

**From:** [Fenton, Matthew \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Auchincloss, Hugh \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Erbelding, Emily \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Harper, Jill \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Haskins, Melinda \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06  
**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2020 4:53:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Daszak letter 4 24 20.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Here's the letter from Mike Lauer that just went out. Note the justification:

"At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities. NIAID has determined there are no animal and human ethical considerations, as this project is not a clinical trial, but rather an observational study. As a result of this termination, a total of \$369,819.56 will be remitted to NIAID and additional drawdowns will not be supported."

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**From:** Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** Fenton, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (5); Peter Daszak (b) (5)  
**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06  
**Importance:** High

Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak

Please see attached.

Sincerely,  
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Email: (b) (6)

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura (b) (5)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 1:50 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b) (5), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6), "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Mike,

I read that we are in agreement and in compliance with all requests. Please let us know if anything further is required. We will continue in our usual close communication with our Program Officer Erik Stemmy.

Sincerely,

-Aleksei

**Aleksei Chmura**  
*Chief of Staff &  
Authorized Organizational Representative*

EcoHealth Alliance  
460 West 34th Street, Suite 1701  
New York, NY 10001

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

On Apr 21, 2020, at 19:28, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6) wrote:

Many thanks Peter for your response.

We note that:

- No monies have gone to WIV on the Type 2 award and no contract has been signed.
- You agree that you will not provide any funds to WIV until and unless directed otherwise by NIH.
- All foreign sites for the Type 1 and Type 2 awards have been documented in the progress reports submitted to NIH.

We appreciate your working with us.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Phone: [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
Email: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] (b) (5)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] (b) (5), "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Michael – Confirming receipt of your email. I'm also cc'ing the following people so they're aware of this request:

1. Our AOR – Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who has access to all our records
2. My Program Officer for this award, Dr. Erik Stemmy & the Division Director (DMID), Dr. Emily Erberding, so they are informed and aware of the request and our response.

That said we need some time to go through the request for information and will provide this as quickly as we can.

However, **I can categorically state that no funds from 2R01AI110964-06 have been sent to Wuhan Institute of Virology, nor has any contract been signed.** Furthermore, we will comply with NIAID requirements, of course.

Concerning the request for information on all of the sites linked to this award in China, you should be aware that these are documented in our progress reports over the course of the grant. As you can understand we are under enormous pressure to generate data related to the current pandemic, and we do not want to divert staff to this effort. We are hoping the previously filed reports will satisfy this request.

We are well aware of the political concerns over the origins of this outbreak. Our collaboration with Wuhan Institute of Virology has been scientific and we have been consistently impressed with the scientific capabilities of that laboratory and its research staff. Our joint work has led to a series of critical papers published in high impact journals that served to raise awareness of the future threat coronaviruses pose for global health and therefore US national security. Scientific insights with epidemiological significance have been jointly published and our relationship has always been open and transparent and with one concern only, scientific validity. We are concerned that current actions may jeopardize 15 years of fruitful collaboration with colleagues in Wuhan, who are working at the leading edge to design vaccines and drugs that could help us fight this new threat in future years. It is quite remarkable that of the 5 vaccine candidates listed by WHO that are already in human trials, 3 have been developed in China. That said, we of course will do all we can to make sure any further questions from NIH or any Federal agency are addressed to our fullest knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
460 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: (b) (5)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 4:31 PM

**To:** Kevin Olival (b) (5); Peter Daszak

(b) (5)

**Cc:** Naomi Schrag (b) (5); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

**Importance:** High

Thank you Kevin

- We need to work with a senior responsible business official – usually PI's and senior business officials are different people.
- When I looked you up on the web, I see the Columbia logo (see attached screenshot). Specifically, it appears to be Columbia University > Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology > EcoHealth Alliance (labeled as an "Affiliation/Department"). Thus the web profile makes it look to me as if EcoHealth Alliance is linked to Columbia University.
- In any case, I'm looping in Dr. Daszak.
- We need to know all sites in China that have been in any way linked to this award (Type 1 and Type 2). We have data in NIH, but we want to make absolutely sure that we're of the same understanding.

We greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Email: (b) (6)

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**From:** Kevin Olival (b) (5)

**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:14 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** Naomi Schrag (b) (5), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Mike,

I received the attached letter, however please note:

1. I am not the PI on this award. You should contact Dr. Peter Daszak (b) (5) who is the PI and leading this project for EcoHealth Alliance.
2. Columbia University is not involved in this NIH project, and it is not clear to me why Naomi and Columbia University were included.

Thank you,  
Kevin

**Kevin J. Olival, PhD**  
*Vice President for Research*

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

On Apr 20, 2020, at 2:16 PM, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6) wrote:

Many thanks Naomi – it would be helpful for us to know about all China-based participants in this work since the Type 1 grant started in 2014 – who they were and how much money they received. The sooner you can get us that information, the better.

Best, Mike

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**From:** Naomi Schrag (b) (5)

**Date:** Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6),  
" (b) (5),  
Naomi Schrag (b) (5)

**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Dr. Lauer,

I am acknowledging receipt of this letter and will get back to you as soon as I can.

Sincerely,

Naomi Schrag

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2020 11:00 AM

**To:** (b) (5); Naomi Schrag (b) (5)

**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

**Importance:** High

Dear Dr. Olival and Ms. Schrag

Please see attached.

Many thanks, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Email: (b) (6)

<EcoHealth Alliance re AI grant 4 19 20.pdf>

<EcoHealth Alliance re AI grant 4 19 20[2].pdf><NoA R01AI110964-06.pdf><NoA R01AI110964-01.pdf>



National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Allergy  
and Infectious Diseases  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

24 April 2020

Drs. Aleksei Chmura and Peter Daszak  
EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.  
460 W 34<sup>th</sup> St  
Suite 1701  
New York, NY 10001

Re: Termination of NIH Grant R01 AI 110964

Dear Drs. Chmura and Daszak:

I am writing to notify you that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), an Institute within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has elected to terminate the project *Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence*, funded under grant R01 AI110964, for convenience. This grant project was issued under the authorization of Sections 301 and 405 of the Public Health Service Act as amended (42 USC 241 and 284). This grant was funded as a discretionary grant as outlined in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), which states that the decision not to award a grant, or to award a grant at a particular funding level, is at the discretion of the agency, in accordance with NIH's dual review system.

At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities. NIAID has determined there are no animal and human ethical considerations, as this project is not a clinical trial, but rather an observational study.

As a result of this termination, a total of \$369,819.56 will be remitted to NIAID and additional drawdowns will not be supported. The remaining funds have been restricted in the HHS Payment Management System, effective immediately.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the information in this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
Email: (b) (6)

cc: Dr. Erik Stemmy  
Ms. Emily Linde





**From:** [Fauci, Anthony \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Conrad, Patricia \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Barasch, Kimberly \(NIH/NIAID\) \[C\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Wuhan coronavirus overview  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2020 3:43:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Wuhan Coronavirus Update 1.10.2020.docx](#)

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Print out for PCC folder. Thanks.

**Anthony S. Fauci, MD**  
**Director**  
**National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**



The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) shall not accept liability for any statements made that are the sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

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**From:** Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E]   
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2020 5:16 PM  
**To:** NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Bushar, Nicholas (NIH/NIAID) [E]   
**Subject:** Wuhan coronavirus overview

With input from divisions and budget, Nick and I put together the attached brief overview of our *existing* (mainly MERS) coronavirus work. I will also put in disease info.

Hilary D. Marston, MD, MPH  
Medical Officer and Policy Advisor for Global Health  
Immediate Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
Cell:   
Email:

## **Outbreak in Wuhan, China**

Briefing: 1/10/2020

(b) (5)



**From:** [Conrad, Patricia \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Fauci, Anthony \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: for his PCC folder  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2020 6:11:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [NIAID Wuhan Coronavirus Research Agenda.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)  
[Wuhan Coronavirus Update 1.13.2020.docx](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

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So you be have it electronically as well.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** January 13, 2020 at 5:03:34 PM EST  
**To:** "Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b) (6),  
"Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6), "Eisinger,  
Robert (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6), "Lerner, Andrea  
(NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** for his PCC folder

I'll bring printouts to your desk Kim

DRAFT FOUO

## **NIAID Wuhan Coronavirus Research Agenda**

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January 13, 2020

(b) (5)



## **Outbreak in Wuhan, China**

Briefing: 1/13/2020

(b) (5)



**From:** [Hotez, Peter Jay](#)  
**To:** [Fauci, Anthony \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Stemmy, Erik \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Bottazzi, Maria Elena](#); [Hotez, Peter Jay](#)  
**Subject:** Our NIAID supported SARS receptor binding domain vaccine (from China)  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2020 8:18:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-cid\\_image0.png](#)  
[Shi ZL Cross-neutraliz SL-CoV by anti-SARS-CoV antibodies Sci China Life Sci 2017.pdf](#)

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Dear Tony and Erik, I hope it's OK I'm emailing you directly, but given the emerging situation I thought it would be wise. (b) (4)



(b) (4) Happy to talk tomorrow or whenever, also Maria Elena Bottazzi our co-director is in Rockville or Bethesda at NIAID NIH now for the VTEU meetings and has all the details.

Warm regards, Peter

**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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Executive Assistant: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Phone: [713-798-1199](tel:713-798-1199)

cid:image002.png@01D2BDA5.C66E3310



## Cross-neutralization of SARS coronavirus-specific antibodies against bat SARS-like coronaviruses

Lei-Ping Zeng<sup>1</sup>, Xing-Yi Ge<sup>1</sup>, Cheng Peng<sup>1</sup>, Wanbo Tai<sup>2</sup>, Shibo Jiang<sup>2,3</sup>, Lanying Du<sup>2\*</sup> & Zheng-Li Shi<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CAS Key Laboratory of Special Pathogens and Biosafety, Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan 430071, China;

<sup>2</sup>Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute, New York Blood Center, New York, NY 10021, USA;

<sup>3</sup>Key Laboratory of Medical Molecular Virology of MOE/MOH, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Fudan University, Shanghai 200433, China

Received July 9, 2017; accepted September 16, 2017

**Citation:** Zeng, L. P., Ge, X. Y., Peng, C., Tai, W., Jiang, S., Du, L., and Shi, Z. L. (2017) Cross-neutralization of SARS coronavirus-specific antibodies against bat SARS-like coronaviruses. *Sci China Life Sci* 60, 1–4. doi: 10.1007/s11427-017-9189-3

Dear Editor,

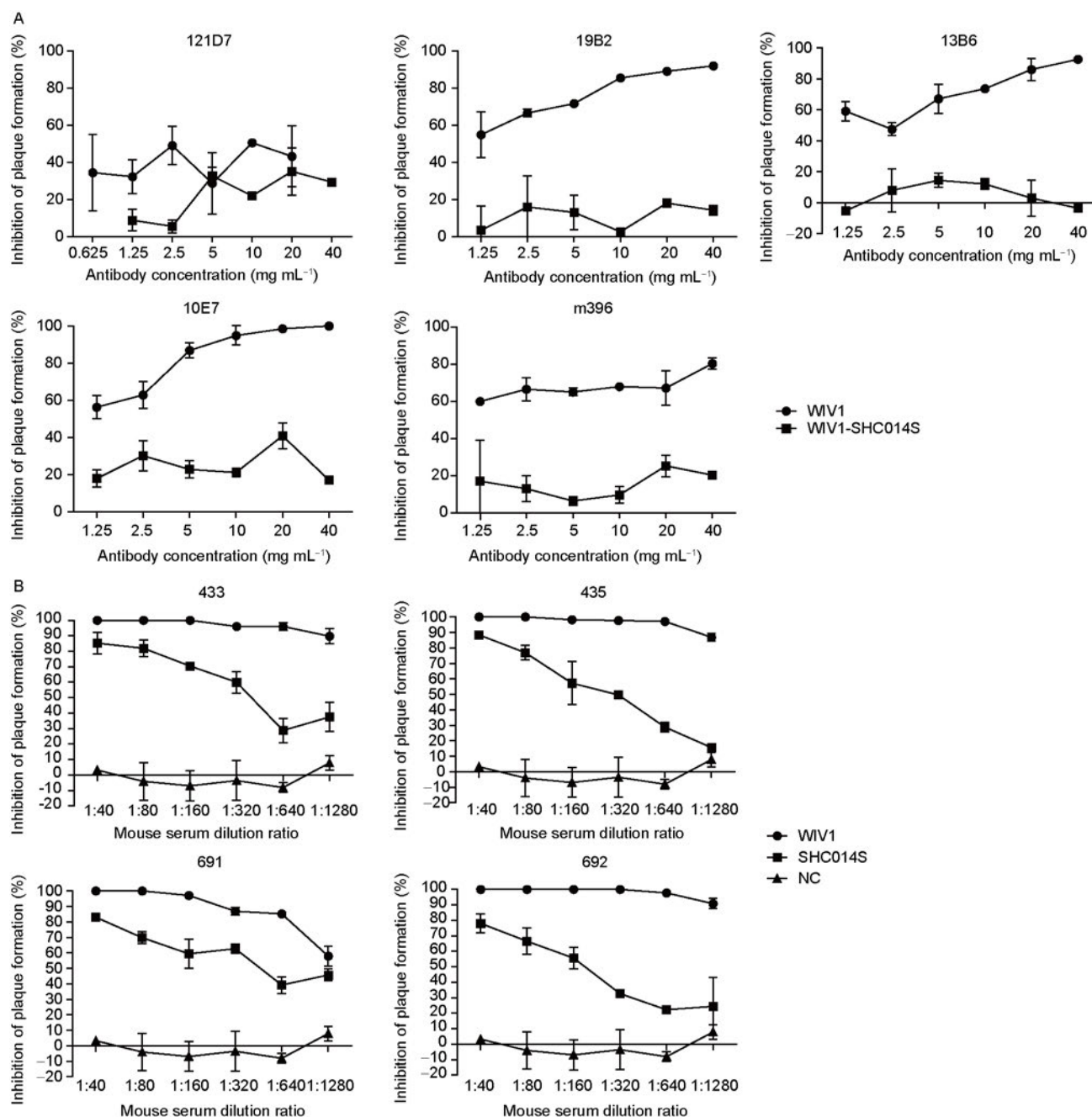
The 2002–2003 global pandemic caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) infected around 8000 people with 10% mortality (<http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/>). The virus has a positive-stranded RNA genome that encodes a large polyprotein (1a and 1ab), four structural proteins, including spike (S), small envelop (E), membrane (M), and nucleocapsid (N), as well as several accessory proteins (Hu et al., 2015). The S protein plays a key role in cellular entry and is functionally divided into two subunits: S1 at the N-terminal end responsible for cell attachment and S2 at the C-terminal end responsible for membrane fusion (Jiang et al., 2005). Angiotensin I converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) was identified as a cellular receptor of SARS-CoV (Li et al., 2003). A fragment (residues 318–520) of the SARS-CoV S1 subunit was identified as the receptor-binding domain (RBD) that plays a key role in binding ACE2 and, hence, mediating virus entry (Wong et al., 2004). Therefore, RBD in the S1 subunit of S protein contains the major neutralizing epitopes for inducing neutralizing antibodies, thus serving as an

important target for developing immunotherapeutics and vaccines (Jiang et al., 2005).

SARS-CoV is considered to be an emerging zoonotic pathogen crossing species barriers to infect humans (Hu et al., 2015). Since the first outbreak, genetically diverse SARS-like coronaviruses (SL-CoVs) have been discovered in horseshoe bats worldwide (Hu et al., 2015). These bat viruses are highly similar to SARS-CoV in most gene encoding regions, but they display wide diversity in S proteins, particularly at their RBDs. Based on the alignment of the RBD sequences of SL-CoVs with those of SARS-CoV, SL-CoVs can be classified into two clades (Figure S1 in Supporting Information). Clade one includes WIV1 and SHC014, which are identical in size and share the same receptor as SARS-CoV, and clade two, as represented by Rp3, has deletions in the RBD and does not use ACE2 (Hu et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2013). WIV1 and SHC014 both use the ACE2 receptor, but their respective RBDs are highly variable in that the RBD of WIV1 is very similar to that of SARS-CoV, while the SHC014 RBD is much more variable, suggesting that their neutralizing epitopes are different. Therefore, in this study, we tested the cross-neutralization activity of SARS-CoV RBD-specific antibodies after *in vitro* infection by these two bat SL-CoV strains.

