

**Date:** Tue, 1 Mar 2022 10:31:46 AM -0500  
**Sent:** Tue, 1 Mar 2022 10:31:08 AM -0500  
**Subject:** Re: request from WSJ  
**From:** "McKay, Betsy" <betsy.mckay@wsj.com>  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6) >;

Thank you, and I understand. I am flexible on timing. Off of workday time is fine - what works for you? I could speak tonight, possibly Thursday or Friday evening, or over the weekend.

Best,  
Betsy

On Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 10:26 AM David Morens (b)(6) wrote:

Betsy, glad to do it IF it's on background and no clues that anything comes from me. This is because some of us, including me and especially my boss Tony Fauci, are getting pilloried with death threats, and as govt employees we need to keep our heads down and not raise controversy. Best for me to do it off of workday time.

What's your time table?

david  
David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

**IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a 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 Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 10:10 AM McKay, Betsy <betsy.mckay@wsj.com> wrote:

Hi David - I am a reporter for The Wall Street Journal who writes about public health. I am reaching out to see if you would have a few moments to chat today or tomorrow (or the end of the week) on background about EcoHealth? I could use your perspective, and advice.

Also just wanted to say I enjoyed your NEJM Perspective a few weeks back on universal coronavirus vaccines. I wrote a story last fall about the research underway for such vaccines, and it struck me as a good example of why it's necessary to study coronaviruses that don't currently infect humans.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,  
Betsy

--

Betsy McKay  
SENIOR WRITER



MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005399  
MORENS\_NIH\_013478



(b)(6)

M: (b)(6)

E: [betsy.mckay@wsj.com](mailto:betsy.mckay@wsj.com)

T: [@betswrites](#)

--

**Betsy McKay**

SENIOR WRITER



O: (b)(6)

M: (b)(6)

E: [betsy.mckay@wsj.com](mailto:betsy.mckay@wsj.com)

T: [@betswrites](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005400  
MORENS\_NIH\_013479

NIH 60707 - 007700

REL0000480260

**Date:** Sat, 16 Jul 2022 5:24:36 PM -0400

**Sent:** Sat, 16 Jul 2022 5:21:11 PM -0400

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Zimmer 2022 reference from my EndNote library -- Bat Virus Studies Raise Questions About Laboratory Tinkering.

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

David Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
**To:** (b)(6) > peter hotez (b)(6) (b)(6) Rich  
Roberts (b)(6)

Eddie Holmes' comment is spot on in this article. Many of the lab leak theories depend on a putative SARS-CoV-2 ancestor being present in a sample handled by field scientists or cultured in the lab at WIV. The fact that these BANAL viruses did not acquire an FCS following serial passage in human cells in vitro argues against the plausibility that a putative SARS-CoV-2 ancestry would have done so in people or cell cultures in the Wuhan Lab.

Even more important (but oft forgotten) is the fact that we (EHA and WIV) spent years testing the bat samples that we collected in China and publicly reported >700 sequences of bat-CoVs from these samples. Not a single one was closer to SARS-CoV-2 than RaTG13, which is itself substantially different to SC2, lacks an FCS and is unlikely to be a direct ancestral virus. This strongly suggests that a putative ancestor to SARS-CoV-2 just simply wasn't present in our samples.

By now we've tested every single sample and none have come up with anything closer. But of course, the lab leakers will say 'he would say that wouldn't he'!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, July 15, 2022 7:22 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <  
(b)(6)> peter hotez (b)(6); (b)(6) Rich Roberts <  
(b)(6)>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_008259  
MORENS\_NIH\_018128

NIH 60767 - 007763

REL0000480265

**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Zimmer 2022 reference from my EndNote library -- Bat Virus Studies Raise Questions About Laboratory Tinkering.

more David Relman nonsense-comments. d

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

**From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)  
**Date:** July 15, 2022 at 19:19:59 EDT  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Zimmer 2022 reference from my EndNote library -- Bat Virus Studies Raise Questions About Laboratory Tinkering.

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Date:** July 15, 2022 at 15:57:12 EDT  
**To:** (b)(6) (Galveston National Laboratory-UT) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Zimmer 2022 reference from my EndNote library -- Bat Virus Studies Raise Questions About Laboratory Tinkering.

Zimmer C. (2022, 20220715). **Bat Virus Studies Raise Questions About Laboratory Tinkering.** NYTimes Retrieved 0715, 2022,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/15/science/bat-coronavirus-laboratory-experiments.html?searchResultPosition=6>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

#### Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_008260  
MORENS\_NIH\_018129

NIH 60767 - 007768

REL0000480265

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 6:26:07 PM -0500

Sent: Thu, 9 Feb 2023 6:25:53 PM -0500

Subject: RE: Follow up from our call

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b)(6)

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

CC: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) > (b)(6) Peter Daszak  
(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >;

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

I'm not a virologist but I would be happy to join you in a call with (b)(6) and colleagues, if none of our other outstanding members are able to do it. David Morens would be ideal in my view if you are able to do it.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:50 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6) (b)(6) Peter Daszak

(b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)  
>

**Subject:** Re: Follow up from our call

So far (b)(6) from ASV seems on board we can start with her? And the two names she suggested?

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018084  
MORENS\_NIH\_037020

iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 4:35 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

I have not been at all successful in my outreach. I sent notes to (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) at (b)(6), and (b)(6) who is the foreign secretary for (b)(6) (and the interim Dean at (b)(6) School) last Thursday after our call and I have not heard from any of them. I can get back to this middle of next week and if I haven't heard back by email I will call them directly. I can understand why (b)(6) might be suddenly overwhelmed with new responsibilities, which was one reason I thought about getting in touch first by email. But I don't think that applies to (b)(6)

Jerry

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:14 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up from our call

The more the merrier as we say in the UK!

I think our goal should be to really get a lot of support from all segments of society. We definitely should avoid the claim that we are just being elitists.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:05 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow up from our call

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018085  
MORENS\_NIH\_037021

NIH 60767 - 007766

REL0000480268

Would engaging with the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility be useful? Here's some information on the CSFR from the AAAS website:

### **Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility**

The Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR) was established in 1976 by [AAAS](#). The Committee Charter is as follows:

The Council recognizes that the CSFR, as a standing committee of the AAAS, plays a significant as well as potentially controversial role for the Association. The increasing complexity of the interactions among science, technology, and the public interest raise new issues and problems concerning the human rights, freedom of scientific inquiry, and professional responsibilities of scientists and engineers. The Association affirms at the outset that scientific freedom is grounded in basic human rights and implies special responsibilities to extend and disseminate knowledge for the good of humanity.

With these perspectives in mind, and within the resources allocated by the Board of Directors, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is charged with the following duties on behalf of the Association:

1. To formulate and recommend principles and procedures to guide the Association in a continuing review of issues that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, and to search for means that will effectively bring these issues to the attention of both scientists and others.
1. To monitor whether the actions and policies of the government of the United States, the governments of other nations, and of private organizations circumscribe or restrict the freedom of scientists or their ability to carry out their responsibilities.
1. To collect information on restrictions of scientific freedom and of the ability of scientists to carry out their responsibilities, and to make such information available to scientists, scientific societies, and others who may be interested in taking action to counter these restrictions.
1. To encourage and assist the AAAS, its affiliates, and other scientific groups to develop statements of principles governing professional conduct, and to establish policies, procedures, and educational activities designed to encourage scientists to accept their professional responsibilities both with regard to safeguarding the integrity of science and with regard to the application of science in the promotion of human rights and general welfare.
1. To encourage and assist the AAAS and its affiliates to develop policies and procedures to protect scientists against infringements of scientific freedom; to collect information about the procedures of affiliated societies for dealing with documented allegations of such

infringements; to facilitate communication among the societies with a view to strengthening of these procedures; and, in exceptional circumstances and within the criteria developed by the Committee, to conduct an analytic review of cases where the ramifications are deemed to be especially significant for the scientific community at large.

1. To report annually to the Association, through the Council—and, as appropriate, to other scientific and technological communities and to the general public—the activities of the Committee and its general assessment of significant developments during the year that affect scientific freedom and scientific responsibility and that call for examination, discussion and possible action.

As part of the attempt to fulfill its mandate, the CSFR in 1977 established a Science and Human Rights Subcommittee, specifically to address issues of human rights as they occur in relation to all these duties.

Adopted by the Committee for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility February 9, 1996.

Adopted by the AAAS Council on February 16, 1997.

## **MEMBERS**

*Ronald Arkin*  
Georgia Institute of Technology

*Angela Bielefeldt*  
University of Colorado, Boulder

*Matthew Brown*  
University of Texas, Dallas

*Deborah Johnson*  
University of Virginia

*Kelly Joyce*  
Drexel University

*Bartha Maria Knoppers*  
McGill University

*Alexa Koenig*  
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

*Steven Livingston*

George Washington University

*Camille Nebeker*  
University of California, San Diego

*Safiya Noble*  
University of California, Los Angeles

*Frank Pasquale*  
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

*Neal Rubin (Chair)*  
Adler University

*Judith Tanur*  
Stony Brook University

*Joseph Watkins*  
University of Arizona

**Committee Staff Officer**  
Theresa Harris  
AAAS

Best regards,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up from our call

(b)(6) was not great on the vaccine issue, he refused to rebuke (b)(6) citing "freedom of choice". We need a strong NIH Director, and more forceful statements from the National Academies. I speak with (b)(6) pretty regularly who gets it and is concerned. When I pick up my Purple Heart AAAS Scientific Freedom Medal on March 5, he'll be there and hopefully we can strategize then. So far only AAAS and to some extent AMA and AAMC seem interested or worried.

Many thanks Rich!

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018088  
MORENS\_NIH\_037024



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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Feb 9, 2023, at 2:21 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)> wrote:

Hi:

I have spoken with several people about the idea of a campaign to protect science and most seem on board with the idea, but a little short on ways to implement it in a way that might get wide public acceptance.

I spoke with (b)(6) at some length. He is extremely supportive. He did have some insights about the NIH Directorship. He said that Biden had taken over the selection personally and no-one else seemed to be involved. His view and mine is that that means it is dead for now. He had been talking with (b)(6) and (b)(6), both of whom are very concerned about the Republican attacks on science. I will be talking with both of them tomorrow afternoon.

I spoke with (b)(6) and he is supportive, but has no clear ideas of how to proceed. He did say that we should talk with (b)(6) (as we had discussed) and get AAAS involved. I had contacted Holden previously and he and I have a talk scheduled for next week.

Some of the more interesting suggestions that have emerged are that we should try to garner support from individuals and organizations that are not viewed by the general public, or politicians, as belong to the "elite" segment of society. I am thinking that someone like (b)(6) could be an excellent spokesperson if we can reach him and his views are pro-science. He seems like a decent person and so maybe he is Pro-science. There are others who fit that category such as other sports stars and even some Hollywood people. I believe (b)(6) would be favorable and maybe (b)(6) whom I met many years ago.

Rich

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018089  
MORENS\_NIH\_037025

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** RE: Notes from our call

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Just to note I have just sent a note to (b)(6) about NAM, to (b)(6) about Research!America, and (b)(6) about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.  
Jerry

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Notes from our call  
**Importance:** High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

**Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research**

**Notes from call 2/1/23**

Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, (b)(6), Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

**Action items:**

Rich will speak with:

(b)(6) to sound him out re. this issue

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018090  
MORENS\_NIH\_037026

Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)  
NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation  
& NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it  
Jerry Keusch will reach out to:

ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:

Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)

ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

**Next steps**

each of us will reach out to different contacts

re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary of discussion:**

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a ‘coalition of the willing’ form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018091

MORENS\_NIH\_037027

- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Jude)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <

(b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with (b)(6) and she's all in. (b)(6) also suggested adding (b)(6) (Arizona) and (b)(6) (St. Jude) both really good on policy issues. (b)(6) will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018092  
MORENS\_NIH\_037028

NIH 60767 - 007763

REL0000480268

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

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

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <

(b)(6)>; (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018093  
MORENS\_NIH\_037029

Join Zoom Meeting

(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

One tap mobile

(b)(6)

US (New York)

(b)(6)

US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <

(b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018094  
MORENS\_NIH\_037030

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists  
yesterday, Peter:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

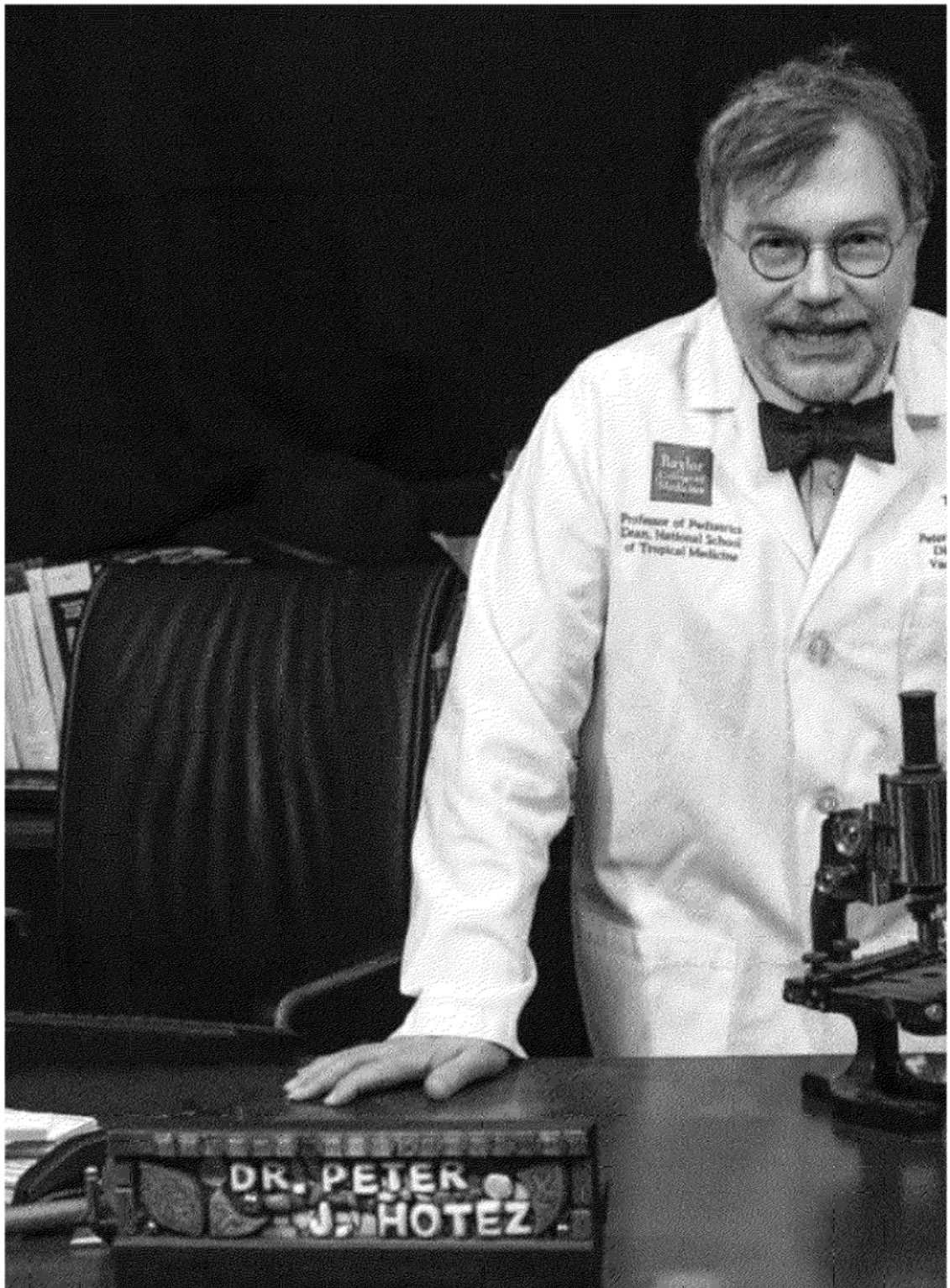
## **Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media**

