and there must be pressure, all the pressure possible from the

scientific community, and applied to Victor and NAM to stop it now.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:35 PM
To: Victor J Dzau <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Vermund, Sten <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Dear Victor,

I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.

I would hope NAM has the courage to stop this in its tracks by issuing a brief memo to them saying the initial investigation has revealed no violation by Peter Daszak of the code of conduct and their request is denied. Period. The stakes are high, certainly for Peter and his career and his organization which has generated so much critical science for the past 20 years. But beyond Peter it is the very integrity of science and the stewardship of science and separation of politics away from science that is so threatened by these accusations.

I am convinced there will be an uproar at NAM if there is any adverse judgement passed on Peter and his integrity. Please stop it in its tracks while you can.

Jerry

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Date: Sat, 6 Apr 2024 3:51:38 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Circulated thru niaid od. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6) gov >
Date: Sat, Apr 6, 2024, 14:54
Subject: EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News
To:

EcoHealth Alliance Statement Concerning SSCP Comments as Reported by Fox News

April 6, 2024 – EcoHealth Alliance shares the interest of members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) reported in a Fox News article on Thursday (https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid- origins-ecohealth-alliance-president-testify-publicly-congress-next-month) in ensuring that reporting requirements on Federal grants are met so that grantee organizations are held accountable to the American people. This is precisely why EHA has cooperated fully with all inquiries into our use of Federal funds to carry out our mission to reduce the threat of future outbreaks, and prevent future pandemics.

We note that the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG), in its audit of EHA's and NIH's grant oversight and compliance, did not find significant issues and summarized its findings as follows: "EcoHealth had steps in place to conduct risk assessments of its subrecipients, and also had standardized checklists to document routine monitoring of its subrecipients." The NIH's Division of Financial Advisory Services subsequently informed EHA that all of the findings of the HHS OIG audit have now been resolved, indicating that EHA is fully in compliance. We look forward to the hearing on May 1, when we will have an opportunity to clarify misunderstandings about EHA's reporting on its Federal grants.

Press contact: communications@ecohealthalliance.org

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_013873
MORENS_NIH_026337
REL0000478817

Date:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 1:32:54 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 1:32:46 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb
From:	Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
To:	David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

David: Too true – you're right about this tendency to provide equal time/balance. It's aggravated by reporters depending on sources who are not experts in the science. Most of the VF article is predicated on the conclusions of a junior staffer who claims to have unique insights into the thinking of Chinese officials simply because he can read Chinese. It still isn't clear just what level of scientific understanding Kadlec's team working for the Senate minority brought to this report.

JLS

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

I look forward to readng it carefully, as it seems to cover a lot of territory

I have done 2-3 interviews in the past with this writer, on background or off the record, and she has come across to me as trying to get to the truth. Yet, like many others, she is into this "false equivalency" mode, not realizing that some of her sources are non-expert bloviators, highly biased, or both. , and this suggesting that their comments are worth airing to achieve balance. If writers like these were interviewing a battered women, they would give equal time to the batterer. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Oct 31, 2022, at 09:43, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> This *Vanity Fair* article is full of hyperventilation about the dire consequences of the cover-up they've unearthed – but most of the purported evidence they present is circumstantial, and none of it offers anything new about the actual origins of COVID-19. They continue to flog the dead horse of the DARPA proposal that allegedly introduced a furin cleavage site into bat coronaviruses to enhance their infectivity – although this proposal was never funded and the research never conducted.
>
> JLS

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 31. 2022 12:08 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More e?
https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

And today I see this in Vanity Fair. I admit I have just skimmed and not read it yet. I will ask my China scholar niece what she thinks about the analysis of CCCP speak argument and report back if she has time to read and respond.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <keusch@bu.edu>
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Rich Rober (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Cov Report More About Politics Than Science?
https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Jerry, as i have said earlier, great idea. The PNAS document is powerful in many different ways and should be considered the definitive expert "take" on the situation. Let's see how the crazies react to it, I have faith in fair scientific analysis. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 31, 2022, at 06:47, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

Can you introduce me to him and tell him to look for my email on his CCNY email address? If there is a way to use the PNAS paper as an example of a normal more scientific approach to analysis of a complex problem to support his argument in Forbes and shoot holes in the Burr document I think the US members of the Task Force (maybe the international members as well, although its more cogent that we represent the findings in the paper) would rise to the occasion.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 6:16 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More A nce?
https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Fyi Bruce is a longtime collaborator who has helped us with the cost effectiveness modeling of our parasitic disease and covid vaccines. We've published more than a dozen papers together

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003173
MORENS_NIH_009707
REL0000478819

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support (b) (6) riano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

On Oct 30, 2022, at 4:26 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Thanks David,

I responded to Bruce Lee (the perfect name for a truth ninja warrior such as he) including a pdf of the PNAS paper at his City University email which was easy to obtain to a) congratulate him, and b) ultimately ask him if we can respond to his article in depth via an introduction to the editorial staff as I am tired of sending pointed well evidenced Op-Eds or editorials or opinions over the transom and then being ignored with a standard no thanks reply. Or if necessary via a letter to the editor. Let's see if he responds. I'm thinking the Task Force, all or some, might respond – actually maybe just the American members because of the uniquely American nature of this sort of rank political nonsense. I'm hoping Lee will reply.

Has anybody seen any comment from Burr regarding the outrageous attack on Nancy Pelosi's home, and the sole occupant at the time, her 82 year old husband Paul? I haven't and to me that is just the exclamation point on the assessment that his report is political and timed before the election, aside from the mile wide holes in the argument, so well-articulated by Bruce Lee.

Jerry

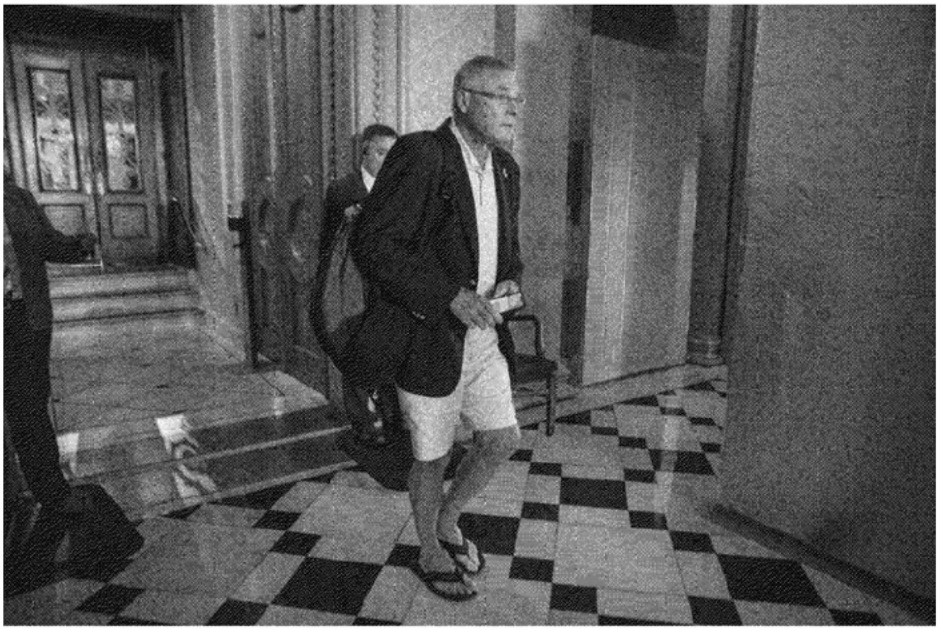
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, October

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Hotez (b) (6) s < (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 08:36:03 PDT
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb**
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
> > **Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb**
> >
> > # Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?
> >
> > Bruce Y. Lee
> > Senior Contributor
> > I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
> > Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT
> > ●●

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003175
MORENS_NIH_009709
REL0000478819



Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]

Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." *Dictionary.com* defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint. It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report:

And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here—with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with

the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ...[+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section? Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice

to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.

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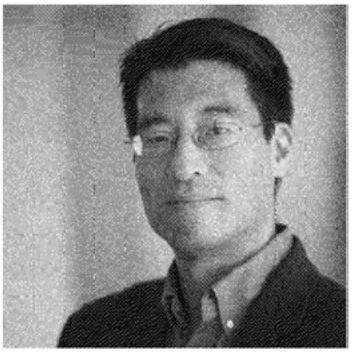
MORENS_NIH_009713
REL0000478819



Bruce Y. Lee

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_003180
MORENS_NIH_009714
REL0000478819

Date: Wed, 1 Jun 2022 6:35:07 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 Jun 2022 6:33:31 PM -0400
Subject: Paper now published in Nature Communications Biology showing that furin cleavage is readily 'evolvable' in European bat CoVs
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) m>; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

I don't know if this has been shared with us all yet, but a preprint on this issue came out a few months ago and is now published in Nature Communications Biology.

As you can read, it clearly indicates that the ability of SARSr-CoVs to undertake furin cleavage is something that is clearly achievable in nature – in this case in European bat SARSr-CoVs, with just one nucleotide mutation. Normally, this would close the door on all lab leak suppositions around the FCS of SARS-CoV-2, but we're not in a normal world, and with loud voices like Jeff Sachs spuriously claiming the opposite, the confusion will continue in the public's mind…..

https://www.nature.com/articles/s42003- 022-03421-w

- Published: 30 May 2022

Genomic determinants of Furin cleavage in diverse European SARS-related bat coronaviruses

- Anna-Lena Sander,
- Andres Moreira-Soto,
- Stoian Yordanov,
- Ivan Toplak,
- Andrea Balboni,
- Ramón Seage Ameneiros,
- Victor Corman,
- Christian Drosten &
- Jan Felix Drexler

Communications Biology **volume 5**, Article number: 491 (2022) Cite this article

- **353** Accesses
- **157** Altmetric
- Metricsdetails

Abstract

The furin cleavage site (FCS) in SARS-CoV-2 is unique within the *Severe acute respiratory syndrome–related coronavirus* (*SrC*) species. We re-assessed diverse *SrC* from European horseshoe bats and analyzed the spike-encoding genomic region harboring the FCS in SARS-CoV-2. We reveal molecular features in *SrC* such as purine richness and RNA secondary structures that resemble those required for FCS acquisition in avian influenza viruses. We discuss the potential acquisition of FCS through molecular mechanisms such as nucleotide substitution, insertion, or recombination, and show that a single nucleotide exchange in two European bat-associated *SrC* may suffice to enable furin cleavage. Furthermore, we show that FCS occurrence is variable in bat- and rodent-borne counterparts of human coronaviruses. Our results suggest that furin cleavage sites can be acquired in *SrC* via conserved molecular mechanisms known in other reservoir-bound RNA viruses and thus support a natural origin of SARS-CoV-2.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May (b) (6) > (b) (6) sei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Hotez (b) (6) tich Roberts < (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <
Subject: RE:

A classic how to obscure truth in writing for a School of Journalism's honor role of how not to do journalism. Rather disgusting. I suspect The Scientist referred to is a chief advisor to Jeff Sachs.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Ma
To: (b) (6) ald T (b) (6) mura < (b) (6) ; Peter Hotez (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6) eff Sturchio <

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** David Morens (b) (6)
> **Date:** May 31, 2022 at 14:44:17 EDT
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6)
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006281
MORENS_NIH_015171
REL0000478821

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Date:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 3:52:48 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 3:52:40 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Interview in the press
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) d (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

Peter:

Thanks. On the whole, I thought the piece was quite well done. I think we all know that coverups, especially in China, are never as simple as one might think. I certainly appreciate your clarifications. For me the take home message is that one has to be very careful in taking Chinese scientists or government officials at their word. Most are very intimidated by the higher-ups.

Rich

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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Interview in the press

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes – saw that piece. There are some truths in it and some exaggerations. On cover-ups in China. From what I've gleaned, the coverups were not as simplistic as they suggest – i.e. that China acted a single entity in not letting the world know how serious COVID was – it's more subtle than that:

- the local CDC (Wuhan) didn't inform the Federal CDC (China CDC) early enough about the outbreak and their suspicions of it being SARS-like. This seems to be a case of city and provincial bureaucrats not wanting to be punished by higher ups – probably cost a few days in closing down transmission at the market.
- The market workers covered up the live animal trade in the Huanan Seafood Market instead of having them tested, and finding out the source farms where the outbreak likely happened. This was then covered up by every sector of govt in China, and is denied to this day, despite there being solid, published evidence of it.
- There clearly was a delay in reporting the sequence in early Jan, but I think that was a case of individual labs competing for a Nature paper – prob cost a couple of days in getting that information out globally. We don't know how long that

would have continued, but the sequence was already in press on Jan 11th when it was released by one group via GISAID, so probably would have been released by the journal a few days later.

- Re. human to human transmission, China was open about intra-family transmission, and the WHO and most of us strongly suspected human-to-human transmission very early on – in fact I publicly stated in early Jan when there were suddenly 40+ cases from the Huanan Market, that this is either human-to-human transmission or repeated exposure to an infected animal source. We knew the market was cleaned out so the latter was unlikely. Marion Koopmans also believed this and said this publicly. It was a dynamic, difficult outbreak situation and no one had such certainty, but the evidence was already there.

The most important mistakes were then our lack of preparation between Jan and March – we could see the virus spread to Thailand (early Jan), then Iran, then Italy, then Austria/rest of Europe. We saw the horrors of the Seattle nursing homes, and our White House just tried to wish it away – we all know the rest – that same magical thinking led us into the 'Opening by Easter weekend' comments in 2020, then summer surge, the opening just before the Delta wave, anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers and the whole sorry mess we've been through.

Then the current big mistake – I'm glad she points out that we continued to fail in getting sufficient vaccines out to the rest of the world, and the consequences of that for continued waves of infection…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Interview in the press

Peter:

You have my sympathy. Lot's of very loaded questions.

Incidentally, did you see the NY Times article attached? I am curious about your reaction (and others too).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, March
d (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) otez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll (b) (6)
ura (b) (6)
Subject: Interview in the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all (cc'ing Dennis Carroll who I spoke with at the weekend),

Not sure if you've already seen this, but after multiple harassing, innuendo-filled articles in this journal *The Intercept*, we decided to respond to them and try to explain that all of the minutiae they have been reporting on for the last few months are not evidence of corrupt science that led to a pandemic, but just the opposite – they're part of the normal process of doing science to help prevent pandemics.

The result is an interview they published last week that is a bit combative, but at least helps explain to those who are bothered, that all of the allegations these guys have been pushing can be easily addressed, albeit that the answers are 1) boring, and 2) not the narrative that they want.

David – you'll be interested in the bit where I explain that the NIH Office of the Director has been cruelly holding us over a barrel to deflect from their political and erroneous decision to defund us.

Here's the link: https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/

And here's the story pasted in the email:

PETER DASZAK ANSWERS CRITICS AND DEFENDS CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_005838
MORENS_NIH_014396
REL0000478831

“Scientists disagree over an issue where there’s no definitive proof,” said the EcoHealth Alliance president on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl
March 11 2022, 9:50 a.m.

SINCE THE EARLY days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Peter Daszak has been at the center of a heated, and at times vicious, debate over the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The parasitologist helms the New York-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, a wildlife conservation organization that aims to understand and prevent infectious diseases; the organization has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from U.S. agencies, much of which Daszak distributes to labs around the world. Starting in 2005, he worked closely with Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, who was a key partner on a 2014 National Institutes of Health grant to research bat coronaviruses in China. The Intercept has published over 2,500 pages of documents and communications from the grant following a Freedom of Information lawsuit — information that has transformed public understanding of the research conducted under the grant.

Those documents have shown that in its efforts to head off and prepare for a pandemic, EcoHealth Alliance oversaw an experiment in which researchers intentionally made coronaviruses more pathogenic and transmissible. One grant report contained evidence that the research group also did an experiment with infectious clones of MERS, another deadly virus. While none of the experiments described in the grant materials released so far could have sparked the current pandemic, the documents raise serious questions about biosafety and oversight at NIH. Early in the grant, research on certain coronaviruses was subject to a U.S. government ban, but notes on communications between NIH staffers and EcoHealth Alliance obtained by The Intercept showed that the federal agency allowed Daszak to take the lead in shaping a plan to evade that moratorium.

Meanwhile, a grant proposal published by the internet research group DRASTIC last September showed that in 2018 EcoHealth Alliance applied for funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, to look for novel furin cleavage sites in bat coronaviruses. According to the proposal, which was not funded, EcoHealth planned to insert furin cleavage sites into the spikes of SARS-related viruses — an idea that drew attention because scientists had already noted that such a site is unique in the subclass of viruses to which SARS-CoV-2 belongs.

The Intercept repeatedly sought comment from EcoHealth Alliance on these revelations. EcoHealth initially responded. In September 2021, a spokesperson denied that the organization had conducted the research on the deadly MERS virus that was described in the NIH proposal. After documents obtained via FOIA later showed that such research had in fact been done, Daszak stated that the spokesperson had been misinformed. EcoHealth Alliance then stopped responding to The Intercept's questions. In late February, Daszak replied to email inquiries and offered to talk. He spoke with us on March 1. In a wide-ranging interview conducted over Zoom, he addressed questions that have swirled around EcoHealth Alliance for the past two years, defended his organization against what he characterized as unjust accusations, and railed against the questioning he has faced from congressional Republicans, the NIH, and news organizations, including The Intercept.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Responding to the Outbreak

We're curious when you first heard about the outbreak in Wuhan.

If you look at my Twitter account, you'll see a tweet on New Year's Eve of 2019 —

But before the tweet, what was the moment when you first learned about it?

It was a couple of days before that. We heard from our contacts in China that something was going on, that there were cases of a disease in Wuhan. I think it was December 30. We looked on Chinese social media and found the rumors about it there. But we heard from many scientists in China.

Many of the virologists and other scientists we speak to say that we don't have enough information to determine whether Covid-19 emerged from natural spillover or as a result of research. Do you agree with that?

Do I agree that it's possible that Covid-19 emerged through a lab leak? Of course. It's been widely reported that we shut down discussion on that. But in the WHO report, which I was part of — and in fact I led the animal environmental side for the WHO side — we state that it's extremely unlikely. We don't state that it's impossible it came from the lab. Of course it's possible.

One of the many reasons that the origin of Covid-19 became such a sensitive and divisive issue was the sense, based on your communications about the Lancet letter, that you orchestrated a response among scientists and then made an effort to distance yourself from that effort. Do you want to say anything about that episode?

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You said, “One of the reasons why this has become so divisive is because of the Lancet thing.” You could say that about many things. It’s because we didn’t release the DARPA proposal. It’s because we didn’t release our emails. It’s because, early on, we said very strongly that this came from nature, and that this lab leak stuff is preposterous. The real reason this has become so divisive is because it’s being used politically. That’s it.

Scientists disagree over an issue where there’s no definitive proof. And for this issue, there’s no definitive proof. And there may never be. But what we do know is the weight of evidence points strongly to emergence from farmed wildlife in China.

Since the WHO report even, there are something like 12 scientific papers that have been published or put up online from good scientists pointing towards that origin. And I’ve looked at every single document that’s come out of the folks who are trying to show it came out of the lab, and there is no evidence yet for that. It’s all about implied motives, databases that were taken offline, people that aren’t on a website, or innuendo around something. Any one of those things can be explained by the normal process of doing science.



An aerial view of the P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China's central Hubei province on April 17, 2020.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Controversial Research

Did EcoHealth Alliance or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, through its partnership with EcoHealth Alliance, ever insert a furin cleavage site into a bat

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coronavirus genetic sequence?

Of course we did not do that. I really don't understand how that could be a question at this point it's beyond the pale. That's not in our plans and it's not any of our reports, so of course we didn't do that.

But isn't it the case that you submitted a grant proposal to DARPA to do so?

We did submit a proposal to DARPA. I've not checked through the one that's online that it's the correct document. What I do know is it was widely reported that DARPA rejected that because there were concerns about safety issues. That is absolutely untrue. The document that allegedly is DARPA's response, their review of our proposal, I've never seen that before. It was never sent to us. I don't know if it's real.

DARPA had a process by which people who didn't get funded could do an interview with them to find out why they didn't get funded. So I did that. Never once did they mention any concerns or issues around safety; never once did they mention gain-of-function. The reason they told us it was rejected was because the amount we asked for was too much for them. They couldn't afford it. They actually encouraged us to resubmit in different ways. We then had protracted conversations with them about funding specific parts of it. They liked the proposal.

Was any of the work described in that proposal completed prior to its submission? We were told by multiple sources that when you submit a grant, that at least some of the work would have been done.

When you write a grant proposal and propose to do a new line of research, which is what we did, we would not be doing that research before we submit the proposal. That's not how it works.

When we asked if you had ever inserted a furin cleavage site to a coronavirus, you responded with outrage. But that is what was described in the DARPA proposal.

No. What you said is, did we insert a furin cleavage site? And what I said was, of course not! If we had done that work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, it would have been published by now. It would have been made public in our reports to the NIH. The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple.

But you acknowledge that you proposed to DARPA to insert a furin cleavage site?

I refute that that was the goal of the DARPA proposal. The idea was not to insert a furin cleavage site in a virus to see what happens. That's not what was proposed. The proposal was to look for those polybasic cleavage sites in nature because we knew that that was the potential to make a virus more able to infect people and move from person to person.

If we found mutations around that polybasic cleavage site that looked like it could be evolvable, the idea was then that Ralph Baric's lab at UNC would do some work to see how evolvable that site was. So that work never happened. The proposal was not funded.

Did you find any of these cleavage sites in naturally occurring viruses that you collected?

The proposal was not funded so we didn't do that work. We've not found polybasic cleavage sites. However, they are in many coronaviruses from bats. Papers from Europe show mutations around that cleavage site that suggest strongly that that furin cleavage site could evolve very easily in nature. I'm sure there are viruses out there with it. I'm convinced that it could have easily evolved during the first stages of the pandemic, as the virus got from bats, perhaps into an intermediate host in a wildlife farm, or into people.

Did you resubmit the proposal?

We had conversations with them over many months about bits they would like to fund or they wanted to fund. We did not get funded. We did not do the work.

So you didn't think the DARPA proposal was relevant to the investigation into the origin of the pandemic?

A proposal that was not funded and work that was never done is not relevant to the origins of Covid. Of course not!

When asked if you had done this work with the furin cleavage site, you said no.

For the furin cleavage site, you should really ask Ralph Baric. He wrote that section of the DARPA grant.

So you're saying that that would be a good question for Ralph Baric, whether he has done any of these insertions?

I don't know what Ralph Baric has done. But I doubt that he would go ahead and do that work without the funding.

Some virologists were dismayed to see the insertion of furin cleavage sites in this proposal.

I don't know why anyone would be dismayed at that because furin cleavage sites were first researched in influenza viruses. And it's well known that that's something you should look for if you're interested in virulence factors. Second, there's actually a published paper from way before our proposal was submitted, way before the pandemic, where a group actually inserted a furin cleavage site into SARS-CoV-1. So we were right to look for that. And I think the proposal stands as a valid and actually quite predictive

effort to understand the risk of viruses. You've got to look at the big picture of why we do this research. We're not doing it as a sort of academic interest, "what would happen if you put a cleavage site there?" No. This work is done to say: What viruses are there out there in the wild that have the potential to emerge in people? And can we do something to stop them? Develop vaccines, develop therapies, stop people making contact with those animals.

Your grant, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," included an experiment using humanized mice. Were other humanized mouse experiments conducted by you and/or WIV?

Not by us, no.

What about by WIV?

Well, you need to talk to WIV about what else they were doing. We were doing one line of work with them.

Were you aware of any?

No, of course. I'd tell you if I was aware.

Were there viruses from elsewhere in Southeast Asia that were sent to the WIV?

No. This is a commonly put about story that's simply not true. WIV did not receive viruses from all around the world.

How many actual viruses do they have?

WIV does not have the biggest collection of viruses from bats in the world. There's 20,000 bat samples, something like that, tiny fecal pellets from bats.

Right now I don't know exactly how many bat coronaviruses are in culture and freezers at the WIV. But from our work, I know that out of the SARS-related coronavirus, they were only ever able to culture a handful. I think three cultures. It's not easy to do.

In November 2019, you tweeted that you had identified over 50 novel SARS-related coronaviruses, including some that cause SARS-like signs in mice and didn't respond to monoclonal antibodies.

Yes.

What are these 50 viruses? And are they public?

This is a complex thing that's been widely misinterpreted. It's actually quite simple. What we had were hundreds of genetic sequences of coronaviruses from bats. We

published them in that paper. They're not all new viruses. As we went through the sequence data and analyzed it, we refined what you might call a new virus versus a known virus. That's all. It's scientists refining and analyzing.

One ongoing point of contention between you and NIH is about lab notebooks and the communications around experiments.

NIH has made a bunch of requests that are completely reasonable, that we've dealt with very quickly and sent them the information that they required. And in many cases, NIH had the information already. What's happening here is you've got an office of the director that's dealing directly with us and completely cutting out the program staff who've got all the data they need. NIH has also asked us for a number of things which to any balanced and independent reviewer are impossible for us to supply.

Clearly in coming up with Year 4 and 5 progress reports, EcoHealth Alliance had information and draft reports on these humanized mouse experiments. Did you share those with NIH?

Of course not. You don't share draft reports. You share the final report.

Here's what happens, it's a very standard procedure: We are subcontracting to a lab in China to do some work. Every year we have to file a report to NIH to tell them what we've done for the year, how we've spent the money, and whether we've achieved the goals of the grant. So, we contact our subcontractees and we say, "Send us the information. Let us know what successes you've had this year and whether you've had problems and issues. Put it all in a report and send it to us." And then we use that to produce a report for NIH. That's why there are some editing issues around that. We move them around a bit, and we send a final report. A draft report is just a worse written version of the final report. There's no special information that's got intelligence value or anything.

Then why not share them?

We've not been asked for a draft report by anybody.

You've been colleagues with Shi Zhengli, the Chinese bat coronavirus expert who directs the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, since 2005?

Yes.

So is it the kind of relationship where you would be generally aware of all the work that she was involved in? Can you say a little bit about what your level of awareness of other stuff she was doing?

We were aware of most of the stuff she was doing. Of course. These people weren't hiding anything from us. They are scientists.

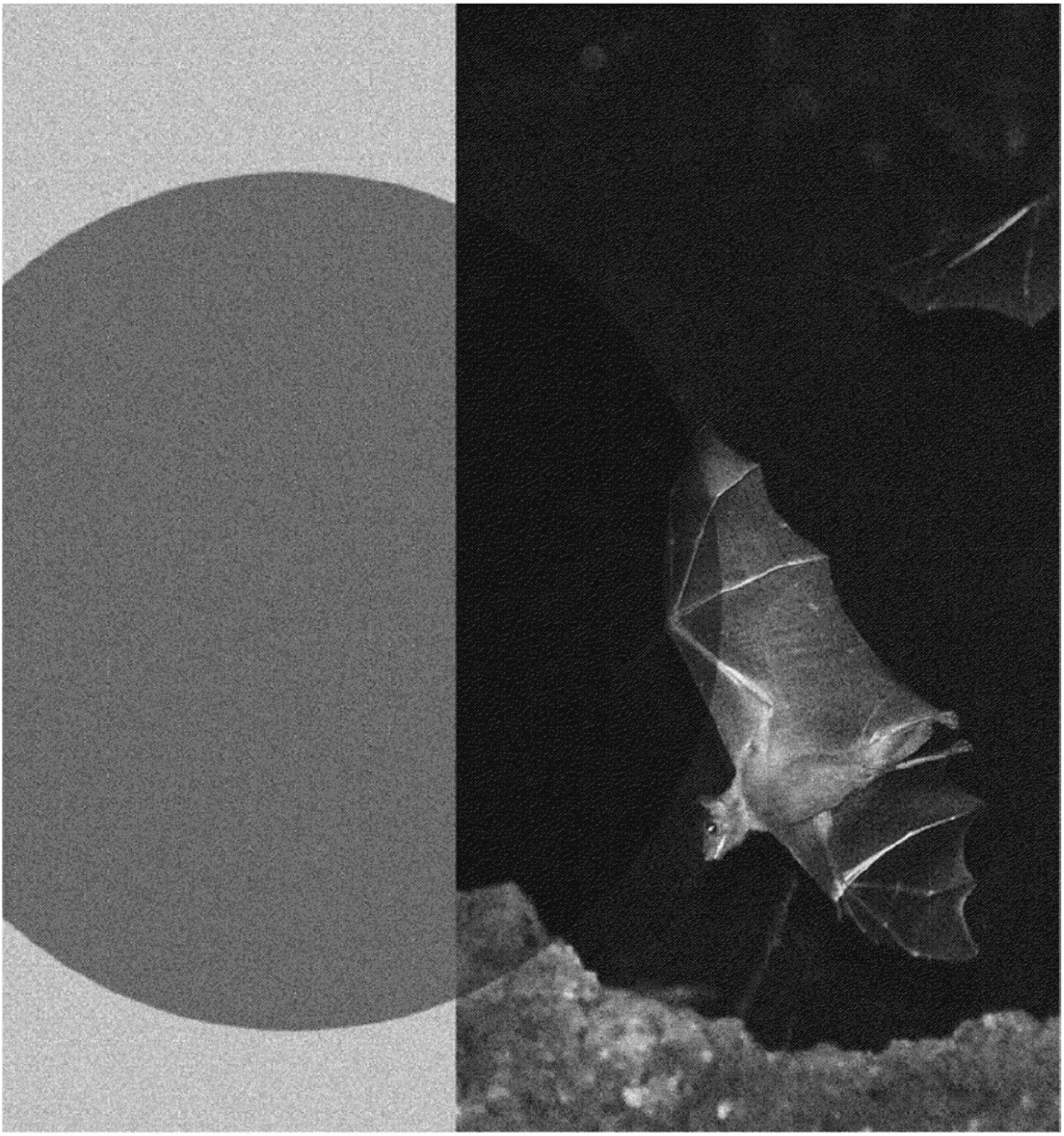
I've sat through dozens of meetings with people from Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they talk openly about unpublished work. And, by the way, RaTG13 was one of the sequences in a paper published in I think 2015. So they weren't hiding anything from us.

Early on, after she learned about the outbreak, Shi said she was worried that somehow a virus might have leaked from her lab. A lot of people we speak to — virologists who do this kind of work — are the ones who seem most in touch with that possibility, that this stuff happens.

Very specifically, it happens when you have cultures of viruses in flasks, and you're then doing experiments with high concentrations of virus. It rarely happens if ever from an animal sample, especially a saliva sample from a bat. What Shi Zhengli was saying at that time was, "Oh, no, it's a coronavirus. I need to go back and check on those viruses that we've got and see: Is it one of them?" And she did, and it wasn't. That's what any reasonable person would do.

You implied in early 2020 that RaTG13 was not fully sequenced by WIV until late 2019 or later. And then afterwards, Shi revealed that it had actually been fully sequenced in 2018. When and how did you first learn about the true date that this virus was sequenced?

I don't actually know the true date of when this virus was sequenced. I didn't see an interview with Zhengli where she said, "We sequenced it in 2018." I don't know when and I don't think they ever got the full genome. There are parts of that virus that aren't correctly sequenced. Bear in mind, RaTG13 was not from a sample collected under the NIH grant. So we didn't have any oversight on that or any knowledge of it.



A colony of bats in a cave in the Maramagambo forest of Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Missing Data

Did you have access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology's database of viral samples and sequences that went offline in September 2019?

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I've never actually seen the database. I've seen pages of it from the internet, Twitter, chats. But I've never looked at the database.

Did your staff have access to it?

No. We didn't need to! We had all the data we needed. Some folks find this missing database indicative of a cover-up or something. When we were in Wuhan [with the WHO mission] in the Institute of Virology, I said, "Why did you take the database offline?" And their response was, "We took it offline before the outbreak. We were then getting hacking attempts, hundreds, thousands of hacking attempts. So we decided it wouldn't be wise to put it back up." Now, you may not believe them. But it is a perfectly reasonable explanation. And I think people should try and go for the most likely reasonable explanation for these things.

So why did they take it offline in September 2019?

They told us — and it's in the WHO report — that they were trying to update it to make it modern. WIV was trying to present itself like a globally significant virology institute, and it is. But when you look at Chinese websites, they can be really old and stuffy and clunky. What they were trying to do, they told us, was to make it interactive so that you can click on something and a map would show. They were trying to make it fit in with the national databases.

I find it quite ironic that the focus on the database of WIV is so intense, whereas what actually happened was we took the data and, with China, put the data into the NIH's own database to make it public. That's a great win for the U.S.

In April 2020, you wrote in an email, "It's extremely important that we don't have these sequences as part of our PREDICT release to Genbank at this point. As you may have heard, these were part of a grant just terminated by NIH. … Having them as part of PREDICT will being [sic] very unwelcome attention to UC Davis, PREDICT and USAID." Why did you think that publishing these sequences would bring unwelcome attention?

Because we just had our grant terminated by NIH.

So you didn't think it would be important to release this data, given that there was a pandemic?

Those sequences were released publicly by publishing them in a scientific paper, which is what scientists do. The email that you're reading out is not about whether sequences should be made public; it's about whether sequences should be made public via a USAID mechanism or via publishing through the NIH mechanism. And what I was saying to the UC Davis team that ran PREDICT was that these are NIH-funded

sequences and should be reported through the NIH system. It's really that simple.

And which paper were they reported in?

Latinne et al, published in Nature Communications. We were struggling to get that paper out. It was very, very difficult, once the pandemic started, to keep communication with Chinese scientists. The utmost priority as a scientist is to get the data published, not to upload it into some database that's going to take months to go through. And by the way, that database is somewhere on the USAID government system. It's very difficult to find. The paper had already been submitted for publication, and the sequences were uploaded into GenBank, the NIH system. And then once the papers were accepted, they became public. And that's exactly what we did.

Are there sequences that have not been made public?

To my mind, there are no sequences of SARS-related coronaviruses that have not been made public. Some people think there are still viruses that are SARS-related that haven't been put in GenBank. That's not true. We've uploaded all of the SARS-related coronavirus sequences, or we've reported them to NIH, or we've published them in scientific papers. And in fact, for most of them, we've done all the above. We had them all uploaded before the pandemic. Most of them anyway.

You were on the WHO mission to investigate the origins of SARS-CoV-2. When the NIH grant documents were released, it was a surprise to many people that animal experiments were being done at Wuhan University. If you knew this information, did you share it?

It wasn't a surprise to NIH because the NIH knew about them.

Right. But did you share that information with the WHO committee or with others who were investigating the origins?

The Wuhan University BSL-3 facility is what we're talking about. They do humanized mouse work. That was not looked at by the WHO origins group. It's a BSL-3 lab that had humanized mice under BSL-3 conditions. It's highly unlikely to be the source of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Did you mention it to the committee?

I mentioned all my work to the committee, of course. We talked about it, for sure.

The Challenges of Public

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Scrutiny

Dr. Michael Lauer at the NIH has repeatedly asked you for biosafety records from the WIV and said that he has been unable to get some of them.

He says that, but it's not true. We've supplied everything we could possibly supply on the issues that they've asked for.

In one of his letters to you, Lauer asked about the biosafety oversight of the work at WIV. In your response to him, you wrote that it consisted of semiannual meetings with the lead investigator and assessments of compliance with all conditions of the award. Biosafety experts have said that this falls short of the level of oversight one would want for this kind of work. You mentioned in an exchange with Lauer that you were offering to pay from EcoHealth's own coffers for additional biosafety measures. Why did you offer to do this? Did you feel that the biosafety oversight was adequate?

We're talking about a world-class virology lab run by the Chinese government that is probably the best virology lab in China, and China is very good at virology. It's very efficiently run, and the biosafety conditions are very good. Just because people think that Covid-19 might have come from WIV doesn't mean that therefore our oversight of biosafety wasn't sufficient. We did everything normal in oversight of that lab.

Then why did you suggest these additional measures, if the others were already adequate?

Because I was worried that they were going to terminate our other grants. This is the key driving force for every action we've taken since April 24, 2020. I don't know why people don't realize that.

Once NIH shows you that it's willing to terminate your funding and kick people out of a job and put your whole organization under pressure simply because a single politician tells them to, then you start worrying about every other grant and contract that NIH controls. We live in fear that they're going to do similar abrupt terminations with no cause and no rationale and no logic.

What I was doing then was saying to Michael Lauer, please be reasonable. We're trying to do everything we can, within the normal bounds of what organizations do. We probably have the best biosafety and field teams in the world.

We're overcompliant and yet still being accused of lack of compliance.

On February 24, House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans sent a

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letter to NIH alleging that it is "highly suspicious" that EcoHealth reported the humanized mouse experiment results over two years, and suggesting that more work may have been done that was not reported. How would you respond to that?

This is a simple issue of Chinese nationals writing a report and then us drafting our report to NIH. So there's a word in there where they say we continued the studies. That doesn't mean they continued infecting mice with new viruses. No. What it means is they continued doing the research on the one experiment that they've done. And that continuation is a lot of work. So they did all the pathology, which means at the end of the experiment, you take all the mice, and you look at every organ in the body. You do detailed microscopical analysis. It takes months. So that's why it dragged on because you've got months of after-the-experiment analysis. And we included the mortality data as part of the pathology data. That's completely normal.

The House Energy and Commerce Republicans don't write to us, they write to NIH. Sometimes we hear about it, sometimes we don't. NIH doesn't copy us on their responses. Then eventually we get a letter from NIH asking questions, which we always respond to, always within the timeframe and always refuting any allegations with evidence. So that's what we've done.

The latest letter from the House Energy and Commerce Republicans accused us of being overfunded, effectively having two grants to do the same thing. It's simply not true. The USAID PREDICT grant has completely different goals to the NIH coronavirus grant. For instance, PREDICT looks for between seven and 18 different viral families within samples, not just coronaviruses. NIH is focused solely on coronaviruses. So the goals are different.

The agencies do, as a standard procedure, a review of a grantee's other proposals to see if there's overlap between them, because they don't want to fund the same thing twice. This is absolutely refutable with documentary evidence.

What's your understanding of the Republicans' motivation?

Any bipartisan requests for information from the House or the Senate, we've responded to. We've been working with the U.S. government since the pandemic began to get information to them about every single aspect of this pandemic, including unpublished data. The politicians who are attacking us probably don't realize or know or care, in some cases. When there's a request from one side of the political spectrum, we try not to respond to that. We've had hundreds of questions sent to us by letter, including requests for thousands of pages of documents. We don't have the staff to do that. And bear in mind our grant has been terminated and now suspended. We don't have access to funding. We don't have the staff to do this work. It's a horrible, cruel irony that, on the one hand, your funding is cut; and on the other hand, there are now outrageously huge

number of demands for us to do work to show data from that funding that's been cut.

Don't you have ongoing funding for two other NIH projects?

Yes. Well, you can't use that money.

What have you been asked to get by NIH that you feel you can't get?

There are a whole series of things that we've been unable to get. A vial of virus. Information on a person that was removed from the website (I did ask them that, and they gave us an explanation, which is perfectly reasonable). NIH asked us for an inspection of the WIV. Every right-minded person on the planet realizes that the World Health Organization asked for an inspection of that lab, and we did go into the lab and ask questions and go around the facilities. For NIH to say that I should organize a U.S.-only, NIH-based or National Academy-based inspection of the lab facilities is a request that is way beyond what's possible. You know, you can't go into CDC as a foreigner and do an inspection of the lab.

NIH writing to us saying, "We demand that you do this," puts us in jeopardy and it's a security risk. If I was to take that letter from NIH and go to the Beijing airport and say, "I'm here to do this," I would be arrested and put in jail and probably put on trial, in the same way that scientists from China have come to the U.S. and tried to take vials of virus back to China and been arrested and convicted. NIH doing this is clearly a way for them to try to get the public behind a decision they made that was political about terminating our grant. Ever since that decision, we've been put under similar pressure over and over again. The Republicans write to NIH with some fairly outrageous accusations. NIH responds and says, "Don't worry, we will go and make EcoHealth do this, this, this, and this."



Origins of Covid

Read Our Complete Coverage

I don't think that those questions are posed to truly get to the bottom of the origins of Covid. While the House Republicans are putting pressure on NIH for tiny bits of administrative information, scientists are going out and finding that actually things are

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really pointing towards a natural origin. And meanwhile, we're left refuting each one of those allegations. They're all false. There's no substance to them at all.

A good proportion of the public have been pushed by misinformation to believe a narrative — and this narrative is repeated daily — that gain-of-function work was funded by Tony Fauci as a back channel to China, and EcoHealth funneled funds to China. Those stories are very beguiling, they sort of make you feel, "Ah! I knew it." But actually, there's not a grain of truth to them. Every single action that EcoHealth Alliance has taken has been things that scientists do in the normal course of doing their work.

Closing down that line of research means we lose eyes and ears on the ground in China. And it doesn't benefit us from a public health point of view or a national security point of view. It's a huge mistake.

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Cheers,

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Mon, 6 Dec 2021 5:27:43 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 6 Dec 2021 5:23:24 PM -0500
Subject: FW: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: keusch <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:17 PM
To: 'Fuentes-Afflick, (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015172
MORENS_NIH_031640
REL0000478835

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
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.

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 (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:43 AM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015173
MORENS_NIH_031641
REL0000478835

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.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015174
MORENS_NIH_031642
REL0000478835

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
NAM Home Secretary
University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: (b)
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015175
MORENS_NIH_031643
REL0000478835

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_015176
MORENS_NIH_031644
REL0000478835

Date: Tue, 25 May 2021 12:19:44 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Holy Jesus!
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

Yet, there are no new data! People who have seen the intel are quoted as saying it's "inconclusive".

Isn't it a bit surprising that yet another re-hash of 'intelligence' from months ago pops up the day before the World Health Assembly starts?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Websit lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject: Holy Jesus!

Just saw CNN spot on origin of covid. Talking heads say new data (old news on employees) raise major questions. Fauci says all bets are off, it might not be natural

i am going to push back inside our OD. Very alarming if even Tony contributes to the craziness. Depressed in Monkey county, MD.... d

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012605
MORENS_NIH_023993
REL0000478837

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012606
MORENS_NIH_023994
REL0000478837

Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2024 3:28:54 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 14 Apr 2024 3:28:50 PM -0400
Subject: RE:
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

David: This is a terrific article – clear, persuasive, and fully documented. It reminds me of what Carl Sagan once said in response to questions about where there was intelligent life elsewhere in the universe: "It's possible – but there isn't a smidgen of evidence for it."

Kristian Andersen deserves a medal for taking the time to unravel the ins & outs of his interactions with McNeil – and how McNeil used selective evidence to build a case that isn't supported by the facts. Note, for example, that McNeil keeps banging on about the alleged insertion of a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus to turn it into SARS-CoV-2 as a "smoking gun" – and how Kristian Andersen dismisses that argument quickly and elegantly.

As ever,
Jeff

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffery Taubenberger (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject:

https://medium.com/@K_G_Andersen/its- not-about-getting-the-scoop-it-s-about-getting-it-right-origin-of-covid-19-my-emails-7447e59d79e3

From the cell phone of David Morens

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022924
MORENS_NIH_043944
REL0000478841

Date: Sun, 9 Jun 2024 5:55:19 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 9 Jun 2024 5:55:16 PM -0400
Subject: RE: TWiV podcast on COVID origins not being from a lab
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >;

Peter:

This just gets worse. I can't believe the NY Times gave Alina Chan the space they did in today's paper. She is crazy.

Keep your chin up.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
US(b) (6)
Te
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 1:59 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: TWiV podcast on COVID origins not being from a lab

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

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USA
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, Jun
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) hmura (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) ; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Rich Roberts <

t Racaniello on X

Vincent Racaniello
@profvrr

TWiV 1121: SARS-CoV2 still didn't come from a lab TWiV rebuts a recent opinion piece which falsely claims that the COVID-19 pandemic began in a lab (it began in Nature), followed by a discussion of Paride bacteriophage.

bit.ly/4c83xVo pic.twitter.com/q28r0xwCZ9

6/9/24, 10:20 AM

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 5:13:30 PM -0400

Sent: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 5:13:26 PM -0400

Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)

To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)

CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

Hi Jeff,

I agree, and so is his committee. My first thought in response is the following. When this originally came up I was in touch with Bruce Alberts and Harvey Fineberg, both past Presidents at NASEM, and asked them to intervene. They did and were not favorable to NAM pursuing these allegations. I could follow up with them with the latest information and see what they have to say. The conundrum is that the NAM cover letter dated April 11 says that "all involved respect the confidentiality of the review process" and the attached document says it is "Privileged and Confidential". Peter will be in conflict with these instructions if he shares the material, and perhaps more so if any of us then further disseminates (however precisely) the material. Having no sense of what they are actually thinking, is this just a cover their ass process or do they actually believe there is a real issue, it is impossible to figure out where they are going with it.

My advice on the phone to Peter was to take it slow, restrain the anger and the frustration, and figure out how to respond based on a personal code of behavior as a scientist involved in research both before and after it was politicized, from being the darling of NIH and NAM to being trolled by people who have nothing but raw politics as the ideal they follow. Let's talk among ourselves, and think about the pros and the cons for any action taken. Then with Peter. Some of us could talk to Tony Fauci confidentially, and be confident it would be confidential. I think I could talk to Bruce Alberts in a confidential manner, and he is at UCSF, the same institution as the writer of the letter, Elena Fuentes-Afflick, so he presumably knows her and she certainly would know of him.

Is there any strategy that would include having Peter write to Fuentes-Afflick to say he has to consult with scientific colleagues and respected members of the Academies as part of his preparation of a response – its not just what he did or said or didn't do or say, its about the very soul and conscience of science and being a scientist when attacked in an aggressive and politically charged manner like this.

I didn't expect it to go to this step, which is why I am struggling here. Your thoughts, and maybe a call soon?

Jerry

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 2:29 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

Cc: Rich Roberts <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura

<(b) (6)
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Jerry:

This situation is outrageous. The NAM is not covering itself in glory right now – rather than standing up for the freedom of scientific inquiry, they are abetting politically-motivated character assassination. As Peter H observes, the NAM could just tell Congress to stuff it – instead they are doing their dirty work. Victor Dzau could have exercised leadership on this question – instead he is hiding behind anonymous process. Is there any way we can bring pressure to bear on Dzau to put a stop to this?

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Rich Roberts <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Just off the phone with Peter D. He is really down with this shameful news from NAM, on top of being hit with COVID since Saturday. A word of encouragement, and willingness to brainstorm with him on the response would be immediately helpful.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (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 (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007070
MORENS_NIH_016184
REL0000478844

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 1:18 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6)
Sent:
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Kim, Se(b) (6)
Subject: con

Dear Dr. Daszak,

On behalf of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), I am notifying you that the NAM has received a complaint alleging that you have engaged in conduct(s) that may constitute violation(s) of the NAM Code of Conduct for members.

Please find attached a notification letter, supplemental documentation, and NAM bylaws and Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the NAM Policy and Procedure on Violations of the Code of Conduct, please provide a response to the allegations within 30 days of the date of this notification, and by no later than May 13, 2022.

For your awareness, copies of this notification is postage mailed by FedEx to your office address at EcoHealth Alliance, 520 Eighth Ave Suite 1200, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, M.D., M.P.H.
Home Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

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Date:	Sat, 8 Apr 2023 10:02:22 AM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 8 Apr 2023 10:02:11 AM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: NewsNation: Fauci: There's 'accumulating evidence' of natural COVID origin https://bit.ly/3UjI5F7
From:	David Morens <(b) (6) >
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >;
BCC:	(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.png

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
Date: April 8, 2023 at 10:01:31 EDT
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: NewsNation: Fauci: There's 'accumulating evidence' of natural COVID origin https://bit.ly/3UjI5F7

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >
Date: April 7, 2023 at 09:07:02 EDT
Subject: NewsNation: Fauci: There's 'accumulating evidence' of natural COVID origin https://bit.ly/3UjI5F7

Fauci: There's 'accumulating evidence' of natural COVID origin

- There is still no consensus on the origin of COVID-19
- Dr. Anthony Fauci says "accumulating evidence" points to natural transmission
- A lab leak is now the lead theory at the FBI



Tyler Wornell
Updated: Apr 6, 2023 / 09:41 PM CDT
(NewsNation) — Dr. Anthony Fauci is maintaining he has an open mind about the origins of COVID-19, but pointed to "accumulating evidence" that it was transmitted naturally as opposed to through an accidental lab leak.
The U.S. intelligence community remains divided on a definite origin, partly because China has not been forthcoming with information about the outbreak and a wet market in Wuhan where it might have first spread.
"We may not ever get (definitive proof), and that's one of the frustrating things," Fauci said Thursday on "Elizabeth Vargas Reports."
Fauci's comments came on the heels of a new study published Wednesday that shows large amounts of the virus were mixed in with genetic material from racoon dogs at an outdoor wet market in Wuhan.
The research focused on swabs taken in Wuhan in the early days of the pandemic. Chinese researchers confirmed DNA from raccoon dogs and other animals was found in COVID-19 samples, especially from one corner of the wet market where exotic wildlife was sold.

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:20 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:32:34 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens. MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Date: Mon, May 8, 2023 at 2:58 PM
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6) >

I'm OK at 10 or 11 on the 19th. I'm in an FAO briefing on COVID origins in the afternoon, potentially starting at 1 so that is problematic.

The 20th is OK.

So is the 21st but its best to pick a date when Rich is available to join. Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002467
MORENS_NIH_008983
REL0000478856

<(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

Mary:

The times on June 19 and 20 will all work for me. The 21st is not possible though.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak

<(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
G (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea < >;
Subject: Anti-Science Follow Up Meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER

Greetings all,

I'm including some additional dates to better encompass everyone's schedule. Please let me know what works for best for you.

Monday, June 19th at 10, 11 or 1 pm CT

Tuesday, June 20th at 1 or 3 pm CT

Wednesday, June 21st at 11 am or 1 pm CT

Thank you!

Mary

Mary Hall

Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations

Baylor College of Medicine

P: (b) (6) : (b) (6)
(b) (6) |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cd61b6070803c4b6dc1ef08db8a10917a%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=YJ5foBEXQefLpCr72fENAkXCIJ5rtsW5cjninzt%2Fj7c%3D &reserved=0

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak

<(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
< >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea < >;
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Greetings all,

It looks like a zoom call would be better for everyone. Below are a few options. Please let me know what works best and I'll send a calendar invite for the time that works for the majority.

Tuesday, May 9th at 10, 11 am, and 1 pm CT

Wednesday, May 10th at 1 pm CT

Friday, May 12th at 2 pm CT

Thank you!

Mary

Mary Hall

Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations

Baylor College of Medicine

P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) |
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&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cd61b6070803c4b6dc1ef08db8a10917a%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=YJ5foBEXQefLpCr72fENAkXCIJ5rtsW5cjninzt%2Fj7c%3D &reserved=0

From: Hall, Mary Ann
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak
<(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
G (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_008986
REL0000478856

Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Greetings all,

What an incredible meeting of minds last week! It was great to hear from such a diverse range of people on such an important topic. We so appreciate everyone's time and effort. I have pages of notes and am looking forward to reviewing others as well. As Dr. Hotez mentioned, we have this seed funding from the Mitchell Foundation and the potential for more once plans develop. Dr. Hotez and I will both be in New York City May 30th. If available, could this convening group meet to discuss next steps? Happy to offer some times for a zoom call if that date doesn't work for an in person meeting.

Thank you!

Mary

Mary Hall

Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations

Baylor College of Medicine

P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cd61b6070803c4b6dc1ef08db8a10917a%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=YJ5foBEXQefLpCr72fENAkXCIJ5rtsW5cjninzt%2Fj7c%3D &reserved=0

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura
<(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Hall, Mary Ann < >
Cc: Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002471
MORENS_NIH_008987
REL0000478856

Mary, here are the emails of the group, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Thu, 11 Apr 2024 7:16:26 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)

Not responding to this probable trash. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
Date: Thu, Apr 11, 2024, 19:11
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: Zack Stieber <zack.stieber@epochtimes.nyc >
Date: April 11, 2024 at 15:21:32 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment

Hi Dr. Morens,

Good afternoon. Do you have a comment on this? Why did you send these messages from your personal email?

Thanks,
Zack Stieber
The Epoch Times
(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, 17 May 2024 6:21:24 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 17 May 2024 6:21:00 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.jpg

I have no problem highlighting the NIH's incompetence. But we need a serious science journalist to step up and detail what's going on to set the record straight. We need an Atlantic or New Yorker article to exonerate Peter Daszak and EcoHealth. Who would that be? Michael Hiltzik? Amy Maxmen? Molly Jong Fast? Mehdi Hassan?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas.SorianoOsejo@bcm.edu | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 5:13 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) wrote:

That just builds on the dystopic presentation of what Tabak said, referring to the definition with or without "of concern." He was careful to give them what they needed to distort the truth while not exactly lying.

On the other hand his testimony about the requirement for EHA to produce WIV lab notebooks is an outright lie. I have pointed this out to Jocelyn Kaiser and to Michael Hiltzig. Maybe one of them will write about it.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17,
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

The NIH leadership has set back American virology for many years:

<image001.jpg>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 3:19 PM, Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) wrote:

Regarding Tabak's comments on GoF, this is what the text below shows.

Rep. Lesko: "Dr. Tabak, did NIH fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through EcoHealth?"

Dr. Tabak: "It depends on your definition of gain-of-function research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."

So it is not what he said but how the SSCP spun it. That's a weakness that should be exploited in the press. It is deliberately spinning information into disinformation and that is both lying and dangerous. We need to point it out, find other examples where it is easy to refute what they are saying about Peter, EHA, and David, and make sure

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others will amplify that and delegitimize the committee. I'm going to point out that one to Hiltzik and Kaiser.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Origins of COVID NPR

I'm only a King, how insulting, these guys are totally nuts

<image001.jpg>

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 17, 2024, at 12:34 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Good to hear that. In the meantime looks like the Committee is now coming after me personally. They're aiming to call for my debarment as an individual:

https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing-wrap-up-nih-repeatedly-refutes-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszaks-testimony-tabak-testimony-reveals-federal-grant-procedures-in-need-of-serious-reform/

Press Release Published: May 17, 2024
Hearing Wrap Up: NIH Refutes EcoHealth's Testimony, Tabak Reveals Federal

Grant Procedures in Need of Serious Reform

WASHINGTON — The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled "Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak" to examine the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) process for funding and overseeing scientific research as well as investigate NIH's relationship with EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (EcoHealth). Members pressed former Acting NIH Director and current Principal Deputy Director, Dr. Lawrence

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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 contradicts Dr. Fauci's previous statements, Dr. Tabak testified that the NIH was funding gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China through a

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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.

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**

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debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.

- The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found here.
- The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.

Member Highlights Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio), D.P.M, pressed Dr. Tabak to address Dr. Daszak's testimony that EcoHealth was "locked out" of the NIH's grant reporting system. NIH conducted an internal forensic audit which proves EcoHealth was, in fact, not "locked out" from submitting its required NIH grant

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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.

<image001.png >

Chairman Wenstrup: "

EcoHealth, like every other NIAID grantee, was required to submit a five-year progress report, as you know. This report was submitted nearly two years late. Dr. Daszak testified that EcoHealth

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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 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*

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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 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

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status of alleged federal records violator and top advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci — Dr. David Morens — who was placed on administrative leave after the Select Subcommittee uncovered incriminating information. Dr. Morens used his personal email(s) to hide conversations about the origins of COVID-19 and undermine the operations of the NIH.
<image002.png >

Chairman Comer: "*What is Dr. Morens's current employment status?*"
Dr. Tabak: "*He is an employee of NIH.*"
Chairman Comer: "*Well, I*

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think you see where my lines of questioning were leading. We have some serious concerns. We have fought in this Select Subcommittee, the Oversight committee, on obtaining information. And here you have an admission of deleting information, going to great lengths to not be transparent, in an apparent cover-up of something that I think we would agree, in a bipartisan manner, is one of the most serious issues that our country has ever faced, the COVID 19 pandemic."

Rep. Debbie

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Lesko (R-Ariz.) elicited an admission from Dr. Tabak that the NIH funded gain-of-function research at the WIV through a grant to EcoHealth. This directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's U.S. Senate testimony in 2021 in which he claimed the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology." This type of research is known to be dangerous and even former NIH Director Francis Collins and Dr. Fauci

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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 research. If you're speaking about the generic term, yes, we did…the generic term is research that goes on in many, many labs around the country. It is not regulated. And the reason it's*

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not regulated is it poses no threat or harm to anybody."
Rep. Rich McCormick (R-Ga.), M.D., proved that EcoHealth violated the terms of its NIH grant when it failed to produce "laboratory notebooks" with information about the WIV's gain-of-function research. On May 1, Dr. Daszak falsely testified that he was not required to produce these notebooks as a condition of his grant.
<image004.png >

Rep. McCormick: "*When the National Institutes*

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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 access to them?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*That's correct.*"

Rep. McCormick: "*Did EcoHealth ever produce the requested notebooks?*"

Dr. Tabak: "*They have not.*"

Rep. McCormick:

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"Dr. Daszak testified two weeks ago that he was not required to produce the lab notebooks. Would NIH disagree with that testimony?"

Dr. Tabak: *"Yes, we disagree with that testimony."*

Rep. McCormick: *"The testimony here today clarifies the inconsistency between Dr. Daszak's testimony and the testimony of numerous NIH officials and NIAID officials, also, including yourself. Dr. Daszak continues to thwart congressional oversight through semantics and outright dishonesty,*

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quite frankly. He has routinely failed to produce pertinent documents and made countless misleading statements to the Select Subcommittee right here."

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), M.D., uncovered serious shortcomings in NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak testified that he would never again support a grant to EcoHealth Alliance to fund gain-of-function research in Wuhan and believes the NIH relied too heavily on Dr. Daszak

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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.*"

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Rep. Miller-Meeks: "*There is great concern with Dr. Daszak interaction with NIH and NIAID pertaining to the one log growth term of the award. The NIH relied on Dr. Daszak to monitor and report virus growth after being a month late on his annual reporting requirements, which were outlined in the grant. Dr. Tabak, looking back, did the NIH rely too much on Dr. Daszak's self-reporting information?* "

Dr. Tabak: "*Again, with the benefit of hindsight, we did because we never*

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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 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*

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projects received funding since March of 2020, and they are conducting research Nipah, zoonotic viruses, bat coronaviruses, MERS. They are doing a lot of this research, mostly actually in third world countries. Subpar safety conditions. How do you ensure that our federal dollars are not going to do risky experiments in countries where there are subpar safety regulations? And do you believe that should be a criteria that is put forth to ensure that the money doesn't?"
Dr. Tabak:

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"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 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.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR

I just did this long interview debunking the nonsense, piece by piece

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas.(b) (6) | Phone (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Geoffrey Brumfiel <(b) (6)
> **Date:** May 17, 2024 at (b) (6)
> **To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay"
> **Subject: Origins of C**
>
> *****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Hi Peter,

We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.

Would you be up for a quick background conversation?
Best,
Geoff

Geoff Brumfiel | National Public Radio | gbrumfiel@npr.org | desk: (b) (6) | cell: (b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_045177
REL000478860

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:22:21 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:21:39 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 6:02 PM
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

Yes. He said in essence that it was not sufficiently rigorous to take as likely and therefore the two pathways, natural spillover and lab leak, were both viable and thus essentially of equal probability.

And, he never says there were Commissioners who did not agree with the conclusions he was presenting although the report makes a minor reference to the fact that some Commissioners had other views.

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:11 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009962
MORENS_NIH_020472
REL0000478861

<(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Did he really? Awful

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

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MORENS_NIH_020473
REL0000478861

On Sep 15, 2022, at 12:31 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Sachs dissed the Worobey papers during his remarks at the Lancet Commission launch. Shameful!

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) d Morens <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

Peter: Thanks for sharing this. Rasmussen and Worobey do a masterful job of showing how groundless and pernicious Sachs's opinions are. Their commentary deserves wide distribution.

Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)

Date: 9/15/22 12:49 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) >

Cc: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009964
MORENS_NIH_020474
REL0000478861

Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fctheories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C1d037bacb5c244312e4708db8a0f09e3%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=iU7iafaPzqBwla5G9aoJHXBSELXwnaCehw%2BhS7QSsIk%3D &reserved=0

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

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Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

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MORENS_NIH_020476
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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

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MORENS_NIH_020477
REL0000478861

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

It's just

(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

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Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) gmail.com >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:23 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:02 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Fcovid-theories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C72c6d7f88b4a4ff78dc008db8a0f3d82%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=xu8WyBV0ErJnmSfYJ%2F4ZgYLsFtE7wzLb4BbDlMutKhY%3D &reserved=0

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Media Inquiries:

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iPhone

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Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (978) (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

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Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
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Douglas (b) (6) | Phone (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter: The Washington Post report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the Lancet Commission report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true. Angela's was also terrific.

As ever,
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak <
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura

MORENS_SUBPOENA_002549
MORENS_NIH_009065
REL0000478875

<(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

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covid-commission-report-who%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C72c6d7f88b4a4ff78dc008db8a0f3d82%7C14b77578977342d585C
&sdata=VkWsNOJ3bzLQwKk8UnQgBh3N0BM66Rgs3KUHKFq7ZqI%3D &reserved=0

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(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marshall.senate.gov%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FUSAID- Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf &data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C72c6d7f88b4a4ff78dc008db8a0f3d82%7C14b77578977342d585(&sdata=ZqH8UhrGIY%2F6eHArEb7uGj4ykWvPMtnDwfJ%2BYLvfpp4%3D &reserved=0

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

<
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MORENS_NIH_009068
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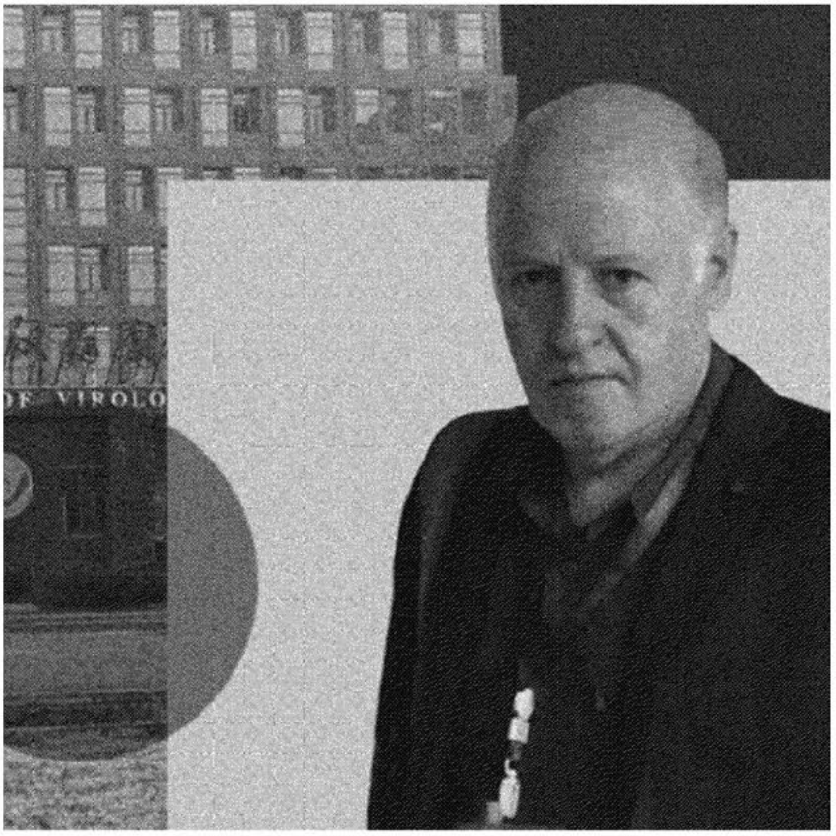
Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



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 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

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MORENS_NIH_014777
REL0000482724

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.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

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MORENS_NIH_014779
REL0000482724

iPhone

> On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> *****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**
>
> Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership
>
> It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.
> >
> > Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.
> >
> > Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.
> >
> > It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtc
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH
Subject: RE: FW: Query fron
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

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_006050
MORENS_NIH_014781
REL0000482724

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
>
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early

COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6)) <
(b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM < NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



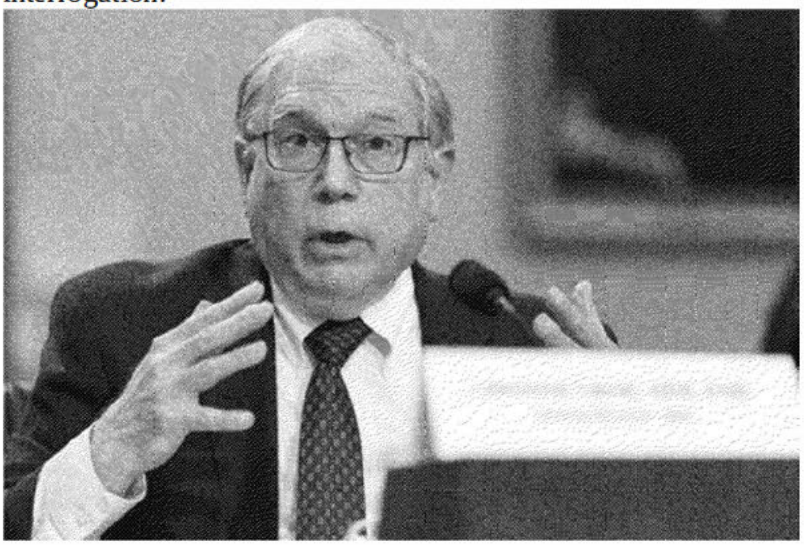
National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH

"eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

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.

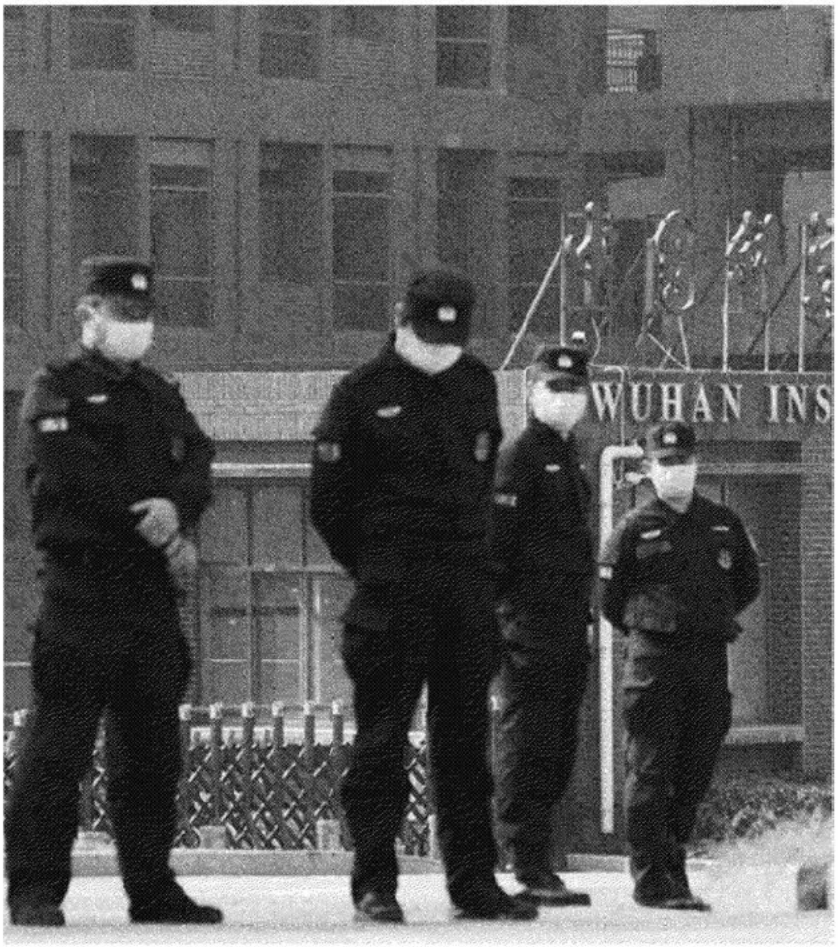
"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"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.

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Date: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 10:30:15 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 6 Nov 2022 10:30:05 PM -0500
Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >;
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6)

Peter:

That's awful. What is the matter with people these days? Time to stop social media perhaps.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
C Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Subject: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Novemb
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) ch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; David (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff mission webinar 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: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003759
MORENS_NIH_010671
REL0000482729

iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Rich: Your summary of my summary is right on point – that was exactly the vibe of Sachs's comments during the webinar. He let Ebright and Kopp spell out the crazier aspects of the lab leakers' viewpoint. Chan was more balanced than I expected her to be (although her summary clearly had a thumb on the scale).
Best regards,
Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Novem M
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) . Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmu (b) (6) (b) (6)
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: (b) (6)
Fax:
email: (b) (6)

Exec (b) (6) t: (b) (6)
Tel:
Fax: 0
email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sac mission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

MORENS_SUBPOENA_003760
MORENS_NIH_010672
REL0000482729

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

Date:	Thu, 30 Sep 2021 2:11:20 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 30 Sep 2021 2:10:56 PM -0400
Subject:	FW: Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last Thursday night and now moves to the Senate
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC:	Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	EcoHealth Alliance information re. NDAA amendment to defund non profit.docx

Dear All,

I just wanted to give you a quick update on this issue. Below is an email I just sent to Peter Staley, the AIDS activist who spoke out forcefully when Trump terminated our NIH grant – he's a colleague of Dr. Fauci's. In it are 5 key points re. why this amendment should be taken seriously and removed. Additionally, I've attached some information about EHA specific to why we're under attack and need people's help to defend against it. I'm hoping these may be useful as you reach out to colleagues and contacts.

We've heard back from Sen. Gillibrand's staff and are talking with them on Tuesday afternoon next week. So far that's the only Senator's office that has responded and expressed an interest in doing something about the amendment. We don't know what they'll propose yet, and don't know what the timeline will be, but obviously at this point we're very worried.

Any continued help you can give us is very much appreciated. Rich – I wondered whether Elizabeth Warren's office has gotten back to you and Rich/Jerry, whether Sen. Ed. Markey's office has responded.

I'm talking with a contact of our Board tomorrow who may have a way to reach Sen. Schumer, but given the chaos in Washington, I suspect this will be difficult…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:05 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: 'Robert Kessler (b) (6))' <(b) (6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)

Subject: Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last Thursday night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Peter,

I really appreciate your time a few months ago to talk about the ongoing pressures we're under here at EcoHealth Alliance. The latest action is a particularly significant threat to our organization – last January one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" and managed to get passed by the House last Thursday night as Amendment #148 (https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr- 4350) to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350) (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd.

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. We're deeply worried about this amendment and are desperately trying to reach anyone who is willing to talk to their colleague in the Senate to try to get this amendment removed. We were hoping you'd be able to speak out on our behalf. The main reasons we hope you'll be able to get across are:

1. It is based on the false premise that the virus emerged from a laboratory – the majority of scientists, and of intel agencies believe it has a natural origin

- It sets a precedent that an individual member of congress can circumvent normal protocols for funding contracts and grants set up by government agencies, based on political motives
- It accuses an organization of being implicit in causing a terrible pandemic, with no evidence, and without due process
- No DoD funding to this organization (EcoHealth Alliance) has ever been used to conduct work in China. This was already clarified in a response to a letter to DoD from this Congressman in Summer 2020
- This amendment would effectively close down a non-profit that does work to protect US citizens from future pandemic threats, and would mean New York City residents losing their jobs.

Peter – any advice or help you are willing to give us will be much appreciated. We've reached out to Senator Gillibrand's staff and are talking with them on Tuesday next week, but are just very concerned that we don't know what the timeline is for this, and that it might just end up being passed because it didn't rise to the right level of concern. Everyone at our organization remains fully committed to our mission and just wants to get back to work protecting the US from future pandemic threats, but right now, we're at the mercy of politics.

I'm available any time for a call, or if you're able to reach out to colleagues with influence on the Senate, please do. I've also attached a brief explanation of the details to EcoHealth's work and why we're under attack.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date:	Fri, 19 Mar 2021 9:15:09 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 19 Mar 2021 9:08:04 PM -0400
Subject:	Letter to Francis Collins from Republican leaders of Committee on Energy & Commerce
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments:	March 2021 letter to NIH Director. Republican members Energy Commerce etc..pdf

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

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Wed, 15 May 2024 7:16:16 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

From: David Morens <(b) (6)

To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

CC: peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Not sure what he will say. This is opaque and boilerplate and correct. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Wed, May 15, 2024, 19:13 Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

> Thanks for Sharing
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
>
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
>
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>
> New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; peter hotez (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 17:30
Subject: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak
To:

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Subject

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Date

May 16, 2024

Time

9:00 am

Place

2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Witnesses and testimonies: Dr. Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Principal Deputy Director
National Institutes of Health

Document

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, 15 Jun 2021 2:16:04 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 2:13:28 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Fox News: GOP senators demand COVID-19, Wuhan documents from HHS, NIH
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC: Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Yes – I've also seen this hypothesis that the African Swine Fever outbreak may have increased consumption. To be honest, consumption was pretty shockingly high already – with every city in China having multiple markets where farmed wildlife can be bought.

Definitely a valid hypothesis, and look forward to reading the paper.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Rich Roberts (b) (6) ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Fox News: GOP senators demand COVID-19, Wuhan documents from HHS, NIH

I just read the attached recent pre-print paper, and it is really interesting and will, I am sure be reviewed and published rapidly in a highly respected journal. What is rather unique in their ruminations on the pathway to humans is the following excerpt from the conclusions.

"One possible recent disruption that caused widespread and unusual movements of animals in China and may have increased the permeability of this barrier, was the dramatic shortage of pork products in 201937 attributable to an African swine fever virus (ASFV) outbreak impacting 100s of millions of pigs in China38. Such a major disruption in the food supply chain will have potentially brought humans into increased contact with Sarbecovirus infected animals as i) exotic meats

replaced pork, ii) animals from rural locations were brought to city markets and/or iii) by meat from infected animals being transported in cold chain processes."

Can science actually counter propaganda? David, this is a good new piece of work for a follow up for ASTMH.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Keusch, Geral (b) (6) berts <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Fox News: GOP senators demand COVID-19, Wuhan documents from HHS, NIH

Definition of "shameless acts of political theatre": The Republican Party….. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 15, 2021, at 12:23, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

This letter had me worried because I thought it was FROM the HHS secretary, but then I saw Rand Paul's name at the bottom and swiftly realized that this is a shameless act of political theater from disingenuous politicians who aren't actually interested at all in where the real origins of COVID began.

I will file it and then continue with the hard work of trying to use every bit of scientific skill and energy we have left to work on identifying the origins of COVID so that hopefully these horrific attacks will end, and we can then start to focus on preventing the next pandemic, perhaps by reducing the horrific exploitation of wildlife around the world in a wildlife farm/market system that employed 14 million people in China alone.

Of course, my task would be made a lot easier if I had access to the NIH funding we had in place to do exactly that, and if I didn't have to spend most of each day trying to prevent our other funders leaving our organization (I was literally just on an awful call with a nervous funder who's wavering).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016858
MORENS_NIH_035014
REL0000482736

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent (b) (6) *promote conservation*

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:31 AM
((b) (6) g) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) <
(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6)
Subject: FW: Fox News: GOP senators demand COVID-19, Wuhan documents from HHS, NIH

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
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_016859
MORENS_NIH_035015
REL0000482736

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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016860
MORENS_NIH_035016
REL0000482736

"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.

2021-06-11 Letter From Five... by Fox News

"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

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MORENS_NIH_035017
REL0000482736

(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 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.

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Date: Tue, 7 May 2024 7:50:23 PM -0400
Subject: Re: RE: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing
From: (b) (6) b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6) ;
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Great to hear that Peter – please hold no punches. Feel free to talk about this latest set of attacks, including the police action and death threats I'm getting here at my house.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 6:46 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jav <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Re: Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing

Peter, that is great. I hope you pull no punches and also get a chance to let NAS colleagues what is happening and what needs to be done to put an end to it. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------

On 4/26/24 01:20, Hotez, Peter Jay wrote:

Dear Peter: this Sunday I'm in DC at NAS on a panel with Tony Fauci, Michael Mann, and Akiko Iwasaki discussing the political attacks on scientists and I plan to comment on these horrific congressional hearings, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
Douglas.SorianoOsejo@bcm.edu | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 25, 2024, at 10:35 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day: https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing- advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1

Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all

discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing here.

WHAT: Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

DATE: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

TIME: 10:00AM ET

LOCATION: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESS:

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

WATCH: The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a-hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/.

RSVP: Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From (b) (6)
Sent: W
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <

MORENS_NIH_047980
REL0000482737

(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not I t have a date yet. My lawyer is ne
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my law.yers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail,and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course. they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci- congress-testimony-pandemic/.
>
> David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM

MORENS_NIH_047981
REL0000482737

To: (b) (6) >; ' (b) (6) ; 'Jef
(b) (6) (b) (6) ay' <(b) (6) '
(b) (6)) (6)
(b) (6) >; 'John Feigelson' <
(b) (6)

Subject:

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.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 19,
To: (b) (6) ; ' <(b) (6) 'Je
(b) (6) (b) (6) > y' <(b) (6) '
(b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: a <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <
(b) (6)
Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance

and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us- news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) >
Sent: W 6 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) turchio < (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Pete
(b) (6)
Cc: ra (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:
>
> https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505

Here's the text of the tweet:

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

@ScienceMagazine

AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEEUSE proposal — which some believe created a

blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH:

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM
(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' <(b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)

MORENS_NIH_047984
REL0000482737

(b) (6)

Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; John Feigelson <
(b) (6)
>
Subject: COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.
Importance: High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30th

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6) b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys,my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)…

Tweet here: https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214

Washington Examiner BS article here: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth- alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/

Full text of tweet:

Post

See new posts

Conversation

Pinned

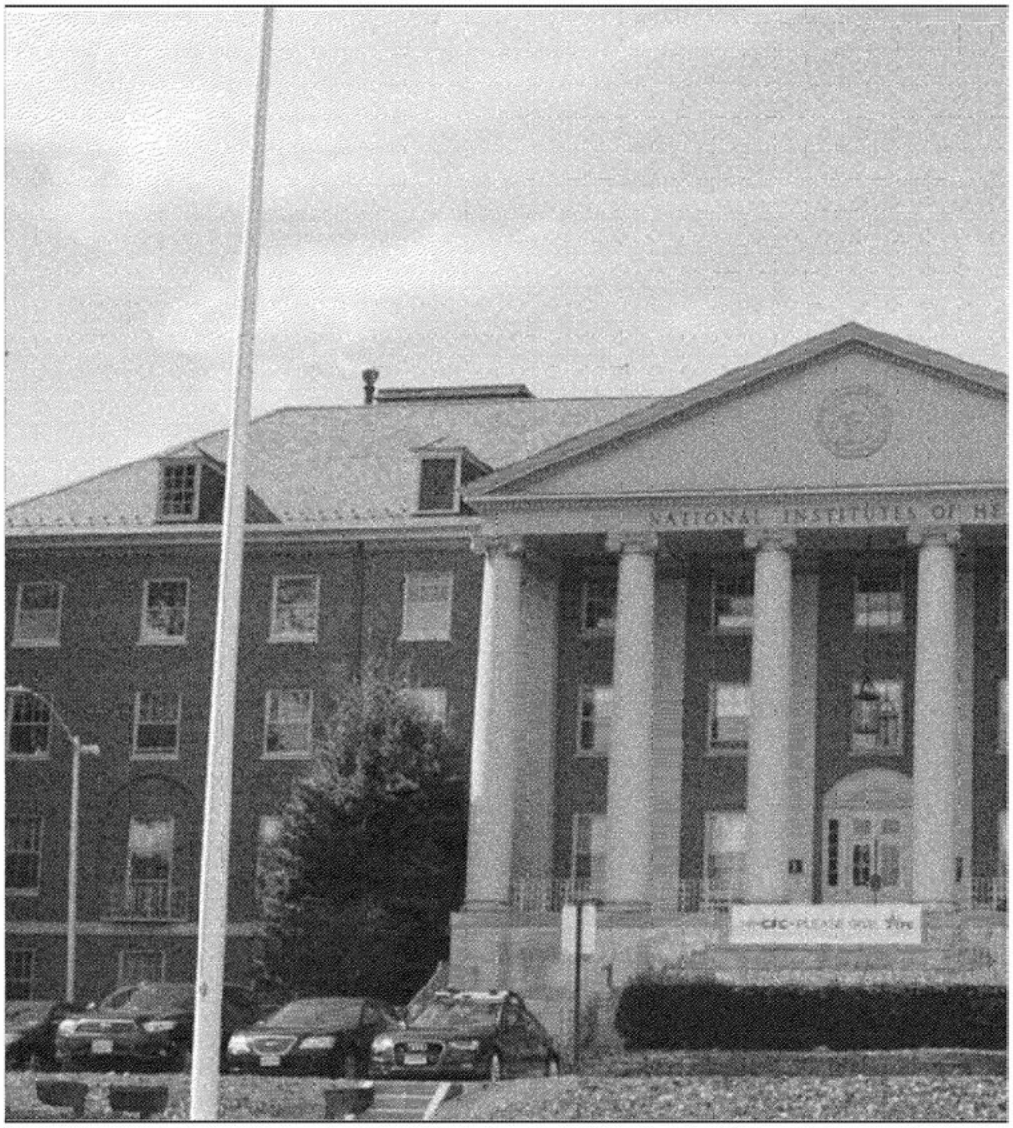


Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

BREAKING

@EcoHealthNYC President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.



From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: +(b) (6)
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch. Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades.
d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message -------
On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committeee…
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6) >
'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6))' <
(b) (6) >
Subject: EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues
Importance: High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup- reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth- alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails-01.pdf

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good...I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?
>
> I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone (b) (6)
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM
To: 'Michael Hiltzik' (b) (6) ; 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; 'Alison Andre (b) (6))' <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant
Importance: High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well… cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Michael Hiltzik <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

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Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <
(b) (6)
> wrote:

> Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.
>
> As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in Science, Nature, NEJM and others based on NIH funding.
>
> After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections https://www.science.org/content/article/pall- suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers), and the NIH

group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around $50K of the now nearly $2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are

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now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

Date: Sat, 1 Jun 2024 7:47:39 PM -0400

Subject: Re: RE: email from the National Academies to "discuss my service to NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision

From: (b) (6)) (6) >

To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

All the more reason why we have to continue fighting. I do believe they will do the right thing in the end, but they need a lot of support.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Gerald Jerry Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Morens <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: nal Academies to "discuss my service to NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm losing faith in our scientific institutions, the National Academies, the NIH, all terrified of Qanon conspiracies

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

On Jun 1, 2024, at 2:29 PM, Roberts, Rich(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Peter:

I would tell them to go to hell. Let them wait until you have had a chance to respond. At this point, they are trying to cover their asses instead of supporting one of their most stalwart members.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: 0
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Gerald Jerry Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) ; Peter Jay Hotez (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Keith Martin <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: email from the National o NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

As expected, rather than the academies coming to our rescue, they now want a "quiet chat"… no doubt I'll be urged to quietly step down from my current duties as chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats & member of the NASEM Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats.

If this isn't McCarthyism, what is it?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Symmes, Gregory" <(b) (6)
Date: May 31, 2024 at 3:57:55 PM EDT
To: "Daszak, Peter" <(b) (6) >
Cc: "Wood, Tasha" <(b) (6) >
Subject: meeting request

Dear Dr. Daszak,

My name is Greg Symmes and I'm the Chief Program Officer of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. You may remember meeting me years ago during your service on the Committee to Advise the US Global Change Research Program, when I was executive director of the Academies' Division on Earth and Life Studies.

I'm reaching out to schedule a zoom call with you to discuss potential impact of the recent HHS decision on your service to the National Academies.