The SL-CoV strains were propagated in Vero E6 cells

\*Corresponding authors (Lanying Du, email: [ldu@nybc.org](mailto:ldu@nybc.org); Zheng-Li Shi, email: [zshi@wh.iov.cn](mailto:zshi@wh.iov.cn) and)



**Figure 1** Cross-neutralization activity of anti-SARS-CoV RBD antibodies against infection of bat SL-CoV strain WIV1 and SHC014. The mAbs (A) and mouse sera (pAbs) (B) were diluted as indicated in the figure. The neutralization activities were measured by plaque reduction neutralization assay. NC, negative control.

(ATCC). Four mouse monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) (ID number: 19B2, 10E7, 13B6, and 121D7) and four mouse polyclonal antibodies (pAbs) (ID number: 433, 435, 691, and 692) against SARS-CoV RBD were produced in the Viral Immunology Laboratory, Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute, New York Blood Center. The mAbs were generated by immunization of BALB/c mice with recombinant SARS-CoV RBD protein containing a C-terminal Fc (RBD-Fc), and purified from culture supernatants of stable hybridoma cell lines using protein A-Sepharose 4 Fast

Flow (He et al., 2005). The pAbs were generated by immunization of BALB/c mice with SARS-CoV RBD-Fc (for 433 and 435) or RBD protein containing a C-terminal His<sub>6</sub> (RBD-His<sub>6</sub>) (for 691 and 692), and collection of respective sera at 10 days after the 3rd dose. These mouse mAbs and pAbs demonstrated potent neutralization activity against infection of pseudotyped SARS-CoV that expresses the S protein of SARS-CoV (Figure S2A and B in Supporting Information). A human mAb, m396, previously isolated from a large antibody Fab library and shown to potently

cross-neutralize SARS-CoV isolates (Zhu et al., 2007), was kindly provided by Dr. Dimiter S. Dimitrov (Cancer and Inflammation Program, NCI, NIH, USA).

Since SHC014 could not be successfully isolated, a recombinant virus (rWIV1-SHC014S) was constructed based on the WIV1 backbone with the replacement of *SHC014S* gene, as described previously (Zeng et al., 2016). The S sequence of SHC014 was amplified with primer pair (F-SHC014-*Bsa* I, 5'-AGTGGTCTCAACGAA-CATGAAATTGTTAGTTTTAGTTTTTGCTAC-3' and R-SHC014-*Bsa* I, 5'-TCAGGTCTCAGTTCGTTTATGTG-TAATGTAATTTGACACCCTTG-3'), digested with *Bsa* I, and inserted into an artificial bacterial chromosome along with the other viral cDNA fragments.

Vero E6 cells were plated at  $1.5 \times 10^5$  cells well<sup>-1</sup> in 24-well tissue culture plates and grown overnight. The aforementioned mAbs and mouse pAbs (antisera) were diluted in DMEM starting at a ratio of 1:20. Serial 2-fold dilutions were mixed with an equal volume of 50 plaque-forming units (PFU) of SL-CoV WIV1 or rWIV1-SHC014S, and incubated at 37°C for 1 h. Serum from a C57BL/6 naïve mouse was used as negative control. The mixture was added to monolayers of Vero E6 cells, incubated at 37°C for 1 h, and then changed to a semi-solid medium (DMEM containing 1% methylcellulose and 2% FBS). Plaques were counted at 4–5 days post-infection. The neutralization titers of the antibodies were calculated.

With the exception of mAb 121D7, which had only marginal neutralization activity against WIV1 infection, all tested mAbs, including 19B2, 10E7, 13B6, and m396, had NT<sub>50</sub> (50% neutralization titer) less than 1.25 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> against WIV1 infection. However, none of these mAbs showed sufficiently high neutralization activity against rWIV1-SHC014S infection, with only ~20% of rWIV1-SHC014S virus neutralized at most antibody concentrations (Figure 1A). While all four mouse antisera (pAbs 433, 435, 691, and 692) had only low neutralization activity against rWIV1-SHC014 infection, they all demonstrated neutralization >90% of WIV1 virus at a dilution of 1:320 (Figure 1B and Figure S3 in Supporting Information).

In summary, our results have demonstrated that most SARS-CoV RBD-specific antibodies tested in this study could cross-neutralize SL-CoV strain WIV1, but not SHC014. While SARS-CoV and WIV1 have comparable RBD, the RBD of SHC014 is much more variable, as previously noted (Figure S1 in Supporting Information). More specifically, the RBD of SHC014 has a difference

of 24 amino acids (aa) compared to that of SARS-CoV, while the RBD of WIV1 only has a difference of 8 aa. This may explain why SHC014 could not be cross-neutralized effectively by most antibodies (mAbs or pAbs) targeting SARS-CoV RBD. The fact that SHC014 retains its ability to infect human cells implies that the available antibodies and vaccines based on SARS-CoV RBD will not protect the next SARS-like disease caused by bat SL-CoV SHC014 strain. Thus, further development of effective vaccines and treatments for potential infection by the SL-CoV strains, as represented by SHC014, is urgently needed.

**Compliance and ethics** The author(s) declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Acknowledgements** This work was supported by the China Natural Science Foundation (81290341, 31621061 to Zheng-Li Shi), the Strategic Priority Research Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (XDPB0301 to Zheng-Li Shi), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of NIH grant (R01AI110964 to Zheng-Li Shi), the National Key Research and Development Program of China (2016YFC1201000 to Shibo Jiang) and NIH grant (R01AI098775 to Shibo Jiang and Lanying Du).

- He, Y., Lu, H., Siddiqui, P., Zhou, Y., and Jiang, S. (2005). Receptor-binding domain of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus spike protein contains multiple conformation-dependent epitopes that induce highly potent neutralizing antibodies. *J Immunol* 174, 4908–4915.
- Hu, B., Ge, X., Wang, L.F., and Shi, Z. (2015). Bat origin of human coronaviruses. *Virol J* 12, 221.
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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Figure S1** Alignment of the RBDs of SARS-CoV Tor2 strain and bat SL-CoV strains WIV1, SHC014, and Rp3.

**Figure S2** Neutralization activity of anti-SARS-CoV RBD antibodies against infection of pseudotyped SARS-CoV.

**Figure S3** Plaque neutralization of SL-CoV WIV1 and SHC014 strains by anti-SARS-CoV RBD sera.

The supporting information is available online at <http://life.scichina.com> and <https://link.springer.com>. The supporting materials are published as submitted, without typesetting or editing. The responsibility for scientific accuracy and content remains entirely with the authors.

**From:** [Folkers, Greg \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Routh, Jennifer \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Fauci, Anthony \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Billet, Courtney \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Stover, Kathy \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Conrad, Patricia \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Marston, Hilary \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Lerner, Andrea \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: For review (due to HHS for White House by 8:30 tonight): press conference talking points  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 6:24:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Points for NIAID Director Dr. Fauci.docx](#)

---

As a place folder looks good to me.

+ Andrea who is the lead on a CoV talk ASF is giving on Tuesday

Also --- when talking about CoV (not necessarily in this venue) we have on our team (Vincent and folks we fund, Peter Daszak, Ralph Baric, Ian Lipkin, etc.) probably the world's experts non-human coronaviruses.

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---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 6:14 PM

**To:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

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Thanks,  
Jen

**Talking Points for NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.  
HHS Press Conference on Coordinated Public Health Response to 2019 Novel  
Coronavirus**

(b) (5)



Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

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**Talking Points for NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.**

**HHS Press Conference on Coordinated Public Health Response to 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

(b) (5)



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**To:** [Folkers, Greg \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Routh, Jennifer \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Fauci, Anthony \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Billet, Courtney \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Stover, Kathy \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Conrad, Patricia \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Marston, Hilary \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: For review (due to HHS for White House by 8:30 tonight): press conference talking points  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 8:32:53 PM

---

Agree with Greg, I think it looks good, too.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2020, at 6:25 PM, Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6) wrote:

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**To:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
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HHS Press Conference on Coordinated Public Health Response to 2019  
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Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
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National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
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31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
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<Talking Points for NIAID Director Dr. Fauci.docx>

**From:** [Marston, Hilary \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Folkers, Greg \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Fauci, Anthony \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Morens, David \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Doepel, Laurie \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Eisinger, Robert \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Lerner, Andrea \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: some background on our support of the EcoHealth group  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2020 7:03:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Ralph and Peter are two of the main grantees that we are drawing on for this start up work. Thanks for sharing the summary David!

---

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 6:09 PM  
**To:** Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Eisinger, Robert (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Lerner, Andrea (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** some background on our support of the EcoHealth group

Thanks david

"In short, we have on our team (i.e., these folks we fund, Peter, Ralph, Ian, etc.) probably the world's experts in these non-human coronaviruses."

---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 5:04 PM  
**To:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:**

Hi Greg,

some background on our support of the EcoHealth group (Peter Daszak et al), which has for years been among the biggest players in coronavirus work, also in collaboration with Ralph Baric, Ian Lipkin and others. I have been getting some of this info from Peter, and Tony may wish to be aware if he isn't already.

NIAID has been funding Peter's group for coronavirus work in China for the past 5 years through R01 1R01AI110964: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence". That's now been renewed, with a specific focus to identify cohorts of people highly exposed to bats in China, and work out if they're getting sick from CoVs. Erik Stemmy is the Program Officer. Collaborators include Wuhan Institute of Virology (currently working on the nCoV), and Ralph Baric. The results of the work to date include:

(b) (5)

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In short, we have on our team (i.e., these folks we fund, Peter, Ralph, Ian, etc.) probably the world’s experts in these non-human coronaviruses.

(b) (5)



**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)



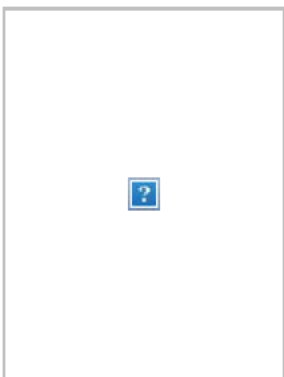
(b) (6)



(b) (6)

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**From:** Johnson, Martin S. (NIH/NIAID) [E] [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=2F99DC80EC43431A8724A4F30ED42E5C-MSJOHNSON]  
**Sent:** 1/8/2020 5:43:45 PM  
**To:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=614c792839a146b9a8f87a1378519dbd-gfolkers]; NIAID Budget Request [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=81111cc4f7af4cf1bb3a765ede8750ba-NIAID Budge]  
**CC:** NIAID OD AM [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8b9ef66c6c774c23bbe00d03479ce7c3-NIAID OD AM]; NIAID RPAB [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=92464dd75b56402483afbb7e010f9fd8-NIAID RPAB]  
**Subject:** RE: RECAP on Coronavirus/SARS/MERS - Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?  
**Attachments:** 2019\_EST\_NIH\_1\_8\_2019.xlsx

Ballpark is as follows:

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 12:07 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Martin S. (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); NIAID Budget Request (b) (6)  
**CC:** NIAID OD AM (b) (6); NIAID RPAB (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: RECAP on Coronavirus/SARS/MERS - Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

Martin and team

Thanks for great info

(b) (5)

Thank you!

---

**From:** Johnson, Martin S. (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 10:38 AM  
**To:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); NIAID Budget Request (b) (6)



Cc: NIAID OD AM (b) (6); NIAID RPAB (b) (6)

**Subject:** RECAP on Coronavirus/SARS/MERS - Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

(b) (5)

**From:** Johnson, Martin S. (NIH/NIAID) [E]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:51 AM

**To:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); NIAID Budget Request

(b) (6)

Cc: NIAID OD AM (b) (6); NIAID RPAB (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

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FY 2017	\$36,633,451
FY 2018	\$19,931,953
FY 2019	(b) (5)

Here is a highlight of some research from FY 2018 that we funded

PCC Div	Project Title	PI Name	Institution	Total
DAIT	Enhancing potency of the MERS vaccine by a novel ASP-1+alum adjuvant combination	Lustigman, Sora	NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER	\$ 630,120
<b>DAIT Total</b>				<b>\$ 630,120</b>
DIR	Virus Ecology Unit	Munster, Vincent	RML, Laboratory of Virology	\$ 948,996
<b>DIR Total</b>				<b>\$ 948,996</b>
DMID	Broad-spectrum antiviral GS-5734 to treat MERS-CoV and related emerging CoV	Baric, Ralph	UNIV OF NORTH CAROLINA CHAPEL HILL	\$ 1,291,594
	MERS coronavirus: antagonism of double-stranded RNA induced host response by accessory proteins	Weiss, Susan	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 550,398
	Rational design and evaluation of novel mRNA vaccines against MERS-CoV	Du, Lanying	NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER	\$ 935,370
	Small Molecule Protease Inhibitors against MERS-CoV	Chang, Kyeong-ok	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	\$ 358,999
	Structure-based design of coronavirus subunit vaccines	Du, Lanying	NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER	\$ 1,008,540
	Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence	Daszak, Peter	ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.	\$ 702,753
<b>DMID Total</b>				<b>\$ 5,347,754</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 6,926,870</b>

**From:** Johnson, Martin S. (NIH/NIAID) [E]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:41 AM

**To:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); NIAID Budget Request

(b) (6)

**Cc:** NIAID OD AM (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

OK

---

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:26 AM

**To:** NIAID Budget Request (b) (6)

**Cc:** NIAID OD AM (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

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Thank you!

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**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]

**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2020 4:42 PM

**To:** NIAID Budget Request (b) (6)

**Cc:** Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Eisinger, Robert (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6); Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Lerner, Andrea (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6); Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

\$, and # of projects

Thanks!

*Greg*

Gregory K. Folkers, M.S., M.P.H.

Chief of Staff, Immediate Office of the Director

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

National Institutes of Health/DHHS

9000 Rockville Pike

Bldg. 31, Room 7A-05

Bethesda, MD 20892

Tel: (b) (6)

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**Subject:** Other NIH ICs - in the range of \$8M in FY 2019 -- Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 #s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?  
**Attachments:** NIH\_REPORTER\_Corona\_MERS\_SARS\_2019\_1\_8\_2020.xlsx

Greg,

(b) (5)

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(b) (6)

Cc: NIAID OD AM (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 \$s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

OK

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Cc: Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Eisinger, Robert (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6); Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Lerner, Andrea (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6); Marston, Hilary (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

Subject: Budget folks: can you provide us with 2016-2020 \$s for NIH and NIAID spending on coronaviruses?

\$, and # of projects

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*Greg*

Gregory K. Folkers, M.S., M.P.H.

Chief of Staff, Immediate Office of the Director

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Bethesda, MD 20892

Tel: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**From:** [Dean, Diane \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DPI OI2 Request Process Information  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 1:52:40 PM

---

Forwarding, as requested.

---

**From:** Kears, Deborah (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:22 AM  
**To:** Valdez, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Sanders, Ashley (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6); Dean, Diane (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** DPI OI2 Request Process Information

Good Morning ladies,

(b) (5)

Please let me know if you are free for a 30 minute call:  
Today at anytime between 11:00 am – 12:30pm or 1:30pm – 3:00 or 4:00pm  
Tomorrow anytime before noon or at 4:00pm.  
Friday anytime between 11:00am and 4:00pm

If this week isn't good for you, we can also look at next week.