By Sara Goudarzi | January 30, 2023

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018095  
MORENS\_NIH\_037031

NIH 60707 - 007770

REL0000480268



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)  
Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce “the COVID-19 misleading information policy.” The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there’s a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while



millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Sara Goudarzi:** You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

**Peter Hotez:** Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing.

People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

**Goudarzi:** With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

**Hotez:** It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

**Goudarzi:** How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

**Hotez:** I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

**Goudarzi:** Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

**Hotez:** I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

**Goudarzi:** Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

**Hotez:** I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

**Goudarzi:** Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

**Hotez:** Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money... It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19. It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

**Goudarzi:** And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

**Hotez:** Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

**Goudarzi:** Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and

as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

**Hotez:** It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly. To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

**Goudarzi:** What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

**Hotez:** Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

**Goudarzi:** Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

**Hotez:** No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the

Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on. Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

**Goudarzi:** Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

**Hotez:** It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18<sup>th</sup>-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

**Goudarzi:** I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

**Hotez:** I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

**Goudarzi:** But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

**Hotez:** I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the

information. The preprints were so important.

**Goudarzi:** Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

**Hotez:** I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

**Goudarzi:** Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

**Hotez:** The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

**Goudarzi:** What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

**Hotez:** I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.



Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM

**To:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018103  
MORENS\_NIH\_037039

NIH 60707 - 007728

REL0000480268

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <(b)(6)> wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)> wrote:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018104  
MORENS\_NIH\_037040



**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018105  
MORENS\_NIH\_037041

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of complete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018106  
MORENS\_NIH\_037042

NIH 60767 - 007727

REL0000480268

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Finally - virologists fight back!  
**Importance:** High

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Article in NPR this morning (<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists-science-oversight-risky-experiments>) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - <http://www.scientistsforscience.org/>) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)...

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

**Virologists defend their science  
as officials eye more oversight of  
risky experiments**

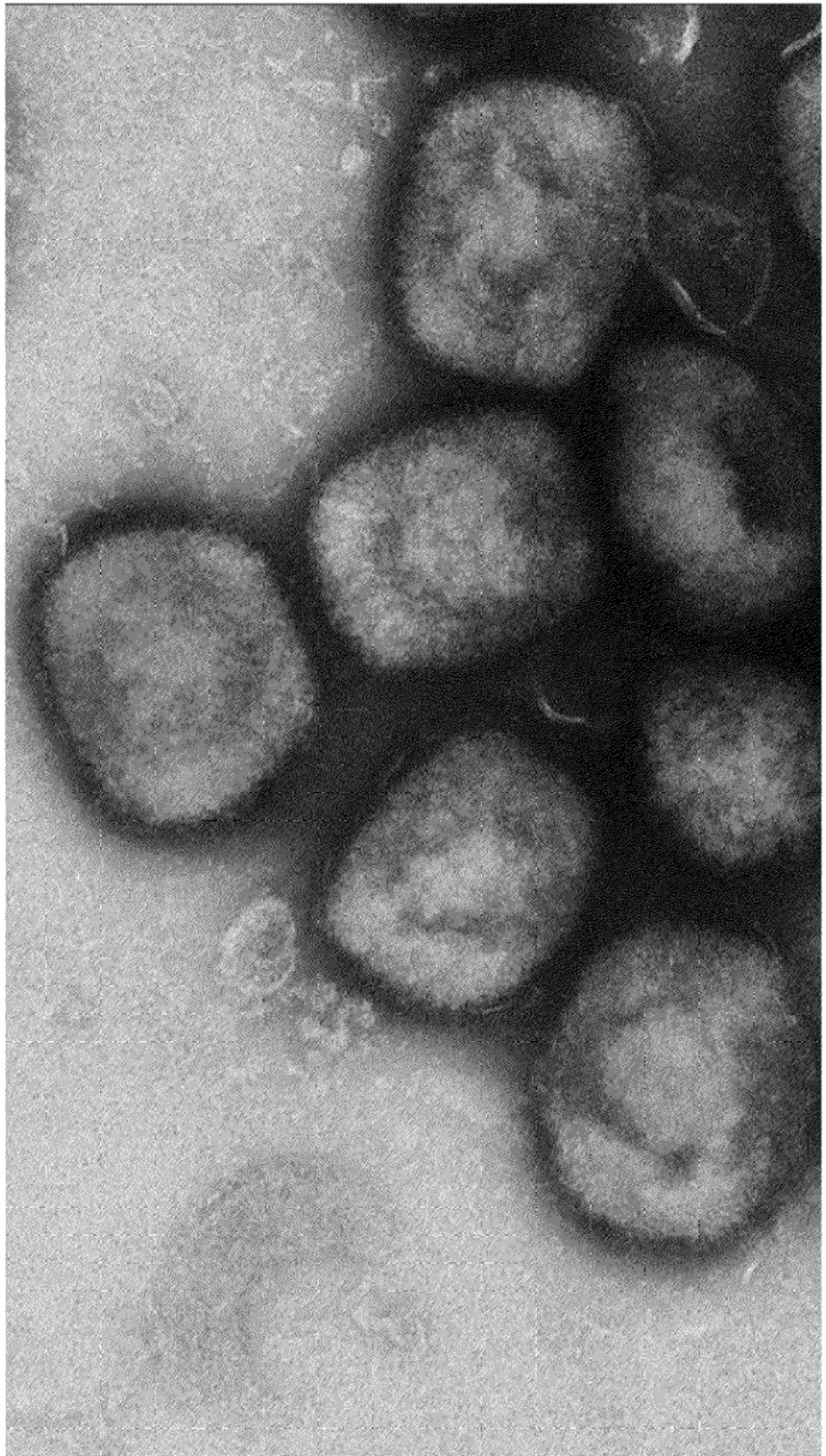
MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018107  
MORENS\_NIH\_037043



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

---

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018108  
MORENS\_NIH\_037044



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*NIAID*

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018109  
MORENS\_NIH\_037045

NIH 60707 - 007780

REL0000480268

kind of lab accident or malicious attack.

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

#### **Sponsor Message**

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

## **The origins of the pandemic**

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

#### **Sponsor Message**

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

## **A bird flu study raises alarm**

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu

virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge. That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

#### **Sponsor Message**

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

### **What's "Reasonably Anticipated"**

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperial. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

#### **Sponsor Message**

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would stimulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."

He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory  
coronavirus research  
pathogens  
**Facebook**  
**Twitter**  
**Flipboard**  
**Email**

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmur (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018112  
MORENS\_NIH\_037048



Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)> Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

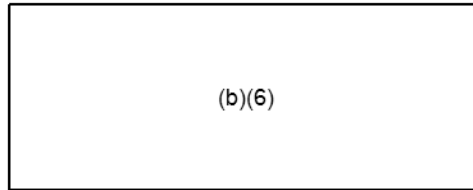
[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018113  
MORENS\_NIH\_037049

**Media Inquiries:**

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)> wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** David Morens <(b)(6)>

<(b)(6)> Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>

Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)> Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by Miner/Flux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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

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

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018114  
MORENS\_NIH\_037050

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax:  
713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak <  
(b)(6)> wrote:

Disappointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the foreseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that Scott Weaver would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum....er....Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018115  
MORENS\_NIH\_037051

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); (b)(6); Meksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018116  
MORENS\_NIH\_037052

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told that because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position  
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist Scott Weaver from UTMB - Peter H, you may know him- and he was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

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

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

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

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <  
(b)(6)> wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018117  
MORENS\_NIH\_037053

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) David Morens <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6)  
Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018118  
MORENS\_NIH\_037054

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018119  
MORENS\_NIH\_037055

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

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

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

As ever,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; David Morens <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

(b)(6)

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018120  
MORENS\_NIH\_037056



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

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

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

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in  
Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast  
Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:**  
Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_018121  
MORENS\_NIH\_037057

Date: Tue, 7 Feb 2023 6:47:10 AM -0500

Sent: Tue, 7 Feb 2023 6:46:50 AM -0500

Subject: Re: Notes from our call

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)

To: (b)(6)

CC: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David  
Morens (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >;

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

Amir doesn't have a science background and likes to generate a lot of heat, but not much light. So he's perfect

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Feb 6, 2023, at 9:44 PM (b)(6) wrote:

Peter:

This is exactly why we need to continue our effort to create a coalition to advocate for protecting the future of scientific research. "Protect Our Future" starts from a questionable premise intended to create fear. We should do some research to find out how they're funding this effort. BTW, I know Amir Attaran – he's a lawyer who loves to take contrarian positions. But I can't believe he's bought into this.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017613  
MORENS\_NIH\_035851

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 4:39 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** RE: Notes from our call

Just saw that Richard Ebright and others have formed a new 501c3 to combat research that will enhance pathogens:

<https://biosafetynow.org/team/>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6);  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to (b)(6) about NAM, to (b)(6) about Research!America, and (b)(6) about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017614  
MORENS\_NIH\_035852

Jerry

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Notes from our call

**Importance:** High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

### **Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research**

#### **Notes from call 2/1/23**

Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, (b)(6), Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

#### **Action items:**

Rich will speak with:

Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue

Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)

NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation &

NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:

ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:

Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)

ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

#### **Next steps**

each of us will reach out to different contacts

re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Summary of discussion:**

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  -

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017615  
MORENS\_NIH\_035853

- AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
- American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
- Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
- Georgia Global Health Alliance
- Bay Area Global Health Alliance
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- COVID Collaborative
- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017616  
 MORENS\_NIH\_035854

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >

**Subject:** Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Junes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6)

| Fax: (b)(6)

**Media Inquiries:**

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017617  
MORENS\_NIH\_035855

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** David Morens <(b)(6)> Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>

<(b)(6)> Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting

(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

One tap mobile

(b)(6)

US (New York)

(b)(6)

US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017618  
MORENS\_NIH\_035856

NIH 60767 - 007302

REL0000480271

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

Cc: David Morens (b)(6) Roberts, Ric (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: (b)(6)

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017619  
MORENS\_NIH\_035857

NIH 60767 - 007309

REL0000480271



On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

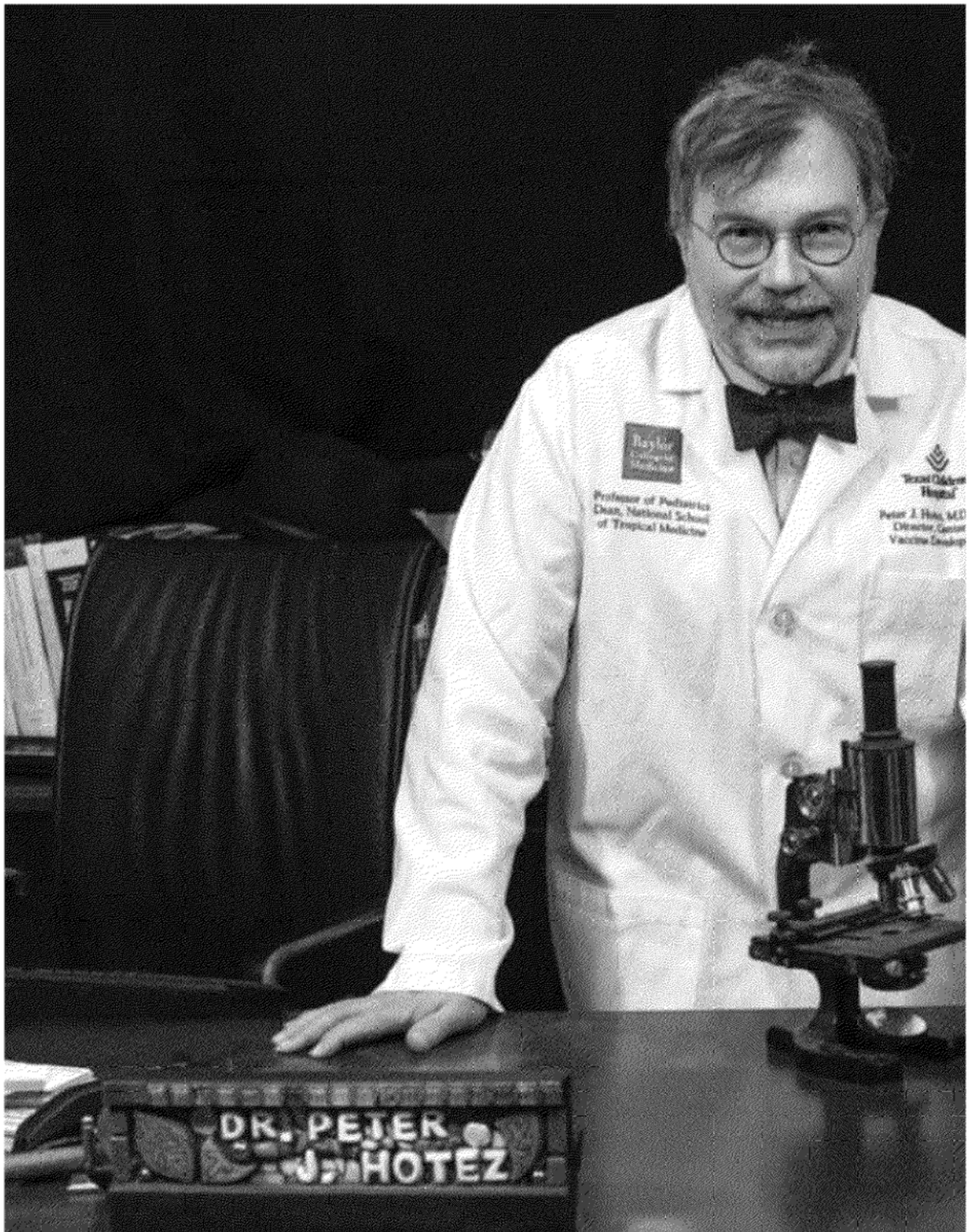
<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

## **Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media**

By [Sara Goudarzi](#) | January 30, 2023

---

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017620  
MORENS\_NIH\_035858



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)  
Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce “the COVID-19 misleading information policy.” The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there’s a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it. Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power. In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem. I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Sara Goudarzi:** You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

**Peter Hotez:** Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, “the reason I’m doing this is to save lives?” It’s no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

**Goudarzi:** With Twitter’s moderators practically gone, the platform’s announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

**Hotez:** It’s blown up. It’s gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I’ll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I’m a Jewish scientist. And that’s yet another dimension to all of this.

