

To: Rusek, Benjamin[BRusek@nas.edu]; 'David Franz'[davidrf Franz@gmail.com]
Cc: Lowenthal, Micah[mlowenth@nas.edu]
From: LeDuc, James W.[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=937DF08E29C4439E88A04BABFFB162AD-JWLEDUC]
Sent: Mon 6/21/2021 10:42:06 AM (UTC-05:00)
Subject: RE: call?
[COVID ASM Forum-What would Jim do Jun21.docx](#)

Attached is the list of questions I mentioned about the ASM session with Diane Griffin and Marcia McNutt. My comments followed these questions closely. I'll share a link to the video when available.

Thanks, Jim

From: Rusek, Benjamin <BRusek@nas.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 10:24 AM
To: 'David Franz' <davidrf Franz@gmail.com>
Cc: Lowenthal, Micah <mlowenth@nas.edu>; LeDuc, James W. <jwleduc@UTMB.EDU>
Subject: RE: call?

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<https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NIH-Investigation-COVID-origins.pdf>

Would be useful to understand how the Kadlec effort will interface with this

Ben

Benjamin Rusek
The U.S. National Academy of Sciences
1-202-334-3975

From: Rusek, Benjamin
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 10:03 AM
To: David Franz <davidrf Franz@gmail.com>
Cc: Lowenthal, Micah <mlowenth@nas.edu>; LeDuc, James W. <jwleduc@utmb.edu>
Subject: RE: call?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/coronavirus-lab-leak-theory/2021/06/20/30b10be2-c3d9-11eb-8c18-fd53a628b992_story.html

Stanley Perlman and David Relman quoted in an article that highlights the NASEM letter from the presidents.

Ben

Benjamin Rusek
The U.S. National Academy of Sciences
1-202-334-3975

From: Rusek, Benjamin <BRusek@nas.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2021 10:08 PM
To: David Franz <davidrf Franz@gmail.com>
Cc: Lowenthal, Micah <mlowenth@nas.edu>; LeDuc, James W. <jwleduc@utmb.edu>
Subject: Re: call?

Yes, I will send out a zoom link with call in numbers that you can use.

On Jun 20, 2021, at 10:06 PM, David Franz <davidrf Franz@gmail.com> wrote:

Suryanarayanan1_TPIA_0002935

Ben, can you just give us an 800 number to call? It looks like 11 Eastern tomorrow works for everyone. Thanks, they

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 20, 2021, at 9:17 PM, Rusek, Benjamin <BRusek@nas.edu> wrote:

Hi Jim and Dave,

Yes, just back in town. 11 am tomorrow would work for me, but the other times Micah suggests also work.

Kind regards,

Ben

On Jun 20, 2021, at 8:23 PM, Lowenthal, Micah <mlowenth@nas.edu> wrote:

Jim, Dave,

Please let me know if Monday sometime in the 10:30-1:30 EDT works for you and I'll send an invitation.

I apologize for the delayed reply. I think that both Ben and I have been away from e-mail this weekend.

Best,
Micah

From: David Franz <davidrf Franz@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 6:44 PM

To: LeDuc, James W. <jwleduc@utmb.edu>

Cc: Rusek, Benjamin <BRusek@nas.edu>; Lowenthal, Micah <mlowenth@nas.edu>

Subject: Re: call?

Monday works for me. dave

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 18, 2021, at 5:52 PM, LeDuc, James W. <jwleduc@utmb.edu> wrote:

Can we schedule a brief conference call for early next week? I'd like to discuss an emerging Congressional study relevant to our past work. I'm available any time on Monday.

Thanks, Jim

James W. Le Duc
University of Texas Medical Branch
(m) 409-789-2012

What would Jim do?

1. No evidence that the virus was in any lab prior to the start of the pandemic.
2. How could SARS CoV2 reach a lab?
 - a. Field material or diagnostic specimen containing virus without knowledge
 - b. Engineered in a laboratory
 - i. As part of ongoing research activities
 - ii. Intentionally created
3. Where was coronavirus research being conducted and by whom?
 - a. Survey all possible site where work on coronaviruses was in progress
 - i. Wuhan Institute of Virology
 1. New BSL4 lab outskirts of Wuhan
 2. BSL2 and BSL3 labs in town
 - ii. China CDC labs in Wuhan
 - iii. Others?? Agriculture labs?
 - b. What levels of biocontainment were being used?
 - c. What about laboratory safety infrastructure
 - i. Which coronaviruses are present in the labs that can replicate in culture?
 - ii. Biological safety cabinets certified and used?
 - iii. Air handling systems well maintained and functioning properly (Sverdlovsk, 1979 anthrax release)
 - iv. Waste stream adequately decontaminated? Autoclaves in place and working well? (FMD outbreak in UK, 2001)
 - v. Laboratory security profile and controlled access to pathogens
 - vi. History of disgruntled employees?
 - d. Who was working on coronaviruses?
 - i. Were staff appropriately trained in biosafety? In use of instruments and equipment (i.e., autoclaves).
 - ii. Any record of needle sticks or accidental exposures?
 - iii. Were they sick in the months prior to the start of the pandemic?
 - iv. Realizing asymptomatic infections, were family members or close contacts ill?
 - v. If serum banks exist, could examine for serological conversion (prior to vaccination)
 - vi. Is there an occupational health program or special clinic that serves staff from each institute where coronavirus research was underway, and if so, did they see an uptick in cases consistent with COVID?
 - e. At each facility, Detailed examination of work underway with coronaviruses
 - i. Processing field specimens (bat collections)
 - ii. Attempts to adapt to growth in cell culture
 - iii. Gain of function research
 - iv. Labs using humanized mouse lines expressing lung ACE-2 receptors?

If nothing significant found, it would help reassure the world that it is unlikely that SARS CoV2 originated from a laboratory.