Thanks,  
Debk

Deborah Kears, Director  
Division of Program Integrity  
Office of Management Assessment  
National Institutes of Health  
6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 601  
Rockville, MD 20852

Desk: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

**From:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 5:09:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Daszak letter 4 24 20.pdf](#)

---

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Second letter.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 3:17 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

Amanda is working with David, (b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:06 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – let's go with this:

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:50 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks for sharing! (b) (5)

Also, attached last email I sent in case it was missed in all the back and forth.

Thanks again!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – if you scroll down, see Michelle’s citation of “chapter and verse.” (b) (5)

For media purposes, you can cite Michelle’s explanation.

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM  
**To:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

That's outstanding! Thank you both so much.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:29 PM

**To:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Exactly and thank you so much, Jodi.

Michelle

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:25 PM

**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Michelle, this is helpful. Looping in Mike, see email string below for citations and a few thoughts here:.

(b) (5)

Thanks

Jodi

---

**From:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 4:37 PM

**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)

**Cc:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Jodi,

These are the following citation that OER has to offer in response to the media request.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Michelle

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:06 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Importance:** High

Hi Michelle, please see below. Thoughts?

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** Mike Lauer (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), Jodi OER (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group

<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)

Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.



Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

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National Institutes of Health  
National Institute of Allergy  
and Infectious Diseases  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

24 April 2020

Drs. Aleksei Chmura and Peter Daszak  
EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.  
460 W 34<sup>th</sup> St  
Suite 1701  
New York, NY 10001

Re: Termination of NIH Grant R01 AI 110964

Dear Drs. Chmura and Daszak:

I am writing to notify you that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), an Institute within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has elected to terminate the project *Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence*, funded under grant R01 AI110964, for convenience. This grant project was issued under the authorization of Sections 301 and 405 of the Public Health Service Act as amended (42 USC 241 and 284). This grant was funded as a discretionary grant as outlined in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), which states that the decision not to award a grant, or to award a grant at a particular funding level, is at the discretion of the agency, in accordance with NIH's dual review system.

At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities. NIAID has determined there are no animal and human ethical considerations, as this project is not a clinical trial, but rather an observational study.

As a result of this termination, a total of \$369,819.56 will be remitted to NIAID and additional drawdowns will not be supported. The remaining funds have been restricted in the HHS Payment Management System, effective immediately.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the information in this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
Email: (b) (6)

cc: Dr. Erik Stemmy  
Ms. Emily Linde



**From:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Jodi/Michelle/Mike 1:1:1  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 5:06:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [NIH New Generic SSA final.docx](#)  
[Project Tracker Status Update.msg](#)  
[FW WIV.msg](#)  
[FW DPI OI2 Request Process Information.msg](#)  
**Importance:** High

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## Agenda

5/5/20

Jodi/Michelle


## OPERA IMOD

(b) (5)

## Compliance


(b) (5), (b) (7)(A)

(b) (5), (b) (7)(A)

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### **Integrity Cases**

(b) (5), (b) (7)(A)

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### **Meetings**

(b) (5)

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Supporting Statement A for

Generic Clearance for NIH Citizen Science and Crowdsourcing Projects (NIH)

OMB# 0925-0766, exp., date 04/30/2023

Date: March 4, 2020

Check off which applies:

- ☒ New
- ☐ Revision
- ☐ Reinstatement with Change
- ☐ Reinstatement without Change
- ☐ Extension
- ☐ Emergency
- ☐ Existing w/o OMB approval

Federal Government Employee Information:

Name: Mikia Currie, Chief, Project Clearance Branch (PCB)

Address: 6705 Rockledge Drive, RKL1/803-B

Telephone: (b) (6)

Fax: 301-435-3509

Email: (b) (6)

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- A.6 Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently
- A.7 Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5
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***Attachments (save file names to match what is being referenced: (ex: x.baseline; y.screener)***

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Sub-study template form

Attachment 2 Mini SSA

Attachment 3 Privacy Act Memo

Attachment 4 published 30-day FRN



## **A. Justification**

This is a new generic collection titled, “Generic Clearance for NIH Citizen Science and Crowdsourcing Projects.” Projects under this generic clearance will allow Agency researchers and program staff to test ideas more quickly, respond to the project’s needs as they evolve, and incorporate feedback from participants for flexible, innovative research methods. Any collection under this umbrella is expected to be low in burden.

### **A.1 Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary**

Section 413 (b) (3) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S. Code § 285 gives NIH the authority to collect this information.

Pursuant to Section 402 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (P.L. 114-329) federal agencies have broad authority to use crowdsourcing to advance agency missions and facilitate broader public participation in the innovation process. The purpose of this collection is to identify existing research, educational, operational, and project information from the public in order to share more widely with a range of audiences. These types of collections will further the legislation’s purposes of “accelerating scientific research, increasing cost-effectiveness to maximize the return on taxpayer dollars, addressing societal needs, providing hands-on learning in STEM, and connecting members of the public directly to federal science missions and to each other.”

Many federal and non-federal organizations are already using innovative citizen science and crowdsourcing tools to advance their missions. These tools are especially valuable where data are sparsely distributed or when projects rely on large datasets. Successful citizen science and crowdsourcing projects usually result from iteration of the design based on feedback from the participants. Also, there could be uncertainty about whether the time and effort to create a project will capture the interest of the public and yield meaningful public participation.

Citizen science and crowdsourcing are tools that engage, educate and empower the public to apply their curiosity and contribute their talents and feedback to a wide range of scientific and societal issues. Citizen Science is a form of open collaboration where the public can participate actively in the scientific process through methods that include asking research questions, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, or engaging in problem solving. Crowdsourcing is a process where individuals or organizations submit an open call for contributions of information from a group of individuals (“the crowd”).

### **A.2 Purpose and Use of the Information Collection**

The purpose of this information collection is to:

- Accelerate scientific research
- Increase cost-effectiveness to maximize the return on taxpayer dollars

- Address societal needs
- Provide hands-on learning in STEM education
- Connect members of the public directly to federal science missions and each other
- Identify and disseminate resources more broadly to the public, on the Institutes' and Centers' (ICs) websites, and/or
- Collect information for agency internal use to improve scientific practices and/or assist in scientific reviews

Citizen science and crowdsourcing collections under this generic clearance may include the following types of questions or requests of participants:

- **Personal and Contact Information.** Projects submitted under this generic clearance may solicit contact information. This information may be necessary to organize and analyze data. Projects may request contact information (name and email address, zip code, address and phone number) to provide participants with project updates and share data. Participants would be made aware that the publically available data on contact information will be anonymized and aggregated, for example, by census tract, zip code, city, or some other higher level than individual addresses.
- **Names and Nominations.** NIH relies on nominations to recruit appropriate scientific expertise, broaden membership of review panels, and receive recommendations for reviewers. Projects submitted under this generic clearance may include public solicitations for nominations, to include project overviews, request for abstracts, or relevant qualifying questions related to the reason for individual's nomination. This information would only be used by NIH internally to select eligible candidates from the scientific community.
- **Experience and Expertise.** For data quality purposes, projects submitted under this generic clearance may request information to evaluate the skill level of the participant by asking about their experience with the project topic. Questions may be about a person's age range, level or topic of education, participation in organizations, or professional experience.
- **Requests for population characteristics** within crowdsourcing mechanisms, such as institutional affiliation and career level/stage. For example, this mechanism will allow for individuals interested in a certain topic to sign up for alerts that NIH may send in the future, and at the same time allows NIH to identify individuals interested in various topics with a goal to potentially contact them in the future.
- **Identification or Descriptions of Extramural Research, Research Tools, or Existing Resources.** Projects may include requests to identify and/or describe extramural research, research tools, or existing resources. This will allow NIH to identify best practices and developments within the scientific community that could inform future NIH program development. This could be a means to publicly identify emerging tools, guidance, or research or to review, vet, and encourage the use of public health interventions in the community and clinical settings. Making this information publicly available could enhance the quality, speed, and public health impact of efforts to translate research into practice. It will also help the agency understand resources availability in extramural or other public environments.

To obtain approval for a collection that meets the conditions of this generic clearance, a standardized form, depending on complexity of sub-study, a template or “Mini-Supporting Statement A (Mini-SSA)” will be submitted to OMB along with any other supporting documentation

### **A.3 Use of Information Technology and Burden Reduction**

If appropriate, programs will collect information electronically and/or use online collaboration tools to reduce burden. Screenshots will be provided for all online data collection instruments. A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) will be completed for all online requests.

### **A.4 Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information**

No similar data are gathered or maintained by the agency or available from other sources known to the agency.

### **A.5 Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities**

Small business or other small entities may be involved in these efforts, but the agency will minimize the burden on them of information collections approved under this clearance by sampling, asking for readily available information, and using short, easy-to-complete information collection instruments.

### **A.6 Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently**

Forms will be submitted on an as needed basis.

### **A.7 Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5**

There are no special circumstances. The information collected will be voluntary, not generalizable, and will not be used for statistical purposes.

#### **A.8.1 Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice**

The 60-day Federal Register Notice was published on October 4, 2019 (Vol. 84, pg. 53162) and allowed 60 days for public comment. No public comment was received.

#### **A.8.2 Efforts to Consult Outside Agency**

No outside consultation is intended

### **A.9 Explanation of Any Payment of Gift to Respondents**

It is possible that some information collection activities will entail a small payment or gifts to respondents. The agency does not typically provide payment or other forms of remuneration to

participants, however if it is necessary for hard to reach populations, details and a justification will be provided. Instances for offering an incentive will be determined on a case-by-case basis (depending on the particular information collection design).

#### **A.10 Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents**

Personal Identifiable Information (PII) will only be collected to the extent necessary. Respondents will be assured that neither their participation nor lack of participation will have any effect on their eligibility for receipt of services. In addition, respondents will be advised of the purpose of the information collection, the use of information collection, NIH sponsorship, that their participation is voluntary, and that they may choose to discontinue or have their name and/or related information withdrawn at any time. In instances where it is possible, information will be presented in an aggregate form without links to the identity of individual participants. The Privacy Act applies to the information collection per Privacy Act System of Records Notice (SORN) 09-25-0156, *“Records of Participants in Programs and Respondents in Surveys Used to Evaluate Program of the Public Health Service, HHS/PHS/NIH/OD”*.

It may be necessary for some information collections to retain name and contact information to be used to contact potential respondents. In these instances, the rationale for retention of PII will be fully explained. Most of the information collections to be conducted under this clearance is considered exempt from Institutional Review Board (IRB) review at NIH. However, if it is determined that the information collection involves non-exempt activities, the staff will be required to submit the information collection for review to the IRB for approval.

#### **A.11 Justification for Sensitive Questions**

This generic will allow for sensitive questions specifically in the context of determining demographics and promoting diversity. NIH values diversity ([NOT-OD 20-031](#)) and inclusion, and this data will assist NIH in being more inclusive of culturally, medically, and behaviorally sensitive matters. All questions of a sensitive nature will be justified. The justification will include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent. All sensitive questions will be voluntary fields.

#### **A.12.1 Estimates of Hour Burden Including Annualized Hourly Costs**

Participants in these activities may include research in academia or industry, clinicians, patients and patient’s advocacy organizations, other non-governmental organizations, and members of the public. A variety of instruments and platforms will be used to collect information from respondents and each sub-study will vary by number of respondents and average time per response. However, the annual burden hours requested 18,601 is based on the number of collections we expect to conduct over the requested three-year period for this clearance.

Table 12-1 Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Collection	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Time per Response (in hours)	Total Hours
Call for Nominations/Resources	1,000	1	10/60	167
Recommendations of scientific reviewers	1,000	1	5/60	83
Request for Population Characteristics	20,000	1	5/60	1,667
Repository of Tools and Best Practices	100,000	1	10/60	16,667
Total		122,000		18,584

**A.12-2 ANNUAL COST TO RESPONDENT**

These estimates are based on the following data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics: the General Public rate was obtained from the [https://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/May/oes\\_nat.htm#00-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/May/oes_nat.htm#00-0000) occupation title “All occupations” occupation code 00-0000. The Health Professionals wage rate was obtained from [https://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/May/oes\\_nat.htm#00-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/May/oes_nat.htm#00-0000) occupation title “Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations”, occupation code 29-0000; and the Health Educators wage rate was obtained from <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes211091.htm>, occupation code 21-1091.

Table 12-2 Annualized Cost to Respondents

Type of Respondents	Total Annual Burden Hours	Hourly Respondent Wage Rate*	Respondent Cost
General Public	18,334	\$24.98	\$457,983
Health Professionals	83	\$39.42	\$3,272.00
Health Educators	167	\$28.68	\$4,789.56
<b>TOTAL</b>	18,584		\$466,044

\*The General Public [http://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/may/oes\\_nat.htm#00-0000](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/may/oes_nat.htm#00-0000)

The Health Professionals <http://www.bls.gov/oes/2018/may/oes290000.htm>

#### A.13 Estimate of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Record Keepers

There are no additional costs of than a respondent's time.

#### A.14 Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The annual cost to the Federal Government for the proposed data collection effort is \$11,977.50

Cost Descriptions	Grade/Step	Salary*	% of Effort	Fringe (if applicable)	Total Cost to Gov't
<b>Federal Oversight</b>					
Asst. Project Officer	GS 13/6	\$119,775	10%		\$11,977.50
<b>Contractor Cost</b>					
Travel					
Other Cost					
<b>Total</b>					\$11,977.50

\*the Salary in table above is cited from <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/18Tables/html/DCB.aspx>

**A.15 Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments**

This is a new information collection request.

**A.16 Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule**

The information collected through this collection is primarily for internal review and will not be published. However, for certain activities, information may be published on an NIH website or included in a printed or online program for the activity or subsequent publication describing the activity. Each project submitted under this generic clearance will specify plans for tabulation, timeline, and publication of the information collection.

**A.17 Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate**

The OMB control number and expiration date will be displayed.

**A.18 Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions**

None

**From:** [Islam, Emrul \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Ta, Kristin \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Rosen, David \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Project Tracker Status Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 10:23:03 AM

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Hello Kristin,

We have made significant changes to the project tracker since our last meeting based on the requests given by Avery Tucker.

Here are the brief overview of the changes:



Here's what's needed from you since roles and users might have changed since you last used this :



Please test the system and let me know of any issues. Right now it is in our staging server which may perform a little slow. We will move to production server once you're satisfied.

Thank you,  
Emrul

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#### [OPERA Tracker – Comments from Pilot Team](#)





**Emrul Islam**  
Web Developer  
NIH\OD\OER

**From:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WIV  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 2:05:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [RE Direct Reply w OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology \(WF390335\).msg](#)  
[NIH letter to UCI re Wuhan Institute of Virology dd \(4-30-2020\) final.mgb and kt.msg](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Hi Jodi,  
Attached are the updates that I provided to you last week.



Michelle

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**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: WIV

I have no updates. If you could advise on possible next steps that would be helpful:

(b) (5)

A horizontal rectangular area is redacted with a solid grey fill.

Thanks  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

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**From:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 at 1:12 PM

**To:** Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Robert Tarwater [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: WIV

Jodi,

Do we have an update on this? [REDACTED] (b) (5)

[REDACTED] er. Any updates?

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**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:50 AM

**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: WIV

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Please let me know how I can help

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

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**From:** Michelle Bulls [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 8:40 AM

**To:** Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Robert Tarwater [REDACTED] (b) (6), Michelle Bulls [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: WIV

I need time to review this and determine what can be done.

(b) (5)

Michelle

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**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:35 AM

**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6)

**Subject:** WIV

Hi Michelle, (b) (5)

What are the options?

Thanks

Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc

Deputy Director

Office of Extramural Research, NIH

**To:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**From:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B366F1A4382D44C1BDE626E7730C3DD4-BULLSMG]  
**Sent:** Thur 4/30/2020 4:49:07 PM (UTC-05:00)  
**Subject:** RE: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

(b) (5)

Does this help?