My executive assistant Tasha Wood will be in touch with your office to arrange a time for us to meet. Please let me know if there is someone in your office Tasha should work with to help with your schedule.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best,
Greg Symmes

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
Acting Chief Operating Officer
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

<image001.png>

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 Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The information herein is privileged to the National Academies. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:08:09 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:07:24 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
((b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Peter Daszak** (b) (6)
Date: Thu, Apr 21, 2022 at 9:32 AM
Subject: RE: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)

Exactly – it's weak and will likely be ineffective at dealing with the pressures from the rabid Right wing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

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Tel.: +(b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

Disclaimer

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Date:	Mon, 30 Jan 2023 2:37:46 PM -0500
Sent:	Mon, 30 Jan 2023 2:37:32 PM -0500
Subject:	My latest
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs

240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websi[illegible]thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_033440
REL0000478090

(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: sts fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, January 27
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturc (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health- shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

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NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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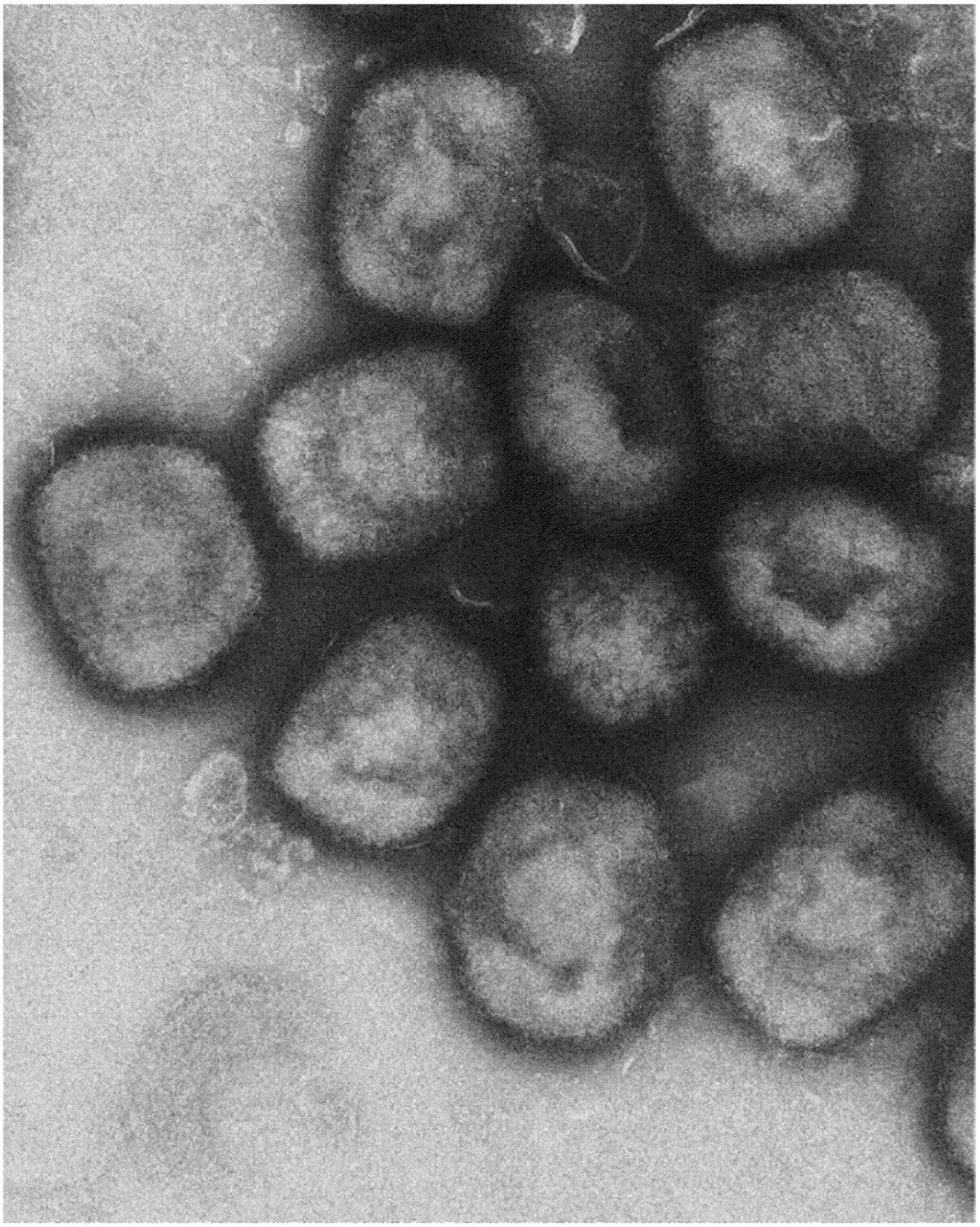

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkey pox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack.

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They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind

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of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."
But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the bigscientific 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
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Twitter
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Email

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Jan 0 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Janu PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Rich Robert (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

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute

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(b) (6)
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Stu (b) (6) >; A
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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MORENS_NIH_033448
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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 (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015752
MORENS_NIH_033449
REL0000478090

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Januar AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturch eksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
David Morens (b) (6) erald Keusch (b) (6)
(b) (6)
t by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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MORENS_NIH_033450
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iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6)
>; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerdFlux on Twitter

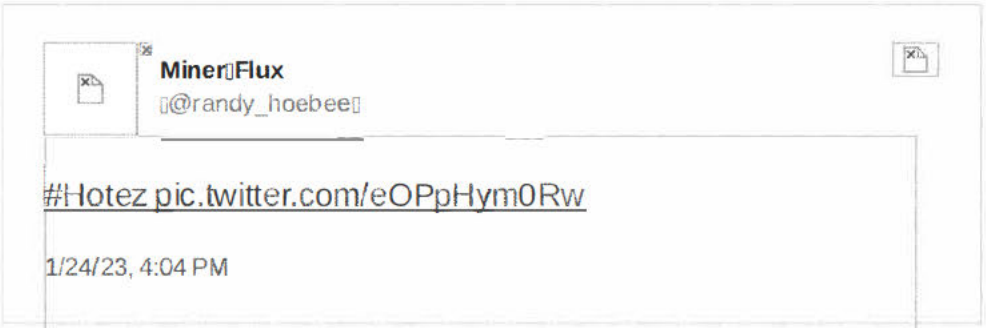
Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015754
MORENS_NIH_033451
REL0000478090

immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter



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iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015756
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REL0000478090

Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2024 12:34:19 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 17 Apr 2024 12:34:15 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

Agreed – this is a remarkably clear and cogent refutation of the entire R project behind the SSCP. It gives me hope that Congress may not be completely dysfunctional after all, and that rational discourse may yet return to its halls.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 12:16 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process

Finally a little backbone and spine

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 17, 2024, at 11:11 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

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Wow, tell it Luke it is. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Wed, Apr 17, 2024, 11:56
Subject: Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process
To:

Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process

April 16, 2024

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Press Release

Washington, D.C. (April 16, 2024)—Below is Ranking Member Raul Ruiz's, M.D. opening statement, as prepared for delivery, at today's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing examining the peer review process and the relationship between scientific journals and the federal government.



Opening Statement

Ranking Member Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic
Hearing on "Academic Malpractice: Examining the Relationship Between Scientific Journals, the Government, and Peer Review"
April 16, 2024

Scientific journals play an important role in informing the public about the world around us, critical issues facing our nation, and advances in science and medicine.

Since their inception, these journals have placed objectivity at the forefront of their efforts to study,

review, and publish articles that advance our research enterprise.
And when a once in a generation pandemic struck our nation in 2020, this was no different.
Despite the Majority's claims, the Select Subcommittee has not uncovered any evidence that directly implicates Drs. Fauci and Collins in a cover up of the pandemic's origins fueled by their collusion with scientific journals to suppress the lab leak hypothesis.
Under the guise of investigating COVID-19's origins, the Majority has continually advanced a conspiratorial narrative against our nation's public health officials relying purely on speculation.
Their probe into federally funded research has spanned more than half a million pages of documents, more than a dozen transcribed interviews, and multiple hearings, and yet it has failed to substantiate any of their claims about Drs. Fauci and Collins or even bring us closer to understanding how COVID came to be.
Instead, it has only further politicized an issue of great importance to our public health and national security, which is not without consequence.
In fact, we're already seeing growing divides when it comes to trust in our nation's institutions and how that influences people's behavior when it comes to protecting their health.
Rebuilding the American people's trust in public health is critical to our ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemics.
And the way we go about that is not by continuing to manufacture distrust in our nation's institutions by amplifying harmful—and often outright false—information about public health or by jumping to conclusions about how this virus emerged when its origins are still inconclusive.
Instead, it is by having honest conversations—that are rooted in fact—about what we can do better in the future.
So, as we begin today's hearing, I want to take a moment to address some of the allegations that have been levied by the Majority over the course of this probe and what the facts of the case have actually told us.
First, my Republican colleagues have alleged that Drs. Fauci and Collins orchestrated the "Proximal Origin" paper to suppress the lab leak theory, despite all evidence to the contrary.
Documents and testimony made available to this committee have repeatedly shown that British scientist Dr. Jeremy Farrar played the lead role in organizing and shepherding the paper through publication.
And second, my Republican colleagues have alleged that Drs. Fauci and Collins orchestrated a "takedown" of the Great Barrington Declaration.
Dr. Collins testified before this committee that he had privately called for "a quick and devastating published take down of its premises" out of concern for the public's health.
Documents and testimony provided to this committee have never shown that Dr. Collins pressured an NIH employee or scientific journal to "take down" the Great Barrington Declaration.
This committee seems to be forgetting that there is a difference between government speech—which the Supreme Court has previously ruled government entities have a right to —and government coercion, which my Republican colleagues are accusing public health officials of without a shred of evidence.
That aside, I have to say, I'm worried that today's hearing is setting a dangerous precedent—that if Congress doesn't like what you publish, you'll be hauled in before a congressional committee to answer for it.
The fact is, Congress should not be meddling in the peer review process.
And it should not be holding hearings to throw around baseless accusations, especially when there is so much work we can and should be doing to prevent and prepare for future pandemics.
Every minute wasted on spurious conjecture, every sentence spoken amplifying false information, and every hearing spent on unsubstantiated allegations comes at a cost.
And at the end of the day, it will be the American people who will pay the biggest price.
###
Subcommittees
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (118th Congress)
Issues: Coronavirus

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Date:	Wed, 26 Apr 2023 4:38:01 PM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 26 Apr 2023 4:37:51 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health
From:	Julie Jacobson <(b) (6) >
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >; Linnie M Golightly <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

Peter,
Hello, Julie here from ASTMH. I would like to suggest that you invite someone from Panorama to your meeting tomorrow. They have a strong team in communications and network building. They did some very nice work during COVID. They are well connected and have an important skill set and perspective that I hope could be helpful. https://www.panoramaglobal.org/ They have someone based in NYC (b) (6) but I am not sure if she will be able to join.
I leave it up to you if you wou
Julie

Julie Jacobson MD DTM&H FASTMH
Managing Partner, Co-Founder
Bridges to Development (US)
https://bridgestodevelopment.org/
2021 President American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
Email (b) (6)
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@DrJu
LinkedIn | Instagram | Twitter

Bridges to Development

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www.bridgestodevelopment.org
A Swiss and US nonprofit, tax-exempt organization

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Apr
To: Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) Karen Goraleski <(b) (6)
Cc: Alison Andre <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) ns <(b) (6) er Jay <(b) (6)
Golightly <(b) (6) Julie Jacobson (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

Totally agree Dan – I can't believe WHO put this out – it's hyped up and overstated – viruses are not likely to survive well in culture, or in a freezer after days of no electricity and no back up generators. Likewise, it's improbable to think that the warring factions in Sudan would have the expertise or intent to use them as weapons. It's also irresponsible in that the hype surrounding this announcement gives the people who control that patch of land clear leverage to use the lab as a threat. And WHO must have known this hype would be instantly used by the people pushing a lab leak origin of COVID.

Sure enough, the articles have already begun. First amplifying this story and linking it to the lab leak theory for COVID origins, then directly blaming Tony Fauci for it:

https://warroom.org/us-govt-funded-seized-sudanese-biolab/

The article above is from Steve Bannon's war room podcast. It will no doubt be picked up by other Right wing outlets, amplified, honed, and then emerge in the Daily Mail, NY Post and Fox News.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:53 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >
Cc: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Linnie M Golightly (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

Articles like this Sudan: WHO says fighters seized laboratory as violence mars US-brokered ceasefire | CNN, which include comments from CNN's medical source of the lab being a "germ bomb" and the WHO rep saying it is "extremely dangerous" won't help calm fears and flames.

Not that I think that we should be making this argument publicly, and not do discount legitimate biosafety and biosecurity concerns, but I think that the risk is often overplayed. Lack of lab maintenance would probably lead more often to virus degradation (e.g., as freezers and samples thaw out) and most of the pathogens are ubiquitous in the environment. Wild type polio would obviously be an important exception.

D.

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, 24 April 2023 14:38
To: Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) >
Cc: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Linnie M Golightly <(b) (6) >;(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000002
MORENS_NIH_000030
REL0000478095

of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

Exactly!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Daniel Bausch (b) (6)
Cc: Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) _____ Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Golightly (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

I think several on this email have seen this but sharing just in case. We know this particular House Committee is actively pursuing a broad agenda of mistrust in science.

ENERGY & COMMERCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2023

CONTACT: Press Office
(202) 226-4972

Chairs Rodgers, Griffith Announce Subcommittee Hearing on Biosafety and Risky Research

Washington, D.C. — House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chair Morgan Griffith (R-VA) today announced a hearing titled "The Biosafety of Risky Research: Examining if Science is Outpacing Policy and Safety."

The hearing will occur as part of the Committee's ongoing investigation into the origins of COVID-19 and other research involving potential pandemic pathogens. It follows a February 1, 2023, oversight hearing titled "**Challenges and Opportunities to Investigating the Origins of Pandemics and Other Biological Events**" at which witnesses discussed obstacles to determining the root cause of infectious disease outbreaks and biological incidents.

Chairs Rodgers and Griffith released the following statement:

"Our Committee's ongoing work has ignited heightened concerns about how we conduct and fund risky research and whether current biosafety measures are still sufficient to mitigate risks. As scientists, government investigators, and journalists continue to uncover more information, it is important to have public discussion and debates to ensure our policies and practices evolve to protect the safety of the American people and the world. This hearing will provide members and the public an opportunity to better understand specific risks involved with gain-of-function research on potential pandemic pathogens, current biosafety practices at high-containment laboratories, and will help better inform upcoming policymaking decisions."

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing titled "The Biosafety of Risky Research: Examining if Science is Outpacing Policy and Safety."

WHAT: A Subcommittee hearing to discuss how virus research can be conducted more safely.

DATE: Thursday, April 27, 2023

TIME: 2:30 PM ET

LOCATION: 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

WITNESSES: Witnesses will be announced and are by invitation only.

This notice is at the direction of the Chair. The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be live streamed online at **https://energycommerce.house.gov/**. If you have any questions concerning the hearing, please contact Lauren Eriksen with the Committee staff at **Lauren.Eriksen@mail.house.gov**. If you have any press-related questions, please contact Christopher Krepich at **Christopher.Krepich@mail.house.gov**.

PERMALINK

From: Karen Goraleski
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:25 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6); Daniel Bausch (b) (6)
Cc: Alison Andre (b) (6); Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6); Roberts, Rich (b) (6); Jeff Sturch (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6); Linnie M Golightly (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

Peter – chiming in with Dan on this … we/ASTMH will always advocate for sound science, policies and open and free scientific discourse. I and Linnie Golightly, our President-elect look forward to being at this meeting and the dinner that evening.

See you in a couple of days.

Karen

Karen A Goraleski
CEO, ASTMH

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April
To: Daniel Bausch (b) (6) >
Cc: Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_000032
REL0000478095

Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >; Linnie M Golightly (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

Agreed Dan, and this is why we need to rapidly move on a coalition, so no single organization or scientist is singled out.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 3:33 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) u>; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <j (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Karen Goraleski (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Linnie M Golightly (b) (6)) < (b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

Hi Peter,

Very disturbing news in your second paragraph (although I can't say surprising). ASTMH may serve as one avenue for advocacy here as this moves forward (although hopefully it won't). We're 501c3, and thus can't take a political stance per se, but we can, should, and will advocate for sound science and public health policy.

Best,
D.

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, 23 April 2023 14:28
To: Daniel Bausch <(b) (6) >
Cc: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) u>; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

No problem Dan – we'll definitely keep you on all the follow-up and are very glad you're supportive.

We're just getting information here that the Republicans in Congress plan on a series of hearings to attack virus research that will last right up to the next election. This goes way beyond 'gain-of-function' – they're intent on undermining a whole field, and doing that for the next 18 months to get maximum media and political impact.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Daniel Bausch (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2023 4:37 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Alison Andre (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Invitation to join a Zoom meeting with the Rockefeller Foundation next Thursday april 27th to discuss the launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health

Hi Peter,

Would like to attend but have dinner meeting with EU colleague at that time. Nevertheless, definitely support the initiative and hope to be able to contribute as moves forward.

Best,
Dan

Daniel Bausch, MD, MPH&TM, FASTMH
Senior Advisor, Global Health Security
FIND | Campus Biotech | Chemin des Mines 9
1202 Geneva | Switzerland
Email: (b) (6)
T. (b) (6)
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President | American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
www.ASTMH.org

Professor of Tropical Medicine | London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
www.LSHTM.ac.uk

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >

Sent: Thursday, 20 April 2023 22:40
To: Daniel Bausch (b) (6)
Cc: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) rens (b) (6) eter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: Inv eeting with the Ro ext Thursday april 2 launch of a Coalition to address anti-science attacks on public health
Importance: High

Hi Dan,

Just thought you might want to join our meeting next week by zoom. Here's the invite I'm sending out to people who we hope can join virtually. No problem if you're busy, but if you want to join, please respond and we'll send you a zoom link.

Here's the email I'm sending out to others…

I'm writing to invite you to take part in a meeting on April 27th 1-3pm by zoom to discuss the formation of a Coalition to defend against attacks on public health science. We're setting up the meeting to deal with the growing momentum around anti-vaccine 'anti-expert' conspiracies that have led to attacks on science and scientists, and efforts to undermine the funding and pursuit of research of critical value for public health. This includes efforts to undermine basic and applied research in virology, the growing movement that promotes efforts to undermine commonsense science-based public health measures, conspiracies around alleged health impacts of vaccines and the origins of COVID, as well as others. These attacks range from online hate speech to political efforts to defund science and harass scientists.

A group of us (Jerry Keusch of BU NEIDL, Peter Hotez of Baylor College of Medicine, Rich Roberts of New England Biolabs and the Nobel Laureates Campaigns group, David Morens of NIAID, Jeff Sturchio of CSIS/Corporate Council on Africa, and Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance) have been meeting by zoom on a regular basis to discuss how we can avoid the problem that individual scientists and organizations are being attacked, and when someone speaks out about it, they also become a target. We believe that if leaders in our fields and the organizations they represent can come together to protect science, we will be much better prepared to promote resilience against coordinated efforts to undermine our work. Note that while the topics of the day are COVID origins, school closures, mask mandates, our goals are broader and focused on ensuring that valid and important scientific research that has a goal of preventing pandemics, is supported by politicians, the agencies and the public.

Rockefeller Foundation has agreed to host our first in-person meeting for those in the New York City region on April 27th from 1-3pm. While we do not have funding to pay for travel to that meeting, we hope you will be able to join us, along with senior leaders from ASTMH, CUGH, universities and other organizations to take part in our discussion by Zoom.

Please respond back to this email, cc'ing Alison Andre, and we'll send an agenda and Zoom invite in due course,

Look forward to hopefully talking with you on April 27th!

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_000035
REL0000478095

Peter Daszak
President

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Date: Fri, 11 Jun 2021 2:49:45 PM -0400

Subject: FW: House E&C Republicans Send Second Letter to NIH Director Regarding Grants Issued to EcoHealth Alliance

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >

To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

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
● (b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
● (b) (6)
● (b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
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 Eco Health Alliance

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020165
MORENS_NIH_040689
REL0000478097

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:

"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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020166
MORENS_NIH_040690
REL0000478097

Date: Wed, 5 May 2021 7:34:11 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 5 May 2021 7:30:24 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter from Vanity Fair, Katherine Eban - please speak with her if she reaches out.
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;

Great – I think she'll reach out to you. Apparently she contacted NIH and no one was put forward to talk with her.

To be honest, I don't know what her angle will be, but all I see from reporters at the moment is an obsession with the lab leak hypothesis – it's got everything that people want to read in a story – intrigue, geopolitics, a cabal of powerful people hiding the truth (that's NIH, me, Scientists in general) and a group of internet sleuths who are uncovering uncomfortable 'facts' (that's the online innuendos being put out there daily).

It would make for a great science fiction or spy novel. Science fact, it is not…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 6:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) , Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Reporter from Vanity Fair, Katherine Eban - please speak with her if she reaches out.

Peter, i hope she does contact me and if she does i can twll her on background, or YOU can tell her, that it may not be impossible to talk to me on the record. I am totally glad to speak on the record, but for that to happen, the reporter has to be aggressive in not letting our minders turn them away. If a reporter wereto say: are you censoring Morens?, they would probably back down and try to go into damage control mode. Once i get the go ahead to speak to a reporter i can say anything

In short, i and other like me are NOT under censorship but rather a very elaborate and aggressive attempt to throw reporters off the trail by directing them to the pablum-speakers. D

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014182
MORENS_NIH_026780
REL0000478103

David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 5, 2021, at 18:01, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I spoke off-the-record with a reporter from Vanity Fair (Katherine Eban) who is a good health and investigative reporter, but just did the usual questions about the Wuhan lab. She told me she wants to do a deep dive on the origins of COVID, but didn't ask a single question about the wildlife farms of S. China (where the virus prob. came from). She told me a growing number of serious scientists are starting to speak about the lab leak – I asked who, her response David Relman (who I suspect she's interviewed). I explained he's not a virologist and approaches this from a mission of reducing biosafety labs and controlling gain-of-function work. I also explained that we don't do gain of function work in China, and that there is no evidence for it being involved in SARS-CoV-2, nor actually any evidence the virus escaped from a lab.

I have just sent her an email (below), giving her a list of people who she should talk with and I hope she'll reach out to you. Please talk with her if you can – we need a diversity of voices getting the message out there to journalists right now.

Here's what I wrote to her:

Dear Katherine,

Please consider this email off-the-record.

Apologies that I can't have a decent on-the-record conversation with you, but as I mentioned, my speaking about the lab leak hypothesis publicly doesn't help us get any closer to EHA's goal, which is to understand where COVID came from, and to prevent the next one. Every time I speak with the press on this issue, it brings more oppressive actions (e.g. bill to defund EHA) and more threats.

Here are some people that I hope are useful to you as you dig in on your story. Some of them I work with, others I don't. They are all aware of the issues, and all are bona fide researchers who have conducted significant work in their careers on viral emerging diseases:

- Members of the WHO team who were members of the Animal & Environment working group/veterinarians – Marion Koopmans (b) (6) ; Fabian Leendertz (b) (6) ; David Hayman (b) (6) or the lead of the team, Peter Ben Embarek (b) (6)
- Kristian Andersen - conducted substantial research ence of SARS-CoV-2 & repeatedly spoken out about how a lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (b) (6) u Twitter DM: @K_G_Andersen
- Trevor Bedford – as above (b) (6) Twitter DM: @trvrb
- In the WHO report (here: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who- convened-global-study-of-origins-of-sars-cov-2-china-part) and the Annexes (here: https://www.who.int/docs/default- source/coronaviruse/who-convened-global-study-of-origins-of-sars-cov-2-china-part-annexes.pdf?sfvrsn=3065bcd8_5) the Joint Mission finds the most likely pathway that COVID took is from a bat via an intermediate host (e.g. those found in domestic wildlife farms) into people. In the annex (p. 191) there's a short statement from Prof. Eddie Holmes who visited the market in 2014 and found live mammals for sale of the type that carry coronaviruses. China denies that this was happening prior to the outbreak, but there is unsubstantiated evidence on the web that it was. I recommend talking with Eddie Holmes, who is very well known and gives great quotes: (b) (6) Twitter DM: @edwardcholmes
- A good person to talk with about biosecurity labs and the NIH action is Jerry Keusch who set up and is now Director of the Boston BSL-4 lab (b) (6)
- You also mentioned the termination of EcoHealth's NIH grant. There is a wealth of information (letters, responses etc.) on what happened with that NIH grant on the following websites run by the Nobel Laureate Campaigns group: https://nlcampaigns.org/daszak_grant.html & https://nlcampaigns.org/daszak_grant2.html .
- One of the Nobel laureates, Rich Roberts would be a good person to talk with – he's aware of the issues politically and has spoken out about them: (b) (6)
- Another key person might be David Morens, who works at NIAID (Dep. Director level for Tony Fauci), but would talk on background: (b) (6)
- Jerry Keusch (above re. biosecurity labs) incidentally was the head of an NIH center (Fogarty International Center) for many years and would also be able to speak knowledgeably about whether the NIH action was unusual or not.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014183
MORENS_NIH_026781
REL0000478103

Finally, I hope you take my conversation in the way it was intended – having seen this develop over the last 15 months, I've seen clear evidence that stories focusing on the idea that the virus escaped from a Wuhan lab do nothing to help us get any closer to understanding where it came from. There is no evidence for a lab leak, including of any lab anywhere in the world having a virus that could plausibly be a progenitor for SARS-CoV-2 prior to the outbreak. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab had sequences or isolates (cultures) of SARSr-CoVs that they were hiding from us or not reporting, and as I mentioned, we published in early 2020, sequences of >150 novel SARSr-CoVs. Finally, despite the headlines, we have not been secretly 'funneling' or 'channeling' funding to WIV or 'hiding $40 million of defense funding' – all of our funding sources are publicly registered and reported on and our DoD funding is from the Defense Threat *Reduction* Agency which is well known for its work in trying to reduce the threat of bioweapons.

I strongly hope you are able to do a balanced job of reporting this. Some of the scientists above have been publicly vilified for speaking out about the lack of evidence on the lab leak theory, and they may be reluctant to talk. If so, please tell them I suggested their name and hopefully it will help.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date:	Mon, 18 Jul 2022 10:17:08 AM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 18 Jul 2022 10:12:59 AM -0400
Subject:	RE: FW: Daily Mail: Trump aide claims Covid 'came out of the box ready to infect' - claiming virus was being worked on by scientists in a Chinese lab
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Je (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg

I just think that anyone who really looks at the origins issue as a scientist, with objectivity, just can't come out with comments like this. RNA viruses exist in huge diversity in nature, so of course, the one that eventually causes an outbreak 'appears' to have come ready to infect – it's called "Natural Selection"!

Someone needs to send her a copy of "On the origin of the species" – methinks she hasn't read it yet…

It's less than $20 on Amazon….

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 12:54 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) , Rich(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: FW: Daily Mail: Trump aide claims Covid 'came out of the box ready to infect' - claiming virus was being worked on by scientists in a Chinese lab

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <(b) (6)
Date: Sun, Jul 17, 2022 at 12:51 PM
Subject: FW: Daily Mail: Trump aide claims Covid 'came out of the box ready to infect' - claiming virus was being worked on by scientists in a Chinese lab
To: David Morens (b) (6)) <(b) (6) >

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 8:59 AM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: Daily Mail: Trump aide claims Covid 'came out of the box ready to infect' - claiming virus was being worked on by scientists in a Chinese lab

Sunday, Jul 17th 2022

Trump aide claims Covid 'came out of the box ready to infect' - claiming virus was being worked on by scientists in a Chinese lab

- **Dr Deborah Birx said most viruses take months or years to become infectious**
- **But the infectious diseases expert and former presidential Covid adviser said Covid 'was already more infectious than flu when it first arrived'**
- **She said that meant Covid was either an 'abnormal thing of nature' or that Chinese scientists were 'working on coronavirus vaccines' and became infected**
- **She accused China of initially covering up how infectious Covid was**
- **'China was implying that they were containing it, but asymptomatic spread cannot be contained without testing,' she said**

By Ethan Ennals For The Mail On Sunday
Published: 20:30 EDT, 16 July 2022 | Updated: 23:33 EDT, 16 July 2022

Former President Donald Trump's adviser believes Covid-19 could have leaked from a Wuhan lab where scientists were working on vaccines for similar viruses.

Infectious diseases expert and former presidential Covid adviser Dr Deborah Birx told The Mail on Sunday that **coronavirus** 'came out of the box ready to infect' when it emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2020.

The adviser said most viruses take months or years to become highly infectious to humans. But, Dr Birx said, Covid 'was already more infectious than flu when it first arrived'.

She said that meant Covid was either an 'abnormal thing of nature' or that Chinese scientists were 'working on coronavirus vaccines' and became infected.

'It happens, labs aren't perfect, people aren't perfect, we make mistakes and there can be contamination,' she said.

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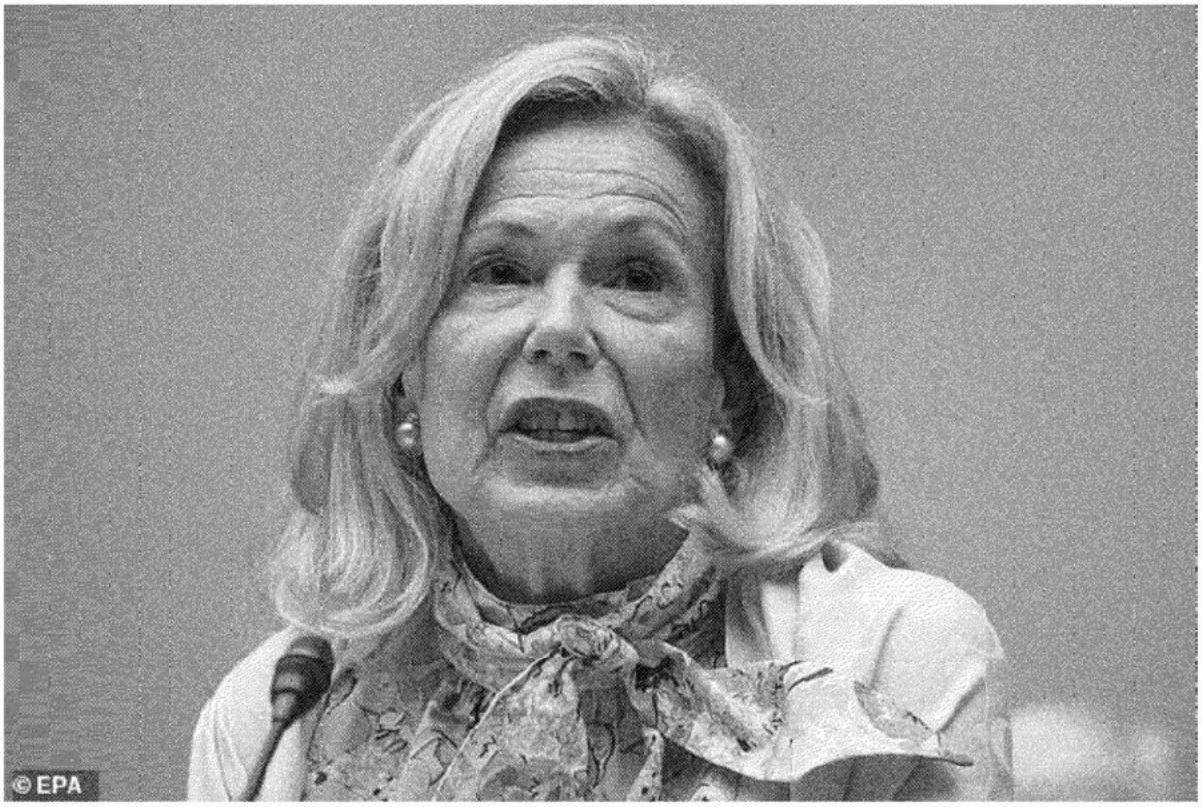

-

Former US President Donald Trump's Covid adviser Dr Deborah Birx (pictured) believes the virus could have leaked from a lab where it was being worked on by scientists

She accused China of initially covering up how infectious Covid was.

Birx said Covid's infectiousness was consistent with a virus which had been experimented on in a lab.

'In laboratories you grow the virus in human cells, allowing it to adapt more. Each time it passes through human cells it becomes more adapted,' she said.

Because people can catch Covid asymptomatically – meaning they don't show symptoms – Dr Birx argues a Wuhan scientist could have easily walked out of the lab with it.

'Someone working in the lab with one of the strains could've caught it and not known they had it,' she said.

Dr Birx also added that lives could've been saved if China had admitted the virus spread asymptomatically, when it was first discovered.

'China was implying that they were containing it, but asymptomatic spread cannot be contained without testing,' she said.



-

The then-President Donald Trump listens as Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator speaks about Covid in 2020



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Birx is pictured above during a viral reaction to Trump's 2020 comments that injecting disinfectant might cure coronavirus

'I think the world lost several months of preparation because we were thinking there wasn't that level of human-to-human spread when there clearly was.'

Dr Birx's comments came a month after the MoS revealed that the head of the World Health Organization privately believes the Covid pandemic started following a Chinese lab leak.

China has repeatedly denied claims of a lab leak and branded the idea as a 'conspiracy theory'.

But alternative theories – that Covid came from human contact with bats or from a meat market in Wuhan – are not backed by evidence.

The lab leak theory was touted early on but was shut down by liberal media who ridiculed the idea and even branded it racist.

It took many mainstream left leaning news sites more than a year from the spread of the virus, to concede that the lab theory held weight.

Some outlets, such as the Huffington Post, even branded any suggestion the virus could have stemmed from a lab as a 'toxic conspiracy theory.'

When Donald Trump, on May 1, 2020, said he had 'a high degree of confidence' that the virus escaped from a lab, the New York Times, CNN, and NPR were quick to mock his comments.

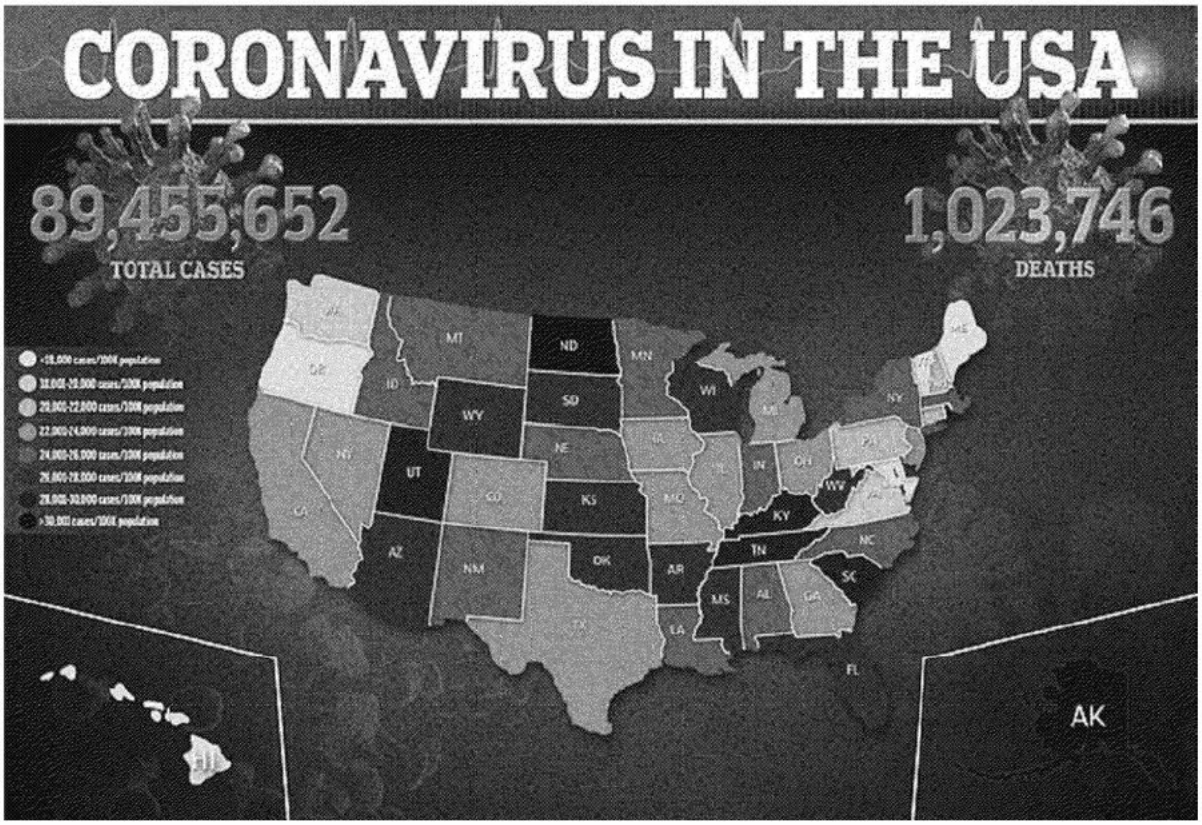
CNN was almost gleeful in its mockery of the idea that the virus could have come from a laboratory.

The Washington Post, New York Times, and NPR were equally dismissive of suggestions that the virus could have come from a laboratory.

Few were able to suggest that COVID-19 could have stemmed from a research facility without backlash but that didn't stop some media, including the Daily Mail, from questioning the narrative.

Fox News' Tucker Carlson was also clear in demanding an investigation into whether it could have escaped from the lab.

Finally, in early 2021, came the first signs that opinion was beginning to change.



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In January, a World Health Organization (WHO) report only served to raise more questions after Beijing strictly controlled an on-site visit and who the researchers compiling the report spoke to. The WHO team was only allowed three hours inside the Wuhan lab and was unable to examine any of the Wuhan institute's safety logs or records of testing on its staff.

By May 11, 2021, the leading public health expert in the United States, Dr Anthony Fauci, had accepted that the idea of the virus escaping from a lab had been too quickly dismissed.

Asked whether the virus originated naturally, Fauci replied that he wants to look closer into the matter.

'I am not convinced about that,' **he said.** 'I think we should continue to investigate what went on in China until we continue to find out to the best of our ability what happened.

When the pandemic begun, Birx together with Dr Fauci were two of President Trump's most visible advisers, regularly speaking alongside one another.

As the White House Coronavirus response coordinator, Birx was present at the April 2020 press conference during which the president suggested people should inject themselves with disinfectant as a possible COVID treatment.

Close-up video of Birx's reaction went viral online, with many social media users setting her reactions to music from comedy shows.

Birx smirked briefly and looked down as dejection set in.

The health expert drew criticism for not speaking up more publicly to contradict Trump's claims that drinking bleach could kill the virus.

'Frankly, I didn´t know how to handle that episode,' Birx told ABC television in March 2021. 'I still think about it every day.'

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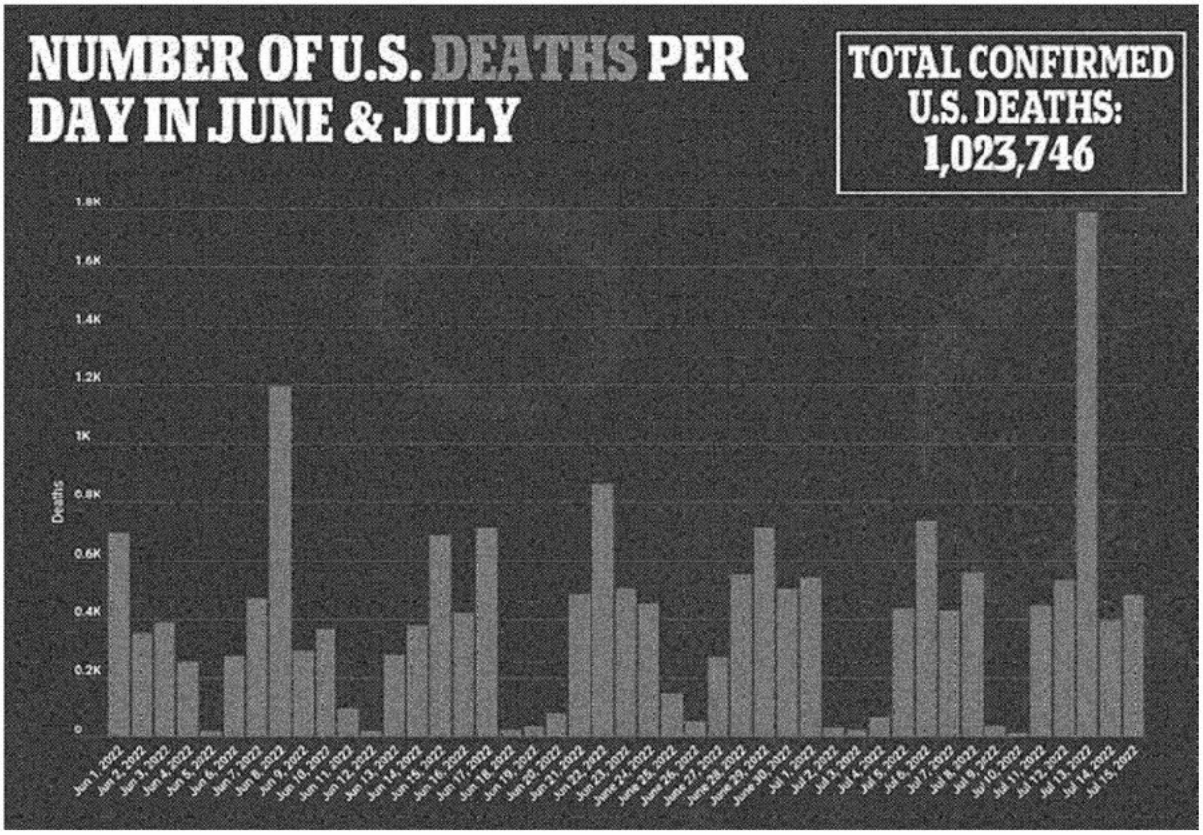

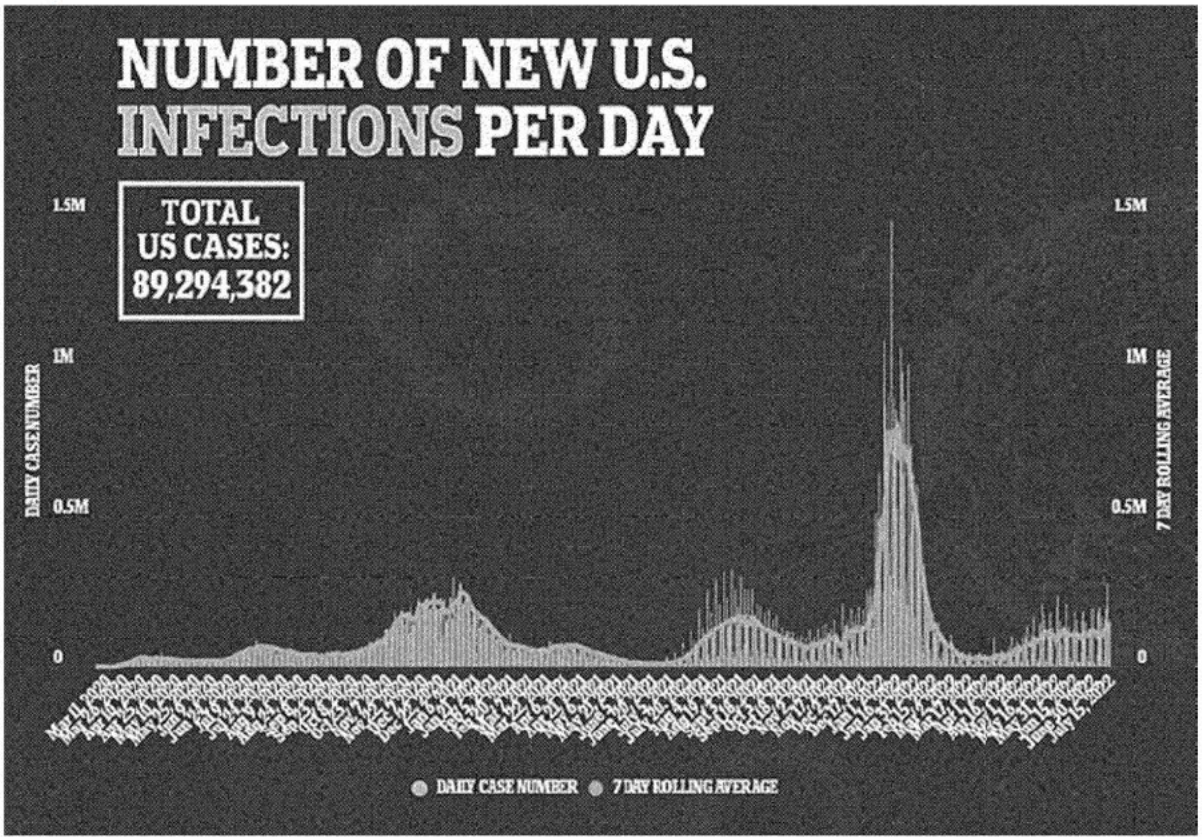

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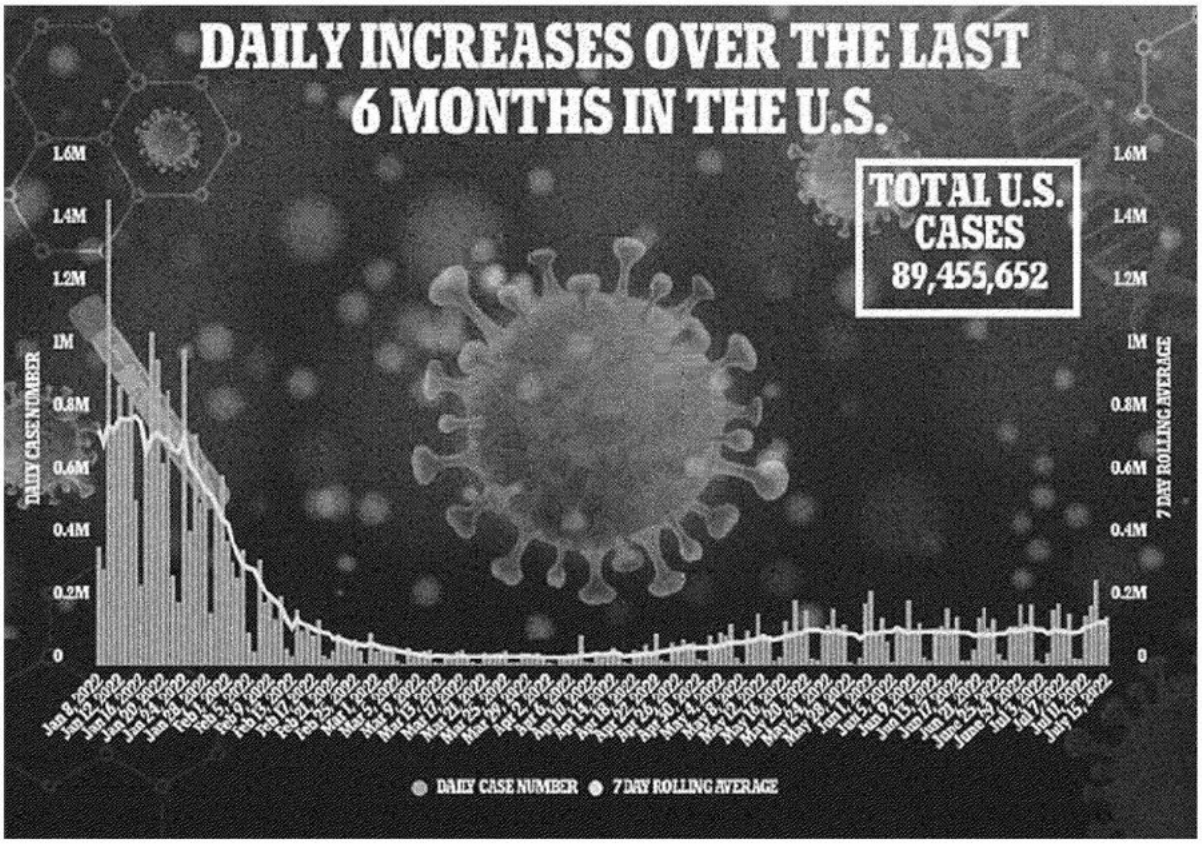

•

But by the summer of 2020, things began to unravel having fallen out of favor with Trump, who initially considered her 'classy' and 'a lady,' according to White House sources.

In August that year, the president replaced her with Dr Scott Atlas, a radiologist who had no epidemiological experience, but whom Trump had seen speak on Fox News.

Trump later called Birx 'pathetic' when she warned Americans that the pandemic is 'extraordinarily widespread' in the US.

Birx then took her message to states and localities, reportedly trying to counteract Atlas' public messaging on masks and social distancing.

Earlier this year, Birx published a tell-all memoir of her time as the Covid-19 task force coordinator; 'Silent Invasion: The Untold Story of The Trump Administration, COVID-19, and Preventing the Next Pandemic Before It´s Too Late.'

'I wrote `Silent Invasion' to document the full extent of what I witnessed as I tried to save lives during this devastating time,' Birx said in a statement. 'In the book, I expose the true cost of mistakes that were made at all levels of the federal government, but I also clarify the things that went right yet remained largely unseen - the insights and innovations that saved American lives in this pandemic and are essential to preparing for the next.'

Birx came to the White House coronavirus task force with a sterling reputation.

A public servant since the Reagan administration, Birx has served as a US Army physician and a globally recognized AIDS researcher.

She was pulled away from her ambassadorial post as the US global AIDS coordinator to help the task force in late February 2020.

She stayed in Trump's good graces far longer than Dr Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, who frequently contradicted Trump.

But Birx also drew criticism when she traveled to Delaware over Thanksgiving in 2020 even as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended against holiday travel.

She was accompanied by her husband Paige Reffe, one of her daughters, son-in-law and two grandchildren for the Black Friday trip, though she had warned Americans to 'be vigilant' and limit celebrations to 'your immediate household.'

Birx insisted the roughly 50 hour trip to Fenwick Island was to deal with the winterization of the property before a potential sale, and added that she did not celebrate Thanksgiving there.

Birx in October told congressional investigators that the 2020 election provided a 'distraction' to the Trump team from the Covid

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response, which she estimated cost the U.S. some 130,000 lives.
The election year 'just took people's time away from and distracted them away from the pandemic in my personal opinion,' Birx said.
'I believe if we had fully implemented the mask mandates, the reduction in indoor dining, the getting friends and family to understand the risk of gathering in private homes, and we had increased testing, that we probably could have decreased fatalities into the 30-percent-less to 40-percent-less range,' she concluded.
Birx has also testified about her battles with her successor, Dr. Atlas.
'I could see the consequences of what was occurring out across the United States and the severity of the virus among the most ill, and my concern about those who were potentially less ill,' Birx told the congressional panel. 'And inside the White House is a person that is basically wanting community spread to increase.'
Last week the UK surpassed 200,000 Covid deaths but worldwide the disease has killed more than six million.

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Date: Mon, 13 Feb 2023 7:25:55 PM -0500
Sent: Mon, 13 Feb 2023 7:24:34 PM -0500
Subject: New letter from the House Select Subcommittee on COVID-19 Pandemic
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; 2023.02.13 RMC BRW SSCP Letter to EHA Re. Origins.pdf

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.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.econealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:51 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
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
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Februa AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes I'm a member, and they do have some science and public engagement outreach. Probably the best person to discuss this with is Nancy Andrews MD PhD who is on their board as exec VP and also CSO at Boston Children's Hospital. We were undergrads at Yale together 100 years ago,
https://www.amacad.org/person/nancy- c-andrews

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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On Feb 10, 2023, at 9:20 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

One organization that might be very helpful would be the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They have many members who are not scientists including some quite well known people like Yo Yo Ma and JohnLithgow. They might be able to help.

Rich

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

So far Ann Moscona from ASV seems on board we can start with her? And the two names she suggested?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 4:35 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

I have not been at all successful in my outreach. I sent notes to Stef Bertuzzi at ASM, Mary Woolley at Research!America, and Carlos del Rio who is the foreign secretary for NAM (and the interim Dean at Emory Medical School) last Thursday after our call and I have not heard from any of them. I can get back to this middle of next week and if I haven't heard back by email I will call them directly. I can understand why Carlos might be suddenly overwhelmed with new responsibilities, which was one reason I thought about getting in touch first by email. But I don't think that applies to Stef or Mary.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
RE: Follow up from our call

The more the merrier as we say in the UK!

I think our goal should be to really get a lot of support from all segments of society. We definitely should avoid the claim that we are just being elitists.

Rich

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Would engaging with the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility be useful? Here's some information on the CSFR from the AAAS website:

Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) was established in 1976 by AAAS. The Committee Charter is as follows:

The Council recognizes that the CSFR, as a standing committee of the AAAS, plays a significant as well as potentially controversial role for the Association. The increasing complexity of the interactions among science, technology, and the public interest raise new issues and problems concerning the human rights, freedom of scientific inquiry, and professional responsibilities of scientists and engineers. The Association affirms at the outset that scientific freedom is grounded in basic human rights and implies special responsibilities to extend and disseminate knowledge for the good of humanity.
With these perspectives in mind, and within the resources allocated by the Board of Directors, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is charged with the following duties on behalf of the Association:

1. To formulate and recommend principles and procedures to guide the Association in a continuing review of issues that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, and to search for means that will effectively bring these issues to the attention of both scientists and others.
1. To monitor whether the actions and policies of the government of the United States, the governments of other nations, and of private organizations circumscribe or restrict the freedom of scientists or their ability to carry out their responsibilities.
1. To collect information on restrictions of scientific freedom and of the ability of scientists to carry out their responsibilities, and to make such information available to scientists, scientific societies, and others who may be interested in taking action to counter these restrictions.
1. To encourage and assist the AAAS, its affiliates, and other scientific groups to develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to establish policies, procedures, and educational activities designed to encourage scientists to accept their professional responsibilities both with regard to safeguarding the integrity of science and with regard to the application of science in the promotion of human rights and general welfare.
1. To encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to develop policies and procedures to protect scientists against infringements of scientific freedom; to collect information about the procedures of affiliated societies for dealing with documented allegations of such infringements; to facilitate communication among the societies with a view to strengthening of these procedures; and, in exceptional circumstances and within the criteria developed by the Committee, to conduct an analytic review of cases where the ramifications are deemed to be especially significant for the scientific community at large.
1. To report annually to the Association, through the Council–and, as appropriate, to other scientific and technological communities and to the general public–the activities of the Committee and its general assessment of significant developments during the year that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility and that call for examination, discussion and possible action.

As part of the attempt to fulfill its mandate, the CSFR in 1977 established a Science and Human Rights Subcommittee, specifically to address issues of human rights as they occur in relation to all these duties.

Adopted by the Committee for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility February 9, 1996.

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Adopted by the AAAS Council on February 16, 1997.

MEMBERS

Ronald Arkin
Georgia Institute of Technology

Angela Bielefeldt
University of Colorado, Boulder

Matthew Brown
University of Texas, Dallas

Deborah Johnson
University of Virginia

Kelly Joyce
Drexel University

Bartha Maria Knoppers
McGill University

Alexa Koenig
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Steven Livingston
George Washington University

Camille Nebeker
University of California, San Diego

Safiya Noble
University of California, Los Angeles

Frank Pasquale
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

Neal Rubin (Chair)
Adler University

Judith Tanur
Stony Brook University

Joseph Watkins
University of Arizona

MORENS_SUBPOENA_018671
MORENS_NIH_038147
REL0000478106

Committee Staff Officer
Theresa Harris
AAAS

Best regards,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Follow up from our call

LeBron was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke Kyrie Irving, citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the National Academies. I speak with Holden pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

Many thanks Rich!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with Keith Yamamoto at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with Harold Varmus and Bob Horvitz, both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with John Deutsch (ex-President of MIT) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with Holden Thorp (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like LeBron James could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe George Clooney would be favorable and maybe Harrison Ford, whom I met many years ago.

Rich

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From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 20234:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <

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REL0000478106

(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Notes from our call

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < keusch@bu.edu>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Notes from our call
Importance: High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

Rich will speak with:
- Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
- Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
- NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
- ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress
Peter Hotez will talk with:
- Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.
Next steps
- each of us will reach out to different contacts
- re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
- In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) m>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) # US (New York)
US

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_038153
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Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Ja
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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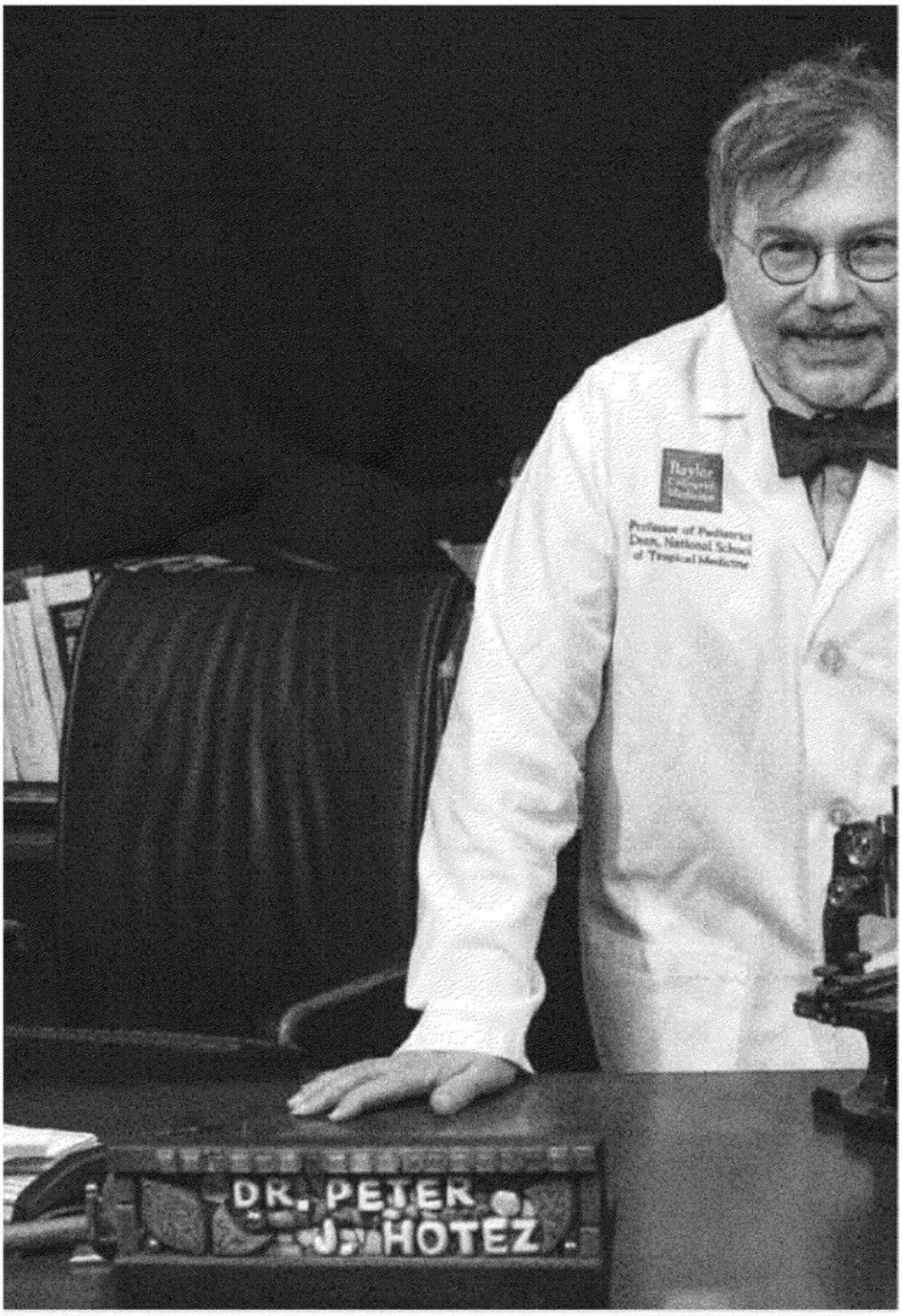

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and

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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,

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politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations,

what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus. After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers.

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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

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community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

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MORENS_NIH_038164
REL0000478106

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:50 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6)
(b) (6) , Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
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
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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 2
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) eusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) , Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) (b) (6) hmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Finally back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the

anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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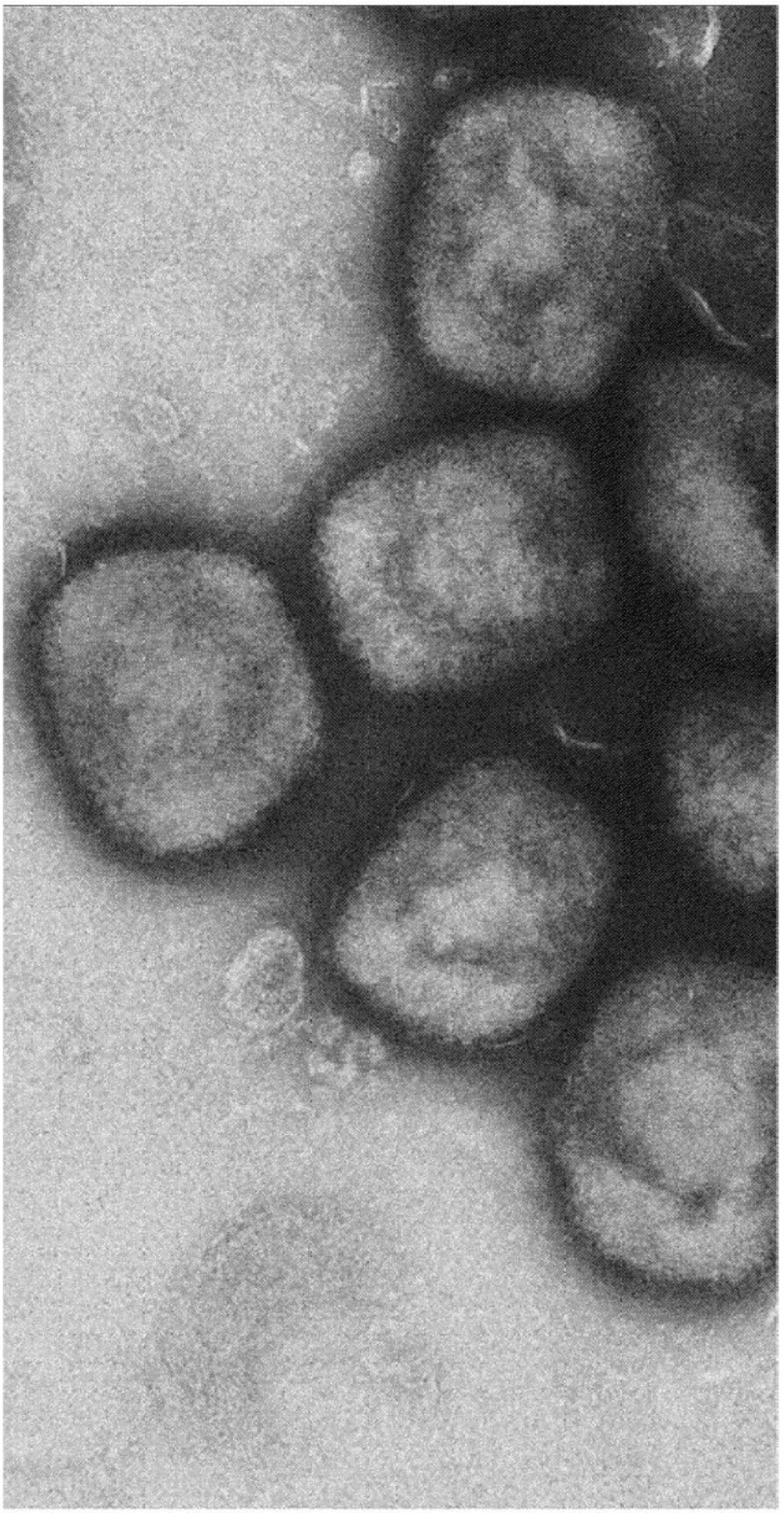

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to

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date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
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He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers

who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."
But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're

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really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
Facebook
Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Januar
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6) i Chmura (b) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >

Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >

Subject: Re: Tweet by 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

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) |
Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, Januar M
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <
(b) (6) el Chmura <
(b) (6) eusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
>, Rich Roberts <
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

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Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is

widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. Tthis opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6)
from (b) (6) . Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one

being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25. 2023. at 10:58. Peter Daszak <(b) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) u>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
> **To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> **Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David

Morens (b) (6) Gerald Keusch <
(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1.(b) (6)
Website: thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
>; David Morens

Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Rich Roberts
(b) (6)

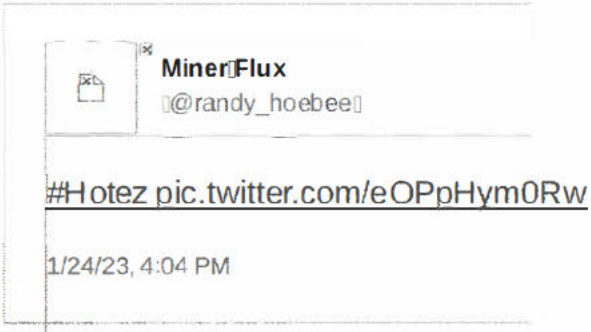
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24
To: Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura
>; David Morens
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <
(b) (6) y Sturchio <
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <

Miner Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Sun, 12 Sep 2021 10:35:36 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 12 Sep 2021 10:35:34 PM -0400
Subject: FW: The Lancet: Interview request about the publication
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens ((b) (6)
<(b) (6)

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: (b) (6) <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
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!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023131
MORENS_NIH_044217
REL0000478107

Date: Fri, 31 May 2024 7:04:46 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Comment from Peter Staley about Tony Fauci re. our suspension and proposed debarment
From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments: image002.jpg

Just to let you all know that I heard from Peter Staley, who's one of the original Act Up! Members who protested NIH then became a close friend of Tony Fauci. I let him know what had happened to us re. the SSCP, the Democrats, HHS Secretary, NIH Director, all lining up to allow us to be suspended and proposed for debarment.

He said that what's happening to EcoHealth is a 'travesty' and that he, Peter, first heard about it from Tony Fauci, who was "shocked by the development".

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) ; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: My meetings at Stanford this week

Peter:

Thanks. I have all of the Nobel Laureates on my contact list. It is always good to know when they are very concerned. If you see her again, please remind her that it is always appreciated when she replied to my emails.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistan (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Ja (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) DavidMorens (b) (6) >
Subject: My meetings at Stanford

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich: I'm giving visiting lectures at Stanford and have been speaking again with Carolyn Bertozzi, last year's Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. I briefed her on the House Subcommittee hearings and she is very concerned about what's going on and i think is prepared to help in the defense of science. So as you organize the other laureates, I would encourage you to keep her in mind, In addition to Marty Chalfie, best Peter



Carolyn Bertozzi | Chemistry
chemistry.stanford.edu

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

Date: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:32:20 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 7 Aug 2022 3:32:15 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)

Peter:

They're never going to stop.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 7, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Here's a new one

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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E-mail: (b) (6)
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 7, 2022 at 1:32:42 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Subject: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dr. Hotez,

I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.

The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.

Questions:

1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_009315
MORENS_NIH_019761
REL0000478114



MORENS_SUBPOENA_009316
MORENS_NIH_019762
REL0000478114

Date: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 10:40:06 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 12 Apr 2022 10:39:58 PM -0400
Subject: Re: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

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

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E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Apr 12, 2022, at 4:52 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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Thanks all for your positive comments. I'm going through my usual phases of mourning every time a new attack happens. First it's despair, then sadness, then realization that my only option is to fight back and hope that people accept that all we've ever done at EcoHealth is follow the standard scientific process and kept our integrity through that – including not handing over information on unfunded proposals, and responding to every attack from the right wingers.

What's clear to me is that all of the normal checks and balances we rely on in our careers are managed by a small number of gatekeepers who we expect to stand up and speak out on principle when fellow scientists are treated like garbage. Some do – yourselves included. Most don't, and it seems that includes Victor Dzau, Francis Collins, Richard Horton.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members

Peter:

Appalling! Yet again I am glad that I am not a member of any of the Academies. They are completely toothless as well as incompetent. Almost as bad as the UN.

Happy to chat if it might help. Otherwise I will see in a couple of weeks' time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay
Cc: Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Kim, Se (b) (6)
Subject: confidential

Dear Dr. Daszak,

On behalf of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), I am notifying you that the NAM has received a complaint alleging that you have engaged in conduct(s) that may constitute violation(s) of the NAM Code of Conduct for members.

Please find attached a notification letter, supplemental documentation, and NAM bylaws and Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the NAM Policy and Procedure on Violations of the Code of Conduct, please provide a response to the allegations within 30 days of the date of this notification, and by no later than May 13, 2022.

For your awareness, copies of this notification is postage mailed by FedEx to your office address at EcoHealth Alliance, 520 Eighth Ave Suite 1200, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, M.D., M.P.H.
Home Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

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Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 4:33:40 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 4:31:40 PM -0400
Subject:	Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image016.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; Harrison and Sachs 2022 Call for an independent inquiry into the origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus PNAS.pdf

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 takeover 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."

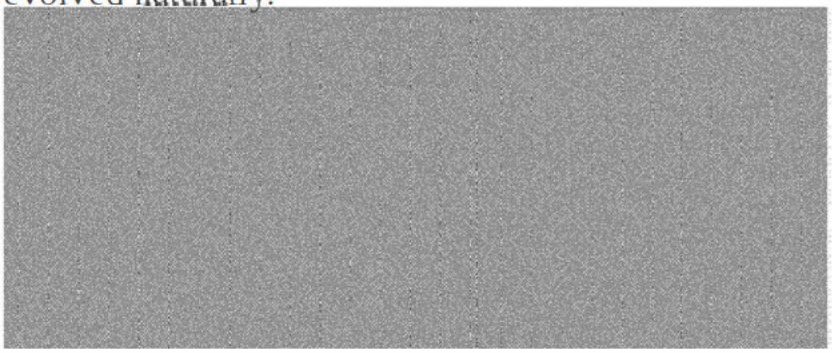
The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

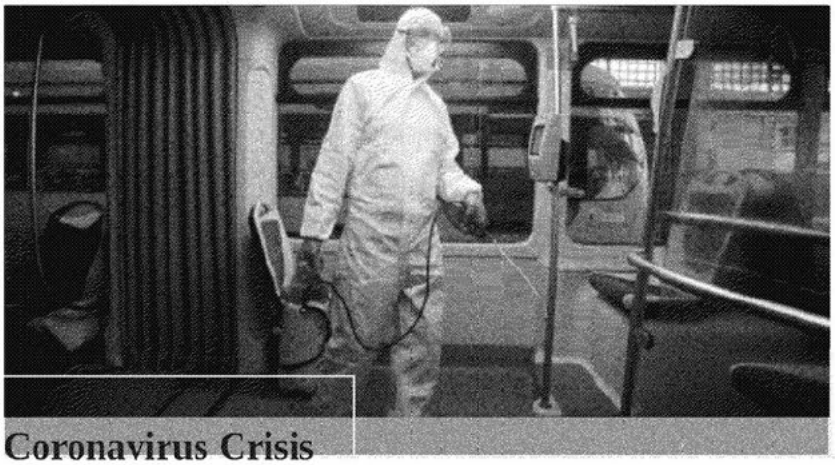
Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, 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.

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Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

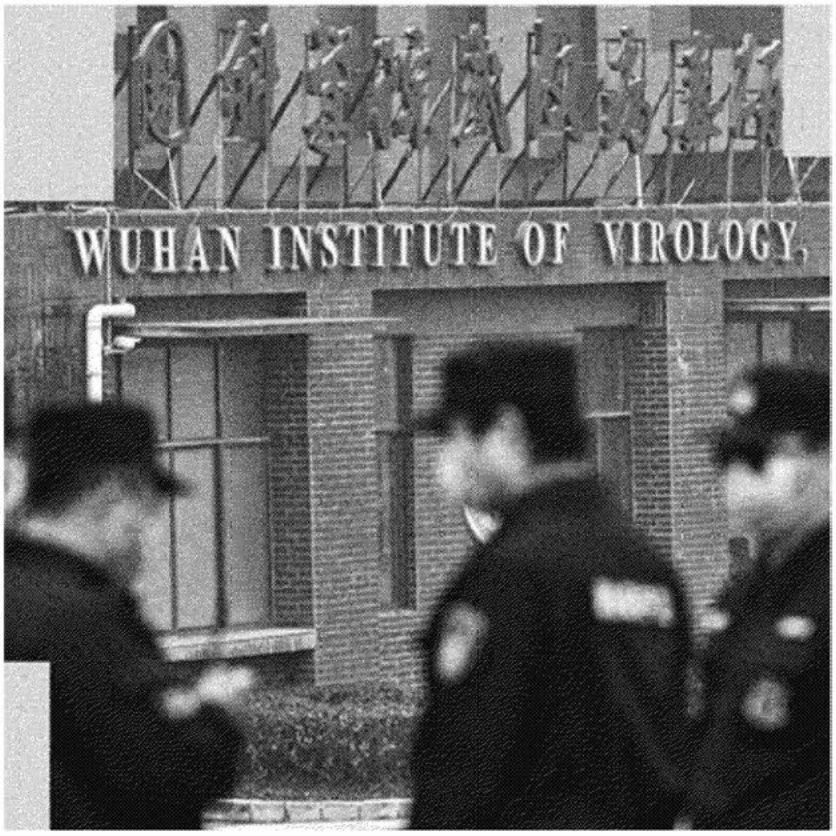
"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted

Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be 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

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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 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."

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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

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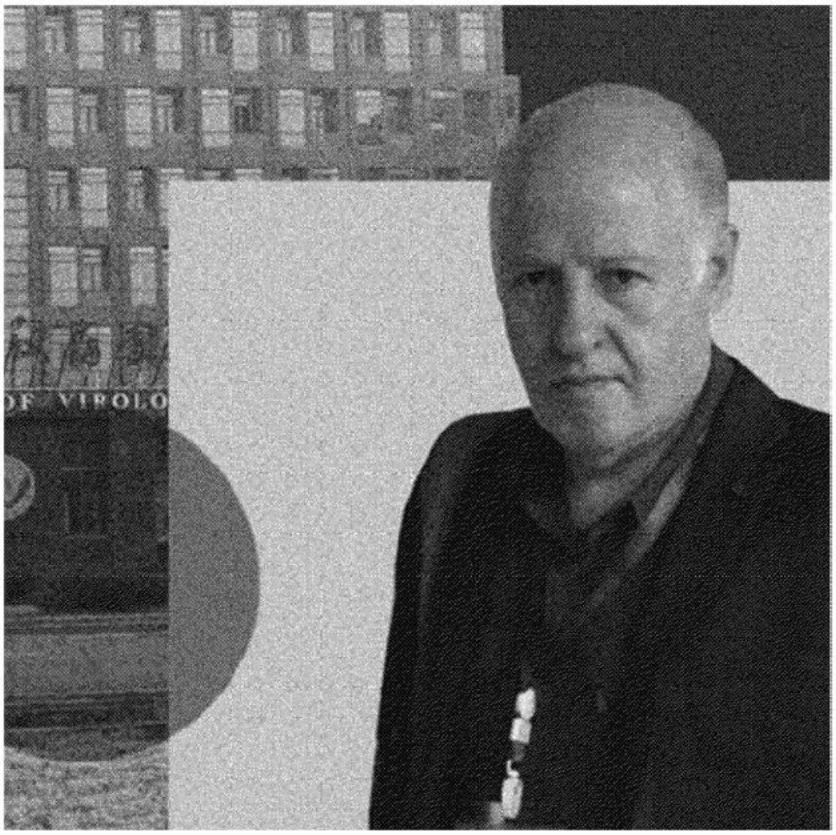
"condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



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
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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <[redacted]>; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [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_010394
MORENS_NIH_020907
REL0000478126

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) u>; Roberts, Rich(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6) >
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6)) (b

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010395
MORENS_NIH_020908
REL0000478126

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.

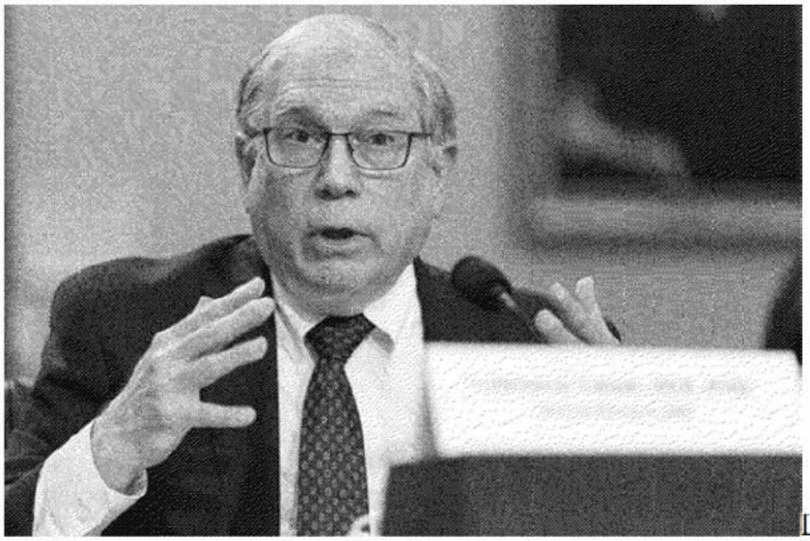
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

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_010396
MORENS_NIH_020909
REL0000478126


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.

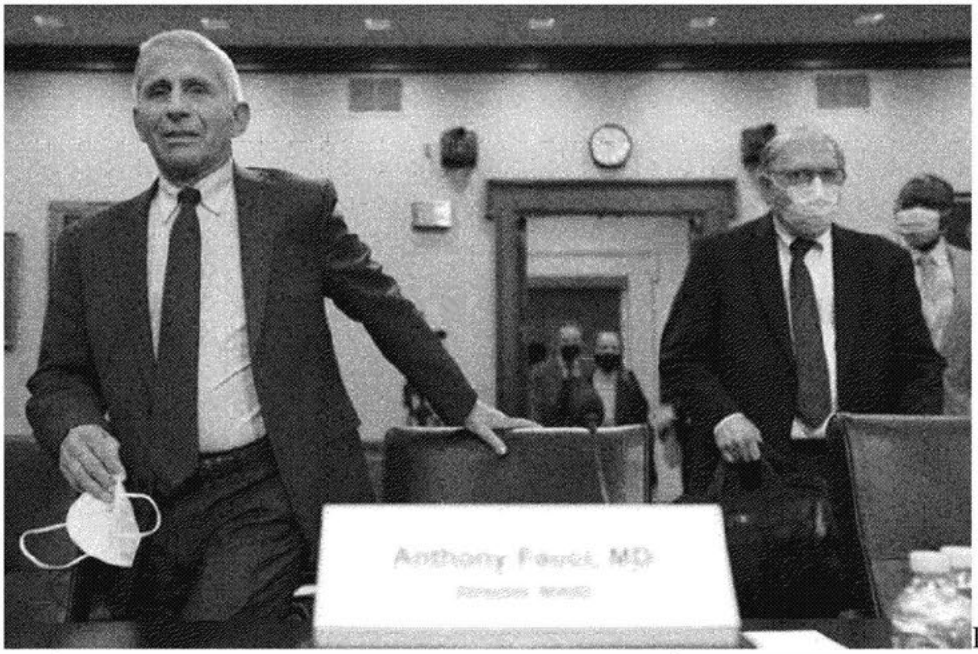


Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

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.

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Date:	Wed, 28 Feb 2024 12:35:02 PM -0500
Subject:	Fwd: Science: International panel calls for tighter oversight of risky pathogen studies
From:	David Morens <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) peter hotez Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei C (b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg

David Morens

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (mobile)

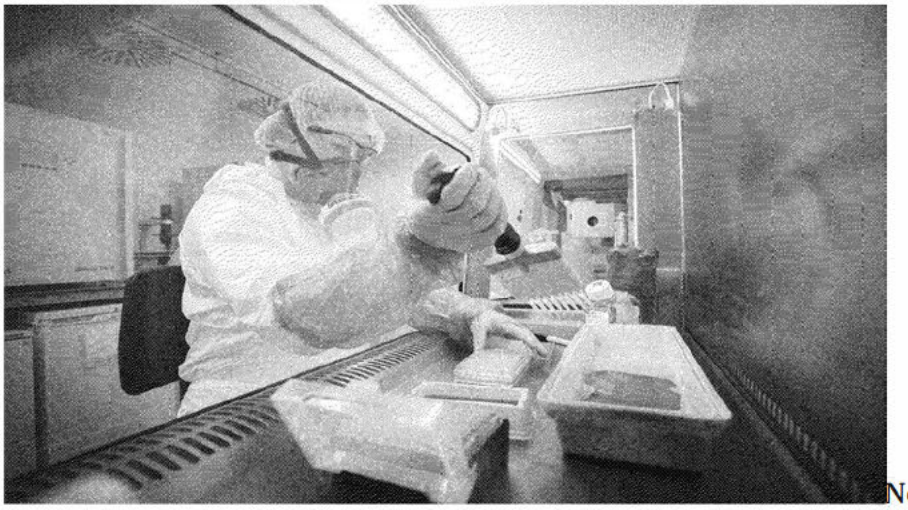
IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** (b) (6)
Date: Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Science: International panel calls for tighter oversight of risky pathogen studies
To:

International panel calls for tighter oversight of risky pathogen studies

Pathogen Project's report does not rule out gain-of-function research and virus hunting, but urges better biosafety and biosecurity

- 28 Feb 2024
- 10:00 AM ET
- ByJocelyn Kaiser


New rules are needed for lab research on pathogens that could cause a pandemic, an expert panel says.Jane Barlow/PA Images via Getty Images

Research on dangerous human pathogens is essential to protect people from epidemics and pandemics, but safety rules for such work need to be tighter and more consistent around the world, according to a report released today by a broad international task force launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. "All countries must look carefully at pathogen security, and we hope our report provides a universal framework," said co-chair Ravindra Gupta, a virologist at the University of Cambridge.

The report drew praise from scientists who acknowledge the risks of some types of virological experiments but worry more safety rules might hamper biomedical progress. It "attains a balance that has sometimes been lost in the past when the focus was on risks, with little attention paid to benefits," says virologist Michael Imperiale of the University of Michigan. "The recommendations are reasonable."

The Pathogens Project was launched in the fall of 2022 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a group best known for its Doomsday Clock assessing nuclear and other threats. Organizers were concerned about the growing number of high-containment labs around the world that work with deadly pathogens, and the risk that an accident or a deliberate release of a virus or bacterium could spark a health catastrophe.

The project also addressed concerns about so-called gain-of-function (GOF) studies, a controversial type of research that involves modifying potential pandemic pathogens, such as H5N1 avian influenza, in ways that could make them more harmful to people. Some experts worry such research could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2.

The bulletin assembled a 28-member independent task force consisting of experts in biosafety, biosecurity, microbiology, epidemiology, ethics, and other areas from around a dozen countries. Among them are virologist George Gao, former director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention; chemist and former Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, a co-chair; and molecular biologist Alina Chan of the Broad Institute, who has promoted the notion that COVID-19 originated in a Wuhan, China, lab. The international expertise and diversity of viewpoints make the 53-page report stand out, says co-chair David Relman, a microbiologist at Stanford University.

The task force embraces a proposal from a U.S. government advisory group reviewing rules for taxpayer-funded GOF studies to expand the definition of a potential pandemic pathogen to include moderately virulent or transmissible viruses—which includes SARS-CoV-2—that could pose serious public health risks. (Current rules require stricter review only of studies using pathogens that are both highly virulent and highly transmissible, such as H5N1 and Middle East respiratory syndrome.)

The report also recommends that proposed studies on both natural and manipulated pandemic pathogens be done only if safer, alternative methods, such as studying the properties of a virus' surface proteins, aren't

sufficient. These "surrogate" studies have benefits, the report points out: They can be far cheaper than working in high-containment labs and allow for more statistically rigorous experiments.

But the panel stopped short of ruling out work with dangerous live viruses or even GOF studies on potential pandemic pathogens, which some scientists and lawmakers want to ban. Surrogate methods have "caveats and limitations," and results "often need to be confirmed using actual virus research," the report concludes. Despite the dangers, "We all agreed that work on some of the more potentially risky pathogens needs to happen for a whole lot of important reasons," Relman says.

The panel also supports the practice of collecting wild viruses in nature and studying them in the lab in hopes of predicting which of them could trigger a pandemic. Some scientists have called for limiting or ending such studies, in part because they sometimes take place in so-called biosafety level-2 (BSL-2) laboratories, which have fewer security safeguards than BSL-3 or BSL-4 labs designed to contain more dangerous pathogens. Chinese scientists, for example, have drawn criticism for studying bat coronaviruses related to SARS-CoV in BSL-2 laboratories.

But the task force found these field studies to be valuable, Relman says. However, it urges that viruses of unknown risk be studied at the same biosafety level as well-characterized, "taxonomically close relatives." Under that approach, poorly understood bat coronaviruses, for example, would likely be studied in BSL-3 laboratories. The idea is "common sense" and would likely be the norm in the United States, says task force member Gustavo Palacios, a virologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Reviewers of proposed studies on pandemic pathogens should weigh studies' public health benefits—such as the development of drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics—against their risks, and should seek input from outside groups for especially risky studies, the report says. The report also calls for laws and policies specifically regulating research on potential pandemic pathogens, international protocols for lab work and field studies, mandatory reporting of lab accidents—which sometimes get swept under the rug—and more research on lab safety and security risks.

