From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]
Sent: 8/11/2021 12:49:15 PM
To: dasz >> Peter Daszak [redacted]; Keusch, Jerry [redacted]; Robert Kessler [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: FW: For Review by 2 PM Tomorrow (8/12): Letter to Dr. Fauci from Sens Graham and Paul
Attachments: 2021-06-10 Graham Paul to Fauci.pdf; WSJ: The Science Suggests a Wuhan Lab Leak ; Draft Graham Paul WSJ Response_NIAIDreview.docx

Flag: Follow up

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

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

David

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

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

Good morning,

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

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

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

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Drew

Cell #: [redacted]

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [redacted]
Sent: 3/29/2021 1:08:20 PM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted] Keusch, Jerry [redacted] Roberts, Rich [redacted]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
Subject: Re: Response to Michael Lauer letters
Attachments: Response to NIH April 2021 re. reactivation and suspension of 2R01AI110964 dmm comments.docx

Peter, attached some edits for consideration. In general I think it makes the right points and presents a strong case. My comments are mostlly minor word-smithing, plus clarifying and simplifying as much as possible, since this will probably be read by Lauer but will perhaps be leaked and read by many others. david

On 3/29/2021 2:10 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Hi Jerry, David, and Rich

I can't remember which of you offered to review our draft response to Michael Lauer at NIH, but it would be very helpful if one of you could. I'm sending it to my pro bono lawyers as well, and they'll rip into it, but your advice and edits (using track changes) would be most helpful...

By the way, the WHO report comes out Tuesday morning our time (I think).

I'll have a final draft version tomorrow that I'll try to get out to you early.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

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

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EcoHealth Alliance

Reinstatement and immediate suspension of 2R01AI110964
"Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence"

Peter, add Lauer's title and address here...

Formatted: Highlight

~~P~~April 2nd 2021

Dear Dr. Lauer,

This is a response to your letters of 7/8/2020 and 10/3/2020 regarding the reinstatement and immediate suspension of NIH grant 2R01AI110964, "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence", which~~that~~ was ~~previously~~ terminated "for convenience" on 4/24/2020. In particular, I wish to respond to the conditions you state would need to be addressed in order for us to again have~~prior to allowing~~ access to the funds to continue~~do~~ this work.

As you know, immediately following NIH's request in the termination letter of 4/24/2020, we ~~had~~ ceased all contractual work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The termination~~is lack~~ of a funded relationship with the institute makes it extraordinarily difficult or even impossible to provide the information requested about a foreign organization ~~--~~ as would be the case for~~or even~~ a domestic one - that our organization neither works with currently nor has control over~~s~~.

Additionally, our collaborative work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology prior to 4/24/2020, and that planned as part of the ~~currently~~ suspended grant, is wholly unrelated to some of the NIH-stipulated conditions listed below, and pertains to events and situations that in no way involve EcoHealth Alliance. In short, ~~feel, therefore, that~~ most of the conditions below neither~~do not~~ relate directly to EcoHealth Alliance's planned research as outlined in our renewal application, nor to the biosafety of our ~~continued~~ research funded by the suspended grant when the grant is reinstated in full.

However, despite our concerns about the relevance and fairness ~~urrent difference in opinions regarding these~~of conditions as set forth in detail below, I ha~~'~~ve made extensive efforts to satisfy the proposed additional conditions, and have laid the details out after each condition below. This includes volunteering to serve~~act~~ as an expert on the WHO-China joint Mission on the Animal Origins of COVID-19, spending 1 month on the ground in China (including 2 weeks locked in quarantine), at great personal risk to me, to our organization, and to my family. I undertook this mission at a time when I have had increasing levels of personal attack and harassment, including death threats and a white-powder letter sent to my home ~~address a few weeks~~ after the details of our grant termination went public. This harassment continues to this day and is a direct result of dangerous conspiracy theories inadvertently amplified by NIH's grant termination.

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Below, I ~~have~~ detail~~ed~~ our response to each of the conditions placed on our suspended grant, in an effort to provide as much information as possible and to explain any limitations on what we can do to respond at this time. I look forward to your reply and feel certain we may discuss these points without legal counsel and as scientists focused on our~~the~~ important and worthy research goals ~~of the grant~~, which are focused on research to protect us all against further coronavirus ~~spillover – something that is central to the goal of our R01 grant~~.