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:46 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Michelle, (b) (5)  
I'm sure I don't understand something

Sub-Award ID	Recipient Name	Action Date
2019-3805-1	WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CAP...	12/17/2019
2019-3804	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON	09/10/2019

Thanks  
Jodi  
  
Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

**From:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 4:16 PM  
**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

(b) (5)

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:13 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >  
**Subject:** FW: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Michelle, [REDACTED] (b) (5)

Thanks  
Jodi

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**From:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 2:30 PM  
**To:** Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Many thanks Jodi – [REDACTED] (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 1:37 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Mike, Michelle has been working with NIMH [REDACTED] (b) (5) See attached. Michelle is working on a letter for you.

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Best,  
Jodi

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**From:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 8:34 AM  
**To:** Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Thanks Jodi!

Mike

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**From:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 8:32 AM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Mike, I'm checking with OPERA for options.

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

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**From:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 7:15 AM  
**To:** "Pearson, Katrina (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Haugen, Brian (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6),

Jodi OER (b) (6)  
Cc: "Brining, Sheryl (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Executive Secretariat  
<[OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov](mailto:OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov)>, liza bundesen (b) (6), "Schwetz, Tara (NIH/OD) [E]"  
(b) (6), Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Many thanks Katrina for checking and confirming the results.

Hi Aesha – I'll continue to work on this.

Best, Mike

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**From:** "Pearson, Katrina (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 11:41 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Haugen, Brian (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6),  
"Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Brining, Sheryl (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Executive Secretariat  
<[OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov](mailto:OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov)>, "Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Schwetz, Tara  
(NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Mike,

(b) (5)

See breakdown below and FACTS snapshots attached.

(b) (5)

*Katrina*

Katrina Pearson

Office: (b) (6) / Mobile: (b) (6)

Website: <http://report.nih.gov>**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 8:22 PM**To:** Pearson, Katrina (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Haugen, Brian (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Brining, Sheryl (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Executive Secretariat <[OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov](mailto:OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov)>; Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Schwetz, Tara (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)**Subject:** FW: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Katrina and Brian

Please see the letter from Senator McSally and Congressman Gaetz. (b) (5)

Hi Jodi – (b) (5)

Many thanks!

Mike

**From:** OER Executive Secretariat <[OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov](mailto:OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov)>**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 10:21 AM**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)**Cc:** "Bunden, Liza (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Joshi, Pritty (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)**Subject:** Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Mike and Jodi –

Please see the attached letter from Members of Congress who write with concerns about NIH's past and current relationship with China's bio-agent laboratory Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) and to ensure no additional tax dollars are directed to this institution. OER has been asked to draft a direct reply for OD Clearance. Would you mind forwarding me a draft response for OD clearance. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you feel this should be assigned to another SME for drafting.

Thanks,

Best Regards,

**Aesha Brandy, MBA\***

Program Analyst

NIH Office of Extramural Research

Immediate Office of the Director

Building 1, Room 150

Bethesda, MD 20814

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

\*Contractor



**From:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** NIH letter to UCI re Wuhan Institute of Virology dd (4-30-2020) final mgb and kt  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:28:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [NIH letter to UCI re Wuhan Institute of Virology \(4-30-2020\) mgb.docx](#)

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Hi,

I have revised Diane's draft [REDACTED] (b) (5) and KT helped me get this on letterhead. It's prepped for Mike's signature. Let me know if you need anything additional



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

(b) (5)



**From:** [Dean, Diane \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DPI OI2 Request Process Information  
**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2020 1:52:40 PM

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Forwarding, as requested.

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**From:** Kearse, Deborah (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:22 AM  
**To:** Valdez, Patricia (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Sanders, Ashley (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6); Dean, Diane (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** DPI OI2 Request Process Information

Good Morning ladies,

I know that OER has made a request for DPI to contact Diane when DPI receives a request from an OIG Agent or an FBI Agent that is asking for grant-related information. Ashley has already started to send a few requests to Diane.

However, given the impact of this request upon DPI's SOPs for the OI2 process, before I make any permanent changes to any DPI long-standing processes, I would like to have a meeting to discuss this with all of you. I would like to know more about OERs engagement with the OIG, and in fulfilling OI2 requests.

While I have had discussions with our OIG POC, and the OIG Hotline supervisor about the OIG and OI2 referral process, I have not received any feedback from the ICs or from anyone in NIH that has told me that the process used to fulfill OI2s wasn't working or needed improvement. However, if that is the case, I would like to hear more about that. I am amenable to processes that work for everyone.

Please let me know if you are free for a 30 minute call:

Today at anytime between 11:00 am – 12:30pm or 1:30pm – 3:00 or 4:00pm

Tomorrow anytime before noon or at 4:00pm.

Friday anytime between 11:00am and 4:00pm

If this week isn't good for you, we can also look at next week.

Thanks,  
Debk

Deborah Kearse, Director  
Division of Program Integrity  
Office of Management Assessment  
National Institutes of Health  
6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 601  
Rockville, MD 20852

Desk: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [OER Executive Secretariat](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Bundesen, Liza \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Kosub, David \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Joshi, Pritty \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Showe, Melanie \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)  
**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2020 2:16:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [McSally-Gaetz Letter to NIH-Wuhan Institute funding - FINAL\[4\].pdf](#)  
[WF390335 Draft Response McSally Gaetz.docx](#)

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Hi Aesha – here's my draft.

Many thanks, Mike

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**From:** OER Executive Secretariat <OERExecutiveSecretariat@od.nih.gov>  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 10:21 AM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Joshi, Pritty (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Direct Reply w/ OD Clearance - Wuhan Institute of Virology (WF390335)

Hi Mike and Jodi –

Please see the attached letter from Members of Congress who write with concerns about NIH's past and current relationship with China's bio-agent laboratory Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) and to ensure no additional tax dollars are directed to this institution. OER has been asked to draft a direct reply for OD Clearance. Would you mind forwarding me a draft response for OD clearance. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you feel this should be assigned to another SME for drafting.

Thanks,

-----  
Best Regards,

**Aesha Brandy, MBA\***

Program Analyst

NIH Office of Extramural Research

Immediate Office of the Director

-----  
Building 1, Room 150

Bethesda, MD 20814

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

\*Contractor

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Francis Collins, M.D.  
Director, U.S. National Institutes of Health  
600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Collins,

Thank you for your leadership in confronting the coronavirus pandemic. We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) past and current relationship with China's controversial bio-agent laboratory the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) and to ensure no additional U.S. tax dollars are directed to this notorious institution.

On Friday evening, President Donald Trump announced his intention to cut NIH funding for WIV following reports that the agency has been supporting secretive and treacherous laboratory research at the WIV for many years.<sup>1,2</sup> According to the NIH's website, the WIV is currently authorized to receive taxpayer funding for animal research (Assurance ID# F16-00279).<sup>3</sup>

Taxpayers' money should not be sent to a dangerous Chinese state-run bio-agent laboratory that lacks any meaningful oversight from U.S. authorities and is run by adversaries with a history of lab leaks, including SARS, and deception about the causes and extent of deadly disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

**We respectfully request that all active grants, sub-grants and contracts awarded to WIV be canceled immediately and that WIV be stripped of its eligibility to receive taxpayer funds from the NIH in the future.**

Additionally, please provide the following details about the NIH's relationship with the WIV:

- When did WIV first start receiving funding from the NIH?
- How much total taxpayer funding, by year, has WIV received from the NIH?
- List all active *and* inactive NIH grants, sub-grants or contracts that have in any way supported research at WIV. For each grant, please include:
  - Project title
  - Project number
  - Grantee institution

---

<sup>1</sup> Taxpayer-funded Animal Experiments Tied To Chinese 'Wet Markets' and Wuhan Laboratory, Carlin Becker - <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/taxpayer-funded-animal-experiments-tied-to-chinese-wet-markets-and-wuhan-laboratory>

<sup>2</sup> Trump Says He'll End Obama-Era Funding To Chinese Lab That May Have Spawned The Coronavirus. David Krayden - <https://dailycaller.com/2020/04/18/donald-trump-end-funding-china-lab-coronavrus-covid-19/>

<sup>3</sup> NIH website, Institutions with a PHS Approved Animal Welfare Assurance - <https://olaw.nih.gov/assured/app/index.html#FOREIGN>

- Start and end dates
- Fiscal Year 2019 funding
- Total funding since grant's inception
- Details about WIV's involvement in the project

Thank you for your efforts and assistance in this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure no future NIH funds are directed to the WIV. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ed Kim with Sen. Martha McSally ([edward\\_kim@mcsally.senate.gov](mailto:edward_kim@mcsally.senate.gov)) or Devin Murphy with Rep. Matt Gaetz ([devin.murphy@mail.house.gov](mailto:devin.murphy@mail.house.gov)).

Sincerely,



Martha McSally  
U.S. Senator



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201





**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Fine, Amanda \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); OER Press Group; [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:08:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [Re FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance .msg](#)

---

Hi Amanda

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

As you are probably can guess we're getting a lot of media inquiries on this topic. There have been several articles that cite the April 19 letter from you to EcoHealth Alliance. Since this letter is now somewhat public, the first paragraph has definitely been quoted in several places, [REDACTED] (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Thanks for your guidance,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:39 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks, regarding the highlighted below, (b) (5)

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,

Amanda

(b) (5)

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6);

Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael  
(NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6) >  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]"  
(b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD)  
[E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM



**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
(b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

**REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:**

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

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**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Fine, Amanda \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); OER Press Group; [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:05:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [RE FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance .msg](#)

---

Hi Amanda – let's go with this:



Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:50 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks for sharing! (b) (5)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Also, attached last email I sent in case it was missed in all the back and forth.

Thanks again!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>

**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – if you scroll down, see Michelle’s citation of “chapter and verse.” (b) (5)

For media purposes, you can cite Michelle’s explanation.

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM

**To:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

That’s outstanding! Thank you both so much.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:29 PM

**To:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Exactly and thank you so much, Jodi.

Michelle

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:25 PM

**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Michelle, this is helpful. Looping in Mike, see email string below for citations and a few thoughts here:.

(b) (5)

Thanks  
Jodi

---

**From:** Michelle Bulls <[REDACTED]> (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 4:37 PM

**To:** Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Michelle Bulls [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Jodi,

These are the following citation that OER has to offer in response to the media request.

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Thanks,  
Michelle

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:06 PM

**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

**Importance:** High

Hi Michelle, please see below. Thoughts?

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM

**To:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. [REDACTED] (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, [REDACTED] (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM



**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to

EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPE

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)



**REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:**

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Disclaimer:** The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

**From:** [Fine, Amanda \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [OER Press Group](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

---

Hi Mike-

As you are probably can guess we're getting a lot of media inquiries on this topic. There have been several articles that cite the April 19 letter from you to EcoHealth Alliance. Since this letter is now somewhat public, the first paragraph has definitely been quoted in several places, (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Thanks for your guidance,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group

<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks, regarding the highlighted below, (b) (5)

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:12 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>

**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks!

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM

**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

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**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

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**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

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But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

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**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond

to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

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**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information

from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Disclaimer:** The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 5:10:12 PM

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?

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**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 5:09 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Second letter.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 3:17 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

Amanda is working with David, (b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:06 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – let's go with this:

(b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:50 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks for sharing! (b) (5)

Also, attached last email I sent in case it was missed in all the back and forth.

Thanks again!  
Amanda

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – if you scroll down, see Michelle’s citation of “chapter and verse.” (b) (5)

For media purposes, you can cite Michelle’s explanation.

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM  
**To:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

That's outstanding! Thank you both so much.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:29 PM  
**To:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Exactly and thank you so much, Jodi.

Michelle

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:25 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Michelle, this is helpful. Looping in Mike, see email string below for citations and a few thoughts here:.

(b) (5)



Thanks  
Jodi

---

**From:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 4:37 PM  
**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance



Hi Jodi,

These are the following citation that OER has to offer in response to the media request.

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Michelle

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:06 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Importance:** High

Hi Michelle, please see below. Thoughts?

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** Mike Lauer (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), Jodi OER (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

[E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM

**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]  
[REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
[REDACTED] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab

**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been

withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Disclaimer:** The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.



**From:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:16:43 PM

---

I sent a note to Michelle

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:11 PM  
**To:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), Jodi OER (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>, Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
(b) (5)  
(b) (5)  
(b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

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**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
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**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

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**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPE

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

(b) (5) Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
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31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
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**Cc:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [OER Press Group](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:15:00 PM

---

Let me check

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
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Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

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Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

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**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
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**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

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(b) (5)

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31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
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Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Disclaimer** The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Fine, Amanda \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Showe, Melanie \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [OER Press Group](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [Daszak Foreign Year 4.pdf](#)

---

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
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**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
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**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
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Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!

Amanda

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
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**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

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**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
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**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
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**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

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**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
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Hi Mike and Jodi-

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questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)



Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Direct: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

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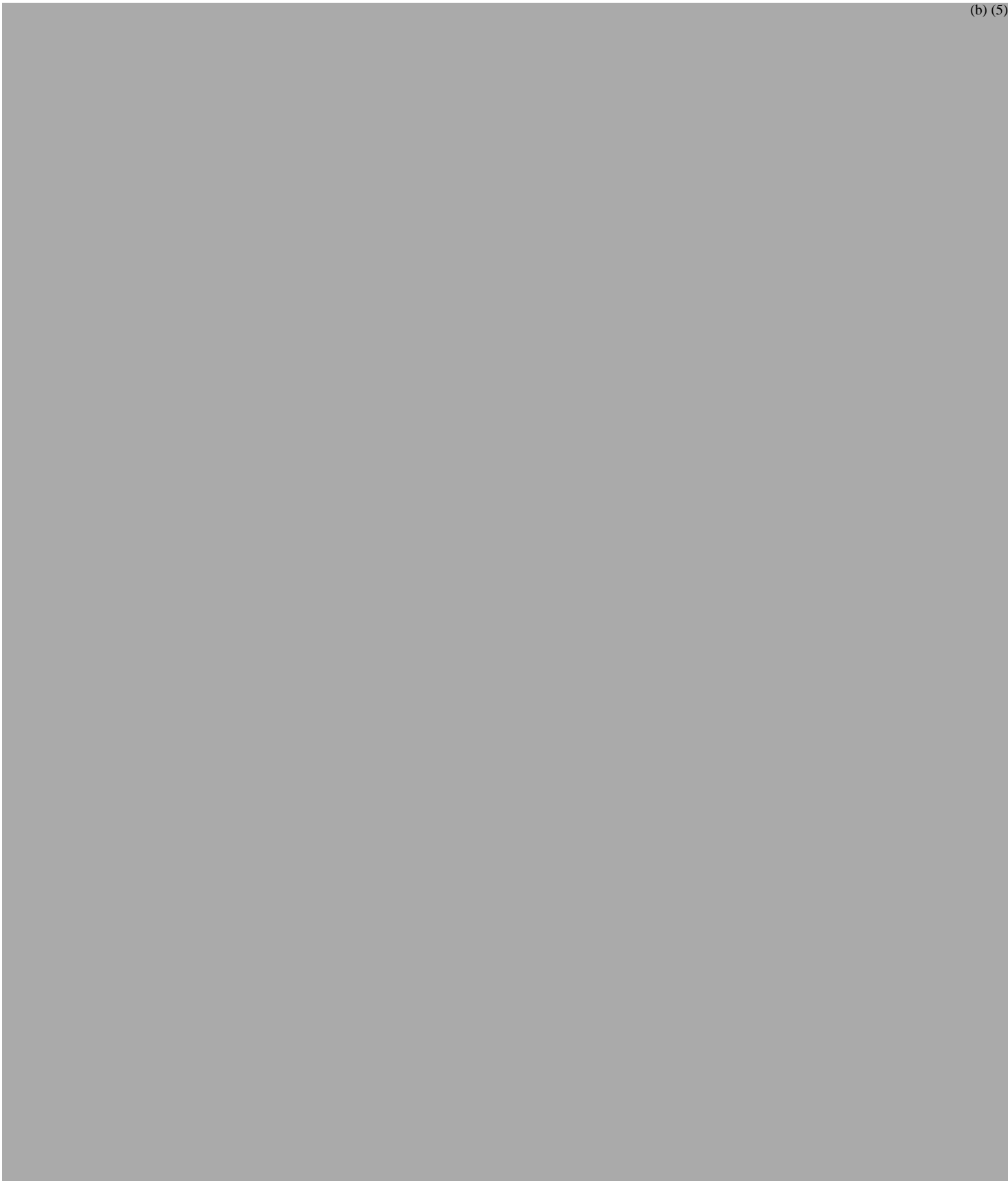