Johns Hopkins University biosecurity expert Gigi Kwik Gronvall praises the report's biosafety recommendations. But achieving those goals "really comes down to the details," she says. "The next step is to actually drill down into what procedures, notifications, or processes are required to have oversight" while allowing "meaningful work [to] proceed in a way that doesn't hobble our ability to create vaccines and to do public health surveillance."

Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 9:37:43 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 26 Apr 2022 9:37:38 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Peter:

Did you receive a response to this letter?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:28 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

EXTERNAL SENDER

I really appreciate your email to Victor Jerry.

Since this is all in the public domain, I've attached the response I sent to NAM on Friday re. their decision to do a full investigation of some of these allegations against me and EcoHealth. It's much weaker and wimpier than I'd like, but just as with the NIH situation, I'm in no position to fight back since my future is entirely in the hands of a small group behind closed doors.

I'm extremely worried that Victor doesn't have the mettle to stand up to this political pressure. I believe he's just hoping that he can walk the line of least resistance between the political attacks – which are coordinated and relentless – and any protests from scientists (which haven't really begun re. this issue). My worry is that this cold calculation means he's going to do his utmost to protect NAM against receiving direct criticism from politicians on the right should they not provide them with a pound of flesh, and this means throwing me and EcoHealth under the bus. This is likely the same calculation made by Collins, Tabak and Lauer at NIH, who stated publicly that EcoHealth has a long history of lack of compliance, despite us providing documentary evidence that this is false.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Ap M
To: Roberts, Rich(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Threaten Victor with a public outcry from the NLs if he fails to act now and cut this investigation off? That's what I intended in the last line of my note to him. I think many others would be willing to speak up. I'll be interested to see what my two colleagues and friends - both NAM members who joined me in a call to Victor when this first came up – have to say.

I'll keep you all posted.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 10:12 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Jerry:

I'm not sure what the NLs can do at this time that could lead to useful action. I'll give this some thought and discuss with Peter on Thursday when we will meet in NYC.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Investigation of Peter Daszak

EXTERNAL SENDER

I sent the note below to Victor, now that the internal investigation at NAM is in the public domain.
Rich, it is time to mobilize the Nobel laureates. This is going too far and there must be pressure, all the pressure possible from the scientific community, and applied to Victor and NAM to stop it now.

Jerry

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000453
MORENS_NIH_004186
REL0000478133

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Monday, Ap PM
To: Victor J Dzau (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: Vermund, Sten (b) (6)
Subject: Investigation of Peter Daszak

Dear Victor,

I am surprised to see the Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee providing information to Fox News about supposedly confidential procedures at NAM. They of course are repeating the baseless accusations we discussed previously, but there is the uncomfortable reality that when lies are repeated time after time people begin to believe them. But now this is in the public domain. NAM no longer has the luxury of working through this in protected space. You are in the spotlight, and like it or not you and the Academy are being dragged into this dreadful episode in the history of science.

I would hope NAM has the courage to stop this in its tracks by issuing a brief memo to them saying the initial investigation has revealed no violation by Peter Daszak of the code of conduct and their request is denied. Period. The stakes are high, certainly for Peter and his career and his organization which has generated so much critical science for the past 20 years. But beyond Peter it is the very integrity of science and the stewardship of science and separation of politics away from science that is so threatened by these accusations.

I am convinced there will be an uproar at NAM if there is any adverse judgement passed on Peter and his integrity. Please stop it in its tracks while you can.

Jerry

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Date: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 11:36:04 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 11:36:01 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >;

Hi Peter,

First, and I already told Peter, my note to NAM members last night has had a few direct responses to me indicating it was received and people are already writing to Victor Dzau about it, providing membership input that the attack from the republicans is political and not an indication of misconduct. That's important.

The LA Times said no yesterday, in part because they didn't have the evidence to corroborate the charges I make, and because "the conflict between Peter Daszak and NIH over the past year could be a good subject for news reporting". I wanted to move the focus above the specifics of Peter and EcoHealth to the level of Francis Collins and his inability to defend the integrity of science and his spreading of misinformation. So I wrote back with my willingness to share the "evidence" and the need to get this out now before Collins leaves at the end of the year.

I am preparing to send it to the Boston Globe if I don't hear back in the next couple of hours.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:30 M
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
C Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee

Many thanks Jerry, what's the latest with the op ed?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Dec 6, 2021, at 11:20 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

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 <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: Process at NAM for dealing with accusations from Republican members of the House E&C Committee
Importance: High

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015191
MORENS_NIH_031670
REL0000478135

Follow the email chain below for the latest from NAM on my 'accusations'.

A swell 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

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 5:17
To: 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015192
MORENS_NIH_031671
REL0000478135

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
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.

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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015193
MORENS_NIH_031672
REL0000478135

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
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.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.econealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena <(b) (6) >

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015194
MORENS_NIH_031673
REL0000478135

Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015195
MORENS_NIH_031674
REL0000478135

President

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Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 1
To: (b) (6)
Subject:

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

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Date: Wed, 9 Jun 2021 3:12:01 PM -0400
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Thank you….. I am still mulling a bit and discussing with folks…..

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: We've week

Hi David,

I think you are on the right track. I am ready to help in any way I can be of assistance to you.
Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, June
To: Morens, David (N (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: RE: We've lo unders this week

Will do.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter, i had some long discussions with the Trop med folks today

They want me to write something, a follow up to what we did last july.

But they are 14 leaders not on the same page

I suggested a follo
w up one year later that does NoT emphasize rebutting the crazies but says here is what is needed now, urgently, and includes 5-10 things such ad 1 international open collegial collaboration
with China and other countries in the region, wider sampling/sequencing to look at the sarbecovirus universe, phylogenetics, serosurveys, etc.
Can you and your folks help me compile a list of top research priorities with supporting data?

I would also ask for good msps of Rhinolophus range separated by those species that are and are not enzootic for SARS-like viruses

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ETc….

The focus would be : proactive. This is an emsrgrncy. Science needs to get cracking! What must me do asap? (Funding you, and then what?). d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 8, 2021, at 19:54, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

OK – let me know. Before I would write anything it would be good to know exactly what they are proposing.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry < (b) (6)
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020115
MORENS_NIH_040633
REL0000478136

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June
To: Peter Dasz (b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter:

I would be happy to write to these funders if you think it might help

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6)
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020116
MORENS_NIH_040634
REL0000478136

Peter Daszak
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Websit lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: ami Herald [O llying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
● (b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b
)
● (b) (6)

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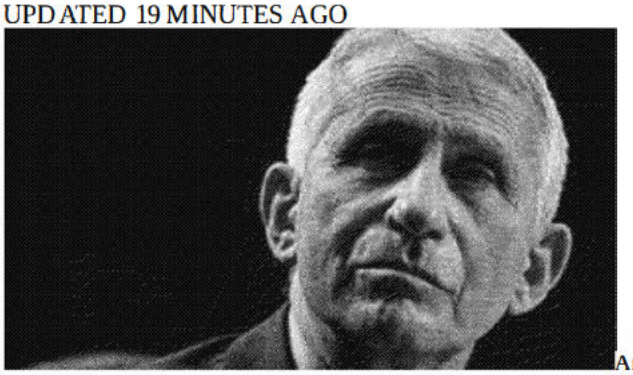
MORENS_SUBPOENA_020117
MORENS_NIH_040635
REL0000478136



From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:47 AM
Subject: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab | Opinion

BY ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
JUNE 08, 2021 09:13 AM,
UPDATED 19 MINUTES AGO


Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the coronavirus likely jumped species, from animal to human. *GETTY IMAGES*

Former President Trump, perhaps trying to divert attention from his own disastrous

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handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, is now lashing out against Dr. Anthony Fauci for allegedly failing to seriously consider that the virus might have originated from China's Wuhan lab, rather than from an animal's transmission to humans.

But judging from what Fauci told me in a June 4 interview, the most

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respected U.S. infectious diseases expert has not yet seen any convincing evidence that the virus may have escaped from a Chinese lab.

Fauci, who heads the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and is a top medical adviser to President Biden, said, “It is more likely” that — much like

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SARS, ebola, influenza and HIV — COVID-19 “originated from an animal reservoir and jumped species to humans.” He added, “There’s the possibility that it came from the lab, but I believe that that’s a much less likely possibility.”

In the interview, scheduled to be aired Sunday , June 13 n “Oppenheimer Presenta” on CNN en Español, Fauci said that it’s “important” to try to find out the exact origin of the pandemic, so that we can prevent it from happening again.

Biden has asked U.S. intelligence agencies to investigate the

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origins of COVID-19 and come back with a report before the end of August.

Asked how the investigation into the source of the virus should be conducted, Fauci said that the World Health Organization has indicated that it will go back to China to continue its investigation.

"I think it needs to be done in a collegial way, with the collaboration of the Chinese scientists, because you're going to have to have cooperation and do it in a way that you

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can best get the information," he said.

Regarding his emails obtained by BuzzFeed and the Washington Post through the Freedom Of Information Act, Fauci told me that his critics "cherrypick things out of context" when they claim that he knew more than he was saying publicly about the possibility that the virus

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came out of a Chinese lab.

Stressing that he never totally discarded the lab theory — though he never thought it was a major possibility — Fauci added that, "I think what has increased is the interest, not necessarily the evidence."

Right-wing media have had a field day with the

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Fauci emails, claiming that he was alerted about the "lab theory" early on and allegedly failed to take it seriously. Much of their claims are based on a Jan. 31, 2020, email, in which infectious-disease expert Kristian Andersen wrote to Fauci that some of the virus' features "[potentially] looked engineered."

But what most right-wing media fail to mention is that, a few weeks later, Andersen concluded, upon

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further investigation, that the "lab theory" was implausible. So the criticism that Fauci was wrongfully hiding the "lab theory" from the public does not hold up.

Of course, Trump now is trying to paint Fauci as the culprit for the fact that America holds the world's record for COVID-19 deaths in absolute numbers. In a mass email on June 3, Trump claimed that "President Trump was right about the China Virus coming from the Wuhan

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Lab," and suggested that Fauci was defending China.

But, until we see any hard evidence that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan lab, Trump's accusations should be seen as just another attempt to bypass science and divert public attention from the COVID-19 deaths caused by his failure to tackle the pandemic.

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Remember, Trump knew early on that COVID would be deadly — he is on tape telling author Bob Woodward this in February 2020 — but chose to lie to the American people for fear that it would ruin his re-election chances. What's more, Trump consistently refused to wear a mask or preach

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social distance, as scientists were recommending.

As I wrote at the time

Trump neglected his main duty — to protect the American people.

Granted, investigations into the origins of COVID-19 are justified and should continue. And there's no question that China's dictatorship is responsible for its delay in alerting

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the
world
about
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started.

But
barring
solid
evidence
that
the
virus
originated
from
a
Chinese
lab,
Trump
remains
the
villain
—
and
Fauci
the
hero.

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Date:	Wed, 1 Feb 2023 6:27:54 PM -0500
Sent:	Wed, 1 Feb 2023 6:25:58 PM -0500
Subject:	Notes from our call
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; Coalition meeting 2.1.23.docx; Concept Note.docx

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research

Notes from call 2/1/23
Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

Action items:

- Rich will speak with:
  - Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue
  - Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)
  - NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it
- Jerry Keusch will reach out to:
  - ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi
- David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress
- Peter Hotez will talk with:
  - Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)
- Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.
- Next steps
  - each of us will reach out to different contacts
  - re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22nd.
  - In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27th.

Summary of discussion:

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)

- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
- Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
- Georgia Global Health Alliance
- Bay Area Global Health Alliance
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- COVID Collaborative
- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016396
MORENS_NIH_034524
REL0000478137

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) u>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) # US (New York)
(b) (6) # US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

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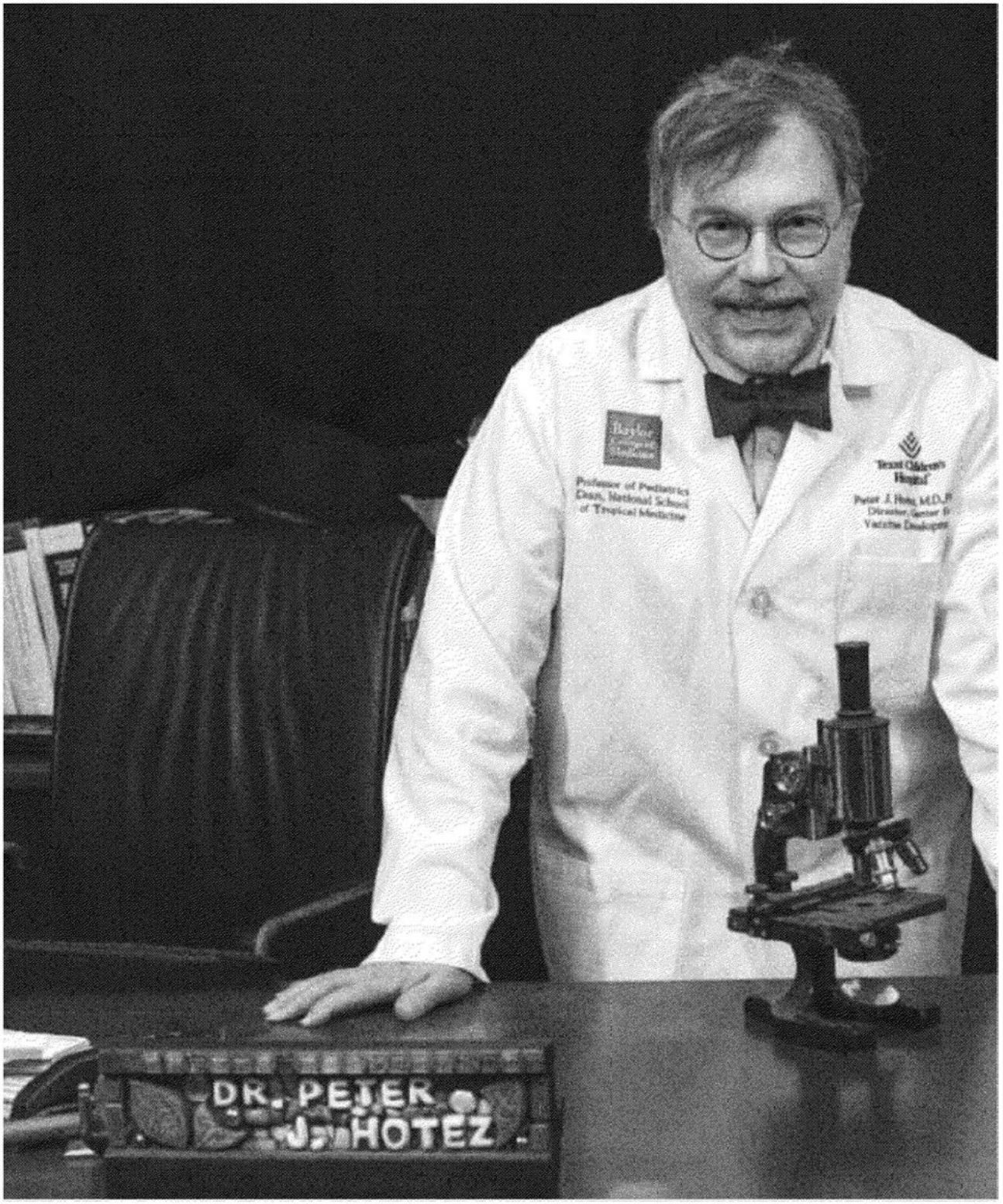

Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines,

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hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.
Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.
Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?
Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.
Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?
Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?
Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.
Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?
Hotez: Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee]

money… It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

Goudarzi: And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

Hotez: Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

Goudarzi: Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

Hotez: It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

Goudarzi: What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading

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these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

Hotez: Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

Goudarzi: Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

Hotez: No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

Goudarzi: Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

Hotez: It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18th-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or

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hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?" And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

Goudarzi: I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

Hotez: I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

Goudarzi: But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

Hotez: I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

Goudarzi: Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

Hotez: I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

Goudarzi: Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

Hotez: The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

Goudarzi: What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

Hotez: I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a

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COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.
And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
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USA
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, Janua
To: Peter D (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of compete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, January 2
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Finally - virologists fight back!
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists- science-oversight-risky-experiments) – and below, based

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on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - http://www.scientistsforscience.org/) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)…

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

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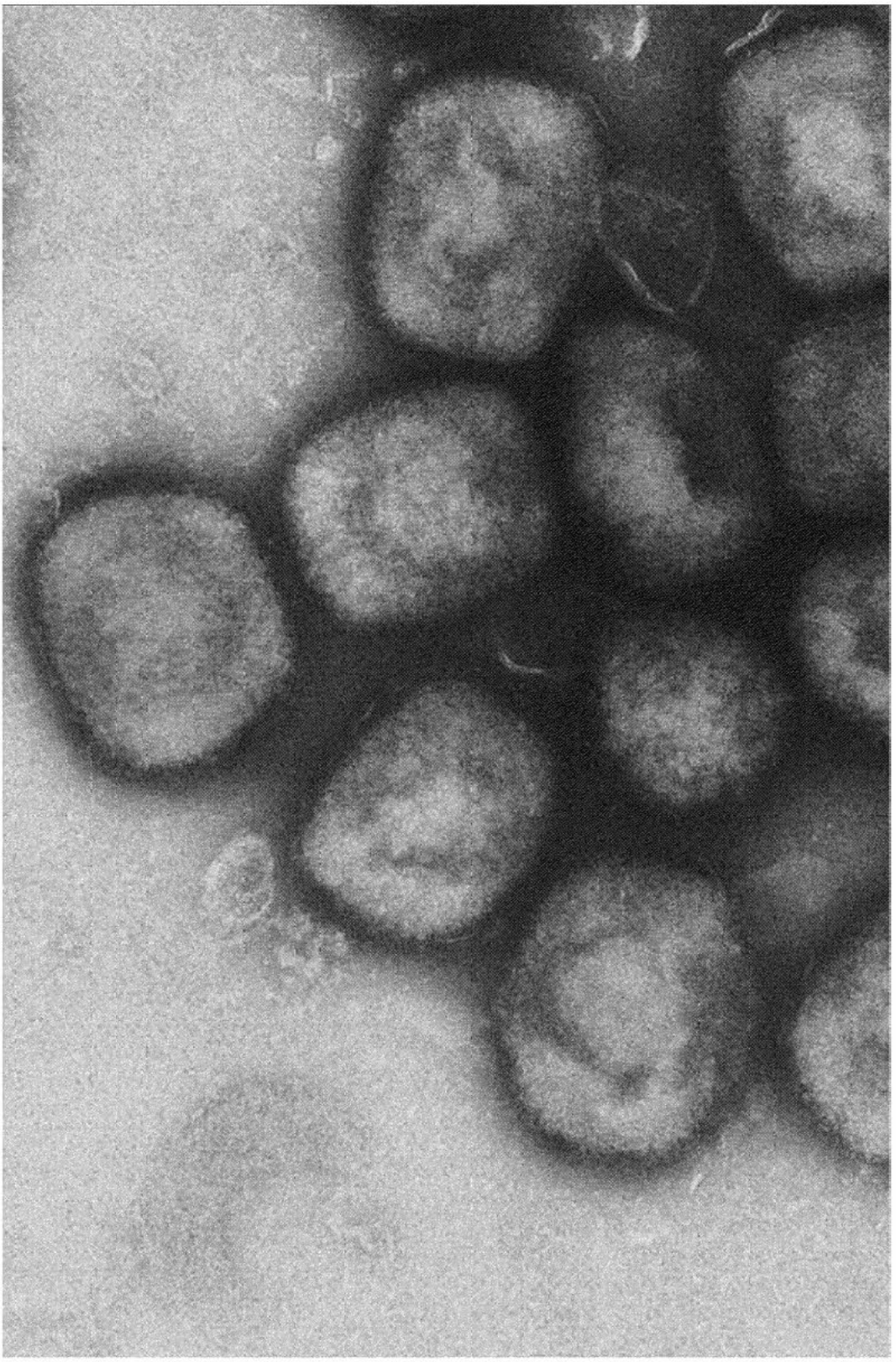

This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

NIAID

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

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attack.
They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.
The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.
"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Sponsor Message
He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

The origins of the pandemic

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.
Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.
"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route, " says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

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"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.
He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

A bird flu study raises alarm

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

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lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.
That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.
"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

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She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.
If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

What's "Reasonably Anticipated"

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

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Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."
He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

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go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory
coronavirus research
pathogens
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Twitter
Flipboard
Email

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_034542
REL0000478137

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (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 MinerEFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
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(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) > wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, Janua PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016415
MORENS_NIH_034543
REL0000478137

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er. …Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by 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

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vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a postdoc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we wa search mittee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ≥
Sent: Wednesday, Janua 5 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) n (b) (6)
Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Rich Robert
Subject: Re: Tw x on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Fax: 713-798-2299

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

(b) (6) Peter Daszak < > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6); Peter Daszak < (b) (6); Aleksei Chmura < ; David M (b) (6) rald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) ; David M Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Stuchiio (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by Miner□Flux on Twitter



Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Tue, 21 Dec 2021 10:26:02 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 21 Dec 2021 10:22:36 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 <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.png

Very good to hear that. It's really hard to stay positive sometimes with such a strong feeling of being rejected by your own community. Knowing that you're out there trying to right the wrong about political undermining of science is extremely uplifting – trust me.

Cheers,

Peter

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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website. www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Dece
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(
Subject: RE: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

Good chat with Tony. I won't go in to details, but I am happy with the outcome.

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, Decem AM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b)
Subject: Re: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

I wish you the BEST! I will be on a plane to Florida but await hearing how it all went...

david

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don 't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Dec 20, 2021 at 10:34 AM Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Shameful to the end. Where the fuck has he been all along? He is still at risk of reputational damage, and I will do whatever I can however long it takes to bring that to reality.

I will be speaking to Tony later this afternoon and I will be asking/urging/hoping he will help put a rod up Victor Dzau's back – by whatever route he chooses – to dismiss the allegations that Peter has violated the code of behavior of the National Academy of Medicine.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Decem
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW misses Wuhan lab-le straction' on last day in office

David M. Morens. MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don 't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6)
Date: Mon, Dec 20, 2021 at 9:48 AM
Subject: FW: Fox: Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office
To: (b) (6)

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 7:27 A
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

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Published 13 hours ago

Outgoing NIH director dismisses Wuhan lab-leak theory as a 'distraction' on last day in office

New polls finds 72% of Americans believe COVID-19 originated in Wuhan lab

By Yael Halon | Fox News

Retiring NIH director Dr. Francis Collins joined 'Fox News Sunday' to discuss the latest information regarding the omicron variant.

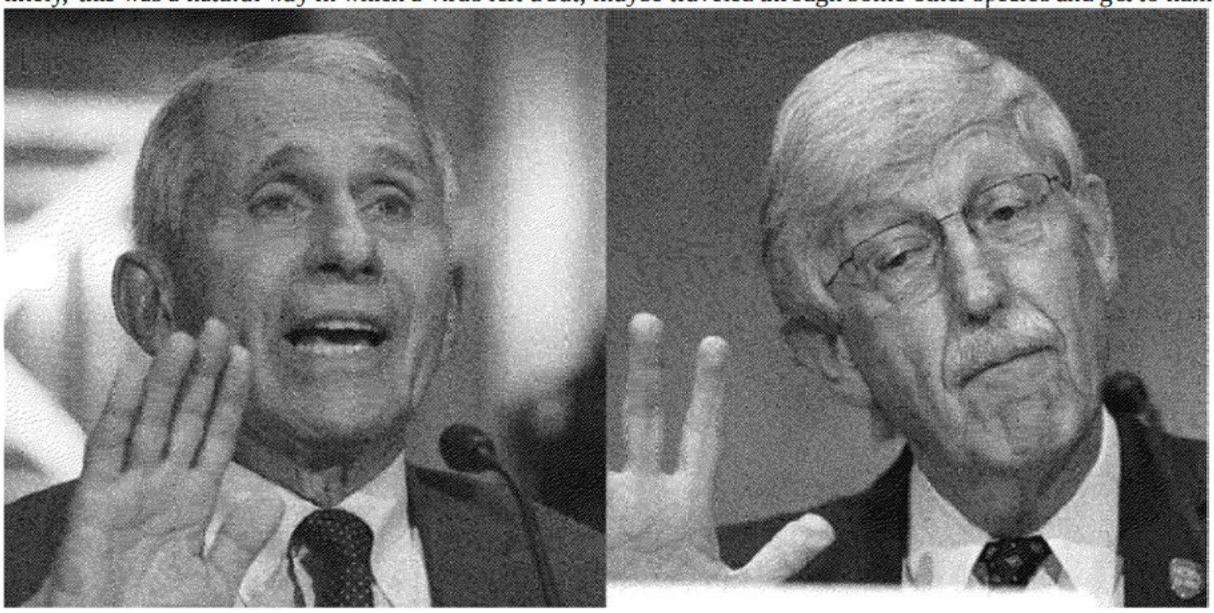
Outgoing National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins told Fox News on Sunday that he's "sorry" the Wuhan lab-leak theory has become such a "huge distraction" for the country, despite there being "no evidence" to support it.

Collins joined "Fox News Sunday" on his last day in office after more than a decade in the agency's top position. The geneticist and physician tapped by President Barack Obama to lead the NIH in 2009 dodged questions about his efforts to discredit the lab-leak theory at the onset of the pandemic, maintaining the most plausible explanation is that the virus spread through animal-to-human transmission.

"I'm really sorry that the lab leak has become such a distraction for so many people because frankly, we still don't know, " Collins told host Bret Baier.

MEDIA FACT-CHECKERS, FACEBOOK CITED WUHAN LAB-LINKED SCIENTIST TO KNOCK DOWN LAB LEAK THEORY

"There is no evidence really to say. Most of the scientific community, myself included, think that is a possibility, but far more likely, this was a natural way in which a virus left a bat, maybe traveled through some other species and got to humans."



WASHINGTON, DC - JULY 20: Top infectious disease experts Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, on Capitol Hill. (J. Scott Applewhite-Pool/Getty Images; Greg Nash- Pool/Getty Images)

Collins said in October of this year that accusations surrounding the agency's involvement in gain-of-function research and the Wuhan Institute of Virology had "absolutely" nothing to do with his resignation.

Still, emails released by BuzzFeed that reveal private correspondence between Collins and Dr. Anthony Fauci suggest a deliberate effort to downplay theories that the coronavirus originated in the Wuhan lab and, whether deliberately or inadvertently, their funding had any involvement.

"We won't know unless China decides to open up on this which they have not done, and shame on them for that," Collins said, reiterating that "this has been a huge distraction" for the scientific community.

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE COVID-19 LEAKED FROM WUHAN LAB, POLL FINDS

"We in this country have somehow gotten all fractured into a hyperpolarized politicized view that never should have been mixed with public health," Collins said. "It has been ruinous and history will judge harshly those people who have continued to defocus the effort and focus on conspiracies and things that are demonstrably false. Shame on all us that we've gotten into this kind of pickle."

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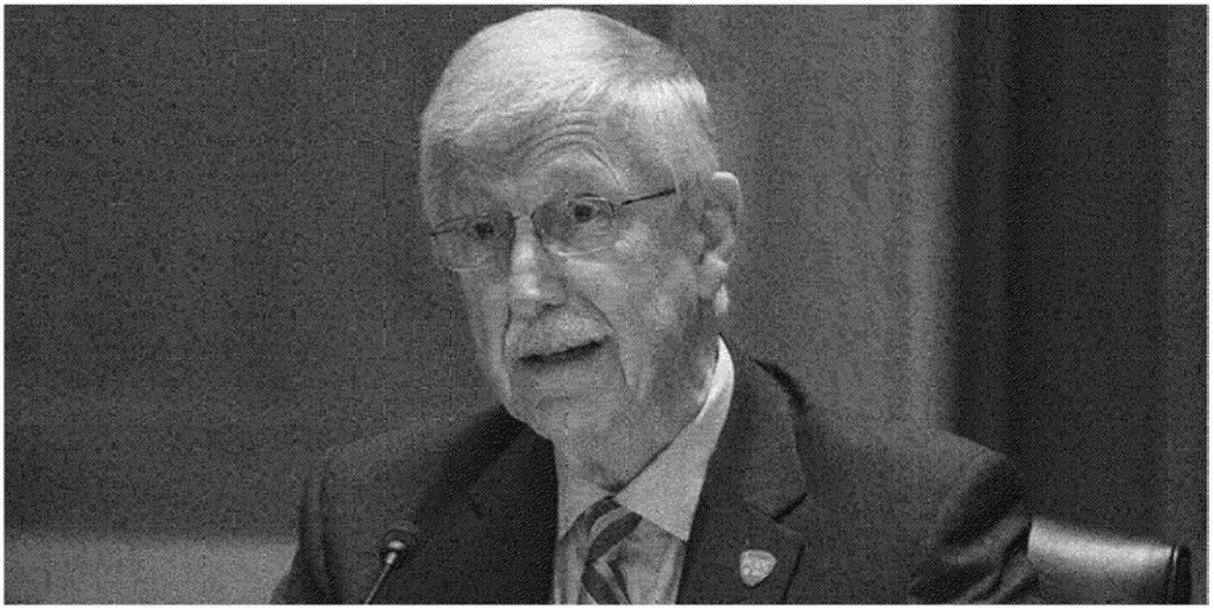
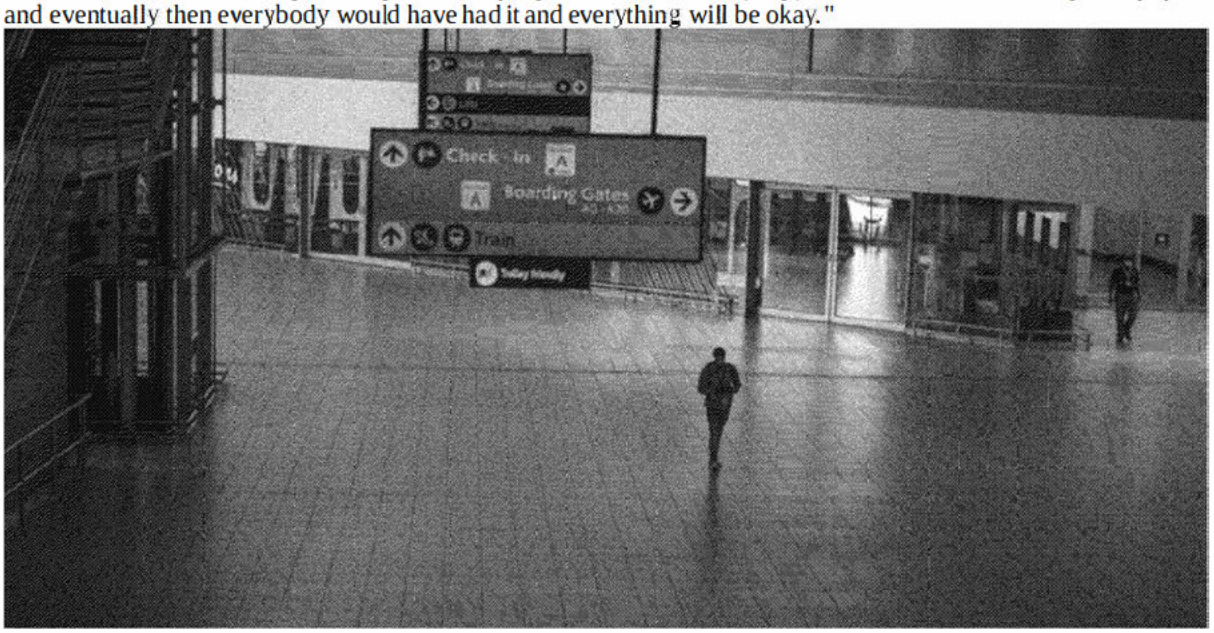


National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins testifies before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee looking into the budget estimates for National Institute of Health (NIH) and the state of medical research on Capitol Hill, May 26, 2021 in Washington, D.C. (Sarah Silbiger-Pool/Getty Images)

Collins made headlines on Friday after the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis released an email where he expressed deep concerns about the herd immunity strategy being advocated by "fringe epidemiologists," and called for "a quick and devastating published takedown" of the three experts promoting the herd immunity strategy known as "The Great Barrington Declaration."

Collins told Baier that he is "not going to apologize," for his words, arguing that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"I did write that, and I will stand by that," Collins said. "Basically, these fringe epidemiologists who really did not have the credentials to be making such a grand sweeping statement, were saying just let the virus run through the population and eventually then everybody would have had it and everything will be okay."



A man walks through a deserted part of Johannesburg's OR Tambo's airport in South Africa. The World Health Organization urged countries around the world not to impose flight bans on southern African nations due to concern over the new omicron variant. (AP/Jerome Delay)

The United States recently surpassed 50 million COVID-19 cases and 800,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Despite the staggering numbers, Collins maintained that "hundreds of thousands of people would have died if we had followed that strategy."

"So I'm sorry I was opposed to that, I still am, and I'm not going to apologize for it," he said.

CLICK HERE TO GET THE FOX NEWS APP

As for the new omicron variant, Collins said the U.S. should brace for a "world of trouble" the next couple of months, based on its higher transmissibility than the previous strains, which "pale by comparison."

Baier pointed to recent data out of South Africa that could point to milder symptoms and fewer hospitalizations from omicron. "I am hopeful that that is an indication that while incredibly contagious, this virus may be a bit less likely to make people sick," Collins said, "and obviously that is something we have got to hope for, or our health systems are going to be overwhelmed."

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Date:	Sat, 1 Jun 2024 3:41:36 PM -0400
Sent:	Sat, 1 Jun 2024 3:41:13 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: email from the National Academies to "discuss my service to NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision
From:	Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Jerry Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png

I'm losing faith in our scientific institutions, the National Academies, the NIH, all terrified of Qanon conspiracies

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Jun 1, 2024, at 2:29 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Peter:

I would tell them to go to hell. Let them wait until you have had a chance to respond. At this point, they are trying to cover their asses instead of supporting one of their most stalwart members.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs

240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2024 1:39 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Gerald Jerry Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Jay Hotez <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: email from the National Academies to "discuss my service to NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

As expected, rather than the academies coming to our rescue, they now want a "quiet chat"… no doubt I'll be urged to quietly step down from my current duties as chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats & member of the NASEM Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats.

If this isn't McCarthyism, what is it?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Symmes, Gregory" <(b) (6)
> **Date:** May 31, 2024 at 3:57:55 PM EDT
> **To:** "Daszak, Peter" (b) (6)
> **Cc:** "Wood, Tasha" <(b) (6)
> **Subject: meeting request**
>
> Dear Dr. Daszak,
>
> My name is Greg Symmes and I'm the Chief Program Officer of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. You may remember meeting me years ago during your service on the Committee to Advise the US Global Change Research Program, when I was executive director of the Academies' Division on

Earth and Life Studies.

I'm reaching out to schedule a zoom call with you to discuss potential impact of the recent HHS decision on your service to the National Academies.

My executive assistant Tasha Wood will be in touch with your office to arrange a time for us to meet. Please let me know if there is someone in your office Tasha should work with to help with your schedule.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best,
Greg Symmes

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.
Chief Program Officer
Acting Chief Operating Officer
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
<image001.png>

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Date: Sun, 16 May 2021 11:47:42 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 16 May 2021 11:47:06 PM -0400
Subject: and there's more...
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

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 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

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, May 16
To: 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' (b) (6) 'Keusch, Jerry' <(b) (6)

h 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
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Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

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: (b) (6)
Fax
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, May 16,
Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6)
Subject: Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing. His comment "The original WHO study was not considered to have been as thorough or as objective as it needs to be." Seems harmless on the surface, but is grossly offensive to those of us who spent 4 miserable weeks in Wuhan, and many more miserable weeks being attacked in the press since that. It also demonstrates a total lack of

understanding of the process of this study, and of the actual contents – 3 reasons why even just thi one sentence is inaccurate.

Re. 'not considered to have been as thorough' – It's actually more thorough than the internationally-negotiated Terms of Reference laid out. These specifically did not include any investigation of the lab. It was only after we got on the ground in Wuhan and were told a hard 'no' on looking into the lab leak hypothesis that I then reached out to Zhengli Shi and set up calls to break the ice on this, allowing us to visit the lab and ask the questions we did, and get new data from the lab. Looking back on this – why did I bother!

Re. '…or as objective as it needs to be'. It's been said repeatedly that the international experts on the WHO mission all unanimously considered the lab leak hypothesis extremely unlikely. If this is not objective, why not? Perhaps he's referring to the China side having also voted the same way – so what? Maybe because I was involved and somehow I can't think independently because I'm linked to the lab – so what? If >10 independent international experts viewed it as extremely unlikely, why is that not objective?

Re. calling it the 'original WHO study' is erroneous because it's ongoing. This was phase 1 and the recommendations in the report are for the phase 2 studies that are being designed right now. This is in the terms of reference that are published. It's fine for someone to not know these details, but if you don't know, you should suggest this was the 'original study' as if indicating there would be a future, different one.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
FW: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

David

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MORENS_NIH_030589
REL0000478148

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
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(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 12:00 PM
Subject: Hugh Hewitt: NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

THU, MAY 13, 2021 | BY HUGH HEWITT

NIH Director Francis Collins On "Gain of Function" Research At NIH and Wuhan Lab

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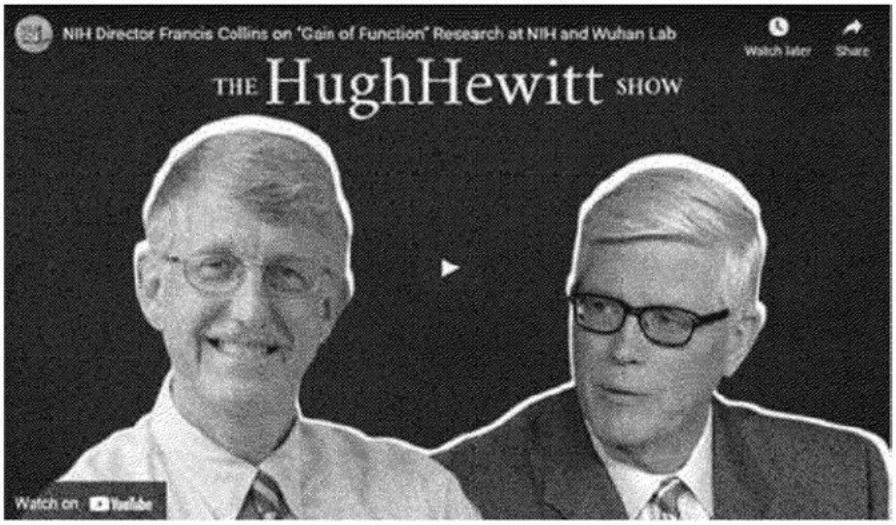
MORENS_NIH_030590
REL0000478148



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 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.

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NIH strongly supports the position that we need more thorough investigation of what exactly were the origins of this virus. The original WHO study was not considered to have been as thorough or as objective as it needs to be. NIH, working with the State Department, the Agriculture Department, and WHO, is insisting upon a more careful and more objective analysis of everything that happened in Wuhan back in December of 2019.

HH: But can you rule out, Dr. Collins, the United States having funded any sort of gain of function research in Wuhan?

FC: We absolutely did not fund gain of function research in Wuhan.

HH: All right. That's great.

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Date: Mon, 17 May 2021 4:27:08 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 17 May 2021 4:26:39 PM -0400
Subject: Whether to laugh....or cry!
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; E1naJVYWUAEcUJ3.jpg; E1naWEyX0AArF9p.jpg

OK, just when I thought this would be a quiet Monday…Checkout the lengths these folks are now going to so they can target the honorable Dr. Fauci via EcoHealth, via the Wuhan lab.

Story here… https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2021/05/17/wcw- dogs-fauci-over-wuhan-animal-lab-funding-for-tax-week/

Pictures attached. Brace yourself…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:20 PM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) 'Rich Roberts ((b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura ((b) (6))' <(b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler ((b) (6)) (b) (6) >
Details of BSL-2/3/4 levels for viral cultures
Importance: High

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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:27 PM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) (b) (6) ; 'Rich Roberts ((b) (6) (b) (6)
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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, Ma
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6) (b) (6)

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
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Building 31, Room 7A-03
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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:11 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD

AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Just the News: Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research
https://bit.ly/2S57PcE

Virologist: NIAID grantee funded Wuhan coronavirus studies used in gain-of-function research

In a tense exchange Tuesday with Sen. Rand Paul, longtime NIAID Director Anthony Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied his institute has funded gain-of-function research.

By Daniel Payne

Updated: May 15, 2021 - 11:44am

A prominent Columbia University virologist claims that in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic a U.S. nonprofit funded coronavirus experiments in Wuhan, China the results of which were used in "gain-of-function" virology research at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Vincent Racaniello made the claim amid ongoing controversy over a recently resurfaced interview between himself and Peter Daszak, the president of the U.S. infectious disease nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance.

Both EcoHealth Alliance and the scientist leading the research at UNC have been heavily funded over the years by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been directed since 1984 by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the public face of the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic under Presidents Trump and Biden.

Fauci categorically and repeatedly denied that NIAID has funded gain-of-function research in a tense exchange Tuesday with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) at a Senate hearing.

Racianello's half-hour interview with Daszak took place in early December 2019 at the Nipah Virus International Conference in Singapore. Significant attention has been given to a segment in which Daszak appears to allude to having participated in "gain-of-function" experiments, a type of procedure in which scientists increase a virus's pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in order to study its potential for human infection.

"You can manipulate [coronaviruses] in the lab pretty easily," Daszak says in the interview. "Spike protein drives a lot of what happens with the coronavirus, zoonotic risk. So you can get the sequence, you can build the protein — and we work with Ralph Baric at UNC to do this — insert into the backbone of another virus, and do, do some work in the lab."

Those remarks, when they resurfaced this week, caused considerable controversy due to Daszak's role in funneling hundreds of thousands of dollars through his EcoHealth Alliance to the Wuhan Institute of Virology to bankroll coronavirus experiments there. The Wuhan lab sits just a few miles from where the first detected outbreak of COVID-19 occurred.

Speculation has swirled over the last year as to what role, if any, the Wuhan lab may have played in the origin of the pandemic, including whether it was engaging in any gain-of-function experiments that may have posed a pandemic risk.

Experiments 'confer a new property to the original virus'

Racaniello said that Daszak in the December 2019 interview was indeed describing gain-of-function experiments.

"Here is the idea," he said in an email exchange this week. "You go into caves in China and sample bats for CoVs. You collect bat guano and sequence it to find the viruses. You don't actually have the viruses, just their genome sequences. You want to know if these viruses have the ability to infect human cells."

"Since you don't have the viruses," he continued, "you just take the spike sequence from all these viruses and put it into a coronavirus that you work with in the lab. Then you see if that recombinant coronavirus can infect human cells. It's all done under containment to prevent any release. If the spikes of the bat CoV can allow the CoV to infect human cells, then they have the potential to infect humans and we should be making antivirals against them to prevent a pandemic."

Those kinds of experiments, Racaniello said, "are considered 'gain of function' because they would confer a new property to the original virus."

That research, Racaniello said, "was done in the laboratory of Dr. Ralph Baric in [the University of] North Carolina and was not funded by EcoHealth Alliance." When pressed, Racaniello revealed that EcoHealth did have an indirect role in the funding of Baric's work.

"EcoHealth Alliance provided funds to Zengli Shi at the Wuhan Institute of Virology to conduct bat surveillance for SARS-like CoVs," he said. "Baric then received the spike sequences from Wuhan to do his experiments independently."

"Daszak and Baric did not work together on this project," he added.

Anna Marie Skalka, a professor emerita at the Fox Chase Cancer Center and one of the authors of the bestselling textbook "Principles of Virology," did not expressly deny that Baric's research constituted gain-of-function, though she claimed that the overall issue was more complex than that.

"I prefer to describe the research in broader terms, as gain-of-function seems too narrow and has acquired negative connotations,

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" 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.

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Date: Wed, 5 Jun 2024 7:10:54 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 5 Jun 2024 7:10:45 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Peter, great to finally meet your illustrious brother who I actually HAVE and have seen on opera DVDs without knowing he was your brother. Now I gotta go back and re-watch at least The Invisible City of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevronia, which I have on
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: John Daszak <(b) (6)

Hi David – great talking with you this morning and cc'ing John so he has your email below…

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 6:00 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: Peter, great to finally meet your illustrious brother who I actually HAVE and have seen on opera DVDs without knowing he was your brother. Now I gotta go back and re-watch at least The Invisible City of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevronia, which I have on BluR

Tell John thank you, I am do pumped to meet a real opera artist, one of those magicians who brings great art to life.

I have since childhood been a great fan of Russian opera and have tried to "see" live or at last on dvd/BluRay all of the 16 (or 17 if you count the never-performed version of Mlada co-composed by several composers, including Rimsky and Mussorgsky, althoughthe latter repressed his music, so the opera is not entirely lost) all of them.

About 7 years ago I saw the first, or arguably the second US performance of Rimsky's Snegurochka (the Snow Maiden) here in DC, and now its available on Blu Ray, which I have, along with a German version of Rimsky's La nuit de Noël, one of his musically most beautiful operas never performed in the US to my knowledge. You can't NOT love these operas and what a shame they are so rarely performed in the West.

To John: I suppose you have no say over which operas are performed but if you ever did, or had the opportunity to influence it, please push for the performance of all of the operas by the so-called might handful. or mighty five: Rimsky, Mussorgsky, Borodin, Cui, and their non opera leader Balakirev.

Borodin's prince Igor is occasionally performed and works well (orchestrated by Rimsky), but most of Mussorgsky's operas, all great, were unfinished but
wonderful. Zhenit'ba (The Marriage, a comedy, who knew Mussorgsky could be funny?) has never been staged but I have on tape and ancient performance of it)
So... I have now seen the ma jority of Rimsky"s operas either live or v on DVD (I sawll Tsar Sultan about 15 ago a tthe Bolshoi in Moscow) and I have recordings of a.ll, or almost all, the rest.

Peter, you should check out
Cui"s opera about an emerging Infectious disease! Never performed in the US, I am not sure it was performed anywhere, but I have an audio recording of it and it is wonderful. some great EID quotations from the libretto...

John, you mention singing roles in Czech operas and I am curious about which ones. My friend Jeff Taubenberger and I are intrigued about the Janacek operas including Jenufa, and I just loaned him my DVD of his opera on prison conditions, the title of which I am blanking on. We also sort of like Janacek"s opera we call the Vilxing Little Cunt

Everyone in the US loves Dvorak's Russalka, which American soprano Renée Fleming has done twice, but we Americans are always interested in Czech music,, in part because Dvorak lived here for a few years, had a profound impact on American music, and of course composed his 9th symphony here, which is more American than any Amemrican has since composed (130 years lster).

Sorry fr babbling on. I hope to see/hear you live before roo long, John. d
From the cell phone of David Morens

MORENS_NIH_051337
REL0000478158

Date: Sat, 8 May 2021 11:01:56 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 8 May 2021 11:01:53 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Who needs a day off when you love what you do?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:11 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

No problem – haven't really had a day off since I began my Ph.D….luckily my wife's also a scientist, so gets it.

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) rald T (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Robert Kessler (b) (6) ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <

Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, thanks fir this really helpful info! Although there still seem to be missing pieces, it is good to know that so many top notch folks have looked At this so carefully. I feel MUCH better now, and sorry to have eaten up much of your "day off" (as if aNy of us have days off anymore). D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 8, 2021, at 17:14, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

Hi David – answers/comments in the body of your email below…

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:53 PM
T (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6)
ura (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, I still need to get more educated on furin cleavage sites in coronaviruses. A few articles, e.g., the one attached, claim that in the evolutionary history of multiple different coronaviruses, FCS's do appear

independently, although this is less common in sarbecoviruses. Is that your understanding?

[Peter Daszak:] yes – it seems to be uncommon

And is there any idea what determinants might favor insertion of these sites. Also, do we know about the levels of expression of furin in cells of mammals that might be sarbecovirus co-hosts? I assume that all such mammals have furin activity similar to humns, but is that known?

[Peter Daszak:] not really known well, or discussed that I've seen.

I ask this because the notion that a furin cleavage site indicates human engineered origin needs to be rebutted or at least countered. This is one of several of the Wade points that will appear, to the layman, to be damning. David

[Peter Daszak:] This has been rebutted regularly since January 2020. It was the key reason that this whole lab leak idea was discussed at the White House level in the first place. It was missed by Zhengli in her Nature paper. Likewise, Ralph Baric missed it when he first looked at the SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences in early Jan. Apparently Trevor Bedford & Eddie Holmes pointed it out to Jeremy Farrar, saying it could indicate lab origin (i.e. a virus that gained a furin cleavage site during cell culture). Jeremy mentioned it to Fauci, who mentioned it to Bob Kadlec (if I remember correctly) at the WH. They then convened a panel via NAM to discuss that included me, Ralph and the others. Ralph pointed out that it could have been acquired naturally during human-to-human transmission. I pointed out that it could have been acquired during transmission through an intermediate host. We all pointed out that influenza, and other CoVs have these, although rare. That ad hoc committee then transformed into the NASEM COVID-19 rapid response committee that became largely ignored under Trump and has now basically ended.

There have been lots of active virologists rebutting the theory that the presence of a furin cleavage insertion indicates lab leak because these are found in nature, and because close relatives of SARS-CoV-2 have insertions albeit slightly different sequences at the same site. Here are some links with rebuttals or discussion:

> ***Kristian Andersen pointing out that the furin cleavage site is seen repeatedly across the CoV phylogenetic tree: https://twitter.com/K_G_Andersen/status/1330565966745403392?s=20***
>
> ***The article on Virological.org that he refers to: https://virological.org/t/naturally-occurring-indels-in-multiple-coronavirus-spikes/560***
>
> ***Florian Krammer arguing on Twitter with a lab-leak conspiracist: https://twitter.com/florian_krammer/status/1390347972458725380?s=20***
>
> ***Interesting article showing that the RmYN02 similar site suggests natural evolutionary origin: https://virological.org/t/the-sarbecovirus-origin-of-sars-cov-2-s-furin-cleavage-site/536***
>
> ***Interesting article from Vincent Racaniello pointing out other Human CoVs (which are thought to have originated in bats by the way) also have insertions at this site: https://www.virology.ws/2020/05/14/sars-cov-2-furin-cleavage-site-revisited/***

As you can see when you read these, people who know about these things do not find them unusual and certainly don't believe it demonstrates (or even could be considered leaning towards) a lab origin. Unfortunately, it's just scientifically complicated enough to convince the intelligent reader. Throw in phrases like "Gain of function" or "Seamless ligation" and then sprinkle "lab biosafety concerns from state dept cables", and voila, you have a very exciting story – good enough for a science fiction novel, but absolutely not science fact!

T

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REL0000478160

On 5/8/2021 2:26 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Appreciate your comments David. Please read the letter I just sent to Rich Roberts. I've made some quick comments to refute some of the stuff in the Wade piece. RE. the furin cleavage site – there's nothing special about it and it does not suggest a lab origin. MERS-CoV, feline CoV and some rat CoVs all have similar insertions. Simple explanations for its presence in SARS-CoV-2 could be:

> It was present in a bat-CoV (one of the many thousands awaiting our discovery), and we selected for its spillover by having 14 million people working in wildlife farms in china in places where bats live. Given a continued exposure to myriad bat-CoVs, one with a furin cleavage site would be more likely to emerge
>
> It evolved in people early on in the COVID outbreak. WHO report and modeling suggest spillover occurred in last few months of 2019. It could have easily been selected for as the virus spread from human-to-human during that early period
>
> It evolved after a progenitor bat-CoV spilled over into wildlife in farms in S. China. SARS-CoV-2 spillover into mink in Europe led to rapid evolution of strains that bore similarities to pangolin-CoVs. Mink strains then re-infected people in the Netherlands. Now, there's a report of mink clearing the virus, showing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 and being reinfected later – all good evidence that farms full of raccoon dogs, ferret badgers and civets in S. China could have had circulation of SARS-CoV-2 for many months prior to it emerging.

Hope this all helps. One day, the research will be done and all this will be demonstrated. Unfortunately, the one group that had access to China to do this work (EcoHealth) is currently blocked from doing it!

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E](b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) ra <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusin ittee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, I agree, and I think we should try to not use the term GOF, notly because it suggests something nefarious, but also, at least as I would define it, it doesnt apply to your work, as you just

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said. In my mind it doesn;'t apply to Ralph's work either.

Secondly, I re-read the Wade article carefully, and did NOT conclude that just about everything he said was wrong. I think it is the best researched, and most literate and thorough media article on the subject. BUT. I think it is biased and uses cherry-picked facts. Moreover, it tries to pretend non-bias in a disingenuous way.

In short, high order sophistry.

I am also troubled by David Baltimore's opinion that finding a furn-cleavage site indicates human manipulation. I suspect that may not be true, since these viruses hyper-circulate in bats and spillover into mammals and people frequently, and also frequently recombine in spike protein sequences. But I am not knowledgeable about such things. In this context, the idea of David Robertson, cited in the Wade article, is of particular interest: the idea that the precursor virus had become a "generalist" by long evolving through bats and mammals including humans. Something analogous happens with arboviruses, e.g., dengue, which serially pass through humans and mosquitos every couple weeks, and have to be well adapted to two very different alternating hosts.... d

On 5/8/2021 1:51 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I also think it's important to let the journalist know that nothing in the work we were doing in China could be reasonably called "Gain of function". The only recombinant viruses were bat-CoVs, with spike proteins of other bat-CoVs. None had enhanced transmissibility or cell infectivity. None are known to be infectious to people.
>
> I believe the whole 'gain of function' phrasing used to describe the Wuhan CoV research is just a ruse to scare a gullible public – journalists today have been using phrases like "making viruses more dangerous in the lab in Wuhan" etc. None of this is true.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_014720
MORENS_NIH_030371
REL0000478160

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler Taubenberger, Jeffery (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

David:

Probably not too helpful to describe every growth of a virus in a lab is a GOF experiment.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

most 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

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flu A and other viruses for over 20 years. It seems to be more complicated than one might think..

The Wade article also cites some ideas by a guy named David Robertson. Do you know him? I do not. But he posits that the SARS-CoV-2 precursor may have become a "generalist " by circulating between bats and mammals, maybe even humans. No eviodence for this, but the idea makes alot of sense to me. Plausible in my mind, what do u think?

David

On 5/7/2021 6:20 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> Really interesting to hear those comments about “Blah blah” and “Deng deng”. It just saddens me because I know Zhengli’s English is not the best, and I don’t think she realizes that every word she says publicly, even in response to a question at a University seminar, is being manipulated and used politically. It feels like racism to me.

Cheers,

Peter

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---

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:01 AM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

The letter to Blinken includes the following statement:

“…the release of these documents from the Department could help to refute contradictory statements that have been made regarding the possibility of a

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laboratory leak from the WIV." This could be taken in a positive sense, that the documents will refute the lab release hypothesis, although I don't think that's how they mean it.

Regarding what Peter previously said about Shi's use of the phrase blah blah, which will surely be characterized as dismissive and therefore put into a negative perspective. I have access to a senior endowed full professor of Chinese politics at Harvard and I asked about the meaning of blah blah when a Chinese native speaker uses it while speaking English. Here is the answer:

"In my experience many Chinese mistakenly use "blah, blah" as equivalent to the Chinese term "deng, deng" which means "and so forth" and has no negative connotation."

So Peter was right, and now we know the Chinese term it is trying to translate, however awkwardly. This might be useful in any conversation with a report about her remarks or the Republicans letter.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, i will reply eventually when i get some time, but until then, note yet another Josh Rogin editorial in this morning's Post, this time disclosing the Republican letter to Tony, which i have not yet seen and may or may not see. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 6, 2021, at 23:34, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Sorry for yet another email, but this one is so bizarre it's almost funny. It's a letter from the House E&C Committee Republicans to Blinken asking him to release the classified intel that people in the Wuhan lab were sick prior to COVID, and that the WIV does military research. It quotes some comments from a recent talk my collaborator Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, gave during a lecture at Rutgers. Some of the online conspiracists heard about the talk in advance and they packed the audience – some of their questions from the chat were read out. Her response included a very common "blah blah" phrase used in China when speaking English – here's the quote:

During a March 23, 2021 seminar at Rutgers University, a WHO advisory committee member asked Dr. Shi if [knew].. whether "the U.S. government claims of classified Chinese military research being carried out at the WIV [are] correct, and if so, did you have full awareness of and access to all aspects of this research?"[4]

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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

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Morens (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
'Robert Kessler (b) (6) >
Subject: New: Letter from Republican Rep. Gallagher to Dr. Fauci re. WIV and gain of function
Importance: High

David,

A Republican representative sent a letter to Tony Fauci today asking some pretty simple questions that are clearly designed to play to their political base.

If Tony Fauci is going to respond to the attached letter that was made public today, I hope he's ready to point out that the work we did was NOT gain of function. This phrase has been bandied about now for a few months and is utterly incorrect.

If he decides to draft a response, I'd be happy to do a quick briefing with you and him to explain the work that has been done up to now with WIV, and was planned to be done on our NIAID grant.

Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2021 12:06:48 PM -0400

Subject: FW: Medium: The "Lab-leak" inquiry at the State Department: An Open Letter by former Assistant Secretary Christopher Ford

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >

To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

Attachments: image001.gif; image003.jpg; image002.jpg

David

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 11:36 AM
Subject: Medium: The "Lab-leak" inquiry at the State Department: An Open Letter by former Assistant Secretary Christopher Ford

The “Lab-leak” inquiry at the State Department:



Christopher Ashley Ford

1 hour ago·20 min read

An Open Letter by former Assistant Secretary Christopher Ford

(June 10, 2021)

In both journalism and policymaking –– if not always in politics, or in the sordid world of score-settling by unemployed, second-rate apparatchiks — facts matter, and intellectual integrity matters. In light of the remarkable quantity of errant nonsense that has been written in the last couple of weeks about squabbles inside the U.S. State Department about how to look into the origins of SARS-CoV-2 in the closing weeks of the Trump Administration, I hope this open letter will help set the record straight for those who still care about things such as facts.

I write this because, to put it bluntly, I’m tired of being the butt of stupid and paranoid conspiracy theories being promulgated by those who know better. I recognize that some of these conspiracy narratives are, for any thoughtful person, self-refuting even on their face. (As someone who has been warning the policy community since at least 2007 about threats to the United States and the democratic world from the Chinese Communist Party’s geopolitical ambitions — including in two scholarly books and scores of articles and speeches, including in official capacity at the State Department — have I been “protecting” the Chinese Communist Party from accountability? Good grief.)

Nevertheless, I’ve been around politics long enough to know that an imbecility that slots into a convenient narrative beats an awkward fact any day, and manic

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performative outrage is much more fun than sober analysis. So perhaps offering clarity here won't change a thing. Yet I'm still going to try.

I'm also going to try to do something unorthodox here. Rather than using this letter as an opportunity to invent and loudly dispense my own *post hoc* version of what happened — a dishonest revisionism-of-convenience that is in abundant supply, but that I will leave to others — I will try to offer you only specific claims that are supported by contemporaneous documents that enterprising journalists at Fox News and *Vanity Fair* have recently put into the public record.

Part One: A Clear Documentary Record

In particular, since the question at hand is my own particular role and position in connection with investigating the origins of the COVID-19 virus, I will refer to three unclassified documents that I myself wrote and sent to others at the State Department in early January 2021. (For the record, I did *not* retain these documents when I left the Department. Thankfully, however — at least for me — some of the lies being told on these topics have apparently caused offense among those who know what really happened and clearly *did* retain the documents.) I'm happy to see them in the public record, because they make very clear exactly what I was doing at the time, and why.

The documents are as follows:

1. An e-mail I sent to Tom DiNanno and David Asher on January 4, 2021, which can be found here thanks to Fox News;

2. An e-mail exchange between me and DiNanno on January 5–6, which can be found here thanks to Fox News; and

3. A message I sent to a number of senior State Department officials on January 8, which can be found here thanks to *Vanity Fair*.

Part Two: Pushing for an Honest and Defensible Lab-Leak Inquiry

So let me begin with a critical point. As detailed in these documents, the squabbling at the State Department was about trying to ensure that we got our facts straight before going public with dramatic steps such as having Secretary Pompeo announce that it was "statistically" impossible for SARS-CoV-2 to be anything other than the product of Chinese government manipulation, sending "demarches" to foreign governments with this theory, or writing up China for having violated the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in connection with COVID-19.

The dispute had nothing whatsoever to do with trying to quash investigation into the origins of the virus, and *everything* to do with trying to ensure the honesty and intellectual integrity of that investigation *precisely because* it was vital for us to get the bottom of the question of COVID "origins," including the possibility that it came from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). I strongly *supported* looking into the "lab-leak" hypothesis, which clearly is a real possibility.

But I'm not just saying this now. I said it at the time, too. A lot.

Let's look at the documents, starting with my January 4 e-mail to DiNanno and Asher. In that message, I highlight that the Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC) Bureau's scientific "allegations about WIV and Chinese BW work allegedly being the source" of SARS-CoV-2 were "important" and "worrying," and that these significant claims needed to be evaluated by real scientific experts.

(Yes, I admit that I called the virus the "WuFlu." At a time before the World Health Organization had come up with "non-stigmatizing" designators such as "Alpha," and people talked freely about things like the "UK variant" or "South African variant," it didn't seem unfair to tag the original virus as having indeed come from Wuhan. I'm afraid at another point I called it the "KungFlu," too. None of this sounds as clever to me in retrospect as I fear it did at the time. But please remember that these were internal e-mails, not intended to see the light of day. Had I written these messages with an eye to public release, I would not have been so glib. *Mea culpa.*)

Anyway, in my e-mail, I reminded DiNanno and Asher that I had directed them, a

month or so earlier, to establish an "expert vetting group or process" that would involve real scientists and intelligence experts in assessing the strength of AVC's claims. But why, I asked them, had there been no progress in subjecting their assertions to peer review? And why were they running around the interagency spreading these allegations *before* we knew whether these claims could pass muster with objective, third-party scientists?

As I stated in that January 4 message, I wanted to "demand[] more transparency from the PRC here, especially in light of their appalling early cover-up of COVID-19 during the early weeks when honesty and resolute action could have made such a colossal difference in heading off millions of deaths and untold suffering, and in light of their grotesque history of such cover-ups."

"An investigation of [COVID] origins is very important," I reiterated, "and I'm delighted to press their feet to the fire for the honesty and clarity they've so far refused to provide."

In the January 4 message, however, I also stressed how important it was that we get our facts straight before going public, *as the U.S. Government*, with the accusation that the Chinese government created the virus:

"[W]e need to make sure what we say is solid and passes muster from real experts *before* we risk embarrassing and discrediting ourselves in public. … As I have repeatedly said, if it turns out that your conclusions are right, I'll happily be first in line to scream from the rooftops about them, for it would be a colossal outrage. And you may well *be* right. But I want to be confident about where the facts really lie …. These issues are surpassingly important and we need to get to the bottom of them — but rigorously, defensibly, and truly."

Hence my annoyance, expressed in that message, that DiNanno had been dragging his feet over my direction to "arrang[e] expert-level bioscience and intelligence vetting of David [Asher's] work." I warned DiNanno that such dithering looked bad: "Please don't continue to feed the impression that AVC is afraid of peer review."

And I insisted that he tell me when they actually planned to get those allegations vetted by real scientists. It's all there in the e-mail.

The next day, January 5, when I still hadn't heard back from DiNanno about how they would ensure that their scientific assertions got evaluated by actual scientists, I e-mailed him again. (This was the message at the bottom of the January 5–6 e-mail string Fox News published.) I'll admit I was grumpy, but I think I was also pretty clear about my focus on ensuring that we got our facts straight on this critical issue of COVID origins:

"It is … becoming embarrassing — and, if I may say so, more than a little worrisome — that AVC seems still to be ducking an expert-level engagement to evaluate its own WIV allegations, even while it has continued, over the last month or so, to brief its claims to non-experts across the interagency."

DiNanno responded to my January 5 message with platitudes about how all they were doing was "investigating potential arms control violations." (This is the middle message in the January 5–6 string.) "That Is [sic] exactly what we have done," he declared, "and will continue to do."

Let's pause here for a moment. If you're paying attention, you'll have noticed that with this comment about "investigating potential arms control violations," DiNanno signaled that AVC regarded itself as focusing not so much upon the origins of SARS-CoV-2, *per se*, as more specifically upon *China allegedly having violated the Biological Weapons Convention by creating the virus.* They seemed to believe that COVID-19 was a biological weapons (BW) effort gone awry — or perhaps even a BW agent *deliberately* unleashed upon the world after Beijing had secretly vaccinated its population, as Asher has rather remarkably suggested in public now that the State Department has terminated his consultancy contract. (You can see him in all his sober, cautious, and methodical glory on YouTube.) In this context, I suppose it was hardly surprising — as I memorialized in my January 4 e-mail to DiNanno — that in the December briefing when AVC first pitched me on their

WIV-origins theory, Asher at one point suggested that SARS-CoV-2 might be a "genetically selective agent" (GSA) that China was using to target us, as evidenced, he said, by the fact that Sub-Saharan Africa wasn't reporting many COVID cases while the United States was. (Surely you don't need me to spell out how that notion was both analytically unsupportable on its face *and* contained deeply offensive implications, do you? I'll leave you to work this out on your own, but, uh, wow.)

Fortunately, however, DiNanno also informed me in his January 5 response that AVC had now indeed set up a panel of experts to discuss the scientific claims, which would occur on Thursday evening, January 7. (Finally! As noted in my January 4 e-mail, I'd been demanding expert vetting of AVC's "statistical" argument since they first came to me with this issue in my office in December.)

As this panel approached, however, I wrote DiNanno again — on January 6 — to emphasize how important it was that we get real scientists to vet AVC's allegations before we surfaced such dramatic claims in public:

"As I indicated before, having something that sounds scientific to say when making assertions to laymen is not the same thing as being correct. I do not have the scientific expertise to critique David's claims. Nor do you. Nor, in fact, does he have actual technical training in the first place. That doesn't necessarily mean he's wrong, of course, but it does have implications for how to deal with the complex and controversial claims you guys are making about weedy bioscience. … If you're right, you should be willing to prove it, and to confront experts who — unlike all of the people involved in building and making this argument for you — actually have training in the scientific field about which you make assertions. I really don't know how I could possibly have been more clear about this over the course of the last month. Your allegations are dramatic, and potentially very significant indeed, but it's for precisely that reason that they need to be tested and evaluated carefully. …Your claims need to be assessed by real experts — not just waved around as bullet points on slide decks in front of non-scientists who are then dared to prove you

wrong."

It was particularly important to get real expert-level assessment of the scientific assertions AVC was making about laboratory origin because the AVC investigation appeared to have carefully *bypassed* State Department experts — both in my own bureau and in AVC itself, each of which has a whole *office* devoted to such questions — and the U.S. Intelligence Community. As I recounted in my January 8 message, "AVC ha[s] apparently been briefing this argument inside the Department and [to] some interagency partners for some weeks, apparently on instructions from a staffer at S/P [the Department's Office of Policy Planning] who told them they should not inform me or others of this work, nor involve the Intelligence Community."

(A footnote, but perhaps a significant one: That last bit about cutting real experts out of the loop came to me directly from Tom DiNanno. When I asked him why AVC had been doing all this without telling the senior official to whom they reported — that is, me — he told me sheepishly that he had been *instructed* to do things this way by Miles Yu, an S/P staffer at the time. According to DiNanno, Yu had represented that these specific instructions came from the Secretary. DiNanno, then in charge of the verification bureau, gave no sign of ever actually having verified that this was true, however. He appeared to have accepted Yu's representations at face value — in effect, a *de facto* Assistant Secretary of State taking marching orders from a lower-ranking staffer in another bureau, sight unseen. It would be interesting, now, to find out whether: (1) Secretary Pompeo *really* directed that AVC's lab-leak inquiry avoid engaging Departmental BW experts and U.S. intelligence officials, and that it do its work essentially in secret, without telling the official performing the duties of the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security; (2) Yu was, at least in this respect, dishonestly freelancing; or (3) DiNanno was just lying to me about his conversation with Yu. Perhaps a good journalist can go figure this out.)

Part Three: The Scientific Panel

Anyway, at least a first chance for scientific vetting came on January 7, when the

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panel of experts picked by the AVC Bureau had a chance to discuss the "statistical" proof that AVC had been relying upon in its assertions to me and others that the SARS-CoV-2 virus *had to have been* the product of Chinese government manipulation.

Unfortunately, as I memorialized the next day (January 8), despite my urging — in the last three paragraphs of my January 6 e-mail — that the other members of the panel "have … the benefit of actually being able to read the paper beforehand," AVC had not shared the document ahead of time. As I observed on January 8, "AVC did not provide us with the actual paper before yesterday's discussion, so most other participants had not had the chance to study it in detail."

Even so, it did not take the other panelists long to point out some key flaws in the "statistical" argument, which had been presented orally to the panel by the scientist upon whom AVC had apparently most relied in developing that line of argument. (His name is widely known, but I opted not to single him out in my message to Departmental colleagues. I felt that scientists should have some freedom to figure out the science amongst themselves; my concern was with what the *U.S. Government* would assert after they did. Rather than drag him personally into the fray, therefore, my memo reflected the fact that this man's claims had effectively become *AVC's argument* as the bureau promoted them in the interagency.)

I'll spare you the blow-by-blow of criticisms made by other panelists about the "statistical" case AVC had been making at least since the first briefing they gave me in my office in December, though you can read the salient details in the January 8 message I sent to a number of my senior State Department colleagues the next day. (My message focused on the statistical argument, given the prominence it had enjoyed in AVC's briefings; I did not purport to summarize the panel's discussion of all questions discussed.) As you'll see if you care to read my several-page account on January 8, the assertions AVC had been making seemed to have major problems. At the least, those assertions were clearly not *yet* ready to be the official position of the

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U.S. Department of State — which is why I sent that January 8 message warning my colleagues to be careful about running with that particular "statistical" claim.

I also now know, thanks to *Vanity Fair*, that DiNanno responded to my January 8 memo with one of his own a day or two later, after I had left the Department. The reader can find it online, so I won't walk through it here. In light of what you now know from documentary evidence about my *actual* positions at the time, however, you'll easily be able to see what a pack of distortions and falsehoods DiNanno's memo actually was. You might want to lay our two documents side by side and read them carefully in light of the information you now have. I suspect it will be pretty clear that his memo was a dishonest mess of baseless attacks on me — an angry screed addressed to readers whom DiNanno knew did not have the benefit of knowing what I'd *actually* been saying to him for the last month, and which he sent to his readers at a time when he knew I had resigned from the Department and would have no chance to defend myself and correct the record. (Thankfully, however, our bosses were intelligent folks. One can probably infer how seriously our superiors took DiNanno's memo by the fact that they apparently acted on my note of caution about AVC's scientific claims rather than on DiNanno's shrill and convoluted attempt to defend those assertions and paint me as the villain. More on that below.)

For purposes of this open letter, I'll leave the issues of science to any of you who are scientists. As I told DiNanno in my January 4 message, "I do not have the scientific expertise to critique David's claims. Nor do you. Nor, in fact, does he have actual technical training in the first place." That is *precisely* why I insisted that AVC set up a panel of experts, and why — after they finally got around to arranging this peer review on January 7 — it was my *duty* to convey to my colleagues some of the concerns raised by the experts AVC had put on the panel. It may in the end turn out that science *does* prove that SARS-CoV-2 was the result of human intervention at WIV. But it would have been grievously irresponsible for us to adopt that theory publicly until it was *much* more able to stand on its own two feet that the January 7 panel discussion showed it to be at the time.

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Part Four: Putting Absurd Accusations to Rest

Some of my former colleagues are now — perhaps, one imagines, out of embarrassment over all of the events described above — asserting that I tried to prevent inquiry into the lab-leak hypothesis and to shut down any investigation of the question. (Thanks to Tucker Carlson making this claim at least twice on the air, by the way, I've now gotten vicious and deranged hate mail. Here's, for instance, what I received on June 3 after Carlson first mentioned me on his show: "*Fuck you dickbag globalist shill. Why the fuck did you shut down the lab leak theory? Go lick some China communist boots*." This person helpfully signed this missive (b) (6) . Thanks for introducing me to new friends, Tucker.)

Yet no serious person who is actually aware of my interactions with AVC could possibly think I wanted to prevent inquiry into the laboratory hypothesis, as you will already have seen from my e-mails of January 4and January 5–6, from which I've quoted extensively here. (You can even read them online yourself, in their entirety.) You can also see that I was always crystal clear about the importance of getting to the truth by fully investigating the laboratory-leak question, making clear that "if it turns out that [AVC's] conclusions are right," I would myself "happily be first in line to scream from the rooftops about them."

Additional proof of my commitment to looking into WIV — and indeed my focus upon *protecting* efforts to investigate the laboratory-leak question from the discredit and ridicule that might have smothered it in its crib if we had foolishly hitched Secretary Pompeo, the Department of State, and the Administration to easily-debunkable junk science — can be found in my January 8 message itself. There, I made the point yet again:

"If well-founded, AVC's findings would be extremely significant …. All participants [in the January 7 panel] seemed … to agree that China should be pressed for answers about such things as the nature of any work done at WIV on novel coronaviruses, whether any safety incidents occurred, what data is in WIV's

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sequencing database (which was mysteriously taken offline early in the pandemic), and when exactly the PRC realized (despite its early representations) that SARS-CoV-2 was only in its 'wet market' environmental samples — and not in its live animal samples — leading them to conclude that the market was not the source of the outbreak. These sorts of questions should indeed provide us with lots of grist for pressing China for answers and highlighting its non-transparency and history of failing to report (or even covering up) critical information."

You'll also see from my January 8 message that I specifically directed "AVC and ISN [the International Security and Nonproliferation Bureau] to collaborate on drawing up a list of questions and points that could be useful in this regard" in pressing Beijing for answers. So were these the actions of a "dickbag globalist shill" who "licks … China communist boots"? Or of a serious steward of the honesty and intellectual integrity of U.S. State Department policymaking dedicated to ensuring we got our facts straight and pushing back against recklessness that would make it *harder* to have the lab-leak issue taken seriously? The reader can make up his or her own mind.

Part Five: A Net Assessment

So where does that leave us now?

Well, if you want to understand what I was trying to do during in this period of bickering inside the State Department, you now have my own words from internal contemporaneous records. Simply put, I felt it would be essentially *insane* to go public with AVC's scientific assertions — such as, as DiNanno and Asher had urged, making public statements, demarching foreign governments (including China), and finding China in violation of the Biological Weapons Convention over this coronavirus — before getting those scientific assertions vetted by objective, third-party scientists.

Let me be completely clear: From where I was sitting at the time, in the chair of the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, I never saw

any evidence of *any* effort at the State Department to prevent inquiry into the lab-leak idea. To the contrary — as you can now see proven by documents in the public record — I *supported* looking into the lab-leak hypothesis. I cared so much about getting to the truth about WIV, in fact, that I insisted that we do the work in a way that could stand up to scrutiny. (If you're serious about something being done, you have an obligation to ensure it's done *right*. Wanting less than that just makes you a hack.) And I am aware of *no one anywhere* in the Department who thought that the laboratory hypothesis should be ignored or ruled out.

So there was no conspiracy to quash inquiry into the lab-leak question, at least not at the State Department. But there *was* a demand for intellectual rigor and analytically defensible conclusions in *doing* that important inquiry. For making that demand, however, I make no apologies. I was doing my duty.

What happened after that? Well, one might infer that my State Department superiors in fact *agreed* with the account in my January 8 message of the weaknesses that AVC's expert panel had pointed out in the supposed "statistical" proof that SARS-CoV-2 had to be the result of human intervention. Neither Secretary Pompeo nor any other serving U.S. official, after all, adopted and voiced the scientific assertions about WIV origin that AVC had previously been briefing to interagency stakeholders. Instead, Secretary Pompeo issued a "Fact Sheet" on January 15 that accurately recounted downgraded *intelligence reporting* we had received that seemed relevant to the question of whether COVID-19 had originated at the laboratory.

My superiors at the Department were not shy people, and I have no doubt that had they felt AVC's scientific assertions could pass muster with real scientists, they *absolutely* would have made this case in public, and loudly. They chose not to do so, however. I suspect that we should read into this their quiet endorsement of my conclusion that AVC's scientific case wasn't ready for prime time. (Perhaps someone can ask my former bosses what precisely they thought of the merit of

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AVC's "statistical" argument about genomic variation, and why — if it was indeed good science — they seem to have dropped those assertions. I can tell you only one thing about this with certainty: not pursuing AVC's "scientific" argument after the January 7 panel meeting wasn't *my* decision. By the end of the day on January 8, after sending my message of caution, I had left the Department. It would be interesting to know what discussions happened thereafter.)

But I do think that what happened next is important. Instead of focusing on purported "scientific proofs" of laboratory origin, public discussion of the COVID-origins issue thereafter shifted to the questions and suspicions that had been raised about WIV by our intelligence information, as outlined in Secretary Pompeo's "Fact Sheet ." This was, in my view, much the better way to go. Before leaving the Department, in fact, I had myself reviewed and cleared an early draft of that "Fact Sheet" as the downgraded information started to go around for interagency clearance, and I was glad to see it later emerge publicly on January 15. Tellingly, the Biden Administration has not questioned that information, and a robust debate is now underway about possible laboratory origin.

But let me be frank. Anyone who cares about ensuring that the lab-leak hypothesis is taken seriously should probably be *thanking* me, rather than vilifying me. I suspect that my push for scientific vetting of AVC's assertions actually helped *save* the lab-leak hypothesis from being preemptively discredited. The fact that we finally now have a credible public debate on the question owes much to the fact that pursuing these issues *wasn't* tainted by the State Department signing the U.S. Government's name to scientific assertions that we already knew hadn't stood up well to scrutiny.

I've been around the arms control and international security business for quite a while now, including spending 2003–06 as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in what is now the AVC Bureau. As I told someone the other day — an old and dear friend and former colleague who has now started demonizing me on the basis of the lies being spread about these issues — honesty, accuracy, and intellectual integrity

are the strongest weapons that an arms control verifier has. These things need to be safeguarded carefully, for they are priceless. They are what separates the truth-teller from the ideological crank.

I am heartsick at the ugliness of the campaign against me in the press today, but I remain proud of my role in insisting upon fidelity to these values at a time when some officials seemed to be slipping. I dearly hope that we can all now put fratricidal distractions aside and get back to the *real* task: figuring out what the hell happened in Wuhan.

Part Seven: Conclusion

The actual details of all this State Department infighting are, I'll admit, somewhat boring. They certainly don't map satisfyingly onto a moralistic narrative of redoubtable heroes fighting for right against malevolent cabals and institutional corruption. Nor are they well suited for spinning up rants of performative outrage by the occasional pundit disinclined to let little things like "truth" get in the way of the good Nielsen ratings that come from spinning a sexy narrative of deceit and conspiracy.

Nevertheless, these demonstrable facts about the positions I took at the time *are* clear in the record. If that's not important to you, you're reading the wrong letter, and I apologize for wasting your time.

If you've read this far, however, my guess is that facts are indeed important to you. So thanks for listening.

.....

Dr. Ford served until January 8, 2021, as Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation, and for the last 15 months of that period also performed the duties of the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Prior to that service at the State Department, he ran the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Counterproliferation Directorate at the U.S.

National Security Council staff. A graduate of Harvard, Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and the Yale Law School, Dr. Ford has been a think tank scholar, U.S. Navy intelligence officer, a staff member on five different U.S. Senate Committees, and a senior American diplomat. He is the author of two books on Chinese foreign relations and scores of articles on international security topics, and his personal website may be found at https://newparadigmsforum.com.

Date:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 10:49:32 AM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 31 Oct 2022 10:49:11 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Will do!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Oct 31, 2022, at 8:48 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

Can you introduce me to him and tell him to look for my email on his CCNY email address? If there is a way to use the PNAS paper as an example of a normal more scientific approach to analysis of a complex problem to support his argument in Forbes and shoot holes in the Burr document I think the US members of the Task Force (maybe the international members as well, although its more cogent that we represent the findings in the paper) would rise to the occasion.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October 3
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
S Re: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Fyi Bruce is a longtime collaborator who has helped us with the cost effectiveness modeling of our parasitic disease and covid vaccines. We've published more than a dozen papers together

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Oct 30, 2022, at 4:26 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Thanks David,

I responded to Bruce Lee (the perfect name for a truth ninja warrior such as he) including a pdf of the PNAS paper at his City University email which was easy to obtain to a) congratulate him, and b) ultimately ask him if we can respond to his article in depth via an introduction to the editorial staff as I am tired of sending pointed well evidenced Op-Eds or editorials or opinions over the transom and then being ignored with a standard no thanks reply. Or if necessary via a letter to the editor. Let's see if he responds. I'm thinking the Task Force, all or some, might respond – actually maybe just the American members because of the uniquely American nature of this sort of rank political nonsense. I'm hoping Lee will reply.

Has anybody seen any comment from Burr regarding the outrageous attack on Nancy Pelosi's home, and the sole occupant at the time, her 82 year old husband Paul? I haven't and to me that is just the exclamation point on the assessment that his report is political and timed before the election, aside from the mile wide holes in the argument, so well-articulated by Bruce Lee.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter (b) (6) hmura < (b) (6) >; Peter Hotez <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
> **Date:** October 30, 20
> **To:** David Morens <(b) (6) >
> **Subject: Fwd: Forb *P* Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb**

> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
> Begin forwarded message:

> > **From:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)
> > **Date:** October 30, 2022 at 06:52:42 PDT
> > **Subject: Forbes: Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science? https://bit.ly/3t1BJhb**

Is New Senate GOP Covid-19 Pandemic Origin Report More About Politics Than Science?

Bruce Y. Lee
Senior Contributor
I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.
Oct 29, 2022,10:49pm EDT

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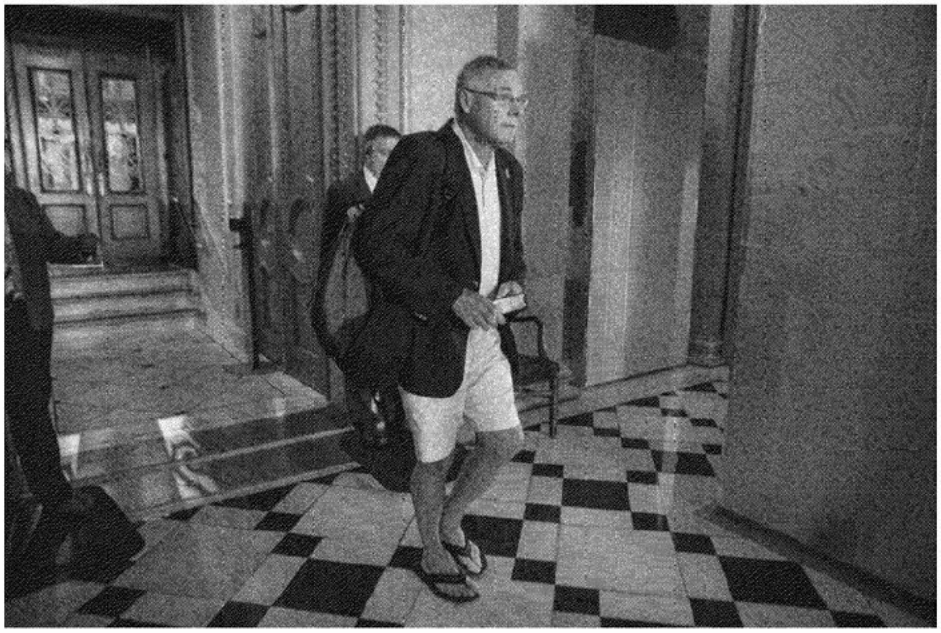

Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), seen here on August 6, 2022 in Washington, DC., and his office came out ... [+]

Getty Images

These days anytime any politician makes any claims about Covid-19, you've got to wonder whether it's more about politics than real science. After all, throughout the pandemic, politics has infiltrated Covid-19 decision-making like botox in a reality TV star. So when the office of Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.) dropped "An Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report," just two weeks before the midterm election, you've gotta wonder whether this report was more about politics than actually determining what really happened.

