



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

April 30, 2025

Case No. FL-2022-00076

Dr. Sainath Suryanarayanan  
U.S. Right to Know  
4096 Piedmont Ave. #963  
Oakland, CA 94611

Dear Dr. Suryanarayanan:

As we noted in our letter dated March 31, 2025, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State ("Department") has identified an additional two responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined that the two records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemption are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Savith Iyengar, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at [savith.iyengar@usdoj.gov](mailto:savith.iyengar@usdoj.gov). Please refer to the case number, FL-2022-00076, and the civil action number, 22-cv-04359, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Avery Bullard".

Avery Bullard  
Supervisory Government Information Specialist  
Litigation and Appeals Office

Enclosures: As stated.

## **The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)**

### **FOIA Exemptions**

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
  - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
  - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
  - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
  - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
  - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
  - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP        | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)                    |
| CIA PERS/ORG   | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)      |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT         | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004                    |
| INA            | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN           | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505      |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
  - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
  - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
  - (D) disclose confidential sources
  - (E) disclose investigation techniques
  - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

### **Other Grounds for Withholding**

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	Yu, Miles (b)(6)@state.gov>; Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Seeking information re Wuhan Institute of Virology
<b>Date:</b>	Mon, 4 May 2020 12:31:33 +0000

Miles, thanks so much for acquiring this information. (b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Making sure you both saw this story about Australian scientific collaboration with WIV, seems important: <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/coronavirus/bombshell-dossier-lays-out-case-against-chinese-bat-virus-program/news-story/55add857058731c9c71c0e96ad17da60>

While the US has cut all funding to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the CSIRO would not respond to questions about whether it is still collaborating with it, saying only that it collaborates with research organisations from around the world to prevent diseases.

"As with all partners, CSIRO undertakes due diligence and takes security very seriously," a spokesman said. "CSIRO undertakes all research in accordance with strict biosecurity and legislative requirements."

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

-----Original Message-----

From: Yu, Miles (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 10:06 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Stilwell, David R (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Fw: Seeking information re Wuhan Institute of Virology

(b)(6) and Stilly---FYI

It took NIAID a while to get back to me. But better later than never.

Miles

Dr. M. Miles Yu  
Policy Planning Staff  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6) (mobile)

From: Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 7:49 PM

To: Yu, Miles (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b)(6); Auchincloss, Hugh  
(NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b)(6)  
Subject: RE: Seeking information re Wuhan Institute of Virology

Mr. Yu,

I am responding on behalf of Dr. Fauci. I apologize that it has taken some time to provide you this response, however, we wanted to ensure that the information provided is accurate. In response to your inquiry regarding a joint research project with Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) on "Cytomegalovirus Gene Function in Virulence and Replication", the following is some background information:

\* Following peer review and a highly meritorious score, the grant (R01-AI-050468 "Cytomegalovirus Virulence in Immunodeficient Hosts") was awarded to Dr. Fenyong Liu, University of California-Berkeley from 07/01/2002 and ended on 11/30/2015. Dr. Liu originally had no collaborations with Chinese institutions under this grant.

\* On July 30, 2012, following a separate scientific review, a highly meritorious score, and compliance with all guidelines, a one-year Research Administrative Supplement to R01-AI-050468, under the U.S.-China Biomedical Collaborative Research program (NOT-CA-12-

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(E)

was awarded to Dr. Liu (U.S. Principal Investigator) to support collaborative research with Dr. Genghu Xiao of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). The U.S. PI (Dr. Liu) was supported by the NIH and the Chinese PI (Dr. Xiao) was supported separately by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). The project was completed and evaluated as successful, with a number of joint publications.

\* Publications resulting from the supplement:

\* Shen A, Lei J, Yang E, Pei Y, Chen Y-C, Gong H, Xiao G, Liu F. 2011. Hum, Xiao G, Liu F. Human cytomegalovirus primase UL70 specifically interacts with cellular factor Snapin. J Virol 85: 11732-11741

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(E)

\* Pei Y, Fu W, Yang E, Shen A, Chen Y, Gong H, Chen J, Huang J, Xiao G, Liu F. 2012. A Hsp40 chaperone protein interacts with and modulates the cellular distribution of the primase protein of human cytomegalovirus. PLoS Pathog 8: e1002968

(PMC3486897)

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(E)

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\* Zeng W, Vu G, Bai Y, Chen Y, Trang P, Lu S, Xiao G, Liu F. 2013. RNase P-associated external guide sequence effectively reduces expression of human CC-chemokine receptor 5 and inhibits the infection of human immunodeficiency virus. Biomed Res Int 2013: 509714 (PMC3591226< (b)(7)(E)

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\* Luo J, Chen J, Yang E, Shen A, Gong H, Pei Z, Xiao G, Lu S, Liu F. 2013, Modulation of the cellular distribution of human cytomegalovirus helicase by cellular factor snapin. J Virol 87:10628-10640 (PMC3807405< (b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

-----Original Message-----

From: Yu, Miles (b)(6)@state.gov<mailto:(b)(6)@state.gov>>

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:42 PM

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

Cc: Auchincloss, Hugh (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Seeking information re Wuhan Institute of Virology

Dear Dr. Fauci,

First of all, thank you for your great service to our country during the coronavirus crisis.

I am conducting a research on China's bio safety issue for Secretary Pompeo. We understand that the Wuhan Institute of Virology has a joint research project with the NIH on "Cytomegalovirus Gene Function in Virulence and Replication." I assume this is with NIAID.

I would appreciate that you or your office could help us with the following:

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

To clarify, this is not an investigation, it's only an effort to gather relevant basic facts for the Secretary. I truly appreciate your help, knowing how busy you are these days.

Very respectfully

Miles Yu

Dr. M. Miles Yu  
Policy Planning Staff  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

(mobile)

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