**Goudarzi:** How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

**Hotez:** I’ve had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I’ve also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It’s taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

**Goudarzi:** Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

**Hotez:** I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It’s not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what’s out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they’re probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it’s all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it’s Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

**Goudarzi:** Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

**Hotez:** I don’t know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don’t think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it’s whatever people are buying—that’s how they’re ranking it.

**Goudarzi:** Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus

say the flu or MMR vaccines?

**Hotez:** Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money... It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

**Goudarzi:** And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

**Hotez:** Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

**Goudarzi:** Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

**Hotez:** It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden



administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

**Goudarzi:** What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

**Hotez:** Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

**Goudarzi:** Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

**Hotez:** No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

**Goudarzi:** Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience

misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

**Hotez:** It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18<sup>th</sup>-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

**Goudarzi:** I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

**Hotez:** I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

**Goudarzi:** But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

**Hotez:** I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

**Goudarzi:** Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

**Hotez:** I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

**Goudarzi:** Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

**Hotez:** The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

**Goudarzi:** What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

**Hotez:** I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017627  
MORENS\_NIH\_035865



**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); usch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017628  
MORENS\_NIH\_035866

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Moren [REDACTED] wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED] wrote:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [REDACTED]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

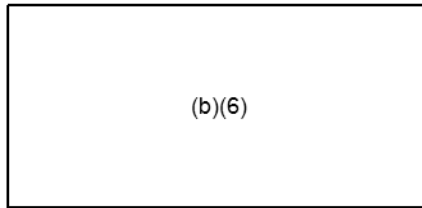
**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017629  
MORENS\_NIH\_035867

**Media Inquiries:**



iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)> wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)>; Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)> Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** David Morens <(b)(6)> <(b)(6)>  
Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017630  
MORENS\_NIH\_035868

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of complete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 6:59 AM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Subject:** Finally - virologists fight back!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017631

MORENS\_NIH\_035869

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists-science-oversight-risky-experiments>) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - <http://www.scientistsforscience.org/> ) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)...

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

## Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

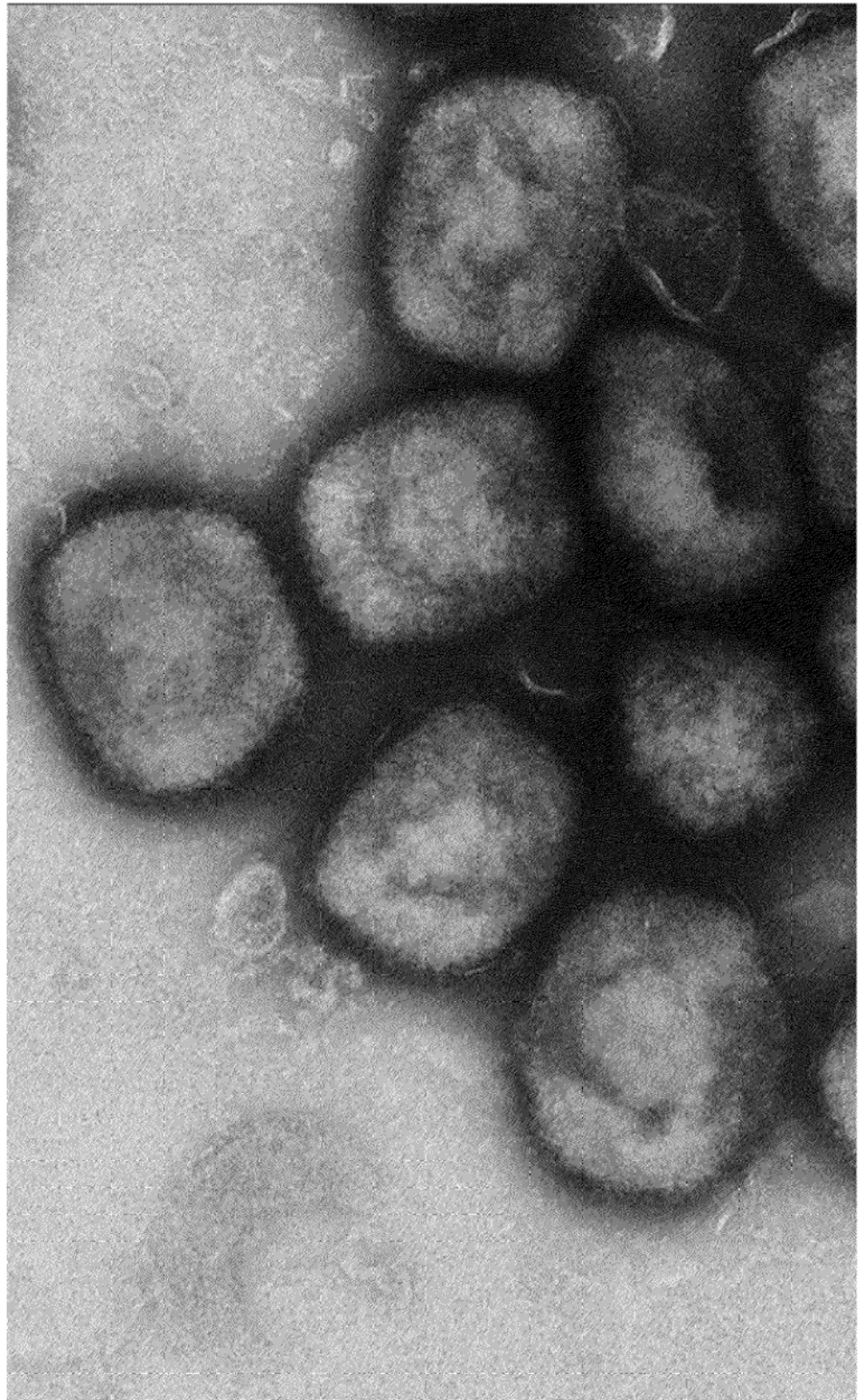


NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017632  
MORENS\_NIH\_035870

NIH 60767 - 007362

REL0000480271



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*NIAID*

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017633  
MORENS\_NIH\_035871

NIH 60767 - 007863

REL0000480271

or malicious attack.

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

#### **Sponsor Message**

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

## **The origins of the pandemic**

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

#### **Sponsor Message**

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

## **A bird flu study raises alarm**

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

#### **Sponsor Message**

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

### **What's "Reasonably Anticipated"**

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

#### **Sponsor Message**

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would stimulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.



"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory  
coronavirus research  
pathogens  
**Facebook**  
**Twitter**  
**Flipboard**  
**Email**

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6), David Morens <(b)(6)>, Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>, Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by Miner/Flux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017636  
MORENS\_NIH\_035874

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MimerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017637  
MORENS\_NIH\_035875

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)> wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** David Morens <(b)(6)>; Jerry Starnes <(b)(6)>

<(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>

Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017638  
MORENS\_NIH\_035876

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: p.hotez

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-  
2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
wrote:

Disappointed that (b)(6) isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist  
from outside (and that isn't looking good), (b)(6) would be a safe pair of hands  
for the foreseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b)(6) would be rejected  
from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader  
in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals  
with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health  
background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both  
sides of the political spectrum....er... (b)(6)!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017639  
MORENS\_NIH\_035877

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of (b)(6)

(b)(6) Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told that because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017640  
MORENS\_NIH\_035878

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist Scott Weaver from UTMB - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

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

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

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

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <  
(b)(6)> wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017641  
MORENS\_NIH\_035879

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6) David Morens <

(b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Rich

Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017642  
MORENS\_NIH\_035880

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) |

Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)

wrote:

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

**From** (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017643  
MORENS\_NIH\_035881



Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)> Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)> David Morens <

(b)(6)> Gerald Keusch (b)(6)

Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

As ever,  
Jeff

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei

Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <

(b)(6)> Gerald Keusch (b)(6)

(b)(6)> Rich Roberts <

(b)(6)>

Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

(b)(6)

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017644  
MORENS\_NIH\_035882

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6)

(b)(6) Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_017645  
MORENS\_NIH\_035883

**Date:** Sat, 20 May 2023 6:40:56 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Sat, 20 May 2023 6:40:52 PM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: The new NIH Director nomination

**From:** "Roberts, Rich" (b)(6)  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6);  
**CC:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)

Jerry:

I will try to find someone at MGH who knows her well.

The gain-of-function issue can wait for now.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email (b)(6)

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 20, 2023 4:42 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6);  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: The new NIH Director nomination

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi Rich,

Totally agree with the need to get rid of the slogan for attacks on science that GOF has become. The question is how. That would be something a new advocacy organization that engages the scientific societies to fight back against the attacks on science and scientists could pick up and pursue.

More immediate is the issue of EHA and what Bertagnolli will experience in the hearings. Ordinarily what Harold suggests would be fine, however in the current circumstances Building 1 remains hostile to EHA and too reticent with the republican congressmen. I don't trust them to prep her in a manner that we would consider both rational and reasonable. Maybe the other way to get her attention is to get something in Science (? via and editorial from you and Harold, or prod Holden Thorpe to take a proactive stance) providing the background including the suspensions, terminations, reversals, reimpositions etc in a way that has stopped the important work EHA does for all this time. Jocelyn Kaiser has a nice news report in Science; what is needed now is an editorial that Bertagnolli will see and hopefully ask lots of questions to the legal office at NIH and HHS.

Peter, is there anybody in that office who has been willing to both listen and to hear the message? I don't know how to get more information to that person, that office, without stepping over red lines for influencing (rather than informing) decision making. What is needed is some sort of amicus brief. Is there any precedent for something like that outside the courts?

I'm just verbally mulling over where this issue is and what can be legitimately be done proactively in defense.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005132  
MORENS\_NIH\_013025

Jerry

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:13 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Ja (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: The new NIH Director nomination

Peter and Jerry:

Got this from Harold. Have you already delivered this material to NIAID?

I will respond to his GOF comment. It would probably be helpful to get another descriptor.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 20, 2023 1:30 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: The new NIH Director nomination

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Rich, yes, I know (b)(6) and we have talked several times about the NCI and NIH jobs. But I don't expect to be involved in her preparation for the hearing on her nomination as NIH Director. That is usually organized by the legislative offices in the NIH Office of the Director and by the legislative team at DHHS. I am sure that she will get briefed about the EHA grant and it is likely that NIAID will be asked to provide background material.

The document you sent has a lot of detailed information that she might want to read but it would best be delivered to her via NIAID; in addition, the source of the document (presumably EHA itself) should be apparent. EHA might simply provide that to NIAID's current leadership and I expect that they've done that already.

Best,

HV

PS Can't we find a better, more restricted way to label experiments that enhance pathogenicity or transmissibility of infectious agents than "gain of function"? Even DURC (dual use research of concern) is better than that. I've been doing GoF research for decades, enhancing cell growth by enhancing the function of proto-oncogenes!

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005133  
MORENS\_NIH\_013026

**Date:** Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:25 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The new NIH Director nomination

(b)(6)

You probably know (b)(6) and I am wondering if you will be contacting her prior to the Senate Hearing?

I ask because in light of the recent events related to EcoHealth Alliance she is likely to be questioned about their funding and the relationship to the COVID lab-leak hypothesis. I had let you know that their grant had been re-instated (2 1/2 years after we asked for it!), but I don't see that will stop some awkward questions for her.

If you do get the chance to chat you might mention some of the possible responses to questions that are covered in the attached.

If you will not be speaking with her, perhaps you could suggest someone else I might contact about this matter.

Hope all is well with you.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005134  
MORENS\_NIH\_013027

NIH 60767 - 007332

REL0000480283

Date: Tue, 21 Feb 2023 10:54:04 AM -0500  
Sent: Tue, 21 Feb 2023 10:53:10 AM -0500  
Subject: MORE RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?  
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b)(6)  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >;  
David Morens (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; (b)(6)  
CC: (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; Alison Andre  
(b)(6) >;  
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; Coalition concept note Draft v4 2.20.23 ed gtk 2-21-23.docx

I couldn't wait and so prioritized this. My suggested edits and comments are attached.

Jerry

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 9:59 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) (b)(6)  
Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; Alison Andre (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** RE: Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?

I'll be happy to join a call. I haven't had a chance to review the revised concept note but I will asap.

Jerry

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2023 8:59 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Alison Andre <  
(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Catching up re. Coalition building - time for a call maybe next week?  
**Importance:** High

Dear all – can we set up a call maybe next week to talk about building a Coalition to protect science.

Alison – could you look at availability for the week beginning Feb 27<sup>th</sup> or March 6<sup>th</sup> for us all...