After all, in the report, Burr did indicate that last Summer he and Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) "announced a bipartisan Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee oversight effort into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our effort to address pandemic preparedness and response programs." Dictionary.com defines bipartisan as "representing, characterized by, or including members from two parties or factions," and not "screw it, why don't I just issue a report myself?" It's also interesting why such a interim report would be issued so quickly now before it's been properly vetted by the scientific community. Why the rush? And why wasn't there more of a heads up to everyone that this would be on its way? Was this designed to be a Halloween scare? Or maybe just maybe the midterm elections had something to do with it?

Plus, this interim report drew some pretty strong conclusions that usually would require a lot more supporting scientific evidence than the report actually provided. What's a strong conclusion? How about, "Based on the analysis of the publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that the Covid-19 pandemic was, more likely than not, the result of a research-related incident." Yeah, that statement certainly has drawn headlines and attention on social media. The phrase "more likely than not" sounds fairly definitive. For example, if you were to tell your significant other that "based on analysis of publicly available information, it appears reasonable to conclude that you are more likely than not a cheater," you had better more likely than not provide enough specific concrete evidence to justify such a claim. Otherwise all of your possessions including your butt would more likely than not end up on the street. Similarly, this report seemed to be claiming that the evidence is already strong enough to conclude that a lab leak started the Covid-19 pandemic. But what evidence did the report then provide? Well, here's a hint. It rhymes with "Not a troll bot." Yes, not a whole lot.

Did any real scientists develop, vet, and support the findings of this Interim Report?

Let's take a look at what some real scientists who have real expertise in this area said on Twitter about this report. Spoiler alert: some expletives more likely than not emerged. For example, Kristian G. Andersen, PhD, a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, used the

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phrase "Flood the zone with bull [bleep]" when referring to what's going on with this report: And Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, wrote, "My view: a total load of antiscience [bleep]," in the following tweet:

To adapt the words from that song in the movie *Bring It On*, Burr, it's cold in here— with here being real scientists' reaction to the report. Bull-bleep and antiscience bleep weren't exactly words of endorsement. Hotez also provided some real scientific papers describing how the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) may have jumped from other animals to humans and the evidence supporting such a natural jump:

Speaking of real scientists. Were any real scientists involved in developing and reviewing Burr's interim report? Well, the cover of the report bore the names Minority Oversight Staff, Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor and Pensions, which was a fancy way of saying that it was compiled by the office of Burr. The report didn't really list any other authors or contributors other than Burr. So, assuming that Burr himself didn't compile and write everything like a high schooler doing a book report, it's unclear who actually did the research and writing for this report. The report didn't really clearly delineate what process was used to assemble and review the available evidence, who determined what should and shouldn't considered, or how the report was vetted either.

What counterarguments did this Interim Report provide against evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from other animals?

That being said did the report at least provide some strong arguments to support its conclusions? Well, the first of the four sections attempted to offer some kind of counter to the existing evidence of a natural animal original of the SARS-CoV-2 without even mentioning that evidence. That was sort of the "I'm going to ignore what you have said and provide only my side of the story" tactic. This section basically presented six arguments that were weak at best. The first two arguments were essentially the same: that the intermediate host animal species—meaning the intermediate between bats and humans—for SARS-CoV-2 hasn't yet been found. That argument would hold water about as well as a fish net thong.

It's been only about three years since the Covid-19 pandemic first broke. Science rarely can move that quickly, especially when Congress isn't providing nearly enough funding to support the needed studies. It can be challenging to find such a intermediate animal host species. It's not as if you can post a message on Twitter or Facebook saying, "hey all animals, come by and get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or some virus similar to it" or "hey, did you host this virus before passing it along to us humans? Come one, you can tell us." Plus, scientists around the world have been kind of busy with something called, you know, the Covid-19 pandemic. So unless Burr and his Senate colleagues want to provide much more support and funding to help find the intermediate host species, "you haven't found it yet," really isn't a very strong argument.

The third argument provided was that the "SARS-CoV-2's high binding affinity for human ACE2 receptors suggests that it is possible for it to directly infect humans without needing a period of adaptation in an intermediate host." In other words, the virus took to humans so well, it couldn't have jumped from other animals. That's a bit like saying, "hey, that velour track suit fits you so well that it was probably tailored specifically for you." Such an argument doesn't pass much muster because it wasn't clear what the virus was doing before the start of 2020. Weaker versions of the virus could have very well been spreading between other animals and humans long before late 2019 and early 2020. The world didn't have much of a surveillance system in place to really track what every possible viral threat was doing before 2020. It still doesn't have such a system.

The section's fourth argument was that Wuhan, China, seemed to be the only place where the virus may have jumped from non-humans to humans. The claim was that if the virus had jumped from other animals to humans, why didn't such jumps occur elsewhere as well. Again, all of this assumes that the world already had great global surveillance systems in place that could readily determine exactly where and how everyone had gotten infected with the SARS-CoV-2. Yeah try doing that when there's been well over 630 million Covid-19 cases around the world so far. And that's not even counting those folks who never ended up getting tested.

The fifth argument was similar to the fourth, claiming that "After the unidentified source transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to humans, it stopped transmitting SARS-CoV-2." Again, this has never been established. With so many cases emerging every day, it's difficult to say who caught the virus from where. The Covid-19 pandemic is not the same situation as the 2002-2004 SARS and the 2013 avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks where there were a lot fewer cases so that infections and

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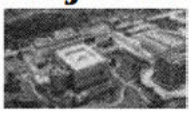
transmission chains were a lot easier to track.

The sixth argument was that "The low genetic diversity of the earliest SARS-CoV-2 samples suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely the result of a single successful spillover of SARS-CoV-2." That's not exactly true. Plus, once again, the lack of a comprehensive surveillance system means that cases may have been missed early on in 2020 and before that time. Moreover, even if the pandemic had started with a single spillover event, how exactly would that prove that it was lab-leak rather than a natural spillover event that triggered the whole pandemic? All of these arguments didn't seem to be that scientific, which raises the question again, what specific scientists contributed to this interim report.

Did the Wuhan Institute of Virology actually have major safety concerns as the Interim Report claimed?



This aerial view shows the P4 laboratory (L) on the campus of the Wuhan Institute of Virology in ... [+]

AFP via Getty Images

The second section of the report tried to paint a picture of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) as a place with numerous safety concerns and incidents. It did include brief descriptions of events and items that you probably normally wouldn't find at your home, assuming that you don't regularly sleep and shower at a Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 or 4 laboratory. So all of these could have sounded ominous and scary to the general public or anyone else who doesn't conduct virology experiments on regular basis.

So, assuming that Burr and his staff aren't running enzyme linked immunosorbent assays in their Congressional offices, wouldn't it have been better to ask a real laboratory scientist who regularly works with viruses to put together that section? Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, would qualify as such an expert. So let's turn to Rasmussen's tweet thread about this section of the Burr report:

As you can see, Rasmussen's tweet stated that the report "claims to show evidence of multiple biocontainment breaches. That sounds very bad! But how reliable is this evidence?" Her tweet thread went on to review each thing listed in this section of Burr's report and explain how much of it seemed pretty normal for such a lab to her:

For example, Rasmussen explained how procuring a vaporized hydrogen peroxide system to disinfect air coming from the lab and renovating the HVAC system were not evidence of biosafety failures but instead business-as-usual:

A little later in the tweet thread, Rasmussen concluded, "No evidence of a breach or biosafety failure, but lots of evidence that they were operating a containment lab in a pretty standard way, with one exception: WIV was more innovative than many others and patented some of the bespoke systems they developed," as you can see here:

Rasmussen went on to assess what was written in the report about the working conditions, training, and management at WIV and determined that "No evidence of a biocontainment breach or a biosafety failure, other than lab leak fan fiction invented by people with no clue about how biosafety actually works reading documents that reflect the daily considerations & challenges of operating a containment lab," at the conclusion of her tweet thread:

Remember you can make anything sound scary when describing it in a certain way to people not familiar with the situation. Imagine relating the details of a high school football practice to someone who has never ever seen football. You could talk about high speed collisions, violence, things getting intercepted, jock straps, and people slapping each other on their butts in a manner that could prompt someone to say, "what the bleep is going on? Call the authorities."

Is it relevant that China developed Covid-19 vaccines faster than the U.S. did with Operation Warp Speed?

The third section presented a rather weird argument. It pointed out that teams in China were able to develop and start administering Covid-19 vaccines faster than Operation Warp Speed could in the U.S. The section tried to suggest that the only way the teams in China were able to move more quickly was if they had access to genomic sequences of the SARS-CoV-2 much earlier.

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Hmm, that sounds a little like the "they beat us, therefore, they must have cheated" argument. While Operation Warp Speed did result in Covid-19 vaccines at the end of 2020, it was by no means a perfectly run operation. For example, it July 2020, Jon Cohen wrote for *Science* magazine an article entitled "Operation Warp Speed's opaque choices of Covid-19 vaccines draw Senate scrutiny." And in December 2020, I covered for *Forbes* a range of supply chain and distribution missteps made by Operation Warp Speed. In general, the word well-oiled machine didn't seem to apply the Trump Administration's response to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Moreover, it's not clear what shortcuts the teams from China may have taken in order to get Covid-19 vaccines out there sooner. For example, did they do the same about of human testing as Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna did before rolling out vaccines to the general public.

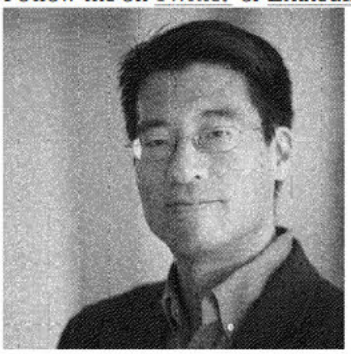
One thing's clear. The government of China wasn't as open and transparent to the rest of the world as they could have and probably should have been about the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak in late 2019 and early 2020. The first reports of this "mysterious pneumonia" emerged late in December 2019 and very early in January 2020, as I reported for *Forbes* on January 3, 2020. The government of China likely knew more about the virus and its deadly nature at the time. If that were indeed the case, then China's government chose poorly and should have been more forthcoming to get help from the international community. It is very fair to criticize China's government for withholding information and not being more cooperative. But again all of this does not necessarily mean that the Covid-19 pandemic started with a lab leak.

Did the development and release of the Interim Report follow a scientific process?

All in all, this so-called "Analysis of the Origins of the COVID-19 Pandemic Interim Report" didn't seem to follow many of the steps and criteria needed for a truly scientific report. It didn't even fulfill basic criteria such as clearly describing the methods employed or identifying the people who did the analyses and wrote the report. Whenever you don't transparently describe how you chose what evidence to consider and not consider, you've gotta wonder how much cherry-picking happened. While cherry-picking may be great when you are making a pie, selectively choosing what evidence to follow and not follow is just not appropriate scientifically.

If Congress really wants to shed more light on the actual origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would commission and fund a panel of real and most importantly independent scientific experts to compile the report. At the same time, Congress members would then stay clear of this panel to avoid the perception that they are applying any political pressure to see a particular outcome. The U.S. has been leading the world in Covid-19 cases and deaths throughout the pandemic in big part of its failure to consistently follow science and instead defer to politics. And in the end, while politics may cover up to a degree what the virus does, only real science will be able to work against the SARS-CoV-2 and any future viral threats.

Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website.



Bruce Y. Lee

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 27 Sep 2022 1:01:02 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 27 Sep 2022 12:58:20 AM -0400
Subject: RE: NIH/NIAID FOIA Request #57014
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura

I've got my emails to scan through now and so far the most embarrassing thing is that I call Francis Collins a "Wet Lettuce".

Other than that, it's the usual behind the scenes sniping and backchat that gossipy outlets like The Intercept love to publish.

I'm sure there'll be worse to come, including me stating that the WHO DG actively interfered with the WHO origins report. Of course, nothing that's not true, just disappointing that it'll be bared for the world to see, so that they can make up heinous stories about it.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2022 2:00 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: NIH/NIAID FOIA Request #57014

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MORENS_NIH_007851
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I hope shit doesn't get redacted re Rand Paul! He deserves far worse.
Thanks for the info and support! d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 25, 2022, at 13:38, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> I reviewed the emails I am included in and there is very little that
> falls under the heading of personal. In fact, the only things I can see
> we could ask to redact is my use of the word shit when we discussed Rant
> Paul and the confrontation with Tony at a Senate hearing, my mention of
> Peter Hotez, and when I mentioned a prior editor of the BMJ and called him
> Peter Smith (I hobnobbing with too many Peters these days) instead of
> Richard Smith. That's three brief phrases on two different pages of the
> 41 I am in (I would suspect EHA is in many more than that which would make
> it more legit to ask for a delay). I asked my legal office about these
> and other possible redactions. They didn't seem inclined to ask for a
> delay, but I will press them about it and see if we can bring ourselves in
> line with EHA. I will talk to them this week and see if I can make a
> connection between our office and Aleksei to discuss.
>
> Jerry
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: David Morens <(b) (6)
> Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2022 12:39 PM
> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >;
> Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
> Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
> Subject: Re: FW: NIH/NIAID FOIA Request #57014
>
> Thanks, Peter,
>
> any delay is good, definitely so. Although you have to comply, the ONLY
> things I might have said that I would hate to see in print are 1.
> those things that might harm Tony, and 2. those not so funny attempts at
> humor that make me look foolish!
>
> TY, David
> David M. Morens, MD
> (b) (6)
>
>
>
> (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (work)
> (b) (6) (cell)
>
> IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which
> is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a

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> 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 Fri, Sep 23, 2022 at 7:42 PM Peter Daszak
>> <(b) (6) > wrote:
>>
>> Here's my version of the FoIA request that you've all had. I've got a
>> secure link to the emails that they've dug up, and will look through them
>> over the next few days/week.
>>
>>
>>
>> Our first step will be to try to delay this – they want us to address
>> all redactions by Oct 7th, but I've asked our lawyers to try to delay
>> until the end of Oct. Every little bit helps because eventually the
>> public will get bored of reading this garbage…
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>> Cheers,
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>> Peter
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>> Peter Daszak
>>
>> President
>>
>>
>>
>> EcoHealth Alliance
>>

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MORENS_NIH_007853
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>> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
>>
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>> USA
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>> Tel.: +(b) (6)
>>
>> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
>>
>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>
>>
>>
>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent
>> pandemics and promote conservation
>>
>>
>>
>> From: Citarella, Kara (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <(b) (6) >
>> Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 11:37 AM
>> To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
>> Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
>> Subject: NIH/NIAID FOIA Request #57014
>>
>>
>>
>> Dear Mr. Daszak,
>>
>>
>>
>> My office received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from
>> Travis Miller, who has requested, "All e-mail correspondence between
>> David Morens and Peter Daszak from October 1, 2019 through the present."
>> We found several emails to be responsive to this request.
>>
>>
>>
>> Please see attached “General Guidelines-Contracts” for information that
>> is automatically withheld by this office, which was written in the
>> context of contracts rather than email correspondence. It should provide
>> you with some sense of the types of information we automatically
>> withhold. I have also included a copy of the request, as well as the
>> amended request. A separate email will arrive with information on how to
>> securely download the responsive records relevant to your company using
>> NIH’s Secure Email and File Transfer (SEFT) service.
>>
>>
>>
>> In order for our office to process the FOIA request, I need you to
>> complete the following actions consistent with the enclosed general
>> guidance, and in consultation with your institution and collaborators,
>> please:

>>
>>
>>
>> · Advise us of any portion of the requested records that should be
>> withheld by using a translucent highlight. This can be done digitally
>> within Adobe or similar program.
>>
>> · Return a copy of the material indicating the portions that you
>> recommend be withheld.
>>
>> · Send us a statement explaining why the information you have
>> indicated is both confidential and commercial or financial in nature.
>> Your justifications must address all of the information you identify for
>> withholding.
>>
>> · Do not request the withholding of information unless it's
>> specifically addressed in your justifications. Note that your statement
>> must be in writing and must contain detailed and specific justifications
>> to support your proposed withholding(s); general statements will not be
>> honored.
>>
>> · Sign the bottom of the attached Release Letter and return it to
>> me by email or fax no later than Friday, October 7, 2022.
>>
>> Please note, we received a few more FOIA requests for similar information
>> where these documents might be responsive.
>>
>>
>>
>> If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance to you, please
>> do not hesitate to contact me.
>>
>>
>>
>> Thank you.
>>
>>
>>
>> Kara Citarella
>>
>> Policy/FOIA Analyst
>>
>> Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch/FOIA Service Center
>>
>> National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH
>>
>> GAP Inc. Solutions
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>>
>>

MORENS_SUBPOENA_001559
MORENS_NIH_007856
REL0000478165

Date: Tue, 27 Jul 2021 1:43:36 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 27 Jul 2021 1:41:46 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 <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

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.: +1.(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, July
To: Peter Daszak (<(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (<(b) (6) <(b) (6)
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

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David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: 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

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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 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: 323.481.2307
11620 Wilshire Blvd., 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025
Jenn@dunnpelliermedia.com
nicole@dunnpelliermedia.com
SOURCE Dr. Steven Quay

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Grant Number: 1U01AI151797-01 REVISED
FAIN: U01AI151797

Principal Investigator(s):
PETER DASZAK, PHD

Project Title: Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in EID Hotspots of Southeast Asia

Aleksei Chmura
Authorized Organizational Representative
460 West 34th Street, Suite 1701
New York, NY 100012317

Award e-mailed to: (b) (6)

Period Of Performance:
Budget Period: 06/17/2020 – 05/31/2021
Project Period: 06/17/2020 – 05/31/2025

Dear Business Official:

The National Institutes of Health hereby revises this award (see "Award Calculation" in Section I and "Terms and Conditions" in Section III) to ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. in support of the above referenced project. This award is pursuant to the authority of 42 USC 241 31 USC 6305 42 CFR 52 and is subject to the requirements of this statute and regulation and of other referenced, incorporated or attached terms and conditions.

Acceptance of this award including the "Terms and Conditions" is acknowledged by the grantee when funds are drawn down or otherwise obtained from the grant payment system.

Each publication, press release, or other document about research supported by an NIH award must include an acknowledgment of NIH award support and a disclaimer such as "Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute Of Allergy And Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number U01AI151797. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health." Prior to issuing a press release concerning the outcome of this research, please notify the NIH awarding IC in advance to allow for coordination.

Award recipients must promote objectivity in research by establishing standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct and reporting of research funded under NIH awards will be free from bias resulting from an Investigator's Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI), in accordance with the 2011 revised regulation at 42 CFR Part 50 Subpart F. The Institution shall submit all FCOI reports to the NIH through the eRA Commons FCOI Module. The regulation does not apply to Phase I Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. Consult the NIH website http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/ for a link to the regulation and additional important information.

If you have any questions about this award, please contact the individual(s) referenced in Section IV.

Sincerely yours,

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Regina E. Kitsoulis
Grants Management Officer
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Additional information follows

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SECTION I – AWARD DATA – 1U01AI151797-01 REVISED

Award Calculation (U.S. Dollars)

Salaries and Wages	$272,938
Fringe Benefits	$96,627
Personnel Costs (Subtotal)	$369,565
Consultant Services	$15,000
Materials & Supplies	$7,918
Travel	$72,225
Other	$27,000
Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs	$857,689
Federal Direct Costs	$1,349,397
Federal F&A Costs	$197,347
Approved Budget	$1,546,744
Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated (Federal Share)	$1,546,744
TOTAL FEDERAL AWARD AMOUNT	$1,546,744
AMOUNT OF THIS ACTION (FEDERAL SHARE)	$0

SUMMARY TOTALS FOR ALL YEARS		
YR	**THIS AWARD**	**CUMULATIVE TOTALS**
1	$1,546,744	$1,546,744
2	$1,505,568	$1,505,568
3	$1,504,400	$1,504,400
4	$1,503,220	$1,503,220
5	$1,502,037	$1,502,037

Recommended future year total cost support, subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the project

Fiscal Information:

CFDA Name:	Allergy and Infectious Diseases Research
CFDA Number:	93.855
EIN:	1311726494A1
Document Number:	UAI151797A
PMS Account Type:	P (Subaccount)
Fiscal Year:	2020

IC	CAN	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
AI	8472315	$1,546,744	$1,505,568	$1,504,400	$1,503,220	$1,502,037

Recommended future year total cost support, subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the project

NIH Administrative Data:
PCC: M32F B / **OC**: 41026 / **Released**: KITSOULISR 08/28/2020
Award Processed: 08/29/2020 12:01:42 AM

SECTION II – PAYMENT/HOTLINE INFORMATION – 1U01AI151797-01 REVISED

For payment and HHS Office of Inspector General Hotline information, see the NIH Home Page at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/awardconditions.htm

SECTION III – TERMS AND CONDITIONS – 1U01AI151797-01 REVISED

This award is based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, NIH on the above-titled project and is subject to the terms and conditions incorporated either directly or by reference in the following:

a. The grant program legislation and program regulation cited in this Notice of Award.
b. Conditions on activities and expenditure of funds in other statutory requirements, such as

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those included in appropriations acts.
c. 45 CFR Part 75.
d. National Policy Requirements and all other requirements described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement, including addenda in effect as of the beginning date of the budget period.
e. Federal Award Performance Goals: As required by the periodic report in the RPPR or in the final progress report when applicable.
f. This award notice, INCLUDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CITED BELOW.

(See NIH Home Page at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/awardconditions.htm for certain references cited above.)

Research and Development (R&D): All awards issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) meet the definition of "Research and Development" at 45 CFR Part§ 75.2. As such, auditees should identify NIH awards as part of the R&D cluster on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). The auditor should test NIH awards for compliance as instructed in Part V, Clusters of Programs. NIH recognizes that some awards may have another classification for purposes of indirect costs. The auditor is not required to report the disconnect (i.e., the award is classified as R&D for Federal Audit Requirement purposes but non-research for indirect cost rate purposes), unless the auditee is charging indirect costs at a rate other than the rate(s) specified in the award document(s).

Carry over of an unobligated balance into the next budget period requires Grants Management Officer prior approval.

This award is subject to the requirements of 2 CFR Part 25 for institutions to receive a Dun & Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and maintain an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). Should a consortium/subaward be issued under this award, a DUNS requirement must be included. See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/awardconditions.htm for the full NIH award term implementing this requirement and other additional information.

This award has been assigned the Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) U01AI151797. Recipients must document the assigned FAIN on each consortium/subaward issued under this award.

Based on the project period start date of this project, this award is likely subject to the Transparency Act subaward and executive compensation reporting requirement of 2 CFR Part 170. There are conditions that may exclude this award; see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/awardconditions.htm for additional award applicability information.

In accordance with P.L. 110-161, compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy is now mandatory. For more information, see NOT-OD-08-033 and the Public Access website: http://publicaccess.nih.gov/.

In accordance with the regulatory requirements provided at 45 CFR 75.113 and Appendix XII to 45 CFR Part 75, recipients that have currently active Federal grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts with cumulative total value greater than $10,000,000 must report and maintain information in the System for Award Management (SAM) about civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings in connection with the award or performance of a Federal award that reached final disposition within the most recent five-year period. The recipient must also make semiannual disclosures regarding such proceedings. Proceedings information will be made publicly available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)). Full reporting requirements and procedures are found in Appendix XII to 45 CFR Part 75. This term does not apply to NIH fellowships.

Treatment of Program Income:

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SECTION IV – AI Special Terms and Conditions – 1U01AI151797-01 REVISED

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.

REVISED AWARD:

Subaward Agreement Requirements: The ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. must provide NIAID with copies of all (existing and newly established) subaward agreements established under this award, including descriptions of the biosafety monitoring plans, within 30 days of establishment.

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) Requirements: This award is subject to the Transparency Act subaward reporting requirement of 2 CFR Part 170, which must be reported through the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Subaward Reporting System (FSRS). The ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. must provide NIAID with proof of documentation of timely entries of subaward information into the FSRS within 30 days of submitting to FSRS.

Supersedes previous Notice of Award dated **06/17/2020**. All other terms and conditions still apply to this award.

+++++++

This award does not include funds to support research subject to the *Department of Health and Human Services Framework for Guiding Funding Decisions about Proposed Research Involving Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens* (DHHS P3CO Framework) Therefore:

- For Aim 1: Identify, characterize and rank spillover risk of high zoonotic potential viruses from wildlife, the building of chimeric SARS-like bat coronaviruses will be based on the SHC014 or the pangolin coronavirus molecular clones and the building of chimeric MERS-CoV will be based on the HKU5 strain. Prior to further altering the mutant viruses you must provide NIAID with a detailed description of the proposed alterations and supporting evidence for the anticipated phenotypic characteristics of each virus.
- Alternative approaches to those referenced above, including building chimeras based on SARS-CoV-1, SARS-CoV-2, and MERS-CoV, may be subject to the DHHS P3CO Framework and must be submitted to NIAID for review and approval prior to the work commencing.

If any of the experiments proposed for Aim 1 result in a virus with a phenotype of enhanced pathogenicity and/or transmissibility, enhanced growth by more than 10 fold when compared to wild type strains, or if the mice display significant increases in weight loss, viral titer, or mortality when compared to wild-type strains, the recipient must immediately stop the work and notify the NIAID Program Officer, Grants Management Specialist, and appropriate institutional biosafety committee. Policy changes regarding the classification of these experiments or components used in these experiments may be subject to immediate halting of experimentation. No NIH funding can be used to perform such experiments until these experiments have been approved by NIAID with a revised NOA.

****
Dissemination of study data will be in accord with the Recipient's accepted genomic data sharing plan as stated on page(s) **373** of the application. Failure to adhere to the sharing plan as mutually agreed upon by the Recipient and the NIAID may result in Enforcement Actions as described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement.

****
This award includes human subject research studies and must conform to the DHHS policies for the Protection of Human Subjects research, which are a term and condition of award. Human subjects research is covered by the 2018 Common Rule, and may not be initiated until the associated protocols have received IRB approval as specified in 45 CFR 46. Failure to comply

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with the terms and conditions of award may result in the disallowance of costs and/or additional enforcement actions as outlined in Section 8.5 of the NIH Grants Policy Statement.

****

The Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR), Section G.9 (Foreign component), includes reporting requirements for all research performed outside of the United States. Research conducted at the following site(s) must be reported in your RPPR:

Jeppesen Field Consulting Australia - AUSTRALIA
Conservation Medicine Ltd. - MALAYSIA
Duke-NUS Medical School - SINGAPORE
Chulalongkorn University - THAILAND

****

This award may include collaborations with and/or between foreign organizations. Please be advised that short term travel visa expenses are an allowable expense on this grant, if justified as critical and necessary for the conduct of the project.

****

This Notice of Award (NoA) includes funds for activity with **Conservation Medicine Ltd.** - **MALAYSIA** in the amount of **$224,997** (**$208,331** direct costs **+ $16,666** F&A costs).

****

This Notice of Award (NoA) includes funds for activity with **Duke-NUS Medical School - SINGAPORE** in the amount of **$108,000** (**$100,000** direct costs + **$8,000** F&A costs).

****

This Notice of Award (NoA) includes funds for activity with **Chulalongkorn University - THAILAND** in the amount of **$215,944** (**$199,948** direct costs **+ $15,996** F&A costs).

****

This Notice of Award (NoA) includes funds for activity with **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** in the amount of **$194,375** (**$125,000** direct costs **+ $69,375** F&A costs).

****

This Notice of Award (NoA) includes funds for activity **The Henry M. Jackson Fdn. for the Adv'mt. of Mil. Med., Inc**. in the amount of **$114,373** (**$75,000** direct costs **+ $39,373** F&A costs).

****

In accordance with the NIAID Financial Management Plan, NIAID does not provide funds for inflationary increases. Committed future year (s) funding was adjusted accordingly. See: https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/financial-management-plan.

****

This award is issued as a Cooperative Agreement, a financial assistance mechanism in which substantial NIH scientific and/or programmatic involvement is anticipated in the performance of the activity. This award is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Award as set forth in Section VI: Award Administrative Information of **RFA AI-19-028**, "**Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Centers**," posted date **3/5/2019**, which are hereby incorporated by reference as special terms and conditions of this award.

This RFA may be accessed at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html

****

This award is subject to the Clinical Terms of Award referenced in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts, July 8, 2002, NOT AI-02-032. These terms and conditions are hereby incorporated by reference, and can be accessed via the following World Wide Web address: https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/niaid-clinical-terms-award All submissions required by the NIAID Clinical Terms of Award must be forwarded electronically or by mail to the responsible NIAID Program Official identified on this Notice of Award.

****

Select Agents:

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Awardee of a project that at any time involves a restricted experiment with a select agent, is responsible for notifying and receiving prior approval from the NIAID. Please be advised that changes in the use of a Select Agent will be considered a change in scope and require NIH awarding office prior approval. The approval is necessary for new select agent experiments as well as changes in on-going experiments that would require change in the biosafety plan and/or biosafety containment level. An approval to conduct a restricted experiment granted to an individual cannot be assumed an approval to other individuals who conduct the same restricted experiment as defined in the Select Agents Regulation 42 CFR Part 73, Section 13.b (http://www.selectagents.gov/Regulations.html).

Highly Pathogenic Agent:
NIAID defines a Highly Pathogenic Agent as an infectious Agent or Toxin that may warrant a biocontainment safety level of BSL3 or higher according to the current edition of the CDC/NIH Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) (http://www.cdc.gov/OD/ohs/biosfty/bmbl5/bmbl5toc.htm). Research funded under this grant must adhere to the BMBL, including using the BMBL-recommended biocontainment level at a minimum. If your Institutional Biosafety Committee (or equivalent body) or designated institutional biosafety official recommend a higher biocontainment level, the highest recommended containment level must be used.
When submitting future Progress Reports indicate at the beginning of the report:

If no research with a Highly Pathogenic Agent or Select Agent has been performed or is planned to be performed under this grant.

If your IBC or equivalent body or official has determined, for example, by conducting a risk assessment, that the work being planned or performed under this grant may be conducted at a biocontainment safety level that is lower than BSL3.

If the work involves Select Agents and/or Highly Pathogenic Agents, also address the following points:

Any changes in the use of the Agent(s) or Toxin(s) including its restricted experiments that have resulted in a change in the required biocontainment level, and any resultant change in location, if applicable, as determined by your IBC or equivalent body or official.

If work with a new or additional Agent(s)/Toxin(s) is proposed in the upcoming project period, provide:

- A list of the new and/or additional Agent(s) that will be studied;
- A description of the work that will be done with the Agent(s), and whether or not the work is a restricted experiment;
- The title and location for each biocontainment resource/facility, including the name of the organization that operates the facility, and the biocontainment level at which the work will be conducted, with documentation of approval by your IBC or equivalent body or official. It is important to note if the work is being done in a new location.

STAFF CONTACTS

The Grants Management Specialist is responsible for the negotiation, award and administration of this project and for interpretation of Grants Administration policies and provisions. The Program Official is responsible for the scientific, programmatic and technical aspects of this project. These individuals work together in overall project administration. Prior approval requests (signed by an Authorized Organizational Representative) should be submitted in writing to the Grants Management Specialist. Requests may be made via e-mail.

Grants Management Specialist: Shaun W Gratton
Email: (b) (6) **Phone**: (b) (6) **Fax**: 301-(b) (6)

Program Official: Jean Lois Patterson
Email: (b) (6) **Phone**: (b) (6)

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SPREADSHEET SUMMARY
GRANT NUMBER: 1U01AI151797-01 REVISED

INSTITUTION: ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.

Budget	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Salaries and Wages	$272,938	$272,938	$272,938	$272,938	$272,938
Fringe Benefits	$96,627	$96,628	$96,628	$96,628	$96,628
Personnel Costs (Subtotal)	$369,565	$369,566	$369,566	$369,566	$369,566
Consultant Services	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000
Materials & Supplies	$7,918	$7,918	$7,918	$7,918	$7,918
Travel	$72,225	$72,225	$72,225	$72,225	$72,225
Other	$27,000	$27,000	$27,000	$27,000	$27,000
Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs	$857,689	$856,512	$855,344	$854,164	$852,981
TOTAL FEDERAL DC	$1,349,397	$1,348,221	$1,347,053	$1,345,873	$1,344,690
TOTAL FEDERAL F&A	$197,347	$157,347	$157,347	$157,347	$157,347
TOTAL COST	$1,546,744	$1,505,568	$1,504,400	$1,503,220	$1,502,037

Facilities and Administrative Costs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
F&A Cost Rate 1	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%
F&A Cost Base 1	$616,708	$491,709	$491,709	$491,709	$491,709
F&A Costs 1	$197,347	$157,347	$157,347	$157,347	$157,347

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Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:41:56 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:41:55 AM -0400
Subject: Re:Use this thread to respond! Economist - Shared Article 'Putting it all together'
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <j(b) (6)
To: (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6)

Thanks, Peter. Yes, the FOIA thing occurred to me too. I find the Frank and candid sharing of info really helpful. I also apologised separately to Maria. She shouldn't have been in the thread. Also explained the ensuing convo was actually positive and constructive. Suspect she's just worn out and super sensitive.

--- Original Message ---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >

To: JASON GALE, (b) (6)

CC: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

At: 08/23/21 22:24:35 UTC+10:00

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

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EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:36 AM
To:
Cc: (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; (b) (6) ; Garry, Robert F
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 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

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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 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

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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

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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'

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021864
MORENS_NIH_042745
REL0000478178

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: (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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_021865
MORENS_NIH_042746
REL0000478178

Date: Tue, 21 May 2024 6:07:54 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 21 May 2024 6:07:50 AM -0400
Subject: RE: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
To: (b) (6)) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
CC: Douglas.(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
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: (b) (6)
Fax:
email: (b) (6)

Exec t: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax:
email: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: M 024 8:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Spent about 5 hours with my lawyer today in preparation for my Wednesday testimony. Although he expects I will be skewered with false charges and press releases that will distort the truth, he also is optimistic that what I will say mostly exonerates me, not that the committee will admit that. He says that I should be prepared to be hit with criminal charges and firing and possible jail time for using my Gmail for supposed government business. This is what the committee is pushing for and they are pushing for a Justice Department investigation

already.

Please come visit me in prison and help me find a job when I get out. At least if that happens I will finally have the ability to speak out and write about what has been going in. I won't mince words. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

-------- Original Message --------
On 5/20/24 17:57, Peter Daszak wrote:

> I'll do that – good suggestion Peter
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**
> *President*
>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
>
> Tel.: +(b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
> **Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
> **To:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
> **Cc:** Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6) >
> **Subject:** Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
>
> You can write to her and cc me (b) (6)
>
> Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | **Donate** to Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM
Keusch, Gerald (b) (6); Alison Andre (b) (6); Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)>; David Morens <(b) (6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6); Keith Martin <(b) (6)>; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)>
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)>; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau (b) (6)
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

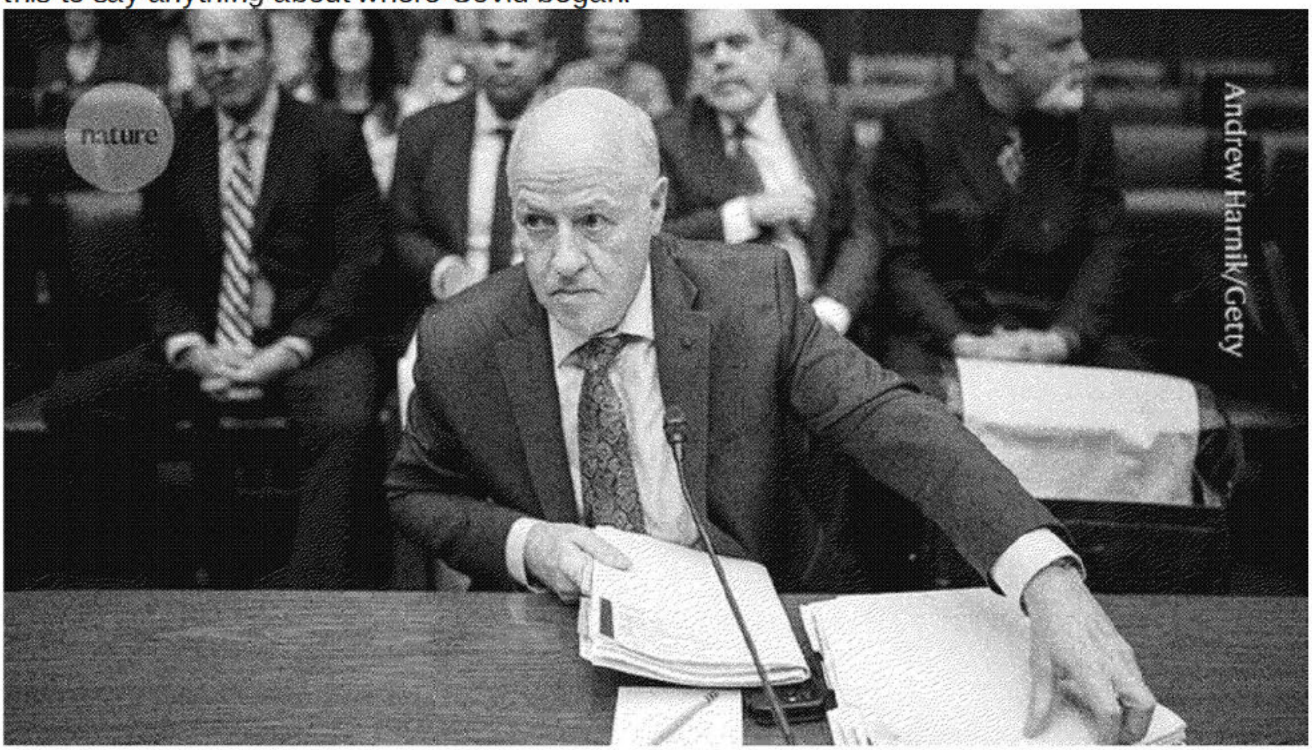
Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they

've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).



Amy Maxmen, PhD
@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless.
https://nature.com/articles/d41586- 024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.



US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K



Peter Daszak

MORENS_NIH_046756
REL0000478182

@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
'Keusch, Gerald' (b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) 'Keith Martin' <(b) (6) 'Rich Roberts' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May
To: Alison Andre <(b) (6) (b) (6) ay <(b) (6) ens < (b) (6) (b) (6) Kei >; Rich Roberts <
Cc: Soriano Os (b) (6) >; Aleks (b) (6) >;
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) audreau (b) (6)
Subject: RE: M s week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

From: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20
To: Hotez, Peter (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >;
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Os >;
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Gaudreau <(b) (6)
Subject: Meeti ek

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
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New York, NY 10018

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1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

MORENS_NIH_046759
REL0000478182

Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2022 9:23:25 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 21 Apr 2022 9:23:11 AM -0400
Subject: Re: New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
David Morens <(b) (6)

Problem is this does not address the bigger issue of widespread attacks on science and scientists, most outside the government from the US Congress, conservative news outlets and even the federal courts

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: 713-798-1199
Fax: (b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 21, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000354
MORENS_NIH_003977
REL0000478184

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The GAO was asked by the Biden administration to look into political interference in science by the white house under Trump. They interviewed me repeatedly last year and this year about the termination of our R01 grant.

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao- 22-104613

This is the first report from them on the topic. It's massively disappointing, of course, because it just comes up with broad recommendations on what agencies should do to protect themselves against political interference. However, if you read the email below, this is the first of two reports, and the second one should hopefully go into more detail about the NIH actions on EcoHealth's grant.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1-212-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Marek, Robert J <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:56 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subj New GAO Report on Scientific Integrity at HHS

Dear Peter,

Thank you for participating in our report on scientific integrity at HHS. Our completed report can be accessed here. Please feel free to share it with your network and colleagues. We plan to issue an additional report that will examine the key characteristics that can insulate agencies from political interference, and how, if at all, the selected HHS agencies have experienced potential political interference while carrying out their missions.

Thank you again for your time and providing information on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Rob Marek

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Date: Tue, 11 Jun 2024 5:49:42 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 11 Jun 2024 5:49:08 PM -0400
Subject: Zoom
From: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)

One tap mobile
(b) (6) #,,,,(b) (6) #

MORENS_NIH_053654
REL0000478193

Date:	Wed, 6 Oct 2021 12:47:31 AM -0400
Sent:	Wed, 6 Oct 2021 12:46:00 AM -0400
Subject:	1st batch of emails with David Morens' @Niaid address that might have been FoIA'd
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	David Morens (b) (6) Gerald Jerry Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Attachments:	Re Wash Times Coronavirus more likely infected people through natural channels says former health official.msg; FW USA TODAY seeking comment on claim Dr Fauci involved in engineering coronavirus.msg; Re Guardian Ignore the conspiracy theories scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab.msg; Re Guardian Ignore the conspiracy theories scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab.msg; FW Guardian Ignore the conspiracy theories scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab.msg; RE couple of stories from our paper on 781 bat-CoVs.msg; Re Your article has been published at http mbio asm org.msg; Re Just went out.msg; RE A novel bat coronavirus closely related to SARS-CoV-2 contains natural insertions at the S1 S2 cleavage site of the spike protein Current Biology.msg; Re responses to new Mikovits video.msg; Re responses to new Mikovits video.msg; Re responses to new Mikovits video.msg; Re Nat Geo Fauci No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab https on natgeo com 2yvKuY3.msg; RE Perspective Honorarium (Morens Taubenberger Daszak 4 2 Perspective).msg; Re Newsweek Dr Fauci Backed Controversial Wuhan Lab with Millions of U S Dollars for Risky Coronavirus Research.msg; Re brief statement for reporter tonight.msg; RE brief statement for reporter tonight.msg; Re PLEASE READ -- Re Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06.msg; RE Thank you for your public comments re COVID-19's origins.msg; Re New ms.msg; Re Thoughts from a strategic communicator.msg; RE Escaping Pandora's Box.msg; RE Wuhan novel coronavirus - NIAID's role in bat-origin CoVs.msg

David, Jerry, Aleksei, Robert and Jeff.

David – I'm cc'ing Jerry because some of these emails have him copied. I'm cc'ing Robert and Jeff because they know how these emails are likely to be used by reporters, if that's who's got them.

Jerry – David's NIH email address was FoIA'd and they're pulling out emails to me or tony Fauci and about Wuhan etc. You're in some of these. We started using David's gmail address in April 2020 around the time of the cancelation of our grant, but some slipped through the net, as is expected.

This is the first batch – Jan 1st 2020 to July 1st 2020. The attachment at the top is the most recent. Please read the emails down through the chain, because sometimes the more revealing stuff is buried within the email chain

There is some embarrassing stuff in there, the most heinous is:

- Generally suggests that we were working together to shape a narrative about the virus not having come out of a lab
- A couple of emails with 'fruity' language about kicking ass once the NIH defunding of our grant is solved
- Some emails critical of Trump
- One email from me that says "I don't know if WIV did GoF work outside of our NIAID grant".
- Some details of what happened with NIH cancelation and what my response to that was, and how you helped me shape it
- First email (Jan 27th) where David Morens says that Tony Fauci mentioned he feels 'brain dead' after dealing with press and politics all week. It was meant as a joke, but will be taken the wrong way of course.

All of this is fairly harmless, but if these emails are with reporters, they'll use them to create stories as per above, and with headlines like:

"Powerful cabal of scientists from within NIH helped draft anti lab-leak narrative"
"Daszak suspected WIV may have continued GoF work outside of NIH grant"

Robert and all – we don't know if all these emails have been foia'd. There are others in addition to these, and I'll send another batch through tomorrow.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. I don't know how bad the fallout would be from these, but we'll know soon enough if reporters have them and are writing a story – they always check with us the night before for comments. I'll let you know as soon as that happens.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Fri, 18 Jun 2021 11:15:26 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 18 Jun 2021 11:11:23 AM -0400
Subject: When will Tony Fauci testify next
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Quick question - when is Tony testifying next - you mentioned he's up soon and I want to get ready for the phone ringing.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Goraleski, Karen <(b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: CONFIDENTIAL WITHIN OUR SMALL GROUP, PLEASE

TY.....

On 6/17/2021 1:53 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_020387
MORENS_NIH_041033
REL0000478207

> Thank you David for this note, and for your tireless efforts to speak to
> truth and be true to the best of what science is all about.
>
> Jerry
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 1:19 PM
> To: Goraleski, Karen <(b) (6) >; Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious
> Diseases) <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6) Peter Daszak
> <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts,
> (b) (6)
> Rich < >
> Subjec AL WITHIN OUR SMALL GROUP, PLEASE
>
> Dear ASTMH Colleagues,
>
> The attached request for document production from 5 US Senators relates to
> some of the issues we have been dealing with over the past year, focusing
> on the origins of COVID-19, the terminat6ion of NIH's major sarbecovirus
> grant, and related issues.
>
> It requests documents from myself and the senior leadership of NIAID, and
> also mentions two other ASTMH members.
>
> As you may know, NIH correspondence between me and others, including my
> boss, concerning COVID-19 origins, had previously been FOIA'd and
> published in the press.
>
> This request is NOT A FOIA, and I have not yet been asked to respond
> directly because, presumably, HHS is deciding how to respond, if at all.
>
> Nevertheless, a couple things should be said here....
>
> First, I have retained very few emails or documents on these matters, and
> continue to request that correspondence on sensitive issues be sent to me
> at my gmail address, (b) (6)
>
> I have tried to make sure I have retained no documents that might lead
> other members of ASTMH to be approached for similar document production.
> The exception is normal correspondence surrounding last year's publication
> in AJTMH of the two pieces on this subject. There is NO PROBLEM with
> those publications, and no reason to worry, since the papers were
> published and are widely available in the public domain, and I, as a
> co-author on one of those papers, have made my views widely known in a
> variety of venues in the press and in public.
>
> My feeling about this is that I have nothing to hide or worry about, and
> that my views are based on scientific evidence, and I am comfortable in
> explaining and defending those. Furthermore, I am comfortable in
> defending the importance of the work done in terminated grant and why I
> believe this work must continue. I feel certain that the leadership here

> agrees with this.
>
> So, in other words, I don't think there is anything to worry about because
> there is no "there" there.
>
> But this is yet another reminder that it is important to speak up as
> scientists on critically important issues of the day. ASTMH can be proud
> that we have spoken up about these matters in the past, and I hope we will
> continue to do so.
>
> Thanks, David Morens
>
> --
> David M Morens
> (b) (6)
>
>

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Date: Mon, 29 Apr 2024 5:20:10 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 29 Apr 2024 5:18:52 PM -0400
Subject: RE: From Marcia McNutt
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) John Feigelson <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <J_(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)

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

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Pete (b) (6) >; (b) (6) ; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: From Marcia McNutt

Below, after our panel

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b) (6)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "McNutt, Marcia K." <(b) (6)
Date: April 29, 2024 at 3:48:31 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6) Anthony Fauci <(b) (6) >, "Iwasaki, Akiko" <(b) (6) "Mann, Michael E." <(b) (6) >
Cc: "Agee, Jennylee" (b) (6) >, "Chalfie, Martin" (b) (6) >, Martin Chalfie <(b) (6) >, "Everly, Rebecca" (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Thank you!

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
(b) (6) (office) | ((b) (6) (cell)
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

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On Apr 29, 2024, at 3:47 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:

Dear Marcia (Martin): Thank you again for the extraordinary opportunity to meet with the NAS members and discuss the rise of anti-science activism in America. I received so much nice and productive feedback both at the panel session and the afternoon reception. As I indicated, the panel could be game-changing in helping to counter the anti-science monster.

I look forward to the follow up in the coming weeks and months. Perhaps working through the committee on human rights is a potential mechanism?

In the meantime we recently received some modest funding from the George and Cynthia Mitchell Foundation for this purpose and I will explore with them the potential for working through the NAS, etc.

Again, thank you for everything! It was a memorable weekend on many fronts.

Warmest regards, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

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(b) (6) **ve Support** (b) (6) oriano
| Phone: | Fax: 713-798-2299

(b) (6)

Date:	Tue, 12 Apr 2022 1:16:46 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 12 Apr 2022 1:14:08 PM -0400
Subject:	The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments:	Attachment A - Letter to NAM_Nov_30_2021.pdf; Attachment B - Focused Allegations and Supporting Documents.pdf; Letter to Member - Code of Conduct Notification2022Apr11.pdf; Attachment C - NAM Bylaws_Code of Conduct_Policy.pdf

Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Kim, Se <(b) (6)
Subject: confidential

Dear Dr. Daszak,

On behalf of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), I am notifying you that the NAM has received a complaint alleging that you have engaged in conduct(s) that may constitute violation(s) of the NAM Code of Conduct for members.

Please find attached a notification letter, supplemental documentation, and NAM bylaws and Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the NAM Policy and Procedure on Violations of the Code of Conduct, please provide a response to the allegations within 30 days of the date of this notification, and by no later than May 13, 2022.

For your awareness, copies of this notification is postage mailed by FedEx to your office address at EcoHealth Alliance, 520 Eighth Ave Suite 1200, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, M.D., M.P.H.
Home Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

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Date:	Mon, 2 Aug 2021 5:17:18 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 2 Aug 2021 5:17:06 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: House report on Origins
From:	Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
To:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Linfa <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery Wang
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

The best that can be said of this report is that it provides a handy compendium of all the conspiracy theories.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

On 3 Aug 2021, at 5:18 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:

Agree on all counts, and will be keen to see the ms.! d

On 8/2/2021 1:07 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Thanks for sharing David – I saw the press this morning – so far it's only in the usual extreme Right wing papers, but no doubt will drip over to the more mainstream Murdoch press tomorrow. I'm amazed they are ready willing and able to spend so much time on this non-story, and come up with 83 pages based on misconstrued contents from a small number of emails, and innuendo they've built up around it.

This week we're submitting a paper that provides the most detailed analysis yet of spillover risk in Southeast Asia. We have credible estimates of an average of 400,000 (median 50,000) people infected by bat SARSr-CoVs each year in Southeast Asia/South China. It'll be up on bioRxiv preprint server the week of Aug 16th. I'll share a version with you next week prior to the preprint coming out (we might have last minute changes).

This, Eddie's review, other papers on new bat-CoVs related to SARS-CoV-2 and the continued lack of novel info re. the lab leak strongly suggest that the lab leak hypothesis is going nowhere serious, other than a pure political strategy, which it clearly is here.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; EW (b) (6) (b) (6) net>; Eddie Holmes (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Kessler, Robert (b) (6) b) (6) >; Wang Linfa (b) (6)
Subject: FW: House report on Origins

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:19 AM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: House report on Origins

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Date: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:51:54 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:51:52 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Important re. Tony Fauci Comments just now
From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >;

David
Whose fact sheet is this

When u say "Tony needs to be aware" -- u want me to tell him?

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Important re. Tony Fauci Comments just now

Tony needs to be aware that non human coronaviruses including sarbecoviruses are routinely worked at in BSL-2 around the world as are many truly deadly viruses. The BSL level designation is decided by each country and is not related to perceived pandemic potential but largely to risk to the bSL workers

For example, BSL-4 designstion generally means deadly virus, infectious by aerosol, no vaccine against it, and no treatment for it. So, altho rabies is 100% fatal in humans, it can be prevented by a vaccine and prevented by a post exposure serum, and (probably if not totally) not infectious by aerosol, thus BSL-2 even though among the deadliest of human viruses. Working with non-human coronaviruses at BSL-2 is a ho-hum common sense approach since these viruses are not known to infect humans. d

The press totally does not understand this, so it's a minefield potentially. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** June 4, 2021 at 19:4
> **To:** "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) m>, Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
> >
> **Cc:** Robert Kessler (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Importan st now**
>
> Very worried that Tony Fauci said the comment below. It feels like he's throwing us under a bus here.
>
> I've attached the rules for BSL for a bunch of different viruses around the world.
>
> Rabies is cultured at BSL-2 in the USA.
>
> Cedar virus, a bat-paramyxovirus related to Hendra and Nipah is cultured at BSL-2 in the USA.
>
> Chimeric Cedar virus with Hendra & Nipah genes inserted into it is cultured at BSL-2 in the USA

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kiran Stacey (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Subject: FT request

Dear Peter, I wanted to give you a chance to respond to a comment Tony Fauci made to me in an interview which we are publishing tomorrow. Referring to the accusation that some work on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan was done at BSL-2, he said:

"We will have to go back and look at that, but that is something that should have been monitored by EcoHealth Alliance."

Can you let me know if you have a response?

Thanks
Kiran

--
Kiran Stacey
Washington Correspondent
Financial Times

Office: +(b) (6)
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@kiranstacey



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Date:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 3:45:23 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 3:43:32 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Interview in the press
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Robe (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

Yes – saw that piece. There are some truths in it and some exaggerations. On cover-ups in China. From what I've gleaned, the coverups were not as simplistic as they suggest – i.e. that China acted a single entity in not letting the world know how serious COVID was – it's more subtle than that:

1) the local CDC (Wuhan) didn't inform the Federal CDC (China CDC) early enough about the outbreak and their suspicions of it being SARS-like. This seems to be a case of city and provincial bureaucrats not wanting to be punished by higher ups – probably cost a few days in closing down transmission at the market.
2) The market workers covered up the live animal trade in the Huanan Seafood Market instead of having them tested, and finding out the source farms where the outbreak likely happened. This was then covered up by every sector of govt in China, and is denied to this day, despite there being solid, published evidence of it.
3) There clearly was a delay in reporting the sequence in early Jan, but I think that was a case of individual labs competing for a Nature paper – prob cost a couple of days in getting that information out globally. We don't know how long that would have continued, but the sequence was already in press on Jan 11th when it was released by one group via GISAID, so probably would have been released by the journal a few days later.
4) Re. human to human transmission, China was open about intra-family transmission, and the WHO and most of us strongly suspected human-to-human transmission very early on – in fact I publicly stated in early Jan when there were suddenly 40+ cases from the Huanan Market, that this is either human-to-human transmission or repeated exposure to an infected animal source. We knew the market was cleaned out so the latter was unlikely. Marion Koopmans also believed this and said this publicly. It was a dynamic, difficult outbreak situation and no one had such certainty, but the evidence was already there.

The most important mistakes were then our lack of preparation between Jan and March – we could see the virus spread to Thailand (early Jan), then Iran, then Italy, then Austria/rest of Europe. We saw the horrors of the Seattle nursing homes, and our White House just tried to wish it away – we all know the rest – that same magical thinking led us into the 'Opening by Easter weekend' comments in 2020, then summer surge, the opening just before the Delta wave, anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers and the whole sorry mess we've been through.

Then the current big mistake – I'm glad she points out that we continued to fail in getting sufficient vaccines out to the rest of the world, and the consequences of that for continued waves of infection…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 2:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Interview in the press

Peter:

You have my sympathy. Lot's of very loaded questions.

Incidentally, did you see the NY Times article attached? I am curious about your reaction (and others too).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Dennis Carroll (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Interview in the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all (cc'ing Dennis Carroll who I spoke with at the weekend),

Not sure if you've already seen this, but after multiple harassing, innuendo-filled articles in this journal *The Intercept*, we decided to respond to them and try to explain that all of the minutiae they have been reporting on for the last few months are not evidence of corrupt science that led to a pandemic, but just the opposite – they're part of the normal process of doing science to

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help prevent pandemics.

The result is an interview they published last week that is a bit combative, but at least helps explain to those who are bothered, that all of the allegations these guys have been pushing can be easily addressed, albeit that the answers are 1) boring, and 2) not the narrative that they want.

David – you'll be interested in the bit where I explain that the NIH Office of the Director has been cruelly holding us over a barrel to deflect from their political and erroneous decision to defund us.

Here's the link: https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/

And here's the story pasted in the email:

PETER DASZAK ANSWERS CRITICS AND DEFENDS CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

"Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof," said the EcoHealth Alliance president on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl
March 11 2022, 9:50 a.m.

SINCE THE EARLY days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Peter Daszak has been at the center of a heated, and at times vicious, debate over the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The parasitologist helms the New York-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, a wildlife conservation organization that aims to understand and prevent infectious diseases; the organization has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from U.S. agencies, much of which Daszak distributes to labs around the world. Starting in 2005, he worked closely with Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, who was a key partner on a 2014 National Institutes of Health grant to research bat coronaviruses in China. The Intercept has published over 2,500 pages of documents and communications from the grant following a Freedom of Information lawsuit — information that has transformed public understanding of the research conducted under the grant.

Those documents have shown that in its efforts to head off and prepare for a pandemic, EcoHealth Alliance oversaw an experiment in which researchers intentionally made

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coronaviruses more pathogenic and transmissible. One grant report contained evidence that the research group also did an experiment with infectious clones of MERS, another deadly virus. While none of the experiments described in the grant materials released so far could have sparked the current pandemic, the documents raise serious questions about biosafety and oversight at NIH. Early in the grant, research on certain coronaviruses was subject to a U.S. government ban, but notes on communications between NIH staffers and EcoHealth Alliance obtained by The Intercept showed that the federal agency allowed Daszak to take the lead in shaping a plan to evade that moratorium.

Meanwhile, a grant proposal published by the internet research group DRASTIC last September showed that in 2018 EcoHealth Alliance applied for funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, to look for novel furin cleavage sites in bat coronaviruses. According to the proposal, which was not funded, EcoHealth planned to insert furin cleavage sites into the spikes of SARS-related viruses — an idea that drew attention because scientists had already noted that such a site is unique in the subclass of viruses to which SARS-CoV-2 belongs.

The Intercept repeatedly sought comment from EcoHealth Alliance on these revelations. EcoHealth initially responded. In September 2021, a spokesperson denied that the organization had conducted the research on the deadly MERS virus that was described in the NIH proposal. After documents obtained via FOIA later showed that such research had in fact been done, Daszak stated that the spokesperson had been misinformed. EcoHealth Alliance then stopped responding to The Intercept's questions. In late February, Daszak replied to email inquiries and offered to talk. He spoke with us on March 1. In a wide-ranging interview conducted over Zoom, he addressed questions that have swirled around EcoHealth Alliance for the past two years, defended his organization against what he characterized as unjust accusations, and railed against the questioning he has faced from congressional Republicans, the NIH, and news organizations, including The Intercept.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Responding to the Outbreak

We're curious when you first heard about the outbreak in Wuhan.

If you look at my Twitter account, you'll see a tweet on New Year's Eve of 2019 —

But before the tweet, what was the moment when you first learned about it?

It was a couple of days before that. We heard from our contacts in China that something

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was going on, that there were cases of a disease in Wuhan. I think it was December 30. We looked on Chinese social media and found the rumors about it there. But we heard from many scientists in China.

Many of the virologists and other scientists we speak to say that we don't have enough information to determine whether Covid-19 emerged from natural spillover or as a result of research. Do you agree with that?

Do I agree that it's possible that Covid-19 emerged through a lab leak? Of course. It's been widely reported that we shut down discussion on that. But in the WHO report, which I was part of — and in fact I led the animal environmental side for the WHO side — we state that it's extremely unlikely. We don't state that it's impossible it came from the lab. Of course it's possible.

One of the many reasons that the origin of Covid-19 became such a sensitive and divisive issue was the sense, based on your communications about the Lancet letter, that you orchestrated a response among scientists and then made an effort to distance yourself from that effort. Do you want to say anything about that episode?

You said, "One of the reasons why this has become so divisive is because of the Lancet thing." You could say that about many things. It's because we didn't release the DARPA proposal. It's because we didn't release our emails. It's because, early on, we said very strongly that this came from nature, and that this lab leak stuff is preposterous. The real reason this has become so divisive is because it's being used politically. That's it.

Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof. And for this issue, there's no definitive proof. And there may never be. But what we do know is the weight of evidence points strongly to emergence from farmed wildlife in China.

Since the WHO report even, there are something like 12 scientific papers that have been published or put up online from good scientists pointing towards that origin. And I've looked at every single document that's come out of the folks who are trying to show it came out of the lab, and there is no evidence yet for that. It's all about implied motives, databases that were taken offline, people that aren't on a website, or innuendo around something. Any one of those things can be explained by the normal process of doing science.



An aerial view of the P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China's central Hubei province on April 17, 2020.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Controversial Research

Did EcoHealth Alliance or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, through its partnership with EcoHealth Alliance, ever insert a furin cleavage site into a bat

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coronavirus genetic sequence?

Of course we did not do that. I really don't understand how that could be a question at this point — it's beyond the pale. That's not in our plans and it's not any of our reports, so of course we didn't do that.

But isn't it the case that you submitted a grant proposal to DARPA to do so?

We did submit a proposal to DARPA. I've not checked through the one that's online that it's the correct document. What I do know is it was widely reported that DARPA rejected that because there were concerns about safety issues. That is absolutely untrue. The document that allegedly is DARPA's response, their review of our proposal, I've never seen that before. It was never sent to us. I don't know if it's real.

DARPA had a process by which people who didn't get funded could do an interview with them to find out why they didn't get funded. So I did that. Never once did they mention any concerns or issues around safety; never once did they mention gain-of-function. The reason they told us it was rejected was because the amount we asked for was too much for them. They couldn't afford it. They actually encouraged us to resubmit in different ways. We then had protracted conversations with them about funding specific parts of it. They liked the proposal.

Was any of the work described in that proposal completed prior to its submission? We were told by multiple sources that when you submit a grant, that at least some of the work would have been done.

When you write a grant proposal and propose to do a new line of research, which is what we did, we would not be doing that research before we submit the proposal. That's not how it works.

When we asked if you had ever inserted a furin cleavage site to a coronavirus, you responded with outrage. But that is what was described in the DARPA proposal.

No. What you said is, did we insert a furin cleavage site? And what I said was, of course not! If we had done that work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, it would have been published by now. It would have been made public in our reports to the NIH. The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple.

But you acknowledge that you proposed to DARPA to insert a furin cleavage site?

I refute that that was the goal of the DARPA proposal. The idea was not to insert a furin cleavage site in a virus to see what happens. That's not what was proposed. The proposal was to look for those polybasic cleavage sites in nature because we knew that that was the potential to make a virus more able to infect people and move from person to person.

If we found mutations around that polybasic cleavage site that looked like it could be evolvable, the idea was then that Ralph Baric's lab at UNC would do some work to see how evolvable that site was. So that work never happened. The proposal was not funded.

Did you find any of these cleavage sites in naturally occurring viruses that you collected?

The proposal was not funded so we didn't do that work. We've not found polybasic cleavage sites. However, they are in many coronaviruses from bats. Papers from Europe show mutations around that cleavage site that suggest strongly that that furin cleavage site could evolve very easily in nature. I'm sure there are viruses out there with it. I'm convinced that it could have easily evolved during the first stages of the pandemic, as the virus got from bats, perhaps into an intermediate host in a wildlife farm, or into people.

Did you resubmit the proposal?

We had conversations with them over many months about bits they would like to fund or they wanted to fund. We did not get funded. We did not do the work.

So you didn't think the DARPA proposal was relevant to the investigation into the origin of the pandemic?

A proposal that was not funded and work that was never done is not relevant to the origins of Covid. Of course not!

When asked if you had done this work with the furin cleavage site, you said no.

For the furin cleavage site, you should really ask Ralph Baric. He wrote that section of the DARPA grant.

So you're saying that that would be a good question for Ralph Baric, whether he has done any of these insertions?

I don't know what Ralph Baric has done. But I doubt that he would go ahead and do that work without the funding.

Some virologists were dismayed to see the insertion of furin cleavage sites in this proposal.

I don't know why anyone would be dismayed at that because furin cleavage sites were first researched in influenza viruses. And it's well known that that's something you should look for if you're interested in virulence factors. Second, there's actually a published paper from way before our proposal was submitted, way before the pandemic, where a group actually inserted a furin cleavage site into SARS-CoV-1. So we were right to look for that. And I think the proposal stands as a valid and actually quite predictive

effort to understand the risk of viruses. You've got to look at the big picture of why we do this research. We're not doing it as a sort of academic interest, "what would happen if you put a cleavage site there?" No. This work is done to say: What viruses are there out there in the wild that have the potential to emerge in people? And can we do something to stop them? Develop vaccines, develop therapies, stop people making contact with those animals.

Your grant, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," included an experiment using humanized mice. Were other humanized mouse experiments conducted by you and/or WIV?

Not by us, no.

What about by WIV?

Well, you need to talk to WIV about what else they were doing. We were doing one line of work with them.

Were you aware of any?

No, of course. I'd tell you if I was aware.

Were there viruses from elsewhere in Southeast Asia that were sent to the WIV?

No. This is a commonly put about story that's simply not true. WIV did not receive viruses from all around the world.

How many actual viruses do they have?

WIV does not have the biggest collection of viruses from bats in the world. There's 20,000 bat samples, something like that, tiny fecal pellets from bats.

Right now I don't know exactly how many bat coronaviruses are in culture and freezers at the WIV. But from our work, I know that out of the SARS-related coronavirus, they were only ever able to culture a handful. I think three cultures. It's not easy to do.

In November 2019, you tweeted that you had identified over 50 novel SARS-related coronaviruses, including some that cause SARS-like signs in mice and didn't respond to monoclonal antibodies.

Yes.

What are these 50 viruses? And are they public?

This is a complex thing that's been widely misinterpreted. It's actually quite simple. What we had were hundreds of genetic sequences of coronaviruses from bats. We

published them in that paper. They're not all new viruses. As we went through the sequence data and analyzed it, we refined what you might call a new virus versus a known virus. That's all. It's scientists refining and analyzing.

One ongoing point of contention between you and NIH is about lab notebooks and the communications around experiments.

NIH has made a bunch of requests that are completely reasonable, that we've dealt with very quickly and sent them the information that they required. And in many cases, NIH had the information already. What's happening here is you've got an office of the director that's dealing directly with us and completely cutting out the program staff who've got all the data they need. NIH has also asked us for a number of things which to any balanced and independent reviewer are impossible for us to supply.

Clearly in coming up with Year 4 and 5 progress reports, EcoHealth Alliance had information and draft reports on these humanized mouse experiments. Did you share those with NIH?

Of course not. You don't share draft reports. You share the final report.

Here's what happens, it's a very standard procedure: We are subcontracting to a lab in China to do some work. Every year we have to file a report to NIH to tell them what we've done for the year, how we've spent the money, and whether we've achieved the goals of the grant. So, we contact our subcontractees and we say, "Send us the information. Let us know what successes you've had this year and whether you've had problems and issues. Put it all in a report and send it to us." And then we use that to produce a report for NIH. That's why there are some editing issues around that. We move them around a bit, and we send a final report. A draft report is just a worse written version of the final report. There's no special information that's got intelligence value or anything.

Then why not share them?

We've not been asked for a draft report by anybody.

You've been colleagues with Shi Zhengli, the Chinese bat coronavirus expert who directs the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, since 2005?

Yes.

So is it the kind of relationship where you would be generally aware of all the work that she was involved in? Can you say a little bit about what your level of awareness of other stuff she was doing?

We were aware of most of the stuff she was doing. Of course. These people weren't hiding anything from us. They are scientists.

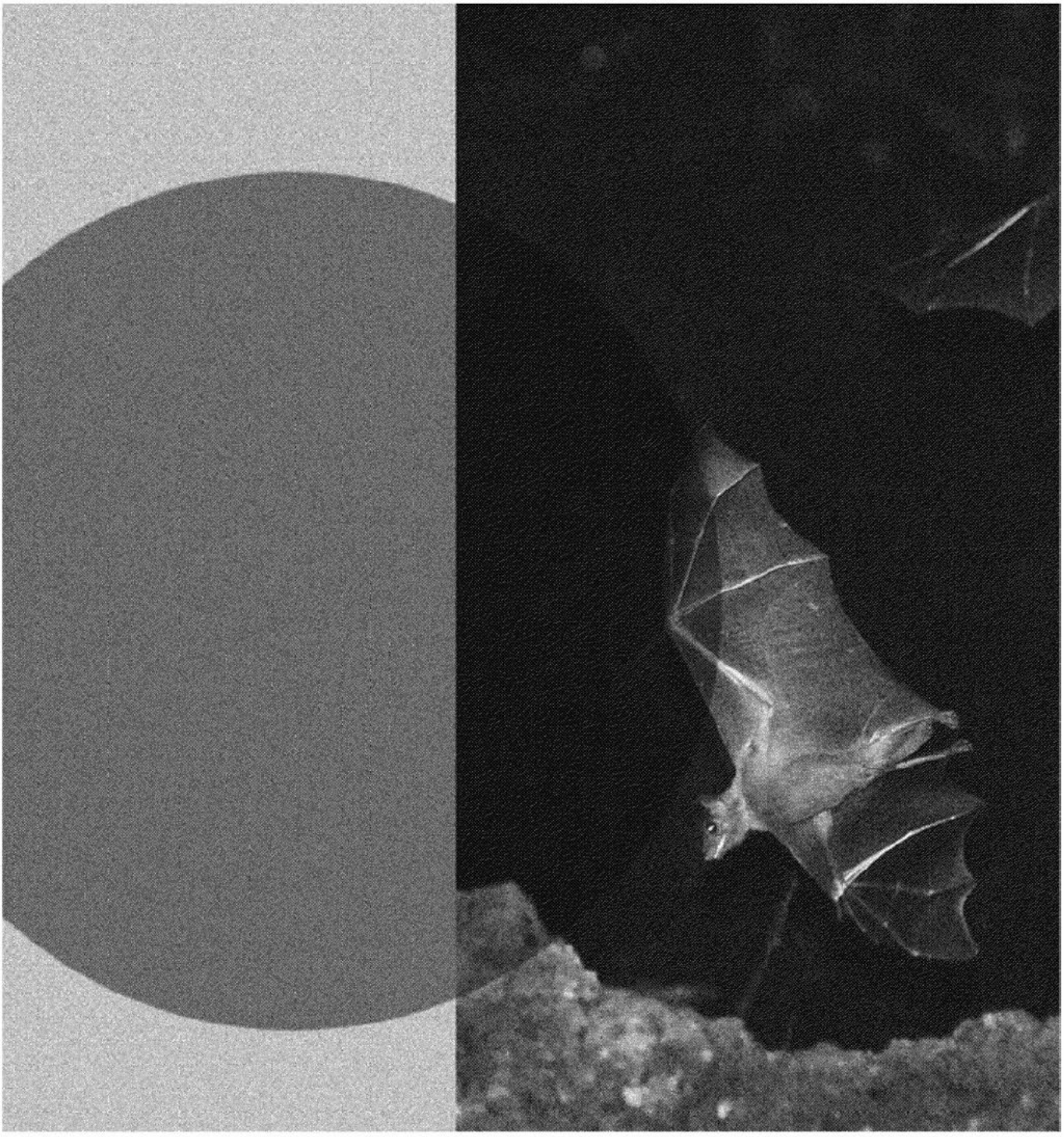
I've sat through dozens of meetings with people from Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they talk openly about unpublished work. And, by the way, RaTG13 was one of the sequences in a paper published — in I think 2015. So they weren't hiding anything from us.

Early on, after she learned about the outbreak, Shi said she was worried that somehow a virus might have leaked from her lab. A lot of people we speak to — virologists who do this kind of work — are the ones who seem most in touch with that possibility, that this stuff happens.

Very specifically, it happens when you have cultures of viruses in flasks, and you're then doing experiments with high concentrations of virus. It rarely happens if ever from an animal sample, especially a saliva sample from a bat. What Shi Zhengli was saying at that time was, "Oh, no, it's a coronavirus. I need to go back and check on those viruses that we've got and see: Is it one of them?" And she did, and it wasn't. That's what any reasonable person would do.

You implied in early 2020 that RaTG13 was not fully sequenced by WIV until late 2019 or later. And then afterwards, Shi revealed that it had actually been fully sequenced in 2018. When and how did you first learn about the true date that this virus was sequenced?

I don't actually know the true date of when this virus was sequenced. I didn't see an interview with Zhengli where she said, "We sequenced it in 2018." I don't know when and I don't think they ever got the full genome. There are parts of that virus that aren't correctly sequenced. Bear in mind, RaTG13 was not from a sample collected under the NIH grant. So we didn't have any oversight on that or any knowledge of it.



A colony of bats in a cave in the Maramagambo forest of Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Missing Data

Did you have access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology's database of viral samples and sequences that went offline in September 2019?

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I've never actually seen the database. I've seen pages of it from the internet, Twitter, chats. But I've never looked at the database.

Did your staff have access to it?

No. We didn't need to! We had all the data we needed. Some folks find this missing database indicative of a cover-up or something. When we were in Wuhan [with the WHO mission] in the Institute of Virology, I said, "Why did you take the database offline?" And their response was, "We took it offline before the outbreak. We were then getting hacking attempts, hundreds, thousands of hacking attempts. So we decided it wouldn't be wise to put it back up." Now, you may not believe them. But it is a perfectly reasonable explanation. And I think people should try and go for the most likely reasonable explanation for these things.

So why did they take it offline in September 2019?

They told us — and it's in the WHO report — that they were trying to update it to make it modern. WIV was trying to present itself like a globally significant virology institute, and it is. But when you look at Chinese websites, they can be really old and stuffy and clunky. What they were trying to do, they told us, was to make it interactive so that you can click on something and a map would show. They were trying to make it fit in with the national databases.

I find it quite ironic that the focus on the database of WIV is so intense, whereas what actually happened was we took the data and, with China, put the data into the NIH's own database to make it public. That's a great win for the U.S.

In April 2020, you wrote in an email, "It's extremely important that we don't have these sequences as part of our PREDICT release to Genbank at this point. As you may have heard, these were part of a grant just terminated by NIH. … Having them as part of PREDICT will being [sic] very unwelcome attention to UC Davis, PREDICT and USAID." Why did you think that publishing these sequences would bring unwelcome attention?

Because we just had our grant terminated by NIH.

So you didn't think it would be important to release this data, given that there was a pandemic?

Those sequences were released publicly by publishing them in a scientific paper, which is what scientists do. The email that you're reading out is not about whether sequences should be made public; it's about whether sequences should be made public via a USAID mechanism or via publishing through the NIH mechanism. And what I was saying to the UC Davis team that ran PREDICT was that these are NIH-funded

sequences and should be reported through the NIH system. It's really that simple.

And which paper were they reported in?

Latinne et al, published in Nature Communications. We were struggling to get that paper out. It was very, very difficult, once the pandemic started, to keep communication with Chinese scientists. The utmost priority as a scientist is to get the data published, not to upload it into some database that's going to take months to go through. And by the way, that database is somewhere on the USAID government system. It's very difficult to find. The paper had already been submitted for publication, and the sequences were uploaded into GenBank, the NIH system. And then once the papers were accepted, they became public. And that's exactly what we did.

Are there sequences that have not been made public?

To my mind, there are no sequences of SARS-related coronaviruses that have not been made public. Some people think there are still viruses that are SARS-related that haven't been put in GenBank. That's not true. We've uploaded all of the SARS-related coronavirus sequences, or we've reported them to NIH, or we've published them in scientific papers. And in fact, for most of them, we've done all the above. We had them all uploaded before the pandemic. Most of them anyway.

You were on the WHO mission to investigate the origins of SARS-CoV-2. When the NIH grant documents were released, it was a surprise to many people that animal experiments were being done at Wuhan University. If you knew this information, did you share it?

It wasn't a surprise to NIH because the NIH knew about them.

Right. But did you share that information with the WHO committee or with others who were investigating the origins?

The Wuhan University BSL-3 facility is what we're talking about. They do humanized mouse work. That was not looked at by the WHO origins group. It's a BSL-3 lab that had humanized mice under BSL-3 conditions. It's highly unlikely to be the source of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Did you mention it to the committee?

I mentioned all my work to the committee, of course. We talked about it, for sure.

The Challenges of Public

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Scrutiny

Dr. Michael Lauer at the NIH has repeatedly asked you for biosafety records from the WIV and said that he has been unable to get some of them.

He says that, but it's not true. We've supplied everything we could possibly supply on the issues that they've asked for.

In one of his letters to you, Lauer asked about the biosafety oversight of the work at WIV. In your response to him, you wrote that it consisted of semiannual meetings with the lead investigator and assessments of compliance with all conditions of the award. Biosafety experts have said that this falls short of the level of oversight one would want for this kind of work. You mentioned in an exchange with Lauer that you were offering to pay from EcoHealth's own coffers for additional biosafety measures. Why did you offer to do this? Did you feel that the biosafety oversight was adequate?

We're talking about a world-class virology lab run by the Chinese government that is probably the best virology lab in China, and China is very good at virology. It's very efficiently run, and the biosafety conditions are very good. Just because people think that Covid-19 might have come from WIV doesn't mean that therefore our oversight of biosafety wasn't sufficient. We did everything normal in oversight of that lab.

Then why did you suggest these additional measures, if the others were already adequate?

Because I was worried that they were going to terminate our other grants. This is the key driving force for every action we've taken since April 24, 2020. I don't know why people don't realize that.

Once NIH shows you that it's willing to terminate your funding and kick people out of a job and put your whole organization under pressure simply because a single politician tells them to, then you start worrying about every other grant and contract that NIH controls. We live in fear that they're going to do similar abrupt terminations with no cause and no rationale and no logic.

What I was doing then was saying to Michael Lauer, please be reasonable. We're trying to do everything we can, within the normal bounds of what organizations do. We probably have the best biosafety and field teams in the world.

We're overcompliant and yet still being accused of lack of compliance.

On February 24, House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans sent a

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letter to NIH alleging that it is "highly suspicious" that EcoHealth reported the humanized mouse experiment results over two years, and suggesting that more work may have been done that was not reported. How would you respond to that?

This is a simple issue of Chinese nationals writing a report and then us drafting our report to NIH. So there's a word in there where they say we continued the studies. That doesn't mean they continued infecting mice with new viruses. No. What it means is they continued doing the research on the one experiment that they've done. And that continuation is a lot of work. So they did all the pathology, which means at the end of the experiment, you take all the mice, and you look at every organ in the body. You do detailed microscopical analysis. It takes months. So that's why it dragged on because you've got months of after-the-experiment analysis. And we included the mortality data as part of the pathology data. That's completely normal.

The House Energy and Commerce Republicans don't write to us, they write to NIH. Sometimes we hear about it, sometimes we don't. NIH doesn't copy us on their responses. Then eventually we get a letter from NIH asking questions, which we always respond to, always within the timeframe and always refuting any allegations with evidence. So that's what we've done.

The latest letter from the House Energy and Commerce Republicans accused us of being overfunded, effectively having two grants to do the same thing. It's simply not true. The USAID PREDICT grant has completely different goals to the NIH coronavirus grant. For instance, PREDICT looks for between seven and 18 different viral families within samples, not just coronaviruses. NIH is focused solely on coronaviruses. So the goals are different.

The agencies do, as a standard procedure, a review of a grantee's other proposals to see if there's overlap between them, because they don't want to fund the same thing twice. This is absolutely refutable with documentary evidence.

What's your understanding of the Republicans' motivation?

Any bipartisan requests for information from the House or the Senate, we've responded to. We've been working with the U.S. government since the pandemic began to get information to them about every single aspect of this pandemic, including unpublished data. The politicians who are attacking us probably don't realize or know or care, in some cases. When there's a request from one side of the political spectrum, we try not to respond to that. We've had hundreds of questions sent to us by letter, including requests for thousands of pages of documents. We don't have the staff to do that. And bear in mind our grant has been terminated and now suspended. We don't have access to funding. We don't have the staff to do this work. It's a horrible, cruel irony that, on the one hand, your funding is cut; and on the other hand, there are now outrageously huge

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number of demands for us to do work to show data from that funding that's been cut.

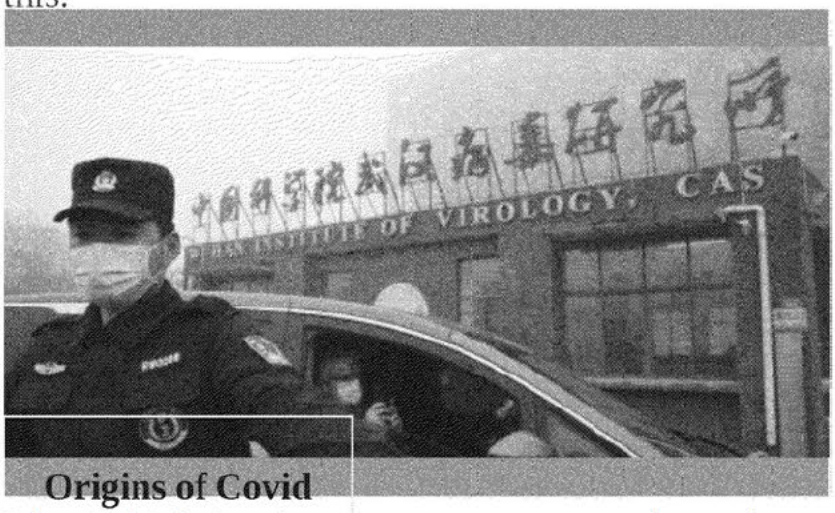
Don't you have ongoing funding for two other NIH projects?

Yes. Well, you can't use that money.

What have you been asked to get by NIH that you feel you can't get?

There are a whole series of things that we've been unable to get. A vial of virus. Information on a person that was removed from the website (I did ask them that, and they gave us an explanation, which is perfectly reasonable). NIH asked us for an inspection of the WIV. Every right-minded person on the planet realizes that the World Health Organization asked for an inspection of that lab, and we did go into the lab and ask questions and go around the facilities. For NIH to say that I should organize a U.S.-only, NIH-based or National Academy-based inspection of the lab facilities is a request that is way beyond what's possible. You know, you can't go into CDC as a foreigner and do an inspection of the lab.

NIH writing to us saying, "We demand that you do this," puts us in jeopardy and it's a security risk. If I was to take that letter from NIH and go to the Beijing airport and say, "I'm here to do this," I would be arrested and put in jail and probably put on trial, in the same way that scientists from China have come to the U.S. and tried to take vials of virus back to China and been arrested and convicted. NIH doing this is clearly a way for them to try to get the public behind a decision they made that was political about terminating our grant. Ever since that decision, we've been put under similar pressure over and over again. The Republicans write to NIH with some fairly outrageous accusations. NIH responds and says, "Don't worry, we will go and make EcoHealth do this, this, this, and this."



Origins of Covid

Read Our Complete Coverage

I don't think that those questions are posed to truly get to the bottom of the origins of Covid. While the House Republicans are putting pressure on NIH for tiny bits of administrative information, scientists are going out and finding that actually things are

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really pointing towards a natural origin. And meanwhile, we're left refuting each one of those allegations. They're all false. There's no substance to them at all.

A good proportion of the public have been pushed by misinformation to believe a narrative — and this narrative is repeated daily — that gain-of-function work was funded by Tony Fauci as a back channel to China, and EcoHealth funneled funds to China. Those stories are very beguiling, they sort of make you feel, "Ah! I knew it." But actually, there's not a grain of truth to them. Every single action that EcoHealth Alliance has taken has been things that scientists do in the normal course of doing their work.

Closing down that line of research means we lose eyes and ears on the ground in China. And it doesn't benefit us from a public health point of view or a national security point of view. It's a huge mistake.

CONTACT THE AUTHOR:



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ADDITIONAL CREDITS:
ADDITIONAL CREDITS:

Research: W. Paul Smith.

Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 11:31:50 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 27 Sep 2021 11:30:32 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: R (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Thank you so much for doing this Rich– extremely appreciated by us all here at EHA.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:11 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Urge alth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

Hi:

Letter sent to Harold, Tony, Eric, Francis and a staff member of Senator Ed. Markey.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010859
MORENS_NIH_021420
REL0000478229

email (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm going to contact my congressional representative and senators, and Tony Fauci and Victor Dzau as well.

If Rich gets in touch with Harold that could help some, at least with Eric Lander who sits in the cabinet and has the ear of the White House leadership.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:31 PM
To: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Robert, David, and Jerry,

Sorry to send this, but please read the email below and you'll see that a bill filed by a Republican congressman from PA then became a single line amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations bill, and actually passed the House last night.

We're very worried here because we rely on Federal funding and this puts our organization in great threat. Any advice is welcome. We're reaching out to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, but I'm really worried that if they are too busy to get involved for a small non-profit with no political clout, we'll be drummed out of business.

If you have colleagues who know how to deal with this sort of issue, and are willing to help, we would be extremely grateful for any advice, suggestions and support. I realize you've all spent social and political capital helping our organization since we were first targeted by Pres. Trump, but this is truly an existential threat to us, considering 80-90% of our budget is from federal grants and contracts.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:11 PM
To: 'Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand)' (b) (6) >; 'Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand)' <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6) >
Subject: Urgent - Amendment to defund EcoHealth Alliance was passed by the House last night and now moves to the Senate
Importance: High

Dear Jamison and Gilbert,

You were kind enough to talk with us a couple of months ago about attacks on our New York City-based 501c3 non-profit from the hard right wing regarding the work we've done in the past trying to protect us from new emerging diseases coming out of China and other hotspots. As you remember, this work was largely funded by NIH, DoD and USAID and has become a target for Republican-led attacks on the Biden administration.