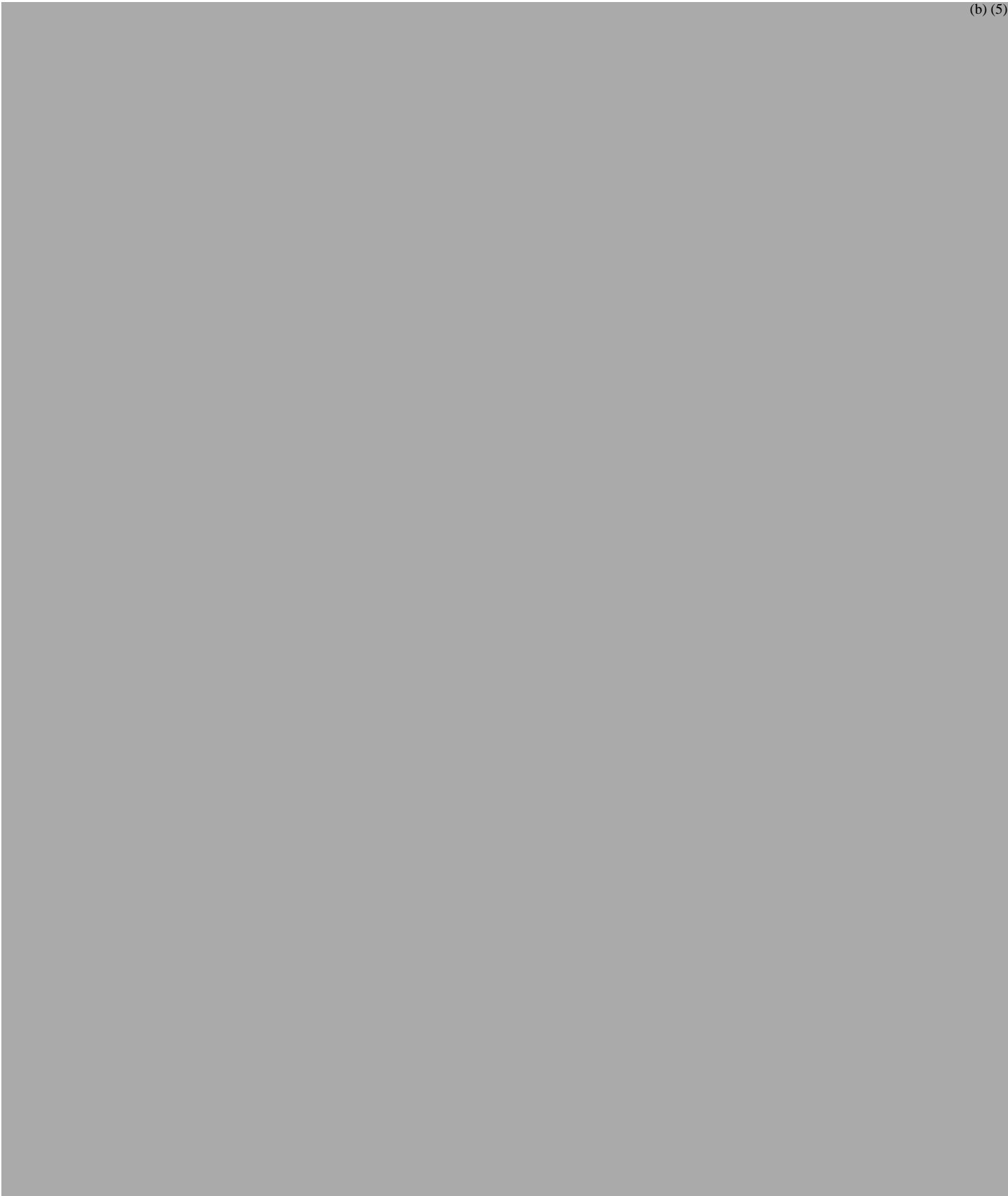




















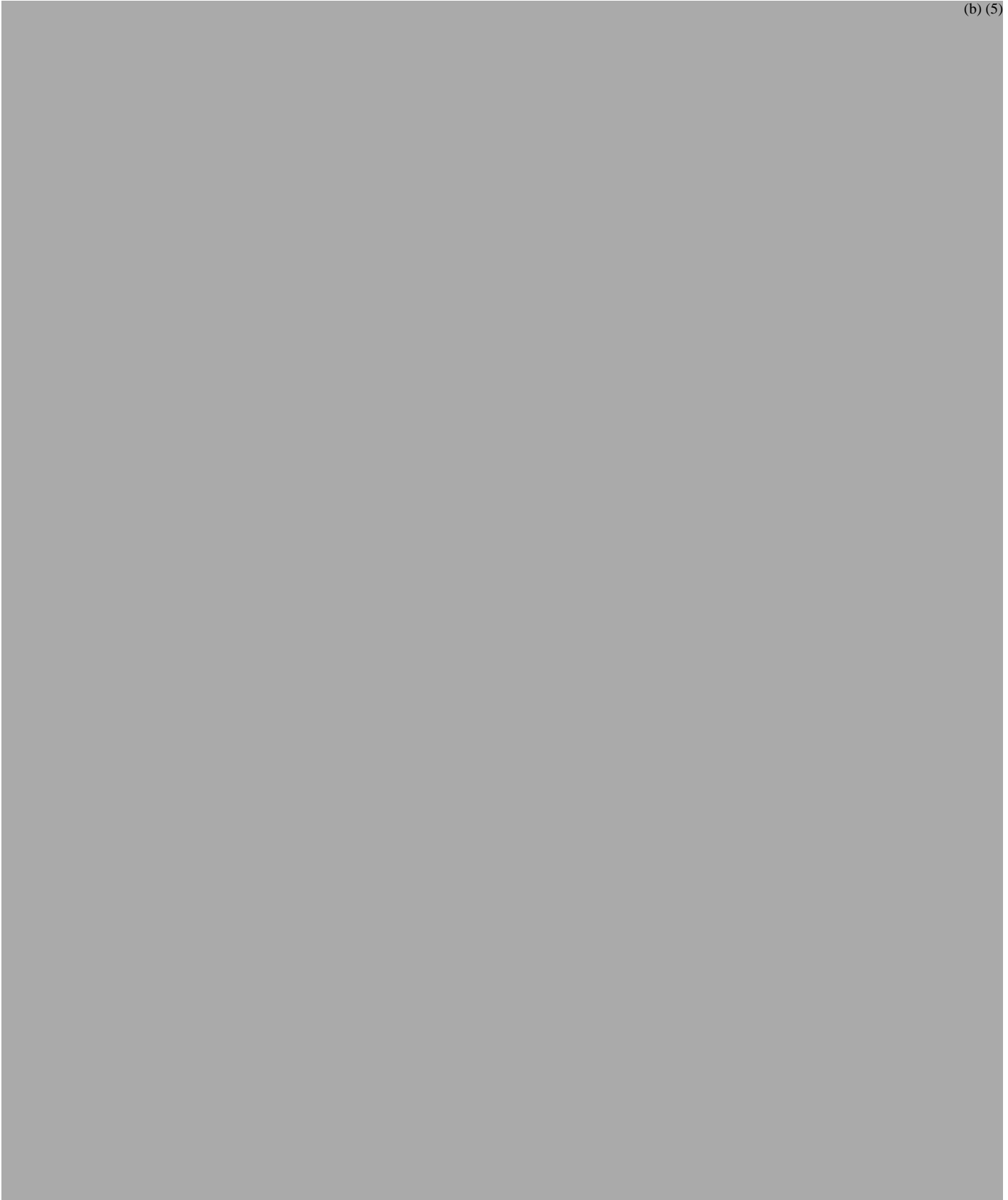




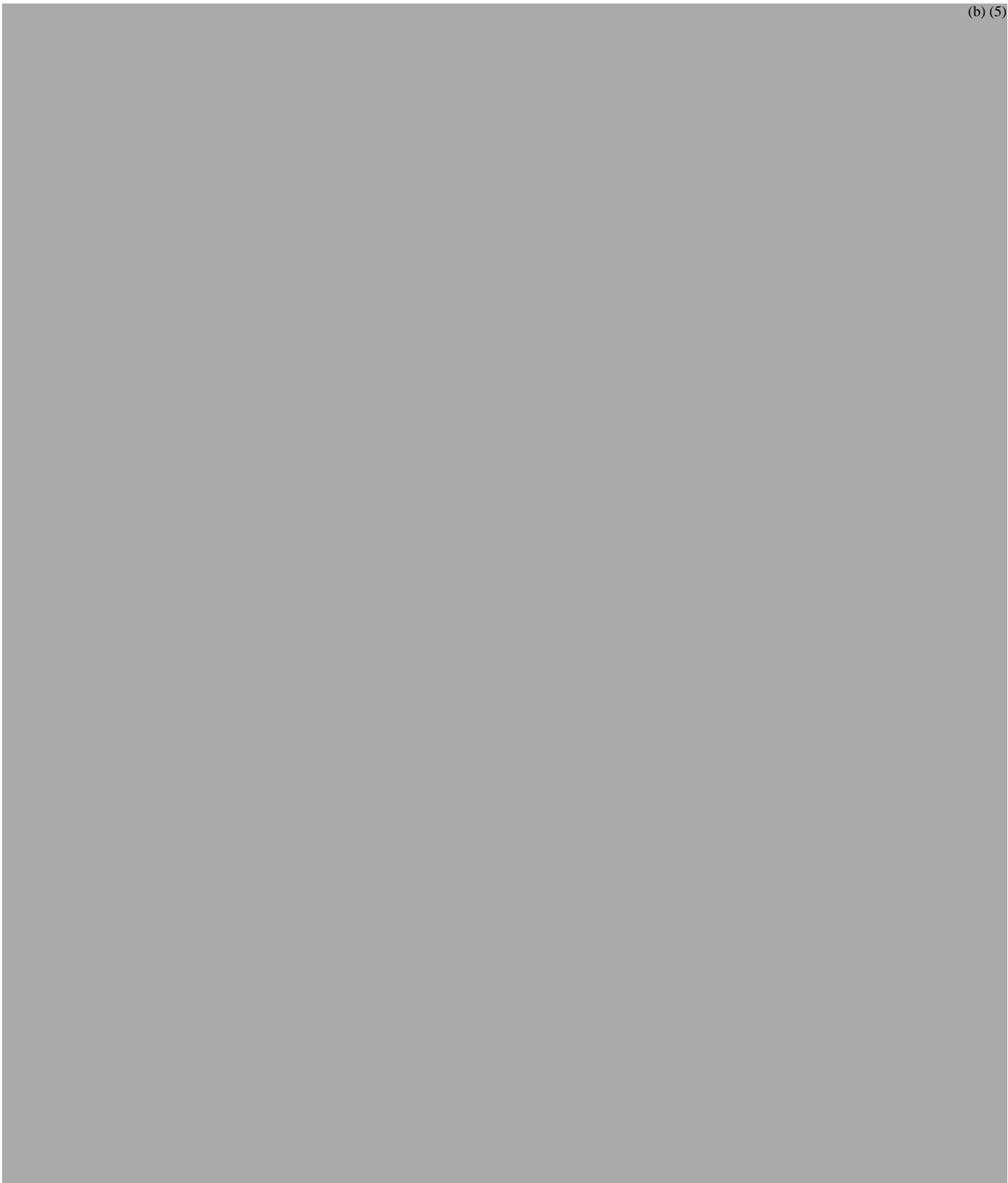






















**From:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Fine, Amanda \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Showe, Melanie \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [OER Press Group](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:40:11 PM

---

Michelle, is working on it, looping her in here.

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 1:39 PM  
**To:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), Jodi OER (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>, Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks, regarding the highlighted below, (b) (5)

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)

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Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

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Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

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**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

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**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

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The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

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Fred

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**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016?  
Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

NIH/HHS

31 Center Drive Room 7A17C

Bethesda, MD 20892

Direct: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Disclaimer:** The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Fine, Amanda \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [OER Press Group](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:03:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [SR\\_29Apr2020\\_020207\\_56918587.csv](#)

---

Hi Amanda – Sorry, I'm tied up this afternoon – here's the table of the history of the grant.

Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 1:48 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Just to update you we've received a few more inquiries on this. Hoping to get back to them as soon as possible. We know you're swamped but when you have a moment let us know if we are able to share the below response.

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Sorry for the delay, (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:09 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

(b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

As you are probably can guess we're getting a lot of media inquiries on this topic. There have been several articles that cite the April 19 letter from you to EcoHealth Alliance. Since this letter is now somewhat public, the first paragraph has definitely been quoted in several places, (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

.  
Thanks for your guidance,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6);  
Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]"  
(b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]"  
(b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks, regarding the highlighted below, (b) (5)

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6);  
Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate — (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.



Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via

phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPE

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific

to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)



Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Disclaimer** The information in this e-mail and any of its attachments is confidential and may contain sensitive information. It should not be used by anyone who is not the original intended recipient. If you have received this e-mail in error please inform the sender and delete it from your mailbox or any other storage devices. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall not accept liability for any statements made that are sender's own and not expressly made on behalf of the NIAID by one of its representatives.

**From:** [Brandy, Aesha \(NIH/OD\) \[C\]](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Bundesen, Liza \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Kosub, David \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NIH FOIA #54085 - Meredith Wadman of Science Magazine - Due by Friday May 8th  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:27:46 PM

---

Apologies Mike – Can you send me documents by next Friday, **May 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Best,  
**Aesha**

---

**From:** Brandy, Aesha (NIH/OD) [C]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:26 PM  
**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** NIH FOIA #54085 - Meredith Wadman of Science Magazine - Due by Friday April 8th

Hi Mike –  
Please see the NIH FOIA request below from Science Magazine. Would you forward any responsive documents to me by COB Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, if possible. Let me know if you have any questions or feel this should be sent to another SME for input.

Thanks.

Best,  
**Aesha**

**From:** [FOIA\\_noreply@nih.gov](mailto:FOIA_noreply@nih.gov) <[FOIA\\_noreply@nih.gov](mailto:FOIA_noreply@nih.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:47 AM  
**To:** NIH FOIA <[nihfoia@od.nih.gov](mailto:.nihfoia@od.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** NIH FOIA - Assignment Notification from NIH FOIA Public Portal-Tracking # 54085

*Hi FOIA Team!*

*Request # 54085 was submitted through the NIH FOIA Public Portal and assigned to you for review and further processing.*

*Please review the request and if all required details have not been provided by the requester, be sure to use the "Stop Clock" option to ensure processing time for the request is accurately monitored while waiting for clarification/information from the requester.*

**Request Description:**

Dear NIH FOIA staff:

*I'm a reporter with Science. I'm requesting on an expedited basis a response to the following FOIA. The expedition is requested because of the urgent and pressing public health threat posed by the novel coronavirus -- and the possibility that political considerations caused NIH to cut off a grant that was probing the bat-to-human transmission that very possibly launched the current pandemic. See the April 27 Politico article under the headline: "Trump cuts U.S. research on bat-human virus transmission over China ties; The National Institutes of Health on Friday told EcoHealth Alliance, the study's sponsor for the past five years, that all future funding was cut."*

*The NIH's possible stifling of foundational research germane to both this epidemic and the prevention of future pandemics a time when Americans are dying in their thousands is clearly a matter of urgent and pressing concern for public safety, thus my request for expedition.*

*I'm requesting, for the period October 1 2019 to today, April 28, 2020:*

- 1. All correspondence (including emails, written memos or letters, memos of phone conversations, and texts) between senior NIH officials Francis Collins, Michael Lauer, Lawrence Tabak, Tony Fauci and anyone else at NIH they copied on such correspondence, or who initiated such correspondence, concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."*
- 2. All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any officials in the Department of Health and Human Services concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."*
- 3. All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any officials in the Department of State concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."*
- 4. All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any officials at EcoHealth Alliance concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."*

5. All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any White House employees concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."