I've also attached a revised version of the Coalition concept note. Jeff re-wrote this following our call and we also reached out to a political consultant to get his input on how this would be perceived from both Dems and moderate Republicans. I added a few comments using track changes. Please feel free to add to this also.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019360  
MORENS\_NIH\_038921

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:30 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Update

Fyi Ann Moscona is in NY, a good person for EHA to connect with. She's a superb virologist mostly on respiratory virus pathogenesis and drug development

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019361  
MORENS\_NIH\_038922

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

Douglas.SorianoOsejo@bcm.edu | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**



iPhone

On Feb 1, 2023, at 5:28 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

Awesome to hear that!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Update

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019362  
MORENS\_NIH\_038923



Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Jude's) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

#### Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019363  
MORENS\_NIH\_038924

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

Join Zoom Meeting

(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

One tap mobile

(b)(6) US (New York)

(b)(6) US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019364

MORENS\_NIH\_038925

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

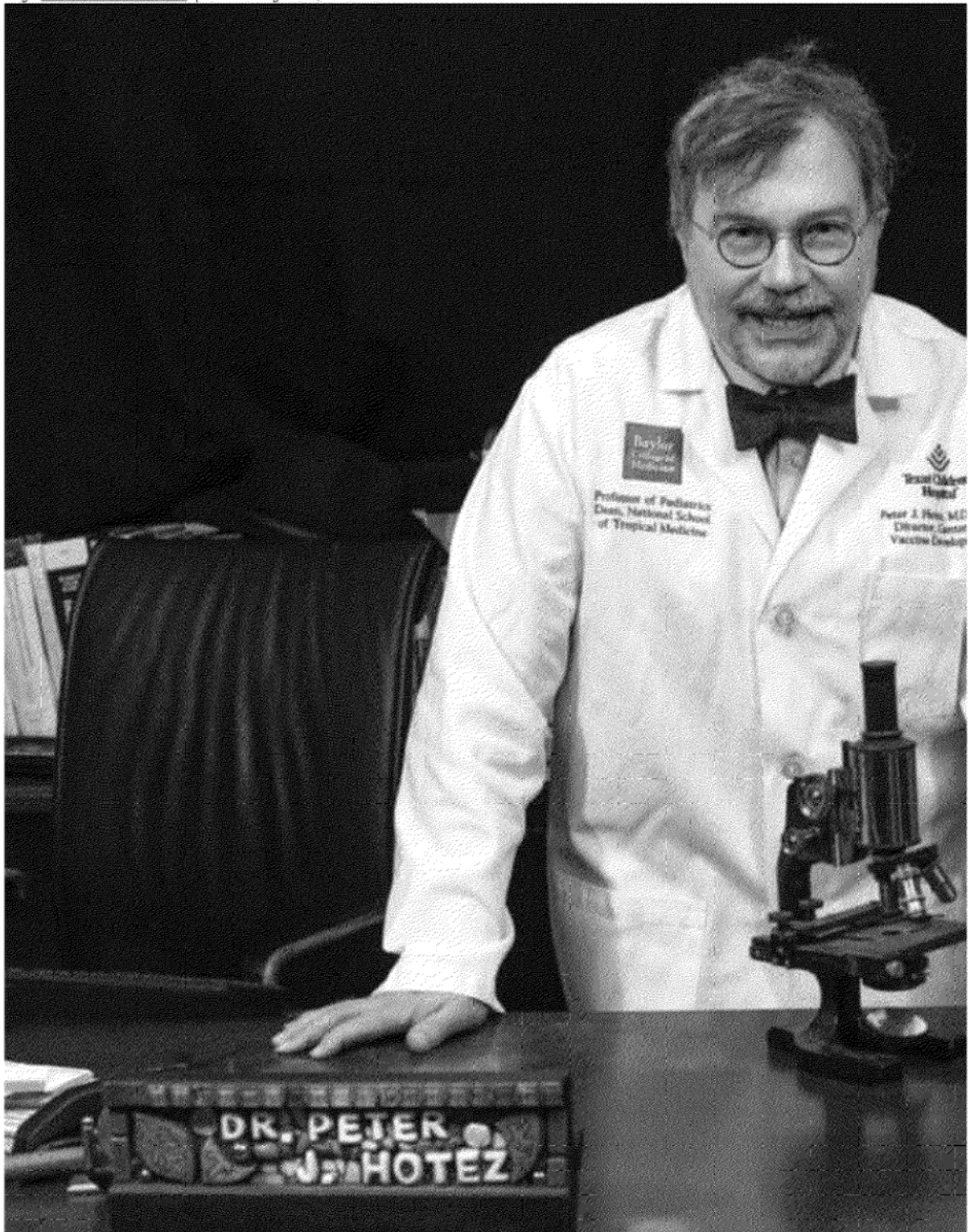
<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

## Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019365  
MORENS\_NIH\_038926

# on social media

By [Sara Goudarzi](#) | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)  
Last November, Twitter [announced](#) it will no longer enforce “the COVID-19 misleading information policy.” The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019366  
MORENS\_NIH\_038927

Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there's a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it. Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power. In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem. I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Sara Goudarzi:** You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

**Peter Hotez:** Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far

right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

**Goudarzi:** With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

**Hotez:** It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

**Goudarzi:** How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

**Hotez:** I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

**Goudarzi:** Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

**Hotez:** I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

**Goudarzi:** Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?



**Hotez:** I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

**Goudarzi:** Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

**Hotez:** Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money... It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

**Goudarzi:** And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

**Hotez:** Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

**Goudarzi:** Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

**Hotez:** It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent

anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

**Goudarzi:** What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

**Hotez:** Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

**Goudarzi:** Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

**Hotez:** No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine



ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

**Goudarzi:** Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

**Hotez:** It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18<sup>th</sup>-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

**Goudarzi:** I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

**Hotez:** I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

**Goudarzi:** But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

**Hotez:** I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

**Goudarzi:** Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

**Hotez:** I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it,

because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

**Goudarzi:** Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

**Hotez:** The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

**Goudarzi:** What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

**Hotez:** I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019372  
MORENS\_NIH\_038933

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: (b)(6)

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019373  
MORENS\_NIH\_038934

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <(b)(6)> wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)> wrote:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019374  
MORENS\_NIH\_038935

**Media Inquiries:**



iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Moren (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019375  
MORENS\_NIH\_038936

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of complete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Subject:** Finally - virologists fight back!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019376

MORENS\_NIH\_038937

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists-science-oversight-risky-experiments>) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - <http://www.scientistsforscience.org/> ) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)...

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

## Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

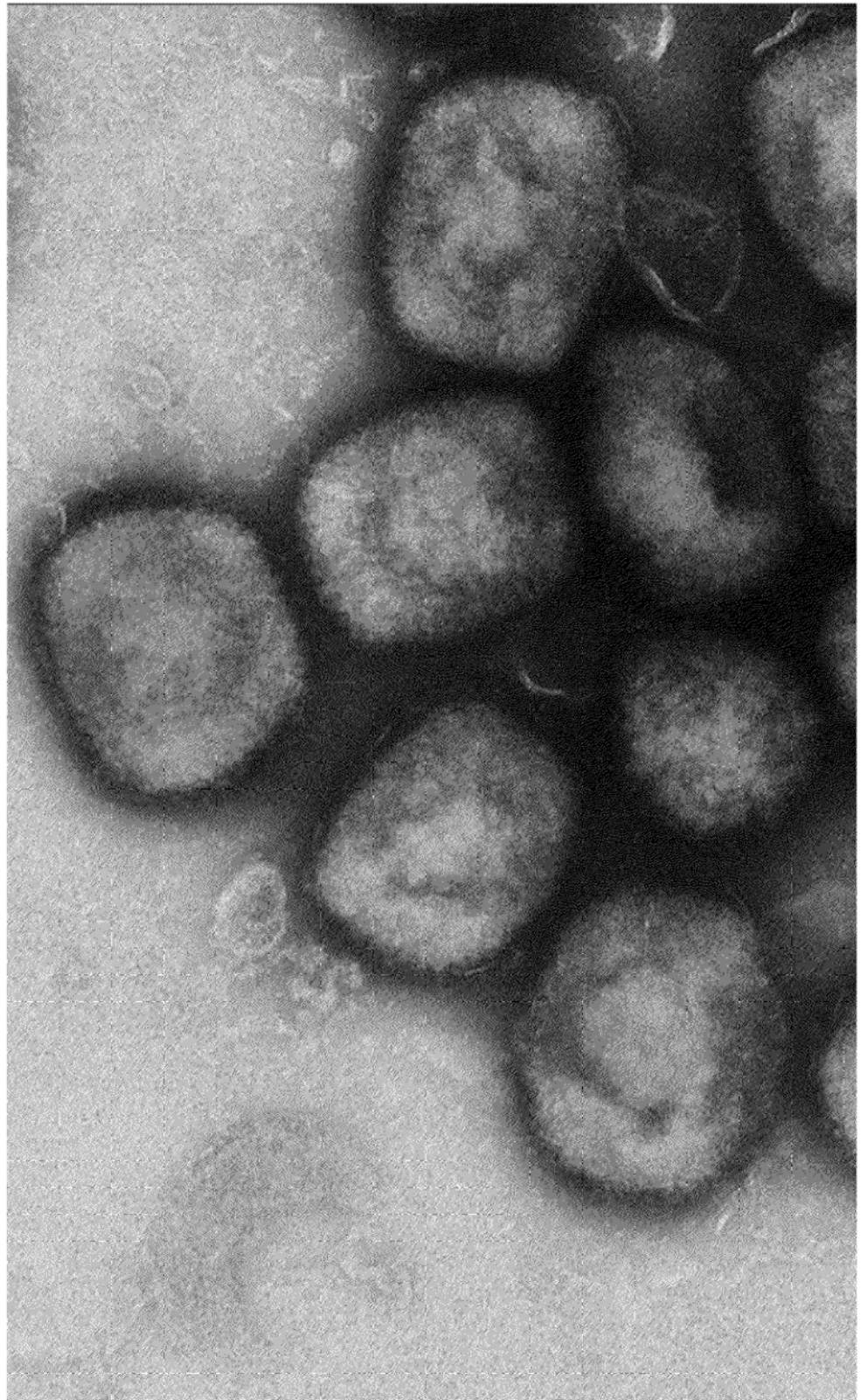


NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019377  
MORENS\_NIH\_038938

NIH 60707 - 007896

REL0000480284



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*NIAID*

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019378  
MORENS\_NIH\_038939

NIH 60767 - 007897

REL0000480284



or malicious attack.

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

#### **Sponsor Message**

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

## **The origins of the pandemic**

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

#### **Sponsor Message**

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

## **A bird flu study raises alarm**

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

#### **Sponsor Message**

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

### **What's "Reasonably Anticipated"**

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

#### **Sponsor Message**

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory  
coronavirus research  
pathogens  
**Facebook**  
**Twitter**  
**Flipboard**  
**Email**

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)> Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team (b)(6) and (b)(6), to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019381  
MORENS\_NIH\_038942

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Dasza (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019382  
MORENS\_NIH\_038943

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)> wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** David Morens <(b)(6)>

<(b)(6)> <(b)(6)> <(b)(6)>

Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019383  
MORENS\_NIH\_038944

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-  
2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak  
wrote:

(b)(6)

Disappointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the foreseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that (b)(6) would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientist, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum....er....Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019384  
MORENS\_NIH\_038945

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told that because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019385  
MORENS\_NIH\_038946

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist Scott Weaver from UTMB - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

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

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

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

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <  
(b)(6)> wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019386  
MORENS\_NIH\_038947



USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(6), Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)>, David Morens <

(b)(6)>, Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Rich

Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019387  
MORENS\_NIH\_038948

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:**

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)

wrote:

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

**From:** (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019388  
MORENS\_NIH\_038949

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura <

David Morens <

(b)(6)

Gerald Keusch

(b)(6)

Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

As ever,  
Jeff

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 6:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura

(b)(6)

David Morens <

(b)(6)

Gerald Keusch

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Rich Roberts <

(b)(6)

Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

(b)(6)

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019389  
MORENS\_NIH\_038950

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6)

(b)(6) Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_019390  
MORENS\_NIH\_038951

**Date:** Tue, 1 Mar 2022 6:21:14 PM -0500  
**Sent:** Tue, 1 Mar 2022 6:20:36 PM -0500  
**Subject:** Re: request from WSJ  
**From:** "McKay, Betsy" <betsy.mckay@wsj.com>  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)

---

Babi Yar Holocaust memorial:

<https://www.npr.org/2022/03/01/1083733323/russia-bombards-a-kyiv-tv-tower-and-the-babyn-yar-holocaust-memorial-site>

On Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 4:19 PM David Morens (b)(6) > wrote:  
new thought: i could speak to you now before my 530 gets here. d

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

On Mar 1, 2022, at 16:06, David Morens (b)(6) > wrote:

Betsy, if you can play it by ear, my meeting is aiming for 530 but not certain as she has to drive a long way to get here. I have asked her to guesstimate when and how long, so that i could call you either before or after. Or tomorrow works too. d

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

On Mar 1, 2022, at 15:26, McKay, Betsy <betsy.mckay@wsj.com> wrote:

After your 5:30 meeting is fine with me, if it's convenient for you. I'm at (b)(6) If tomorrow morning would be easier for you that works for me too!

Betsy

On Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 3:08 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) wrote:

Betsy, if not too late, I can call after my 530 meeting, although not sure how long that will last. If that isn't best I should be free tomorrow most of the day except 11 to about 2. d

On 3/1/2022 11:56 AM, McKay, Betsy wrote:

Great - thank you! I will wait to hear from you.  
Just fyi, the only times that I cannot talk are Wednesday from 6 p.m. on, and Thursday 4:30-

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005466  
MORENS\_NIH\_013566

5:30 p.m. Any other time in the next several days works!

Best,  
Betsy

On Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 11:24 AM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <

(b)(6) wrote:

Betsy, let me see how things go. I have a 530 meeting but not sure when that will be over. I should have multiple times Wed and Thu. d

On 3/1/2022 10:31 AM, McKay, Betsy wrote:

Thank you, and I understand. I am flexible on timing. Off of workday time is fine - what works for you? I could speak tonight, possibly Thursday or Friday evening, or over the weekend.

Best,  
Betsy

On Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 10:26 AM David Morens wrote:

(b)(6)

Betsy, glad to do it IF it's on background and no clues that anything comes from me. This is because some of us, including me and especially my boss Tony Fauci, are getting pilloried with death threats, and as govt employees we need to keep our heads down and not raise controversy. Best for me to do it off of workday time.