We're very concerned that one of the House Republicans, Congressman Reschenthaler, filed a bill titled HR591 "Defund EcoHealth Alliance Bill" in Jan. 2021 and managed to get this attached as Amendment 148 to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4350). The five other co-sponsors are all Republicans: Van Drew, Perry, Harshbarger, Keller, and Budd: https://rules.house.gov/bill/117/hr-4350. The House passed the NDAA last night (https://armedservices.house.gov/ndaa) and unfortunately this Amendment is now progressing with it.

EcoHealth Alliance is a non-profit based in Midtown Manhattan that employs around 50 people whose jobs depend on the funding we receive each year. If this amendment continues forwards, we stand to all lose our jobs and close down the organization. This amendment is based on a false premise that our organization acted wrongly and was involved in the origin of the COVID pandemic. In fact it's the opposite, we worked with federal approval to help protect US citizens against this and other pandemic risks. If passed, it would penalize an organization doing public good, without any due process or consideration of the facts. Also of great concern is that this amendment would set a precedent that any single member of Congress can specifically block funding to an organization or institution through a simple amendment, bypassing all political norms.

We are urgently hoping that you will be able to make Sen. Gillibrand aware of our issue and move to strike out this amendment at the first possible opportunity. We are at this point very worried for our staff, and our work around the world protecting the US against the next pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:4
To: (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert (Gillibrand) <(b) (6)
Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

That would be perfect. It'll be me, our chief of staff Aleksei Chmura, and our Communications Director Robert Kessler.

Thanks for making time!

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) <Brooke (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, J
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Ruiz, Gilbert ((b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
RE: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.

Happy to chat. Would Monday at 2:30pm over zoom work for you all?

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Jamison, Brooke (Gillibrand) <Brooke (b) (6)
Cc: Dennis Carroll <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <

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MORENS_NIH_021423
REL0000478229

(b) (6) >
Subject: Concerns about political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance around COVID origins.
Importance: High

Dear Brooke,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly – I was given your email address by my colleague Dennis Carroll.

As you may know, I'm the President of EcoHealth Alliance, based here in NYC, and also Chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats and member of the National Academy of Medicine. I mentioned the latter, because I received a very kind letter from Senator Gillibrand when I was voted onto the NAM a couple of years ago – it's now framed on my wall!

You may have heard our organization's name (EcoHealth Alliance) and mine being mentioned in the press recently in the general discussion of identifying the origins of COVID-19. For the last 17 years, we've worked closely with colleagues in China to get ahead of emerging viruses, including by collaborating with their premier virologists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. 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

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Date: Thu, 20 May 2021 1:50:45 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 20 May 2021 1:50:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

David:

Repetition renders all theories more plausible – just like lies.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

EXTERNAL SENDER

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: Karen Goraleski (b) (6)
Date: May 20, 2021 at 12:28:25 EDT
To: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" (b) (6) >, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) >, "Dan Bausch (b) (6) >, "Julie Jacobson (b) (6) >, "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" (b) (6) >, "Hill, David R. Prof." (b) (6) Christine Petersen <(b) (6) , Stephen Popper (b) (6) >, Patricia Walker <(b) (6)
Subject: FYI - POLITICO - COVID Origins, looking into lab theory leak gaining supporters

Sharing this fyi - adding in David Morens, the lead author on the AJTMH article on this same topic (BTW, the #1 accessed article in AJTMH last month) and Stephen Popper, the Associate Program Chair.

This is from POLITICO. See links to the letter in SCIENCE, to Donald McNeal's piece in MEDIUM.

https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-nightly/2021/05/19/experts-weigh-in-on-the-wuhan-lab-leak-hypothesis-492915

Experts weigh in on the Wuhan lab leak

hypothesis

By MYAH WARD and RENUKA RAYASAM

05/19/2021 08:00 PM EDT

Presented by Facebook

With help from Joanne Kenen

ORIGIN STORY — The hypothesis that Covid-19 was leaked from a Wuhan lab has leaped from its original host — Trump administration officials and people dismissed as conspiracy theorists — into the body of mainstream debate. Last week, 18 leading scientists published a letter in the academic journal Science calling for further investigation to determine the origin of the pandemic that has killed 3.4 million people worldwide. "Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover both remain viable," the scientists wrote.

The letter echoes a similar call from WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. During a Senate hearing last week on the U.S. response to the pandemic, Anthony Fauci said he was "fully in favor of any further investigation of what went on in China" after sparring with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) about the origins of the virus. And this month, the former New York Times science reporters Nicholas Wade and Donald G. McNeil Jr. have written long essays on Medium outlining why they take the lab leak hypothesis seriously.

Nightly reached out to experts, two of whom signed the letter as well as others who have taken the opposite side in the public debate, to ask how credible they find the lab leak theory. Their edited responses are below.

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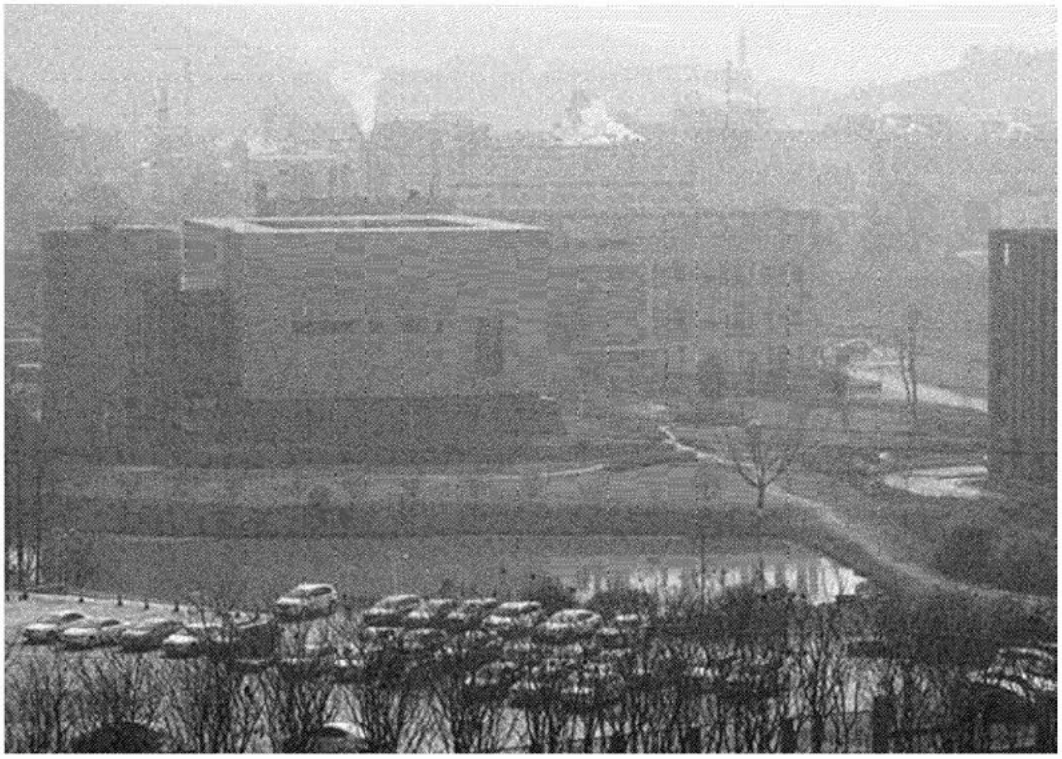

A view of the P4 lab inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology is seen after a visit by the World Health Organization team in Wuhan in China's Hubei province on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. | AP Photo/Ng Han Guan

IT'S POSSIBLE

"Much of the currently available information suggests that a lab-based origin of Covid-19 is plausible. **There remains no sign of an intermediate animal host that could have passed the virus to humans in 2019.** There is no evidence that live mammals were sold at the Wuhan seafood market in 2019, and none of hundreds of animal samples collected from that market had any trace of the virus. In other words, there is zero evidence that supports a zoonotic origin of the virus that excludes the involvement of research activity.

"There are copious precedents of pathogens leaking from labs — the original 2003 SARS virus leaked up to six times from labs across three countries. Consider that the SARS research and animal infection experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, for more than 10 years, were all performed at relatively low biosafety

levels. It is currently not possible to tell from the genetic evidence whether the virus ever passed through a laboratory or a lab personnel.

"The question is: How did a virus, whose lineage is found only in southern China, make its way into humans in the metropolitan city of Wuhan, more than a thousand miles away? We know that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had possibly the greatest collection of SARS viruses from numerous trips across China. We know that they were working with a batch of viruses very closely related to SARS-CoV-2. Details of these viruses and the experiments performed with them have not been shared in a timely manner." **— Alina Chan, molecular biologist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard**

"It is worthy of a careful, rigorous, unbiased, objective examination, based on relevant, verifiable data. There are a number of plausible scenarios embedded in this label, 'lab leak,' and importantly, they include an unrecognized infection of a well-intentioned lab worker attempting to recover or study new coronaviruses from bats. **It does not imply malice or even necessarily awareness (of the accident).** Lab accidents are much more common than any of us know, or would like to admit, and they occur worldwide and even in the most safe and secure labs. U.S. biosafety labs are by no means strangers to accidents; leaks of some of the most dangerous infectious agents have occurred at CDC and other U.S. government labs." **— David A. Relman, microbiologist at Stanford University**

"The following lines of circumstantial evidence are noteworthy:

"**The outbreak occurred in Wuhan, a city of**

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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, 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**

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MORENS_NIH_038979
REL0000478233

Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 11:17:44 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 11:16:23 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Judicial Watch: New Fauci Agency COVID Emails Detail Discussions about Wuhan Institute; Describe Gates Foundation Placement of Chinese Representatives on 'Important International Counsels' https://bit.ly/3jqxbwR
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Attachments: image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Disgusting – all of this work should be seen in the context of helping the US protect against SARSr-CoVs, developing relationships at a high level with a country where viruses emerge so as to protect our nation. Instead it's put forward as a smear, simply by it being FoIA'd and appearing as a write-up in the journal "Judicial Watch"

What's judicial about this? Where's the legal reason for interest? This is science, as it's supposed to be done.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 10:22 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) <(b) (6) >; Kessler, Robert ((b) (6))<(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Judicial Watch: New Fauci Agency COVID Emails Detail Discussions about Wuhan Institute; Describe Gates Foundation Placement of Chinese Representatives on 'Important International Counsels' https://bit.ly/3jqxbwR

David

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MORENS_NIH_042920
REL0000478234

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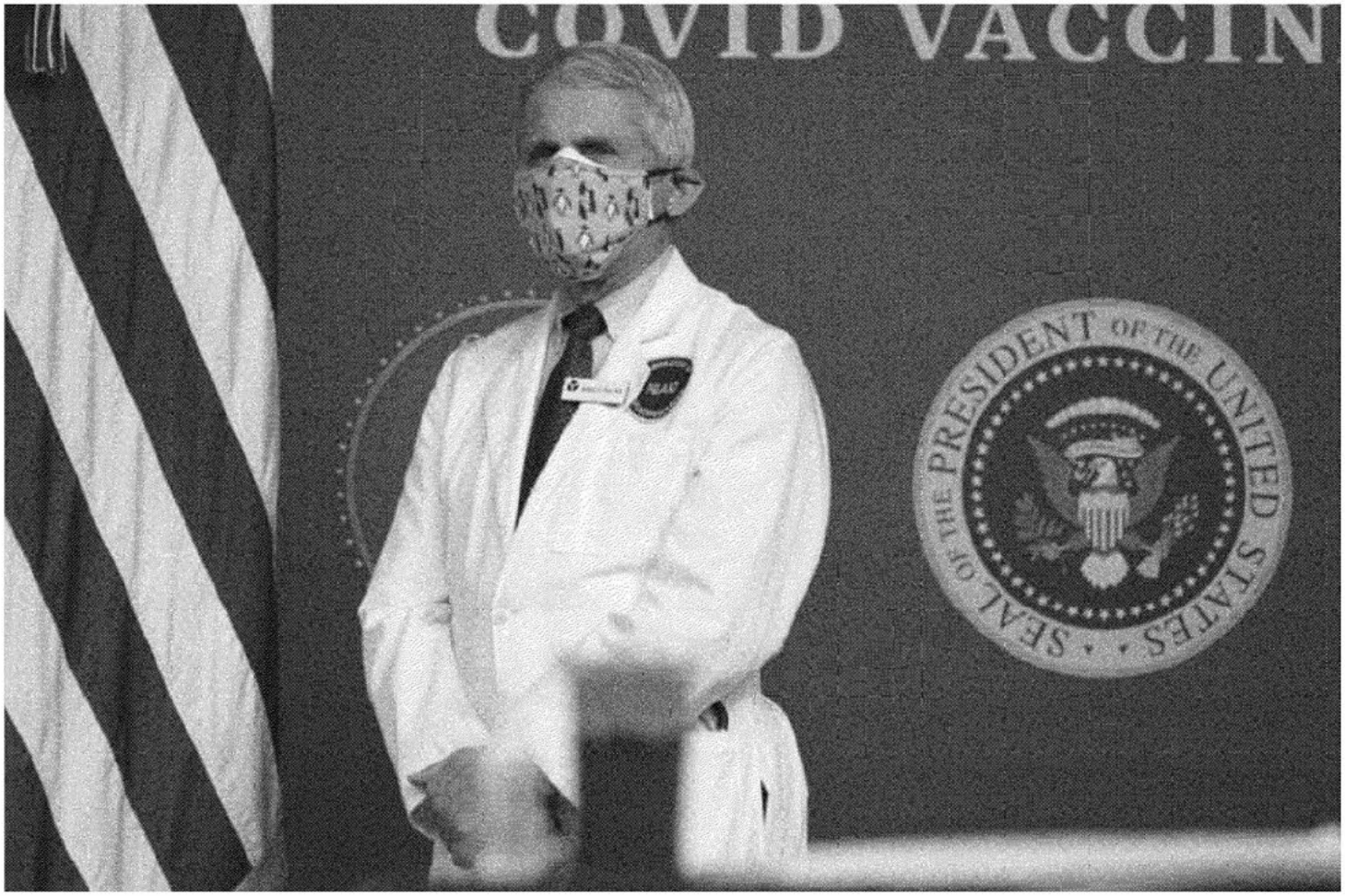
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 5:54 PM
To: Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6) ; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mai <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Judicial Watch: New Fauci Agency COVID Emails Detail Discussions about Wuhan Institute; Describe Gates Foundation Placement of Chinese Representatives on 'Important International Counsels' https://bit.ly/3jqxbwR

August 25, 2021 | Judicial Watch

Judicial Watch: New Fauci Agency COVID Emails Detail Discussions about Wuhan Institute; Describe Gates Foundation Placement of Chinese Representatives on 'Important International Counsels'



(Washington, DC) – Judicial Watch announced today that it received 129 pages of records from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which include "urgent for Dr. Fauci" email chain which cites ties between the Wuhan lab and the taxpayer-funded EcoHealth Alliance. The government emails also report that the foundation of U.S. billionaire Bill Gates worked closely with the Chinese government to pave the way for Chinese-produced medications to be sold outside China and help "raise China's voice of governance by placing representatives from China on important international counsels as high level commitment from China."

The new production of records also includes a January 6, 2020, "Wuhan Pneumonia Update" report which details how Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, was tied to the Wuhan lab and was "funded for work to understand how coronaviruses evolve and jump to human populations."

The documents were obtained by Judicial Watch through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit for records of communications, contracts and agreements with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (*Judicial Watch, Inc. v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* (No. 1:21-cv-00696)). The lawsuit specifically seeks records about NIH grants that benefitted the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The agency is only processing 300 pages of records per month, which means it will take until the end of November for the records to be fully reviewed and released under FOIA.

The new emails include a report from Dr. Ping Chen, who had been the top Fauci agency official working in China:

You can ask [NIAID Human Coronavirus, Rhinovirus Research Program Officer] Erik Stemmy for the grant awarded to the Ecohealth in NYC who collaborates with Dr. Shi, Zhengli in Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), who has been doing coronavirus research in cave bats in China. Erik would know what exactly NIH funding supports.

I visited her and others at the Wuhan Ins Viro in 2018 and visited its BSL4 1ab. [Redacted]

Also in 1983 NIH and CAS [Chinese Academy of Sciences] (WIV is one of the research institutes under CAS) signed a MOU and it included sharing research materials. I know [sic] this a long time ago.

This email chain is part of a previously released January 23, 2020, exchange with the subject line "Urgent for Dr. Fauci: China's lab for studying SARS and Ebola is in Wuhan." It begins with Melinda Haskins, chief of legislative affairs for NIAID, writing to senior NIAID officials, and includes a link to a *Daily Mail* article, titled "China built a lab to study SARS and Ebola in Wuhan – and US biosafety experts warned in 2017 that a virus could 'escape' the facility that's become key in fighting the outbreak." She writes: "Dr. Fauci will be brief [sic] multiple Senators tomorrow on our novel coronavirus response … Would you please confirm the exact nature of our support to the Wuhan Institute of Virology/Biosafety Lab. You'll want to read the Daily Mail

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article above."
A January 6, 2020, email exchange on "coronavirus countermeasures," initiated by NIAID Chief Medical Officer Hilary Marston, includes a "Wuhan Pneumonia Update" report prepared by NIH/DMID.
The report was updated on January 8, 2020, and lists in its background information on "Wuhan Pneumonia:"

- In December 2019 the Wuhan Municipal Health Committee identified an outbreak of viral pneumonia cases of unknown cause.
- On December 31st the WHO China Country Office was notified of 44 patients with pneumonia of unknown etiology, 11 of which were severely ill.
- As of January 5th, 2020 there are 59 patients with a diagnosis of unknown viral pneumonia is Wuhan, 7 of which are severely ill. At least one patient is on ECMO … The earliest case was reported December 12th, and the latest onset was December 29th. All patients are isolated and receiving treatment in Wuhan medical institutions. 163 close contacts have been identified for ongoing medical observation.
- Case-patients in the outbreak are reported to have fever, difficulty breathing, and bilateral lung infiltrates on chest radiography (CDC, http://bit.ly/36GxY3y).
- Hong Kong has added Wuhan Pneumonia to the list of notifiable diseases. As of January 7th, 2020 the Hong Kong Center for Health Protection has reports of 30 cases under enhanced surveillance with recent travel history to Wuhan….
- Epidemiological investigation showed that some patients operated businesses in the Wuhan South China Seafood City. As of January 1st, 2020 the market has been closed for environmental sanitation and disinfection.
- There is currently no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission, however one family cluster has been identified. No nosocomial transmission has been seen …
- Fragments of coronavirus RNA with an 86% homology to SARS has been found in one patient…
- News reports on 1/8/2020 the virus is a novel coronavirus, sequenced in one patient and identified in others.

The report also details a NIH coronavirus grant "portfolio" that funded 13 basic science research grants, two treatment research grants and five vaccination research grants related to coronavirus:
Peter Daszak (R01A|110964-06) is funded for work to understand how coronaviruses evolve and jump to human populations, with an emphasis on bat CoVs and high-risk populations at the human-animal interface. Main foreign sites are in China (including co-investigators at the Wuhan Institute of Virology).
The report notes that one of the grants, made to Fang Li, "is funded to investigate the receptor recognition and cell entry in coronaviruses using structural approaches using spike proteins in complex with receptors. This award found the first evidence of a MERS-related CoV that uses the human receptor and provides evidence of a natural recombination event between bat CoVs."
Another grant involves "a team of investigators using mouse models of SARS and MERS to investigate CoV pathogenesis and develop vaccines and therapeutics."
A section of the report on "Vaccines" details:
"The VRC [Vaccine Research Center] and collaborators have stabilized the MERS-CoV spike protein in its prefusion conformation. The stabilized spike protein is potently immunogenic and elicits protective antibodies to the receptor binding domain, n-terminal domain and other surfaces of the spike protein. The stabilized coronavirus spike protein, and mRNA expressing the spike protein through collaboration with Moderna Therapeutics, is currently being evaluated in the humanized DPP4 mouse model at UNC.
Another grant description indicates that NIH was funding research at Jefferson University using the rabies virus as a vector to deliver a potential vaccine. In an accompanying spreadsheet detailing the grants, one grant is listed as having gone to Dr. Ralph Baric of UNC-Chapel Hill to study "Mechanisms of MERV- CoV Entry, Cross Species Transmission and Pathogenesis." That grant had been funded from 2015-2020.
In a January 7, 2020, email exchange with the subject line "Wuhan Pneumonia" Stemmy asks Chen if she has any information about the "viral pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan." Chen replies: "Yes, I have been following the news. Here is what I know so far [redacted]. Chen also revealed that her tour in Beijing had ended three weeks earlier.
Stemmy asks, "Do you know if there is a replacement for you in embassy in Beijing? If so I'd love to connect with them." Chen replies, "No replacement for now <smiley face emoji>."
In a January 22, 2020, email exchange titled "Collecting info on N CoV [novel coronavirus]", NIAID "Senior Volunteer", Dr. Karl Western, informs Chen and other NIAID officials:
Two recent examples involving CAS Institute of Virology and BSL-4 facility include:

- University of Minnesota and CAS Institute of Virology review of the origin and evolution of pathogenic coronaviruses in *Nature Reviews: Microbiology.* Minnesota had a CEIRS award for one funding cycle.
- Columbia University School of Public Health, Eco-Health Alliance and CAS Institute of Virology published a few days ago on the results of surveillance of human animal interactions and bat coronavirus spillover potential in rural southern China. Columbia is a current CETR holder.

In a heavily redacted response email, Chen writes: "Thanks Dr. Western. Eco-health has NIAID grant which has collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, CAS, studying the coronaviruses in wild animals, focusing on bats, in China. One of the

key Chinese collaborators is Dr. Zhengli Shi, who works on coronaviruses."
On February 6, 2020, Han Koo, an executive assistant to the Director of NIH who works in the Office of Grants Administration (OGA), emails Chen and Matthew Brown, then-Director of the NIH China Office: "We need POCs [points of contact] of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and The Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) ASAP."
Later in the chain Chen writes: "In 2018, NSF [the U.S. National Science Foundation] and NSFC [the National Science Foundation of China] had a joint initiative on Ecology and Evolution of infectious diseases. A workshop was held prior to the initiative (NIH is one of the participants to this initiative. Many participants of the workshop are from CAS institute including WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology] scientists. NIAID grant to EcoHealth is studying coronaviruses in animals including bats. The grant has different countries as collaborators in addition to China." A colleague then responds: "Thanks! Do you recall who the US and Chinese PIs [principal investigators] are on that coronavirus vector/reservoir grant are?" Chen replies: "See the attachment I prepared previously. This grant is on bat [redacted]."
In an October 20, 2017, email exchange following Chen's submission of a situation report, NIAID official James Meegan tells Chen: "Jim LeDuc at U Texas Medical Branch, Director of the Galveston BSL4, works closely with them [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. In 1986 Jim and I spent the year on and off in Wuhan setting up a virology lab and studying Hantavirus infections and treating patients with ribavirin. We trained many, and some later came to the States. I think that helped it on its way to becoming a center for virology."
Further in the exchange, Chen writes, "The [Wuhan] lab will be operational soon. The visit has been arranged through one of our grantees. I know Jim LeDuc has been worked with WIV and had done some training. [Redacted.] Also, I was told only certain viruses can be worked in this lab. [Redacted]" Handley then tells Chen: "Please make a very careful and full report on what you learn during this visit. It will be a very important interaction and one that many are interested in. Please share your report with us before it goes into any other reporting. We will be glad to engage directly or via grantees in whatever will help ensure safe operations."
On March 4, 2020, Greg Folkers, Fauci's chief of staff, emails an academic paper titled "On the origin and continuing evolution of SARS-COV-2", published in *National Science Review* on March 3, 2020, to David Morens and other unidentified officials within NIAID, and asks in his cover note: "David, this may come up in ASF's [Anthony S. Fauci's] 10:00 hearing [likely referring to House Appropriations Committee hearings held on March 4, 2020, on NIH budget requests.] What do you make of this paper and the attendant press coverage?" Folkers highlights within the report two passages. One reads: "Our results suggest that the development of the new variations in functional sites in the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the spike seen in SARS-COV-2 and viruses from pangolin SARS-CoVs are likely caused by mutations and natural selection besides recombination." The second highlighted passage reads: "Although the L type (~70%) is more prevalent than the S type (~30%), the S type was found to be the ancestral version. Whereas the L type was more prevalent in the early stages of the outbreak in Wuhan, the frequency of the L type decreased after early January 2020." Morens replied, but his response is entirely redacted.
Five years prior to the outbreak, in an October 30, 2014, report titled "Wuhan," Chen informs Ken Earhart that she had met with a Chinese official from Wuhan. Chen reports that his office "is similar to what I am doing here seeking, facilitating, and promoting international scientific collaborations for scientists in Wuhan." She continues that this official was asked by an organization put together in part by the Wuhan Institute of Virology "to help the members in the organization increase scientific exchanges between the members and international ID [infectious disease] experts."
In a September 5, 2017, situation report, Chen informs her colleagues that she had "attended a 'Belt and Road' High Level Meeting for Health Cooperation: towards a Health Silk Road." She also reported:
Last week USAID, CDC, ESTH [Environment, Science, Technology, and Health] and I met with Gates Foundation, initially planned to talk about global Malaria eradication efforts to see if there is any area we can work together. But we ended talking in general Chinese policies and the foundation's current strategies in China — capacity building to help China raise its national standards and leverage China's resource to help others. One of the examples for raising the national standards is to help China FDA for its reform. Gates foundation has managed to work out a mechanism with China FDA to provide fund[ing] to China FDA for placing experienced Chinese-Americans who had worked at US FDA for many years to work in China FDA as senior consultants….
On the approach for leveraging China's resource to help others, Gates Foundation is working with Chinese government on donations to its neighboring countries and African countries such as anti-malaria medicines, bed nest, diagnostics etc. More specifically, it helps Chinese companies to gain pre-qualification on medications so that Chinese company manufactured drugs can be sold outside China, helps the Chinese to establish bilateral collaboration with specific countries in Africa, teaches the Chinese how to do resource mobilization, and helps raise China's voice of governance by placing representatives from China on important international counsels as high level commitment from China.
Chen goes on to describe numerous other ways the Gates Foundation was helping the Chinese government by, for example, helping "Chinese companies gain pre-qualification on medications so that Chinese company manufactured drugs can be sold outside China." Chen continues: "Just met with a group from the Global Virome Project (GVP) which is funded partially by USAID. The head of the project, Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance, is an NIAID funded PI. His collaborator at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China has done excellent work on corona viruses in Chinese bat populations."
A heavily redacted October 26, 2017, email released to Judicial Watch in a previous production includes a newly released response from Handley. The email chain begins with Chen sending a trip report to her colleagues regarding her visit to the BSL4

Lab in Wuhan. She notes: "My contact who helped arrange the visit is Dr. Zhengli Shi, who is a Chinese collaborator on a NIAID grant to EcoHealth for SARS like corona virus project." She continues: "The P4 lab is located in a new developing zone about one hour car ride from the current institute location in central Wuhan city. The location will be the new campus for the entire institute in the near future (a lot of construction is going on right now). Since we are not allowed to take photos so only the photo from the outside is attached."

Newly released in this production of HHS documents is Handley's reply in the email chain: "This is a sensitive subject and will be of interest to others."

Later in the exchange, Handley tells Chen, "Please send us by e-mail your full report on the visit and then we can decide what to do with the information." After Chen emails Handley the report, he writes: "There is enough good information in your report that it needs to be shared in some form or another."

On July 18, 2016, Chen sends an "activity update" to top NIAID officials, summarizing her activities for the prior three weeks. In a discussion of the Chinese needing assistance with conducting clinical trials of new medicines, Chen notes: "GSK's [Glaxo Smith Kline's] Zhi Hong (the head of the GSK anti-infective program and led the GSK center for infectious diseases and public health in Beijing) met with Dr. Fauci on Monday, the 11th, asking for NIAID support for this clinical trial network in China. I know Dennis [presumably Dennis Dixon, Chief of NIAID Bacteriology and Mycology] and Carl [possibly Carl Dieffenbach, Director of NIAID AIDS Research] attended the meeting with Fauci. I don't know the outcome of the meeting." Further along, Chen writes: "I met with EcoHealth Alliance, a NY based non-profit organization on health. They have a R01 grant from DMID [Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases] on identifying SARS-like coronaviruses in China. They partner with Dr. Shi Zhengli at Wuhan Institute of Virology. I visited Dr. Shi over a year ago. She took bat samples in caves in certain regions of China, isolated and identified viruses and found some viruses are similar to SARS by sequencing. Now [redacted]. We are talking about close animal-human close contact in densely populated city." Chen also mentions an upcoming meeting of "Chinese NIH Alumni" and talks about NIH Director Francis Collins discussing with the head of Peking University Medical School "about the establishment of a Chinese NIH Alumni as there are so many Chinese researchers trained and worked at NIH in the past."

On October 12, 2016, Chen sends a "High" importance email to senior NIAID officials Handley, Bernabe and Dixon regarding an upcoming conference in China. Chen notes: "Another topic under session 1, Zoonotic Disease Characterization and Prevention, has some relevance to us. NIAID funded George Gao at CAS [Chinese Academy of Sciences] for avian flu (I think it was on avian flu genetics in birds) and we have grant from RDB funding coronavirus survey in bats. The Chinese collaborator is Wuhan Institute of Virology, a CAS institute too. The request for zoonotic diseases is from a Chinese agency I don't know, AQSIQ. [Redacted.]" Dixon replies: "Thanks Ping. I see the topic of 'prevention and control' by your name. While we have occasional projects in that realm, they are at the border of our mission area relative to CDC who list their name that way sometimes in reverse order."

In a January 20, 2017, situation report, Chen discusses the Global Virome Project "to identify viruses present in wildlife with potential crossing over to humans … Following the identification of the viruses is the development of vaccines to protect human population. China has huge capacity for vaccine development (I think it has 7 national owned vaccine manufacturing facility and over 30 private vaccine making companies.) [Redacted] One of the partners in this project is EcoHealth Alliance. Peter Daszak from EcoHealth Alliance is one of the leaders of GVP and he has NIAID grant from RDB looking at the coronaviruses in bat populations in China in collaboration with Wuhan Institute of Virology. He came to visit me once in the Embassy. This grant has direct connection with the purpose of GVP."

In a July 7, 2017, situation report, Chen informs her colleagues: "RDB [NIAID's Respiratory Disease Branch] has a grant to EcoHealth which has a Chinese collaborator at WIV working on finding similar SARS viruses in bat populations and then look for human exposures to the viruses carried by the bats in the villagers near the caves. USAID funds the same organization and they do more virus seeking projects in China."

On May 27, 2018, Chen emails colleague Nancy Boyd, forwarding her an announcement sent to Chen by people at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which Chen describes as "China's only publicly known P4 lab." Chen adds: "I copied Gayle [Bernabe] at OGR and she can forward to programs officers with the P4 pathogen portfolio."

"These emails provide extraordinary and troubling information about Fauci's agency partnership with China and its monitoring, concerns and funding for the Wuhan Institute," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "The Gates Foundation should also explain the government report about its assistance to and advocacy for China."

In July, Judicial Watch obtained records from NIAID officials in connection with the Wuhan Institute of Virology revealing significant collaborations and funding that began in 2014. The records revealed that NIAID gave nine China-related grants to EcoHealth Alliance to research coronavirus emergence in bats and was the NIH's top issuer of grants to the Wuhan lab itself.

In June, Judicial Watch announced that it filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits against the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and the State Department for information on the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Also in June, Judicial Watch obtained records from HHS revealing that from 2014 to 2019, $826,277 was given to the Wuhan Institute of Virology for bat coronavirus research by the NIAID.

In March, Judicial Watch publicly released emails and other records of Fauci and Dr. H. Clifford Lane from HHS showing that NIH officials tailored confidentiality forms to China's terms and that the WHO conducted an unreleased, "strictly confidential"

COVID-19 epidemiological analysis in January 2020. Additionally, the emails reveal an independent journalist in China pointing out the inconsistent COVID numbers in China to NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' Deputy Director for Clinical Research and Special Projects Lane.
In October 2020, Judicial Watch uncovered emails showing a WHO entity pushing for a press release, approved by Fauci, "especially" supporting China's COVID-19 response.

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Date: Wed, 26 May 2021 2:06:32 PM -0400
Subject: RE: CNN: Chinese state media is turning on Fauci amid Wuhan lab controversy
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

I saw that, and in my view the most important quote was Tony clarifying his prior remarks as below:

Fauci has since attempted to clarify his remarks. On Tuesday, he told CBS News correspondent Weijia Jiang that his opinion about the origins of Covid-19 have not changed and still believes that its origin in nature is "highly likely."
"Since no one is 100% sure, he's open to a thorough investigation. Dr. Fauci said that does not mean he believes the virus first emerged in a lab, as some have suggested," Jiang wrote on Twitter.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: FW: CNN: Chinese state media is turning on Fauci amid Wuhan lab controversy

David

David M. Morens, M.D.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012599
MORENS_NIH_023987
REL0000478236

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 9:14 AM
Subject: CNN: Chinese state media is turning on Fauci amid Wuhan lab controversy

Chinese state media is turning on Fauci amid Wuhan lab controversy

By Nectar Gan and James Griffiths, CNN
Updated 5:36 AM ET, Wed May 26, 2021

*Hong Kong (CNN)*After weeks of facing fierce attacks from Republicans, top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci now has a new critic: Chinese state media.

"US elites degenerate further in morality, and Fauci is one of them," was the headline of a blistering opinion piece penned by Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of the state-run Global Times this week.

In the article Hu accused the top US infectious disease expert of "fanning a huge lie against China" by hyping the theory that the coronavirus was leaked from a Wuhan lab. Another article in the Global Times declared that Fauci had "betrayed Chinese scientists."

The anger is centered on Fauci's remarks this month that he is no longer convinced the Covid-19 pandemic originated naturally. "I think we should continue to investigate what went on in China until we continue to find out to the best of our ability what happened," said the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at a fact-checking symposium on May 11.

The comments appear to be a shift from Fauci's earlier view that the disease likely was the result of animal to human transmission.

Fauci's comments were followed by a Wall Street Journal exclusive, citing a US intelligence report, that said three researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick enough in November 2019 that they sought hospital care — a revelation that,

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if true, could add weight to growing calls for further investigation into whether the coronavirus may have escaped from the Chinese lab.

Unsurprisingly, China has vehemently refuted the report, echoing its repeated dismissal of any allegations that link the origin of the virus to the lab. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the report was "totally inconsistent with the facts" and a director at the lab called the report "a complete lie."
In the meantime, Chinese state media has lashed out at Fauci, saying he has joined an "opinion war against China."

The attack on Fauci is an about-face from the positive portrayal of him in earlier coverage. Last year, as Fauci repeatedly spoke out against the Trump administration's handling of the pandemic, Chinese state media published glowing reports praising the scientist for his professionalism and courage to speak the truth.

Fauci has since attempted to clarify his remarks. On Tuesday, he told CBS News correspondent Weijia Jiang that his opinion about the origins of Covid-19 have not changed and still believes that its origin in nature is "highly likely."
"Since no one is 100% sure, he's open to a thorough investigation. Dr. Fauci said that does not mean he believes the virus first emerged in a lab, as some have suggested," Jiang wrote on Twitter.
Whether that will redeem his image in China, however, remains unclear.

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Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 8:11:13 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 8:11:08 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <(b) (6)

DR could stand for "Deranged Rapporteur"

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 7:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

EXTERNAL SENDER

I have a hard time calling him Dr. or Professor for that matter.

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6:46 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) Pete (b) (6) ksei
Chmura (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

I really don't think this is worth a response to Dr. Sachs or to the journal. There are numerous factual inaccuracies about our work, but it's in an obscure journal I've not heard of, and it isn't being picked up by others. Basically it's safe to say Dr. Sachs has strayed so far down a rabbit hole I don't think he'll be coming out of it based on the fact it's going nowhere…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 5:25 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) ; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Jerry:

Probably a waste of time to respond, unless you would like me to send something to him personally (and copy his wife).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
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From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:45 PM
(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is another totally speculative list of non-data. How many "may be" does it take to understand it is not credible unless you formed your opinion in adcance?

Should there be a very brief point by point response or just let it lay and decay?

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Mar
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts Ric (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000051
MORENS_NIH_000079
REL0000478238

(b) (6) >
Subject: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Tragic conspiracy nonsense
https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/covid- 19-gain-of-function-us-research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_000052
MORENS_NIH_000080
REL0000478238

Date: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:28:15 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 1 Nov 2022 8:28:08 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)

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

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email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 1. 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Subject: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

All: I listened in this morning on the webinar on COVID-19 origins that Jeff Sachs moderated under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). I wasn't able to stay until the end of the Q&A, but I did hear the three main presentations. Sachs said that he plans to post the recording of the session (on SDSN?). This was the first of three planned webinars – the second (on global health financing) will take place on November 22, the third (on health system strengthening) on December 8.

Sachs served as moderator. His introduction was fairly mundane. His basic premise was that there are two "absolutely viable" hypotheses for the origin of COVID-19 – either zoonotic or due to a lab leak. (Note that the language he uses – "absolutely viable" – obscures the fact that the evidence differs significantly for each

of the two hypotheses. But this was a bias that ran through all of the presentations.) He then argued that we need to follow both lines of inquiry equally, to have a proper understanding of both possibilities. He alluded to the bimodal distribution of most discussion of these questions – with "mainstream media" coming down on natural origins, and "alternate media" arguing for laboratory origins (including in this Senator Burr's Senate Minority Report). He then turned to two "leading scientists" and a "leading reporter" for further perspectives.

The speakers were Alina Chan (Broad Institute), Richard Ebright (Rutgers University) and Emily Kopp (US Right to Know) – no great surprises there.

Alina Chan's main argument was that there is not enough evidence to decide which hypothesis is true, and that all the evidence is circumstantial. She did say that there is no argument over the fact that the pandemic originated in spillover from bats – just a difference of opinion on how and where this happened.

She presented a set of factors that would explain the chain of causation for each of the two hypotheses:

Natural origins
- Earliest cases handled live animals?
- Were there infected animals in markets or farms?
- Were there animal variants of the virus?
- Was there antibody evidence of infected animals or traders (not presenting with pneumonia)?
- Was there a strong wildlife conduit between known bat reservoirs and the outbreak site?

She then claimed that none of these have been established for SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak
- WIV was the HQ for virus hunting program targeting both animals and humans
- WIV found and developed SARS-CoV-2-like viruses by 2013
- WIV did advanced work with virus isolates and "seamless clones"
- Live virus work was done in BSL2 and BSL3 environments, which could not contain airborne viruses
- WIV and collaborators were planning to insert furin cleavage sites in different viruses (she referred to a "pipeline" of risky research and made a big deal of the rejected DARPA proposal, for which the research was never done)

Her conclusion: evidence is not definitive for either hypothesis, but these aspects of research at the WIV were "very concerning" and thus we need to investigate both conclusions.

Richard Ebright was then asked what should be done about improving the oversight of research in this area from the perspective of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. He concurred with Sachs and Chan that the available data do not enable a choice between the two hypotheses of COVID-19 origin. But regardless of where one stood on this question, the research by EcoHealth Alliance, WIV, and their collaborators – according to Ebright – used inadequate biosafety protocols and lacked transparency. Again, according to him, this points to, but does not prove, a research spillover as the origin of COVID-19.

I've attached a screen shot of the slide he shared that lays out his bill of complaint. As you can see, he's fixated on the work that WIV and EHA did from 2016-2019, arguing that, while this doesn't prove laboratory origins, it "exceeds the standard of probable cause" and provides "ample basis to initiate investigation and ample basis to improve oversight." (Like Chan, he also made much of EHA's rejected DARPA proposal, trying to use it as a "smoking gun" for malign intent by EHA and WIV, despite the fact that this research was never done!)

He spent most of his time, however, outlining a basis for and recommendations for improved research regulation and oversight in biosafety, biosecurity, and bio risk management.

Sachs and Ebright had an exchange about the recent news of the creation of a variant of COVID-19 that appeared to be more virulent than Omicron, without the "knowledge or approval of NIH." This was evidence for both of them of the need for enhanced oversight.

Emily Kopp, an investigative journalist with US Right to Know, then made a breathless presentation about her attempts to bring the truth about COVID-19 origins to light through FOIAs and dogged persistence. The gravamen of her complaint is that much of the relevant research has been underwritten by NIH, DOD, and USAID with taxpayer funds, and conducted in the US (at EHA, University of North Carolina, University of Texas, and UC Davis), yet she and her colleagues have had to file dozens of FOIA requests and lawsuits to get access to what they consider to be relevant information.

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.

2. USAID databases from PREDICT.

3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite

exercised about the "apathy" of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.

4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.

5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

She then claimed that the public can't trust the credibility and integrity of the NIH on these matters, since they tried to obscure the existence of relevant data – and event tried to obscure the involvement of other scientists in the discussion of COVID-19 origins in the conversations that led to the *Nature Medicine* correspondence in 2020 (I lost her here – the discussion became very "inside baseball"). She concluded with a plea that the public deserves more clarity about the pandemic's early days.

Sachs then threw her a softball about the *Nature Medicine* correspondence, inviting her to tell the listeners how it appeared that NIH was trying to obscure who came up with the zoonotic origins theory (and then didn't credit those authors on the publication). She then said that the virologists who were on this correspondence have continued "to be aggressive about natural origins and to marginalize other theories" – asking (rhetorically) if they have shown integrity.

Sachs then said that all of this information had to be pried out of the NIH and the USG, rather than being offered transparently. He showed how the NIAID had redacted most of the 300-page COVID strategic plan of April 2020, and also made a point of saying that Robert Redfield had wanted to attend today's webinar but couldn't, noting that he believes a lab leak is more likely – and that he was shut down by NIH when he tried to call for further investigation. Sachs then teased that there may be new revelations that the WIV and US scientists were implicated in evidence that COVID-19 emerged in China before December 2019. (This latter evidence-free speculation seems to refer to Mike Pompeo's evidence-free contention that the USG had evidence of this – but that evidence has never materialized.)

Sachs then reiterated his contention that both hypotheses need further investigation – and that the relevant information may be in the US, not China. We need an independent, rigorous, transparent scientific investigation. (Despite this language, I think you can sense from my summary of the webinar that Sachs is actually shading the argument toward his belief that COVID-19 had a laboratory origin.)

I wasn't able to stay on for the Q&A, but we should be able to review the rest of the session when Sachs posts the recording.

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,
Jeff

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MORENS_NIH_009833
REL0000478240

Date: Sun, 22 Jan 2023 3:50:44 PM -0500
Sent: Sun, 22 Jan 2023 3:50:41 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Morens checking in
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) >;

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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Januar PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: 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 <(b) (6) 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
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On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:50 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > 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 political puppeteers. Who knows? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:42, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) > wrote:

I probably won't do that. If there was a groundswell of interest I would consider it, but my science is going well here, and for now they are not running me out of Texas. Although that could change on a dime as well. I'm surprised the White House has no urgency to fill the NIH Director's slot.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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MORENS_NIH_030768
REL0000478244

iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:34 AM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

PS, this may sound cynical, but by applying and letting it be known publicly, you could force them from pursuing a cover up selection

There is much concern here that a poorly qualified nih or other candidate could be selected under the radar. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:31, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

I wouldn't bet on anything re Tony's position. If anyone here is in charge of anything, they are doing a great job of keeping it secret. david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:33, Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) wrote:

Many thanks for that thoughtful email. Interesting times indeed! So far I've held off applying thinking they already know what they must want, etc. Warmest Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 9:23 AM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, sadly, you are right. We are in for a lot more shit

In terms of us looking for a new director, since this is not a political appointment position, niaid has much leeway in doing what we want, subject to HHS and NIH oversight/coordination, but not outright control

There seems to be secrecy around the process of finding a new director, which is not the way we have done things in the past. The job description is not what i would have written, eg, in specifying someone who is politically savvy. We have 27 IC directors here at nih and i can't recall any prior search looking for someone with political chops.

I am afraid we could end up with a pliant nih insider rather than an outsider with strong science credentials. The model is former NCI director Harold Varmus who was perceived as too big to mess with, and used that reputation to push back against all kinds of BS

There is no guarantee that anything will happen soon. Hugh is Acting Director but is taking a hands off, just-keep-the-ship-afloat approach so far. I hope he will be more proactive, as he is smart and capable, and has alot of management expertise

But internally there is absolute silence about what if anything is happening. I know all the senior leaders here, and none are involved in any search "above board", at least. Several have implied to me that they are as much in the dark as everyone else. If so, that is not good news because it raises the possibility of a covert and possibly politically oriented process

That is one reason i encouraged you to apply: an nih outsider who has political skills and a scientific reputation, as well as skill in pushing back against the BS. If you think of all possible scientists who would be good in the job, the list is not long, or at least my list isn't. If you know anyone please urge him or her to apply asap!

david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 21, 2023, at 09:50, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Thanks for the thoughtful note David, in terms of moving forward with your plan, a couple of things to keep in mind:
>
> The GOP House Oversight and Judiciary Committees each headed by Freedom Caucus members will begin their investigative hearings this year. While Biden is the major target at some point they hope to discredit NIH, and especially NIAID. They will also target their grantees.

NIAID is looking for a new director? Will that happen soon?

Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

> O 9 AM, David Morens <
> (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Hi all, my apologies for being out of touch; had some non fatal health issues and surgery yesterday morning, but should be back to work part time this week
>
> There is a front page story in the Wash Post this morning about GOF and the NEIDL. You should all read
>
> Since Tony stepped down 12/31, I have been mulling the implications for me being able to speak up more
>
> Our deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, is a good and reasonable guy, but i have not yet spoken to him about how muzzled i am expected to be going forward. I think the party line at nih is to be very fearful of the crazies in and out of congress, and in practice our guidelines of never speaking to the press unless approved by HHS or the White House remains in

effect. That is why 95% of my interactions with the press are on background and off the record. (Incidentally, although i have spoken to Joel Achenbach on background numerous times in the past, i did not speak to him for today's article).

Here is how it works. Our press office knows that whereas Tony has the patter and nuance down pat, I will say pretty much exactly what i think scientifically, and therefore they do whatever they can ethically to cut me off from sensitive issues, knowing that HHS will cut me off if they don't

But I plan to sit down with Hugh and ask him to let me use my judgement in these issues. There is no govt reason anymore for me being forbidden to even speak with colleagues such as you all

And an interesting thing happened recently that i think bodes well. As you all know, over the last 15-20 years or so i have written 40-50 scientific papers with Tony, mostly reviews and commentaries that provide springboards for him to talk to the press. Usually i propose the topics and he says yes or no.

Ever since the GOF thing broke 15 years ago, with Ron F and Yoshi K publishing their two papers on H5N1, GOF has been a no no for me/us to write about. And so far, still is a no no. Another subject that has been a no no is my conclusion that our whole scientific enterprise to make vaccines against respiratory viruses is off base scientifically, and needs to be reoriented

A few months ago, Tony surprised me be giving me the go-ahead to write a review that says as much, implicitly criticizing what we at nIH and others do in terms of vaccine development approaches. Many others at NIH told me that we dare not write that. But about 10 days ago the paper came out in Cell Host and Microbes, with Tony's name on it, and has been greeted very positively by many high level folks in and out of govt

This gives me SOME hope that us discussing GOF head on might be possible, by which i don't necessarily mean talking to the press, but by writing in science articles why it is that the whole concept of GOF is being (often willfully) misunderstood. The aim would be to have statements by govt scientists that change the terms of the dialog, ie, be more proactive rather than letting the crazies control the dialog

I wrote such a paper with Jeff Taubenberger 10 years ago, which has sat unpublished in a file cabinet ever since, and could easily resurrect it with updates addressing SARS-CoV-2....

So..... I am hoping that I will no longer be bound and gagged from from enjoying my first amendment right to speak to you all about scientific matters if importance. It's a new year and time to move forward by being more proactive

David

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
[redacted]D, NIAID, NIH

MORENS_NIH_030773
REL0000478244

Date: Sat, 12 Nov 2022 9:08:02 AM -0500
Sent: Sat, 12 Nov 2022 9:07:55 AM -0500
Subject: The evidence remains clear: SARS-CoV-2 emerged via the wildlife trade
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)

hhttps://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2214427119
hhttps://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2214427119ps://twitter.com/PeterHotez/status/1591374214820687872?s=20&t=sr-https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2214427119oTovlJDzr_oWlxWR_ag
s://twitter.com/PeterHotez/status/1591374214820687872?s=20 &t=sr-oTovlJDzr_oWlxWR_ag



The evidence remains clear: SARS-CoV-2 emerged via the wildlife trade | PNAS

Fast forward to the last days of 2019 and the first reports of a severe pneumonia (coronavirus disease 2019 [COVID-19]) in Wuhan, China. Public health officials quickly determined that the illness was caused by a novel coronavirus, subsequently named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) ().Politicians in the United States, and others eager to assign blame, reacted by ...

www.pnas.org

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
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Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:44:38 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 8:40:19 PM -0400
Subject: Under Embargo - Commentary in Nature Wednesday morning
From: Peter Daszak <
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png; Koopmans et al. Comment Covid Origins Nature 2021.pdf

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:

- 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 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
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:35 P
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' (b) (6) ; 'Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Francis Collins on CNBC today

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022665
MORENS_NIH_043669
REL0000478248

Hello everyone - Not looking forward to the publicity this week with the Intel report coming out sometime soon, but wanted to share a couple of things.

First – here's an interview by Francis Collins on Squawkbox CNBC that makes him come over like a wet lettuce. He goes one way then the other, making sure he sounds somewhat anti-China (they could have been doing mysterious things), but makes it clear NIH didn't fund Gain of Function there.

It's the definition of flip-flopping I guess. Maybe he genuinely believes China were up to something. In any case, it feels like he basically couldn't care less about the organization in the middle (EcoHealth) that's being batted around like a table tennis ball… The URL is here: https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/23/covid- origin-nih-director-doesnt-rule-out-that-virus-could-have-leaked-from-lab.html

NIH director says Covid likely came from nature, but doesn't rule out it could have escaped from lab

PUBLISHED MON, AUG 23 202112:53 PM EDTUPDATED MON, AUG 23 20211:08 PM EDT
Rich Mendez@RICHMENDEZCNBC

KEY POINTS

- President Joe Biden gave the U.S. intelligence community 90 days to investigate Covid's origins and report the findings, which are due Tuesday.
- Through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, the NIH funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology to study how bat viruses could infect humans.
- Collins said the research didn't meet the technical definition of so-called gain-of-function research.

The director of the National Institutes of Health said Monday it appears Covid-19 originated from an animal, but he didn't rule out the possibility that scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology were secretly studying it and that it could have leaked out from there.

It's still unknown if the virus leaked out of a Wuhan lab, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins said Monday in an interview on CNBC's "Squawk Box," adding that the World Health Organization's investigation into the origin of the coronavirus has gone "backwards."

"The vast evidence from other perspectives says no, thiswas 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."

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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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)
(b) (6) Kessler, Robert (b) (6)) (6)
Subject: FW: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:29 AM
Subject: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

U.S. spy agencies are about to report on COVID-19's origins, but don't hold your breath.

by Alan Wong
by Viola Zhou
August 20, 2021, 9:38am

Robert Redfield has a lot of questions. The virologist and former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wants to know what happened at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, especially in the months before the emergence of COVID-19 in the same city. But China's answers didn't satisfy him.

"On Sept. 12, 2019, coronavirus bat sequences were deleted from the institute's database. Why? It changed the security protocols for the lab. Why? It put out requests for more than $600 million for a new ventilation system. What prompted this new need?" Redfield, who believes that the coronavirus escaped from the lab in Wuhan, asked those questions in the *Wall Street Journal* on Sunday, alluding to the possibility that something bad happened at the facility as early as September that year and caused a pandemic that has killed more than 4 million people worldwide. To bolster this view, he said a Harvard study of satellite images revealed a shutdown of traffic around the Wuhan lab around that time and that hospital parking lots in the city were filling up—signs, perhaps, of a lab accident and a subsequent surge in sick people.

But almost all of those insinuations are disputed, inaccurate, or just plain wrong.

The opinion article offers a stark illustration of the limits of circumstantial evidence as the search for the origins of COVID-19 enters a contentious new phase.

U.S. spy agencies are preparing to release a report on their findings on whether the pandemic started from human contact with an infected animal or a laboratory accident in China. The report is expected no later than next week, after President Joe Biden in May gave the U.S. intelligence community a 90-day deadline to further collect and analyze information that could "bring us closer to a definitive conclusion" on the origins of COVID-19.

But China is not keen to cooperate. Further muddling the search is Beijing's renewed push of an unsubstantiated, alternative theory that the virus could have originated in a U.S. army lab at Fort Detrick, Maryland. The move has only fueled suspicions that the Chinese government is hiding something.

Unless U.S. spies uncovered substantial evidence—such as proof that the Wuhan lab possessed the virus that caused COVID-19 or evidence that it created the virus—the debate on the pathogen's origins is likely to persist.

Redfield co-authored the *Journal* article with Marc Siegel, a physician and *Fox News* contributor who last March said the coronavirus was no worse than the flu. It was riddled with mistakes.

For example, the planned ventilation system upgrade at the Wuhan Institute of Virology cost about $600,000, not $600 million as the authors stated. The figure was corrected on Friday, a day after VICE World News emailed questions to the *Journal*'s opinion desk. That number came from a report by Republicans that exaggerated the amounts of several other projects by orders of magnitude and has been cited in several other prominent news outlets.

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The Trump-appointed former director of the CDC apparently also misattributed the findings of a military contractor's report to Harvard. The Harvard study he links to analyzed satellite images of hospital parking lots in Wuhan, but it did not once mention the Wuhan Institute of Virology. It was also criticized for its poor dataset, abuse of statistical methods, and mistranslation.
The analysis of traffic outside the Wuhan institute used commercial satellite imagery and phone location data to conclude that traffic was unusually thin around the Wuhan institute and was the result of containment efforts following a hazardous event. But the report's key assertions were found to be false as early as June last year.
These are just a few examples, from one article, showing the challenges of investigating the origins of the coronavirus without being in China and without the country's full cooperation.
The closest thing to a field study the world has seen was the World Health Organization (WHO) trip to China early this year, but the global health body has complained about not being able to access the complete raw data from the early COVID-19 patients that could give researchers insights into how the virus emerged.
Last month, the WHO chief urged Beijing to share the data, but Chinese officials said the information could not be disclosed due to patients' privacy. Some scientists are not convinced by the argument, citing the possibility of disclosing the data while keeping the patients' anonymous.
Beijing's obsession with a theory that the coronavirus could have been brought into China through frozen food imports has also raised doubts. Officials have kept calling for more research into such potential cold-chain transmission, although few scientists abroad have found it credible enough to justify further investigation.
"In my opinion, it's even less likely than lab origin," Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, told VICE World News. Rasmussen, who has argued in favor of a natural origin of the coronavirus, said the Chinese government might be trying to distract people from the wildlife trade that could have led to a virus zoonotic spillover.
Scientists say only greater transparency will help Chinese authorities fend off all these suspicions. "We are being asked to take their words for it, without seeing any data," said Alina Chan, a biologist at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has promoted the lab leak hypothesis. Chan told VICE World News she would like to see all of the sequences of the pathogens that were processed at the Wuhan lab. If the data could not be made public, she said, they should at least be reviewed by an international team of scientists.
"This situation is setting precedents for how future outbreaks are tracked," she said. "If every single country does this, and refuses to let international investigators check where the virus came from, we would just be facing a future where viruses are just exploding everywhere, and we are just getting a new pandemic every five or ten years."
Some other scientists still maintain that the lab leak theory is unlikely, in contrast with what they have called a "substantial body of scientific evidence" supporting a natural origin for the coronavirus, according to a peer-reviewed paper published in *Cell* this week.
Still, with few new data points to inform the origins probe, scientists on both sides of the debate have called for greater transparency.
WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in July said the lack of raw data on the early days of the outbreak was hampering the investigations into the origin of the virus and urged China to be more transparent. Tedros suggested further studies into Chinese laboratories in the next phase of studies.
But the Chinese government would not feel comfortable with this degree of transparency. The Communist Party leadership is used to conducting investigations and making decisions behind closed doors, and sees the call for openness as a political threat.
"That is not atypical in China's crisis management," Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, told VICE World News. "The U.S. could push for more transparency, but they fail to recognize that the lack of transparency itself is part of the authoritarian governance in the country."
This mindset could hurt China's reputation—the pandemic is not a small crisis but one that has upended almost everyone's life. "Even if the virus is caused by a natural spillover event," Huang said, "when you don't show transparency, when you are perceived as unwilling to share the data, people naturally will think you have something to hide."
The Chinese government has remained intransigent to the mounting calls for more transparency.
At the press conference last month, Chinese officials said they were "shocked" to hear about WHO's proposal for fresh audits into Chinese labs, adding the suggestion indicated "disrespect for common sense and an arrogant attitude toward science."
The same month, state media quoted a Facebook post by a self-claimed Swiss biologist named Wilson Edwards as saying that researchers faced intimidation from the U.S. for supporting the WHO-China origin-tracing study. The Swiss embassy said no such person exists.
It's unclear whether the U.S. intelligence probe, which was condemned by Chinese state media as a "political witch-hunt," would yield anything more than circumstantial evidence.
By the time a preliminary report was drafted, the intelligence community was still divided over the lab leak theory and the natural origin one, CNN reported this month. The outlet cited a source as saying that the draft contained "nothing too earth shattering."
In September 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology shut off public access to its database, which holds thousands of genetic sequences of bat coronaviruses it studied.
Shi Zhengli, director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the institute, said the online database was shut down after cyberattacks—believe it or not, that's the answer to ex-CDC director Robert Redfield's first question. But almost two years later, the database remains offline. It's no wonder that people are asking questions.

Follow Alan Wong and Viola Zhou on Twitter.

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Date:	Fri, 26 Mar 2021 10:48:11 AM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 26 Mar 2021 10:47:40 AM -0400
Subject:	Re: Some prior articles on "GoF" regarding influenza
From:	Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
To:	Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	mBio-2013-Taubenberger-e00365-13.full.pdf; mBio-2012-Taubenberger-e00201-12.full.pdf; 41586_2012_Article_BFnature11170.pdf

Peter, after we spoke, i chatted with Jeff and he proposed sending these papers which nibble at the GOF issue, in the sense of trying to clarify without provoking

The slant of the unfinished paper was more along the lines of clarifying why the whole issue of GOF is bogus, being essentially a misinterpretation of what virology is and can do. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Mar 26, 2021, at 10:07, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Hi David and Peter,
>
> FYI, here a couple of articles expressing some thoughts about GoF particularly as it relates to influenza.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Jeff

MORENS_SUBPOENA_019999
MORENS_NIH_039831
REL0000478255

Date:	Thu, 30 Jun 2022 12:15:07 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 30 Jun 2022 12:08:00 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

Who knows, all bets are off. Maybe Jeff will get himself on Joe Rogan next

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iPhone

On Jun 30, 2022, at 10:21 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

What a joke – he should be locked up

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New England Biolabs
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Fax:
email:(b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole
https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21 &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS_RXhHfQ

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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Richard Horton already made a false statement about me to the House of Commons – saying that it took him a year to get me to fully disclose my conflicts of interests for the Lancet 'Statement of support' we wrote in Feb 2020. He referred to me as "that individual". De-humanizing and dishonest. So I doubt he'll intervene, but worth a shot.

By the way – here's today's gloating article by the "White Coat Waste" celebrating Republican congressional member Reschenthaler (PA) who has been doggedly pursuing our defunding for the last 2 years. The amendments do not actually make any iota of difference of course – No funds from DoD ever went to Wuhan either directly or through EcoHealth. But it does the job of painting us as an organization that should be attacked. Just as Sachs' Lancet Commission report will now do.

https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN

POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) **first exposed** that dangerous coronavirus

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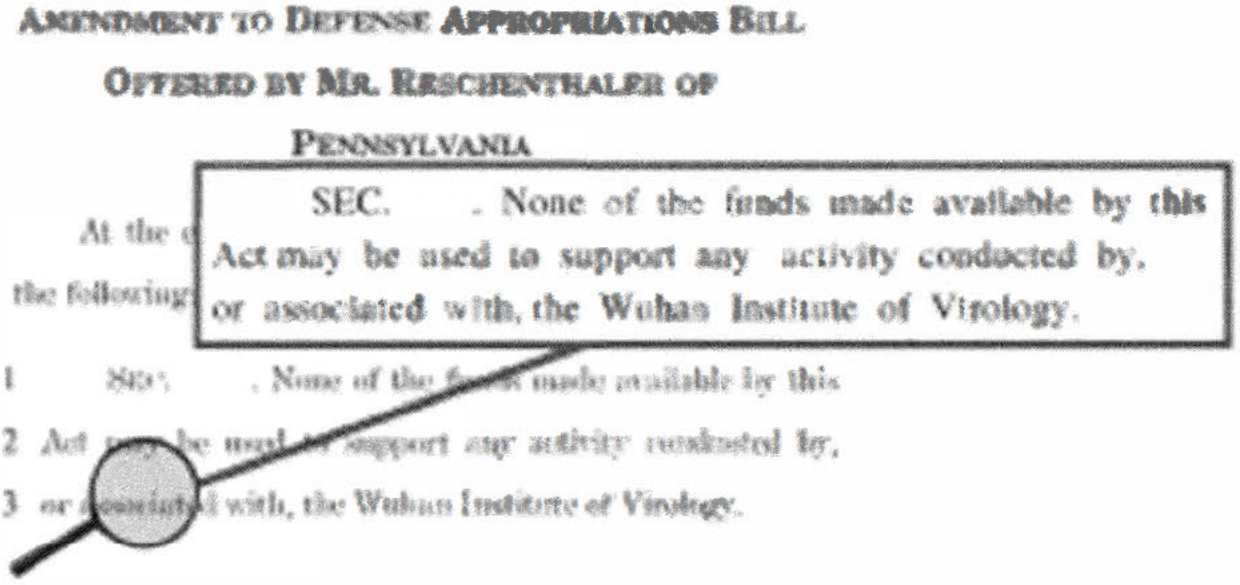
MORENS_NIH_017125
REL0000478258

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_007831
MORENS_NIH_017126
REL0000478258



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_007832
MORENS_NIH_017127
REL0000478258

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6)
Gerald T Keusch(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

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MORENS_NIH_017128
REL0000478258

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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s…it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_007834
MORENS_NIH_017129
REL0000478258

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) avid Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak < (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
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Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

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Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >
Date: June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT
To: Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> You should have shown up to make your case. Too bad you did not. Too bad Worobey skipped. Too bad NIH has hidden all the data, non-stop.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:
> >
> > Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research
> >
> > **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> > Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
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iPhone

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On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <(b) (6) wrote:

The report says only that both hypotheses are in play and should be pursued. You are free to state on your own account outside of the Commission your own conclusions at any time. Each of us can do so. There is not any hint whatsoever of "equally likely." (I personally believe, along with many scientists, that a lab release is the most likely origin, by the way, but the report in no way states that.)

Personally I find your position to be untenable. Because of FOIA we now know in remarkable detail just how much the NIH has hidden from view. Even Baric says that both hypotheses need investigation. The US Intelligence Community similarly concluded that both hypotheses are in play. The Commission is calling for transparency.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:05 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Yes Jeff, we discussed this at length and we agreed to send this out for peer review - with the understanding that the manuscript would be modified pending the comments. Now that a referee agrees with my assessment, this needs to be addressed in a forthright manner. My recommendation is that you accept the referee's criticism by stating that at least one of the Commissioners agrees and the language in the document has been modified accordingly. That's the only honest answer I can think of. It will also protect the entire LC from future backlash from the virology community.
>
> One way to go is to add a sentence, that there was not consensus in your statement giving equal weight to zoonotic spillover vs lab leak GOF research and at least one of the Commissioners feels that body of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the former. This is a simple statement of truth and one that would give our document greater intellectual heft.
>
> Thank you! Peter
>
> **Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**
> Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
> Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
> Health Policy Scholar
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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <

(b) (6) > wrote:

Dear Peter,

We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.

Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

> Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:
>
> *2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several*

evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.

Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Phone:
Fax: 713-798-2299

From: Juliana Bartels (b) (6) (6) >
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor <(b) (6) Zinabou, Genet <(b) (6) >; Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali <(b) (6) . Alejandro Gaviria <(b) (6) >; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro <(b) (6) >; Bottazzi, Maria Elena <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <
(b) (6) 5(b) (6) <
(b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Lara Aknin <
(b) (6) Chandrika Bahadur <
(b) (6) >; Lauren Barredo <
(b) (6) >; Chris Bullen <
(b) (6) gaby cuevas <
(b) (6) ; Andrew Haines <

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(b) (6) >; Neena Joshi <
(b) (6) >; Ozge Karadag Karadag <
(b) (6) >; Phoebe Koundouri <
(b) (6) ; Gabriela (b) (6)
>; Morales, Andrés <(b) (6) >;
(b) (6) >; Francesca Colombo <
(b) (6) me
Lafortune (b) (6) >; Jeff
Sachs <(b) (6) Yanis Ben Amor <
(b) (6) ; Emma Torres <
(b) (6) >; George Laryea-Adjei <
(b) (6) >; Uyen Kim Huynh <
(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <
(b) (6) ; Vaira Vike Freiberga <
(b) (6) (b) (6)) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) ;
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Juan Pablo Cadena (b) (6) John
Thwaites <(b) (6) >;
Jong-Koo Lee (b) (6) Booyuel Kim <
(b) (6) ; Muhammad Ali Pate <
(b) (6) >; Miriam Khamadi Were <
(b) (6) <(b) (6)
>; (b) (6) <
(b) (6) Marissa VanRy <
(b) (6) ; Felipe Larrain Bascuñan <
(b) (6) Susan Michie <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Lazarus (b) (6) >;
Margaret Hellard (b) (6) ;
Shweta Khandelwal (b) (6) >;
Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) <
(b) (6) >
Cc: Juliana Bartels <(b) (6) >
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point

response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie

--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
475 Riverside Drive | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115
(b) (6)

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:27:44 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:26:41 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
301 (b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 2:16 AM
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6) Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) Wang Linfa <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >, (b) (6) <(b) (6)

Yes, it's very odd. I just can't follow it.

What I did think was interesting - as you note - is that they talk a lot of the market which I thought was totally off the table in China. Also, it's from Nanshan Zhong and I last time I heard him speak he was strongly pushing the frozen food idea.

Perhaps a shift?

Or could just be a wet Wednesday afternoon's ramblings.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,

School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 4:06 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) wrote:

I thought the SARS-CoV-2 virus that emerged in Wuhan wasn't capable of infecting mice that weren't genetically engineered to express human ACE2? This paper, with its emphasis of meteorological factors, seems dodgy to me. But it's good to see research on the origins from researchers in China getting out, albeit it in an obscure journal.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 15:55:39 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Although I can't quite tell if it is sane.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 2:37 pm, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

Just found this in an obscure journal.

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market. …

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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T (b) (6)

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REL0000478259

E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020
with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still
seems relevant today.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpodcasts.apple.com%2Fnz%2Fpodcast%2Fhow-it-all-started-rebroadcast%2Fid1440051086%3Fi%3D1000504072911&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca3b2ce3da8b84891380608db8a0fca13%7C14b77578977342d585&sdata=CNua34sw%2BthDdcFIwq1Pd6mEdS0l16Oqi00Q44rb7ao%3D &reserved=0

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <(b) (6) wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal
source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen
r'ships with scientists in China.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
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(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

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Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
<(b) (6) > wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source.
Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure?
d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

It's not phylogenetics.

One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.

Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.

Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
(b) (6) wrote:

Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic asumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in lsyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.

If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational problem demanding international cooperation. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

Yes, good idea.

The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…

This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.

That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

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E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:

Yes, do it! This is important and i say modestly, game changing. The whole « origin » controversy needs to be rethought from the ground up

We have been too micro-focusing (as i have long said to hard push back) but the sarobecovirus and merbecovirus problems are geographically and virologically complex and require us to drop back and study the viral-host universe. Thst universe is huge, complicated , and holds surprises, in my view. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 17:36, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6)
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Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff

Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word your “A strategy…” paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!!

This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn’t have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing,
and keep our eyes on the
prize of getting to the bottom of it all
david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fpeterdaszak%2Fstatus%2F1439.
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca3b2ce3da8b84891380608db8a0fca13%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=SKkEblUvCO165p4pcry8JLV2EQkA0OPHtxC73D8Thmo%3D &reserved=0

No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie,
Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ca3b2ce3da8b84891380608db8a0fca13%7C14b77578977342d585
&sdata=TEHtvdtbs892dgv3A1MdqCfCMfqp104asWqq5enWZwk%3D &reserved=0

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) > wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

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<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 6:21:47 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 20 Aug 2022 6:21:40 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Epoch Times' story on NIH's latest action
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

Let's hope "Oversight & accountability are coming" to Michael Lauer

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel:(b) (6)
Fax: (
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Aug M
To: Rober (b) (6) David Moren (b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Epoch Times' story on NIH's latest action

EXTERNAL SENDER

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.

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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., termination of the subaward to WIV) is the only

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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_010586
MORENS_NIH_021114
REL0000478262

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, Augu M
To: 'Robe (b) (6) 'David Moren (b) (6) ; 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
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-

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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

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President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, A
To: (b) (6) avidMoren (b) (6) Gerald TKeusch <
(b) (6) Je (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press

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MORENS_NIH_021116
REL0000478262

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
US
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, Au
To: David M (b) (6) ; Gerald (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010589
MORENS_NIH_021117
REL0000478262

To: 'David Mo (b) (6) >; 'Gerald T (b) (6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b) (6)
'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmur (b) (6) >
Subject: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press
Importance: High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.

If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

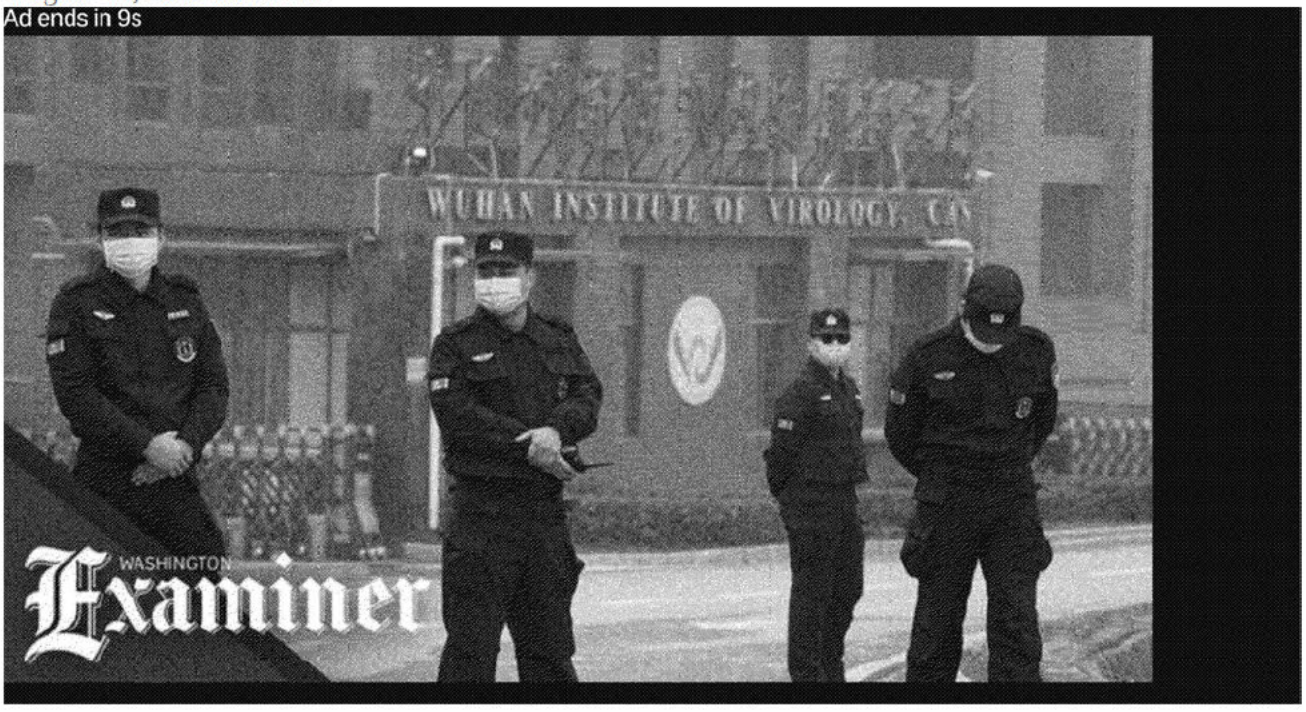
Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article: https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih- ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling

WUHAN LAB

NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |
August 19, 2022 08:21 PM



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The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance.

But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH … identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records."

Lauer added: "Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request."

FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN LAB

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with "moderate confidence" that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with "low confidence" COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH's Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, "will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV … in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

"Terminating EcoHealth Alliance's partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum," Comer said Friday. "It's unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party's coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government."

Comer added: "EcoHealth's dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans' hard-earned money."

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed "R01AI110964" years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

"The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population," the NIH said Friday in defending the award. "This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness."

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to "grant administrative non-compliance concerns." EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China.

EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as "myths" and "conspiracy theories."

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study.

The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth's handling of its coronavirus grant included "inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration's Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate

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charges."
But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab's continued involvement.
The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.
Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Au
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Hotez, Peter J (b) (6) eksei Chmura <(b) (6)
>; Gerald T Keusch (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very high rate of SARS-related CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia

Peter, can i share the proofs with Tony, confidentially of course? If not i will at least give him a heads up if that's ok

Also, correct me if i am wrong, but the 66k number is significantly higher than your previous estimate, right?

d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Some good news..
>
> Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al*. "*A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia*". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers

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hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, Aug M
(b) (6) ; 'Hotez, P (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura
(b) (6) (b) (6) 'Gerald T Keusch' (b) (6) Jeff
Sturchio (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it– tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add). https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation- playbook

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010593
MORENS_NIH_021121
REL0000478262

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6) PeterDaszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email:(b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM
To: PeterDaszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
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Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:

> Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?
>
> On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
>
> > Dr. Hotez,

I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.

The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.

Questions:

1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--
Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Rig
Signal (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010596
MORENS_NIH_021124
REL0000478262

Date:	Sun, 3 Oct 2021 11:13:10 PM -0400
Sent:	Sun, 3 Oct 2021 11:13:06 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Molnupiravir was tested against the bat-CoVs discovered by our NIAID collaboration with Wuhan Institute of Virology
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Robert Kessler <kessler@ecohealthalliance.org >;
Attachments:	image001.png

This is of real importance for all of us, because it commonly comes up when GOF is discussed that there is considerable risk without much benefit. This is a useful way to counter that impression – and incidentally show how ignorant the proponents are (but that is a bit of editorializing).

And David should go ahead and contact Jon Cohen. I could only talk off the record because of my commitment to Richard Horton I would stay out of the public press until we resolve what happens to the now terminated COVID Task Force on Origins etc. But I am itching to openly say what I want to.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 7:48 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Molnupiravir was tested against the bat-CoVs discovered by our NIAID collaboration with Wuhan Institute of Virology
Importance: High

This is mainly for David Morens to let people know at NIAID, but may be of interest to you all.

The latest therapeutic to make headline news – Molnupiravir from Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics (AKA EIDD-2801), was tested against the exact same bat-origin CoVs discovered in our terminated, now-suspended R01 from NIAID.

Here's an article on the drug: https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare- pharmaceuticals/mercks-covid-19-pill-cuts-risk-death-hospitalization-by-50-study-2021-10-01/

..and here are a couple of papers that tested it against the bat-CoVs: https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/12/541/eabb5883 "Here, we show that the ribonucleoside analog β-D-N^4-hydroxycytidine (NHC; EIDD-1931) has broad-spectrum antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and related zoonotic group 2b or 2c bat-CoVs, as well as increased potency against a CoV bearing resistance mutations to the nucleoside analog inhibitor remdesivir". .

And here: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586- 021-03312-w "Collectively, our results demonstrate the utility of LoM as a single in vivo platform to evaluate and compare the replication and pathogenesis of past, present and future pre-emergent, epidemic and pandemic coronaviruses, which will allow for accelerating the development and testing of therapeutic and pre-exposure prophylaxis agents such as EIDD-2801".

Here's a full list from the information I have on the drugs/therapeutics that were tested against our viruses:

Vaccines, therapeutics tested against the bat-CoVs discovered by EHA/WIV in China

Remdesivir: Formerly known as GS-5734 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5567817/
Now in use via FDA EUA: https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/29/health/gilead- sciences-remdesivir-covid-19-

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011468
MORENS_NIH_022256
REL0000478263

treatment/index.html
Molnupiravir: NHC; EIDD-1931 & prodrug EIDD-2801: tested against range of CoVs here https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/12/541/eabb5883 . Shown to effectively block SARS-CoV-2 here https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586- 021-03312-w. Currently in Phase II/III clinical trials, showing good efficacy to all variants in preliminary results (Oct 2021): https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare- pharmaceuticals/mercks- covid-19-pill-cuts-risk-death-hospitalization- by-50-study-2021-10-01/
Adagio ADG20 (refined from ADG2): https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6531/823 . Now in Phase II/III clinical trials https://www.clinicaltrialsarena.com/news/adagio- trial-covid-19-prevention/
Broadly-neutralizing RBD-specific antibody DH1047: Martinez *et al.* https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.04.27.441655v1
Chimeric NTD/RBD spike mRNA vaccines: Martinez *et al.* https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.11.434872v1
Neutralizing Ab vaccine for pandemic and pre-emergent coronaviruses. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586- 021-03594-0 Cited as 'proof-of-concept' for Universal CoV vaccine initiative announced by Dr. Fauci on CNN 5/13/21

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Good LA Times article.

FYI Jon contacted me and asked if we could speak, I gave him my cell

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail(b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b) (6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48

Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez

Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

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Phone: (b) (6) '6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011470
MORENS_NIH_022258
REL0000478263

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Jerry:

I did get an answer from Elizabeth Warren's staff and anticipate a direct conversation soon.
The contact I have was passed from Seth Moulton's office in confidence so let me see if he would agree to converse with you directly after I have spoken with him.

I spoke with Jon Cohen yesterday and found him to be quite reasonable. He did agree to pass any quotes he might use past me before publishing. I specifically mentioned that it would be greatly appreciated if he could write something in direct support of Peter within the article.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

I talk to him regularly, most recently about the attacks on Peter D and the task force we were on under the Lancet COVID Commission which Jeff Sachs has unilaterally terminated. I couldn't really allow him insights into where we are or to use anything I said (all off the record) because we are negotiating with Lancet for a different way to continue our work.

I think he is a decent guy. I know Peter D has concerns so if you do speak to Jon be careful about what you say and how you say it, and require him to run any quotes he plans to use by you. That's his general modus operandi.

What we need is to get the amendment out of the appropriations bill, and while the senators are important it may be somebody like Eric Lander who is a cabinet member to get them to pay attention. The administration is mightily distracted.

Rich, if you are able to share your entre to Elizabeth Warrens staff I would happily follow up. I have contacted them, Markey, and my representation and all I get back is the auto thank you reply.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6)
>
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

Peter:

I just spoke with Jon Cohen from Science. I mentioned that you were being attacked completely unfairly and that it would he good if he could find some encouraging words to help you. I am wondering if one of you would also be prepared to talk to Jon.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 11:47 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the origins "debate" pretty clearly:

https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021- 09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011472
MORENS_NIH_022260
REL0000478263

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."

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.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 6:29:42 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 6:29:41 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.
From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Thanks, David. Seriously, if the bread crumbs led to the WIV BSL4 lab, I'd follow them there, too. But I don't see anything convincing to believe there are any there, nor have there ever been. The wet markets, on the other hand, were littered with bread TRUCKS!
I wanted to bring you on my own odyssey writing that last piece so you could see what my world looks like. It can be frustrating, but it can also be gratifying. Thankfully, it turned out OK in the end.
I appreciate the assistance you have all given me. An open dialogue like this has been my modus operandi in more than 20 years of journalism.
Thanks again,
Jason

From: (b) (6) /18/21 08:18:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:), (b) (6)
, (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

Let's remember Nick was fired from the New York Times
and has a history of controversial stuff including truly appalling neo-eugenics crap.
Sadly, he has even influenced Don McNeil, another great journalist also fired from the NYT. I have always admired Don, a protege of sorts of the NyT's Larry Altman, but even he fell under the crazy spell

I greatly admire highly intellectual journalists as a whole, but as a group they seem to have a tenfency to go off the deep end

Is there something about this era? Did aliens put crazy-drugs in our drinking water???

Anyone remember Edward Hooper and The River, a best seller of 20+ years ago in which the author impugned, harassed, and nearly drove to the grave one of virology's heros, the late Hilary Koprowski. All from a cockamamie book length best selling slander that Hilary started the AiDS epidemic with 1950s polio vaccine trials

I knew Hilary well, the tragedy of slander by smart and smarmy journalists is real

You cannot make this shit up!!!!!

Something is very, very wrong about the interface between science and science journalism. Jason, we need folks like you to take note and follow breadcrumbs out of this forest. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 17, 2021, at 17:34, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021676
MORENS_NIH_042554
REL0000478266

It really doesn't get much lower than Wade. It really doesn't.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)

On 18 Aug 2021, at 7:00 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Please let me know when you can share it under embargo. I know Science goes mental when their own journos don't get stuff first. But it's helpful to have the luxury of time to properly read papers without the haste to get something out ASAP. JG

----- Original Message -----

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

To: JASON GALE (b) (6)

CC (b) (6) b) (6)

At: 08/18/21 00:51:28 UTC+10:00

Add to that a preprint we'll be posting next week that suggests 50,000 – 400,000 people are actually infected by bat SARSr-CoVs in SE Asia each year, and a comment from the international members of the WHO team that'll be in Nature this week or next.

As long as these articles keep up their 'drip, drip' with actual new data and analyses, all the lab leak hypothesis has is re-hashing of the same innuendo-filled vitriol.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021677
MORENS_NIH_042555
REL0000478266

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: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 1
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6) avid (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6) ason Ga (b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject:

Thanks Peter,

Totally agree that It's quite sad to see the attacks on scientists and science from Wade. It's the very basis for the "lab leak" hypothesis, so no surprise.

Wade is old enough to know this, but anyone that thinks that Jeremy Farrar and Tony Fauci are part of the "problem" has literally [in the case of Tony] not been paying attention for 50 years.

Looking forward to Wade and his ilk going ballistic as two new papers favoring natural origin appear shortly in *Cell* and *Science*.

Bob G.

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:40 AM
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) Jason Gale <
(b) (6) >
Cc: (b) (6) " <(b) (6) >, "
(b) (6) (b) (6) , Robert
Garry <(b) (6) (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021678
MORENS_NIH_042556
REL0000478266

Subject: Nicholas Wade's piece today in Bull Atom. Sci.

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Nicholas Wade's at it again – another miserable innuendo-filled attack on science and the process by which scientists email, talk and come to decisions. Nothing new of course, just trash journalism published in a pseudo-scientific journal. Pretty shameless smear on some of us – no facts of course, no sue-able accusations, just snipey comments and excerpts from Social Media. It's as if we can't now be scientists and actually colleagues who break bread and share a glass any more.

https://thebulletin.org/2021/08/how-covid-19s-origins-were-obscured-by-the-east-and-the-west/

The irony is in the ending – he claims the lab leak is an albatross hanging around China's neck that they won't be able to shake off until they open up the lab videos, books, freezers etc. The truth is his and others continued attacks are what put the albatross there in the first place. Does anyone really believe that if China gave access to all the above and no further evidence was found, that these folks would simply say "OK, it wasn't a lab leak after all"!!!

Cheers,

Peter

How COVID-19's origins were obscured, by the East and the West

By Nicholas Wade | August 17, 2021

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A bus carrying a team of experts from the World Health Organization departs an airport in Wuhan on Jan. 14, 2021, after arriving in the Chinese city to investigate the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. That investigation is widely seen as having been obstructed by Chinese authorities. (Photo by Kyodo News via Getty Images)

Some 20 months after the Covid-19 pandemic first broke out, its origins remain obscure. A vigorous campaign of concealment by the Chinese authorities is the principal reason. But China received considerable help, strange to say, from senior medical research officials in the United Kingdom and United States who mishandled and effectively derailed the initial inquiry into the virus's origins.