*Thanks for considering this request.*

*Sincerely,*

*Meredith Wadman, BM, BCh*

*Reporter*

*Science Magazine*

*1200 New York Avenue N.W., #1144*

*Washington, D.C. 20005*

*Email: [mwadman@aaas.org](mailto:mwadman@aaas.org)*

*Cell: (b) (6)*

*(Date Range for Record Search: From 10/01/2019 To 04/28/2020)*

**From:** [Brandy, Aesha \(NIH/OD\) \[C\]](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Bundesen, Liza \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Kosub, David \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NIH FOIA #54086 - SECOND Request from Meredith Wadman of Science Magazine - Due by COB Friday May 8th, if possible  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 9:03:18 PM

---

Thanks.

Best,

**Aesha**

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:49 PM  
**To:** Brandy, Aesha (NIH/OD) [C] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: NIH FOIA #54086 - SECOND Request from Meredith Wadman of Science Magazine - Due by COB Friday May 8th, if possible

Hi Aesha – I have nothing for that period.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Brandy, Aesha (NIH/OD) [C]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 8:47 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** NIH FOIA #54086 - SECOND Request from Meredith Wadman of Science Magazine - Due by COB Friday May 8th, if possible

Hi Dr. Lauer –

Meredith Wadman of Science Magazine submitted a second request, #54086, for the same records, but for a larger/different date range as well: **For the period October 1 2016- 9/30/2019**. This was done in the hope that they would receive records for the smaller date range faster.

Would you please search both date ranges for these 2 requests and forward me responsive documents by COB Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks Dr. Lauer.

Best,

**Aesha**

Hi FOIA Team!

Request # 54085 was submitted through the NIH FOIA Public Portal and assigned to you for review and further processing.

Please review the request and if all required details have not been provided by the requester, be sure to use the "Stop Clock" option to ensure processing time for the request is accurately monitored while waiting for clarification/information from the requester.

**Request Description:**

Dear NIH FOIA staff:

*I'm a reporter with Science. I'm requesting on an expedited basis a response to the following FOIA. The expedition is requested because of the urgent and pressing public health threat posed by the novel coronavirus -- and the possibility that political considerations caused NIH to cut off a grant that was probing the bat-to-human transmission that very possibly launched the current pandemic. See the April 27 Politico article under the headline: "Trump cuts U.S. research on bat-human virus transmission over China ties; The National Institutes of Health on Friday told EcoHealth Alliance, the study's sponsor for the past five years, that all future funding was cut."*

*The NIH's possible stifling of foundational research germane to both this epidemic and the prevention of future pandemics a time when Americans are dying in their thousands is clearly a matter of urgent and pressing concern for public safety, thus my request for expedition.*

*I'm requesting, for the period October 1 2019 to today, April 28, 2020:*

1. *All correspondence (including emails, written memos or letters, memos of phone conversations, and texts) between senior NIH officials Francis Collins, Michael Lauer, Lawrence Tabak, Tony Fauci and anyone else at NIH they copied on such correspondence, or who initiated such correspondence, concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."*
2. *All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any officials in the Department of Health and Human Services concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."*



3. All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any officials in the Department of State concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."

4. All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any officials at EcoHealth Alliance concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."

5. All correspondence between the senior NIH officials listed in (1.) above and any White House employees concerning the grant to EcoHealth Alliance, R01 AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."

Thanks for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Meredith Wadman, BM, BCh

Reporter

Science Magazine

1200 New York Avenue N.W., #1144

Washington, D.C. 20005

Email: [mwadman@aaas.org](mailto:mwadman@aaas.org)

Cell: (b) (6)

(Date Range for Record Search: From 10/01/2019 To 04/28/2020)

**From:** [Kosub, David \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [OER Press Group](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:01:36 PM

---

Thank you both. I'll relay to OCPL. (b) (5)  
David

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:59 PM  
**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi David, (b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Hope that helps

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

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**From:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 2:43 PM  
**To:** David Kosub (b) (6), Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>, Mike Lauer <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Re: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi David – our WG meeting is on break. (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 2:31 PM  
**To:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Jodi,  
Would you be able to clear the revised statement from OCPL below in Mike's absence? They requested a response and

are getting inundated with requests on this  
THanks  
David

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:04 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – Sorry, I’m tied up this afternoon – here’s the table of the history of the grant.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 1:48 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Just to update you we’ve received a few more inquiries on this. Hoping to get back to them as soon as possible. We know you’re swamped but when you have a moment let us know if we are able to share the below response.

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[Michael.Lauer@nih.gov](mailto:Michael.Lauer@nih.gov)>  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <[mylesr@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mylesr@mail.nih.gov)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <[emma.wojtowicz@nih.gov](mailto:emma.wojtowicz@nih.gov)>; Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[Jodi.Black@nih.gov](mailto:Jodi.Black@nih.gov)>; OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Sorry for the delay, (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:09 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

(b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

As you are probably can guess we're getting a lot of media inquiries on this topic. There have been several articles that cite the April 19 letter from you to EcoHealth Alliance. Since this letter is now somewhat public, the first paragraph has definitely been quoted in several places, (b) (5)

(b) (5)

.  
Thanks for your guidance,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6);  
Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks, regarding the highlighted below, (b) (5)

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6);  
Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group

<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM

**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM



**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6);

Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting to too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab

**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

**REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:**

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Direct: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

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**From:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Kosub, David \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [OER Press Group](#)  
**Subject:** Re: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:58:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [SR\\_29Apr2020\\_020207\\_56918587\[1\]\[2\].csv](#)

---

Hi David, [REDACTED] (b) (5)  
[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Hope that helps

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

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**From:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 2:43 PM  
**To:** David Kosub [REDACTED] (b) (6), Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>, Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi David – our WG meeting is on break. [REDACTED] (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 2:31 PM  
**To:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Jodi,  
Would you be able to clear the revised statement from OCPL below in Mike's absence? They requested a response and are getting inundated with requests on this  
THanks  
David

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:04 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael

(NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – Sorry, I'm tied up this afternoon – here's the table of the history of the grant.

Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 1:48 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Just to update you we've received a few more inquiries on this. Hoping to get back to them as soon as possible. We know you're swamped but when you have a moment let us know if we are able to share the below response.

Thanks!

Amanda

---

**From:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:38 PM

**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Sorry for the delay, (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:09 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

(b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

As you are probably can guess we're getting a lot of media inquiries on this topic. There have been several articles that cite the April 19 letter from you to EcoHealth Alliance. Since this letter is now somewhat public, the first paragraph has definitely been quoted in several places, (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks for your guidance,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks, regarding the highlighted below, (b) (5)

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)



Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,

Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)  
(b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting in too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

---

**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPE

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

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Search Criteria:

Search in: Projects                      AdminIC: All; Principal Investigator / Project Leader: Daszak; Project Number (split): 110964; Fiscal Year: All Fiscal Years  
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NIH Spending Categorization, Project Terms, Project Title, Public Health Relevance, Administering IC, Application ID, Award Notice Date, FOA, Project Number, Type, Activity, IC, Serial Number, Support Year, Suffix, Program Official Information, Project Start Date, Project End Date, Study Section, Subproject Number, Contact PI Person ID, Contact PI / Project Leader, Other PI or Project Leader(s), Congressional District, Department, DUNS Number, FIPS, Latitude, Longitude, Organization ID (IPF), Organization Name, Organization City, Organization State, Organization Type, Organization Zip, Organization Country, ARRA Indicator, Budget Start Date, Budget End Date, CFDA Code, Funding Mechanism, FY, Funding IC, FY Direct Costs, FY Indirect Costs, FY Total Cost by IC, FY Total Cost (Sub Projects),

No NIH Category available., "Acute; Acute Diarrhea; Address; Amino Acid

Sequence; Animals; base; Behavior; Behavioral; Biological; biosecurity; Cells; China; Chiroptera; Clinic; Clinic Visits; Clinical; Communities; community clinic; Coronavirus; Coronavirus Infections; Coupled; Data; Data Analyses; Development; Disease Outbreaks; epidemiologic data; Epithelial Cells; experimental study; exposed human population; exposure route; Exposure to; Family suidae; follow-up; food security; Future; genetic element; Genome; Geographic Distribution; Geography; global health; Habitats; Health; high risk; high risk population; Human; human population study; humanized mouse; In Vitro; in vivo; Individual; Infection; Influenza; Investigation; laboratory experiment; Lead; Maps; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus; Modeling; Molecular; Monoclonal Antibodies; mouse model; Nature; novel; pandemic disease; Paper; Patients; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; Prevalence; prevent; Principal Investigator; programs; Proteins; Public Health; public health intervention; Publishing Peer Reviews; Questionnaires; Readiness; Reagent; receptor binding; recombinant virus; respiratory; Risk; Risk Behaviors; Risk Factors; sample collection; Sampling; SARS coronavirus; screening; Serologic tests; Serological; seropositive; Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; Site; Surveys; Syndrome; syndromic surveillance; Technology; Testing; Therapeutic Intervention; Therapeutic Monoclonal Antibodies; therapeutic vaccine; Time; trait; Transgenic Organisms; Vaccines; Viral; virology; Virus; Work; Zoonoses"; "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence", "Program Director/Principal Investigator: Daszak; PeterRenewal: Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus EmergenceProject NarrativeMost emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to public health and biosecurity in the US and globally; as was demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03. This project seeks to understand what factors allow coronaviruses; including close relatives to SARS; to evolve and jump into the human population by studying viral diversity in their animal reservoirs (bats); surveying people that live in high-risk communities in China for evidence of bat-coronavirus infection; and conducting laboratory experiments to analyze and predict which newly-discovered viruses pose the greatest threat to human health.", "NIAID", "9819304", "24-JUL-2019", "PA-18-484", "2R01AI110964-06, 2, R01, AI, 110964, 06", "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "24-APR-2020", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)", "6575431", "DASZAK, PETER", "Not Applicable", "10", "Unavailable", "077090066", "US", "40.754125", "-73.998291", "4415701", "ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.", "NEW YORK", "NY", "Other Domestic Non-Profits", "10001-2320", "UNITED STATES", "24-JUL-2019", "24-APR-2020", "855", "Research Projects, 2019, NIAID, 262862, 29299, 292161,

"Clinical Research; Emerging Infectious Diseases; Genetics; Infectious Diseases; Rare Diseases", "Affect; Animals; Asia; Binding; Binding Sites; Biological Assay; biosecurity; Blood specimen; Cell Culture Techniques; Cell Line; Cells; Chimeric Proteins; China; Chiroptera; Clinical; Coronavirus; coronavirus receptor; Data; Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV; Disease; Ecosystem; Epidemic; Evolution; experimental study; Exposure to; field study; Frequencies; Future; Genbank; Gene Proteins; Genes; Genetic; Genetic Recombination; Genetic Variation; Genomics; Geography; global health; high risk; Human; human population study; humanized mouse; improved; In Vitro; in vivo; Infection; interest; Interview; Investigation; Laboratory Study; Mammals; mathematical model; Mathematics; Middle East; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus; Modeling; Molecular; mutant; Nature; novel; Occupational Exposure; pandemic disease; Pattern; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; predictive modeling; Primates; Process; Property; Public Health; public health relevance; receptor; receptor binding; reverse genetics; Risk; Rural; Sampling; SARS



coronavirus;screening;Serological;Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;Site;Southeastern Asia;System;Testing;trait;transmission process;Viral;Viral reservoir;Virus;Virus Diseases;Work;Zoonoses;","Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence","PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).","NIAID","9491676","18-JUN-2018","PA-11-260",5R01AI110964-05,5,R01,AI,110964,05,,"STEMMY, ERIK J","1-JUN-2014","31-MAY-2019","Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS) ","6575431","DASZAK, PETER ","Not Applicable","10","Unavailable","077090066","US","40.754125","-73.998291","4415701","ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.,"NEW YORK","NY","Other Domestic Non-Profits","10001-2320","UNITED STATES",,"1-JUN-2018","31-MAY-2019","855",Research Projects,2018,NIAID,462270,119376,581646,"Clinical Research;Emerging Infectious Diseases;Genetics;Infectious Diseases","Affect;Animals;Asia;Binding;Binding Sites;Biological Assay;biosecurity;Blood specimen;Cell Culture Techniques;Cell Line;Cells;Chimeric Proteins;China;Chiroptera;Clinical;Coronaviridae;Coronavirus;coronavirus receptor;Data;Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV;Disease;Ecosystem;Epidemic;Evolution;experimental study;Exposure to;field study;Frequencies;Future;Genbank;Gene Proteins;Genes;Genetic;Genetic Recombination;Genetic Variation;Genomics;Geography;global health;high risk;Human;human population study;humanized mouse;improved;In Vitro;in vivo;Infection;interest;Interview;Investigation;Laboratory Study;Mammals;mathematical model;Mathematics;Middle East;Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus;Modeling;Molecular;mutant;Nature;novel;Occupational Exposure;pandemic disease;Pattern;Phylogenetic Analysis;Phylogeny;predictive modeling;Primates;Process;Property;Public Health;public health relevance;receptor;receptor binding;reverse genetics;Risk;Rural;Sampling;SARS coronavirus;screening;Serological;Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;Site;Southeastern Asia;System;Testing;trait;transmission process;Viral;Viral reservoir;Virus;Virus Diseases;Work;Zoonoses;","Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence","PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).","NIAID","9320765","26-MAY-2017","PA-11-260",5R01AI110964-04,5,R01,AI,110964,04,,"STEMMY, ERIK J","1-JUN-2014","31-MAY-2019","Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS) ","6575431","DASZAK, PETER ","Not Applicable","10","Unavailable","077090066","US","40.754125","-73.998291","4415701","ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.,"NEW YORK","NY","Other Domestic Non-Profits","10001-2320","UNITED STATES",,"1-JUN-2017","31-MAY-2018","855",Research Projects,2017,NIAID,476016,121096,597112,"Biotechnology;Clinical Research;Emerging Infectious Diseases;Genetics;Infectious Diseases","Affect;Animals;Asia;Binding;Binding Sites;Biological Assay;biosecurity;Blood specimen;Cell Culture Techniques;Cell Line;Cells;Chimeric Proteins;China;Chiroptera;Clinical;Coronavirus;coronavirus receptor;Data;Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV;Disease;Ecosystem;Epidemic;Evolution;Exposure to;field study;Frequencies;Future;Genbank;Genes;Genetic;Genetic Recombination;Genetic Variation;Genomics;global health;Health;high risk;Human;human population study;humanized mouse;improved;In Vitro;in vitro Assay;in vivo;Infection;interest;Interview;Investigation;Laboratory Study;Life;Mammals;Marketing;mathematical model;Middle East;Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus;Modeling;Molecular;mutant;Nature;novel;Occupational Exposure;pandemic disease;Pattern;Phylogenetic Analysis;Phylogeny;predictive modeling;Primates;Process;Property;Public Health;receptor;receptor binding;research study;reverse genetics;Risk;Rural;Sampling;SARS coronavirus;screening;Serological;Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;Site;Southeastern Asia;System;Testing;trait;transmission process;Viral;Viral reservoir;Virus;Virus Diseases;Work;","Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence","PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03