What's your time table?

david  
David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

On Tue, Mar 1, 2022 at 10:10 AM McKay, Betsy <

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005467  
MORENS\_NIH\_013567

betsy.mckay@wsj.com > wrote:

Hi David - I am a reporter for The Wall Street Journal who writes about public health. I am reaching out to see if you would have a few moments to chat today or tomorrow (or the end of the week) on background about EcoHealth? I could use your perspective, and advice.

Also just wanted to say I enjoyed your NEJM Perspective a few weeks back on universal coronavirus vaccines. I wrote a story last fall about the research underway for such vaccines, and it struck me as a good example of why it's necessary to study coronaviruses that don't currently infect humans.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,  
Betsy

--

Betsy McKay  
SENIOR WRITER

O: (b)(6)

M: (b)(6)

E: [betsy.mckay@wsj.com](mailto:betsy.mckay@wsj.com)

T: [@betswrites](#)

--

Betsy McKay  
SENIOR WRITER

O: (b)(6)

M: (b)(6)

E: [betsy.mckay@wsj.com](mailto:betsy.mckay@wsj.com)

T: [@betswrites](#)

--

David M Morens

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005468  
MORENS\_NIH\_013568

--

Betsy McKay  
SENIOR WRITER

O: (b)(6)  
M: (b)(6)  
E: [betsy.mckay@wsj.com](mailto:betsy.mckay@wsj.com)  
T: [@betswrites](#)

--

David M Morens

(b)(6)

--

Betsy McKay  
SENIOR WRITER



O: (b)(6)  
M: (b)(6)  
E: [betsy.mckay@wsj.com](mailto:betsy.mckay@wsj.com)  
T: [@betswrites](#)

--

Betsy McKay  
SENIOR WRITER



O: (b)(6)  
M: (b)(6)  
E: [betsy.mckay@wsj.com](mailto:betsy.mckay@wsj.com)  
T: [@betswrites](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005469  
MORENS\_NIH\_013569



**Date:** Tue, 7 May 2024 2:25:14 PM -0400

**Sent:** Tue, 7 May 2024 2:24:50 PM -0400

**Subject:** Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

(b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
**CC:** (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Keith Martin (b)(6) David  
Morens (b)(6)

The only person i have access to these days is Paul Friedrichs the White House pandemic coordinator. I'm wondering maybe you should contact Chuck Schumer?

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 1:22 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) > wrote:

Yes – it would need to be from high up in USDA to say that ‘hold on, these guys aren’t debarred, and this is a political action, so please carry on the process of funding them’

The specific unit in USDA that’s in charge of the funding process is NIFA (<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/>) which is the unit that oversees USDA research grants.

Cheers,

MORENS\_NIH\_044959

NIH 60767 - 007268

REL0000480293

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6) David Morens  
**Subject:** Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

This is truly awful Peter, I'm so sorry. If there was to be an effective intervention who would do that? Would it be the White House with the Agriculture Secretary?

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_NIH\_044960

NIH 60707 - 007269

REL0000480293

iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 10:25 AM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] (b)(6) wrote:

Just heard today that a 5 year \$2.5 million award to analyze disease dynamics in wildlife farms in Southeast Asia we were in the process of finalizing with USDA via the NSF/NIH Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program is now "impossible" for them to fund. We received a very high score on review, were told it was highly competitive, received notice from USDA that it was 'recommended for funding', and over the past few weeks met repeatedly with the program staff at USDA to finalize all the forms. They were communicating positively with us requesting further paper work as recently as last week, now suddenly we've been told the following:

"Good morning. I must bring you some unfortunate news. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has become impossible for USDA NIFA to provide support for the project that we discussed. I have had to retract my recommendation. I apologize for the inconvenience this will have caused you."

We're trying to set up calls to find out more information, but it's well known that you don't have funding from an agency until the notice of award and that they can pull out for reasons like budget shortfalls etc. I doubt there's anything we can do. This is similar to an issue we had last year with an joint-PI NIH grant to Colorado State University with us having a substantial role and funding. The program officer spoke with the CSU PI and said they should reduce our budget because if we get 'debarred' NIH will lose its budget. We fought back, CSU scientists pushed back, and we got our Notice of Award.

It's just outrageous that the Republicans can de facto de-fund an organization on a whim. We are not debarred, and we're looking into the rules for debarment and this is normally for issues like fraud, criminal convictions related to grant management, tax evasion etc. I strongly doubt that we would be debarred over a late report that we have substantial evidence we tried to submit.

What worries me is that we are now going to have a multi-year impact on our organization, whether or not we are debarred, and whether or not we actually did anything wrong. I'm also devastated at the impact this will have on my reputation (already in tatters at this point) and my career.

Extremely upsetting and disappointing!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

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

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

MORENS\_NIH\_044961

NIH 60767 - 007876

REL0000480293

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Meksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) wrote:

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

All:

This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on

misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

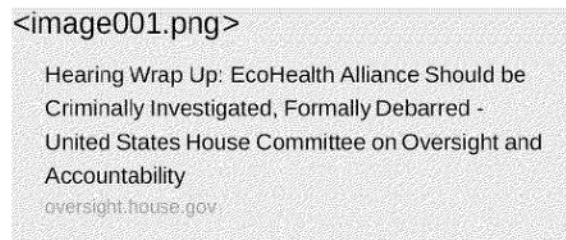
As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Keith Martin (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

“ The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak’s contempt for the American people.”



I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats... at worst...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

MORENS\_NIH\_044963

NIH 60767 - 007878

REL0000480293

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

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

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Excellent article!

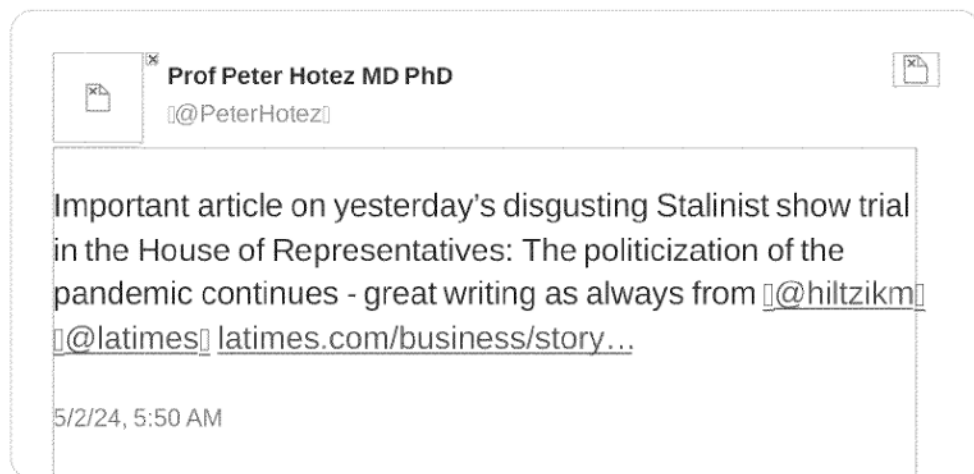
Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email (b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER



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

MORENS\_NIH\_044964

NIH 60707 - 007879

REL0000480293

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

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

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

**Date:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:16:33 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Fwd: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** Sachs Lancet Commission Letter from Bill Posey.pdf; Letter Congressman Bill Posey December 10 2020.docx

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

Date: Tue, May 24, 2022 at 8:53 AM

Subject: Jeff Sachs' comments to Rich

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) David Morens

(b)(6) >, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) >, (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

Rich reached out to Jeff Sachs to set up a call with him and he sent the response below, which Rich suggested I could share with you all.

I think, unfortunately, you're right Peter that he holds a grudge against me re. the way I pushed back against his efforts to remove me from the Taskforce, which is a shame, and he seems to have re-hashed his memory of what happened in a way that's unfortunate.

However, he also lays out below his rationale for his Op Ed, and again, it's riddled with errors or misconceptions that I've addressed with brief bullets in the body of his email below. It also shows that he's clearly bought into the lab leak theory hook, line and sinker. It's very worrying to see that, but this is the problem with beguiling conspiratorial narratives like these. To counter them, you have to explain complex science, and the convoluted way science is funded and conducted. The simplest, most exciting story often wins out.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004720  
MORENS\_NIH\_011700



Given the animosity in his email, the fact that Jeff's so well-known, and that his op ed calls for a "fair and balanced" investigation into COVID origins, I don't think EcoHealth 'wins' if I'm involved in a rebuttal to the PNAS paper. Others I've spoken with also suggest it would just amplify the attack. However, I would strongly encourage any of you to think about writing some sort of response either in PNAS or another form, and I'd be happy to provide facts and supporting documents for the many, many errors in his piece.

Please read his email below and my responses, I expect the lines of attack he puts forward will be used elsewhere by others, as many of them have already, and all can be easily refuted:

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004721  
MORENS\_NIH\_011701

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)  
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 9:37 PM  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6)  
Subject: Re: Your criticisms of the call for an independent investigation?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

Thanks so much for your detailed comments.

Kindly let me share a few thoughts with you.

First, I got to know Daszak, as I invited him to chair a task force of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission. I observed close at hand that he was dishonest and untrustworthy. I had to dismiss him and disband the group that he set up. Many people associated with him also behaved very improperly, hiding their conflicts of interest and in other ways. I know that you defended him and I am absolutely sure that you did so out of the highest motives. Yet I've seen a side of Daszak that is disreputable.

Response: The conflicts of interest are that I worked with the WIV. This was absolutely known to Jeff from the start – it's why he reached out to me in April 2020 after Trump terminated our NIH funding, literally because "we funded the lab in Wuhan". A few weeks into my work with the Lancet Commission that Jeff headed up, he received a letter from a Congressman complaining about my alleged conflicts. Jeff responded to him to explain that my experience working with Wuhan is a benefit to the commission. Both are attached above.

Second, the EHA grant proposals are deeply disturbing. The DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal raises the highest questions (especially pp. 10-11)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004722  
MORENS\_NIH\_011702

NIH 60707 - 007823

REL0000480296

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7ds48917128us4t/DARPA%20defuse-proposal%20.pdf?dl=0>

Response: This is a rejected proposal from 2018 – the grant was never funded, the work was never done. The hypotheses and experiments proposed on pp 10-11 are based on well-known properties of other virus' proteolytic cleavage sites, and the (correct) idea that SARS-CoVs might have them.

Why did we have to wait for more than a year to know about this grant proposal – and then only through FOIA? NIH has behaved very badly and continues to do so.

Response: The reason it wasn't made public is because no scientist in their right mind would publicly release an unfunded grant proposal – they represent your best ideas and hard work, and by releasing them, you hand over those ideas to competitors who are vying for the same sources of funding. However, it was in the possession of the US Federal agencies – it was in the files at DoD! Should the intelligence agencies have wanted to see it, they could have done so easily. Jeff's also wrong in that it was not released by FoIA because USG agencies also refuse to release unfunded proposals – they're privileged and confidential. If scientists submit proposals knowing that they might be FoIA'd, they would not submit their best ideas for fear of being scooped by rivals. The DARPA proposal was leaked by someone. Finally Jeff says NIH behaved badly, but this was a DoD proposal.

Why did NIH redact 290 pages here?

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hripmsjk3ovi5fm/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf?dl=0>

Response: Simple. The 290 pages were an attachment to an email that happened to be a draft version of NIAID's COVID-19 Strategic Plan. This was published and widely disseminated later on, but it makes total sense for NIAID to redact a version that's unfinished, so that the public don't get fed other erroneous theories based on some typos or errors in the uncorrected version.

Third, NIH knew full well since February 1, 2020 if not earlier that a lab-leak was not only plausible, but for many leading scientists was odds-on. Yet that was deliberately covered up in the Proximal Origins paper in Nature Medicine, a paper advanced with Francis Collins' early intervention and editing. (The Proximal Origins paper is a remarkably crude whitewashing of the question – claiming that SARS-CoV-2 was "irrefutably" not from a known SARS-CoV backbone -- citing a 2014 (!!!) paper (see footnote 20, which gives away the game).

Response: It's just simply not true (and never has been) that many leading scientists view the lab leak theory as 'odds-on'. Neither was

the theory deliberately covered up – it was debated and put to bed, that’s why people changed their opinions from FoIA’d emails wherein they noticed the FCS and suggested it could indicate a lab origin, to the final paper wherein they had spent time debating the veracity of this with colleagues – that’s how science should work. Ref. 20 is about how FCS arises in nature in avian flu, following prolonged passage of a mild strain. This plausibly could have happened when a bat-CoV circulated repeatedly in an amplifier host or in people prior to emerging with a full FCS. SARS-CoV circulated for months before emergence in China, so it’s more plausible than months of lab passage for a virus that was never in the lab (we had all the sequences of all known bat-CoVs).

Fourth, even Baric has joined the call for an investigation. He has been the relentless champion of the genetic re-engineering of SARS-CoV viruses, and he trained Shi Zhengli. He has claimed that GoF is vital for drug and vaccine development. Yet GoF in a BSL2 laboratory (as in Wuhan) is a mighty risky proposition.

Response: The work in WIV that EHA collaborated on was definitively not gain-of-function. It was reviewed by NIH before we did it and they’re the organization of note to do this. Their decision and the rationale has been made public and fits exactly with the published P3CO rules. This has been stated over and over again, but I guess Jeff just somehow disagrees with the authority to decide whether an expt is GoF or not!. In any case, none of the viruses at WIV were anywhere close to SARS-CoV-2, as published by us in Latinne et al. Nature Comms. 2020. Finally, the BSL argument is clearly false. The animal experiments that Jeff is alluding to here were conducted at BSL-3. The in vitro work at BSL-2 is the standard in China, just as it is in the USA for Cedar virus with a Hendra spike protein – something that’s BSL4 in Australia. If we work with a lab in China, we cannot impose US law on them. NIH approved that work.

Fifth, I am not much persuaded that the presence of an FCS in some coronaviruses means all that much when: (a) no FCS is known in a sarbecoronavirus; (b) UNC-WIV planned to insert an FCS into a library of so-far undocumented SARS-CoVs; and (3) no single animal in China, in >80,000 tested, has carried SARS-CoV-2.