The mishandling began at a pivotal teleconference held on February 1,

2020. The organizer was Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust, a large medical research charity in London. News of the conference emerged with the release this June of emails from the office of Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Farrar supplied further information in his book *Spike*, published on July 22.

The conference was held to discuss the unanimous view of a group of virologists that the SARS2 virus had been manipulated in a lab. Yet within a few days of the meeting, the virologists abruptly reversed their conclusion. The meeting's participants were later involved in two letters to scientific journals that stated the virus must have emerged naturally and that condemned any suggestion of manipulation as a conspiracy theory. These two letters, to *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*, shaped the views of the mainstream media for more than a year.

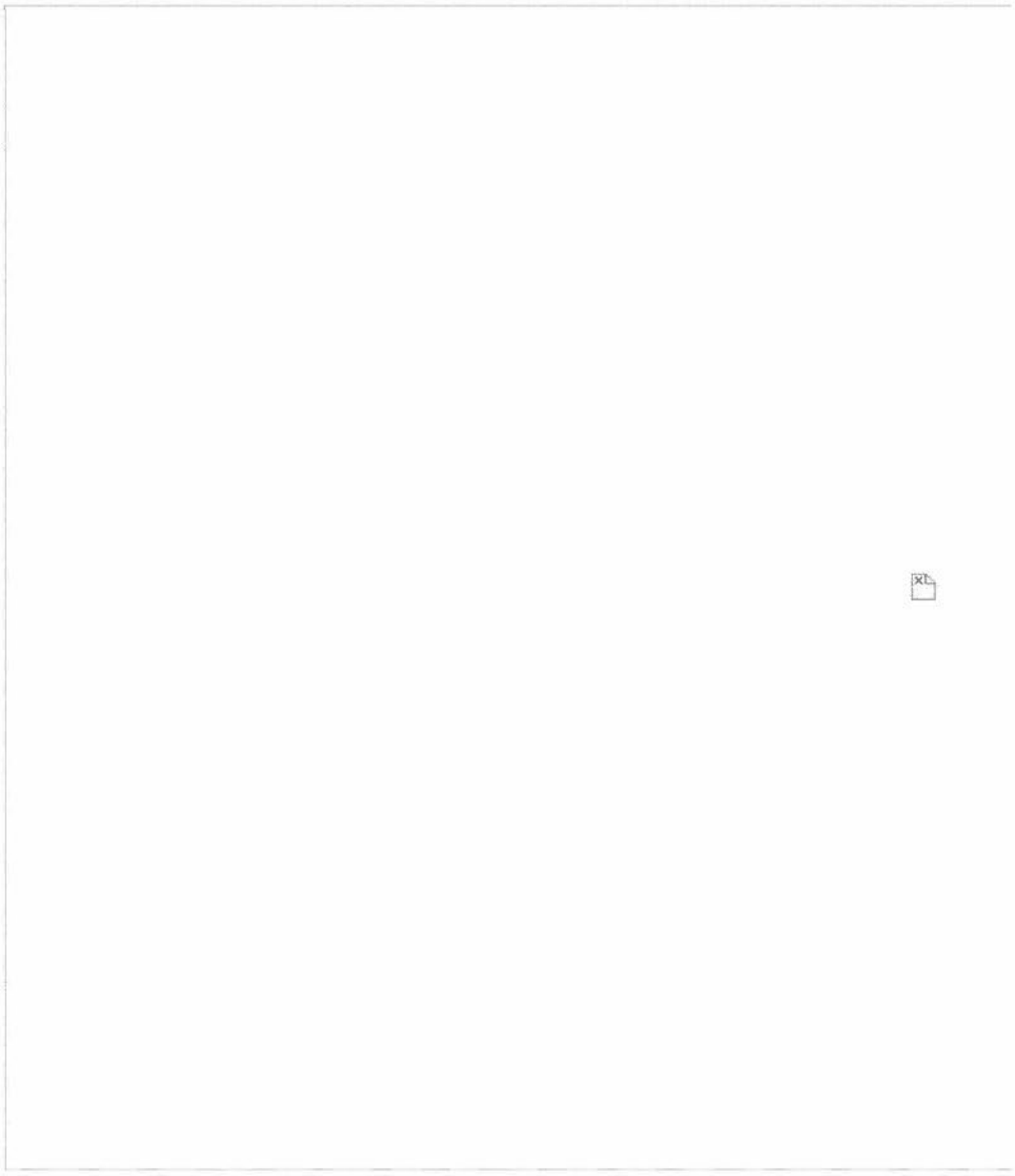


Letters published by *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* in early 2020.

Even today, no one can say for sure whether the SARS2 virus emerged naturally or escaped from a lab. Much less could anyone have been sure back then. If the conferees had stuck to known facts, they would have left the question open to the two hypotheses, and the full exploration of the virus's origins might not have been sidetracked for over a year.

More significant, the Chinese government would have found it much harder, if not impossible, to manipulate the World Health Organization (WHO) into setting terms of reference that favored China's obstructive goals and kept WHO inspectors who visited China this February from accessing records vital to understanding the origin of the pandemic. China now insists those terms of reference cannot be changed, blocking further investigation into the origin of the SARS2 virus. "The two groups that produced the infamous letters in *The Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* paved the way for the Chinese government and helped enormously to facilitate all of that," says Milton Leitenberg, an arms control expert at the University of Maryland. The reversal of the virologists' conclusion about SARS2's artificial origin is thus a matter of some significance.

At 10:32 p.m. on the evening before the February 1 conference, Fauci had received an electrifying memo from Kristian G. Andersen, a virologist at the Scripps Research institute in California. Andersen reported that the virus seemed to be man-made. "The unusual features of the virus make up a really small part of the genome," he wrote, referring presumably to a genetic component known as a furin cleavage site, which greatly enhances the virus's infectivity, "so one has to look really closely at all the sequences to see that some of the features (potentially) look engineered."



_A key email from Kristian Andersen to Anthony Fauci.

Andersen went on to note that "after discussions earlier today, Eddie, Bob, Mike and myself all find the genome inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory"— meaning that, in their unanimous view, the virus didn't come from nature. "Those opinions could still change," Andersen added. Eddie is Edward C. Holmes of the University of Sydney. Bob is Robert F. Garry of Tulane University. Mike is Michael Farzan at Scripps Research.

The message sent Fauci into a whirlwind of activity. "You will have tasks today that must be done," he emailed his deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, two hours later at 12:29 am on February 1. One of these urgent tasks evidently concerned NIAID funds that had been passed, via the EcoHealth Alliance of New York, to Zhengli Shi, China's leading bat virus expert, at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Fauci was doubtless

anxious to check whether his agency's funding of Shi's work had complied with US law, which banned funding gain-of-function research from 2014 to 2017 and required it be reported to a government panel thereafter. "Gain of function" refers to research in which a pathogen's ability to cause disease is enhanced. Auchincloss replied a few hours later that efforts were underway to ascertain "if we have any distant ties to this work abroad."

Meanwhile Farrar, who had independently heard of the Andersen team's conclusion from Holmes, says in *Spike* that he arranged a teleconference set for 7 p.m. London time, convenient for both Washington and Australia, where Holmes was based.

The participants included Fauci and possibly his nominal boss, Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health. (Farrar says in *Spike* that Collins was present, but Collins's name is not on the list of invitees in the Fauci emails.) Officials on the UK side were Farrar and Patrick Vallance, the chief scientific adviser to the UK government. The others were mostly virologists, including Andersen, Holmes, and Andrew Rambaut of the University of Edinburgh.

Far from being selected at random, the conferees were associated through a complicated web of relationships, a sort of virologists' old boy network that included senior medical officials in China. Farrar was well acquainted with George Fu Gao, the head of China's counterpart of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has described Gao as an "old friend," who in fact had called a month earlier, on December 31, 2019, to tell Farrar about the initial cases in Wuhan of what turned out to be Covid-19. Farrar says in his book *Spike* that on the weekend of the teleconference, he called another highly placed Chinese official, Chen Zhu, China's minister of health from 2007 to 2013, to tell him of "rumours that the novel coronavirus could be the result of a lab accident." As for Holmes, he has published many papers both with Farrar and with Gao and has been a guest professor at Gao's CDC from 2014 until 2020.

Because of these varied connections, it seems likely that Chinese authorities knew about the conference almost from the moment it occurred and, if so, would have had the opportunity to influence deliberations that followed it.

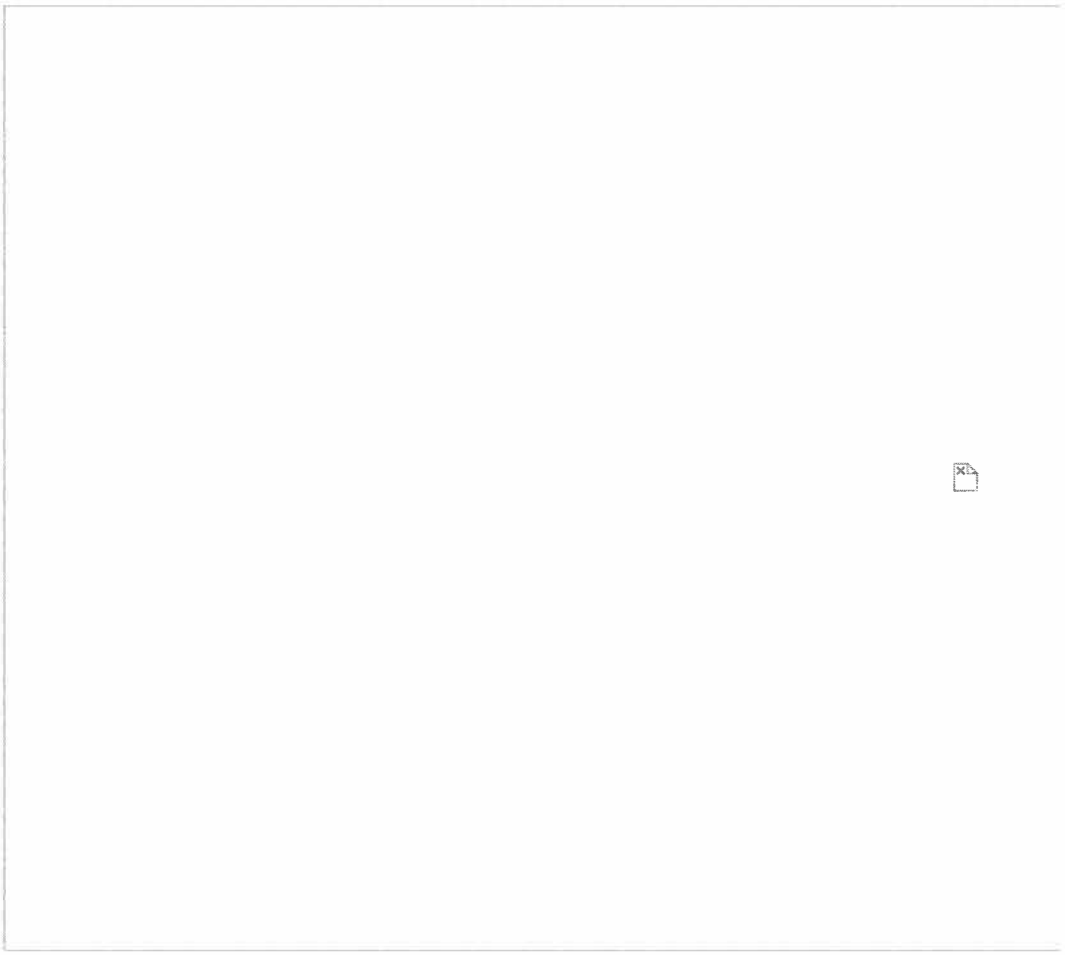
At the conference there was a notable imbalance of power between the virologists and the officials. Fauci and Farrar together control a large portion of the funds available for virological research in the Western world. A virologist keen to continue his career would be very attentive to their wishes. Two of the conference participants had multimillion-dollar grant proposals under final review with NIAID at the time of the call.

Almost all references to what was discussed at the teleconference have been redacted from the Fauci emails under exceptions to the Freedom of Information Act. The conference would doubtless have included explanation from Andersen and Holmes as to why they had concluded the previous evening that the virus had been altered through laboratory manipulation. "Kristen and Eddie have shared this and will talk through it

on the call," Farrar writes in one of the Fauci emails.

RELATED:

The known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of COVID-19

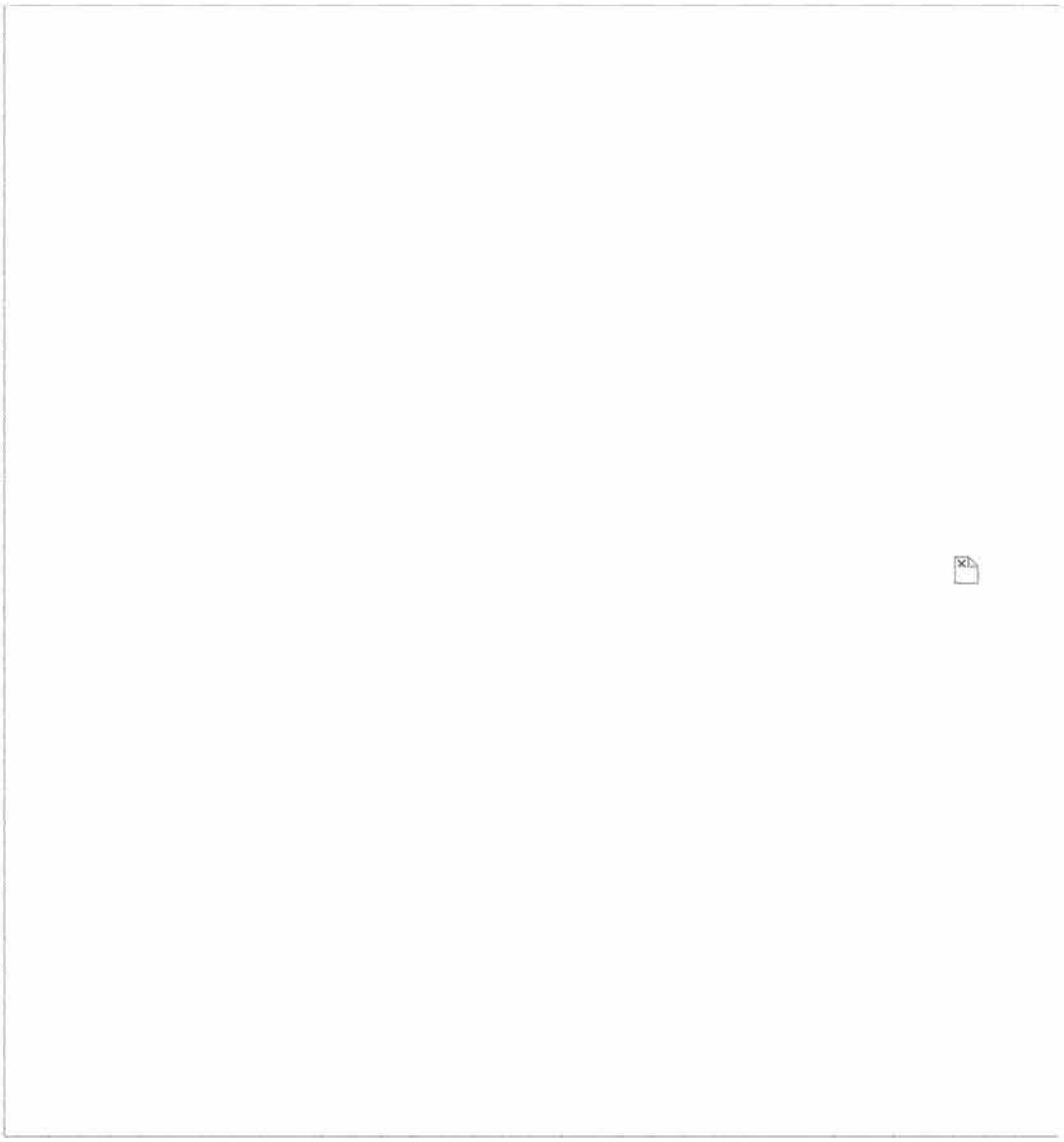


_A Jeremy Farrar email about the teleconference.

Whatever was said at the meeting, it was followed by a remarkable and almost immediate about-face. By at most three days later, Andersen had executed a 180 degree turn in his views about the virus. In an email of February 4, 2020 to Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, which had directed NIAID funds to Shi, Andersen wrote, "The main crackpot theories going around at the moment relate to this virus being somehow engineered with intent and that is demonstrably not the case." The email was obtained by U.S. Right to Know, an investigatory group.

Participants have not explained what was said at the meeting or found in the days immediately following it to induce the change of mind. Media offices at the Wellcome Trust and NIAID declined to comment on this article. Andersen, Holmes and Rambaut did not reply to emails seeking an account of the reversal.

Farrar, not Fauci, seems to have been the leader in the teleconference's deliberations. "This is not my area of expertise so I have backed off and am leaving it all to Jeremy," Fauci wrote on February 13 to a CDC official. US officials were not to take the lead in this pivotal inquiry.



Fauci's "leaving it all to Jeremy" email.

Farrar had a direct hand in the two letters that went out to the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*. He was a signatory of the *Lancet* letter, a draft of which Daszak, the organizer of the letter, began circulating just five days after the conference. The letter sought to squelch all discussion of the possibility that the virus had escaped from a lab by deriding it as a conspiracy theory. When Daszak wrote an article in the *Guardian* elaborating on the same theme, Farrar promoted it with a tweet, saying "as always worth reading @PeterDaszak."

Farrar also recruited the five authors who drew up the *Nature Medicine* letter, his spokesman told the writer Ian Birrell. (The spokesman referred to the *Lancet* letter but evidently meant the *Nature Medicine* letter, which has

five authors.) The *Nature Medicine* letter, accepted on March 6 and published on March 17, 2020, presented a detailed and influential case that the virus had emerged naturally from animals. Its authors were Andersen, Rambaut, W. Ian Lipkin, Holmes and Garry.

In his book *Spike*, Farrar portrays the events between the February 1 conference and publication of the two medical journal letters as a judicious process in which he held an agnostic view and played no role other than asking questions. "On a spectrum if 0 is nature and 100 is release—I am honestly at 50!" Farrar says he emailed to Fauci and Collins a day after the conference. But if that were honestly so, he fails to explain his switch from 50 to 0 when signing the *Lancet* letter a few days later.

According to *Spike*, it wasn't until March, "after the addition of important new information, endless analyses, intense discussions and many sleepless nights" that Andersen and his four fellow virologists "were ready to pronounce on the origins of the novel coronavirus." Why then was Andersen, the virologists' leader, ready to pronounce just 3 days after the conference that lab release was a conspiracy theory? Farrar's account does not match with the available facts.

Nor does Andersen's. In a June interview with the *New York Times,* he painted a picture that includes a change of mind on the possible engineering of the virus "in a matter of days, while we worked around the clock," and then that quick reversal being buttressed by drawn-out research.

"This is a textbook example of the scientific method, where a preliminary hypothesis is rejected in favor of a competing hypothesis as more data become available and analyses are completed," he said in a statement released by Scripps Research after his Jan 31 email to Fauci had become public. "I cautioned in that same email that we would need to look at the question much more closely and that our opinions could change within a few days based on new data and analyses—which they did," Anderson said in the *New York Times* interview. In that same interview, he also said that "more extensive analyses, significant additional data and thorough investigations to compare genomic diversity more broadly across coronaviruses led to the peer-reviewed study published in *Nature Medicine*."

These later data and analyses would not have been available three days after the conference, the date of Andersen's volte-face email to Daszak. And they would not have been available to Farrar as he signed the *Lancet* letter, which was published just 17 days after the teleconference.

More puzzling is Andersen's statement that in his preliminary studies "the genome of RaTG13, a SARS-related coronavirus found in bats, wasn't yet available." In fact its full sequence had been deposited by Shi in a data bank on January 24, 2020, a week before Andersen's report to Fauci, and Farrar says in *Spike* that he had seen the sequence by the time of the conference. RaTG13 is the closest known relative of SARS2, and the fact that it lacks the furin cleavage site found in SARS2 would have been a

major reason for the Andersen group to suppose that this genetic element had been inserted into SARS2 in a lab.

Given his role in leading the February 1 teleconference, in presiding over the virologists' 180 degree change of views, and in arranging or influencing the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine* letters, Farrar was evidently the driving force of the campaign to persuade the public that the SARS2 virus could not possibly have leaked from a lab. This was an unfortunate position for any scientist to take, given that he was assuring the public of something he could not be sure was true.

Farrar now says in *Spike* that, although natural emergence is more likely, "nobody is yet in a position to rule out an alternative." But his campaign sought very vigorously to do exactly that. "We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin," Farrar and his cosignatories wrote in the *Lancet* on February 18, 2020. This lapse in scientific judgment reflects also on the other senior participants in the conference who saw what was happening but apparently took no steps to insist that scientific truth should take precedence over unjustifiable professions of certainty.

RELATED:

Caltech's David Baltimore discusses the debate over origins of SARS-CoV-2

The decision to quash any notion of lab escape seems to have brought relief all round. At least until the tide of opinion began to change a year later, Fauci and Collins didn't have to endure unpleasant questions about why they had been funding hazardous research in minimally safe conditions at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

"I just wanted to say a personal thank you on behalf of our staff and collaborators, for publicly standing up and stating that the scientific evidence supports a natural origin for COVID-19 from a bat-to-human spillover, not a lab release from the Wuhan Institute of Virology," Daszak emailed Fauci after a White House press briefing on April 17.

In August 2020 the NIAID announced it would award $82 million over five years to 10 participants in its new network for detecting infectious diseases. Among the lucky winners: Daszak, Andersen, and his associate Robert Garry.

The perturbing lab leak theory raised by Andersen and his colleagues on January 31, 2020 had been safely laid to rest. Farrar and his colleagues had succeeded in the one goal also pursued by the autocrats in Beijing, that of suppressing discussion of whether the SARS2 virus might have escaped from the Wuhan lab.

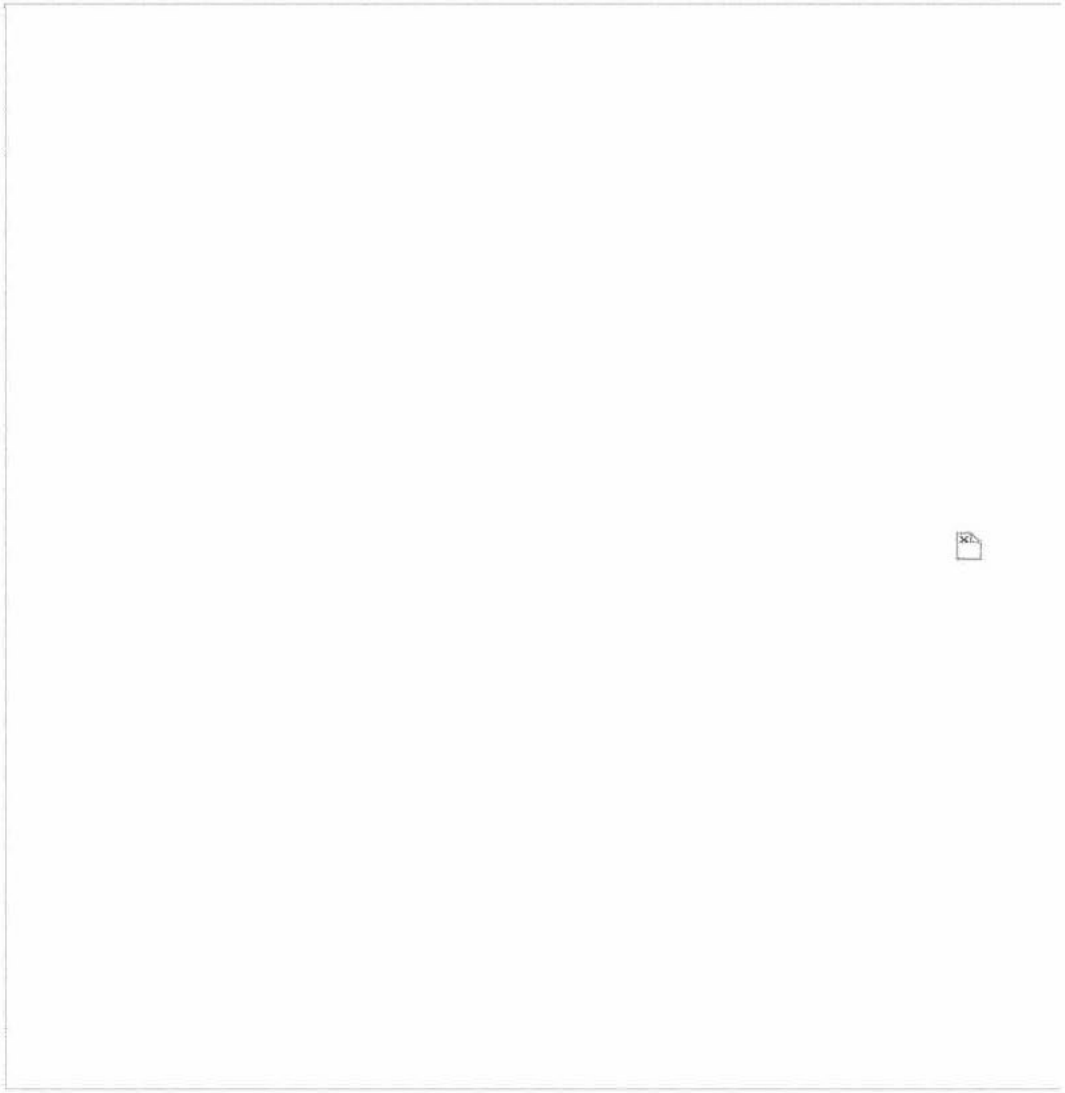
Beijing's way of squelching inquiry about the virus was, unintentionally, somewhat more obvious than the methods used in London. Chinese

authorities tried so hard to stamp out information about the virus's origin that they left a rather clumsy trail of footprints pointing to where they didn't want people to go.

One of the more informative suppressions of data was the closure of China's main database on bat and other viruses. Zhengli Shi, China's leading expert on bat coronaviruses, told the BBC that it was taken off line because of numerous hacking attempts. It's conceivable that in January 2020, after the pandemic broke out, people without authorized access might have tried to hack into the database. But in fact the database went off line on September 12, 2019. Who would have wanted to hack into a bat virus database back then? More likely, that is the date at which Chinese authorities realized they had a virus escape problem.

In February of last year, President Xi referred to the need to ensure biosafety and biosecurity, and the Chinese Communist Party followed by tightening up their biosafety rules in October 2020, accelerating a long planned revision. "To me, the fact that the CCP enacted a major series of laboratory biosafety regulations this past year is an indication that China's political leadership believes that a lab accident is likely to have caused the pandemic," says a biosurveillance expert who has monitored China's disease outbreak reporting for the past two decades.

Major clues as to what happened are evident in Shi's various pronouncements about the virus. The omissions and untruths in these statements are specific enough to outline the very body of facts the censors have sought to conceal.



Wuhan Institute of Virology researcher Shi Zhengli spoke about SARS during a Yixi event (comparable to a TED talk) on June 23, 2018. (Yixi video)

In looking at Shi's questionable statements, it's only fair to keep in mind that they may have been compelled. Her train of deceptions began immediately after the genetic sequence of the SARS2 virus was published on January 10, 2020, by Yong-zhen Zhang of Fudan University, against the wishes of Chinese authorities who subsequently closed his lab for a time. Where did this strange new virus come from? Shi wanted or was told to establish SARS2's pedigree as a bat virus, with an ancestry analogous to that of SARS1, the bat virus that caused an epidemic in 2002. In an important paper published on February 3, 2020, Shi reported that the genome of SARS2 is 96 percent similar to that of a bat virus, RaTG13, "which was previously detected in [the bat species] *Rhinolophus affinis* from Yunnan province."

Shi neglected to mention a salient difference between the two viruses, namely that SARS2 possessed a furin cleavage site and RaTG13 did not. Alina Chan, of the Broad Institute in Cambridge, has likened the omission

to describing a unicorn by reporting all its horse-like features, but neglecting to mention the horn. Evidently the Chinese authorities were highly sensitive to the furin cleavage site's presence.

Shi also failed to say when and where she had discovered the RaTG13 virus, surely important data for the closest known relative of SARS2. In fact, she had found RaTG13 in 2013, in an abandoned mine in Tongguan —the same place where six miners had fallen sick the year before. At that time, she analyzed just one of its genes and reported the virus under another name, BtCoV/4991. Daszak, the holder of her NIAID grant, told the London Times, perhaps on misinformation from Shi, that the virus was then thrown in a freezer and forgotten about until 2020. This was untrue—the virus was of much greater interest. Shi had analyzed its full genome, probably by 2018, but did not publish it. It was only when she needed a bat virus pedigree for SARS2 that Shi released information about the virus, which she now renamed RaTG13. The fact that BtCoV/4991 and RaTG13 were one and the same was discovered by Monali Rahalkar and Rahul Bahulikar, two internet-sleuthing researchers in Pune, India.

It's not acceptable practice among scientists to report something already published under a different name as if were new. Shi's February paper had the goal of portraying SARS2 as just another bat virus while concealing the true provenance of its closest known relative—a cave known to harbor lethal viruses.

When RaTG13's connection to the Tongguan mine was pointed out, Shi still tried to conceal the lethality of the mine's bat viruses, saying the miners had died of a fungus infection. This untruth was corrected when a master's thesis by a Chinese doctor, Li Xu, was unearthed by the internet sleuth who calls himself TheSeeker268. The thesis reported that the miners had died of a SARS-related virus with symptoms identical to those of Covid-19 and with CT scans similar to those of Covid patients. The only evident difference between that virus's effects and those of SARS2 is that the miners' virus was not readily transmissible from one person to another.

The specificity of what Shi's statements concealed—the furin cleavage site, RaTG13's identity with BatCoV/4991, the latter's origin in the mine where six miners were infected, the death of the three miners from infection by a virus with symptoms very similar to those of SARS2—all point to the involvement of these elements in a scenario the Chinese authorities are determined to cloak. That scenario may have been the storage or generation of the SARS2 virus in Shi's lab from one of the many viruses recovered from the Tongguan cave.

The Chinese government's persistent stonewalling and Shi's pattern of evasions do not amount to proof that the SARS2 virus escaped from her lab. But they seem less like the actions of innocent people and more like attempts to cover up a fatal accident, one that has caused the deaths of maybe 10 million people and counting.

Perhaps proof will one day emerge that the virus emerged naturally. If not, the likelihood that SARS2 escaped from a researcher's laboratory is an

albatross that will hang round China's neck in perpetuity. China's only hope of release from this terrible encumbrance lies in opening its laboratory doors and either establishing its innocence or admitting its fateful error.

Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 6:26 PM
To: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
(b) (6)
S ck on wild animals

Jason, not sure whose office politics is worse, but there is many a day I'd rather be in Australia, even if I had to drink that awful beer Fosters. (To quote Grouco Marx as he help up a glass of questionable beer: "last time I saw something like this, they had to shoot the horse")….

But I do have fond memories of Australia, and two of my closest freiends, both ex-students of mine, are out in Perth, the only large city there (if oy can call it that) I have never been, although it's high on my bucket list if this damn pandemic ever ends. He's an American public health physician and she's an Australian-Tongan PhD virologist, both wondeful smart people.



David M. Morens, M.D.
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(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
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From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>

Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: feedback on wild animals

Thanks, David.

I just got off a video conf call with the current editor in NY (the one asking all the latest questions). He's very nice and I feel like he gets its. He thinks it's a fascinating story.

Problem we have in journalism is that there are some people who aren't interested in actual journalism and telling stories; they want to climb to the top and manage people. I rejected the latter route 10 years ago, but am so grateful that I still get to meet so many remarkable people, visit cool places and see all aspects of humanity.

A difficulty working for a NY-based organization is that it's assumed that all the best people are in NYC, so being in Melbourne (where I need to be to be close to my kids in Adelaide), is that folks consider Australia a backwater and, by association, I mustn't be all that important/valuable. But my new role as "global biosecurity czar" is helping somewhat.

Ahhhhh... Office politics!

From: (b) (6) At: 08/15/21 09:03:03 UTC+10:00

To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
, (b) (6)
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.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021694
MORENS_NIH_042572
REL0000478266

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 <(b) (6) >
> To: JASON GALE, (b) (6)
> (b) (6) (b) (6)
> (b) (6) ,(b) (6)
> At: 08/15/21 01:45:11 UTC+10:00
>
> Looking forward to this important article. Truth is stronger than fiction.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net>
> **Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 6:4(b) (6)
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(b) (6) >

Subject: Fwd:Re:feedback on wild animals

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Hi guys, in case you have nothing better to read over the weekend, this is some of the dialog I am having with editors in the U.S. Essentially, my response to questions from editor #6.

I thought I could claim victory when it looked like the story could be published this morning, but the editor of Businessweek objected and thinks he can make it better with another revision and an ETA of Tuesday. Sigh.

Jason

From: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 08/14/21 16:36:58 UTC+10:00

To: Cristina Lindblad (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , Eric Gelman (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Cc: Joel Weber (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: Re:feedback on wild animals

Hi.

Thanks for the feedback and the questions, which I have tried to answer in detail.

It's often easier to have a conversation over Nexi or the phone to explain nuanced information, or details that are clear to me, but might not be to someone coming at this fresh, but that's tricky with the time difference.

When you look back at what's happened here, it seems that in trying to deflect blame for the pandemic, which became increasingly vicious as the cataclysmic

nature of the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded around March-April 2020, China tried to conceal a very obvious, very plausible source of the pandemic: it's flourishing wildlife trade (worth about $90 billion in 2016).

It was an obvious cause of the pandemic because an almost identical scenario triggered an international outbreak caused by a very similar coronavirus (SARS) in 2003-04. But in attempting to cover up the wildlife trade, and making like there were never any wild animals being sold in Wuhan's wet markets, things began to backfire on China; questions were raised about the nearby lab studying these coronaviruses. The more geopolitical, heated and vicious the arguments and accusations became, the less cooperative China became. In response, the more intent/adamant some groups have become in their belief that China is covering up a lab-leak. It's become a vicious circle. If China isn't coming clean on the wild animals, what else is it trying to hide?? China's defensiveness means we may never get the cooperation needed to find the answers. If China had been honest and transparent about the wild animals in the wet markets, it might not be in this mess now.

Anyway, here are my response to your queries in green.

By the way, I wonder if the current headline:

Delayed Paper Gives Credence to Wuhan Market Covid Origin Story

doesn't convey much more than what we had 2 months earlier when we reported Xiao's findings: China Markets Sold Mink, Civets, Stoking Natural Origins Theory

Perhaps Obscured China Paper Scuppered Chance to Trace Covid Origins

would hits "China", "Covid" and "Origins" in a way that won't alienate people who already believe it was a lab-leak

<><><><>

According to the report, minks, civets, raccoon dogs and other mammals known to harbor coronaviruses were sold in plain sight for years in shops across the city, including the now infamous Huanan wet market, to which many of the earliest Covid cases were traced. The evidence collected over 30 months by **Xiao Xiao** a I'D NAME HIM HERE [[i don't know that naming a researcher no one has ever heard of adds much]]researcher working at a lab affiliated with China's Ministry of Education was hastily drafted into a manuscript and submitted to a scientific journal [Joel, we cannot name the first journal they delivered it to because the authors decline to give us the name, saying it may affect their future chances of being published] in February 2020, just weeks before the outbreak was declared a pandemic.

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While the study received wide attention when it was eventually released by a different publisher [Publisher (Springer Nature) and publication (Scientific Reports) are different. Might add confusion DO YOU WANT TO ADD NAME HERE?], its long and torturous journey to publication gave **Chinese officials an opportunity to weave alternative narratives in which the virus may have come from abroad, even from a U.S. Army biological research facility**. [the stuff in bold is not contested and we go on to

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MORENS_NIH_042576
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show how that happened, documenting with links when available]I TWEAKED WORDING HERE BUT THIS STILL ISN'T QUITE RIGHT. IF THE REPORT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED EARLIER CHINESE OFFICIALS COULD STILL HAVE DONE WHAT THEY DID—THEY COULD HAVE JUST SAID THE REPORT WAS SHODDY, OR WHATEVER, AND THEY ALSO COULD HAVE JUST IGNORED IT. I disagree. The evidence that Xiao et al provide was meticulously documented and supported by photographs that would have been difficult/impossible for China to dismiss (as older published photos and media reports had been). What's more, Newman understands that Xiao collected blood-sucking ticks from the wild animals he studiously cataloged. His frozen tick samples could be tested for blood/antibodies/virus , which could be extremely helpful in identifying infected species PRIOR to December 2019. The WHO team knew nothing of this, so couldn't have asked China for this research or any results, had they actually done the research. The delay in the publication of Xiao's paper delayed the evidence that there were live animals sold in the Huanan market. The WHO researchers couldn't have asked about tests on wildlife that ostensibly were never there. Likewise, Chinese authorities couldn't have done the tests on animals that didn't exist. The problem is that in January and February 2020, it was widely assumed the animals HAD been there and that the necessary tests and tracing of animals (the sampling of animals on farms they were raised on, testing of farm workers, animal hunters, transporters and traders **had all been done** by researchers in China -- the very things that ultimately led to the discovery of the origins of SARS and of MERS viruses. **None of these things were done** (or at least, there is nothing publicly available to show that they were done) **because the animals "weren't there"**. Now that we all know they were there, China as lost considerable face. The issue has become so political than there is much less/?no willingness to cooperate and conduct the additional research that the WHO-led team recommended. Ideally, Xiao's ticks should

be studied, but it's doubtful that will now happen (I wouldn't be surprised if he's been ordered to incinerate them!) Hope this is clear.

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An international team of experts convened by the WHO traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to seek answers—a trip that might have yielded different results if the scientists had known about the work of Xiao Xiao, a virologist whose roles straddled epidemiology and animal research at the government-funded Key Laboratory of Southwest China Wildlife Resources Conservation and at Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.‘MIGHT HAVE YIELDED DIFFERENT RESULTS’ SEEMS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE. WHAT RESULTS DID IT YIELD? I’D CUT THIS GRAF

As mentioned above, the WHO-convened team of researchers was told by market authorities, vendors and regular market visitors that there were no live animals sold in the Huanan market. That undermined completely the premise that the Huanan market was the kind of place where live animals from different species are stacked in cages, with urine and fecal material drips from one cage to the one below it, where there are splatters of blood and guts from animals, and lots of potential for the spread of diseases from one species to another (including Homo sapiens). Instead, the market (and one other one known to have been selling live wild animals in 2019) was presented as selling only frozen wild animals and aquatic species and things unlikely to be the source of SARS-CoV-2. The WHO researchers were told there were frozen ferret badgers and other wildlife found in freezers. Some of the carcasses actually came from Yunnan, the province where the closest coronavirus related to SARS-CoV-2 was found in bats -- thus establishing a potential route from

Yunnan to Wuhan in wildlife. That was actually important. When the researchers showed their Chinese counterparts photos of caged raccoon dogs taken in the Huanan market by Prof. Edward Holmes five or six years earlier, they were told by Chinese scientists that the photos may have been faked, and that the market had ceased selling such live animals anyway. The WHO researchers saw no evidence (empty cages, animal pelts, etc) to dispute what the Chinese scientists told them, although they did smell "animals" -- but were told they were smelling rotten meat, sewage etc. Three people associated with the WHO-led mission told me that they didn't believe the information they were given by anyone associated with the market. But since there was no evidence to the contrary, they were unable to push the Chinese scientists further on this. 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.

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Six months and two revisions later, the journal’s publishers rejected the paper. “They did not think it would have widespread appeal,” says Newman, who declined to name the publication [do you want us to say why he won’t name it? I don't think it's necessary. There's no upside for scientists to make a publisher look bad (most journals are published by a handful of publishers)] “It caused us, especially our Chinese co-authors, concern that these data would not be taken seriously.”

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The manuscript underwent a third revision to include data on China’s pangolin trade networks (an earlier study, later contested, had implicated pangolins in the virus’s spread to humans)WHO ASKED THAT THIS INFO BE INCLUDED? (I did, because we're trying to explain here why WHO missed the significance of Xiao's evidence. The WHO was slammed by other papers being submitted PLUS Xiao's paper had a weird title. That title seemed relevant to the authors back in January-February 2020, when pangolins were considered a possible SARS-CoV-2-spreading culprit. But in October 2020, pangolins were off the hook, so the title would have seem irrelevant/unimportant at first glance at WHO). It was then sent to the online journal *Scientific Reports*.

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The China-based researchers had reason to be cautious. In February 2020, the China Center for Disease Control (CCDC lets not use "CCDC". It's not commonly used like the U.S. "CDC" is, and it's going to force readers to go back and figure out what the "CCDC" is) prohibited scientists working on Covid-relate

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~~CCDC~~ Disease detectives arriving from Beijing (think this makes it clear that these are China's disease "feds" arriving) on the first day of 2020 ordered environmental samples to be collected from drains and other surfaces at the market. Some 585 specimens were tested, of which 33 turned out to be positive for SARS-CoV-2. “All current evidence points to wild animals sold illegally,” China CDC Director George Gao and colleagues wrote in the agency’s weekly bulletin in late January. All but two of the positive specimens came from a

cavernous and poorly-ventilated section of the market's western wing, where many shops sold animals.

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~~The information void kindled a raging political debate that's already caused a trade war between China and Australia, as nations~~ demand to know ~~how Covid emerged.~~

Australia in April 2020 called for a global inquiryinto the origins of the pandemic, including China's handling of the initial outbreak. Days later, then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo used part of his Earth Day message to call on China to close its wet markets to "reduce risks to human health inside and outside of China."

Based on a discussion today with someone with knowledge of the WHO-led mission to Wuhan in Jan-Feb 2021, a significant catalyst for China's defensiveness is the emergence of **claims for reparations** that extended from the finger-pointing at China's wet markets. These surfaced in April 2020, and have continued as recently as June 2021 (when Trump pushed for it again at a rally in the Midwest)

SO IS THIS THE POINT AT WHICH CHINA, WHICH SEEMINGLY ACCEPTED THE WET MARKET HYPOTHESIS, BEGAN TRYING TO CREATE A DIFFERENT NARRATIVE? (I think it was incremental. I believe China was embarrassed that its citizens were still buying wild animals in wet markets to eat -- a well-known hazard for zoonotic disease transmission that China tried unsuccessfully to outlaw almost 20 years ago. But that embarrassment/humiliation morphed into rigid denial and obfuscation when governments began openly blaming the Chinese Communist Party and agitating for

China to pay reparations for the pandemic. See these clips:

- USA Today: Blame the Chinese Communist Party for the coronavirus crisis: Coronavirus crisis proves communism is still a grave threat to the entire world. If Beijing had just been honest, the pandemic could be preventable. April 5, 2020
- Yahoo News: More than half of Americans think China should pay coronavirus reparations, poll shows April 9, 2020
- Voice of America: Americans Join Coronavirus Lawsuit to Make China Pay April 10, 2020
- Washington Post Opinion: China must pay reparations to Africa for its coronavirus failuresApril 16, 2020
- Reuters: In a first, Missouri sues China over coronavirus economic losses April 22, 2020
- Washington Post: Missouri is suing China over the coronavirus pandemic. It's the latest conservative gambit, April 22, 2020
- New York Post: Top German paper demands $165 billion coronavirus reparations from China April 22, 2020
- Attorney General Fitch Prepares to Sue China on Behalf of Mississippians April 22, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump on U.S. Seeking Compensation From China Over COVID-19: 'We Have Not Determined the Final Amount' April 28, 2020
- The Guardian: Trump says China could have stopped Covid-19 and suggests US will seek damages April 28, 2020
- Intelligencer: Trump Thinks He Can Make China Pay for the Virus Like Mexico Paid for the Wall, April 30, 2020
- Washington Post: U.S. officials crafting retaliatory actions against China over coronavirus as President Trump fumes April 30, 2020
- Lawfare: Does China Really Owe the World Trillions of Dollars? May 7, 2020
- Fortune: Trump's demand that China

pay coronavirus reparations evokes an ugly history May 8, 2020

- South China Morning Post: Why China won't be paying the West coronavirus reparations any time soon May 15, 2020
- Deccan Herald, India: Abhijit Bhattacharyya | Why China needs to pay reparations to the world June 4, 2020
- Why calls for reparations from China for coronavirus are an unfeasible distraction June 9, 2020
- Newsweek: Trump Demands China 'Pay Reparations' for COVID, Says $10 Trillion Not Enough June 12, 2021

In response, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, denied "wildlife wet markets" existed in the country. Government researchersCAN WE BE MORE SPECIFIC? Twenty-two researchers from mostly nationally-funded laboratories (I think it's the Chinese equivalent of the NIH in the U.S.) and institutes attached to the Chinese Academy of Sciences) now dismiss the market hypothesis completely. "SARS-CoV-2 could not have possibly evolved in an animal market in a big city and even less likely in a laboratory," they wrote in a paper released last month ahead of publicationWHERE/WHEN WILL IT BE PUBLISHED? It was released as a "pre-print" on a Chinese academic repository ahead of publication that appears to be managed/owned by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Papers are usually released in pre-print form before they have been accepted for publication or peer-reviewed as a way of expediting public access to the information. In this case, there is no information to suggest if, where or when the paper will be published.

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A more recent paperBY WHOM? (China CDC's

Gao and eight other scientists mostly from the Chinese of Academy of Sciences' institutes) contends that the virus may have been imported from multiple locations worldwide, including parts of Europe where mink are raised in areas inhabited also by horseshoe bats known to harbor coronaviruses. “The official narrative changed not because the evidence changed,” says Robert Garry, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Tulane University’s School of Medicine in New Orleans “A spillover from a wet market was what caused SARS, and, embarrassingly for China, those wet markets were never shut down.” Garry is the co-author of one of the earliest papers on the origins of Covid but wasn’t involved in the research on Wuhan’s markets.

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I DON’T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT POINT THIS GRAF IS TRYING TO MAKE. This is intended to demonstrate the kind of gaslighting that has occurred. Some of the WHO-led researchers are veterinarians and zoologists -- they know what animals smell like, and could smell their lingering presence a year later, but were told essentially that it was impossible that they were smelling animals because **there "were no live animals there".)** The researchers noted a mixed smell of animals and disinfectant in some areas of the market, but they were told by the market’s manager that they were probably smelling the lingering stench of rotten meat and sewage, according to a joint WHO-China report. [should we add “according to Laing Wannian etc here? Liang Wannian was the leader of the Chinese research team collaborating jointly with the WHO-led research team. The source for the above description are in the annexes to the official joint WHO-China report released at the end of March 2021.]

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Earlier the same day, the international research team visited Wuhan's larger Baishazhou market, where Xiao had regularly surveyed two sellers of live wild animals. Yet the group was told only frozen food, ingredients, and kitchenware were on offer there. Liang Wannian, an epidemiologist who led the Chinese experts collaborating with the WHO-convened team, says his group had no knowledge of Xiao's data either. [if the above information on what the delegation saw all comes from this same source, maybe we should include his name higher up (The source for the description of what the origins researchers saw on Jan. 31, 2021, comes from the official 120-page joint WHO-China report and its 193-page annexes, not from Liang. Since we are essentially accusing China of concealing the information that Xiao documented, we asked Liang at a press conference in late July 2021 when the Chinese team first knew about Xiao's findings -- that the Huanan market and three others in Wuhan were selling live animals permissive to SARS-CoV-2 infection -- and what research China has done subsequently as a follow-up on this information? Liang gave a very long-winded response in Chinese in which he said essentially "we didn't have that information in January-February 2021 when the research team was in Wuhan". I think it's important we keep this to demonstrate that we have tried to ascertain what China knew/has done and have given the Chinese researchers the opportunity to respond. In addition, I have emailed China CDC Director George Gao at least twice and not received any response.]

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Among the earliest clusters of infections

recorded in Wuhan, one involved three Covid cases among staff working at a stall in Huanan. One of the employees, a 32-year-old who fell ill on Dec. 19, traded goods back and forth between the Huanan and Baishazhou markets.

WHERE DOES THIS FACT COME FROM? NOT THE REPORT, RIGHT? WHEN DID IT FIRST BECOME KNOWN? This information was from the joint WHO-China report released in March 2021, however, the WHO-led researchers went to the Baishazhou market more as a demonstration by the China team of what a perfectly functioning large food market looks like. The WHO-led team was oblivious to Xiao's research that showed there were at least two stalls in Baishazhou that had been selling live wild animals for human consuption. So this detail and its significance was lost on the WHO researchers at the time.)

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A confirmed case linking two markets that sold wild animals is “very intriguing,”says Stephen Goldstein, a research associate in evolutionary virology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. But tracing any contact the employee might have had with infected wildlife is impossible now that the animals are long gone.WOULD TIMELY PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT HAVE CHANGED THIS? It's unlikely that Xiao et al's paper would have been *published* soon after It was drafted in February 2020, but it could have been *released* as a pre-print ahead of publication and peer-review that same month. That would have **confirmed** what almost everyone had suspected: that there **was** a flourishing wildlife trade in Wuhan that provides a plausible pathway by which coronavirus-infected wildlife from Yunnan and beyond could have introduced the virus to the city, sparking the Covid outbreak. It's also possible that swift recognition of

these potential wild-animal vectors could have allowed scientists to test them for the virus and for antibodies against the virus while they were still alive (perhaps not the ones from Huanan, but wildlife in the three other Wuhan markets). Because of the statements the Chinese authorities had been making in January and February that strongly supported the animal spill over theory, it was assumed that this research was being done. Of course, the pandemic was raging then, so it would have been challenging. But, because of the denial by Chinese researchers that wild animals were being sold in Wuhan wet markets before the pandemic, there was never that level of follow up. At least, if there was, it was never made public.)

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“It seems to me, at a minimum, that local or regional authorities kept that informationWHAT INFORMATION? (that Wuhan had a flourishing live wild animal business going on in its wet markets before the pandemic) quiet deliberately,” Goldstein says. “It’s incredible to me that people theorize about one type of cover-up, but an obvious cover-up is staring them right in the face.”

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Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:49:18 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 11:49:11 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6) >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey S (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) wrote:

It's just
(b) (6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:37 AM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)
iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter: The *Washington Post* report was pretty balanced – and I'm glad that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify some of the more dubious elemenets of the *Lancet Commission* report. Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true. Angela's was also terrific.

As ever,
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Geral (b) (6) < (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) (b) (6) rchio <

attack from Republican Senators

It's awful, here are my quotes in the Washington Post tonight

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/09/14/lancet- covid-commission-report-who/

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)
iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp- content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my

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emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) wrote:

The Task Force paper is now in production. I won't have a real estimated date for publication until the galleys are available and then its 2-3 weeks. So probably end of the month, at best around the time of UNGA.

Now you should remind Horton about his promise to control Sachs. Its shameful how ineffective he, Horton, has been and how slovenly he is with accuracy and science.

We (the Independent Task Force) are addressing the dissemination of our report to be as forceful and as fast as possible when the paper appears.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 7. 2022 6:49 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6) ei Chmura (b) (6)
>
Subject: Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Media Inquiries:
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(b) (6)
iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OlRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 1:55:40 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 20 Sep 2021 1:55:29 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei
From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
To: Jason Gale <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Wang Linfa <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Although I can't quite tell if it is sane.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 2:37 pm, Edward Holmes <(b) (6) > wrote:

Just found this in an obscure journal.

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market....

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020 with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still seems relevant today.
https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/how- it-all-started-rebroadcast/id1440051086?i=1000504072911

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00
To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

Cc: (b) (6) , (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6), (b) (6) (b) (6)) (6) (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010504
MORENS_NIH_021024
REL0000478270

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

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The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia
T (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
(b) (6) > wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen r'ships with scientists in China.

From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00
To: (b) (6)

Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
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T (b) (6)
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
(b) (6) wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source. Admittedly

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MORENS_NIH_021025
REL0000478270

much data point in that direction but how can you be sure? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes <
> (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> It's not phylogenetics.
>
> One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.
>
> Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.
>
> Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
> > (b) (6) > wrote:
> >
> > Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic asumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in lsyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.
> >
> > If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational problem demanding international cooperation. d
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> > David M Morens
> > OD, NIAID, NIH
> >
> > > On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes <
> > > (b) (6) > wrote:
> > >
> > > Yes, good idea.
> > >
> > > The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light…
> > >
> > > This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.
> > >
> > > That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they

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find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

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T +(b) (6)
E (b) (6)

> On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Yes, do it! This is important and i say modestly, game changing. The whole « origin » controversy needs to be rethought from the ground up
>
> We have been too micro-focusing (as i have long said to hard push back) but the sarobecovirus and merbecovirus problems are geographically and virologically complex and require us to drop back and study the viral-host universe. Thst universe is huge, complicated , and holds surprises, in my view. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Sep 19, 2021, at 17:36, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) < j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:
> >
> > I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason
> >
> > From: (b) (6) At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00
> > To: (b) (6)
> >
> > Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) , (b) (6)
> > (b) (6)
> > (b) (6)
> > (b) (6)
> > (b) (6)
> > (b) (6)
> > (b) (6)
> > (b) (6)
> > dmmorens@gmail.com ,
> > (b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_021027
REL0000478270

(b) (6) ,
(b) (6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff

Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word your "A strategy..." paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!!

This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn't have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing,
and keep our eyes on the
prize of getting to the bottom of it all
david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak <
> (b) (6) >
> wrote:
>
> I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).
>
> https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21
>
> No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it - at least eddie,
> Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that...
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)
>
> President

MORENS_SUBPOENA_010508
MORENS_NIH_021028
REL0000478270

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F < (b) (6) wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

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<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>

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MORENS_NIH_021029
REL0000478270

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 9:20:12 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 9:20:08 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Tweet by Miner Flux on Twitter
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: ner 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

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MORENS_NIH_033171
REL0000478271

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
David Morens (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Tweet by 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

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iPhone

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MORENS_NIH_033172
REL0000478271

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Disapppointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the forseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b) (6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum…er….Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1 (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Tweet by MinerEFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, hack 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, hut 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 Joh disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, hut 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.

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If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the (b) (6) (b) (6) from (b) (6) - Peter H, you may know him-and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!
>
> Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015518
MORENS_NIH_033174
REL0000478271

Peter Daszak
President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak(b) (6) >
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura(b) (6) David Morens(b) (6) Gerald Keusch(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

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MORENS_NIH_033175
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Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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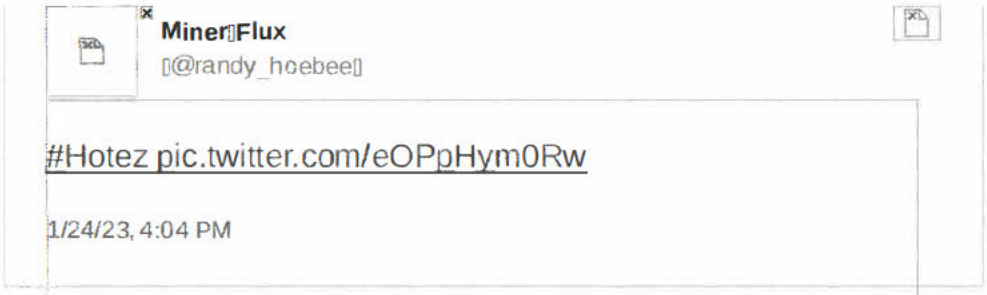

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015521
MORENS_NIH_033177
REL0000478271

Date: Thu, 12 Aug 2021 3:49:52 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 12 Aug 2021 3:46:47 PM -0400
Subject: RE: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?domain=cnn.it
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Robert Kessler <(b) (6)

Not much sampling of rodents either in China or across SE Asia. Mainly peri-domestic rats/mice (easy to catch) and prob. huge diversity of viruses waiting for discovery.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 2:10 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) >
Cc: Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?domain=cnn.it

tHANKS,. THIS IS well summarized.

How well sampled have rodents been in the S & SW China and SEA areas? They would be logical suspects involved in mammalian cycling....d

On 8/12/2021 1:53 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

> It's a bit of a challenge given that their argument is that we exaggerate the evidence for a bat-intermediate host-human pathway vs. the lab leak. They contend that our 'evidence' is simply that the virus has a zoonotic origin, and that the lab leak theories all agree with zoonotic origin, therefore this doesn't sway one way or the other…
>
> The new evidence since the WHO report was published is:

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MORENS_NIH_042406
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1. Evidence of live mammals known to be SARSr-CoV hosts in multiple Wuhan markets, including Huanan, up to the outbreak onset - paper published in Sci. Rev. Also cited in Holmes review

2. Yet another bat-CoV from Yunnan province that has multiple recombination events with some genes much closer to SARS-CoV-2 than others. Preprint here: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.17.435823v2.full

3. Analysis of WHO report data on human epidemiology suggesting that there was an epicenter of origin at the Huanan market side of Wuhan, not the WIV side. Eddie Holmes' review

4. 2 novel rat beta-CoVs and one alpha-CoV, all found in rats sampled from a wildlife farm in S. China, with one of the Beta-CoVs having a polybasic cleavage site in the S Protein similar to that in SARS-CoV-2. This adds weight to the furin cleavage site being more common than some have proposed. Paper in press at J. Virol: Li et al. (shared with you and David today).

5. Evidence that the likely sites of spillover could be in SE Asia/S. China, and that bat SARSr-CoVs may cause 50,000 – 400,000 infections a year in the region. EHA paper – will be a preprint within 2-3 weeks of now (may be sooner – we're waiting for approval from Chinese Govt. because it's joint with WIV).

I think they're right that #2 doesn't support one hypothesis over another, other than it builds the case that these viruses are abundant and diverse in this region, and recombining regularly, and therefore are likely to be spilling over regularly. I think #4 adds weight to a 'natural' origin because it shows that insertions at this point are more common than previously proposed, and therefore undermines somewhat the argument that the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab culture or manipulation. #1, #3, #5 all provide new evidence in support of the 'natural' origin pathway: live mammals; epidemiological evidence; spillover probability.

Happy for you to cite the papers from our group (#4, #5). #5 will have a preprint URL as soon as we get it uploaded.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Subject: FW: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt
https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?domain=cnn.it

Peter, this made me think if one of your forthcoming papers would be useful citations as well as Eddie's paper. Lancet will allow us 5 without argument. I am also considering the

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following paper reviewing the current evidence for evolutionary biology trail of the virus from bats to other species even if they have not been identified, *Exploring the natural origins of SARS-CoV-2 in the light of Recombination, Spyros Lytras, Joseph Hughes, Darren Martin, Arné de Klerk, Rentia Lourens, Sergei L Kosakovsky Pond, Wei Xia, Xiaowei Jiang, David L Robertson.* Any thoughts?

From: Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Kessler. Robert (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6)
Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt
https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAvwGIQWvWo?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] (b) (6) 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
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
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

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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.

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.

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"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 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 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

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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."
"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.

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David M Morens (b) (6)

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Date: Wed, 21 Jul 2021 11:32:46 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Jul 2021 11:32:45 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Thank you
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)

Lovely but I'm now also getting tony Fauci's hate mail (they Cc me on some).
I won't forward, it's pretty disgusting!!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

> On Jul 21, 2021, at 9:29 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
> <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> 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) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
> W (b) (6)
> 3 (b) (6)
>
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>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:34 PM
> To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
> Subject: FW: Thank you
>
> Another one, lol
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Carol Maloney Nelson <(b) (6) >
> Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:19 PM
> To: NIAID Ocpostoffice (NIH/NIAID) <OCPOSTOFFICE@niaid.nih.gov >
> Subject: Thank you
>
> Thank you Dr Fauci. For everything.
> We listens d we understand because we are educated and at least somewhat
> intelligent.
>
> We already knew Rand Paul is an ass and we thank you for speaking up for
> all of us.
>
> PS My uncle was a Jesuit at Holy Cross College. My Dad my brother and my
> sister as well as another uncle and three cousins graduated from there. My
> Dad is very good friends with Bob Cousy - they graduated together!

Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 5:10:29 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 5:10:15 PM -0400
Subject: Re: DNI releases summary of Intel report
From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6) (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) (b) (6)

Hi Peter,

Yes - I think it is clear vote against the virus being engineered and the GoF stuff. The remaining lab leak scenario appears to be a laboratory accident.

I'm sure it will be spun in a multitude of ways but hopefully some rational thought will now return to the mainstream.

Have a great weekend!

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 (b) (6)
E (b) (6)

On 28 Aug 2021, at 7:06 am, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

The summary of the US "Intelligence" report is out now (attached).

It's inconclusive, but states that China did not engineer the virus. Also that China had no forewarning of the outbreak. It's slightly more leaning towards the "natural" origin that they were prior to the 90 day analysis. At that point it was 2 agencies for natural vs. 1 for lab (I think). Now it's 4 agencies believe it's animal origin, one believes may be lab. All have low confidence.

Maybe now we can get on with the actual scientific analysis of COVID origins – something that will likely take many months (if not years) more than it should because of all the politics and "Intelligence" involved!

Maybe we can read something into the fact this was released late on a summer Friday afternoon! I'm definitely happy it was!

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-27/u-s-probe-of-covid-origin-inconclusive-without-help-from-china

Prognosis

Biden Criticizes China for Not Aiding Report on Virus Origins

By Josh Wingrove and Chris Strohm
August 27, 2021, 3:35 PM EDT *Updated on August 27, 2021, 4:19 PM EDT*

- More U.S. agencies think virus came from animal than lab
- The U.S. believes virus wasn't created as a biological weapon

President Joe Biden rebuked China for stonewalling a U.S. investigation into the origins of the coronavirus, as his administration reported it was unable to reach firm conclusions because of Beijing's unwillingness to cooperate.

"The world deserves answers, and I will not rest until we get them," Biden said in a statement on Friday shortly after the Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an unclassified summary of the report. "Responsible nations do not shirk these kinds of responsibilities to the rest of the world."

The intelligence community determined the virus wasn't created as a biological weapon and said Chinese officials had no "foreknowledge" of the outbreak, but was divided on how it came to infect humans and spread across the globe.

Four components of the intelligence community said -- with low confidence -- that the outbreak was likely linked to exposure to an infected animal, according to the summary. This theory is the most widely supported by scientists, including Anthony Fauci, who is advising Biden on Covid.

One intelligence community component assessed with moderate confidence that the outbreak was associated with a research lab in China. As of a few months ago, two components backed the animal theory while one backed the lab theory.

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Analysts at other agencies are unable to coalesce around either without more information, including some who think both are equally likely. To reach a conclusion with higher confidence, the intelligence community said it would need more cooperation of China, which it said continues to hinder global efforts.

"Beijing, however, continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information and blame other countries, including the United States," the summary says. "These actions reflect, in part, China's government's own uncertainty about where an investigation could lead as well as its frustration the international community is using the issue to exert political pressure on China."

The intelligence community overall believes that the virus infected humans through an initial small exposure no later than November of 2019, according to the report. The report says the intelligence agencies judge that the virus was not developed as a biological weapon, and most assess -- with low confidence -- that it was not genetically engineered, though two agencies believe there isn't enough evidence to know either way.

"China's officials did not have foreknowledge of the virus before the initial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged," the summary says. But the intelligence agencies and the global community lack clinical samples and other data from the earliest Covid-19 cases, the summary says.

The report is partly a sign of how far from reach a conclusion remains. Only five of the agencies, or components, of the intelligence community expressed any view and none did so with more than low or moderate confidence.

The U.S. Intelligence Community is made up of 18 different organizations, including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which released the summary, and the Central Intelligence Agency, among others.

The intelligence community sprinted to provide the report within Biden's timeline, and approached it from multiple perspectives, including consulting scientists and epidemiologists, an official familiar with the process said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The intelligence community also reached out to academic experts, as well as international allies and partners, the official said.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

MORENS_SUBPOENA_022093
MORENS_NIH_042990
REL0000478278

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, August
To: 'David Morens (b) (6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6) ; Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Subject: FW: The good, the bad, and the ugly
Importance: High

I just wanted to share a couple of articles – Op Eds re the Intel report on COVID origins. The First is actually positive and balanced from today's Guardian
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/aug/27/us- report-covid-origins-pandemic-virus-covid

It includes the comment:
"The false dichotomy that has been set up over Covid's origins is hard to challenge. Until a year ago, scientists who collaborated across national and disciplinary borders were applauded. Now they're accused of conflicts of interest – meaning that many of the people who know most about what happened, or are best qualified to find out, have been silenced. Meanwhile the behemoth that is the global livestock industry goes about its toxic business untroubled by any real scrutiny."

The bad/ugly is below this one, from yesterday's WSJ from Mike Pompeo, calling on lawyers to decide COVID origins – years of litigation will illuminate the truth according to the former Secretary of State. I realize he's grandstanding and may be using this hardline talk to put in a bid for President in 3 yrs, but it's very worrying for me to think that one day EcoHealth Alliance, and myself could be under criminal investigation for doing what we were supposed to do as scientists.

https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid- 19-coronavirus-origin-fsia-foreign-sovereign-immunities- act-china-lab-leak-wet-market-11629990917

The Guardian

The US report into Covid's origins is little use in averting another pandemic

Laura Spinney

Regardless of where the virus came from, there's a growing risk of another Covid-like phenomenon occurring

<image002.jpg>
'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

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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

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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
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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..

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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
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TEXT
213
<image004.jpg>
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 scrupulous adherence to due process. Civil discovery gives litigants the tools to compel production of evidence, backed by the threat of sanctions or even default judgment, so Beijing would be unable to stonewall. With so many losses caused by the pandemic, U.S. litigants have a powerful incentive to bring cases, prosecute them aggressively, and test liability through adversarial presentation. Several such cases have already been filed.

But those suits and others like them face a high hurdle: the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. The FSIA is the reason at least eight lawsuits were dismissed or withdrawn on grounds that foreign states are generally shielded from litigation in U.S. courts. Yet that immunity isn't a constitutional mandate, only a matter of congressional discretion. Congress can legislate exceptions, and has done so.

Lawmakers should enact a new FSIA exception denying sovereign immunity to nations that fail to inform, or deliberately misinform, the global community of the nature and scope of a local epidemic that becomes a global pandemic. Beijing's failure in December 2019 to comply with the

24-hour notification requirement of the 2005 International Health Regulations, which China joined, should be a sufficient trigger. This would permit lawsuits to proceed so China's culpability for the Covid-19 outbreak can be openly adjudicated.

Congress should also withdraw immunity from international organizations that aided and abetted China's efforts to play down the virus's transmission and health risks. Western intelligence services have suggested that Beijing instructed the World Health Organization early in the pandemic on what it should say about Covid-19. Plaintiffs could use discovery to identify other governmental and private entities that collaborated with Beijing and hold them accountable. This litigation would have an added benefit of unmasking much of the pro-China infrastructure within international organizations and Western companies, think tanks and other institutions.

To ensure that China can't delay proceedings, the FSIA amendment should also either create a new federal tort action or give federal courts jurisdiction over Covid-related claims under state law.

Some may object that these measures could interfere with U.S. diplomacy. But Congress can address that concern. The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act of 2016—which withdrew sovereign immunity from nations that provided material support to terrorist attacks on American soil—authorized the federal government to intervene in litigation to secure a diplomatic resolution that compensates plaintiffs and mitigates future harm. It makes sense to follow that model here. That would provide the Biden administration with the impetus to declassify and make available to Covid-19 litigants intelligence relating to the virus's origin. Here, too, there is precedent, stemming from civil cases over the Iran-contra affair and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Defendants in U.S. legal proceedings are ordinarily entitled to bring counterclaims and spread liability to other potential defendants. Beijing has accused the U.S. military of creating the Covid-19 virus at the Army's Fort Detrick, Md., lab and introducing it during the 2019 Military World Games in Wuhan, in which a U.S. team participated. To ensure that Beijing is accorded every opportunity to defend itself, including bringing counterclaims against the U.S., the Biden administration should waive governmental immunity, a step it can take unilaterally without statutory changes. Let Beijing test its implausible theory in court.

China wouldn't be able to ignore lawsuits in American courts, given its close commercial ties with the U.S. If it refused to participate, courts would enter enforceable default judgments. China would be hard-pressed to avoid complying with any court-ordered damages and injunctions. Successful plaintiffs could pursue collection actions against Chinese government-owned commercial property around the world. Corporations are not normally liable for their owners' debts, but there is an

exception when the owner is involved on a day-to-day basis in running the company. Given the Chinese Communist Party's pervasive control over formally private Chinese companies, this shouldn't be difficult to prove.

It should be possible to secure broad bipartisan support for these measures. Republicans and Democrats have expressed a keen desire to hold Beijing accountable, and the Biden administration has made a priority of defending and strengthening the rules-based international order. The president has repeatedly said he wants to make sure China plays by the rules.

Chinese military publications have run articles expressing interest in developing biological weapons. China understands that bioweapons are particularly effective against open societies, where stringent isolation and quarantine measures spur resistance, and could be used to incapacitate aircraft carriers and military bases, which are crucial to the U.S. ability to project power in the Indo-Pacific. Pandemics aside, upholding international norms is essential to deterring China from other malevolent acts, including against Taiwan.

Permitting Covid-19 suits would have additional strategic benefits. In its propaganda, Beijing has sought to capitalize on its supposedly superior handling of Covid-19, claiming it demonstrates the superiority of its totalitarian political system over open, democratic society. Legal discovery could unearth information puncturing these claims.

Holding Beijing accountable would also do much to dispel its assertions that the U.S. is a declining power. While Beijing still respects U.S. military power, it routinely talks down U.S. political will and economic strength. It would face a formidable foe in an army of lawyers on an honest judicial battlefield.

Mr. Pompeo is a distinguished fellow at the Hudson Institute. He served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (2017-18) and secretary of state (2018-21). Mr. Rivkin practices appellate and 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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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<Unclassified-Summary-of-Assessment-on-COVID-19-Origins.pdf>

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:44:15 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:43:30 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Wed, May 3, 2023 at 3:44 PM
Subject: Re: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor
To: Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >, Calo, Mary Andrea <(b) (6) >

Great also happy to zoom prior to that

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On May 3, 2023, at 2:40 PM, Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) > wrote:

Greetings all,

What an incredible meeting of minds last week! It was great to hear from such a diverse range of people on such an important topic. We so appreciate everyone's time and effort. I have pages of notes and am looking forward to reviewing others as well. As Dr. Hotez mentioned, we have this seed funding from the Mitchell Foundation and the potential for more once plans develop. Dr. Hotez and I will both be in New York City May 30th. If available, could this convening group meet to discuss next steps? Happy to offer some times for a zoom call if that date doesn't work for an in person meeting.

Thank you!

Mary

Mary Hall

Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations

Baylor College of Medicine

P: (b) (6) | M: (b) (6)
(b) (6) |
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bcm.edu%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C68ad073d26d04904373908db8a121870%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=ICn48TMvRVaMC7FeAPtXLUoClJqz91MJ9nruBK%2F%2FpnY%3D &reserved=0

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
<(b) (6) >; David Morens < >;
Gerald Keusch, (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Rich Roberts < >; Hall, Mary Ann <(b) (6) >
Cc: Calo, Mary (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Subject: Email intro to Mary Hall from Baylor

Mary, here are the emails of the group, best Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 6:46:26 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 6:45:47 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6)

I really don't think this is worth a response to Dr. Sachs or to the journal. There are numerous factual inaccuracies about our work, but it's in an obscure journal I've not heard of, and it isn't being picked up by others. Basically it's safe to say Dr. Sachs has strayed so far down a rabbit hole I don't think he'll be coming out of it based on the fact it's going nowhere…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 5:25 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Jerry:

Probably a waste of time to respond, unless you would like me to send something to him personally (and copy his wife).

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)

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Executive Assistant (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:45 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is another totally speculative list of non-data. How many "may be" does it take to understand it is not credible unless you formed your opinion in adcance?

Should there be a very brief point by point response or just let it lay and decay?

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 7:21 AM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Roberts Rich (b) (6) (b) (6) >
Subject: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Tragic conspiracy nonsense
https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/covid- 19-gain-of-function-us-research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 2:06:50 PM -0400
Sent:	Mon, 14 Mar 2022 2:06:43 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Interview in the press
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)
CC:	Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; NYTimes: How Millions of Lives Might Have Been Saved From Covid-19 (3.37 KB).msg

Peter:

You have my sympathy. Lot's of very loaded questions.

Incidentally, did you see the NY Times article attached? I am curious about your reaction (and others too).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel (b) (6)
Fax
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Dennis Carroll <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Interview in the press
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all (cc'ing Dennis Carroll who I spoke with at the weekend),

Not sure if you've already seen this, but after multiple harassing, innuendo-filled articles in this journal *The Intercept*, we decided to respond to them and try to explain that all of the minutiae they have been reporting on for the last few months are not evidence of corrupt science that led to a pandemic, but just the opposite – they're part of the normal process of doing science to help prevent pandemics.

The result is an interview they published last week that is a bit combative, but at least helps explain to those who are bothered, that all of the allegations these guys have been pushing can be easily addressed, albeit that the answers are 1) boring, and 2) not the narrative that they want.

David – you'll be interested in the bit where I explain that the NIH Office of the Director has been cruelly holding us over a barrel

to deflect from their political and erroneous decision to defund us.

Here's the link: https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid- nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/

And here's the story pasted in the email:

PETER DASZAK ANSWERS CRITICS AND DEFENDS CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH

"Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof," said the EcoHealth Alliance president on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl
March 11 2022, 9:50 a.m.

SINCE THE EARLY days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Peter Daszak has been at the center of a heated, and at times vicious, debate over the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The parasitologist helms the New York-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, a wildlife conservation organization that aims to understand and prevent infectious diseases; the organization has received more than $118 million in grants and contracts from U.S. agencies, much of which Daszak distributes to labs around the world. Starting in 2005, he worked closely with Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, who was a key partner on a 2014 National Institutes of Health grant to research bat coronaviruses in China. The Intercept has published over 2,500 pages of documents and communications from the grant following a Freedom of Information lawsuit — information that has transformed public understanding of the research conducted under the grant.

Those documents have shown that in its efforts to head off and prepare for a pandemic, EcoHealth Alliance oversaw an experiment in which researchers intentionally made coronaviruses more pathogenic and transmissible. One grant report contained evidence that the research group also did an experiment with infectious clones of MERS, another deadly virus. While none of the experiments described in the grant materials released so far could have sparked the current pandemic, the documents raise serious questions about biosafety and oversight at NIH. Early in the grant, research on certain

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coronaviruses was subject to a U.S. government ban, but notes on communications between NIH staffers and EcoHealth Alliance obtained by The Intercept showed that the federal agency allowed Daszak to take the lead in shaping a plan to evade that moratorium.

Meanwhile, a grant proposal published by the internet research group DRASTIC last September showed that in 2018 EcoHealth Alliance applied for funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, to look for novel furin cleavage sites in bat coronaviruses. According to the proposal, which was not funded, EcoHealth planned to insert furin cleavage sites into the spikes of SARS-related viruses — an idea that drew attention because scientists had already noted that such a site is unique in the subclass of viruses to which SARS-CoV-2 belongs.

The Intercept repeatedly sought comment from EcoHealth Alliance on these revelations. EcoHealth initially responded. In September 2021, a spokesperson denied that the organization had conducted the research on the deadly MERS virus that was described in the NIH proposal. After documents obtained via FOIA later showed that such research had in fact been done, Daszak stated that the spokesperson had been misinformed. EcoHealth Alliance then stopped responding to The Intercept's questions. In late February, Daszak replied to email inquiries and offered to talk. He spoke with us on March 1. In a wide-ranging interview conducted over Zoom, he addressed questions that have swirled around EcoHealth Alliance for the past two years, defended his organization against what he characterized as unjust accusations, and railed against the questioning he has faced from congressional Republicans, the NIH, and news organizations, including The Intercept.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Responding to the Outbreak

We're curious when you first heard about the outbreak in Wuhan.

If you look at my Twitter account, you'll see a tweet on New Year's Eve of 2019 —

But before the tweet, what was the moment when you first learned about it?

It was a couple of days before that. We heard from our contacts in China that something was going on, that there were cases of a disease in Wuhan. I think it was December 30. We looked on Chinese social media and found the rumors about it there. But we heard from many scientists in China.

Many of the virologists and other scientists we speak to say that we don't have enough information to determine whether Covid-19 emerged from natural spillover

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or as a result of research. Do you agree with that?

Do I agree that it's possible that Covid-19 emerged through a lab leak? Of course. It's been widely reported that we shut down discussion on that. But in the WHO report, which I was part of — and in fact I led the animal environmental side for the WHO side — we state that it's extremely unlikely. We don't state that it's impossible it came from the lab. Of course it's possible.

One of the many reasons that the origin of Covid-19 became such a sensitive and divisive issue was the sense, based on your communications about the Lancet letter, that you orchestrated a response among scientists and then made an effort to distance yourself from that effort. Do you want to say anything about that episode?

You said, "One of the reasons why this has become so divisive is because of the Lancet thing." You could say that about many things. It's because we didn't release the DARPA proposal. It's because we didn't release our emails. It's because, early on, we said very strongly that this came from nature, and that this lab leak stuff is preposterous. The real reason this has become so divisive is because it's being used politically. That's it.

Scientists disagree over an issue where there's no definitive proof. And for this issue, there's no definitive proof. And there may never be. But what we do know is the weight of evidence points strongly to emergence from farmed wildlife in China.

Since the WHO report even, there are something like 12 scientific papers that have been published or put up online from good scientists pointing towards that origin. And I've looked at every single document that's come out of the folks who are trying to show it came out of the lab, and there is no evidence yet for that. It's all about implied motives, databases that were taken offline, people that aren't on a website, or innuendo around something. Any one of those things can be explained by the normal process of doing science.

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An aerial view of the P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China's central Hubei province on April 17, 2020.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Controversial Research

Did EcoHealth Alliance or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, through its partnership with EcoHealth Alliance, ever insert a furin cleavage site into a bat

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coronavirus genetic sequence?

Of course we did not do that. I really don't understand how that could be a question at this point — it's beyond the pale. That's not in our plans and it's not any of our reports, so of course we didn't do that.

But isn't it the case that you submitted a grant proposal to DARPA to do so?

We did submit a proposal to DARPA. I've not checked through the one that's online that it's the correct document. What I do know is it was widely reported that DARPA rejected that because there were concerns about safety issues. That is absolutely untrue. The document that allegedly is DARPA's response, their review of our proposal, I've never seen that before. It was never sent to us. I don't know if it's real.

DARPA had a process by which people who didn't get funded could do an interview with them to find out why they didn't get funded. So I did that. Never once did they mention any concerns or issues around safety; never once did they mention gain-of-function. The reason they told us it was rejected was because the amount we asked for was too much for them. They couldn't afford it. They actually encouraged us to resubmit in different ways. We then had protracted conversations with them about funding specific parts of it. They liked the proposal.

Was any of the work described in that proposal completed prior to its submission? We were told by multiple sources that when you submit a grant, that at least some of the work would have been done.

When you write a grant proposal and propose to do a new line of research, which is what we did, we would not be doing that research before we submit the proposal. That's not how it works.

When we asked if you had ever inserted a furin cleavage site to a coronavirus, you responded with outrage. But that is what was described in the DARPA proposal.

No. What you said is, did we insert a furin cleavage site? And what I said was, of course not! If we had done that work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, it would have been published by now. It would have been made public in our reports to the NIH. The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple.

But you acknowledge that you proposed to DARPA to insert a furin cleavage site?

I refute that that was the goal of the DARPA proposal. The idea was not to insert a furin cleavage site in a virus to see what happens. That's not what was proposed. The proposal was to look for those polybasic cleavage sites in nature because we knew that that was the potential to make a virus more able to infect people and move from person to person.

If we found mutations around that polybasic cleavage site that looked like it could be evolvable, the idea was then that Ralph Baric's lab at UNC would do some work to see how evolvable that site was. So that work never happened. The proposal was not funded.

Did you find any of these cleavage sites in naturally occurring viruses that you collected?

The proposal was not funded so we didn't do that work. We've not found polybasic cleavage sites. However, they are in many coronaviruses from bats. Papers from Europe show mutations around that cleavage site that suggest strongly that that furin cleavage site could evolve very easily in nature. I'm sure there are viruses out there with it. I'm convinced that it could have easily evolved during the first stages of the pandemic, as the virus got from bats, perhaps into an intermediate host in a wildlife farm, or into people.

Did you resubmit the proposal?

We had conversations with them over many months about bits they would like to fund or they wanted to fund. We did not get funded. We did not do the work.

So you didn't think the DARPA proposal was relevant to the investigation into the origin of the pandemic?

A proposal that was not funded and work that was never done is not relevant to the origins of Covid. Of course not!

When asked if you had done this work with the furin cleavage site, you said no.

For the furin cleavage site, you should really ask Ralph Baric. He wrote that section of the DARPA grant.

So you're saying that that would be a good question for Ralph Baric, whether he has done any of these insertions?

I don't know what Ralph Baric has done. But I doubt that he would go ahead and do that work without the funding.

Some virologists were dismayed to see the insertion of furin cleavage sites in this proposal.

I don't know why anyone would be dismayed at that because furin cleavage sites were first researched in influenza viruses. And it's well known that that's something you should look for if you're interested in virulence factors. Second, there's actually a published paper from way before our proposal was submitted, way before the pandemic, where a group actually inserted a furin cleavage site into SARS-CoV-1. So we were right to look for that. And I think the proposal stands as a valid and actually quite predictive

effort to understand the risk of viruses. You've got to look at the big picture of why we do this research. We're not doing it as a sort of academic interest, "what would happen if you put a cleavage site there?" No. This work is done to say: What viruses are there out there in the wild that have the potential to emerge in people? And can we do something to stop them? Develop vaccines, develop therapies, stop people making contact with those animals.

Your grant, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," included an experiment using humanized mice. Were other humanized mouse experiments conducted by you and/or WIV?

Not by us, no.

What about by WIV?

Well, you need to talk to WIV about what else they were doing. We were doing one line of work with them.

Were you aware of any?

No, of course. I'd tell you if I was aware.

Were there viruses from elsewhere in Southeast Asia that were sent to the WIV?

No. This is a commonly put about story that's simply not true. WIV did not receive viruses from all around the world.

How many actual viruses do they have?

WIV does not have the biggest collection of viruses from bats in the world. There's 20,000 bat samples, something like that, tiny fecal pellets from bats.

Right now I don't know exactly how many bat coronaviruses are in culture and freezers at the WIV. But from our work, I know that out of the SARS-related coronavirus, they were only ever able to culture a handful. I think three cultures. It's not easy to do.

In November 2019, you tweeted that you had identified over 50 novel SARS-related coronaviruses, including some that cause SARS-like signs in mice and didn't respond to monoclonal antibodies.

Yes.

What are these 50 viruses? And are they public?

This is a complex thing that's been widely misinterpreted. It's actually quite simple. What we had were hundreds of genetic sequences of coronaviruses from bats. We

published them in that paper. They're not all new viruses. As we went through the sequence data and analyzed it, we refined what you might call a new virus versus a known virus. That's all. It's scientists refining and analyzing.

One ongoing point of contention between you and NIH is about lab notebooks and the communications around experiments.

NIH has made a bunch of requests that are completely reasonable, that we've dealt with very quickly and sent them the information that they required. And in many cases, NIH had the information already. What's happening here is you've got an office of the director that's dealing directly with us and completely cutting out the program staff who've got all the data they need. NIH has also asked us for a number of things which to any balanced and independent reviewer are impossible for us to supply.

Clearly in coming up with Year 4 and 5 progress reports, EcoHealth Alliance had information and draft reports on these humanized mouse experiments. Did you share those with NIH?

Of course not. You don't share draft reports. You share the final report.

Here's what happens, it's a very standard procedure: We are subcontracting to a lab in China to do some work. Every year we have to file a report to NIH to tell them what we've done for the year, how we've spent the money, and whether we've achieved the goals of the grant. So, we contact our subcontractees and we say, "Send us the information. Let us know what successes you've had this year and whether you've had problems and issues. Put it all in a report and send it to us." And then we use that to produce a report for NIH. That's why there are some editing issues around that. We move them around a bit, and we send a final report. A draft report is just a worse written version of the final report. There's no special information that's got intelligence value or anything.

Then why not share them?

We've not been asked for a draft report by anybody.

You've been colleagues with Shi Zhengli, the Chinese bat coronavirus expert who directs the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, since 2005?

Yes.

So is it the kind of relationship where you would be generally aware of all the work that she was involved in? Can you say a little bit about what your level of awareness of other stuff she was doing?

We were aware of most of the stuff she was doing. Of course. These people weren't hiding anything from us. They are scientists.