and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).", "NIAID", "9086286", "22-JUL-2016", "PA-11-260", 5R01AI110964-03, 5, R01, AI, 110964, 03, "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "31-MAY-2019", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)", "6575431", "DASZAK, PETER", "Not Applicable", "10", "Unavailable", "077090066", "US", "40.754125", "-73.998291", "4415701", "ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.", "NEW YORK", "NY", "Other Domestic Non-Profits", "10001-2320", "UNITED STATES", "1-JUN-2016", "31-MAY-2017", "855", Research Projects, 2016, NIAID, 489333, 121757, 611090, "Biotechnology; Clinical Research; Emerging Infectious Diseases; Genetics; Infectious Diseases", "Affect; Animals; Asia; Binding; Binding Sites; Biological Assay; biosecurity; Blood specimen; Cell Culture Techniques; Cell Line; Cells; Chimeric Proteins; China; Chiroptera; Clinical; Coronavirus; coronavirus receptor; Data; Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV; Disease; Ecosystem; Epidemic; Evolution; Exposure to; field study; Frequencies; Future; Genbank; Genes; Genetic; Genetic Recombination; Genetic Variation; Genomics; global health; high risk; Human; human population study; Human Virus; improved; In Vitro; in vitro Assay; in vivo; Infection; interest; Interview; Investigation; Laboratory Study; Life; Mammals; Marketing; mathematical model; Middle East; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus; Modeling; Molecular; Mus; mutant; Nature; novel; Occupational Exposure; pandemic disease; Pattern; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; predictive modeling; Primates; Process; Property; Public Health; public health relevance; receptor; receptor binding; research study; reverse genetics; Risk; Rural; Sampling; SARS coronavirus; screening; Serological; Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; Site; Southeastern Asia; System; Testing; trait; transmission process; Viral; Virus; Virus Diseases; Work", "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence", "PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).", "NIAID", "8853810", "10-JUN-2015", "PA-11-260", 5R01AI110964-02, 5, R01, AI, 110964, 02, "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "31-MAY-2019", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)", "6575431", "DASZAK, PETER", "Not Applicable", "10", "Unavailable", "077090066", "US", "40.754125", "-73.998291", "4415701", "ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.", "NEW YORK", "NY", "Other Domestic Non-Profits", "10001-2320", "UNITED STATES", "1-JUN-2015", "31-MAY-2016", "855", Research Projects, 2015, NIAID, 502293, 128152, 630445, "Biotechnology; Emerging Infectious Diseases; Genetics; Infectious Diseases", "Affect; Animals; Asia; Binding; Binding Sites; Biological Assay; biosecurity; Blood specimen; Cell Culture Techniques; Cell Line; Cells; Chimeric Proteins; China; Chiroptera; Clinical; Coronavirus; coronavirus receptor; Data; Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV; Disease; Ecosystem; Epidemic; Evolution; Exposure to; field study; Frequencies; Future; Genbank; Genes; Genetic; Genetic Recombination; Genetic Variation; Genomics; global health; high risk; Human; human population study; Human Virus; improved; In Vitro; in vitro Assay; in vivo; Infection; interest; Interview; Investigation; Laboratory Study; Life; Mammals; Marketing; mathematical model; Middle East; Modeling; Molecular; Mus; mutant; Nature; novel; Occupational Exposure; pandemic disease; Pattern; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; positional cloning; predictive modeling; Primates; Process; Property; Public Health; public health relevance; receptor; receptor binding; research study; respiratory; Risk; Rural; Sampling; SARS coronavirus; screening; Serological; Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; Site; Southeastern Asia; Syndrome; System; Testing; trait; transmission process; Viral; Virus; Virus Diseases; Work", "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence", "PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).", "NIAID", "8674931", "27-MAY-2014", "PA-11-260", 1R01AI110964-01, 1, R01, AI, 110964, 01, "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "31-MAY-2019", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)

","6575431","DASZAK, PETER ",Not Applicable,"10","Unavailable","077090066","US","40.754125",-  
73.998291","4415701","ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.",,"NEW YORK","NY","Other Domestic Non-  
Profits","10001-2320","UNITED STATES",,"1-JUN-2014","31-MAY-2015","855",Research  
Projects,2014,NIAID,516857,149585,666442,

**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Kosub, David \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [OER Press Group](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:43:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [SR\\_29Apr2020\\_020207\\_56918587\[1\].csv](#)  
[Screen Shot 2020-04-29 at 2.40.00 PM.png](#)

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Hi David – our WG meeting is on break. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Kosub, David (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 2:31 PM  
**To:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: OER PRESS/NEED YOUR HELP: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Jodi,  
Would you be able to clear the revised statement from OCPL below in Mike's absence? They requested a response and are getting inundated with requests on this  
THanks  
David

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:04 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – Sorry, I'm tied up this afternoon – here's the table of the history of the grant.

Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 1:48 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Just to update you we've received a few more inquiries on this. Hoping to get back to them as soon as possible. We know you're swamped but when you have a moment let us know if we are able to share the below response.

Thanks!  
Amanda

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**From:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER  
Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Sorry for the delay, (b) (5)  
(b) (5)



Thanks,  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:09 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group  
<[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda



(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:54 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

As you are probably can guess we're getting a lot of media inquiries on this topic. There have been several articles that cite the April 19 letter from you to EcoHealth Alliance. Since this letter is now somewhat public, the first paragraph has definitely been quoted in several places, (b) (5)

(b) (5)

.  
Thanks for your guidance,  
Amanda

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Many thanks, Mike

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks, regarding the highlighted below, (b) (5)

Amanda

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Science magazine asked for the "law or regulation" that gives NIH authority to stop funding a grant midstream in the absence of fraud or other findings of misconduct?

Based on what we discussed yesterday, how do you recommend we respond? (b) (5)

Thanks!

Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Renate – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

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**From:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:20 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike:

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Renate

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks, Mike

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. Based on what you've shared, (b) (5)

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

(b) (5)

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)

Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!

Amanda

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM

**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

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**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

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**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting in too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

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**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab  
**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPEs

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

### REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

Jennifer Routh [E]  
News and Science Writing Branch  
Office of Communications and Government Relations  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
NIH/HHS  
31 Center Drive Room 7A17C  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Direct: (b) (6)  
(b) (6)

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Search Criteria:

Search in: Projects                      AdminIC: All; Principal Investigator / Project Leader: Daszak; Project Number (split): 110964; Fiscal Year: All Fiscal Years

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NIH Spending Categorization, Project Terms, Project Title, Public Health Relevance, Administering IC, Application ID, Award Notice Date, FOA, Project Number, Type, Activity, IC, Serial Number, Support Year, Suffix, Program Official Information, Project Start Date, Project End Date, Study Section, Subproject Number, Contact PI Person ID, Contact PI / Project Leader, Other PI or Project Leader(s), Congressional District, Department, DUNS Number, FIPS, Latitude, Longitude, Organization ID (IPF), Organization Name, Organization City, Organization State, Organization Type, Organization Zip, Organization Country, ARRA Indicator, Budget Start Date, Budget End Date, CFDA Code, Funding Mechanism, FY, Funding IC, FY Direct Costs, FY Indirect Costs, FY Total Cost by IC, FY Total Cost (Sub Projects),

No NIH Category available., "Acute; Acute Diarrhea; Address; Amino Acid

Sequence; Animals; base; Behavior; Behavioral; Biological; biosecurity; Cells; China; Chiroptera; Clinic; Clinic Visits; Clinical; Communities; community clinic; Coronavirus; Coronavirus Infections; Coupled; Data; Data Analyses; Development; Disease Outbreaks; epidemiologic data; Epithelial Cells; experimental study; exposed human population; exposure route; Exposure to; Family suidae; follow-up; food security; Future; genetic element; Genome; Geographic Distribution; Geography; global health; Habitats; Health; high risk; high risk population; Human; human population study; humanized mouse; In Vitro; in vivo; Individual; Infection; Influenza; Investigation; laboratory experiment; Lead; Maps; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus; Modeling; Molecular; Monoclonal Antibodies; mouse model; Nature; novel; pandemic disease; Paper; Patients; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; Prevalence; prevent; Principal Investigator; programs; Proteins; Public Health; public health intervention; Publishing Peer Reviews; Questionnaires; Readiness; Reagent; receptor binding; recombinant virus; respiratory; Risk; Risk Behaviors; Risk Factors; sample collection; Sampling; SARS coronavirus; screening; Serologic tests; Serological; seropositive; Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; Site; Surveys; Syndrome; syndromic surveillance; Technology; Testing; Therapeutic Intervention; Therapeutic Monoclonal Antibodies; therapeutic vaccine; Time; trait; Transgenic Organisms; Vaccines; Viral; virology; Virus; Work; Zoonoses"; "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence", "Program Director/Principal Investigator: Daszak; PeterRenewal: Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus EmergenceProject NarrativeMost emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to public health and biosecurity in the US and globally; as was demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03. This project seeks to understand what factors allow coronaviruses; including close relatives to SARS; to evolve and jump into the human population by studying viral diversity in their animal reservoirs (bats); surveying people that live in high-risk communities in China for evidence of bat-coronavirus infection; and conducting laboratory experiments to analyze and predict which newly-discovered viruses pose the greatest threat to human health.", "NIAID", "9819304", "24-JUL-2019", "PA-18-484", "2R01AI110964-06, 2, R01, AI, 110964, 06", "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "24-APR-2020", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)", "6575431", "DASZAK, PETER", "Not Applicable", "10", "Unavailable", "077090066", "US", "40.754125", "-73.998291", "4415701", "ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.", "NEW YORK", "NY", "Other Domestic Non-Profits", "10001-2320", "UNITED STATES", "24-JUL-2019", "24-APR-2020", "855", "Research Projects, 2019, NIAID, 262862, 29299, 292161,

"Clinical Research; Emerging Infectious Diseases; Genetics; Infectious Diseases; Rare Diseases", "Affect; Animals; Asia; Binding; Binding Sites; Biological Assay; biosecurity; Blood specimen; Cell Culture Techniques; Cell Line; Cells; Chimeric Proteins; China; Chiroptera; Clinical; Coronavirus; coronavirus receptor; Data; Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV; Disease; Ecosystem; Epidemic; Evolution; experimental study; Exposure to; field study; Frequencies; Future; Genbank; Gene Proteins; Genes; Genetic; Genetic Recombination; Genetic Variation; Genomics; Geography; global health; high risk; Human; human population study; humanized mouse; improved; In Vitro; in vivo; Infection; interest; Interview; Investigation; Laboratory Study; Mammals; mathematical model; Mathematics; Middle East; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus; Modeling; Molecular; mutant; Nature; novel; Occupational Exposure; pandemic disease; Pattern; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; predictive modeling; Primates; Process; Property; Public Health; public health relevance; receptor; receptor binding; reverse genetics; Risk; Rural; Sampling; SARS

coronavirus;screening;Serological;Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;Site;Southeastern Asia;System;Testing;trait;transmission process;Viral;Viral reservoir;Virus;Virus Diseases;Work;Zoonoses;","Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence","PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).","NIAID","9491676","18-JUN-2018","PA-11-260",5R01AI110964-05,5,R01,AI,110964,05,,"STEMMY, ERIK J","1-JUN-2014","31-MAY-2019","Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS) ","6575431","DASZAK, PETER ","Not Applicable","10","Unavailable","077090066","US","40.754125","-73.998291","4415701","ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.,"NEW YORK","NY","Other Domestic Non-Profits","10001-2320","UNITED STATES",,"1-JUN-2018","31-MAY-2019","855",Research Projects,2018,NIAID,462270,119376,581646,"Clinical Research;Emerging Infectious Diseases;Genetics;Infectious Diseases","Affect;Animals;Asia;Binding;Binding Sites;Biological Assay;biosecurity;Blood specimen;Cell Culture Techniques;Cell Line;Cells;Chimeric Proteins;China;Chiroptera;Clinical;Coronaviridae;Coronavirus;coronavirus receptor;Data;Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV;Disease;Ecosystem;Epidemic;Evolution;experimental study;Exposure to;field study;Frequencies;Future;Genbank;Gene Proteins;Genes;Genetic;Genetic Recombination;Genetic Variation;Genomics;Geography;global health;high risk;Human;human population study;humanized mouse;improved;In Vitro;in vivo;Infection;interest;Interview;Investigation;Laboratory Study;Mammals;mathematical model;Mathematics;Middle East;Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus;Modeling;Molecular;mutant;Nature;novel;Occupational Exposure;pandemic disease;Pattern;Phylogenetic Analysis;Phylogeny;predictive modeling;Primates;Process;Property;Public Health;public health relevance;receptor;receptor binding;reverse genetics;Risk;Rural;Sampling;SARS coronavirus;screening;Serological;Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;Site;Southeastern Asia;System;Testing;trait;transmission process;Viral;Viral reservoir;Virus;Virus Diseases;Work;Zoonoses;","Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence","PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).","NIAID","9320765","26-MAY-2017","PA-11-260",5R01AI110964-04,5,R01,AI,110964,04,,"STEMMY, ERIK J","1-JUN-2014","31-MAY-2019","Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS) ","6575431","DASZAK, PETER ","Not Applicable","10","Unavailable","077090066","US","40.754125","-73.998291","4415701","ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.,"NEW YORK","NY","Other Domestic Non-Profits","10001-2320","UNITED STATES",,"1-JUN-2017","31-MAY-2018","855",Research Projects,2017,NIAID,476016,121096,597112,"Biotechnology;Clinical Research;Emerging Infectious Diseases;Genetics;Infectious Diseases","Affect;Animals;Asia;Binding;Binding Sites;Biological Assay;biosecurity;Blood specimen;Cell Culture Techniques;Cell Line;Cells;Chimeric Proteins;China;Chiroptera;Clinical;Coronavirus;coronavirus receptor;Data;Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV;Disease;Ecosystem;Epidemic;Evolution;Exposure to;field study;Frequencies;Future;Genbank;Genes;Genetic;Genetic Recombination;Genetic Variation;Genomics;global health;Health;high risk;Human;human population study;humanized mouse;improved;In Vitro;in vitro Assay;in vivo;Infection;interest;Interview;Investigation;Laboratory Study;Life;Mammals;Marketing;mathematical model;Middle East;Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus;Modeling;Molecular;mutant;Nature;novel;Occupational Exposure;pandemic disease;Pattern;Phylogenetic Analysis;Phylogeny;predictive modeling;Primates;Process;Property;Public Health;receptor;receptor binding;research study;reverse genetics;Risk;Rural;Sampling;SARS coronavirus;screening;Serological;Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;Site;Southeastern Asia;System;Testing;trait;transmission process;Viral;Viral reservoir;Virus;Virus Diseases;Work;","Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence","PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03