Response: this has been widely debunked. A) The site where FCS is found in the SARS-CoV-2 spike has mutations in many of the closely related bat-CoVs that show it is ‘evolvable’ and could easily mutate into a full FCS. B) UNC planned to insert FCS in 2018, but the grant wasn’t funded, the work wasn’t done. C) the sample of 80,000 animals includes before and after the pandemic, zoo animals, animals known refractive to SARS-CoVs (e.g. salamanders). No group of a single species known to harbor SARS-CoVs from this sample is of a size large enough to give statistical power to rule out infection.

In short, I believe that we need an independent investigation because:

(1) The virus could have emerged in a BSL2 based on the research promised in the DARPA-DEFUSE grant proposal

Response: yes it could have, but not based on a grant that wasn't funded

(2) NIH knows this very well, but has never admitted it or supported a public review

Response: I don't know how anyone can second guess what NIH knows. However, they have publicly stated that they support continued efforts to identify the origin

(3) We should therefore have a long-overdue transparent stock-taking of what the US organizations (NIH, EHA, UNC, DOD, IC, others) actually know

Response: I think I've told everyone all I 'actually know' about 100 times over. What Jeff Sachs is actually proposing is an invasive witch hunt whereby my private emails and files are published for the right wing press to spend another 2 years canceling out our organization.

(4) The Intelligence Community is itself divided on the issue, which some agencies leaning towards a lab leak. Why do some IC agencies lean towards a lab release?

Response: Not true. Prior to Biden's 90 day intel review, only a few intel agencies expressed an opinion: 2 agencies concluded 'natural' origins were more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. After the review 4 agencies considered 'natural' origins more likely and 1 concluded lab leak more likely. Confidence in conclusion was low throughout, but there was a distinct shift suggesting intelligence supports natural over lab leak.

All best wishes and with very warm regards,

Jeff

Disclaimer

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004725  
MORENS\_NIH\_011705

NIH 60707 - 007886

REL0000480296

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004726  
MORENS\_NIH\_011706

NIH 60707 - 007827

REL0000480296

**Date:** Thu, 24 Feb 2022 11:28:51 AM -0500  
**Sent:** Thu, 24 Feb 2022 11:28:37 AM -0500  
**Subject:** Another attack from Republicans, this time also mentioning Rich Roberts  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** Rich Roberts (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay  
(b)(6) David Morens (b)(6)  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;  
**Attachments:** 2.24.22 House Energy & Commerce Letter-to-NIH-Acting-Director-Tabak accusing EHA of fraud etc...pdf

---

Dear All,

I'm so sorry to darken your doorsteps again with news of more awful attacks from the Republicans. This time it's the House Energy and Commerce Republicans – the same ones who asked for me to be kicked out of the NAM (still not heard from the NAM by the way).

They've now sent a letter to NIH (Tabak) accusing EHA of fraud because we're allegedly double-dipping on funding (USAID and NIH), and not declaring private funding, specifically the anonymous donation that you helped organize Rich. Of course, this was after the NIH terminated our funding, so is utterly irrelevant, but they give the impression that we used the attacks to raise funds. Well, we've lot substantial funding since then, so that's also not true.

Here is the news story on Fox:

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/covid-origins-republicans-pressure-nih-risky-research>

The letter to Tabak is attached. It specifically names you Rich, and insinuates that we were busy making money out of this miserable situation.

Here are the facts:

- The research work we conducted in China on coronaviruses was funded by NIH, with support for One Health capacity building and emerging viral risk analysis supported later by USAID.
- NIH and USAID undertook an assessment of any potential overlap in funding, and decided that there was none.
- We reported to each agency about the work we did and acknowledged funding on all scientific papers from this work.
- No non-federal funding was used to support this coronavirus research in China prior to the abrupt termination of our NIH funding on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2020, after which we had to use used non-federal funding to pay for staff time to publish this information and make it available to the world.
- We remain committed to doing everything we can to continue getting the work we conducted in China prior to COVID-19 out into the public domain, for the benefit of citizens in the USA and globally.

This week alone we were notified about 2 separate FoIAs to USAID for our emails and proposals. We've got daily requests from reporters who are trying to generate negative press. We've got a former disgruntled employee accusing us of being a CIA front on right-wing podcasts, and a barrage of online threats and harassment, many of them from well-known right-leaning social commentators with hundreds of thousands of followers (including Glenn Beck – 2 video podcasts on EHA and Eric Weinstein).

Meanwhile, I'm being quietly sidelined by all the societies, agencies and academies that used to ask me to give talks, join committees etc. The NAM hasn't even let me know whether they're going to 'investigate' me or not, so I'm in limbo there too.

I've had 2 years of this and at this point, I'm really worried about my future in science, our organization's future, my own job, my family and my health.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015668  
MORENS\_NIH\_033349

NIH 60767 - 007822

REL0000480302

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015669  
MORENS\_NIH\_033350

NIH 60767 - 007829

REL0000480302



**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:37 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image004.png; image005.jpg; image008.png

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Date:** Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 10:23 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6), Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch (b)(6), Aleksei Chmura (b)(6), David Morens <(b)(6)>, (b)(6), (b)(6), (b)(6)

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004294  
MORENS\_NIH\_011274

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

>; David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004295

MORENS\_NIH\_011275

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

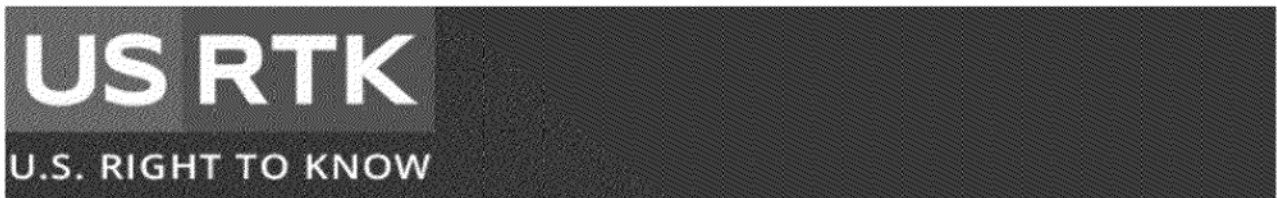
We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: <https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/>

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".



MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004296  
MORENS\_NIH\_011276

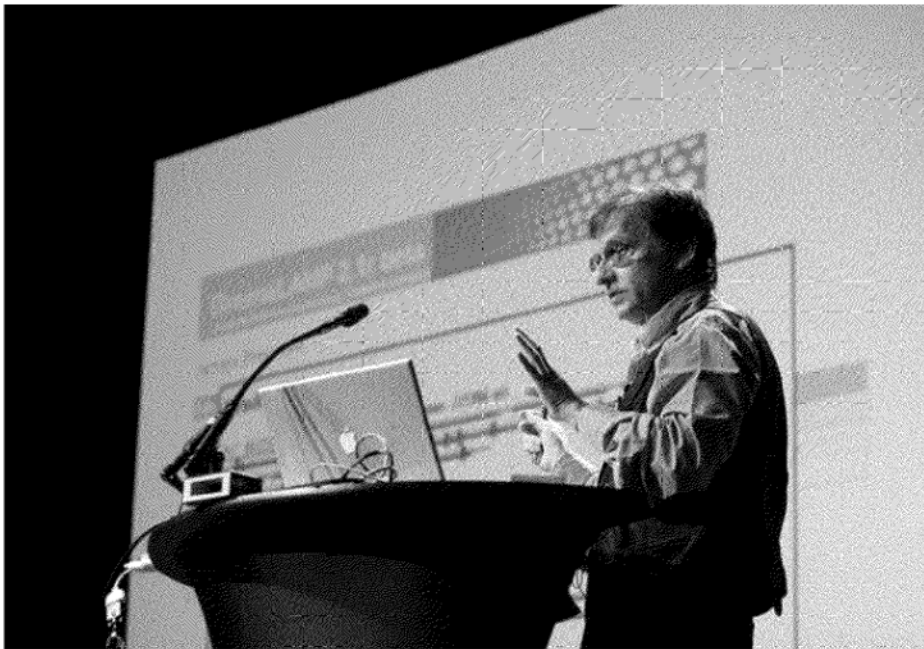
NIH 60767 - 007880

REL0000480311

# Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

[Print](#)[Email](#)[Share](#)[Tweet](#)

Posted on [July 1, 2022](#) by [Emily Kopp](#)



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: [kris krüg](#))

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an [archived version](#) of the group's website shows. Lipkin has [coauthored](#) at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a [paper about novel coronaviruses](#) EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004297  
MORENS\_NIH\_011277

of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicine*," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

*Nature Medicine*, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

0

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

What a j

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004300  
MORENS\_NIH\_011280

**Date:** Tue, 26 Apr 2022 8:18:40 PM -0400

**Sent:** Tue, 26 Apr 2022 8:18:28 PM -0400

**Subject:** My letter to NAM today: FW: Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6);

**CC:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

Dear all,

Please have a look at the email below that I just sent to Victor Dzau, Elena Fuentes-Afflick and Kim Se of NAM. Given that NAM's already spoken with reporters, I don't feel any breach of confidence sharing this with you.

I doubt it will sway them, but I believe they're making a huge mistake to fall for this political aggression, which is carefully designed to win over the public with a juicy narrative of deceit and corruption, and to play on the weaknesses of our institutions like NAM. It's tragic actually.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 8:14 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' (b)(6)

**Subject:** Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

**Importance:** High

Dear (b)(6)

I was very concerned to have received three separate press inquiries today regarding a story in *Fox News* (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house-republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data>). I am not planning to respond to these questions.

As you can see in the *Fox News* article, yet another partisan political letter has been made public with unsubstantiated and clearly politically motivated allegations against our organization and myself. In the article,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000469  
MORENS\_NIH\_004761



an aide to Representative McMorris Rodgers states that *"After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request...We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well."*

In your letters to me, and by phone, you reassured me repeatedly that the process of deciding whether to investigate these allegations was confidential on the NAM side, and you urged me to also treat correspondence with NAM on this issue as confidential, which I have. However, it appears that this is not the case, in that NAM has informed the Republican staff of intent to review my 'behavior' and that this has now been made public, as I indicated could happen in my letter to you last week, April 22, 2022.

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-study-of-bats-in-china-met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-says-11635441406>) and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g. <https://www.science.org/content/article/we-ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19> and <https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid-nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/>).

Given the developments today, I urge you to reconsider your decision to investigate these allegations, which have nothing to do with my adherence to the rules of conduct of NAM members, and to respond to the Republican accusers to state that they do not rise to the level whereby an investigation is warranted. I believe this is justified by the one-sided political nature of the attacks, the lack of prima facie evidence for the allegations, and the fact that your communications have already been made public in defiance of the confidentiality of the matter that NAM and EcoHealth Alliance have maintained. I'm very concerned that this public witch hunt will be damaging not just for myself and our organization, which has consistently produced cutting edge research on emerging diseases that has been fundamental to a series of NAM publications, but that it will also be damaging to NAM and the Academies in general. If you do not stand up to these politicized attacks at this point, they will surely continue and drag in other members of the Academies who have been publicly criticized and accused by the same politicians for the last two years, and who are being continually attacked by various fringe groups espousing conjectural hypotheses about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, in spite of the increasing scientific evidence supporting the spillover from bats through an intermediary host to humans.

This active political interference with stewardship of science, the integrity of science, and the pursuit of knowledge by scientists, goes well beyond EcoHealth Alliance and threatens the integrity of the entire U.S. scientific enterprise. It is no different except in volume than the incontrovertible political interference by Donald Trump in the scientific enterprise at NIH in April 2020, which prompted you to issue a public statement about the separation of politics from science in response. Your words and those of Marcia McNutt ring even more true at this point: *"Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all"* (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/09/nas-and-nam-presidents-alarmed-by-political-interference-in-science-amid-pandemic>). EcoHealth Alliance, myself, the NIH, Tony Fauci, NAM and you are in the cross-hairs now because NIH failed to protect science and scientists from Trump's overtly political, and sadly successful, effort to close down research that was politically inconvenient. I worry that this is just the beginning of the goal of this anti-science agenda, and for that reason it demands brave, bold, and decisive action.

Yours sincerely,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000470  
MORENS\_NIH\_004762

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000471  
MORENS\_NIH\_004763

NIH 60767 - 007899

REL0000480317

Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 5:53:24 PM -0500

Sent: Thu, 24 Feb 2022 5:53:22 PM -0500

Subject: RE: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" (b)(6)

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak (b)(6) >;

CC: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;

I would not like that, Peter H. While I understand what you are thinking I do not want to help the Commission improve the document that Sachs is preparing because the disbanded task force is writing a perspectives for PNAS and we will be talking about these developments in our piece. I don't want Sachs to improve his report, rush to publish, and beat us to the punch once again (that is he fired us before we could quit, because we were trying hard to negotiate an acceptable solution first with Sachs and then with Horton).

Selfish for the now Independent Task Force? Yes. Rational? Yes. Responsible, maybe not, if the interest of better science prevailing in the Commission report is the central issue. I can understand how that would be your concern, but it is not mine.

Jerry

---

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:21 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >;

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >

Subject: Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Is it ok if I share this document with Lancet Commission?

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b)(6)

LinkedIn Peter Hotez

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015852

MORENS\_NIH\_033561

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>  
Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Feb 24, 2022, at 4:01 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

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

---

I'm glad you'll mention this to Randy. These particular politicians are willing to cast aspersions on anyone's character for political gain.

I'm also glad you're going to decline to sign the letter you attached. It seems Richard Ebright's dream is to have me up on the stand under oath with him doing the questioning. Of course, none of this would get to the bottom of anything, and it would just serve to drive more politics in the way of doing science.

The truth of all of this is that there is no real debate over the origins. A lab leak is a possible scenario, but extremely unlikely based on the zero evidence put forward by anyone. On the other hand, we now have 11 peer-reviewed or under-review papers (and counting) that point towards the natural origins. I've listed them out in the attached doc, as well as the lab leak papers I could find (all of which are opinion pieces of non-peer-reviewed).

The real debate is purely political - Republicans using this as a way to target NIH and just regurgitating fact-free innuendo-filled conspiracies with EcoHealth's work at the center. Richard Ebright, I hear, is working with Rand Paul and others to feed them these half-baked ideas and make them sound science-y enough to convince the public.

I can hear the villagers sharpening their pitchforks....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
President

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015853  
MORENS\_NIH\_033562

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay  
(b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); David Morens  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
Subject: FW: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter:

Sorry to hear about the latest attacks. Please don't let them get you down. Just recognize the loonies who send them for what they are.