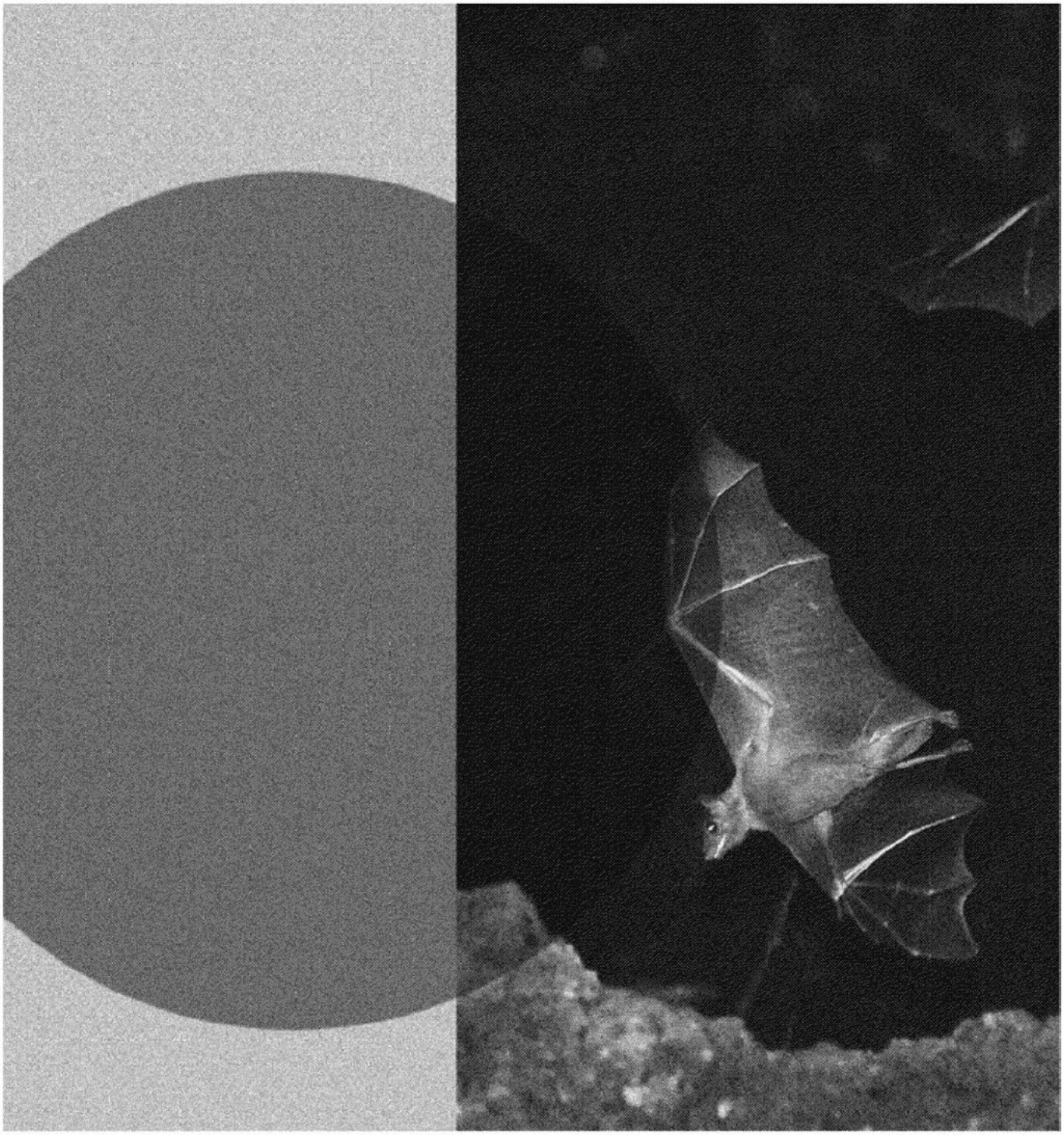
I've sat through dozens of meetings with people from Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they talk openly about unpublished work. And, by the way, RaTG13 was one of the sequences in a paper published — in I think 2015. So they weren't hiding anything from us.

Early on, after she learned about the outbreak, Shi said she was worried that somehow a virus might have leaked from her lab. A lot of people we speak to — virologists who do this kind of work — are the ones who seem most in touch with that possibility, that this stuff happens.

Very specifically, it happens when you have cultures of viruses in flasks, and you're then doing experiments with high concentrations of virus. It rarely happens if ever from an animal sample, especially a saliva sample from a bat. What Shi Zhengli was saying at that time was, "Oh, no, it's a coronavirus. I need to go back and check on those viruses that we've got and see: Is it one of them?" And she did, and it wasn't. That's what any reasonable person would do.

You implied in early 2020 that RaTG13 was not fully sequenced by WIV until late 2019 or later. And then afterwards, Shi revealed that it had actually been fully sequenced in 2018. When and how did you first learn about the true date that this virus was sequenced?

I don't actually know the true date of when this virus was sequenced. I didn't see an interview with Zhengli where she said, "We sequenced it in 2018." I don't know when and I don't think they ever got the full genome. There are parts of that virus that aren't correctly sequenced. Bear in mind, RaTG13 was not from a sample collected under the NIH grant. So we didn't have any oversight on that or any knowledge of it.



A colony of bats in a cave in the Maramagambo forest of Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda.

Photo illustration: Soohee Cho for The Intercept; Getty Images

Missing Data

Did you have access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology's database of viral samples and sequences that went offline in September 2019?

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I've never actually seen the database. I've seen pages of it from the internet, Twitter, chats. But I've never looked at the database.

Did your staff have access to it?

No. We didn't need to! We had all the data we needed. Some folks find this missing database indicative of a cover-up or something. When we were in Wuhan [with the WHO mission] in the Institute of Virology, I said, "Why did you take the database offline?" And their response was, "We took it offline before the outbreak. We were then getting hacking attempts, hundreds, thousands of hacking attempts. So we decided it wouldn't be wise to put it back up." Now, you may not believe them. But it is a perfectly reasonable explanation. And I think people should try and go for the most likely reasonable explanation for these things.

So why did they take it offline in September 2019?

They told us — and it's in the WHO report — that they were trying to update it to make it modern. WIV was trying to present itself like a globally significant virology institute, and it is. But when you look at Chinese websites, they can be really old and stuffy and clunky. What they were trying to do, they told us, was to make it interactive so that you can click on something and a map would show. They were trying to make it fit in with the national databases.

I find it quite ironic that the focus on the database of WIV is so intense, whereas what actually happened was we took the data and, with China, put the data into the NIH's own database to make it public. That's a great win for the U.S.

In April 2020, you wrote in an email, "It's extremely important that we don't have these sequences as part of our PREDICT release to Genbank at this point. As you may have heard, these were part of a grant just terminated by NIH. … Having them as part of PREDICT will being [sic] very unwelcome attention to UC Davis, PREDICT and USAID." Why did you think that publishing these sequences would bring unwelcome attention?

Because we just had our grant terminated by NIH.

So you didn't think it would be important to release this data, given that there was a pandemic?

Those sequences were released publicly by publishing them in a scientific paper, which is what scientists do. The email that you're reading out is not about whether sequences should be made public; it's about whether sequences should be made public via a USAID mechanism or via publishing through the NIH mechanism. And what I was saying to the UC Davis team that ran PREDICT was that these are NIH-funded

sequences and should be reported through the NIH system. It's really that simple.

And which paper were they reported in?

Latinne et al, published in Nature Communications. We were struggling to get that paper out. It was very, very difficult, once the pandemic started, to keep communication with Chinese scientists. The utmost priority as a scientist is to get the data published, not to upload it into some database that's going to take months to go through. And by the way, that database is somewhere on the USAID government system. It's very difficult to find. The paper had already been submitted for publication, and the sequences were uploaded into GenBank, the NIH system. And then once the papers were accepted, they became public. And that's exactly what we did.

Are there sequences that have not been made public?

To my mind, there are no sequences of SARS-related coronaviruses that have not been made public. Some people think there are still viruses that are SARS-related that haven't been put in GenBank. That's not true. We've uploaded all of the SARS-related coronavirus sequences, or we've reported them to NIH, or we've published them in scientific papers. And in fact, for most of them, we've done all the above. We had them all uploaded before the pandemic. Most of them anyway.

You were on the WHO mission to investigate the origins of SARS-CoV-2. When the NIH grant documents were released, it was a surprise to many people that animal experiments were being done at Wuhan University. If you knew this information, did you share it?

It wasn't a surprise to NIH because the NIH knew about them.

Right. But did you share that information with the WHO committee or with others who were investigating the origins?

The Wuhan University BSL-3 facility is what we're talking about. They do humanized mouse work. That was not looked at by the WHO origins group. It's a BSL-3 lab that had humanized mice under BSL-3 conditions. It's highly unlikely to be the source of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Did you mention it to the committee?

I mentioned all my work to the committee, of course. We talked about it, for sure.

The Challenges of Public

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Scrutiny

Dr. Michael Lauer at the NIH has repeatedly asked you for biosafety records from the WIV and said that he has been unable to get some of them.

He says that, but it's not true. We've supplied everything we could possibly supply on the issues that they've asked for.

In one of his letters to you, Lauer asked about the biosafety oversight of the work at WIV. In your response to him, you wrote that it consisted of semiannual meetings with the lead investigator and assessments of compliance with all conditions of the award. Biosafety experts have said that this falls short of the level of oversight one would want for this kind of work. You mentioned in an exchange with Lauer that you were offering to pay from EcoHealth's own coffers for additional biosafety measures. Why did you offer to do this? Did you feel that the biosafety oversight was adequate?

We're talking about a world-class virology lab run by the Chinese government that is probably the best virology lab in China, and China is very good at virology. It's very efficiently run, and the biosafety conditions are very good. Just because people think that Covid-19 might have come from WIV doesn't mean that therefore our oversight of biosafety wasn't sufficient. We did everything normal in oversight of that lab.

Then why did you suggest these additional measures, if the others were already adequate?

Because I was worried that they were going to terminate our other grants. This is the key driving force for every action we've taken since April 24, 2020. I don't know why people don't realize that.

Once NIH shows you that it's willing to terminate your funding and kick people out of a job and put your whole organization under pressure simply because a single politician tells them to, then you start worrying about every other grant and contract that NIH controls. We live in fear that they're going to do similar abrupt terminations with no cause and no rationale and no logic.

What I was doing then was saying to Michael Lauer, please be reasonable. We're trying to do everything we can, within the normal bounds of what organizations do. We probably have the best biosafety and field teams in the world.

We're overcompliant and yet still being accused of lack of compliance.

On February 24, House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans sent a

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letter to NIH alleging that it is "highly suspicious" that EcoHealth reported the humanized mouse experiment results over two years, and suggesting that more work may have been done that was not reported. How would you respond to that?

This is a simple issue of Chinese nationals writing a report and then us drafting our report to NIH. So there's a word in there where they say we continued the studies. That doesn't mean they continued infecting mice with new viruses. No. What it means is they continued doing the research on the one experiment that they've done. And that continuation is a lot of work. So they did all the pathology, which means at the end of the experiment, you take all the mice, and you look at every organ in the body. You do detailed microscopical analysis. It takes months. So that's why it dragged on because you've got months of after-the-experiment analysis. And we included the mortality data as part of the pathology data. That's completely normal.

The House Energy and Commerce Republicans don't write to us, they write to NIH. Sometimes we hear about it, sometimes we don't. NIH doesn't copy us on their responses. Then eventually we get a letter from NIH asking questions, which we always respond to, always within the timeframe and always refuting any allegations with evidence. So that's what we've done.

The latest letter from the House Energy and Commerce Republicans accused us of being overfunded, effectively having two grants to do the same thing. It's simply not true. The USAID PREDICT grant has completely different goals to the NIH coronavirus grant. For instance, PREDICT looks for between seven and 18 different viral families within samples, not just coronaviruses. NIH is focused solely on coronaviruses. So the goals are different.

The agencies do, as a standard procedure, a review of a grantee's other proposals to see if there's overlap between them, because they don't want to fund the same thing twice. This is absolutely refutable with documentary evidence.

What's your understanding of the Republicans' motivation?

Any bipartisan requests for information from the House or the Senate, we've responded to. We've been working with the U.S. government since the pandemic began to get information to them about every single aspect of this pandemic, including unpublished data. The politicians who are attacking us probably don't realize or know or care, in some cases. When there's a request from one side of the political spectrum, we try not to respond to that. We've had hundreds of questions sent to us by letter, including requests for thousands of pages of documents. We don't have the staff to do that. And bear in mind our grant has been terminated and now suspended. We don't have access to funding. We don't have the staff to do this work. It's a horrible, cruel irony that, on the one hand, your funding is cut; and on the other hand, there are now outrageously huge

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number of demands for us to do work to show data from that funding that's been cut.

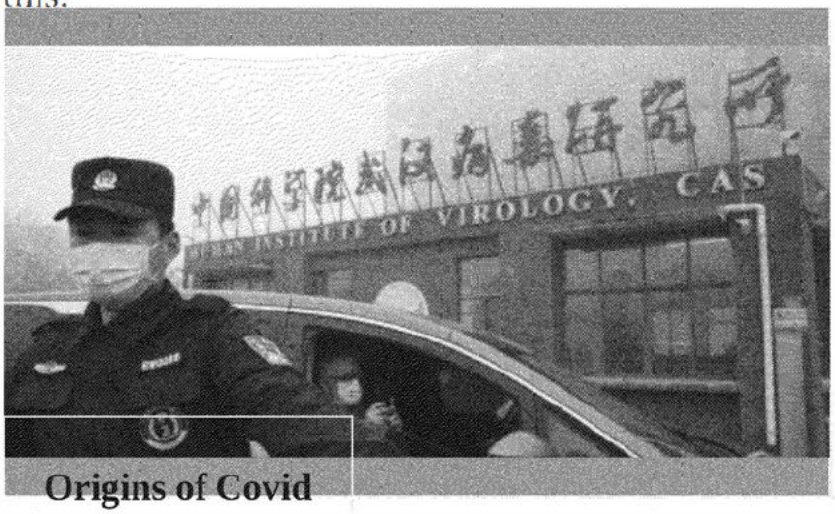
Don't you have ongoing funding for two other NIH projects?

Yes. Well, you can't use that money.

What have you been asked to get by NIH that you feel you can't get?

There are a whole series of things that we've been unable to get. A vial of virus. Information on a person that was removed from the website (I did ask them that, and they gave us an explanation, which is perfectly reasonable). NIH asked us for an inspection of the WIV. Every right-minded person on the planet realizes that the World Health Organization asked for an inspection of that lab, and we did go into the lab and ask questions and go around the facilities. For NIH to say that I should organize a U.S.-only, NIH-based or National Academy-based inspection of the lab facilities is a request that is way beyond what's possible. You know, you can't go into CDC as a foreigner and do an inspection of the lab.

NIH writing to us saying, "We demand that you do this," puts us in jeopardy and it's a security risk. If I was to take that letter from NIH and go to the Beijing airport and say, "I'm here to do this," I would be arrested and put in jail and probably put on trial, in the same way that scientists from China have come to the U.S. and tried to take vials of virus back to China and been arrested and convicted. NIH doing this is clearly a way for them to try to get the public behind a decision they made that was political about terminating our grant. Ever since that decision, we've been put under similar pressure over and over again. The Republicans write to NIH with some fairly outrageous accusations. NIH responds and says, "Don't worry, we will go and make EcoHealth do this, this, this, and this."



Origins of Covid

Read Our Complete Coverage

I don't think that those questions are posed to truly get to the bottom of the origins of Covid. While the House Republicans are putting pressure on NIH for tiny bits of administrative information, scientists are going out and finding that actually things are

really pointing towards a natural origin. And meanwhile, we're left refuting each one of those allegations. They're all false. There's no substance to them at all.

A good proportion of the public have been pushed by misinformation to believe a narrative — and this narrative is repeated daily — that gain-of-function work was funded by Tony Fauci as a back channel to China, and EcoHealth funneled funds to China. Those stories are very beguiling, they sort of make you feel, "Ah! I knew it." But actually, there's not a grain of truth to them. Every single action that EcoHealth Alliance has taken has been things that scientists do in the normal course of doing their work.

Closing down that line of research means we lose eyes and ears on the ground in China. And it doesn't benefit us from a public health point of view or a national security point of view. It's a huge mistake.

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Cheers,

Peter

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:58:03 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 12:57:18 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
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From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

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(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:53 PM
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >, Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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MORENS_NIH_020177
REL0000478307

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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iPhone

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Date: Thu, 13 May 2021 1:30:17 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 13 May 2021 1:30:05 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

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, Ma(b) (6) AM
To: Roberts, Rich <
C(b) (6) ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T
<
S y appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014437
MORENS_NIH_027134
REL0000478310

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:
>
> David:
>
> That is a very interesting article. I will have to read it more fully, but on quickly skimming through it does make a strong argument against the lab-leak theory.
>
> Rich
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA
> Tel: (b) (6)
> Fax: (978) 412 9910
> email: (b) (6)
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:54 AM
> To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
> Subject: FW: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER
>
>
> See link way down below
>
> d
>
>
>
>
>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> B (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ((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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
> Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:31 AM
> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
> Subject: Early appearance of two distinct genomic lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in different Wuhan wildlife markets suggests SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin - SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus - Virological
>
>
> https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvirological.org%2Ft%2Fearly-appearance-of-two-distinct-genomic-lineages-of-sars-cov-2-in-different-wuhan-wildlife-markets-suggests-sars-cov-2-has-a-natural-origin%2F691&data=04%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7C770222d6f783495c5fad08d916168d4b%7C77cefbc6b3d64d6a9f740664&sdata=DWMmogMoU%2BVEmatA3mQt1BQkOkTVJnEP6gHTb28Tp0E%3D &reserved=0
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

Date: Mon, 20 May 2024 8:12:15 PM -0400
Subject: Re: RE: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.
From: (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

I'll do that – good suggestion Peter

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; David Morens <kuu(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) Keith Martin <(b) (6) Rich Roberts(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

You can write to her and cc me (b) (6)

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine

Development | **Donate** to Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype:(b) (6)
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone:(b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jav <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

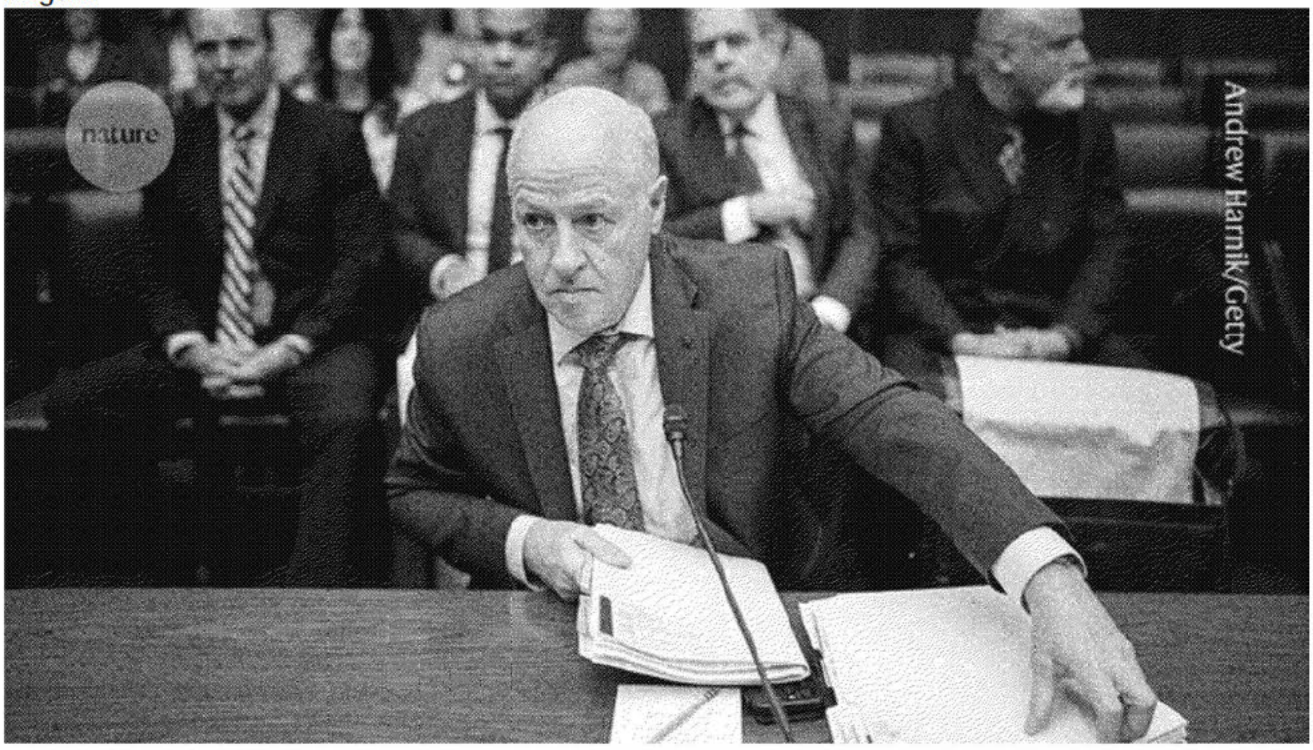
Of course, we were not given a chance to respond to allegations on the day, and now that they've moved forward with a Suspension pending debarment proceedings, we have to respond to the HHS first on a legal matter, then can talk publicly.

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).



Amy Maxmen, PhD
@amymaxmen
5h
EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless. https://nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01460-3… The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid

began.



US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

From nature.com
1.2K



Peter Daszak
@PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly refuted allegations that it "didn't comply" & has yet to respond to the HHS letter. Calling for "repercussions" seems premature until some level of due process has played out. Let's hear the argument against debarment before we all move on.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald' <(b) (6) Alison Andre (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6) 'David Morens (b) (6) >; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Keith Martin' (b) (6) ; 'Rich Roberts' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; 'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' (b) (6)) (6) >
Subject: Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) >

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Keith Martin (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Peter
Daszak <(b) (6) >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

From: Alison Andre <(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey
Sturchio (b) (6) Keith Martin (b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)
Cc: Soriano Osejo, Douglas <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Peter
Daszak <(b) (6) Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <(b) (6) >
Subject: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

https://calendly.com/d/cp3y-_mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting

Thank you,
Alison

--
Alison Andre
Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

(b) (6) (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.

Date: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 10:07:08 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 10:07:01 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Could we set up a zoom call together?
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) (b) (6) <(b) (6) (b) (6) Soriano

Douglas can organize on my end

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
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Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)



MORENS_SUBPOENA_016581
MORENS_NIH_034721
REL0000478321

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2021, at 8:54 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Peter:

Glad to join if we can find a good time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6)
Cc: Alison Andre <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Could we set up a zoom call together?
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Robert, Jerry, David, and Peter

I had a good conversation with Peter Hotez at the end of last week – Peter's running a taskforce on the Lancet COVID-19 Commission, and has been following the media frenzy around the COVID origins with a keen eye. As you know, he's been talking publicly about the anti-vaccine movement for a long time, and sees strong parallels between the politically motivated anti-vaxxer movement, and the politically motivated COVID origins conspiracies. He's also dealing with intense harassment similar to the attacks I've been having recently.

Peter and I would really appreciate an opportunity to all meet by Zoom to talk about what we can do together (and separately) to change the narrative and deal with the growing anti-science agenda. Peter is, like many of us, disappointed by the risk-averse nature of the academies (he's a NAM member) and many of the professional societies. He's also well aware of media messaging and how that can be used – he's a regular contributor to CNN and other TV networks. By the way, Peter is one of the inaugural Fellows of the ASTMH, as well as a past member of the NIH Council of Councils.

I've cc'd Alison and Aleksei who can help set up a time for a 1 hour zoom call either later this week or next week. I hope you'll be able to join and really appreciate your efforts.

By the way – Rich – thanks for putting me in touch with Ellie Dehoney at Research!America – she is on the case, albeit she's well aware of the political constraints and the timing right now.

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016582
MORENS_NIH_034722
REL0000478321

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Date:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:33:29 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 20 May 2022 1:32:57 PM -0400
Subject:	Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
From:	"Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC:	Jeffrey Sturchio <J_(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) d T <(b) (6) mura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; 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

Ok will do!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 12:21 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

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?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004079
MORENS_NIH_011039
REL0000478327

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

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Skype (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

> On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004080
MORENS_NIH_011040
REL0000478327

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio' (b) (6) >; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Aleksei Chmura' <(b) (6) >
Subject: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets
Importance: High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:
I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004081
MORENS_NIH_011041
REL0000478327

behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.
- All *relevant* data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that "*EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.*" This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.
- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.
- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails.

Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.

- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis*." ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field* and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown*." ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved 'collection of hundreds of viruses from bats'. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***

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- "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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) g>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM
To: 'Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'David Morens' (b) (6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

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MORENS_NIH_011044
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Cheers,

Peter

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From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <
(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then

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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.

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Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidently or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_004087
MORENS_NIH_011047
REL0000478327

To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) du>
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

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email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmur (b) (6)
Subject: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie M

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html

Cheers,

Peter

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REL0000478327

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---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

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iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US publit, 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

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facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who's got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who've spoken with me over the last 2 years. I've answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn't believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as…dare I say…Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
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Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
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Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

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MORENS_NIH_011053
REL0000478327

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF

POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by

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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

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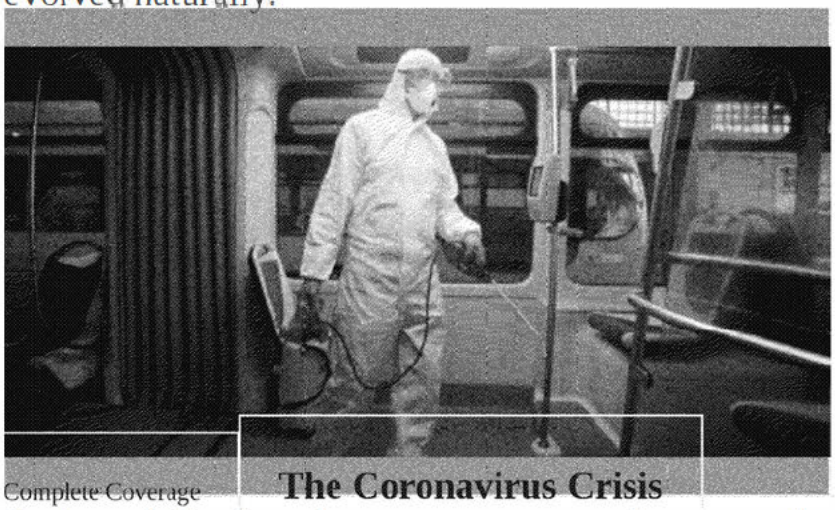
between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



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Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

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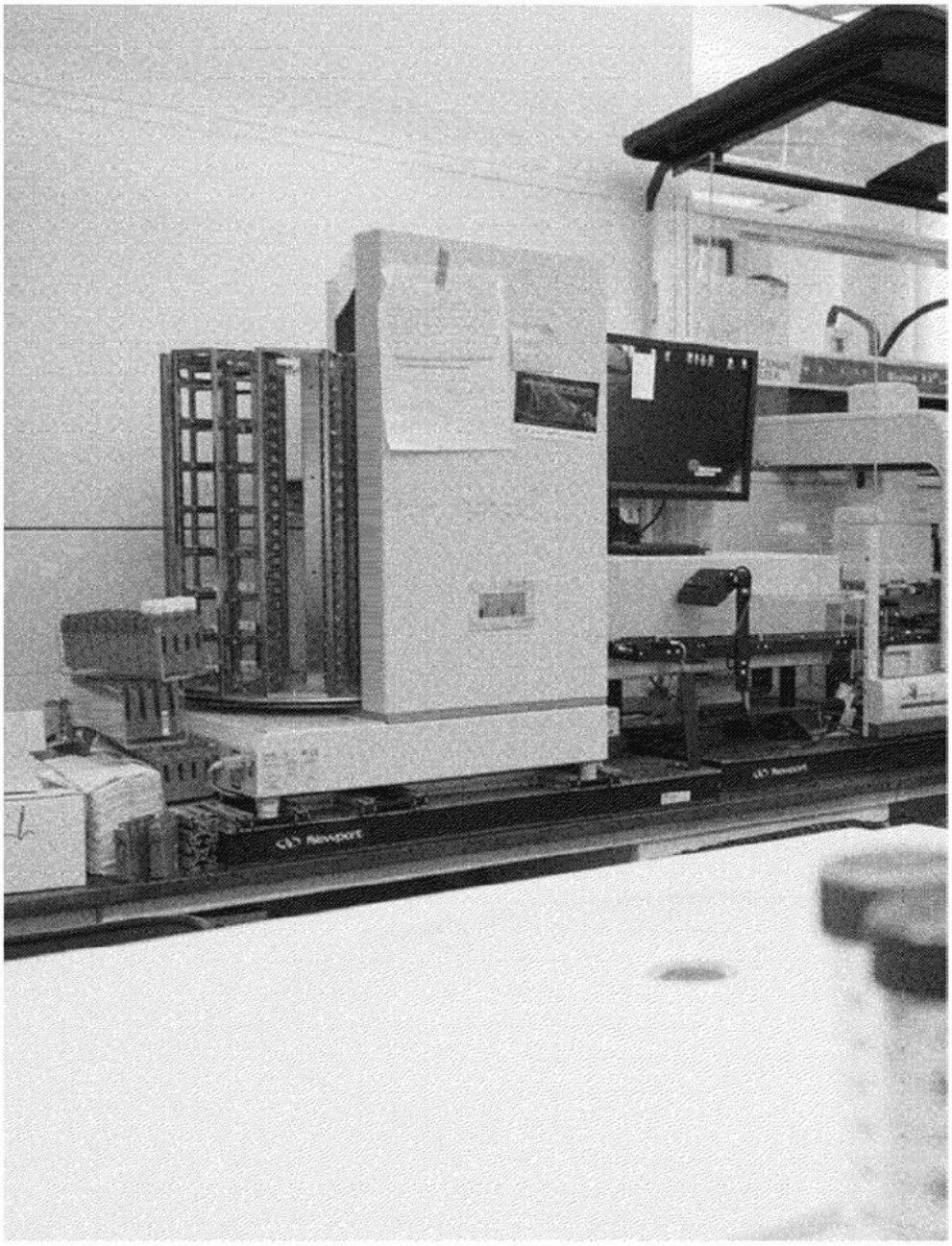

Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the

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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.

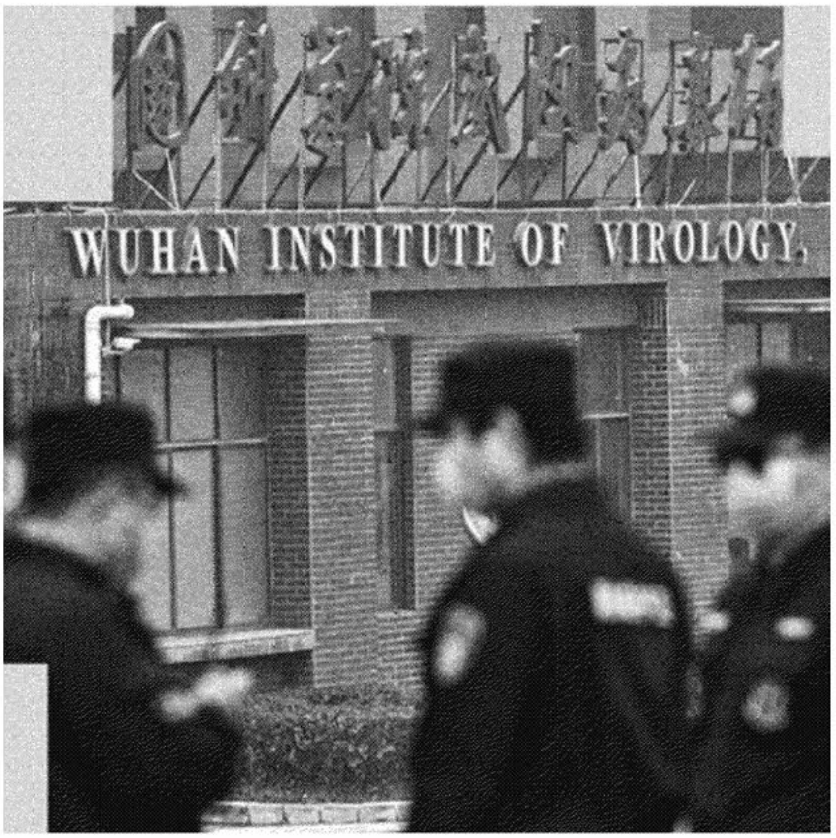
Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity 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 verrrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



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"The 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

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debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid

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

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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.

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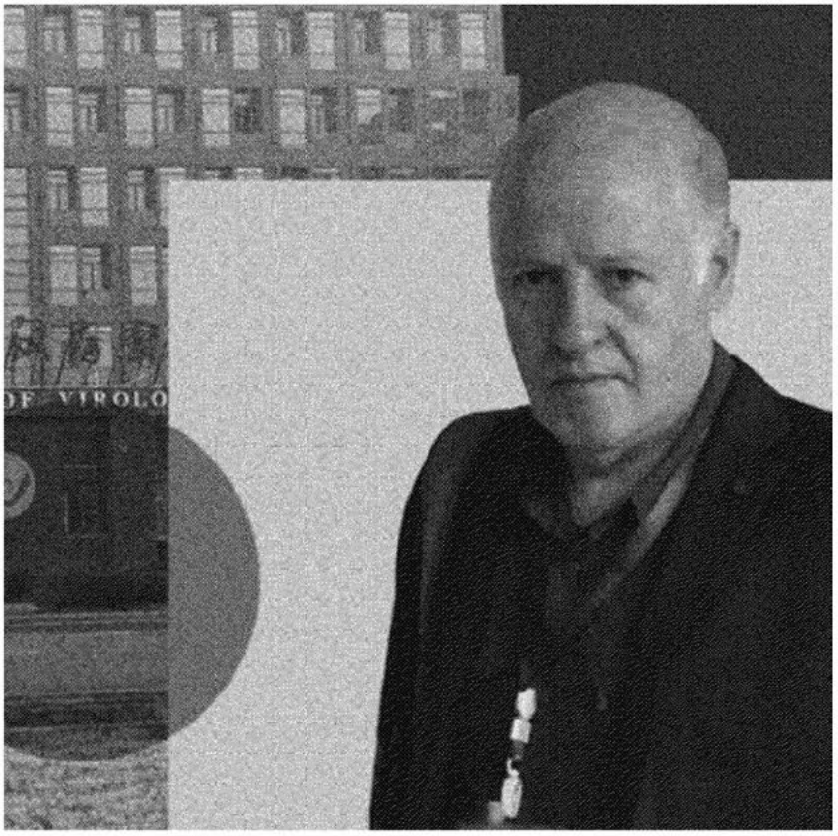
Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



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Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts

of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that "the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by" the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that "blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

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iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak < (b) (6) > wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

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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; Wojtc
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

Cheers,

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MORENS_NIH_011072
REL0000478327

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; peter hotez Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Subj Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early

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MORENS_NIH_011073
REL0000478327

COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6)) <
(b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg <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



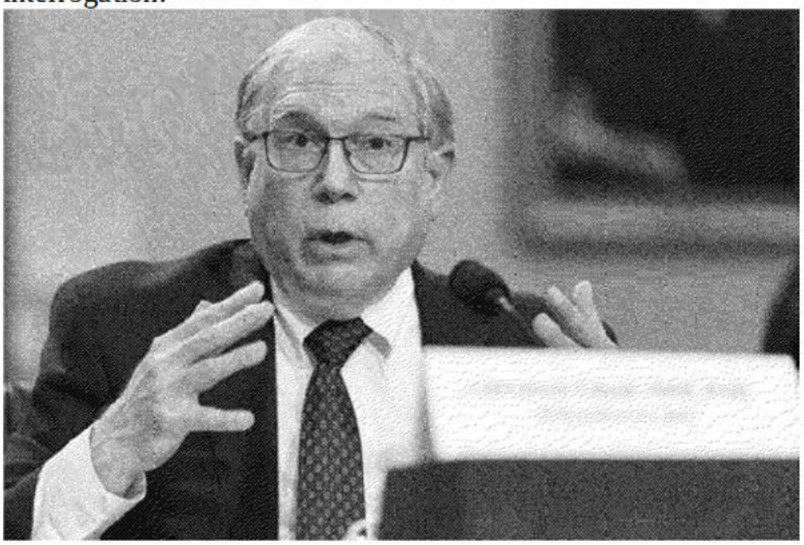
National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH

"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.

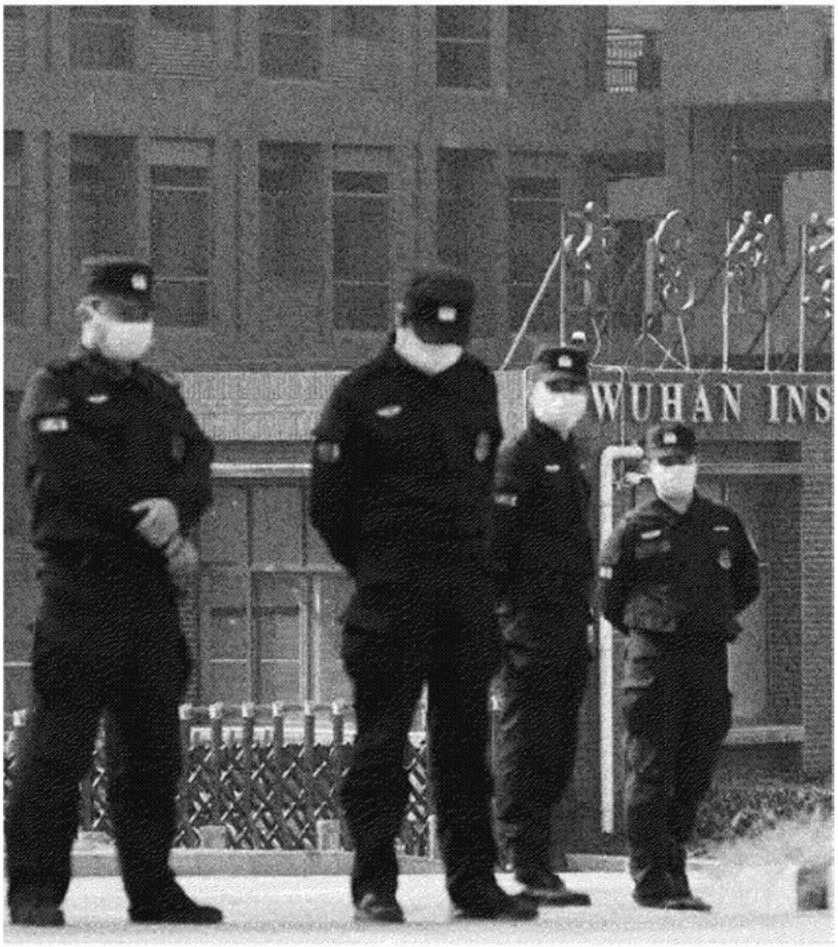
"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"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.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

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Date: Wed, 22 Sep 2021 10:34:53 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 22 Sep 2021 10:34:52 PM -0400

Subject: Fwd:Chinese scientists modelling says Covid starts in US in Sept 2019

From: "Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <(b) (6)

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

JFYI

From: Dong Lyu (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) At: 09/23/21 12:03:20 UTC+10:00
To: Emma O'Brien (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:), Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:), Michelle Cortez (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

Cc: Rachel Chang (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)

Subject: Chinese scientists modelling says Covid starts in US in Sept 2019

http://chinaxiv.org/abs/202109.00058

There is a pre-print of the paper and it's been reported by Xinhua and People's daily this morning. The study used statistic modelling to infer the earliest occurrence of Covid in China and the US. It's conclusion is Covid started in late December in China, about the same time it's reported while it could start as early as September, much earlier than the first case reported in the US in Jan 2020.

Looks like China is making a crescendo of the virus origin lately. There was also an report recently saying some of the vendors at Wuhan huanan seafood market got infected with Covid after they imported seafood in November 2019 via cold chain from Maine, US, where the local CDC, media and residents have reported viping-associated pneumonia between July and end of Oct. The company that exported those seafood to China, according to the report, is less than 2.6 km from a county hospital treating these pneumonia patients.

This story didn't get much of prominent play though. It's published by a local state-backed media called rednet.cn in central China's Hunan Province. But if you take this one with the study, it feels like they are setting the stage for renewed rhetorics to shift the focus to the US over where the virus came from. It seems they are taking a page from the US intelligence making a big deal out of three people at the wuhan lab making hospital visits late 2019.

Maybe it's worth Gov folks to ask MoFA on this? Not sure how reliable the statistical modelling is.

吕冬 Lyu Dong

彭博新闻社北京分社|Bloomberg News

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Date:	Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:28:14 PM -0400
Sent:	Fri, 4 Jun 2021 7:27:19 PM -0400
Subject:	Important re. Tony Fauci Comments just now
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
CC:	Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
Attachments:	Lab BSLs for pathogenic viruses.docx

Very worried that Tony Fauci said the comment below. It feels like he's throwing us under a bus here.

I've attached the rules for BSL for a bunch of different viruses around the world.

Rabies is cultured at BSL-2 in the USA.

Cedar virus, a bat-paramyxovirus related to Hendra and Nipah is cultured at BSL-2 in the USA.

Chimeric Cedar virus with Hendra & Nipah genes inserted into it is cultured at BSL-2 in the USA

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Kiran Stacey (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: FT request

Dear Peter, I wanted to give you a chance to respond to a comment Tony Fauci made to me in an interview which we are publishing tomorrow. Referring to the accusation that some work on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan

was done at BSL-2, he said:

"We will have to go back and look at that, but that is something that should have been monitored by EcoHealth Alliance."

Can you let me know if you have a response?

Thanks
Kiran

--
Kiran Stacey
Washington Correspondent
Financial Times

Office: +(b) (6)
Mobile: +(b) (6)

@kiranstacey



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Date: Wed, 21 Jul 2021 6:23:27 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Jul 2021 6:23:25 PM -0400
Subject: RE: COVID origins issues and NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;

You are right about Stacey, and right about the funding from NIAD. Peter will know more about the present support. But my experience over a 12 year or so involvement with the Forum is that we decided on the issues to take up and organized the meetings, and that the slate of USG and private sector organizations involved in it would nominate people to be Forum members. I'm not sure how the non-USG members were picked but it was always an interesting, diverse, and smart group of people.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: COVID origins issues and NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats

I don't know anything about this. I have been involved extensively with the Microbial Threats group in the more distant past, and they have always done good work. The way it used to work is that we (NIAID) more or less had a regaular recurring obligation to fund it, and it was all an insider's deal: we did the funding and mostly picked our guys to be on the panel, and then they gave us a product that justified outr funding requests to Congress. Isn't that your understanding?????? As I recall, Stacey Knobler used to staff them back about 20+ years ago..... d

On 7/21/2021 5:04 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

> No relevant information I have heard of. It wouldn't surprise me as I know that Victor Dzau wants NAM to be engaged in these issues. I will ask my colleague Nicki Lurie if she is aware of any such initiative. She is on vacation in Europe now and may not be as rapidly responsive as she usually is.
>
> Regarding the Academies, Victor is not only ambitious but also cautious and doesn't stick his head out very far. Marcia McNutt (NAS President) has been supportive of a rational science based inquiry into the origins and the separation of politics from science, sort of, but not very bold. John Anderson (NAE President) is the least engaged.
>
> Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: COVID origins issues and NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats

Here's a request for any inside info you may have picked up.

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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

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President

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 4:42 PM
To: 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b) (6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b) (6)
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Harold Varm CT!

One of my Board members, Amy Attas, who's a veterinarian to the pets of people like Mike Bloomberg's wife, Elton John

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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

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Websit lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Tony

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: (b) (6)
Fax
email (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 202 : 1

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To: (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
David Morens (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

EXTERNAL SENDER

I totally agree with you that Tony was remarkable. I sent him a one word email, Bravo, and copied it to Patty Conrad so maybe he will see it as evidence of the support he has from the responsible scientific community.

Thanks for the response regarding the CNN reporters. I'll keep that in mind when I do talk to them and consider whether speaking with you might help them distinguish between good science and crap. I have no doubts about your expertise in science and knowing the difference between, well, good science and crap.

Harold is rather quiet – any sense of what he is up to?

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 2
To: ald T (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
David Morens (b) (6) >; Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry:

Tony was excellent in confronting Paul! It's high time that these senators are told the truth directly.

As for speaking with the reporters, in general I am always prepared to do that, but in this particular case I don't feel my credentials are necessarily the best when dealing with specifics. I have very much been an onlooker and not directly connected to any of the research itself. Peter Hotez and Peter D. are clearly much better informed and have the appropriate expertise. There are plenty of authors on the recent Lancet piece that would be good to include. I am happy to speak as an outsider, but would not want to be considered a knowledgeable expert.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 202
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Hotez, Pe (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >
RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

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EXTERNAL SENDER

I had a long talk with two CNN International reporters who are preparing a story essentially on the politics and the misinformation about the origins controversy. I was talking to them off the record but I decided they were legitimately exploring the issues and would likely be a voice of reason if they were given the necessary space to build their case and it was eventually shown.

I mentioned Peter Hotez to them, among some others, and while I mentioned Peter D as well I also said you were under constant attack and it might well be better to allow others to take up the fight on your behalf. GOF and the Goffers were part of the chat. I have agreed to be interviewed on the record and potentially to do a video session as they were potentially interested in using some of that as part of the report. Rich, I didn't specifically mention your name, but if you would be willing to speak with them I can do that when I next connect.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Robert Kessler (b) (6)
Subject: Tony Fauci's testimony today
Importance: High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in…

Here's a news piece on it https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874- fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that , and there's some pretty exciting video to watch.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Subject: My AMA podcast on the origins of COVID19

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4NkcU7JK14 &feature=youtu.be

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development
University Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: BOEHME, Catharina Cora(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14
To: (b) (6) Leendertz, Fabian (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Leendertz, F (b) (6)) (6)
John W (b) (6) (b) (6) >; DEBBICHE, (b) (6) Thea Kølsen
(b) (6) >; BAERT, Primaël < >; SHEATH, Danny <
(b) (6) ; Nguyen, Hung (ILRI (b) (6) STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan <
(b) (6) Anthony (b) (6) en Maeda (b) (6) >; M.P.G.
(b) (6) (b) (6) ayman, David <
(b) (6) VANOVIC, Dragana <(b) (6) ; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd
Farag < (b) (6) Dominic Dwyer (b) (6) >
Cc: RYAN, Michael J. Kya KERKHOVE, Mari (b) (6) EN
EMBAREK, Peter Karim <(b) (6)
Subject: Circular Letter to M of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

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<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

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Date:	Thu, 3 Mar 2022 8:33:11 PM -0500
Sent:	Thu, 3 Mar 2022 8:29:50 PM -0500
Subject:	Story in the Intercept today
From:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To:	David Morens <(b) (6)
CC:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Attachments:	2.24.22 House Energy & Commerce Letter-to-NIH-Acting-Director-Tabak accusing EHA of fraud etc..pdf

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.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Holly Irving [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter and colleagues, this is all really horrible, but what else is new? I once advised you to read the Arthur Miller play The Crucible (or see the great film) and now i add: read the transcript of the trial of Jeanne d'Arc..... In terms of demagoguery and evil there is nothing new under the sun, and there will always be people who take pleasure in trying to destroy people who are their betters, especially their moral betters....

It will be small consolation to hear the following but in my face to face meeting with Tony this morning, he once again brought up, as he usually does, your plight (Peter) and bemoaned all the crap he and you and others are ensnared in. He seems not to believe it is all happening and today was particularly upset about continued drum beating about lab leaks, specifically mentioning one I won't name whose father is a noted NIH virologist. I won't repeat the expletives we exchanged. I am beginning to feel more and more like a therapist lately.... He doesn't know how to stop this, nor do I.

I have said this before, and you all have disagreed, maybe you are right, probably u are, but i sometimes think the best defense is a good offense. That's what we tried to do in our COVID origin paper in spring 2020, but obviously few listened. Since the facts are on our side, and since there is zero proof of a lab leak or engineering, it's always possible to ask the assholes: prove it or shut up. That they have no proof and no evidence, they have an Achilles heel that can be struck.

If this was about a person rather than a scientific fact, these guys would be in court for slander

Just keep hanging in there. I wish there was more i can do, and, if i get cut lose from NIH, there may be

david

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On Feb 24, 2022, at 16:00, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:
>
> I'm glad you'll mention this to Randy. These particular politicians are willing to cast aspersions on anyone's character for political gain.
>
> I'm also glad you're going to decline to sign the letter you attached. It seems Richard Ebright's dream is to have me up on the stand under oath with him doing the questioning. Of course, none of this would get to the bottom of anything, and it would just serve to drive more politics in the way of

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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.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: FW: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter:

Sorry to hear about the latest attacks. Please don't let them get you down.

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Just recognize the loonies who send them for what they are.

I'll let Randy Schekman know he was included too. It is sad to see the lengths that people will go to for the sake of political points. Witness the latest nonsense in Ukraine.

I attach a document I just received from Ebright. Needless to say I won't be signing, but I hope to convince some others not to also.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----
From: (b) (6) ≤ (b) (6) >
Sent: T 15
To: Bloom, Barry R. (b) (6) >; Michael Imperiale (b) (6) ı>; Silja Vöncky (b) (6) (b) (6) Nick Evans (b) (6) Michael Osterholm (b) (6) ne Simonsen >; Edward Hammond (b) (6) ; David N. Fisman (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich ≤ (b) (6) >; Peter Hale ≤ (b) (6) >; Lipsitc (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) ; Richard H. Ebright > (b) (6) .

Subject: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

EXTERNAL SENDER

All--I am writing to you as founding members of the Cambridge Working Group,

Dr. Laura Kahn of Princeton has prepared an open letter entitled "United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and science policy specialists" (see attached).

If you would like to sign the letter (b) (6) or to me at (b) (6) with your name n.

Thank you in advance.

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MORENS_NIH_013941
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RHE

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Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 9:04:59 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 9:04:46 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To:	David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg

David:

You clearly have a higher regard for PNAS and its editorial policies than I do.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 9:01 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Guys, HOW does crap like this get in PNAS?????? Didn't it get expert peer review? d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 19, 2022, at 20:39, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:
>
> Thanks!
>
> Richard J. Roberts
> New England Biolabs
> 240 County Road
> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
> USA

Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Here it is Rich. Abysmal piece of writing. Shame on PNAS!

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay < (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio < (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak < (b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) ; David Morens < (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

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The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

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MORENS_NIH_009613
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Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
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: 71

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat

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Reduction Agency [redacted] 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.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) u>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_009615
REL0000478348

Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >

Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

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MORENS_NIH_009616
REL0000478348

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid-lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE

OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner
May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

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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

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Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

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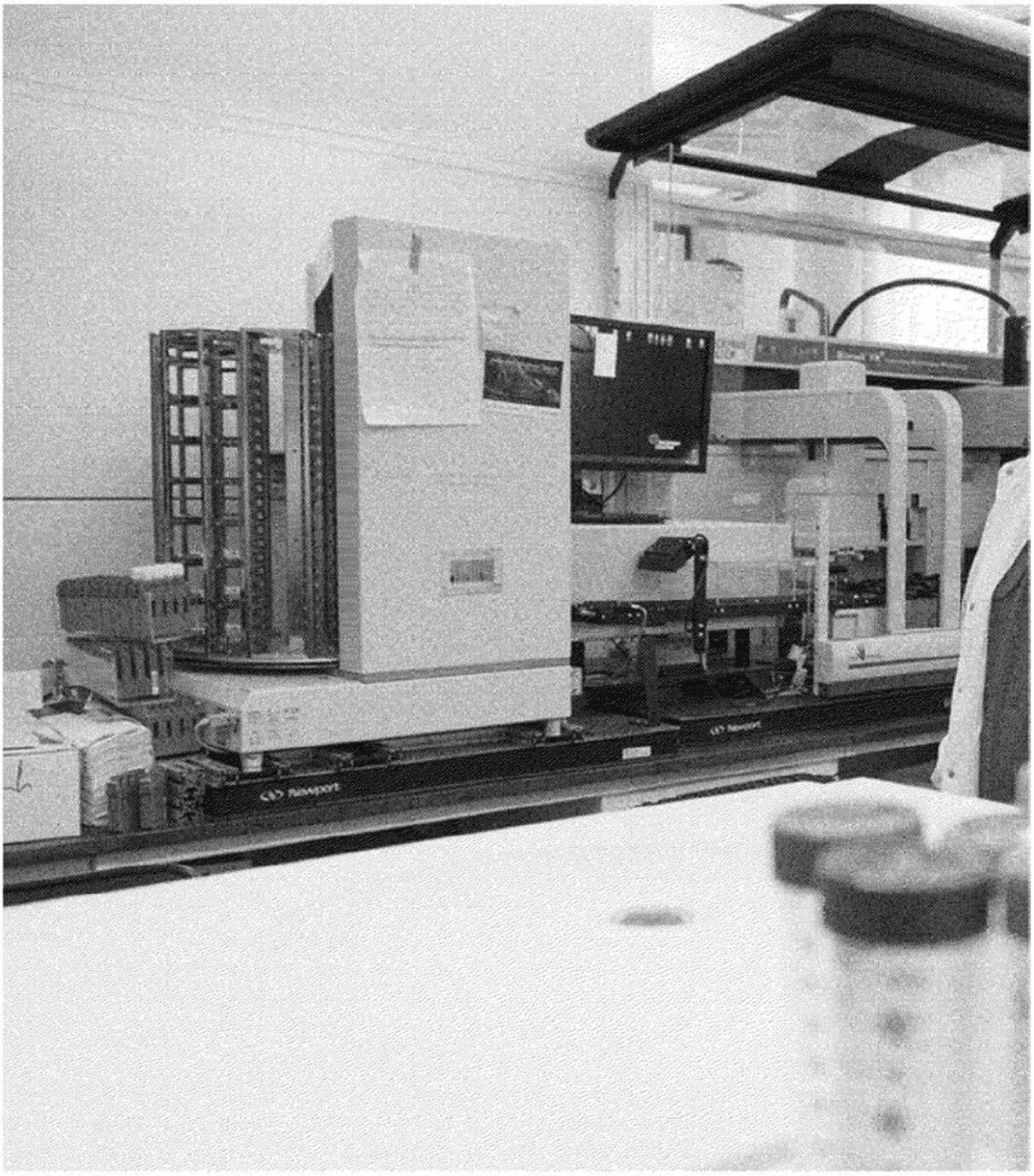

Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat

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coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrry long."

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

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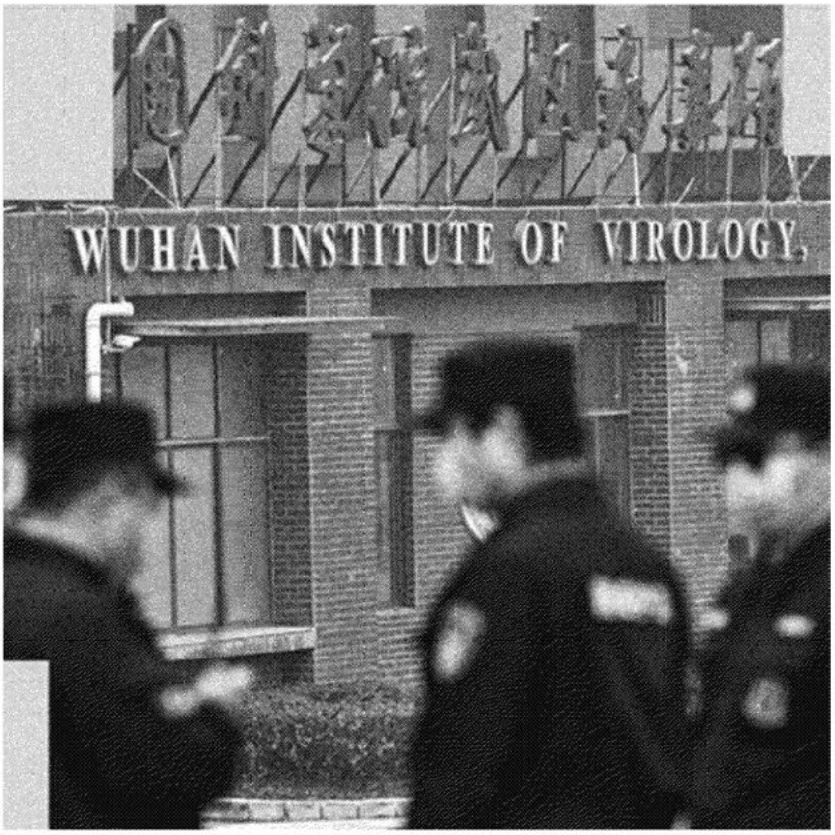
"Could be," Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

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

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an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to

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look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying

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laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a

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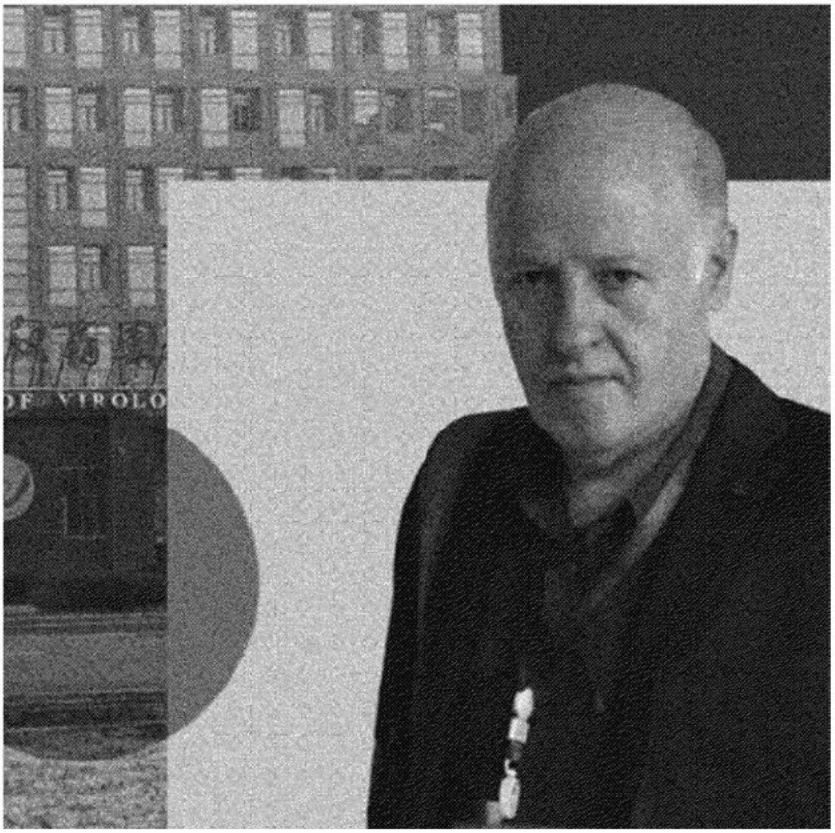
public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



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

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pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that "the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by" the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that "blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <dmmorens@gmail.com>
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Alexsei Cnmura (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

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Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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E-mail: (b) (6)
Twitter: @peterhotez
Skype: (b)
Linkedin Peter Hotez

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Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

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Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Em
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New Y
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

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Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura < (b) (6) >; peter hotez <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich < (b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese
To: David Morens ((b) (6)) < (b) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

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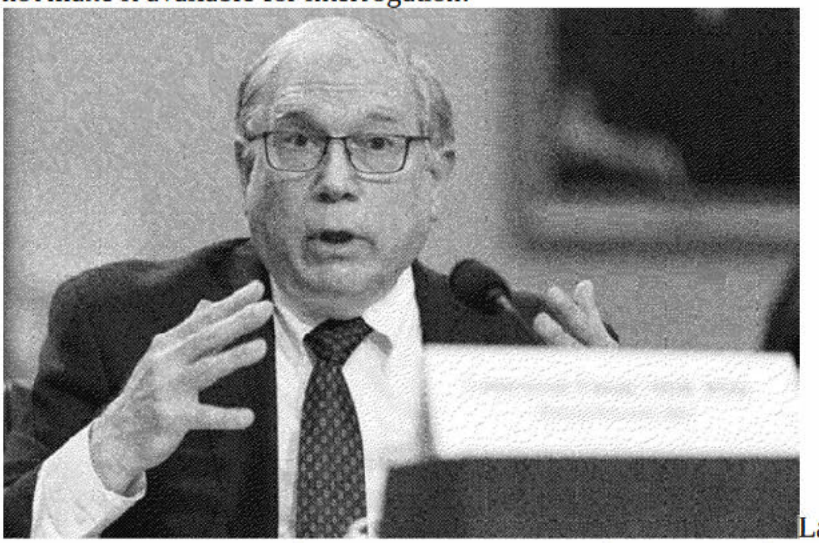
"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

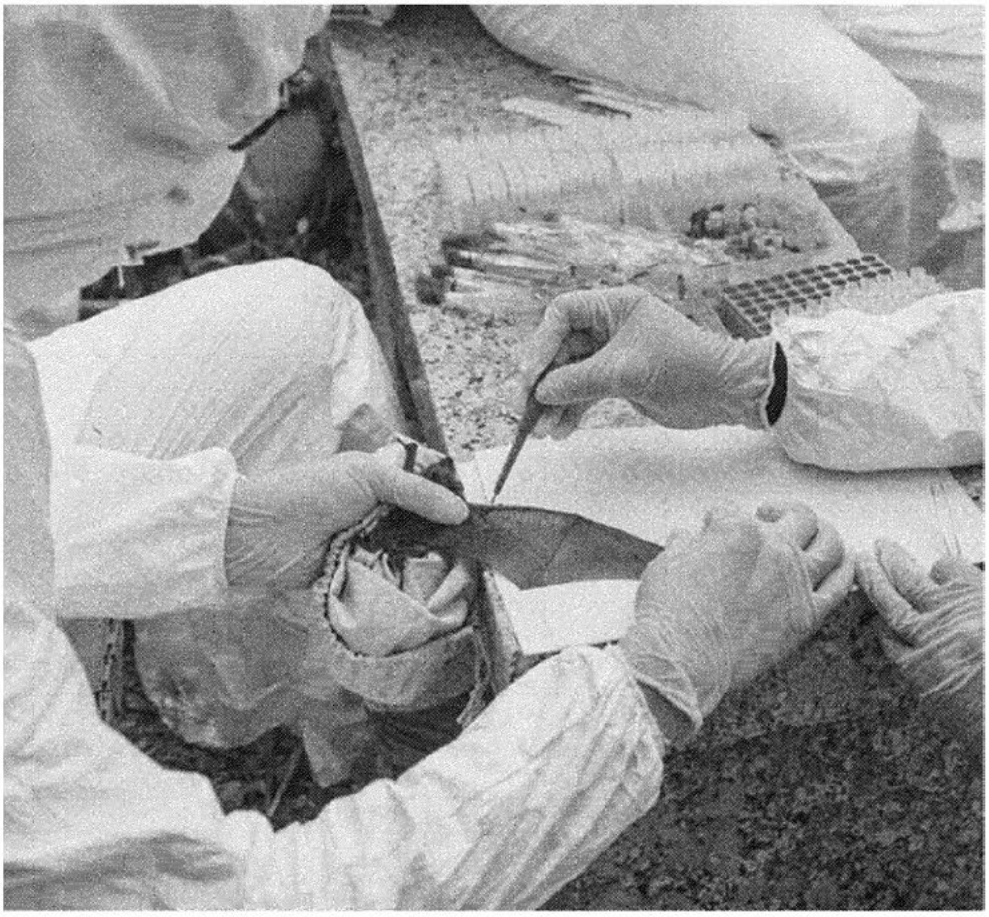
"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE
Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."
China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.
The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.

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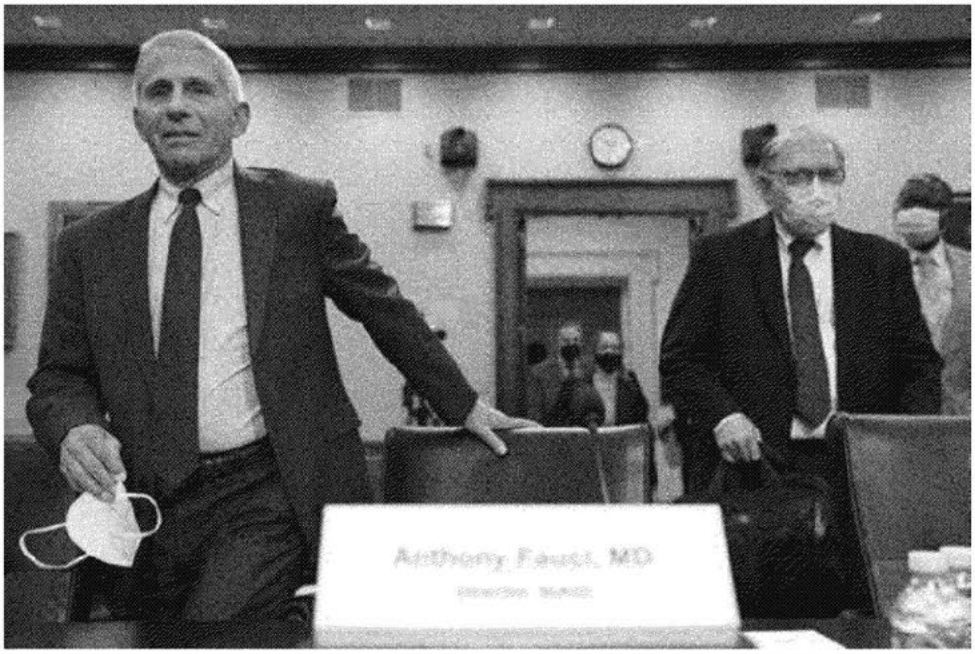

Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

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Date: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 11:31:34 AM -0400

Subject: FW: HHS watchdog announces review of NIH grants that likely includes money connected to Wuhan lab

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >

To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6)

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
● (b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
● (b) (6)
● (b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:18 AM
Subject: CNN: HHS watchdog announces review of NIH grants that likely includes money connected to Wuhan lab

First on CNN: HHS watchdog announces review of NIH grants that likely includes money connected to Wuhan lab



By Kristen Holmes and Priscilla Alvarez, CNN
Updated 10:30 AM ET, Tue June 15, 2021

(CNN) Federal government investigators said Tuesday that they are launching a review into how the National Institutes of Health manages and monitors its grant program, which likely includes money connected to a Wuhan lab that GOP lawmakers have been scrutinizing.

Republicans have zeroed in on NIH's relationship with EcoHealth Alliance, the global nonprofit that helped fund some research at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, to attack Dr. Anthony Fauci and score political points.

The comprehensive review also coincides with renewed questions over the origin of the Covid-19 virus and the potential role that China's Wuhan Institute of Virology may have played.

"We share stakeholders' concerns regarding compliance and oversight of NIH grant funds. We have been monitoring this issue for some time and consider it a high-priority matter that can pose a threat to the integrity of the NIH grant program," Tesia Williams, the director of communications for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, told CNN.

"Based on our preliminary research and analysis, HHS-OIG has decided to conduct an extensive audit reviewing how NIH monitored selected grants and how the grantees and subgrantees used and managed federal funds between years 2014 through 2021," Williams said.

Roughly 80% of NIH funding goes to supporting research grants, including grants to foreign organizations. According to the work plan on the review, it will look at how these grants are monitored and making sure the recipient's use and management of NIH grant funds is in accordance with federal requirements.

One NIH official, who spoke under the condition of anonymity in order to discuss the review openly, called it "political" in nature but believed that ultimately it would be a good thing and would clear NIH of any wrongdoing.

"It's an opportunity to educate the public," the official said.

Questions about the relationship between NIH and EcoHealth Alliance have grown louder after Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases within NIH, confirmed to lawmakers earlier this year that hundreds of thousands of dollars that NIH had given to the New York-based global nonprofit went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology to study coronaviruses in bats.

"About $600,000 was spent over a five-year period," Fauci said during a congressional budget hearing. "That comes to anywhere between $125 (thousand) and $150,000 per year that went to collaboration with Wuhan."

A recent US intelligence report found that several researchers at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill in November 2019 and had to be hospitalized, a new detail about the severity of their symptoms. It's not clear what might have affected the

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researchers, there is no indication they caught Covid-19 and the lab strongly denied the report, calling it a lie to push the so-called lab-leak theory for the disease origin.

There are competing theories about how the pandemic got started. One is that it developed naturally in the wild and transferred from animal to human, as many other viruses have in the past. Another is that such a naturally originating virus was studied in a lab and accidentally infected someone. A third theory, most widely discounted by scientists, is that it was engineered in a lab and somehow leaked to humans.

For much of 2020, pursuing the lab leak theory was treated publicly as xenophobic, and, thanks in part to an open letter signed by 27 scientists and published in an influential medical journal in February 2020, scientifically unsound.

But in recent months, the classified intelligence emerged that three researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology who were conducting the kind of controversial research that some scientists now believe may have led to the pandemic had gotten sick in the autumn of 2019, before the outbreak was known to have begun, although there's no evidence they were infected with Covid-19.

Conservative attacks on Fauci have also intensified after media organizations released a trove of the doctor's emails.

In one email sent to Fauci in April 2020, an executive at EcoHealth Alliance thanked him for publicly stating that scientific evidence supports a natural origin for the coronavirus and not a lab release.
Fauci recently told CNN's John Berman the email was being misconstrued and called claims he had a cozy relationship with the people behind the Wuhan lab research "nonsense."

"I have always said, and will say today to you, John, that I still believe the most likely origin is from an animal species to a human, but I keep an absolutely open mind that if there may be other origins of that, there may be another reason, it could have been a lab leak," Fauci told Berman. "I believe if you look historically, what happens in the animal-human interface, that in fact the more likelihood is that you're dealing with a jump of species. But I keep an open mind all the time. And that's the reason why I have been public that we should continue to look for the origin.

"You can misconstrue it however you want -- that email was from a person to me saying 'thank you' for whatever it is he thought I said, and I said that I think the most likely origin is a jumping of species. I still do think it is, at the same time as I'm keeping an open mind that it might be a lab leak."

Nonetheless, Republicans are using the emails -- and controversy about how the pandemic began and whether US government grant money can be connected to it -- to fundraise and campaign against the Biden administration.

GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky has lashed out at Fauci, calling for his ouster.

"He's continuously and deliberately misleading the public at every turn. It's time to FIRE FAUCI," a Paul fundraising email read. "There are 2,000 emails proving Fauci chose his own ego over the facts."

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio recently penned a Fox News op-ed titled "If Biden Believes in Science, He Must Fire Fauci."

President Joe Biden was asked earlier this month if he still had confidence in Fauci.

"Yes, I am very confident in Dr. Fauci," Biden said.

Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 8:27:17 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 8:27:16 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Recommend AVOID - re question from undark magazine
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)

Neither Ron nor I have or will respond.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 25, 2021, at 7:10 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:
>
> Amen, good advice. D
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH
>
> > On Feb 25, 2021, at 19:06, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > 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 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.: +(b) (6)
> > Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> > Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:52 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens ((b) (6)) <(b) (6)
Subject: FYI: question from undark magazine

Interesting. I'm going to punt for a couple of days.

From: Charles Schmidt (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:34 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
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 hypothesis never got a fair and dispassionate hearing. Do you agree?

Thanks

Charlie Schmidt

www.schmidtwriting.com

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Date: Thu, 9 Sep 2021 6:41:00 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 9 Sep 2021 6:40:53 PM -0400
Subject: Re: here's the latest line of attack today...
From: "Rasmussen, Angie" <(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
CC: G (b) (6) Kristia (b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Imes (b) (6) n Gale <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)

Peter and all,

I am so sorry you are still going through all of this. For what it's worth, I broke my rule of talking to disingenuous journalists and sent Mara Hvistendahl a long email telling her exactly what I think of the "experts" she's talked to and setting the record straight about what these FOIAd reports supposedly show. From what I can see, they show that you were reporting your work appropriately to NIH as required, the work itself was done in appropriate biocontainment, and, importantly, you didn't have SARS-CoV-2 or a progenitor. I also explained that previous work was published with WIV1 chimeras and that this type of study precludes doing more dangerous (and technically very difficult) virus isolation.

She wanted to know whether I agreed with her two sources (likely Alina Chan or Richard Ebright, based on her prior story) that this fits the definition of GoF by NIH and I told her no and explained at length why not and the assertions that it was should disqualify any supposed "expert". Took every opportunity to dunk on their amateurish, disingenuous bullshit, while also emphasizing the importance of this work. Mara wrote back defensively, claiming she's talked to 10 virologists or "people in adjacent fields" for her follow-up. I am not optimistic that the follow-up will be more balanced, but I did try to provide some juicy quotes about how her "experts" actually have no expertise, and emphasized the profound damage these people have done to this essential research. They make all of us less safe.

Hang in there. Ultimately the truth will come out and it's not going to be from the likes of the Daily Caller's inability to interpret virology data or from Jesse Bloom and all the grifters and conspiracy theorists populating the rabbit hole that he's crawled down.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: (b) (6)
She/he
www.vido.org



On Sep 9, 2021, at 3:07 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Here's a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in

humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth- alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/

There's a good response from NIH: 'An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans." "The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."'

This story is particularly irritating because if you look at the P3CO rules, it's clear they are meant for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans. L et'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

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ANDREW KERRINVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

September 09, 20213:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited "significantly higher" viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a "bona fide bombshell" that proves the NIAID, under Fauci's leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

"Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice," Ebright tweeted. "One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher

pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice."
"The results demonstrate–unequivocally–a gain in function," he said.
In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to Nature science journal.
Ebright added on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.
EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.
"Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued," the group said in its progress report. "2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S … were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice."
"These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice," the report added.
EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.
<image005.jpg>
Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot)
"Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x," Ebright told the DCNF. "The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses."
The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen's transmissibility.
"In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant)," Ebright told the DCNF.
EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth's lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain.
EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document trove released by The Intercept shows.
Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.
Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.
The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project "did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied," a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF. **(RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)**
Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID "categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology," a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.
The P3CO framework defines an "enhanced" potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is "reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs" for P3CO review.
Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct

gain-of-function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus "with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains," according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.
<image006.jpg>
NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)
An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency "never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans."
"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease," the spokesperson said. "The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives."
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Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:29 PM
To: 'Garry, Robert F' <(b) (6) 'Kristian G. Andersen' (b) (6) >
Cc: 'David Morens' <(b) (6) >; 'Edward Holmes (b) (6) 'Jason Gale' <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; 'Rasmussen, Angie' <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; 'Stephen Goldstein(b) (6) >

Subject: 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

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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
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak <b6>; Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <b6>; Edward Holmes (b) (6) Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Stephen Goldstein (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Sorry this is happening. The anti-science attacks are just getting more and more extreme.

Unfortunately, there exists a small vocal group of scientists that see virtually every experiment done by virologists as risky and potentially GoF. Many of those ppl are quoted in the Intercept article.

WRT Jesse Bloom it is rather ironic I must say. One need not look too hard at his influenza virus publications to identify quite a number that could be considered "risky" at least by a Relman/Ebright definition. Selecting drug resistant influenza virus mutants, and creating influenza virus SARS-CoV-2 recombinants to name two. Just saying…

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:49 PM
To: Kristian Andersen <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >, Robert Garry <(b) (6) Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >, Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >, "Rasmussen, Angie" <(b) (6) Robert Kessler (b) (6) >, Stephen Goldstein <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

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

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.econealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

From: Kristian G. Andersen <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Garry, Robert F <(b) (6) ; Edward Holmes <
(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; Rasmussen, Angie <
(b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Stephen Goldstein <
(b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

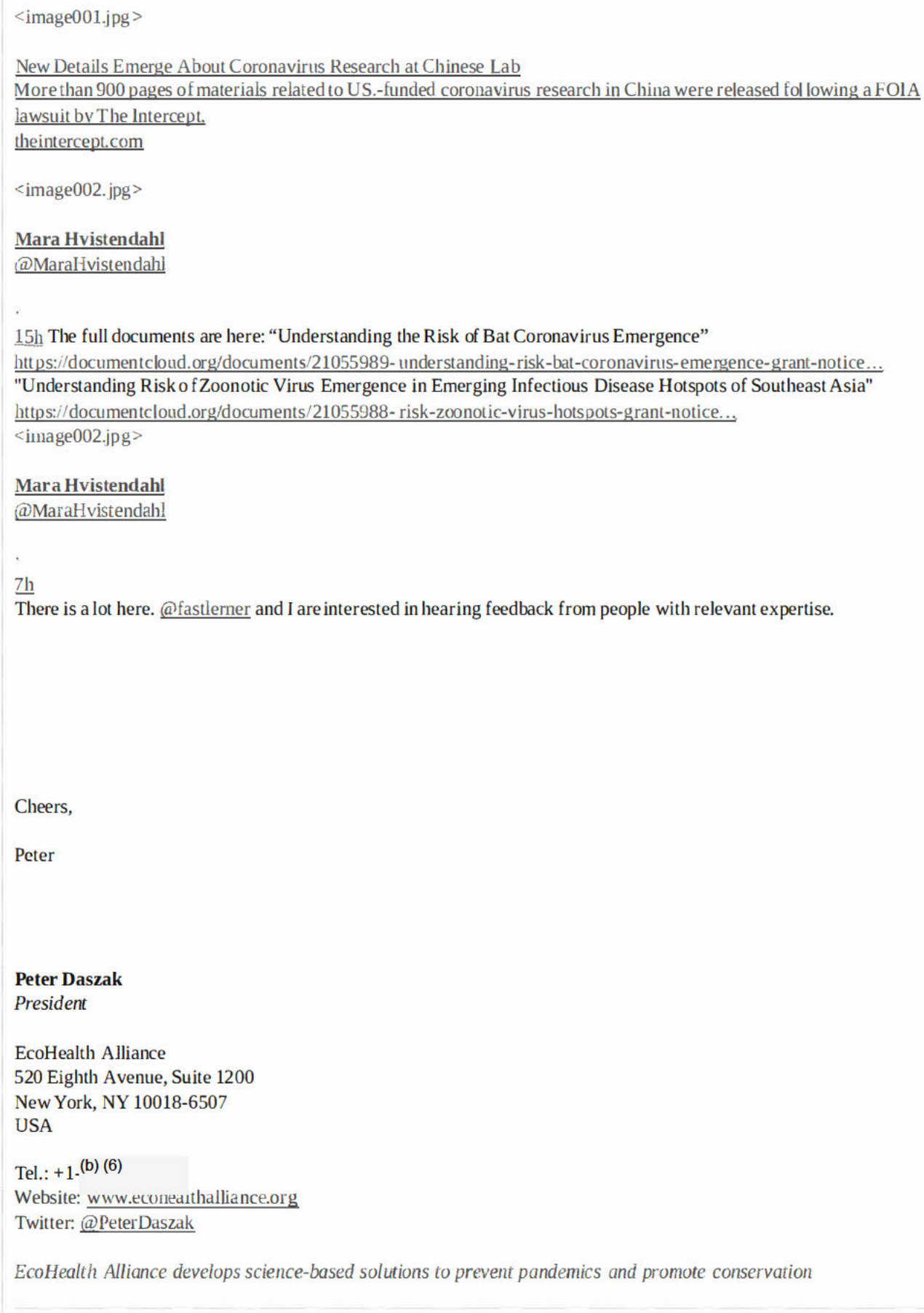
Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

> Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination…
>
> **Mara Hvistendahl**
> @MaraHvistendahl
>
> .
> 15h
> NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With
> @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023032
MORENS_NIH_044109
REL0000478376



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
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Garry, Robert F (b) (6) ; Kristian G. Andersen <kga (b) (6) >; Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >; Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net >; (b) (6) ; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garry, Robert F <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023034
MORENS_NIH_044111
REL0000478376

To: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6) >; Edward Holmes (b) (6)
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Totally - that the real story of the FOIAed grants - no SC2 or anything close that could have been converted to it.

Metzl, Chan and others wanted a "forensic investigation.' The grants that they thought would be private and written before the pandemic do not mention a new SARS-like virus. YOu can be sure that a new virus 76% similar to SC1 would have been front and center in the applications and progress reports.

My guess this is part of the info the IC used to conclude no bioweapon, likely no engineering - NO SC2 before the pandemic. This Gof debate now very clearly has nothing to do with the origin of SC2.

From: Kristian G. Andersen (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes <(b) (6) >
Cc: Jason Gale <j.gale@bloomberg.net>; (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; (b) (6) <
(b) (6) ; Garry, Robert F <

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes (b) (6) > wrote:

> Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.
>
> Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
> The University of Sydney
>
> > On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
> > j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

MORENS_SUBPOENA_023035
MORENS_NIH_044112
REL0000478376

Just FYI
https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new- details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/

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Date: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 5:24:10 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 19 Mar 2024 5:24:07 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
To: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

Jeff:

A common ploy, that even some scientists use. But I guess it is more common among non-scientific economists.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 5:06 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

EXTERNAL SENDER

The one I like best is Sachs has to admit that DEFUSE was not funded and the research wasn't done - but then he makes the wholly baseless assertion that EHA used other NIAID funds to do the DEFUSE work.

This is a textbook case of what Nobel laureate Irving Langmuir long ago called "pathological science." When his conclusions are challenged, the pathological scientist simply makes an ad hoc hypothesis without evidence to attempt to expain away the anomaly. This is the opposite of Isaac Newton's rigorous "hypotheses non fingo. "

As ever,
Jrff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: "Keusch, Gerald" <(b) (6)
Date: 3/19/24 4:44 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b) (6) >, Peter Daszak (b) (6) >, Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts Rich <(b) (6) >(b) (6) >

Subject: RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

This is another totally speculative list of non-data. How many "may be" does it take to understand it is not credible unless you formed your opinion in adcance?

Should there be a very brief point by point response or just let it lay and decay?

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 7:21 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald <(b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Roberts Rich (b) (6) ; (b) (6) >
Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Tragic conspiracy nonsense
https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/covid- 19-gain-of-function-us-research

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

iPhone

Date: Sat, 1 May 2021 10:40:26 AM -0400
Sent: Sat, 1 May 2021 10:40:15 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Political advice requested!
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
CC: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) eksei Chmura <(b) (6)

Thanks david. If you listen to Francis Collins' comment and read the letter he's now responding to (guarantee Micheal Lauer is all over this), they've been asked a series of questions directly about ecohealth alliance and want all our communication with NIH.

Just feels like I'm being set up here as a patsy for the initial illegal action from NIH to cancel the grant. The letters from lauer flat out accuse us of being in breach of federal codes on biosafety monitoring. My lawyers say we are not, but NIH O/D is now the one who gets to talk publicly about it. Very upsetting.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

On May 1, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter, I don't know the legal and political dos and don'ts here, but if the lawyers say you do not have to answer, and you don't have to worry about contempt (since this is just a letter from 3 minority memnbers, and NOT the committee), then I would either not answer at all or, if the lawyers advise, then send them a polite letter saying you cannot answers or the reasons you stated.

They are playing a game with you, trying to put a noose around your neck, and I think it is within your right to resist being hung.

d

On 5/1/2021 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

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).

MORENS_SUBPOENA_014173
MORENS_NIH_026765
REL0000478383

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.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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Date: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 1:46:15 PM -0400

Sent: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 1:46:14 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

From: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;

Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

David, You, Tom Monath, and Peter Daszak for early drafts. Jim Leduc and Jerry Keusch for safety. Consider adding Shi Zhengli, Heinz Feldmann…First, define the questions which are probably posed in EcoHealth Alliance grant applications.

JB

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6)
Cc: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) Jacobson, Julie ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch ((b) (6) <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Peter Daszak ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
S 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

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
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Rosent (b) (6) iseases) (b) (6) ; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Karen Goraleski (b) (6) >; Jacobson, Julie (b) (6) Stephen Popper <sp (b) (6) >; (b) (6) ; Dan Bausch (Daniel.Bausch@dhe.gov.uk) < (b) (6) ID) [E] (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thoro n 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] <(b) (6) . wrote:

Phil here are my thoughts…..

I feel that "we" need to arrive at a consensus of what to do. We could do something, as many have suggested, or nothing at this time, as several have urged.

That Charlie Calisher (who coauthored our article last year) has had second thoughts, suggests that ASTMH members don't have consensus on at least some issues. To me that suggests it would be difficult to write something/things that take an ASTMH position, although views of individual scientists within ASTMH should be fine.