and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).", "NIAID", "9086286", "22-JUL-2016", "PA-11-260", 5R01AI110964-03, 5, R01, AI, 110964, 03, "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "31-MAY-2019", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)", "6575431", "DASZAK, PETER", "Not Applicable", "10", "Unavailable", "077090066", "US", "40.754125", "-73.998291", "4415701", "ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.", "NEW YORK", "NY", "Other Domestic Non-Profits", "10001-2320", "UNITED STATES", "1-JUN-2016", "31-MAY-2017", "855", Research Projects, 2016, NIAID, 489333, 121757, 611090, "Biotechnology; Clinical Research; Emerging Infectious Diseases; Genetics; Infectious Diseases", "Affect; Animals; Asia; Binding; Binding Sites; Biological Assay; biosecurity; Blood specimen; Cell Culture Techniques; Cell Line; Cells; Chimeric Proteins; China; Chiroptera; Clinical; Coronavirus; coronavirus receptor; Data; Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV; Disease; Ecosystem; Epidemic; Evolution; Exposure to; field study; Frequencies; Future; Genbank; Genes; Genetic; Genetic Recombination; Genetic Variation; Genomics; global health; high risk; Human; human population study; Human Virus; improved; In Vitro; in vitro Assay; in vivo; Infection; interest; Interview; Investigation; Laboratory Study; Life; Mammals; Marketing; mathematical model; Middle East; Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus; Modeling; Molecular; Mus; mutant; Nature; novel; Occupational Exposure; pandemic disease; Pattern; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; predictive modeling; Primates; Process; Property; Public Health; public health relevance; receptor; receptor binding; research study; reverse genetics; Risk; Rural; Sampling; SARS coronavirus; screening; Serological; Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; Site; Southeastern Asia; System; Testing; trait; transmission process; Viral; Virus; Virus Diseases; Work", "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence", "PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).", "NIAID", "8853810", "10-JUN-2015", "PA-11-260", 5R01AI110964-02, 5, R01, AI, 110964, 02, "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "31-MAY-2019", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)", "6575431", "DASZAK, PETER", "Not Applicable", "10", "Unavailable", "077090066", "US", "40.754125", "-73.998291", "4415701", "ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.", "NEW YORK", "NY", "Other Domestic Non-Profits", "10001-2320", "UNITED STATES", "1-JUN-2015", "31-MAY-2016", "855", Research Projects, 2015, NIAID, 502293, 128152, 630445, "Biotechnology; Emerging Infectious Diseases; Genetics; Infectious Diseases", "Affect; Animals; Asia; Binding; Binding Sites; Biological Assay; biosecurity; Blood specimen; Cell Culture Techniques; Cell Line; Cells; Chimeric Proteins; China; Chiroptera; Clinical; Coronavirus; coronavirus receptor; Data; Dipeptidyl-Peptidase IV; Disease; Ecosystem; Epidemic; Evolution; Exposure to; field study; Frequencies; Future; Genbank; Genes; Genetic; Genetic Recombination; Genetic Variation; Genomics; global health; high risk; Human; human population study; Human Virus; improved; In Vitro; in vitro Assay; in vivo; Infection; interest; Interview; Investigation; Laboratory Study; Life; Mammals; Marketing; mathematical model; Middle East; Modeling; Molecular; Mus; mutant; Nature; novel; Occupational Exposure; pandemic disease; Pattern; Phylogenetic Analysis; Phylogeny; positional cloning; predictive modeling; Primates; Process; Property; Public Health; public health relevance; receptor; receptor binding; research study; respiratory; Risk; Rural; Sampling; SARS coronavirus; screening; Serological; Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; Site; Southeastern Asia; Syndrome; System; Testing; trait; transmission process; Viral; Virus; Virus Diseases; Work", "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence", "PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife; and these represent a significant threat to global public health and biosecurity - as demonstrated by the SARS coronavirus pandemic of 2002-03 and an ongoing SARS-like epidemic in the Middle East. This project seeks to understand what factors allow animal Coronaviruses to evolve and jump into the human population by studying virus diversity in a critical group of animals (bats); a sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China).", "NIAID", "8674931", "27-MAY-2014", "PA-11-260", 1R01AI110964-01, 1, R01, AI, 110964, 01, "STEMMY, ERIK J", "1-JUN-2014", "31-MAY-2019", "Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases Study Section (CRFS)



","6575431","DASZAK, PETER ",Not Applicable,"10","Unavailable","077090066","US","40.754125",-  
73.998291","4415701","ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC.",,"NEW YORK","NY","Other Domestic Non-  
Profits","10001-2320","UNITED STATES",,"1-JUN-2014","31-MAY-2015","855",Research  
Projects,2014,NIAID,516857,149585,666442,

* T	Act	IC	Project	FY	Links	PI Name	Status Grp (Status Cd) %tile / Score	Study Sec Admin PCC NI / ESI	Project Title Org Name ( State )	Awd TC Awd DC Bud Start
	RFA		Appl Id	Council						
1	○ 2	R01	AI110964-06 PA-10-484 9819304	2019 2019-05	Snap Abs SS NoA Acctg Hist eIMG Docs GF PUB Like Who	DASZAK, PETER		(b) (5)	Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. (NY)	\$292,161 \$292,862 2019/07/24
2	○ 5	R01	AI110964-05 PA-11-260 9491676	2018 -	Snap Abs NoA Acctg Hist eIMG Docs GF PUB Like Who	DASZAK, PETER			Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. (NY)	\$531,846 \$462,270 2018/06/01
3	○ 5	R01	AI110964-04 PA-11-260 9320765	2017 -	Snap Abs NoA Acctg Hist eIMG Docs GF PUB Like Who	DASZAK, PETER			Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. (NY)	\$597,112 \$476,016 2017/06/01
4	○ 5	R01	AI110964-03 PA-11-260 9086286	2016 -	Snap Abs NoA Acctg Hist eIMG Docs GF PUB Like Who	DASZAK, PETER			Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. (NY)	\$611,090 \$499,333 2016/06/01
5	○ 5	R01	AI110964-02 PA-11-260 8853810	2015 -	Snap Abs NoA Acctg Hist eIMG Docs GF PUB Like Who	DASZAK, PETER			Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. (NY)	\$630,445 \$502,293 2015/06/01
6	○ 1	R01	AI110964-01 PA-11-260 8674931	2014 2014-01	Snap Abs SS NoA Acctg Hist eIMG Docs GF PUB Like Who	DASZAK, PETER			Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. (NY)	\$666,442 \$516,857 2014/06/01

**From:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Linde, Emily \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Tarwater, Robert \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Dean, Diane \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Fenton, Matthew \(NIH/NIAID\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 2:54:12 PM

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Many thanks Emily.

Best,  
Jodi

---

**From:** "Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 2:46 PM  
**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6), Robert Tarwater (b) (6),  
Diane Dean (b) (6), "Fenton, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]"  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: request for a call...

Hi Jodi,

Matthew mentioned that he spoke with you and you clarified the request. Please see the information below and let us know if you require anything additional.

Regards,

Emily

R01-AI-110964, Peter Daszak, PI to ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

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**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Dean, Diane (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fenton, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...

Hi Emily, (b) (5)

Please confirm.

Thanks  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** "Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 8:13 AM  
**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6), Robert Tarwater (b) (6), Diane Dean (b) (6), "Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Fenton, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: request for a call...

Hi Jodi,

I hope you had a nice weekend as well. (b) (5)

Do you need us to take any further

action at this time?

(b) (5)

Regards,  
Emily

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2020 1:59 PM

**To:** Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Dean, Diane (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fenton, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: request for a call...

Hi Emily, I hope all is well and you are having a nice weekend.

(b) (5)

Happy to discuss

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)

**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 3:49 PM

**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)

**Cc:** Mike Lauer (b) (6), Michelle Bulls (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: request for a call...

FYI. Urgent.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Waiting to hear back from Emily and will set up time to talk to Jodi tomorrow.

Thanks,  
Michelle

---

**From:** Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:03 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Dean, Diane (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** request for a call...

Hello,

(b) (5)

Can we have a call to discuss (b) (5)

Many thanks,

Emily

*Emily Linde*

Director, Grants Management Program

NIAID, NIH, DHHS

Telephone Number: (b) (6)

Email Address: (b) (6)

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**From:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:44:19 AM

---

Hi Michelle, [REDACTED] (b) (5)

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Michelle Bulls [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 8:37 AM  
**To:** Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: request for a call...

Happy to help.

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:07 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...

Ok thanks for working on this with Emily.

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Michelle Bulls [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 3:49 PM  
**To:** Jodi OER [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Mike Lauer [REDACTED] (b) (6), Michelle Bulls [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** FW: request for a call...

FYI. Urgent.

(b) (5)

(b) (5) Waiting to hear back from Emily and will set up time to talk to Jodi tomorrow.

Thanks,  
Michelle

---

**From:** Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:03 PM

**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6); Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Dean, Diane  
(NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** request for a call...

Hello,

(b) (5)

Can we have a call to discuss (b) (5)

Many thanks,

Emily

*Emily Linde*



Director, Grants Management Program

NIAID, NIH, DHHS

Telephone Number: (b) (6)

Email Address: (b) (6)

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**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:13:28 AM

---

Got voice mail – I'm at (b) (6)

---

**From:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 8:07 AM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...

Ok. Should I call you? Or you could call me (b) (6)

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 7:57 AM  
**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: request for a call...

Good morning Jodi – we discussed this grant at 0730 meeting. (b) (5)

Happy to talk.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 5:14 PM  
**To:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...

FYI – some email exchanges from earlier today.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 4:07 PM  
**To:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: request for a call...

Ok thanks for working on this with Emily.

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Michelle Bulls (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 3:49 PM  
**To:** Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Mike Lauer (b) (6), Michelle Bulls (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: request for a call...

FYI. Urgent.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5) Waiting to hear back from Emily and will set up time to talk to Jodi tomorrow.

Thanks,  
Michelle

---

**From:** Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:03 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Dean, Diane

(NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)

**Subject:** request for a call...

Hello,

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

Can we have a call to discuss [REDACTED] (b) (5)

Many thanks,

Emily

*Emily Linde*

Director, Grants Management Program

NIAID, NIH, DHHS

Telephone Number: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Email Address: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

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**From:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Tarwater, Robert \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Bettencourt, Alice \(HHS/ASFR\)](#); [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:43:50 AM

---

Hi Alice,  
Jodi and Mike have forwarded your question to me. I have my team researching this answer—I will get back to you before the end of the day.

Michelle

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 10:28 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Hi Michelle, how do you suggest we proceed? See below

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:55 PM  
**To:** "Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR)" (b) (6), Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Thanks Alice – looping in Jodi – we'll look into it.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR)" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:04 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

So the follow up question is likely to be: (b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 4:57 PM

**To:** Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR) (b) (6); Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Hi Alice – here's the info I have – from NIAID. Thanks, Mike

R01-AI-110964, Peter Daszak, PI to ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR)" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:49 PM

**To:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Mike, Michelle,

OMB has requested via Jen M. to know if there are subrecipients to Ecohealth Alliance under the subject FAIN. (b) (5) Could you please have the application checked and let me know. (b) (5)

Thank you,

Alice

**From:** [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Tarwater, Robert \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:17:41 AM

---

Jodi,

I will review—(b) (5) If Mike could loop me back into the discussion, I will respond to her and look into it. Thank you.

---

**From:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 10:28 PM  
**To:** Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Tarwater, Robert (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Hi Michelle, how do you suggest we proceed? See below

Best,  
Jodi

Jodi B. Black, PhD, MMSc  
Deputy Director  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH

---

**From:** Mike Lauer (b) (6) >  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:55 PM  
**To:** "Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR)" (b) (6), Jodi OER (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Mike Lauer (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Thanks Alice – looping in Jodi – we'll look into it.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR)" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:04 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

So the follow up question is likely to be: (b) (5)



(b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 4:57 PM  
**To:** Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR) (b) (6); Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Hi Alice – here's the info I have – from NIAID. Thanks, Mike

R01-AI-110964, Peter Daszak, PI to ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR)" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:49 PM  
**To:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Mike, Michelle,

OMB has requested via Jen M. to know if there are subrecipients to Ecohealth Alliance under the subject FAIN. [REDACTED] (b) (5). Could you please have the application checked and let me know. [REDACTED] (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Thank you,

Alice

**From:** [Bettencourt, Alice \(HHS/ASFR\)](#)  
**To:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Bulls, Michelle G. \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 5:01:01 PM

---

Thanks Mike!

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 4:57 PM  
**To:** Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR) (b) (6); Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Hi Alice – here's the info I have – from NIAID. Thanks, Mike

R01-AI-110964, Peter Daszak, PI to ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

(b) (5)

---

**From:** "Bettencourt, Alice (HHS/ASFR)" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:49 PM  
**To:** "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]"

(b) (6)

**Subject:** Subrecipients Under FAIN R01AI110964

Mike, Michelle,

OMB has requested via Jen M. to know if there are subrecipients to Ecohealth Alliance under the subject FAIN. (b) (5) Could you please have the application checked and let me know. (b) (5)

Thank you,

Alice

**From:** [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**To:** [Fine, Amanda \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Black, Jodi \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Showe, Melanie \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Myles, Renate \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [Wojtowicz, Emma \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#); [OER Press Group](#); [Lauer, Michael \(NIH/OD\) \[E\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 7:13:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Daszak Foreign Year 6.pdf](#)  
[Daszak Foreign Year 5.pdf](#)  
[Daszak Foreign Year 4.pdf](#)

---

Hi Amanda

Here's a revised paragraph. [REDACTED] (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Thanks, Mike

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:22 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] (b) (6), OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks for sharing the report. [REDACTED] (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks in advance for your guidance,  
Amanda

[REDACTED] (b) (5)

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)  
But I'm not seeing this in any public venue.

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:27 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Thanks Mike-and is that response public?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Amanda – (b) (5)

Best, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:40 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike-

Thanks so much again for your input. One question we're not sure how to answer, (b) (5)  
Do you have guidance on how to respond to that question?

Thanks!  
Amanda

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Please send me an invite with your conference line, thanks

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:32 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Either work. What number should we call or do you want to use the OCPL conference line?

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Showe, Melanie (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael

(NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Probably best for us to talk – I'm "free" from 3:05 to 3:25 if that works.

Thanks, Mike

---

**From:** "Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 at 2:21 PM

**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6)

**Cc:** "Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), "Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6), OER Press Group <[OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:OERPressGroup@mail.nih.gov)>

**Subject:** FOR INPUT AND GUIDANCE: Media inquiries on EcoHealth Alliance

Hi Mike and Jodi-

NIAID has been receiving inquiries about the EcoHealth Alliance grant. In addition to the 2 listed below in Jen's email they received a similar one from Newsweek. We want to answer these questions. Would you provide guidance on how best to answer them? Thanks and hope you're both staying well.

Newsweek:

**From:** Fred Guterl <[f.guterl@newsweek.com](mailto:f.guterl@newsweek.com)>

Hi, we're running a story tomorrow morning at 10 am that mentions Dr. Fauci and we'd like to ask for a comment.

The story is about the possibility that SARS-Cov-2 is a product of gain of function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The story mentions Dr. Fauci as an early proponent of the work of Ron Fouchier et al. ten years ago, quotes from his Washington Post article of 2011 on the importance of the research as a way of preparing for a pandemic. We trace the lifting of the moratorium and subsequent accusations that the NIH was acting with too little transparency in approving projects.

Sorry to spring this on you on Sunday night. Many thanks in advance.

Best,  
Fred

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**From:** Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 1:38 PM

**To:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

**Cc:** Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]



**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance grant / Wuhan lab

**Importance:** High

Hi Renate –

NIAID received media inquiries last week from Snopes and Politifact related to the NIAID grant to EcoHealth Alliance (see below). Kathy and I just had a conversation with NIAID grants management and learned that OER communicated with this grantee on Friday and we believe media inquiries on this topic would be best handled by OER now. Happy to discuss more via phone. We are holding on any responses to media on this topic right now.

## INQUIRY FROM SNOPES

### QUESTION:

This is Dan Evon from the fact-checking website Snopes. We've been receiving questions about a recent article published in the [Daily Mail](#) that claims the Obama administration provided a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I was hoping to get some more information from you.

The Daily Mail appears to be referring to NIAID award [R01AI110964](#). That award went to the EcoHealth Alliance in New York and subsequently funded a [research paper](#) from the Wuhan Institute.

Has NIH issued any direct grants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology? The NIH [RePORT](#) tool shows funding to Wuhan University in 2019 and 2018, but not (unless I missed something) from previous years.

Did NIH provide a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology between 2008 and 2016? Can you tell me more about the grants awarded to Wuhan University in 2018 and 2019?

Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

## INQUIRY FROM POLITIFACT

### QUESTION:

We're fielding a claim that NIH gave a \$3.7 million grant to a virology lab in Wuhan in 2015. Can you share any relevant grant or contract activity around that time and place?

### NIAID PROVIDED THIS RESPONSE (general cleared language):

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

**REPORTER FOLLOWED UP WITH THESE QUESTIONS:**

Focusing on the money, [does this Spending.gov summary](#) (Grant tab; see Wuhan University) tell me how much the Wuhan lab in question got from the overall \$3.7 million? (b) (5)

Also, is the project done, and has any money due to Wuhan been withdrawn/put on hold, etc? Lastly, if you want to make sure I see the scientific articles specific to the Wuhan research, please feel free to highlight them. I will go through the results list, but it's always better if you make sure I don't miss one.

(b) (5)

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