I'll let Randy Schekman know he was included too. It is sad to see the lengths that people will go to for the sake of political points. Witness the latest nonsense in Ukraine.

I attach a document I just received from Ebright. Needless to say I won't be signing, but I hope to convince some others not to also.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM  
To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015854  
MORENS\_NIH\_033563

Subject: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

EXTERNAL SENDER

All--I am writing to you as founding members of the Cambridge Working Group,

(b)(6) has prepared an open letter entitled "United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and science policy specialists" (see attached).

If you would like to sign the letter, please reply to (b)(6) at (b)(6) or to me at (b)(6) with your name and current affiliation.

Thank you in advance.

RHE

**Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015855  
MORENS\_NIH\_033564

**Date:** Fri, 20 May 2022 3:50:30 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 20 May 2022 3:48:09 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Re: HOTEZ PARAGRAPHS Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets  
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >;  
(b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens  
**CC:** (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image009.jpg; image010.jpg; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; Outlook-k05ij05q.png; HOTEZ PARAGRAPH FOR PNAS.docx

---

OK I drafted a couple of paragraphs for you to use or not or modify, ATTACHED

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail (b)(6)

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299



---

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004755  
MORENS\_NIH\_011764

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 12:24 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >;  
Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** RE: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

I should add that the former Lancet Taskforce (Jerry and I are on it) have a "perspectives" paper to submit Monday for PNAS that reviews all the theories on origins and proposes One Health strategies to deal with future pandemic threats, so we don't need to go too far into the arguments for a natural origin – it will be dealt with in detail in that paper.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 1:07 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6)  
Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets

Sounds good, let me know if and how you would like me to contribute, i could write a section that makes the case for natural origins as the most plausible scenario?

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004756  
MORENS\_NIH\_011765



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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)

Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 20, 2022, at 11:45 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

Note that I should have said on the last email – I'm not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004757  
MORENS\_NIH\_011766

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); 'David Morens' (b)(6); 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6); 'Aleksi Chmura' (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets  
**Importance:** High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be "Why investigating US scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics". This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I'll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:

I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is 'extremely unlikely' (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARS-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why 'investigating US scientists' is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004758  
MORENS\_NIH\_011767

commission that doesn't engage in a 'witch hunt'. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.

- All relevant data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that “EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.” This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA's papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARS-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies' ability to conduct their work.
- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.
- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidentally or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.
- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to

COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to “evidence of a lab leak”. Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That’s why they haven’t, and that’s why the public haven’t been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- “The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis.*” ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- “Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions.” ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- “The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown.*” ***Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved ‘collection of hundreds of viruses from bats’. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARS-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!***
- “These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)” ***Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It’s documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMed and on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.***

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); 'David Morens' (b)(6) 'Keusch, Gerald T' <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metz's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004761  
MORENS\_NIH\_011770

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Moren (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Moren (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02039-y>

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004762

MORENS\_NIH\_011771

University Professor, Baylor University

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

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University  
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

E-mail:

Twitter: [@peterhotez](#)

Skype:

Linkedin [Peter Hotez](#)

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)

Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support

Phone:

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak  wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidentally or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004763  
MORENS\_NIH\_011772

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metz's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metz's

EXTERNAL SENDER

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004764  
MORENS\_NIH\_011773

NIH 60707 - 007963

REL0000480342



This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html>

and here's Jamie Metz's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004765  
MORENS\_NIH\_011774

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <

(b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning...it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <

(b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >

**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004766

MORENS\_NIH\_011775

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

University Professor, Baylor University

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

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)  
Twitter: @peterhotez  
Skype: (b)(6)  
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)  
Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
Phone: (b)(6)  
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 4:27 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

What's really irksome is that this article in PNAS is full of errors and misunderstandings.

I haven't read the whole thing, but just about every paragraph contains an erroneous assumption that could easily be refuted, e.g.:

- "EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2." BS – we published dozens of papers on our work (they're on our website!) and sent reports in to NIH each year. We also gave hundreds of public lectures on this and spoke with the intelligence agencies about it.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004767  
MORENS\_NIH\_011776

“The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis.” BS – that’s what happens when you publish peer-reviewed papers. Maybe Sachs has forgotten how that works!

“Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US–China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions.” Wrong again – DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China, let alone the Wuhan lab.

“The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown.” BS – all ‘viruses’ collected from the field have been published already.

“These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)” BS – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are simply genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It’s all in the scientific papers that Sachs hasn’t bothered to read.

And so on, and so forth.

Honestly, it would take me about a day to go through this paper and rebut every single error and misconception, but who’s got time for that!

By the way – all of these questions have been asked repeatedly on Twitter, by journalists, by the FBI and CIA, and by hundreds of people who’ve spoken with me over the last 2 years. I’ve answered them all, now I have to do it all again, and again, and again. Problem I see here is that he just doesn’t believe me, so the only option is for my laptop to be downloaded in front of a Great Inquisition, led by an eminent person such as...dare I say...Professor Sachs himself.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004768  
MORENS\_NIH\_011777

NIH 60707 - 007257

REL0000480342

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Ja (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:58 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Keusch,

Gerald T (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

How could PNAS publish this crap?

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

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

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin [Peter Hotez](#)

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004769

MORENS\_NIH\_011778

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 3:54 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)> wrote:

Peter:

As you say more nonsense. My opinion of Sachs is waning rapidly.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:32 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>; David Morens <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article  
**Importance:** High

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Looks like Sachs has been taken down yet another rabbit hole by a scientist at Columbia (Harrison) who doesn't work in the field, and is just plain wrong. It's the old Furin cleavage site hypothesis again, without any new data or evidence. Of course, that's their point – the lack of evidence means we're all hiding information and need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

They've published an opinion piece in PNAS (attached) and there's this article in 'The Intercept'. Ebright is quoted, of course!

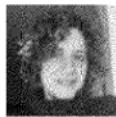
<https://theintercept.com/2022/05/19/covid-lab-leak-evidence-jeffrey-sachs/>

All this will be put straight into the subpoena letters that we've been told by Democrat staffers to expect to arrive in Jan/Feb 2023 when the Republicans take over the house (their words, not mine).

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004770  
MORENS\_NIH\_011779

# JEFFREY SACHS PRESENTS EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE LAB ORIGIN OF COVID-19

An article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calls for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of Covid.



Sharon Lerner

May 19 2022, 4:00 p.m.

**IN AN ARTICLE** published Thursday, economist Jeffrey Sachs called for an independent investigation of information held by U.S.-based institutions that could shed light on the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Sachs and his co-author, Neil Harrison, a Columbia University professor of molecular pharmacology and therapeutics, said that federal agencies and universities possess evidence that has not been adequately reviewed, including virus databases, biological samples, viral sequences, email communications, and laboratory notebooks. Sachs and Harrison also highlighted a tantalizing scientific detail that may be an indication that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, originated in a laboratory: a sequence of eight amino acids on a critical part of the virus's spike protein that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in cells that line human airways.

Sachs and Harrison are hardly the first to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 might have been created in a lab. Since its genetic sequence was first published in February 2020, scientists have puzzled over the furin cleavage site, an area on the virus's spike that allows it to be broken apart by a protein on the membrane of human cells and makes the

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004771  
MORENS\_NIH\_011780

coronavirus particularly dangerous to people. Once split, the virus releases its genetic material into the cell and reproduces. While all viruses work by attaching themselves to cells, breaking apart, and releasing their genetic material, SARS-CoV-2 is the only one of its class, sarbecoviruses, to use this particular mechanism to do so.

As with past discussion of a possible lab origin of SARS-CoV-2, this latest theory has already been met with considerable pushback. Even some scientists who are open to the idea that a lab accident could have sparked the pandemic remain unconvinced by the particular trail of evidence laid out by Sachs and Harrison.

The journal article offers a scientific road map for how this unusual sequence of amino acids could have made its way into the furin cleavage site, or FCS, of the virus. Sachs and Harrison acknowledge that the sequence could have arisen naturally. But they also lay out another possibility: that scientists might have purposefully inserted this particular string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus in the course of their work. They focus particularly on scientists who submitted an unfunded grant proposal to a division of the Defense Department called the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, laying out plans to insert a furin cleavage site into a bat coronavirus.

“We do not know whether the insertion of the FCS was the result of natural evolution — perhaps via a recombination event in an intermediate mammal or a human — or was the result of a deliberate introduction of the FCS into a SARS-like virus as part of a laboratory experiment,” Sachs and Harrison write. “We do know that the insertion of such FCS sequences into SARS-like viruses was a specific goal of work proposed by the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership within a 2018 grant proposal (“DEFUSE”) that was submitted to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects (DARPA).”

EHA is a reference to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit research group based in New York City that has received more than \$118 million in grants and contracts from federal agencies. WIV, or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is a Chinese research organization that collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance in the past and was listed as a subcontractor on the DARPA grant. UNC is mentioned because Ralph Baric, a molecular biologist at the University of North



Carolina, Chapel Hill, was to have conducted part of the work pitched to DARPA. The grant proposal touted Baric's "two-decade track record of reverse engineering [coronavirus] and other virus spike proteins."

The intent of the DARPA proposal was to prevent emerging pathogenic threats, but the work, if conducted, could have created a novel virus capable of infecting humans. "We will introduce appropriate human-specific cleavage sites and evaluate growth potential in [a type of mammalian cell commonly used in microbiology] and [human airway epithelial cell] cultures," the proposal stated.

Several scientists interviewed about the DARPA proposal in September told The Intercept that scientists often begin research before seeking funding and thus that some of the experiments described in the proposal could have already been completed. But when asked about that possibility in an interview, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, rejected it: "The DARPA proposal was not funded. Therefore, the work was not done. Simple."

## A Rational Choice

As Sachs and Harrison note, the part of a protein on the cell membrane that shares its amino acid sequence with the bat coronavirus is critical for lung function. Known as an epithelial sodium channel-alpha, or ENaC-alpha, it is found in human airway cells, as well as in human kidneys and colons. Intriguingly, like SARS-CoV-2, ENaC-alpha, which facilitates the absorption of fluid in cells, is also activated by the unusual furin cleavage site. Harrison, a physiologist affiliated with Columbia's Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, studies ion channels, the larger category to which ENaC-alpha belongs.

Other scientists have already pointed out the match between the amino acid series in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV-2 and the ENaC-alpha found in human airways. In 2020, a team from the biomedical company Nference suggested that the overlap between the virus and the sequence found in human lungs is part of the reason that Covid-19 is so damaging to the respiratory system. Those scientists described the sequence as having evolved naturally.



Complete Coverage

## **The Coronavirus Crisis**

Read Our

Sachs and Harrison, in contrast, suggest that researchers may have inserted the string of amino acids into a bat coronavirus precisely because of its known importance to lung function. “For a research team assessing the pandemic potential of SARS-related coronaviruses, the FCS of human ENaC — an FCS known to be efficiently cleaved by host furin present in the target location (epithelial cells) of an important target organ (lung), of the target organism (human) — might be a rational, if not obvious, choice of FCS to introduce into a virus in order to alter its infectivity, in line with other work performed previously,” they write.

Such a choice, they point out, would have been in keeping with another viral research project on which EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and UNC’s Baric collaborated: a 2014 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that involved increasing the transmissibility and pathogenicity of bat coronaviruses.



Ralph Baric, a researcher at the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 14, 2020.

Photo: Christopher Janaro/Bloomberg via Getty Images

# Growing List of Coincidences

The intriguing theory of viral engineering hinges on two observations: that the amino acid sequences match and that experts in both the ENaC-alpha furin cleavage site and the insertion of genetic

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004775  
MORENS\_NIH\_011784

sequences into bat coronaviruses happen to work at the same academic institution: the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Baric, whose work aims to prevent and create treatments for viral outbreaks, has previously inserted segments of DNA and RNA into viruses and created an infectious clone of SARS using his own patented “No See’m” method of inserting genetic materials without a trace. He has also collaborated on coronavirus research with scientists from a center for lung studies at UNC-Chapel Hill who are knowledgeable about ENaC-alpha. In one 2016 study, the scientists created a new virus using the spike of a bat coronavirus that had been isolated and characterized by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The experiment found that the new virus “replicated efficiently” in human airway cells that were cultured in a lab.

In another paper, published a year earlier, Baric, along with the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s Shi Zhengli and a lung expert UNC-Chapel Hill’s lung institute, described creating a hybrid virus using a SARS-like virus from a bat and a “mouse-adapted” coronavirus. The new virus caused mice to get sicker than those exposed to the original virus. The goal of these experiments was to prepare for the possibility that a virus might jump naturally from animals to humans, as SARS had in 2003. But even before the pandemic, the experiment drew criticism from other scientists, who were concerned because the researchers had created a virus that was able to spread in humans.

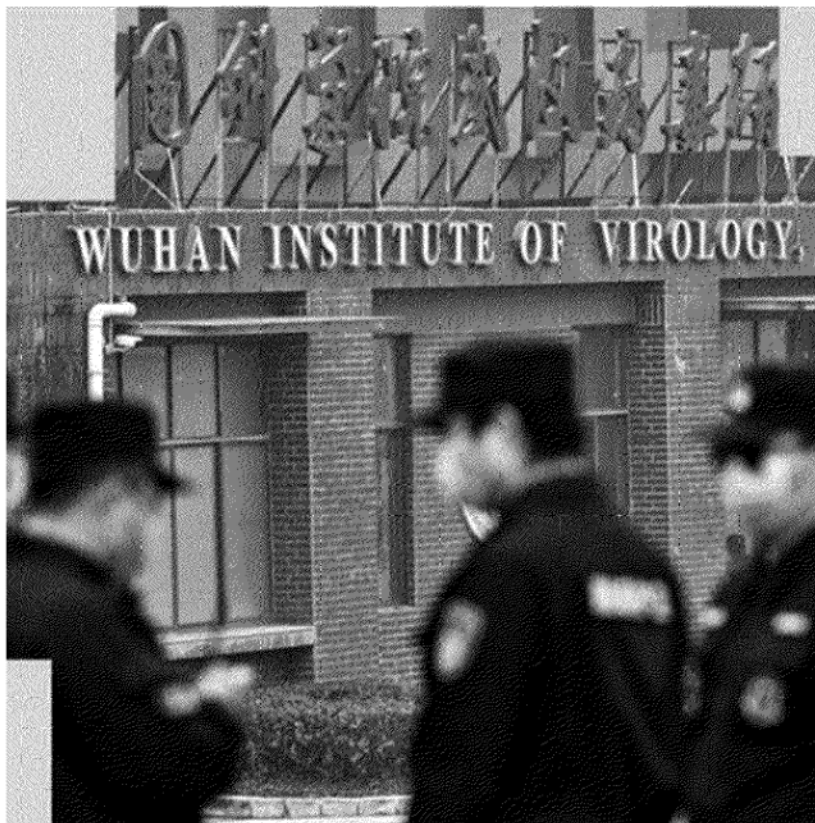
Sachs and Harrison note that the scientists who co-authored the DARPA grant proposal would have been aware of research on coronavirus furin cleavage sites, including one 2006 experiment in which a furin cleavage site was inserted into a coronavirus. “The research team would also have some familiarity with the FCS sequence and the FCS-dependent activation mechanism of human ENaC, which was extensively characterized at UNC,” they write.