Of several related things that might be written about singly or together are:

Man-made virus origin

MORENS_SUBPOENA_017433
MORENS_NIH_035630
REL0000478388

Lab leak origin

Grant termination issues

Gain of function issues

Importance of continuing collaborative international research on sarbeco- and merbeco-virus

Last year's two papers covered the first 3 of the items above, and my sense is that we may not have unanimity on the first two of those. If we did a one year update we might have to do some finessing.

The third issue, grant termination, is something I would personally have difficulty doing since my boss, Tony, might take the heat, and I can't throw him under the bus, especially as he is working hard behind the scenes to undo the damage.

Gain of function is something that could be written about, but it is a bit tangential and in any case related to the man-made virus issue.

The issue of the importance of continuing sarbeco research is the easiest life, and if the focus was on that it would perhaps be possible to slip in a side dish of the unlikelihood of the first 2 issues, and perhaps the others as well.

I think that if we do tackle the first two subjects it will be a problem representing the Society. In my view, it would ideally be a paper by scientists themselves, not the Society as a whole.

The one year follow up, which I and several others have raised, would have to be such a paper, but several of us on this email have advised against doing even that.

So, where are we?

I look to the leadership, you Phil, Presidents past present and future, Karen, and other leaders to help steer this forward.

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >; Karen Goraleski (b) (6) Jacobson, Julie (

(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <
(b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) aubenberger,
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) (b) (6)

RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

David, Jerry, et al,

I'm fully supportive of a follow-up article in the AJTMH on COVID origins. The sooner the better. I suggest working, despite the craziness, on a fully reasoned and rational discussion, admitting uncertainty, but not implying that uncertainty supports a possibility with no scientific support. After the long, thoughtful piece last year, we might go with a short editorial format (~1000 words) this year, but alternatively this piece could again be a longer Perspective if this seems appropriate. I'm happy to help with writing if desired, but of course I'm not an expert in this area, and we have many experts involved.

Regards,
Phil

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC); (b) (6) Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) g >; Rosenthal, <
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) >;
(b) (6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch (
(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jef
(b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) >; Rich
Roberts ((b) (6) <(b) (6)
Subject: ow lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

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Jerry, i think that's a good idea. I floated the thought of something similar a few days ago

Let's hear again from Karen, Phil, Julie, Joel, Dan Christine and the others. This is doable altho the details are to be determined. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 4, 2021, at 17:08, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

I was thinking along the same lines. At least today two Washington Post journalists said some rational things about the spillover of CoV-2 to the human population.

It seems to me there should be a one year reassessment of the article published last year, with all of us continuing to support the most likely evidence supported pathways rather than the evidence free lab leak scenario, and why the heat of the debate as currently being framed (it is essentially free of any light) will prevent any non-political

international science based approach to move forward.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) Karen Goraleski (b) (6)
Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6) Jacobson, Julie (
(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <
(b) (6)) (6)
; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <
; (I(b) (6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch (
(b) (6) (b) (6)
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (
(b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) <
(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >
Subject: FW: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Dear ASTMH colleagues,

As of today, shockingly, our own Charlie Calisher, who has been involved in so-called GOF research, and who coauthored last year's ASTMH paper, and who has been an esteemed colleague of mine for 45+ years, told the press in two separate interviews that he now thinks the lab leak theory is possible. Peter Palese, an esteemed researcher who has done and been accused of GOF research today said the same. I am very depressed by this, as I know these men and their scientific creds and their integrity.

What is going on?

Possibility no. 1: I am totally crazy and the whole world is a conspiracy that I am blind to.

Possibility no. 2: this is a McCarthy-era witch hunt story and good people are being drawn into it from fear, moral confusion, or a weak inability to evaluate scientific evidence I (I rather hope it's not the latter)….

Before deciding on which of these two, I would recommend seeing the play, or more conveniently and quickly the movie made from it, of Arthur Miller's McCarthy-era classic "The Crucible". I went through all of this as a kid. This whole thing is to me déjà vu all over again.

I don't know what, if anything, ASTMH can or should do, but let us at least agree that this is one of the most dangerous attacks on science in memory.

Surely we should have a voice in some sphere.

<image001.gif>

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CAPT, United States Public Health Service
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<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

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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 hut 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

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- 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

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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 frombats 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 orboth ofthese 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.'

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While Paul and other Republicans have come after Fauci, Biden reaffirmed his confidence in Fauci in a Friday morning press conference.
The president had actually left the room where he gave the speech when DailyMail.com shouted a question to him about the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
President Biden stuck his head back in to answer.
'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci,' he said.
Paul's Thursday night interview on Fox - and weeks of public comments that - makes it clear that senator doesn't share have the same faith in Fauci, and he alluded to a February 1, 2020 email exchange between Fauci and Principal NIAID Director Dr. Hugh Auchincloss.
Auchincloss wrote to Fauci to discuss a paper Fauci sent him appearing to question if National Institute of Health (NIH) grants funded gain-of-function research relating to coronaviruses.
In the email to Fauci, Auchincloss said, 'The paper you sent me says the experiments were performed before the gain of function pause but have since been reviewed and approved by NIH.'
He also noted that a colleague would 'try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad.'
This was one of the 3,200-plus emails obtained and published by Buzzfeed News on Tuesday.
The NIH awarded a $3.7 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, which is based in the United States, to study the risk of coronaviruses emerging from bats in 2014. EcoHealth Alliance in turn distributed nearly $600,000 of that funding to its collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
The senator also took a shot Thursday at the embattled chief medical advisor on Twitter after Amazon and Barnes & Noble pulled his book from their sites because it wasn't supposed to be released until November: 'Oh, I don't know. I think they should publish it. I love science fiction.'
Paul's interview came after Fauci dismissed the recent revelations that he was warned that COVID-19 may have been 'engineered' and said that the emails are easily misunderstood.
During a Wednesday interview on the Donlon Report, Fauci said of the emails, 'The only trouble is they are really ripe to be taken out of context where someone can snip out a sentence in an email without showing the other emails, and say "based on an email from Dr. Fauci, he said such and such" where you don't really have the full context.'
Fauci added that the Wuhan lab 'is a very large lab to the tune of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.'
'The grant that we're talking about was $600,000 over five years for an average of about $125,000 to $140,000 a year,' he said.
Fauci also said on Donlon that he 'can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab.'
Paul has been on Fox twice since a trove of Fauci's emails - dating from January to June 2020 - were obtained and published by Buzzfeed on Tuesday.
Within hours of publication, Paul tweeted '#firefauci' and other Republicans, like Majorie Greene Taylor, followed suit.
Until recently, the Wuhan lab leak was at best a fringe theory, and it has been mostly laughed off by many scientists. The general consensus on COVID-19's origin was that it jumped from a bat to a human in the Wuhan market.
Despite the recent scrutiny, Fauci continues to say that's what he believes happened.
During Senate committee hearings in early May, Paul sparred with Fauci over the two origin theories and said the lab leak is a real possibility that's not being acknowledged.
Instead of investigating the cause of COVID-19 'government authorities - self-interested in continuing gain of function research - say there's nothing to see here,' Paul said during the May 11 hearing.
'To arrive at the truth, the U.S. government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance the coronavirus' ability to infect humans,' he said.
The lab leak theory is now one that President Joe Biden wants investigated.
Last week, Biden ordered a 90-day review to investigate the possibility and several high-profile public health experts have come out in recent months saying they believe that's how COVID-19 started.
British intelligence also reportedly assessed the theory recently and upgraded its likeliness from 'remote' to 'feasible'.

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Date: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 9:45:15 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 5 Jun 2021 9:45:12 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: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6) >
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Agree, but we must borrow heavily on their published research to tell the science.

Tom Monath is a great scientist and an excellent writer. Really good at integration.

JB

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 5, 2021, at 2:40 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

Joel, let us consider further. Putting Peter and Shi Zhengli on might provoke a backlash that will be counter-productive, as it could be sen as a direct attack on politicians coming from Tony's friends..

<image001.gif>

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<image002.jpg>

From: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

David, You, Tom Monath, and Peter Daszak for early drafts. Jim Leduc and Jerry Keusch for safety. Consider adding Shi Zhengli, Heinz Feldmann…First, define the questions which are probably posed in EcoHealth Alliance grant applications.

JB

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 1:09
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6)
Cc: Rosen (b) (6) ; Karen Goraleski (b) (6) Jacobson, June (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6) Dan Bausch ((b) (6) (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak ((b) (6) >; Rich Roberts ((b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

Joel, and if the paper is only that, who should be authors/co-authors?

<image001.gif>

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(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_035618
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Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Cc: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Disea >; Keusch, Gerald T >; Karen Jacobs >; Stephen Popper < >; Dan Bausch ( ) [E] < ; Rich
Subject: bleak 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] < 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

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the damage.

Gain of function is something that could be written about, but it is a bit tangential and in any case related to the man-made virus issue.

The issue of the importance of continuing sarbeco research is the easiest life, and if the focus was on that it would perhaps be possible to slip in a side dish of the unlikelihood of the first 2 issues, and perhaps the others as well.

I think that if we do tackle the first two subjects it will be a problem representing the Society. In my view, it would ideally be a paper by scientists themselves, not the Society as a whole.

The one year follow up, which I and several others have raised, would have to be such a paper, but several of us on this email have advised against doing even that.

So, where are we?

I look to the leadership, you Phil, Presidents past present and future, Karen, and other leaders to help steer this forward.

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
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From: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) ; Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) >;
Jacobson, Julie (b) (6)) <(b) (6) >; Stephen
Popper <sp (b) (6) (t(b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Dan (b) (6)
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
(b) (6) <(b) (6) Rich Roberts (b) (6)

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

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suggest working, despite the craziness, on a fully reasoned and rational discussion, admitting uncertainty, but not implying that uncertainty supports a possibility with no scientific support. After the long, thoughtful piece last year, we might go with a short editorial format (~1000 words) this year, but alternatively this piece could again be a longer Perspective if this seems appropriate. I'm happy to help with writing if desired, but of course I'm not an expert in this area, and we have many experts involved.
Regards,
Phil

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 20
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) raleski <(b) (6)
Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <
(b) (6) <(b) (6)
(b) (6) ; jjac (b) (6) (b) (6) >;
(b) (6) Dan Bausch (b) (6)
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]
(b) (6)) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6) <
(b) (6)

Re: Daily Mail: Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

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This message came from outside your organization.

Jerry, i think that's a good idea. I floated the thought of something similar a few days ago

Let's hear again from Karen, Phil, Julie, Joel, Dan Christine and the others. This is doable altho the details are to be determined. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 4, 2021, at 17:08, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) wrote:

I was thinking along the same lines. At least today two Washington Post journalists said some rational things about the spillover of CoV-2 to the human population.

It seems to me there should be a one year reassessment of the article published last year, with all of us continuing to support the most likely evidence supported pathways rather than the evidence free lab leak scenario, and why the heat of the debate as currently being framed (it is essentially free of any light) will prevent any non-political international science based approach to move forward.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:35 PM

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To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) Karen Goraleski <(b) (6)
(b) (6) n, Julie (
(b) (6) >; Stephen Popper <
(b) (6) (b) (6) IH/FIC) [V] <
(b) (6) >; (b) (6) (b) (6) Bausch (
(b) (6)
aubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (
(b) (6) (b) (6) >; Rich Roberts (b) (6) <
(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >

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.
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Senior Advisor to the Director
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Now one of the original lab leak deniers calls for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origin as he admits 'a lot of disturbing information' has surfaced since he signed Lancet letter denouncing theory

- **EXCLUSIVE: Peter Palese has U-turned after claiming virus was natural in origin**
- **New York microbiologist signed letter in Lancet denouncing all other theories**
- **'Bullying' letter has been described as ostracizing dissenting voices in science**

By Joe Davies For Mailonline
Published: 12:11 EDT, 4 June 2021 | Updated: 13:46 EDT, 4 June 2021

Dr Peter Palese, a professor of microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, has U-turned after previously supporting a letter denying that COVID-19 could've leaked from a Wuhan lab

One of the 27 Covid lab leak deniers who signed a letter denouncing the theory that the virus escaped from a lab in Wuhan has now called for a 'thorough investigation' into Covid's origins, MailOnline can reveal.

Dr Peter Palese, a microbiologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, signed the letter in the Lancet in February last year claiming the virus could only have been natural in origin and to suggest otherwise would create 'fear, rumors, and prejudice'.

The 'bullying' letter was criticized by experts for ostracizing anyone offering different opinions on the virus' origins, dismissing them as conspiracy theorists.

It is only now, nearly 16 months after that letter was published in the world-renowned medical journal, that the theory Covid was accidentally leaked from a lab in Wuhan is being looked at seriously.

US President **Joe Biden** last week ordered intelligence agencies to launch a probe into whether Covid was man-made after all. But **China** immediately hit back and called the suggestion a 'conspiracy'.

And now Professor Palese, 77, has made a significant U-turn, admitting all theories on how Covid came about now need proper investigating.

He told MailOnline: 'I believe a thorough investigation about the origin of the Covid-19 virus is needed. 'A lot of disturbing information has surfaced since the Lancet letter I signed, so I want to see answers covering all questions.'

Asked how he was originally approached to sign the letter and what new information had come to light specifically, Professor Palese declined to comment.

Palese spoke out as America's leading pandemic expert Dr. Anthony Fauci continues to face fevered calls to resign after emails revealed that leading virus experts warned Covid could be man-made even as he downplayed the possibility.

The emails also showed he communicated with Dr. Peter Daszak, the head of a non-profit that funneled U.S. taxpayer dollars to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Biden through his support behind the embattled expert on Friday, saying: 'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci.'

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

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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

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- 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 govemance 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 itshould 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

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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.

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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.

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'There's a disturbing picture. He gets an email or he gets notification of what's going on in Wuhan and immediately sends something to his assistant saying, "We must meet immediately." And in the subject line it says gain of function research in Wuhan.'

While Paul and other Republicans have come after Fauci, Biden reaffirmed his confidence in Fauci in a Friday morning press conference.

The president had actually left the room where he gave the speech when DailyMail.com shouted a question to him about the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

President Biden stuck his head back in to answer.

'Yes I'm very confident in Dr. Fauci,' he said.

Paul's Thursday night interview on Fox - and weeks of public comments that - makes it clear that senator doesn't share have the same faith in Fauci, and he alluded to a February 1, 2020 email exchange between Fauci and Principal NIAID Director Dr. Hugh Auchincloss.

Auchincloss wrote to Fauci to discuss a paper Fauci sent him appearing to question if National Institute of Health (NIH) grants funded gain-of-function research relating to coronaviruses.

In the email to Fauci, Auchincloss said, 'The paper you sent me says the experiments were performed before the gain of function pause but have since been reviewed and approved by NIH.'

He also noted that a colleague would 'try to determine if we have any distant ties to this work abroad.'

This was one of the 3,200-plus emails obtained and published by Buzzfeed News on Tuesday.

The NIH awarded a $3.7 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, which is based in the United States, to study the risk of coronaviruses emerging from bats in 2014. EcoHealth Alliance in turn distributed nearly $600,000 of that funding to its collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The senator also took a shot Thursday at the embattled chief medical advisor on Twitter after Amazon and Barnes & Noble pulled his book from their sites because it wasn't supposed to be released until November: 'Oh, I don't know. I think they should publish it. I love science fiction.'

Paul's interview came after Fauci dismissed the recent revelations that he was warned that COVID-19 may have been 'engineered' and said that the emails are easily misunderstood.

During a Wednesday interview on the Donlon Report, Fauci said of the emails, 'The only trouble is they are really ripe to be taken out of context where someone can snip out a sentence in an email without showing the other emails, and say "based on an email from Dr. Fauci, he said such and such" where you don't really have the full context.'

Fauci added that the Wuhan lab 'is a very large lab to the tune of hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.'

'The grant that we're talking about was $600,000 over five years for an average of about $125,000 to $140,000 a year,' he said.

Fauci also said on Donlon that he 'can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab.'

Paul has been on Fox twice since a trove of Fauci's emails - dating from January to June 2020 - were obtained and published by Buzzfeed on Tuesday.

Within hours of publication, Paul tweeted '#firefauci' and other Republicans, like Majorie Greene Taylor, followed suit.

Until recently, the Wuhan lab leak was at best a fringe theory, and it has been mostly laughed off by many scientists. The general consensus on COVID-19's origin was that it jumped from a bat to a human in the Wuhan market.

Despite the recent scrutiny, Fauci continues to say that's what he believes happened.

During Senate committee hearings in early May, Paul sparred with Fauci over the two origin theories and said the lab leak is a real possibility that's not being acknowledged.

Instead of investigating the cause of COVID-19 'government authorities - self-interested in continuing gain of function research - say there's nothing to see here,' Paul said during the May 11 hearing.

'To arrive at the truth, the U.S. government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance the coronavirus' ability to infect humans,' he said.

The lab leak theory is now one that President Joe Biden wants investigated.

Last week, Biden ordered a 90-day review to investigate the possibility and several high-profile public health experts have come out in recent months saying they believe that's how COVID-19 started.

British intelligence also reportedly assessed the theory recently and upgraded its likeliness from 'remote' to 'feasible'.

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From: David Morens
To: Peter Daszak
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T; Aleksei Chmura
Subject: Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 9:36:15 AM

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 <(b) (6) 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

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Tel.: (b) (6)
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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:27 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Ieksei Chmura (b) (6)
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 (b) (6) 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
President

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Date:	Tue, 2 Aug 2022 3:10:27 PM -0400
Sent:	Tue, 2 Aug 2022 3:10:21 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research
From:	"Keusch, Gerald T" <(b) (6)
To:	Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.gif; image002.jpg

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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Mary Woolley <(b) (6)
Cc: Ellie Dehoney <(b) (6)
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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Ellie Dehoney <(b) (6)
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!

Thank you for all you are doing.

My best,

Mary

FROM: Ellie Dehoney <(b) (6)
SENT: Tuesday 8/2/2022 2:34 PM
TO: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Mary Woolley <(b) (6)
SUBJ: RE: Rand Paul hearing

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008991
MORENS_NIH_019276
REL0000478397

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 <(b) (6) Mary Woolley
<(b) (6)
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 <(b) (6)
Cc: Ellie Dehoney <(b) (6)
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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
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: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Jeff Sturchio (b) (6)
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
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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
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Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 12:40 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) 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 (b) (6) wrote:

Ok

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
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Health Policy Scholar
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On Aug 1, 2022, at 11:14 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > 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

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; David Morens (b) (6)
>; Keu (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >; Roberts,
Rich <(b) (6)
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
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
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University Professor, Baylor University

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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 10:20 AM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

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?

MORENS_SUBPOENA_008997
MORENS_NIH_019282
REL0000478397

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) , Peter Das (6) >;
Keusc (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Rich <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
>
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

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Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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iPhone

On Jul 26, 2022, at 11:22 AM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter, I do not have a link. These pdfs came directly from the journal.

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, July 25,
To: David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: ID) [E] (b) (6) >; Peter Daszak <
(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery
(NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:

Do you have the link so i can put it out on social media? I had trouble finding it

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
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Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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iPhone

On Jul 25, 2022, at 5:07 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > wrote:

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Attempt no. 2, per Rich, the two attachments fell off..... dmm
David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Mon, Jul 25, 2022 at 3:11 PM David Morens (b) (6)
<mailto: (b) (6) >> wrote:
probably ut just in case...d
David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6)

(cell)

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MORENS_NIH_019286
REL0000478397

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

(b) (6) 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <
<mailto(b) (6) >> wrote:

[cid:18236c3bfd54cdccc1]
David M. Morens, M.D.
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6) v <mailto: (b) (6)

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[DMM Portrait B 12 29 15 P0923]

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Date: Sat, 8 May 2021 2:29:55 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 8 May 2021 2:26:24 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing -from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] < Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) Taubenberger, Je [E] (b) (6)

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:

1. 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
2. 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
3. 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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chm (b) (6) >; Robert Ke (b) (6) >; Ta Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) (b) (6)

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MORENS_NIH_029168
REL0000478398

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

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_014601
MORENS_NIH_029169
REL0000478398

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

David:

Probably not too helpful to describe every growth of a virus in a lab is a GOF experiment.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <
(b) (6) >; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

Peter, I just tsalked to Ms. Eban for an hour, and connected her with Jim LeDuc and Jeff T. I also sent her a paper I and others wrote with David Baltimore 10 years ago about the BENEFITS of GOF research vis a vis the 1918 flu virus. To wit, the growing up of the virus and studying it in primate challenges, and in vitro, yielding hugely important info on flu pathogenesis.

Rich, this relates to my own feeling that GOF is a double-edged sword, so to speak, that while we must work to prevent dangerous use of virologic techniques, totally agree on that point, we must also consider that every infection of a cell, in tissue culture, organ culture, experimental animals, humans, whatever, is in essence a GOF experiment (and also a loss of fuinction experiment, since host adaptation usually results in ftness penalties), without which we would have no viral vaccines except vaccinia, and arguably not even that.

Her interest in David B results from his comments in the Wade article about the SARS-CoV-2 furin cleavage site, about which I am a tiny bit skeptical, not fully understanding the complexities of cleavage site evolutions in RNA viruses. I asked Jeff and his folks to comment. He and I had a discussion about David's comments yesterday, but I will let him follow up on that, since he has been thinking about RNA virus cleavge sites with respect to flu A and other viruses for over 20 years. It seems to be more complicated than one might think..

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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.: (b) (6)
> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>
> *EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*
>
> **From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
> **Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021
> **To:** David Morens (b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
> **Cc:** Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
> **Subject:** most 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

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surely be characterized as dismissive and therefore put into a negative perspective. I have access to a senior endowed full professor of Chinese politics at Harvard and I asked about the meaning of blah blah when a Chinese native speaker uses it while speaking English. Here is the answer:

"In my experience many Chinese mistakenly use "blah, blah" as equivalent to the Chinese term "deng, deng" which means "and so forth" and has no negative connotation."

So Peter was right, and now we know the Chinese term it is trying to translate, however awkwardly. This might be useful in any conversation with a report about her remarks or the Republicans letter.

Jerry

From: David Morens (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >
Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, i will reply eventually when i get some time, but until then, note yet another Josh Rogin editorial in this morning's Post, this time disclosing the Republican letter to Tony, which i have not yet seen and may or may not see. D

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 6, 2021, at 23:34, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Sorry for yet another email, but this one is so bizarre it's almost funny. It's a letter from the House E&C Committee Republicans to Blinken asking him to release the classified intel that people in the Wuhan lab were sick prior to COVID, and that the WIV does military research. It quotes some comments from a recent talk my collaborator Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, gave during a lecture at Rutgers. Some of the online conspiracists heard about the talk in advance and they packed the audience – some of their questions from the chat were read out. Her response included a very common "blah blah" phrase used in China when speaking English – here's the quote:

During a March 23, 2021 seminar at Rutgers University, a WHO advisory committee member asked Dr. Shi if [knew].. whether "the U.S. government claims of classified Chinese military research being carried out at the WIV [are] correct, and if so, did you have full awareness of and access to all aspects of this research?"[4]

Dr. Shi answered: From my knowledge, all our research work is open, is transparent. At the beginning of COVID-19, we heard the rumors that claimed our laboratory would have some project blah blah with army blah blah . . . but this is not correct, because I am the director and responsible for research activity. I don't know any kind of research work performed in this lab.[5]

This is ridiculous, of course, and they're obviously using that quote to suggest Dr. Shi doesn't take these

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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

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---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Morens (b) (6))' (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' < (b) (6)
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura (b) (6))' (b) (6) >; 'Robert Kessler (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: 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

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MORENS_NIH_029173
REL0000478398

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Date: Wed, 6 Mar 2024 5:49:59 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 6 Mar 2024 5:46:27 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Chili recipe
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David – the attachment didn't come through, but just reading your email has made me hungry!

Cheers,

Peter

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President

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From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Subject: Chili recipe

Peter, it's taken me a long time to get you the chili recipe I promised, because my scanner had brokene down. Today I got it semi fixed although it is scanning upside down

You can either print it and reverse it, or else read it while standing on your head.

I have made this recipe a number of times, and it always gets rave reviews.

The two key/unusual ingredients are the addition to the beef of the Italian sausage and the pitted black olives, which change the taste significantly, and for the better.

The original recipe came from my 84 year old hashing friend Nelson Joyner, passed down through the family and tweaked and modified by him and his Swedish wife Susanne.

Over the years, I added my own embellishments (shown with asterisks*), mostly to add more chili heat and also some poblano, as well as being served with sour cream, chopped cilantro, chopped purrple onion, etc.

This is the basic and you might add or take out as your tasted disctate. Enjoy! david

David Morens
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please use my publicly available NIAID contact information

Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 11:22:18 AM -0500
Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 11:22:13 AM -0500
Subject: RE: Marjorie Taylor-Greene on the COVID 'investigation'
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.jpg

Great T-shirt! Unfortunately, the crazies have no sense of irony.

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:00 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Marjorie Taylor-Greene on the COVID 'investigation'

I guess God is doing it!

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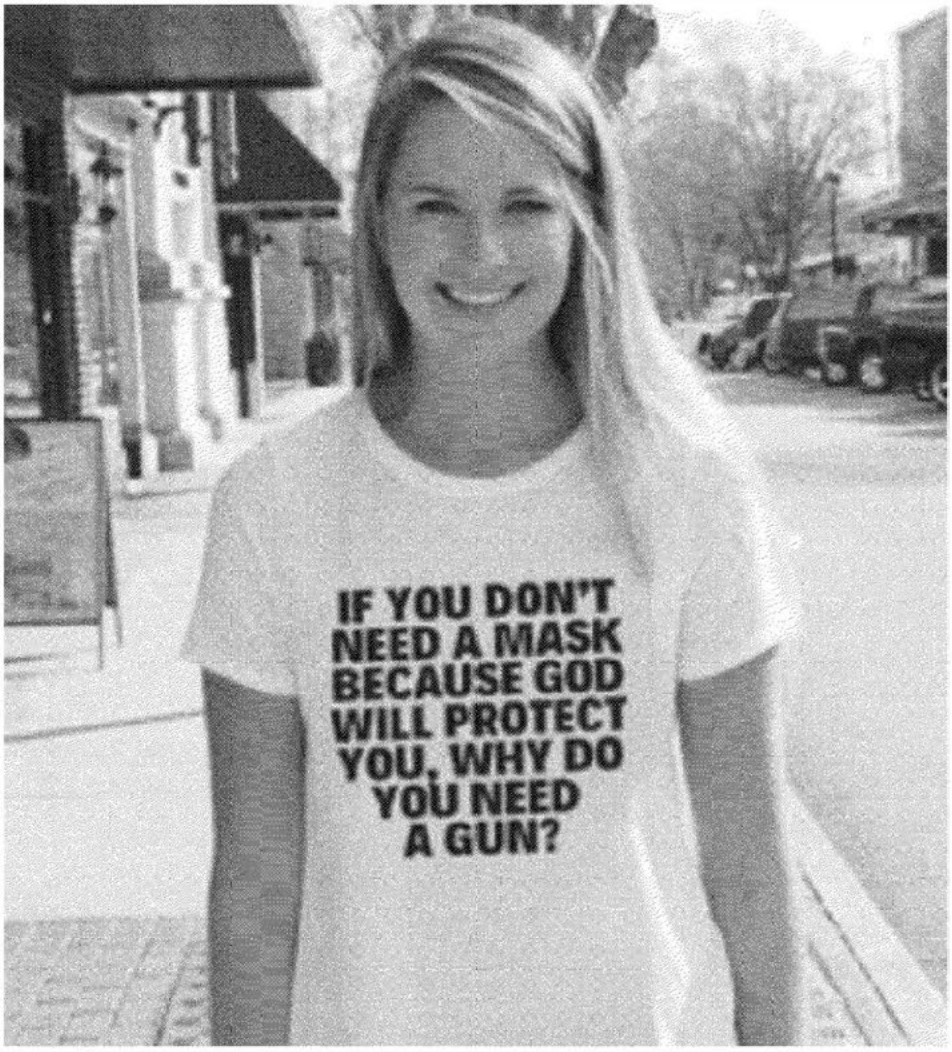
MORENS_NIH_032080
REL0000478406



Richard J. Roberts
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USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:53 AM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_015254
MORENS_NIH_032081
REL0000478406

Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) ; David Morens <
(b) (6) Gerald Keusch (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6)

Subject: Marjorie Taylor-Greene on the COVID 'investigation'

EXTERNAL SENDER

I think the news that Marjorie Taylor-Greene will be on the panel 'investigating' the origins of COVID-19 is actually a good thing. It instantly reveals it for what it is – a Republican witch hunt targeting Fauci and Biden by pushing anti-science conspiracy theories.

It's going to be hard to answer questions as a scientist when you have someone who doesn't believe in evolution – just check out her Wikipedia page! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marjorie_Taylor_Greene

Evolution

Greene has said that she does not accept the scientific fact of evolution, calling it a "type of so-called science" and saying: "I don't believe in evolution. I believe in God."[265][266]

Er… that could be a problem, considering we're watching these viruses evolve, in real-time, in our own population!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:50 AM
Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) David Morens <
(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Rich Roberts <
(b) (6)

Subject: McCarthy taps GOP members to investigate Covid policies - POLITICO

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MORENS_NIH_032082
REL0000478406

https://www.politico.com/news/2023/01/24/mccarthy-_gop-covid-panel-mtg-00079351

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor
Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty
Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b) (6)

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: (b) (6) riano | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:
(b) (6)

Date: Thu, 12 Aug 2021 12:55:08 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 12 Aug 2021 12:53:08 PM -0400
Subject: Another paper - in press - Rat CoV with polybasic cleavage site in the spike protein
From: Peter Daszak <
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; JVI01173-21R1-Merged_PDF.pdf

Please share.

These were rats sampled at wildlife farms in S. China under USAID PREDICT funding. 2 Beta-CoVs and an alpha-. One of the beta-covs has a furin cleavage site in the S Protein. It's not bats and SARS-CoV-2, but it adds to the argument that Eddie's paper makes (and others before that), that these insertions are not so uncommon in CoVs in nature.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 12:26 PM
'Keusch, Gerald T'(b) (6) 'David Morens'(b) (6) Robert Kessler <
(b) (6)
Subject: RE: CNN: Intel officials draft classified report as they near finish of 90-day Covid probe https://cnn.it/2Ub2xO7
Importance: High

Here's a not-quite-finished draft of the paper. Please share with your colleagues at NIAID.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021473
MORENS_NIH_042349
REL0000478414

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; David Morens (b) (6) Robert Kessler <(b) (6)
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 <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:23 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Robert Kessler <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
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.

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.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) <(b) (6) >; Kessler, Robert ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Jerry ((b) (6) (b) (6)
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
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
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.

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

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Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

From: Kramer, Laura D (HEALTH) <(b) (6)
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 - 018952
MORENS_NIH_033570
REL0000478415

Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

From: (b) (6)
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] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Charles H Calisher <(b) (6)
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.....

7/11
12:11pm

Subject: RE: Perspective
From: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" <(b) (6) (b) (6)
Date: 7/10/2020, 12:11 PM
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <(b) (6) "taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD" <(b) (6)
CC: "Alison Jaeb (b) (6) <(b) (6)

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] <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) ; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) ; taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD <(b) (6)
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

Subject: RE: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Kilmarx, Peter (NIH/FIC) [E]" <(b) (6)
Date: 7/11/2020, 6:14 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) "Glass, Roger (NIH/FIC) [E]" <(b) (6)
CC: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <(b) (6) "Puderbaugh, Ann (NIH/FIC) [E]" <(b) (6) h.gov>, "Singh, Mantra (NIH/FIC) [E]" <(b) (6)

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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 5:41 PM
To: Glass, Roger (NIH/FIC) [E] <(b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) ; Kilmarx, Peter (NIH/FIC) [E] (b) (6) Puderbaugh, Ann (NIH/FIC) [E] (b) (6) Singh, Mantra (NIH/FIC) [E] <(b) (6)
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

7/11
1:43 PM

Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <(b) (6)
Date: 7/11/2020, 1:43 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" <(b) (6) "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)

Beautiful, David. Two minors and query about the map.

1. Title page Joel G. Breman
2. p21, top incomplete para. "Pandemic prevention...on 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 (b) (6) 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) (b) (6) 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] (b) (6)
> > Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 5:37 PM
> > To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases (b) (6) se Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) aub ettery K. Taubenberger MD PhD (b) (6)
> > 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 - 018956
MORENS_NIH_033574
REL0000478415

7/12
10/3 a

-----Original Message-----
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) ; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6)
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
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] (b) (6) >
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:44 AM
To: David Morens(b) (6)
Cc: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6) ; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al

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2. p21, top incomplete para. "Pandemic prevention...on 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?

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Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

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Phil

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Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6) Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD (b) (6) >
Subject: Perspectives from Morens et al

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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 - 018958

MORENS_NIH_033576
REL0000478415

9/12
4:40pm

Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <(b) (6)
Date: 7/12/2020, 4:14 PM
To: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" (b) (6) Karen Goraleski <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6) "Siegel, Cathi (Oct 00)" <(b) ((b) (6)

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) (b) (6) 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] (b) (6)
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:03 AM
> To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) <(b) (6) ; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6)
> Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> 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 - 018959
MORENS_NIH_033577
REL0000478415

7/12
8:18 PM

Subject: RE: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" <(b) (6)
Date: 7/12/2020, 8:18 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
CC: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <(b) (6) "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)

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 (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
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) (b) (6) 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] (b) (6)
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:01 PM
> To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6) Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6)
> Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et a
>
> 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

NIH 57707 - 018960
MORENS_NIH_033578
REL0000478415

7/13

Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et al
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
Date: 7/13/2020, 6:43 AM
To: "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" <(b) (6)
CC: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <(b) (6) "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)

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) (b) (6) 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 (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) (b) (6)
Cc: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6) a benberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
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

(b) (6) Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases) 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] (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases (b) (6) Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] (b) (6)
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Perspectives from Morens et

NIH 57707 - 018961
MORENS_NIH_033579
REL000478415

Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

From: Edward Holmes <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 12:07 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Peter Daszak; Kessler, Robert ((b) (6) Rich Roberts ((b) (6)
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 (b) (6)
E

On 13 Aug 2021, at 1:56 pm, Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) 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 (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [(b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6) ; Kessler, Robe (b) (6) ; Rich Roberts
Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/0HEfCYW8NocL1yD8gCOcc7x?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 (b) (6)
E

On 13 Aug 2021, at 9:42 am, Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) 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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 7:20 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) ; Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Kessler, Robert (b) (6)
Rich Roberts (b) (6)
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 (b) (6)
E

On 13 Aug 2021, at 5:29 am, Keusch, Gerald T(b) (6) 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(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) v>
Cc: Peter Daszak(b) (6) >; Kessler, Robert (Rich Roberts (b) (6))
Subject: RE: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?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 (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, Augus
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
(b) (6) eusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Kessler. Robert (b) (6)
(b) (6) ; Rich Roberts (b) (6)

Subject: Re: CNN: Exclusive: Intel agencies scour reams of genetic data from Wuhan lab in Covid origins hunt https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xCyoCvl1rKi7NAywGIQWvWo?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] (b) (6) 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
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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<image002.jpg>

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]
(
b
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.

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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

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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

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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."

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"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.

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Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

›m:	Peter Daszak < (b) (6)
›ent:	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
.ew York, NY 10018-6507
USA

NIH 57707 - 018973

MORENS_NIH_033591
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Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

..coHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:35 PM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Jerry (b) (6) >;
Robert Kessler (b) (6) 'Roberts, Rich' (b) (6)
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.

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Through a grant to non-profit EcoHealth Alliance, the NIH funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology to study how bat viruses could infect humans.

Collins said the research didn't meet the technical definition of so-called gain-of-function research.

The director of the National Institutes of Health said Monday it appears Covid-19 originated from an animal, but he didn't rule out the possibility that scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology were secretly studying it and that it could have leaked out from there.

It's still unknown if the virus leaked out of a Wuhan lab, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins said Monday in an interview on CNBC's "Squawk Box," adding that the World Health Organization's investigation into the origin of the coronavirus has gone "backwards."

"The vast evidence from other perspectives says no, this was a naturally occurring virus," Collins said. "Not to say that it could not have been under study secretly at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and got out of there, we don't know about that. But the virus itself does not have the earmarks of having been created intentionally by human work."

The WHO investigation has been made harder by China's refusal to participate, says Collins.

"I think China basically refused to consider another WHO investigation and just said 'nope not interested'," Collins told CNBC's Squawk Box.

"Wouldn't it be good if they'd actually open up their lab books and let us know what they were actually doing there and find out more about those cases of people who got sick in November of 2019 about which we really don't know enough," Collins said.

U.S. intelligence reports first reported by the Wall Street Journal indicated that in November 2019, three workers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill with symptoms similar to those seen in Covid-19 infections, a report that China said was "completely untrue."

About three months ago, President Joe Biden initiated an investigation of his own and gave his intelligence community 90 days to further the investigation the virus' origins and report the findings. The deadline is Tuesday.

"It will be an interesting week because tomorrow is the day of the 90-day deadline that President Biden set for the intelligence community to do all their poking around that they could to see if they could come up with anymore insight as to how this virus got started in China," Collins said.

Most of the information gathered will likely remain classified, but some information from the report will be released, according to Collins.

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"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."

Sneers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 5:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry (b) (6)

NIH 57707 - 018976

MORENS_NIH_033594
REL0000478415

<(b) (6) ; Kessler, Robert (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Vice: Why China Is Struggling to Make the Lab Leak Theory Go Away

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)
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.

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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.

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But the Chinese government would not feel comfortable with this degree of transparency. The Communist Party leadership is used to conducting investigations and making decisions behind closed doors, and sees the call for openness as a political threat.

That is not atypical in China's crisis management," Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, told VICE World News. "The U.S. could push for more transparency, but they fail to recognize that the lack of transparency itself is part of the authoritarian governance in the country."

This mindset could hurt China's reputation—the pandemic is not a small crisis but one that has upended almost everyone's life. "Even if the virus is caused by a natural spillover event," Huang said, "when you don't show transparency, when you are perceived as unwilling to share the data, people naturally will think you have something to hide."

The Chinese government has remained intransigent to the mounting calls for more transparency.

At the press conference last month, Chinese officials said they were "shocked" to hear about WHO's proposal for fresh audits into Chinese labs, adding the suggestion indicated "disrespect for common sense and an arrogant attitude toward science."

The same month, state media quoted a Facebook post by a self-claimed Swiss biologist named Wilson Edwards as saying that researchers faced intimidation from the U.S. for supporting the WHO-China origin-tracing study. The Swiss embassy said no such person exists.

It's unclear whether the U.S. intelligence probe, which was condemned by Chinese state media as a "political witch-hunt," would yield anything more than circumstantial evidence.

By the time a preliminary report was drafted, the intelligence community was still divided over the lab leak theory and the natural origin one, CNN reported this month. The outlet cited a source as saying that the draft contained "nothing too earth shattering."

In September 2019, the Wuhan Institute of Virology shut off public access to its database, which holds thousands of genetic sequences of bat coronaviruses it studied.

Shi Zhengli, director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the institute, said the online database was shut down after cyberattacks—believe it or not, that's the answer to ex-CDC director Robert Redfield's first question. But almost two years later, the database remains offline. It's no wonder that people are asking questions.

Follow Alan Wong and Viola Zhou on Twitter.

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Date: Mon, 8 Aug 2022 4:02:26 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 8 Aug 2022 4:02:12 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Reporter request for comment
From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <
To: Peter Daszak < Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Gerald T Keusch <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)

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

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Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org>
Date: August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Reporter request for comment

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?

On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <emily@usrtk.org> wrote:
Dr. Hotez,

I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.

The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.

Questions:

1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted $1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?

2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--

Emily Kopp
Reporter
U.S. Right to Know
Signal: (b) (6)

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_009349
MORENS_NIH_019811
REL0000478416

Date:	Thu, 18 Feb 2021 10:22:54 PM -0500
Sent:	Thu, 18 Feb 2021 10:22:51 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" <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak < >; David Morens <(b) (6) >;
CC:	Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.png

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 <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

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

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USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: lthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, Fe(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak >; David Morens (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_012473
MORENS_NIH_023717
REL0000478420

Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Importa : Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Thanks Peter,

Thanks for the update. I would be happy to be a Tony Whisperer when the time is right. It's a bit hard for me to interpret the NIH speak and the actions to follow will provide the necessary clarification. I too hope this is now history. However, my sense also tells me that until there is a public disclosure that will preclude any precedent arising from this terrible episode at NIH I don't think we can just rest easy.

Were you in touch with Rich Roberts? Keep me in the loop.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, Februa
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Important 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

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MORENS_NIH_023718
REL0000478420

USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:39
To: 'Stemmy, Erik (NI (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6) ; 'Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]' (b) (6) (b) (6)
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

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +1-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Garcia-Malene, Gorka (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:20:51 PM
To: Matthew R.Torsiello
Cc: Nels T. Lippert; Andrew N. Krinsky; Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E]; NIH FOIA
Subject: [EXT] FW: FOIA Case No. 55702 re: EcoHealth Alliance & Grant No. R01AI110964-6

Good afternoon, Mr. Torsiello –

I'd like to insert myself into the unfolding FOIA conversation in hopes of providing some helpful context. Our records show that

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this competing renewal has in fact been funded. In addition, any indication from my program that there is an ongoing investigation into WIV can now be disregarded, as we recently confirmed there are no pending investigations into that organization. If we can agree on the above, all that would remain is to receive your proposed redactions to the records sought under the FOIA request.

Please let me know if there are any questions. I look forward to facilitating the Pre-Disclosure Notification process as efficiently as possible.

Best regards.

Gorka Garcia-Malene |FOIA Officer for the National Institutes of Health

From: Matthew R. Torsiello(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >
Cc: Nels T. Lippert <(b) (6) >; Andrew N. Krinsky <(b) (6) >
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_012476
MORENS_NIH_023720
REL0000478420

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:(b) (6) | F:(b) (6)
(b) (6) | Bio

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP
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www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn
COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER

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Date: Mon, 27 May 2024 4:32:02 PM -0400
Subject: Re: FW: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)

Peter:

I received this feedback from Marcia McNutt.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant (b) (6)
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: McNutt, Marcia K. <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 1:01 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Document summarizing our response to the HHS debarment allegations
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing this document. I don't know Peter personally, so don't understand how he wants to present himself and EcoHealth to the politicians. As we all have seen, politicians purposefully come across as combative, like to speak in sound bites, and take much liberty with the facts. As a scientist, my personal style is to stick to the facts, insist that others stick to those facts, and admit when and where science cannot answer questions. The way this statement is written, it tends towards giving the politicians a taste of their own medicine, so to speak, by stating in absolute terms topics that are more nuanced. For example:

"Many of the claims levied against EcoHealth Alliance are built on the false assumption that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology because of a lab leak during research supported by the NIH under a subgrant from EcoHealth Alliance: There is not a scintilla of scientific evidence for this narrative. "

I probably would have stated this differently. The failure to find the SARS-COV2 virus in nature has been the primary support for the lab leak hypothesis. So I think stating that "there is not a scintilla of scientific evidence" is overstated, and could bring trouble. The epidemiology of the disease does suggest origin at the market, but without the cooperation of the Chinese, we will not solve this problem. I am sure that many interpret the lack of cooperation by the Chinese as "proof" that they engineered the disease, even if by mistake.

The rest of the statement follows in similar vein, by showing anger and frustration. (And believe me, I can

completely relate to why Peter is so frustrated!) But emotion tends to detract from the impression that this is a fact-based rebuttal. I guess I would have just made the same points more dispassionately. e.g. Debarment is not an appropriate action in this case based on government regulations. The timing of the request for data and notebooks was too late, and by that time political tensions virtually guaranteed that they would not be forthcoming as distrust was evident on both sides (Chinese and US). etc.

Please note that these comments are just based on my personal experience with Congress. Peter can take or leave.

One strategy I used to use with Congress was to meet privately with the Members prior to my testimony. For those likely to be in opposition to my case, I would explain in great detail to them and in terms they can understand why they should back off or change their minds. For those likely to be sympathetic to my case, I would feed them questions to ask. I remember one case when I was testifying for the USGS budget, and the proposal had been to zero out the Earthquake Research Grants to universities, a program in place for many decades. I had one Member ask me whether these grants had any impact in the past. That gave me the opening to tell the story of a young Stanford grad student from France whose research funding had run out, and he was going to have to return to France. The USGS stepped in, supported the student, and he used the funds to conduct a strong ground motion mapping of the Bay Area to predict what areas were most vulnerable to earthquake shaking and sediment liquification. Three years later, the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred, and basically validated all of the microzonation shaking that the map had predicted. The student was able to stay in the US, finish his degree, obtain US citizenship, and at the time of my testimony was President of Caltech. All of the money for the earthquake research grants was restored by Congress as a result of that testimony, and no funds were taken out elsewhere.

Peter needs an opportunity to talk about all of the good that the EcoHealth Alliance has done, and needs to create an opening to tell that story.

Hope this is helpful. Have a great Memorial Day!

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS
Dr. Marcia K McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences
Mailing Address | Physical location:
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418
(b) (6) (office) | (b) (6) (cell)
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On May 25, 2024, at 1:10 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Marcia:

Here is a draft of a document that Peter Daszak is preparing in order to answer the questions from the Congressional sub-committee concerning EcoHealth Alliance. Any comments or advice you might have would be welcome.

There is getting to be increasing concern among the colleagues I speak to about the attacks on Science from politicians and many have expressed a willingness to help with a campaign to counter them. Has any progress been made from your end? I would be happy to talk with you or your communications staff about this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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<Summary of EcoHealth's responses to SSCP and HHS allegations..pdf>

MORENS_NIH_044742
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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:30 PM -0400

Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 12:59:43 PM -0400

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

From: David Morens <(b) (6)

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
240 495 1738 (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 2:02 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, De(b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Aleksei Chmur >; David Morens
<(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio
<(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

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Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C668406220fe0433f53f208db8a0bfbf0%7C14b77578977342d585C
&sdata=9ofI4r%2FYlOYItkn9ccISbbSC2pxQnHr56hnVry7D8Ng%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6)
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C668406220fe0433f53f208db8a0bfbf0%7C14b77578977342d585C
&sdata=jFjYru1h1det7Gbm4DRAr7T%2F3roZ98Bxyjjwaxkpo1o%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

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Media Inquiries:

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iPhone

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Date:	Thu, 19 May 2022 5:48:01 PM -0400
Sent:	Thu, 19 May 2022 5:47:52 PM -0400
Subject:	RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image020.jpg

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
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USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning…it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues…

Cheers,

Peter

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MORENS_NIH_021963
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio <J (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

  "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis." BS – that's what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

  "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

  "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown." BS – all 'viruses' collected from the field have been published already.

  "These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)" BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It's all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn't bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

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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

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T < (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
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University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

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On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) > wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

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Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) Jeffrey (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <
(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid- lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

Blue/Bloomberg via Getty Images

JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner

May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

IN AN ARTICLE published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

"We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or

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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

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Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



The Coronavirus Crisis

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Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. "For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously," they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC's Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.

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Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic sequences into bat coronaviruses

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happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented "No See'm" method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus "replicated efficiently" in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology's Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill's lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a "mouse-adapted" coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. "The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC," they write.

"The list of coincidences is getting 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,

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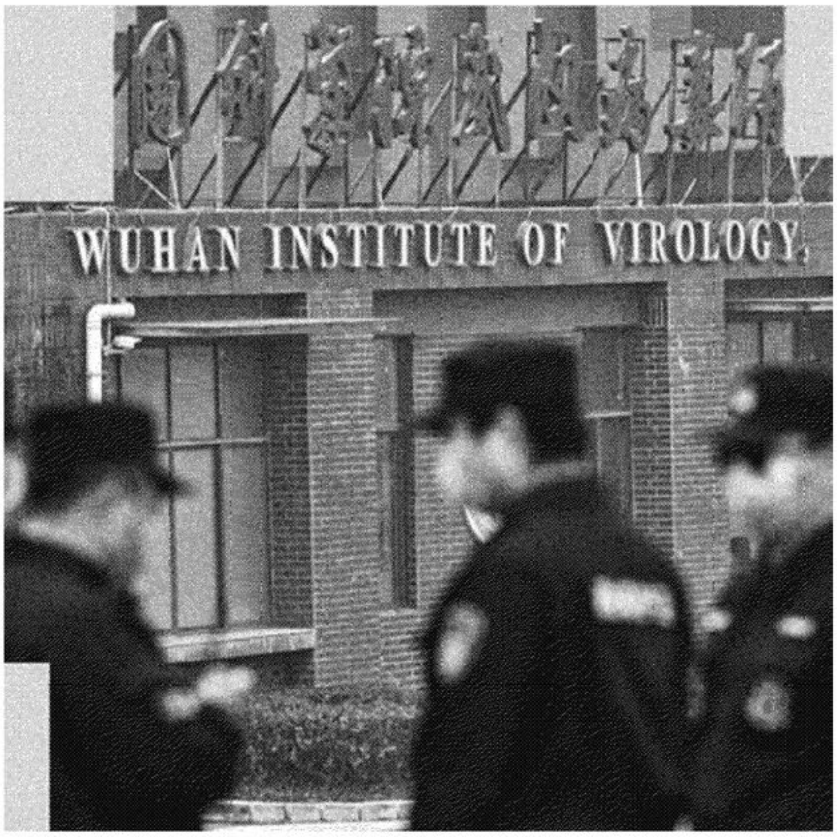
wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. "But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long."

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank "for helpful commentary on the manuscript," spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan's 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.

"The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons," Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) "This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related

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coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons)."

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn't see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. "I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC," he said. "The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. … That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed."

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious,

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coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book "Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19."

"There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been

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purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. "These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences," said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. "There's no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses."

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. "It's possible," Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. "But I don't find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance."

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. "The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR'SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin," Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, "It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question."

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. "You can't argue with that," he told The Intercept. "Who's going to argue for burying one's head in the sand?"

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they're not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only "that it could have been." They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having "knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States" are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the $200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis," they write. "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown."



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a public statement

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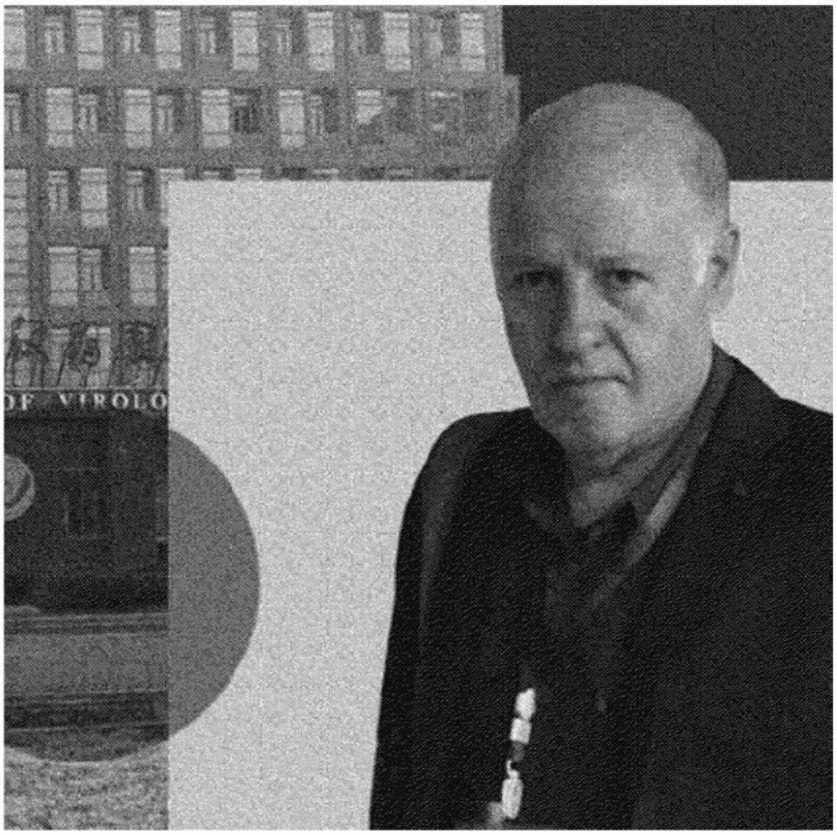
published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they "condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin."



Related

Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic's origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology "deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus." Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to "carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus" in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. "A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency," he and Harrison write

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of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate "overlooked details" such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that "the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by" the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that "blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >; (b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology
Health Policy Scholar
Baylor College of Medicine

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Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs
Texas A&M University
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b) (6)
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Daily Beast Contributor https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Fax: 71

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

*****CAUTION:*** This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

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It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle….

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes…even more reason for the public to not trust scientists…:

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From: Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]
To: Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Emma
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Vir
Subject: RE: FW: Query from New York T
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4:49

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it isn't a
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappear;
I know that Dr. Bloom is making the myst
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted an ar
packages were withdrawn upon request
included one requested by the submitter
the U.S.

1

Thanks,
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

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Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; peter hotez (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]** (b) (6) >
Date: Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists
To: David Morens (b) (6) (6) >

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM

MORENS_SUBPOENA_011206
MORENS_NIH_021986
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To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OCGR Leg < NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By
Steven Nelson
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH "eliminated from public view" the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic "tape drive."

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabek to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabek said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."

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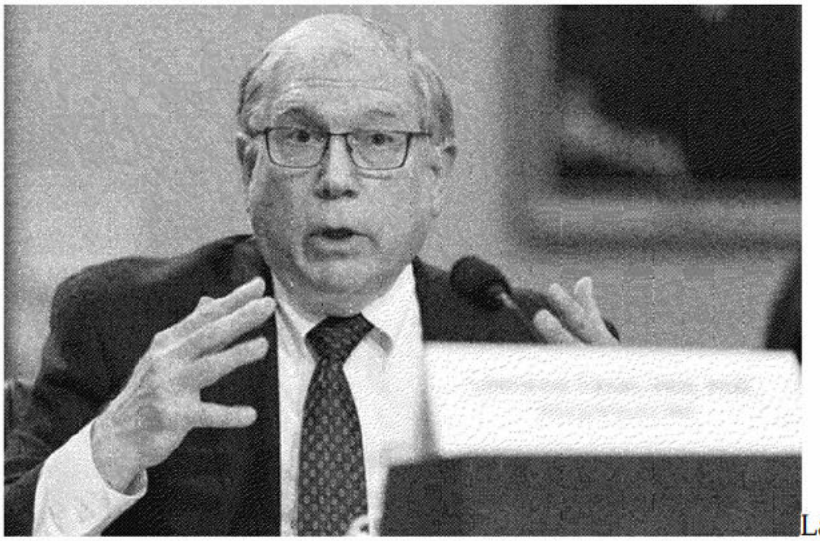
Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

“So wait, you have the information still?” Beutler followed up.

“We have the information … Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed,” Tabak explained. “And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it.”

“So you don’t have the information anymore?” Beutler asked.

“We do. We never erase the information. We keep it,” Tabak clarified.

“So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?” the congresswoman followed up.

“That’s correct,” he said.

“OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?” Beutler asked.

“In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that’s the most difficult for people to access,” Tabak replied. “The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it’s withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that’s how it’s done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information.”



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

"So the information is still there?" Beutler summed up.

"That's correct. The information was never lost," Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom's description of Chinese scientists "surreptitiously" removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was "loaded" and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully.ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE
Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."
China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions. The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.

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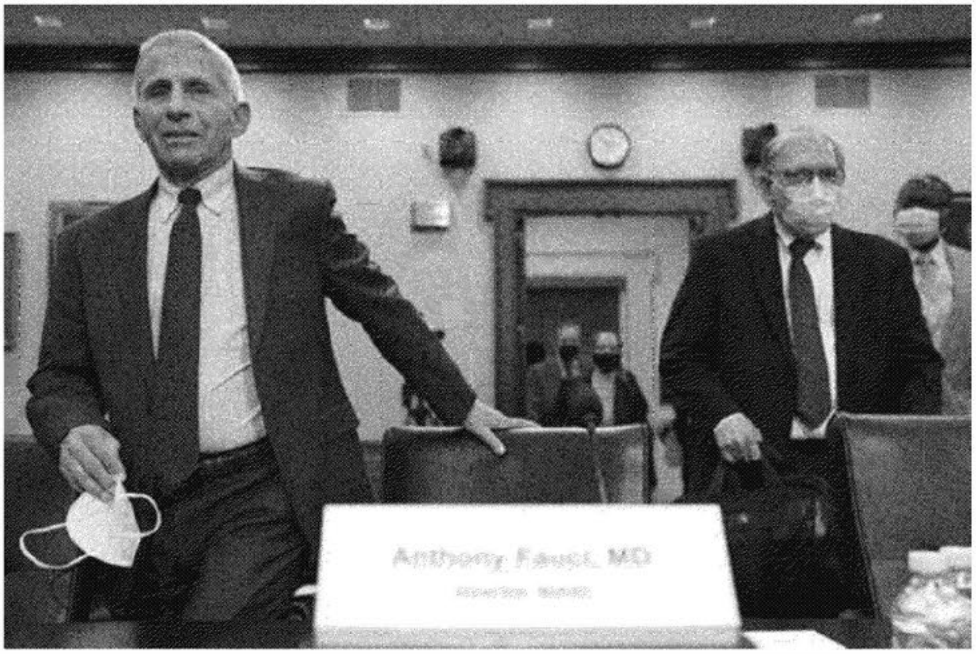

Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay $10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

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Date:	Wed, 17 Apr 2024 12:10:45 PM -0400
Subject:	Fwd: Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process
From:	David Morens <(b) (6)
To:	Peter Daszak <(b) (6) <(b) (6) peter hotez <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) (b) (6) Roberts, Rich Aleksei Cnmura <(b) (6)
Attachments:	image001.png; image001.png

Wow, tell it Luke it is. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]** <(b) (6) >
Date: Wed, Apr 17, 2024, 11:56
Subject: Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process
To:

Ranking Member Ruiz's Opening Statement at Select Subcommittee Hearing on Scientific Journals and the Peer Review Process

April 16, 2024

•

Press Release

Washington, D.C. (April 16, 2024)—Below is Ranking Member Raul Ruiz's, M.D. opening statement, as prepared for delivery, at today's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing examining the peer review process and the relationship between scientific journals and the federal government.



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Opening Statement

Ranking Member Raul Ruiz, M.D.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

Hearing on "Academic Malpractice: Examining the Relationship Between Scientific Journals, the Government, and Peer Review"
April 16, 2024

Scientific journals play an important role in informing the public about the world around us, critical issues facing our nation, and advances in science and medicine.

Since their inception, these journals have placed objectivity at the forefront of their efforts to study, review, and publish articles that advance our research enterprise.

And when a once in a generation pandemic struck our nation in 2020, this was no different.

Despite the Majority's claims, the Select Subcommittee has not uncovered any evidence that directly implicates Drs. Fauci and Collins in a cover up of the pandemic's origins fueled by their collusion with scientific journals to suppress the lab leak hypothesis.

Under the guise of investigating COVID-19's origins, the Majority has continually advanced a conspiratorial narrative against our nation's public health officials relying purely on speculation.

Their probe into federally funded research has spanned more than half a million pages of documents, more than a dozen transcribed interviews, and multiple hearings, and yet it has failed to substantiate any of their claims about Drs. Fauci and Collins or even bring us closer to understanding how COVID came to be.

Instead, it has only further politicized an issue of great importance to our public health and national security, which is not without consequence.

In fact, we're already seeing growing divides when it comes to trust in our nation's institutions and how that influences people's behavior when it comes to protecting their health.

Rebuilding the American people's trust in public health is critical to our ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemics.

And the way we go about that is not by continuing to manufacture distrust in our nation's institutions by amplifying harmful—and often outright false—information about public health or by jumping to conclusions about how this virus emerged when its origins are still inconclusive.

Instead, it is by having honest conversations—that are rooted in fact—about what we can do better in the future.

So, as we begin today's hearing, I want to take a moment to address some of the allegations that have been levied by the Majority over the course of this probe and what the facts of the case have actually told us.

First, my Republican colleagues have alleged that Drs. Fauci and Collins orchestrated the "Proximal Origin" paper to suppress the lab leak theory, despite all evidence to the contrary.

Documents and testimony made available to this committee have repeatedly shown that British scientist Dr. Jeremy Farrar played the lead role in organizing and shepherding the paper through publication.

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And second, my Republican colleagues have alleged that Drs. Fauci and Collins orchestrated a "takedown" of the Great Barrington Declaration.

Dr. Collins testified before this committee that he had privately called for "a quick and devastating published take down of its premises" out of concern for the public's health.

Documents and testimony provided to this committee have never shown that Dr. Collins pressured an NIH employee or scientific journal to "take down" the Great Barrington Declaration.

This committee seems to be forgetting that there is a difference between government speech—which the Supreme Court has previously ruled government entities have a right to —and government coercion, which my Republican colleagues are accusing public health officials of without a shred of evidence.

That aside, I have to say, I'm worried that today's hearing is setting a dangerous precedent—that if Congress doesn't like what you publish, you'll be hauled in before a congressional committee to answer for it.

The fact is, Congress should not be meddling in the peer review process.

And it should not be holding hearings to throw around baseless accusations, especially when there is so much work we can and should be doing to prevent and prepare for future pandemics.

Every minute wasted on spurious conjecture, every sentence spoken amplifying false information, and every hearing spent on unsubstantiated allegations comes at a cost.

And at the end of the day, it will be the American people who will pay the biggest price.

###

Subcommittees

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (118th Congress)

Issues: Coronavirus

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Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 3:59:40 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 7 Apr 2021 3:59:35 PM -0400
Subject: RE: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.
From: "Roberts, Rich" <(b) (6)
To: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >;
CC: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) >;

Jerry:

New to me. I always tr to be a little circumspect with reporters, but I also like to speak frankly to them whenever possible.
Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: EcoHealth and myself feeling the pressure here.

EXTERNAL SENDER

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 (b) (6) > 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,

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021103
MORENS_NIH_041946
REL0000478441

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: (b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

---

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:25 AM
To: 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' (b) (6) ; 'Roberts, Rich' <(b) (6) 'Keusch, Jerry' < (b) (6)
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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021104
MORENS_NIH_041947
REL0000478441

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websit lthalliance.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, Ma M
To: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Peter Daszak (b) (6)
>
Subject: Fwd: FW: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Guys, see below..... The Biden admin apparently won't let any of us at NIH, including Tony, discuss the WHO report....

On the surface this sounds bad, but there is the possibility they just want one org to manage the message because they are trying to put out a fire. Or am I just Pollyanna? d

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: FW: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 17:43:09 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
To: David Morens ((b) (6) <(b) (6) >

<image001.gif>

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) 5) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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MORENS_SUBPOENA_021105
MORENS_NIH_041948
REL0000478441

<image002.jpg>

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E](b) (6)
Cc: NIAID OCGR NSWB <NIAIDOCGRNSWB@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: (FYI only): Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Hi Dr. Morens –

For your awareness (and in case she also reaches out to you directly), Mariana Lenharo followed up today on her request to speak with you or another NIAID expert about the WHO report, which as you know came out today. We've been asked to refer requests for comment about the report to the National Security Council, and we will be directing her there.

Best,
Hillary

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:57 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Thanks for the background! Once we know what the WHO report says, we'll be better poised to make decisions about how to handle requests to discuss it… as you note, it is a bit of a hot issue.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:46
To: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - Poss

That's fine, although I think she wants me because I spoke to her before, and because I published the major paper dealing with it, along with Breman at FIC and ex-FIC director Keusch, and other authors.

Also, just off the record, we may want to not give this to Tony as he has been unfairly criticized over some of the issues. It could be a hot subject for him….d

From: Hoffman, Hillary (NIH/NIAID) [E](b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 11:08 A
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Origin of COVID-19 - P

Hi Dr. Morens,

Thanks for sending. I'll write back to this reporter and ask her to send a fresh request to the press office once the WHO report is available – we can at that time better assess whether it makes sense for you or another NIAID expert to speak with the media about it.

Best,
Hillary

Hillary Hoffman, Ph.D., Writer/Editor
Office of Communications and Government Relations, NIAID, NIH
5601 Fishers Lane #6G38
Rockville, MD 20852
(b) (6)

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E](b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021106
MORENS_NIH_041949
REL0000478441

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:26 PM
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Origin of COVID-19 - Possible Interview

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Mariana Lenharo <(b) (6) >
> **Date:** March 16, 2021 at 18:21:42 EDT
> **To:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6) >
> **Subject: Origin of COVID-19 - Possibl**
>
> Dear Dr. Morens,
>
> I hope you are doing well. It's been a few months since we spoke for the article on the origins of SARS-CoV-2.
>
> Now, as the WHO mission to study the origins of the virus is about to publish their report, I'm planning to write a new article on the topic to analyze the mission's conclusions.
>
> I was wondering if you would be available for a new interview on this topic once the full report is published (it should be either this week or the next one).
>
> I'm very interested to get a sense of how the scientific community is evaluating the mission's effort into finding the origin of SARS-CoV-2.
>
> Thank you so much,
>
> **Mariana Lenharo**
> Science and Health Journalist
> T (b) (6) | (b) (6)
> Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 11:02 AM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

> Thanks, you did a great job!
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> ● (b) (6) assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> ● (b) (6)
> ● (b) (6)
>
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REL0000478441

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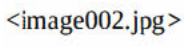


From: Mariana Lenharo (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:1
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Dear Dr. Morens,

The story for which I interviewed you was published this morning. Here is the link:
https://elemental.medium.com/why- covid-19s-origin-story-is-still-a-mystery-46b0b336f122

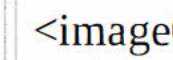
Thank you again for the collaboration and I hope to be able to interview you again for future stories.

Kind regards,

Mariana

On Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 1:07 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) wrote:

I will be at (b) (6) my cell.... ty



David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)

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From: Mariana Lenharo <(b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 2:4
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin W: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens

Thank you, Dr. Morens. How about we schedule the call for tomorrow, Wednesday, at 12:30?

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MORENS_NIH_041951
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Should I reach you at your office number ((b) (6)

Thank youvery much!

Best,

Mariana

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 3:04 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

> Mariana, it looks like I have tomorrow from about 1215 to 130
>
> Late Thu might work after 4 or 5, not sure when earlier meeting will be done.
>
> Friday looks good except about 1 to about 4
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> (b) (6)
> (b) (6)
>
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>
> <image002.jpg>
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo (b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Tuesday, Septembe
> **To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
> **Subject:** Re: FW: approved RE: (Origin of COVID-19 article) FW: Possible interview - Dr. David M. Morens
>
> Dear Dr. Morens,
>
> Thank you so much for getting back to me. I have a pretty open schedule in the next few days. These are the timesI'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 ofthose work for you and how would you prefer to be contacted at that time.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Mariana Lenharo
Sc Jo
T. (b) (6) (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 1:03 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) > wrote:

> Hi Mariana,
>
> Our media office indicated you would like to speak to me at some point this week. Let me know when. I am always busy and moving between various offices and meetings, bu5t I do have spaces of free time here and there. In general, mid afternoons, eg, from 130 until 330 or later, are not good….
>
> TY
>
> <image001.gif>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service
> Senior Advisor to the Director
> Office of the Director
> National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
> National Institutes of Health
> Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> (b) (6) (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
> (b) (6)
> (b) (6)
>
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>
> <image002.jpg>
>
> **From:** Mariana Lenharo (b) (6) >
> **Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 2:30 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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_021110
MORENS_NIH_041953
REL0000478441

Elemental (https://elemental.medium.com/), a Medium publication focused on science-backed health coverage.

As I was reading about this topic, I came across this very interesting article, "The Origin of COVID-19 and Why It Matters" and I'd love to interview one of the authors, Dr. David M. Morens. This would be a 20-30-minute interview by phone/skype/zoom preferably this week. Please let me know if you think this would be possible.

Thank you very much!

Kind regards,

Mariana Lenharo
Science and Health Journalist
T. (b) (6) | (b) (6)
Email | Twitter | LinkedIn | Portfolio

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Date: Tue, 8 Jun 2021 12:16:55 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 8 Jun 2021 12:15:36 PM -0400
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6)
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

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.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich (b) (6) >
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6) Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6) gov>; Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6)
Subject: RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter:

I would be happy to write to these funders if you think it might help

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (b) (6) 6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016920
MORENS_NIH_035076
REL0000478448

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Keusch, Jerry <(b) (6) Roberts, Rich <
(b) (6)
Subject: We've lost two significant funders this week
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing.

We're getting mounting damage at EcoHealth. One of our corporate funders has pulled out because of the news (Swiss Re). They donated $30K per year and I talked with the senior execs about pandemic risk.

We heard today that our brand new 3-year Gates Foundation grant for One Health work in India will now be "re-assigned". They're telling us they'll still fund us, but I think they're just being polite. This is a loss of $500K per year.

I'm extremely worried right now. People's jobs, careers, reputations are on the line, not just mine – the Gates grant is Jon Epstein's.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak ((b) (6)) <(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

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016921
MORENS_NIH_035077
REL0000478448

David

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
(b) (6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)
(b) (6)

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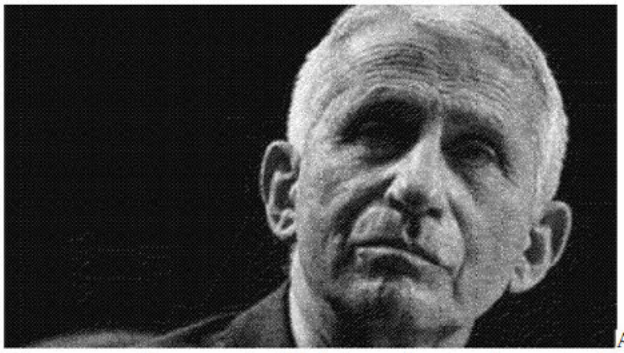
From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:47 AM
Subject: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab | Opinion

BY ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
JUNE 08, 2021 09:13 AM,
UPDATED 19 MINUTES AGO

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016922
MORENS_NIH_035078
REL0000478448



Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the coronavirus likely jumped species, from animal to human. *GETTY IMAGES*

Former President Trump, perhaps trying to divert attention from his own disastrous handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, is now lashing out against Dr. Anthony Fauci for allegedly failing to seriously consider that the virus might have originated from China's Wuhan

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MORENS_NIH_035079
REL0000478448

lab, rather than from an animal's transmission to humans.

But judging from what Fauci told me in a June 4 interview, the most respected U.S. infectious diseases expert has not yet seen any convincing evidence that the virus may have escaped from a Chinese lab.

Fauci, who heads the U.S. National

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016924
MORENS_NIH_035080
REL0000478448

Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and is a top medical adviser to President Biden, said, “It is more likely” that — much like SARS, ebola, influenza and HIV — COVID-19 “originated from an animal reservoir and jumped species to humans.” He added, “There’s the possibility that it came from the lab,

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MORENS_NIH_035081
REL0000478448

but I believe that that's a much less likely possibility."

In the interview, scheduled to be aired Sunday , June 13 n "Oppenheimer Presenta" on CNN en Español, Fauci said that it's "important" to try to find out the exact origin of the pandemic, so that we can prevent it from happening again.

Biden has asked U.S. intelligence agencies to investigate the origins of COVID-19 and come back with a report before the end of August.

Asked how the investigation into the source of the virus should be conducted, Fauci said that the World Health Organization has indicated that it will go back to China to continue its investigation.

"I think it needs to be done in a collegial

way, with the collaboration of the Chinese scientists, because you're going to have to have cooperation and do it in a way that you can best get the information," he said.

Regarding his emails obtained by BuzzFeed and the Washington Post through the Freedom Of Information Act, Fauci told me that his

MORENS_SUBPOENA_016927
MORENS_NIH_035083
REL0000478448

critics
“cherrypick
things
out
of
context”
when
they
claim
that
he
knew
more
than
he
was
saying
publicly
about
the
possibility
that
the
virus
came
out
of
a
Chinese
lab.

Stressing
that
he
never
totally
discarded
the
lab
theory
—
though
he
never
thought
it
was
a
major
possibility
—
Fauci
added

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MORENS_NIH_035084
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that, “I think what has increased is the interest, not necessarily the evidence.”

Right-wing media have had a field day with the Fauci emails, claiming that he was alerted about the “lab theory” early on and allegedly failed to take it seriously. Much of their claims are based on a Jan.

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31, 2020, email, in which infectious-disease expert Kristian Andersen wrote to Fauci that some of the virus' features "[potentially] looked engineered."

But what most right-wing media fail to mention is that, a few weeks later, Andersen concluded, upon further investigation, that the "lab theory" was implausible. So the criticism that Fauci was wrongfully hiding the "lab theory" from the public does not hold up.

Of course, Trump now is trying to paint Fauci as the culprit for the fact that America holds the world's record for COVID-19 deaths in

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absolute numbers. In a mass email on June 3, Trump claimed that "President Trump was right about the China Virus coming from the Wuhan Lab," and suggested that Fauci was defending China.

But, until we see any hard evidence that COVID-19 emerged from the Wuhan lab, Trump's accusations should be seen

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as just another attempt to bypass science and divert public attention from the COVID-19 deaths caused by his failure to tackle the pandemic.

Remember, Trump knew early on that COVID would be deadly — he is on tape telling author Bob Woodward this in February 2020 — but chose to lie

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to the American people for fear that it would ruin his re-election chances. What's more, Trump consistently refused to wear a mask or preach social distance, as scientists were recommending.

As I wrote at the time

Trump neglected his main duty — to protect the American people.

Granted, investigations

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into the origins of COVID-19 are justified and should continue. And there's no question that China's dictatorship is responsible for its delay in alerting the world about the deadly virus as soon as it started.

But barring solid evidence that the virus originated from a Chinese lab, Trump remains the villain

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—
and
Fauci
the
hero.

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Date: Wed, 30 Jun 2021 2:55:16 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 30 Jun 2021 2:55:04 PM -0400
Subject: Re: quote of the day…. i can't resist
From: Karen Siatras <(b) (6)
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >;

I'd like to see any one of them TRY to pick their own fucking cotton.

On Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 2:49 PM Karen Siatras (b) (6) > wrote:
That's OK; it's not every day that my inbox is filled with notes from luminaries, after all.

I wish they would Build That Wall --- right around the middle of the country -- and let the crazies do their thing without bothering the rest of us.

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 9:01 PM David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:
Oops sorry for copying you on more than one of these emails with the science luminaries

You see, we are normal, depraved people, after all. d

Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH
Begin forwarded message:

From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: June 29, 2021 at 19:51:14 EDT
To: "Hotez, Peter Jay" <(b) (6) >
Cc: Siatras Siatras <(b) (6) >, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch (b) (6) >
Subject **e day…. i can't resist**

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 <(b) (6) > 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: (b) (6)
Twitter:
Skype: (b) (6)
Linkedin Peter Hotez
Amazon Author Center: https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48
Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/

Executive Assistant: Douglas Soriano
(b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 29, 2021, at 6:16 PM, David Morens (b) (6) > 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: Thu, 23 May 2024 8:12:17 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing
From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
CC: Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)

Jerry and David,

Today in David Morens' hearing, the SSCP asked questions about an email wherein David allegedly assisted me with the reinstatement of my R01. They refer to an email on Oct 24th 2021 in their report here: https://oversight.house.gov/release/new-covid-select-memo-details-allegations-of-wrongdoing-and-illegal-activity-by-dr-faucis-senior-scientific-advisor/

It didn't sound correct to me, so I went through my email records and have located a chain that I began on 10/24/2021, that was me drafting a response to Michael Lauer's questions about the late year 5 report for the grant. This was NOT related to reinstating the grant – at that point, the grant was suspended and we were getting repeated questions about it, and there was not the slightest hint that it would be reinstated.

As you'll see by looking at the 1st email attached above – I send an email to both of you asking for advice on how to word the response to Michael Lauer, because you both are knowledgeable on issues of virology and both have experience with the type of bureaucratic questions I was being asked by NIH Office of the Director. I didn't consider this a conflict for David, because he's not part of the official decision making on this grant – by that time all decisions since 2020 had been overseen by O/D NOT NIAID, and I was under clear instructions to communicate with NIH O/D. I don't think that even Dr. Fauci had any capacity to decide on this.

Despite what's said in the SSCP report, and in David's hearing, I remembered, and it's shown in the email chains above, that David said he would suggest some 'wordsmithing', but in fact DID NOT. The emails clearly show that you spoke with others at NIAID, and that they suggested you should not be involved in this, and in fact you did not edit the letter, or even suggest edits. It's all there in the emails above.

I don't know what value this has now, considering that the public hearing has been and gone, but I felt it was important to share these, in case any of us are asked about them – from what I see, you checked with your superiors and then diplomatically cut yourself out of the editing chain.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: +(b) (6)
Websi[illegible]thalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

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 <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 1:34 PM
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits
To: Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) David Morens <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper amd next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

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Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel (b) (6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b) (6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Cc: Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeff Sturchio <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Peter Daszak
<(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b) (6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b) (6) | Phone: (b) (6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens <(b) (6) > wrote:

CAUTION: This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b) (6)
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens <(b) (6)
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b) (6) >
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

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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

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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

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abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela's campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. "Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we're in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts," she said. "I've been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won."

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Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:39:08 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:38:13 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
From: David Morens <(b) (6)
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: David Morens <(b) (6) >
Date: Fri, Jul 21, 2023 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!
To: David Morens <(b) (6)

David M. Morens, MD
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
(b) (6) (work)
(b) (6) (cell)

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IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 1:11 PM
Subject: RE: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,

Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6) Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >, David Morens <(b) (6) >, Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing 'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still, pretty disturbing to read…

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)

Website:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C133c1960b2774d59454108db8a116207%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=QqyguvfeQNEM1aTB3D2c0KfwsJcwGzNQVW4Rpth1XSk%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; David Morens <(b) (6) >; Gerald Keusch <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) Rich Roberts <(b) (6) >
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

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%7C133c1960b2774d59454108db8a116207%7C14b77578977342d58
&sdata=NwH4wuBv9yL4UySPkZZk83%2BFLwFW8M%2BMqhNr7OChOMY%3D &reserved=0

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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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 Feb 2023 12:46:56 PM -0500
Sent:	Tue, 21 Feb 2023 12:46:35 PM -0500
Subject:	RE: MORE RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?
From:	"Roberts, Rich" <
To:	Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6) Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
CC:	David Morens <(b) (6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >;
Attachments:	image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; mSphere Vol. 8, No. 1, February 2023 is now available online (300 KB).msg

Hi:

There is a very relevant editorial piece
"Virology in Peril and the Greater Risk To Science"

In the attached.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: (b) (6)

Executive Assistant: (b) (6)
Tel: (978) (b) (6)
Fax: (9
email: (b) (6)

From: Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) Alison Andre <(b) (6)
Subject: MORE RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?

EXTERNAL SENDER

I couldn't wait and so prioritized this. My suggested edits and comments are attached.

Jerry

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:59 AM

To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6)
Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Alison Andre <(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?

I'll be happy to join a call. I haven't had a chance to review the revised concept note but I will asap.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 8:59 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio <(b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >; Alison Andre <
(b) (6) >
Subject: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?
Importance: High

Dear all – can we set up a call maybe next week to talk about building a Coalition to protect science.

Alison – could you look at availability for the week beginning Feb 27th or March 6th for us all…

I've also attached a revised version of the Coalition concept note. Jeff re-wrote this following our call and we also reached out to a political consultant to get his input on how this would be perceived from both Dems and moderate Republicans. I added a few comments using track changes. Please feel free to add to this also.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: +(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >

Cc: David Morens (b) (6) Roberts, Rich (b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T (b) (6) ; Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6)
Subject: Re: Update

Fyi Ann Moscona is in NY, a good person for EHA to connect with. She's a superb virologist mostly on respiratory virus pathogenesis and drug development

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

On Feb 1, 2023, at 5:28 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) > wrote:

Awesome to hear that!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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USA

Tel.: +1-212-(b) (6)
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay <(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak <(b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens (b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) Aleksei Chmura (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Baylor University , University Professor

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Texas A&M University , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

From: Peter Daszak (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6) >
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) ; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting
(b) (6)

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)
One tap mobile
(b) (6) US (New York)

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MORENS_NIH_039077
REL0000478480

(b) (6) # US

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Peter Daszak (b) (6)
Cc: David Morens <(b) (6) >; Roberts, Rich <(b) (6) Keusch, Gerald T <(b) (6)
Jeffrey Sturchio (b) (6) >; Aleksei Chmura <(b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

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Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

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Media Inquiries:

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(b) (6)

(b) (6)

iPhone

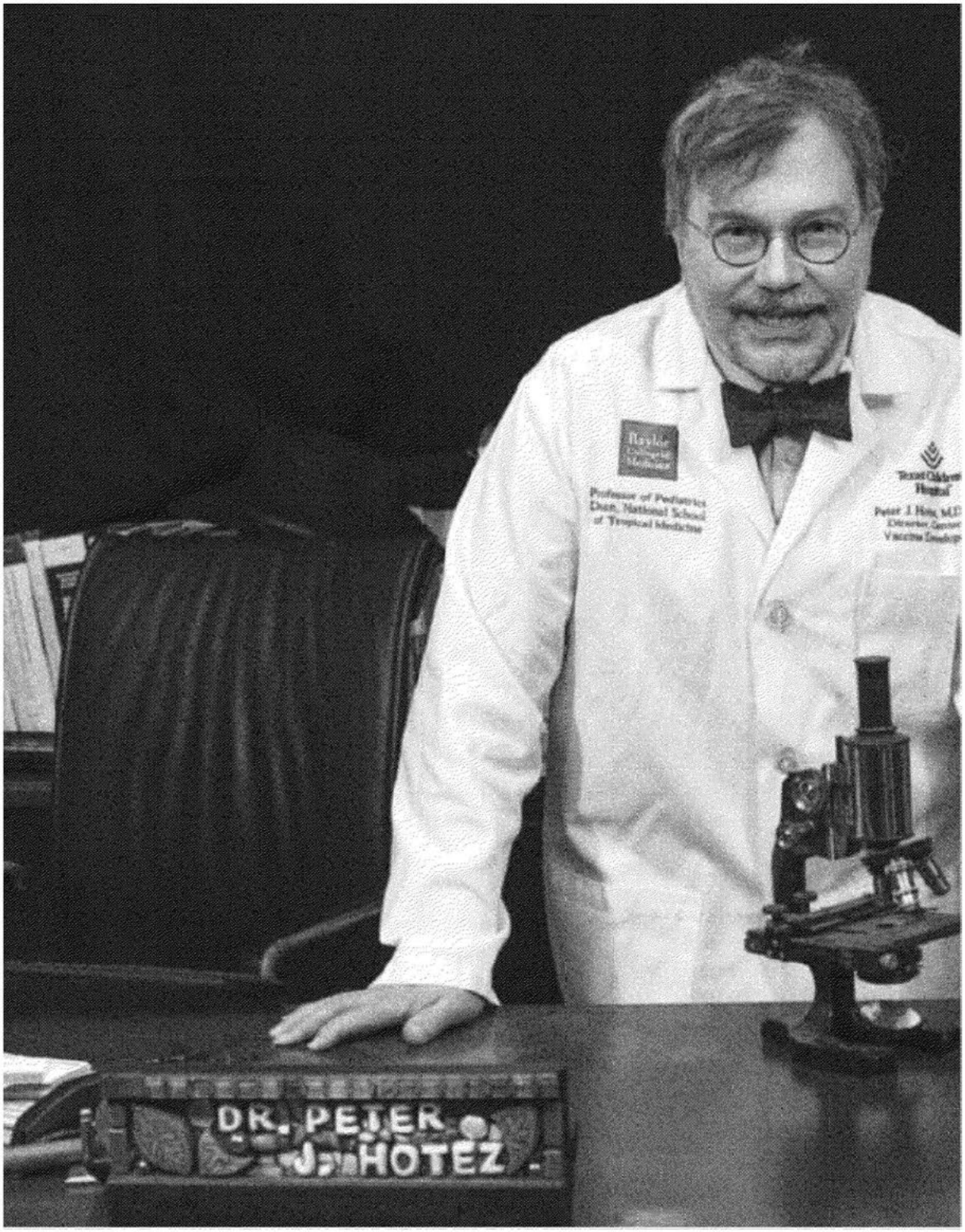
On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b) (6) wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral- spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/

Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce "the COVID-19 misleading information policy." The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

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COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.
Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.
In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.
I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

Sara Goudarzi: You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?
Peter Hotez: Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.
What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.
The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.
The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.
All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

Goudarzi: With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

Hotez: It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

Goudarzi: How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

Hotez: I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

Goudarzi: Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

Hotez: I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

Goudarzi: Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

Hotez: I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

Goudarzi: Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

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