1. Provide an aliquot of the actual SARS-CoV-2 virus that WIV used to determine the viral sequence.
EcoHealth Alliance scientists were not part of the work that WIV conducted to determine the viral sequence of SARS-CoV-2. Given that WIV is a government entity, and that we have no logical business in seeking an aliquot of SARS-CoV-2 as part of the goals of our proposed collaboration, we believe this condition is effectively impossible for us to fulfil. In any case~~Additionally~~, the full genome of this viral sequence was uploaded to a freely-accessible database on January 6th 2020, and has been used widely by scientists in the USA (included those funded by NIH) and around the world in their work, undermining any reasonable request from a US non-profit to a Chinese Govt lab for an active sample of a pathogenic human virus.

Commented [MD([1]: Peter, this is nnot clear

2. Explain the apparent disappearance of Huang Yanling, a scientist / technician who worked in the WIV lab but whose lab web presence has been deleted.
During the WHO mission to Chin, I asked about this directly to the staff at WIV, including the Director of the institute, the P4 Lab Director, Dr. Shi, ~~,~~ and many others. The response given by _____ wa~~i~~s that: "Some reports identified one formed laboratory worker as "missing". This person according the WIV staff was an alumnus who graduated in 2015 and is now working in a city in another province. They had been contacted and tested, and ascertained to be healthy. They are not willing to be interviewed for the WHO mission". This information has been summarized in the WHO-China Joint Study report, published 3/30/20.

3. Provide the NIH with WIV's responses to the 2018 U.S. Department of State cables regarding safety concerns.
These cables were selectively leaked by a Washington Post reporter, who claimed that they indicate safety concerns, specifically that a scientist at the WIV spoke to a delegation from the US Embassy in Beijing and stated that the lab cannot function safely unless the number of laboratory technicians was increased. As part of EcoHealth Alliance's work in China over the past 15 years, including that funded by NIAID, I visited the US Embassy in Beijing regularly and was involved in discussions with these Embassy staff to set up a field visit to the WIV in order to generate goodwill between the US and China at a time when President Trump was planning a state visit. The trip described in these cables was a direct result of that. Prior to this newspaper article, I had been told by people privy to the cable's contents that the articles were positive and supportive of the work we were doing under NIAID funding, and that the trip was a success.

Commented [MD([2]: Peter, in this para you might say that the lab was built under international safety engineering standrads, adheres to international safety practice standards indicated in the BMBL, and the lead WIV staff were trained in safety in the United States by a known authority running the BSL-4 lab at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. You might also say that despite the claim of one individual, no safety concerns are known to have been alleged by others including safety experts

A few months later, the full text of these cables was released with minor redactions. It is clear from reading the full details that 1) the request for more laboratory technician support was simply a request

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for the funding ~~of~~ for more laboratory technician support, rather than a statement that the lab was unsafe; and 2) the cables were extremely positive about the importance of the collaborative work we were doing with WIV under NIAID funding. Thus, there was never any evidence of a safety concern at WIV. I have attached the cables to this email, and excerpted the relevant statements here:

"REDACTED noted that the new lab has a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators needed to safely operate this high-containment laboratory. University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (UTMB), which has one of several well-established BSL-4 labs in the United States (supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID of NIH)), has scientific collaborations with WIV, which may help alleviate this talent gap over time. Reportedly, researchers from UG~~~~TMB are helping train technicians who work in the WIV BSL-4 lab. Despite this they would welcome more help from U.S. and international organizations as they establish "gold standard" operating procedures and training courses for the first time in China."

"The ability of WIV scientists to undertake productive research despite limitations on the use of the new BSL-4 facility~~y~~ is demonstrated by a recent publication on the origins of SARS. Over a five-year study REDACTED (and their research team) widely sampled bats in Yunnan province with funding support from NIAID/NIH, USAID, and several Chinese funding agencies. The study results were published in PLoS Pathogens online on Nov. 30, 2017 (1), and ~~it~~ demonstrated that a SARS-like coronaviruses isolated from horseshoe bats in a single cave contains all the building blocks of the pandemic SARS-coronavirus genome that caused the human outbreak. These results strongly suggest that the highly pathogenic SARS-coronavirus originated in this bat population. Most importantly, the researchers also showed that various SARS-like coronaviruses can interact with ACE2, the human receptor identified for SARS coronavirus. This finding strongly suggests that SARS-like coronaviruses from bats can be transmitted to humans to cause SARS-like disease. From a public health perspective, this makes the continued surveillance of SARS-like corona viruses in bats and study of the animal-human interface critical to future emerging coronavirus outbreak prediction and prevention."

4. Disclose and explain out-of-ordinary restrictions on laboratory facilities, as suggested, for example, by diminished cell-phone traffic in October 2019, and the evidence that there may have been roadblocks surrounding the facility from October 14-19, 2019.
The WIV staff categorically stated to the WHO mission that the lab is audited annually and no unusual events have been identified. The reports of diminished cell-phone traffic and roadblocks have not been verified or published by reliable sources. Diminished cell-phone traffic and roadblocks could be explained by a series of routine issues such as technical problems with the cell-phone facilities, visiting dignitaries, etc.

5. Explain why WIV failed to note that the RaTG13 virus, the bat-derived coronavirus in its collection with the greatest similarity to SARS-CoV-2, was actually isolated from an abandoned mine where three men died in 2012 with an illness remarkably similar to COVID-19, and explain why this was not followed up.
Since the last letter was received from NIH, WIV scientists have published an addendum to their original paper in *Nature* that described SARS-CoV-2 and compared it phylogenetically to RaTG13. In this

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From: David Morens [redacted]
Sent: 1/21/2022 5:34:21 PM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted]
CC: Jeff Sturchio [redacted] Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
Subject: Re: FW: Article about our correspondence with NIH on the terminated-now-suspended grant

Twice in the past, including a month or so ago, I deleted everything with EHA people from my entire Outlook....

d
David M. Morens, MD
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted](work)
[redacted](cell)

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

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

On Fri, Jan 21, 2022 at 5:29 PM Peter Daszak [redacted] wrote:

> They're awful – US Right to Know – just out to cause trouble and drum up lab leak controversy.
>
> I hope NIH can help reduce the amount that comes out – some of the emails between us all via your NIH account were a bit embarrassing re. criticizing the lab leakers and will be reported as showing that we were 'conspiring' together in some way...
>
> Eventually, there will be no more to FoIA – that's the only silver lining.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Peter
>
> **Peter Daszak**

From: David Morens [redacted]
Sent: 8/1/2022 1:39:02 PM
To: Peter Daszak [redacted]
CC: Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted] Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] Roberts, Rich [redacted] Jeff Sturchio [redacted] Aleksei Chmura [redacted]
Subject: Re: update...

This is all good news, thanks!

hopefully no problems with the emails that came to me at my nih address. I deleted them quickly and hopefully didn't reply to any (my phone doesn't show whether emails I get are to NIH or gmail, but when it's from you guys I assume it's to gmail).

d
David M. Morens, MD
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] (work)
(cell)

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

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

On Mon, Aug 1, 2022 at 11:49 AM Peter Daszak [redacted] wrote:

….and I apologize David – I've just noticed that the last email chain also had your (!) NIH email address on it…

I'm catching up on emails this week, having been out of the office, giving a keynote at a conference in Colorado – first in-person conference for me since March 2020.

It's been great to see the two papers published in *Science*, which by the way use data that the 'Joint WHO-China Study of the Animal Origins of COVID-19' first published in our report in March 2021. Despite the rhetoric since our WHO Wuhan work, these data were new, and were freely proffered by the China team. These data point clearly to the industrial-scale trade in farmed and wild-caught wildlife in China as the origins, something which China first publicly stated in Jan 2020, then announcing its goal of closing the wildlife farming industry, and the 14 million jobs it involved. The point here is that, while the lab leak accusers point to China as covering up so they don't get blamed for the pandemic, they had already done the opposite with the wildlife trade.