## **“The list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrrrrrry long.”**

Still, both the overlap in the amino acid sequence and the fact that experts in the furin cleavage site of the ENaC-alpha and insertion of genetic material into bat coronaviruses work at the same university could be coincidental, as Harrison and Sachs acknowledge. Some virologists, though, say that the coincidence strains credulity.

“Could be,” Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, wrote in an email to The Intercept when asked about the possibility that these things are both chance occurrences. “But the list of coincidences is getting verrrrrrrrrry long.”

Ebright, a vocal proponent of the lab-leak theory whom Harrison and Sachs thank “for helpful commentary on the manuscript,” spelled out some of the other Covid coincidences that he considers questionable, including its initial outbreak in a city that, well before 2019, had already been pegged as a biosafety risk. Ebright also noted Wuhan’s 1,000-mile distance from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic. And he pointed to the particular coding of the amino acids in the furin cleavage site of SARS-CoV2.



Related

### **The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here’s What We Know.**

“The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons,” Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004777  
MORENS\_NIH\_011786

NIH 60707 - 007200

REL0000480342

represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) “This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons).”

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn’t see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. “I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC,” he said. “The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. ... That suddenly turned it from what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed.”

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.





The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

## Name Calling

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004779  
MORENS\_NIH\_011788

pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as “dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin” that will “drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds.” In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a “pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise.”

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate “has been settled with a very high degree of evidence.” The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the “poop” emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as “deep in conspiracy theories” and on the other side of “a clear split” from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as “science-based.”

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. “I’m sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it’s not one that is particularly convincing,” said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book “Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19.”



## **“There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”**

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. “These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences,” said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. “There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. “It’s possible,” Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. “But I don’t find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance.”

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. “The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR’SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin,” Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, “It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question.”

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. “You can’t argue with that,” he told The Intercept. “Who’s going to argue for burying one’s head in the sand?”

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they’re not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only “that it could have been.” They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having “knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States” are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the \$200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. “The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis,” they write. “The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown.”



Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

## A Reversal

The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004783  
MORENS\_NIH\_011792

Daszak had signed on to a public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they “condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin.”



Related

### **Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research**

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic’s origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology “deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus.” Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to “carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus” in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004784  
MORENS\_NIH\_011793

pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick (b)(6) from (b)(6) to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004785  
MORENS\_NIH\_011794

President and my boss.

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering,

Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail:

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype:

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support:

Phone:

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open**

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004786

MORENS\_NIH\_011795

attachments you know are safe.

---

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

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

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak  
> wrote:

(b)(6)

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle....

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes...even more reason for the public to not trust scientists...:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004787  
MORENS\_NIH\_011796

NIH 60767 - 007236

REL0000480342





**From:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD)  
**To:** Carl Zimmer; Woitowicz  
**Cc:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Query from Ne  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 23, 20

---

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappoint. I know that Dr. Bloom is making the reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted packages were withdrawn upon re included one requested by the sub the U.S. 1

Thanks,  
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004788  
MORENS\_NIH\_011797

NIH 60707 - 007937

REL0000480342



**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; peter hotez (b)(6); Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)  
(b)(6) (work)  
(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM  
**Subject:** FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004789  
MORENS\_NIH\_011798

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>

**Subject:** NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

## NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By  
Steven Nelson  
May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

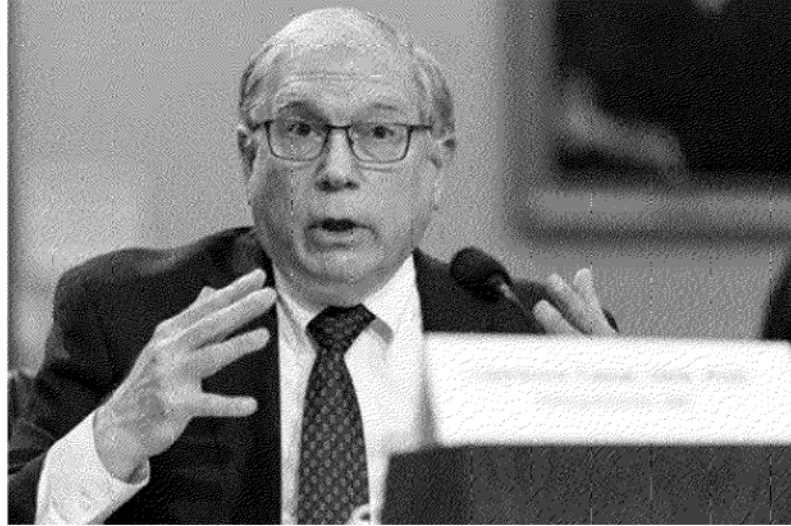
Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH “eliminated from public view” the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic “tape drive.”

Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004790  
MORENS\_NIH\_011799

Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabak to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

"There's no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that," Tabak said. "If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation."



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

"So wait, you have the information still?" Beutler followed up.

"We have the information ... Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed," Tabak explained. "And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it."

"So you don't have the information anymore?" Beutler asked.

"We do. We never erase the information. We keep it," Tabak clarified.

"So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?" the congresswoman followed up.

"That's correct," he said.

"OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?" Beutler asked.

"In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that's the most difficult for people to access," Tabak replied. "The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it's withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that's how it's done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information."



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021.

Thomas Peter/REUTERS

“So the information is still there?” Beutler summed up.

“That’s correct. The information was never lost,” Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom’s description of Chinese scientists “surreptitiously” removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was “loaded” and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004792

MORENS\_NIH\_011801

NIH 60767 - 007985

REL0000480342



Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully. ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE  
Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done."

China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists.

Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay \$10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

**Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.**

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004794  
MORENS\_NIH\_011803

NIH 60767 - 007983

REL0000480342

### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004795**  
**MORENS\_NIH\_011804**

**NIH 60767 - 007288**

**REL0000480342**



**Date:** Fri, 17 May 2024 9:52:45 AM -0400  
**Subject:** Fwd: Nature: US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); peter hotez (b)(6) Roberts, Rich  
(b)(6) (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Alekssei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image001.jpg

---

From the cell phone of David Morens

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAD) [C] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Fri, May 17, 2024, 08:33  
**Subject:** Nature: US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think  
**To:**

- NEWS
- 16 May 2024

# US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

Some scientists think the decision regarding EcoHealth Alliance is fair, while others say it might negatively impact virus surveillance.

By

- [Mariana Lenharo](#)





EcoHealth Alliance president Peter Daszak testified before a congressional panel on 1 May, two weeks before the US government suspended the organization's federal funding. Credit: Andrew Harnik/Getty

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has suspended federal funding for EcoHealth Alliance, a New York City-based nonprofit organization that came under scrutiny during the COVID-19 pandemic for collaborating with a virology laboratory in China accused of potentially leaking the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Researchers who spoke to *Nature* are divided in their reaction to the decision: some think that the HHS made the right call given EcoHealth's apparent failure to comply with terms of a grant it was awarded, undermining public trust; others say that the decision seems to be unfairly wrapped up in politics.

#### The shifting sands of 'gain-of-function' research

In a memo detailing the decision, Henrietta Brisbon, the HHS's suspension and debarment official, argued that EcoHealth did not provide adequate oversight of research activities at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), in China. The WIV was a subrecipient on a federal grant awarded to EcoHealth by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), meaning that it was a partner given funds to carry out some of the research. The document also describes how EcoHealth repeatedly failed to provide information pertaining to the research conducted under the grant that was requested by the NIH.

The decision by the HHS comes two weeks after EcoHealth's president, infectious-disease specialist Peter Daszak, was grilled during a hearing run by a US House of Representatives subcommittee investigating the

origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that session, Republican representatives suggested that EcoHealth had conducted risky research with the WIV and Democrats criticized the nonprofit's lack of transparency.

In announcing the latest suspension of funding to EcoHealth, the HHS also proposed debaring the organization from federal funding — a more definitive halting of grant money for a period generally of up to 3 years. Debarments of grantees are usually reserved for serious violations: according to a 2022 report, the HHS issued 134 debarments between 2015 and 2019, most of them owing to a criminal conviction or civil judgment.

In a statement, an EcoHealth spokesperson said that the organization is disappointed by the HHS's decision and will be contesting the proposed debarment. "We hope we will get a fair chance to present the volumes of evidence we have that all of these allegations are false, and that they do not rise to the level of something that should lead to an organization being debarred in this way," Daszak told *Nature*.

### Controversial virus-hunting scientist skewered at US COVID-origins hearing

It is important for research organizations to demonstrate that they have a robust oversight system, says social scientist Filippa Lentzos, a specialist in biosecurity at King's College London, "even more so when we're talking about research with pandemic risks, where potentially the entire world could be affected by an accident". She adds that the decision to suspend funding seems appropriate: "Whatever the particulars of the EcoHealth Alliance case, it is clear the institution has lost the confidence of the HHS, politicians on both sides of the aisle and many other stakeholders to act safely, securely and responsibly."

EcoHealth could have done a better job of explaining its work to the NIH and to the public, acknowledges Lawrence Gostin, a health-law and policy specialist at Georgetown University in Washington DC. But, in his view, the suspension has a strong political bent to it. "It's not clear to me at all whether this decision was based on science, ethics or politics," he says. "There's been this drumbeat of criticism of EcoHealth Alliance, particularly from congressional Republicans, and there's been this myth that the WIV was responsible for the pandemic, but all of the evidence points in the opposite direction," to a natural spillover of SARS-CoV-2 from wild animals to humans, he adds.

## **Two-year delay**

EcoHealth had been collaborating with scientists in China to study pathogens with pandemic potential for years when, in 2014, it received a grant from the NIH to investigate bat coronaviruses. The NIH would eventually suspend this grant in April 2020, in the early months of the pandemic. This came at a time when then-president Donald Trump had been publicly implying that China might be responsible for the pandemic. The funding was reinstated in May 2023 under extensive restrictions, and the WIV was debarred from receiving US funding through subawards later that year.

### NIH to intensify scrutiny of foreign grant recipients in wake of COVID origins debate

The current suspension was motivated by the alleged lack of compliance with the 2014 grant's terms and conditions. One key problem listed by the HHS is EcoHealth's submission of a grant progress report more than two years past the deadline. The HHS said that this report contains information suggesting that an experiment conducted by the WIV possibly led to enhanced growth of a modified virus beyond a replication limit set by the NIH. EcoHealth and the WIV were modifying a coronavirus linked to Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), to study the potential origins of this type of virus in bats. When reviewing progress on the grant, the NIH told EcoHealth that if any virus generated under the grant showed evidence of replication beyond the set

threshold, the nonprofit should ensure that all experiments were halted and communicate the issue to the agency, which was not done. This led the HHS to conclude that the research “likely violated protocols of the NIH regarding biosafety”.

An EcoHealth spokesperson said that it is untrue that the nonprofit violated the terms of the grant, given that the experiments did not rise to a level that would be considered significant enough to report as unusual. Regarding the delay in submitting the report, the spokesperson said that EcoHealth made every effort to file the report on time, “but these were stymied by contradictory advice from NIH grant management officials, and an online system [for submitting the report] that is confusing and error-prone, leading to multiple instances where the system locked us out.”

The HHS memo says that, according to a forensic audit performed by the NIH, EcoHealth was never locked out of the system.

Federal auditors have cited the NIH for its part in not pursuing the late report and recommended that the agency intensify its monitoring of foreign institutions that receive NIH funds.

Responding to the HHS’s allegation that EcoHealth failed to adequately respond to the NIH’s requests for information and materials related to the WIV’s research, the spokesperson said that, considering the geopolitical pressure on US–China relations during the pandemic, and that the HHS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the intelligence community were all unable to get evidentiary information out of the WIV, “it is outrageous to propose this as grounds to debar our organization”. (The WHO organized an initial investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic in China, but further efforts were stymied by that country’s lack of cooperation.)

## Questions of oversight

Amesh Adalja, an infectious-disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in Baltimore, Maryland, says that any grant recipient is expected to comply with a series of conditions — which include submitting reports in a timely fashion and overseeing partner institutions — and that the HHS memo seems to indicate that EcoHealth did not fully meet those standards. “There’s enough listed there to call into question what type of stewardship was going on with that taxpayer money,” he says.

### NIH reinstates grant for controversial coronavirus research

EcoHealth Alliance has played an important role in illuminating scientists’ understanding of novel viruses, Gostin says. In addition to work on coronavirus surveillance in wildlife, the group has studied the spillover of Nipah virus and other pathogens to humans. He worries that the suspension could disincentivize research aimed at pandemic preparedness and prevention done in partnership with other countries. The next pandemic could easily arise in a country that trades wild animals, like China, so the type of research and surveillance that EcoHealth does is important, he says. The decision sends “a chilling signal to any future researcher that might want to better understand zoonotic viruses in the Chinese region”, he adds.

Before the suspension, EcoHealth had three active NIH-funded grants aiming to study the risk of emerging viruses in countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar and Vietnam. Since 2008, the organization has been awarded a total of US\$90.3 million in federal funding, \$19.59 million of which was from the HHS.

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-01460-3>

With additional reporting from Max Kozlov.

**Disclaimer:** Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

**Date:** Wed, 1 May 2024 7:48:53 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Fwd: NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald  
**To:** T (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) peter hotez (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >; (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.png; image001.jpg; image002.png

---

From the cell phone of David Morens

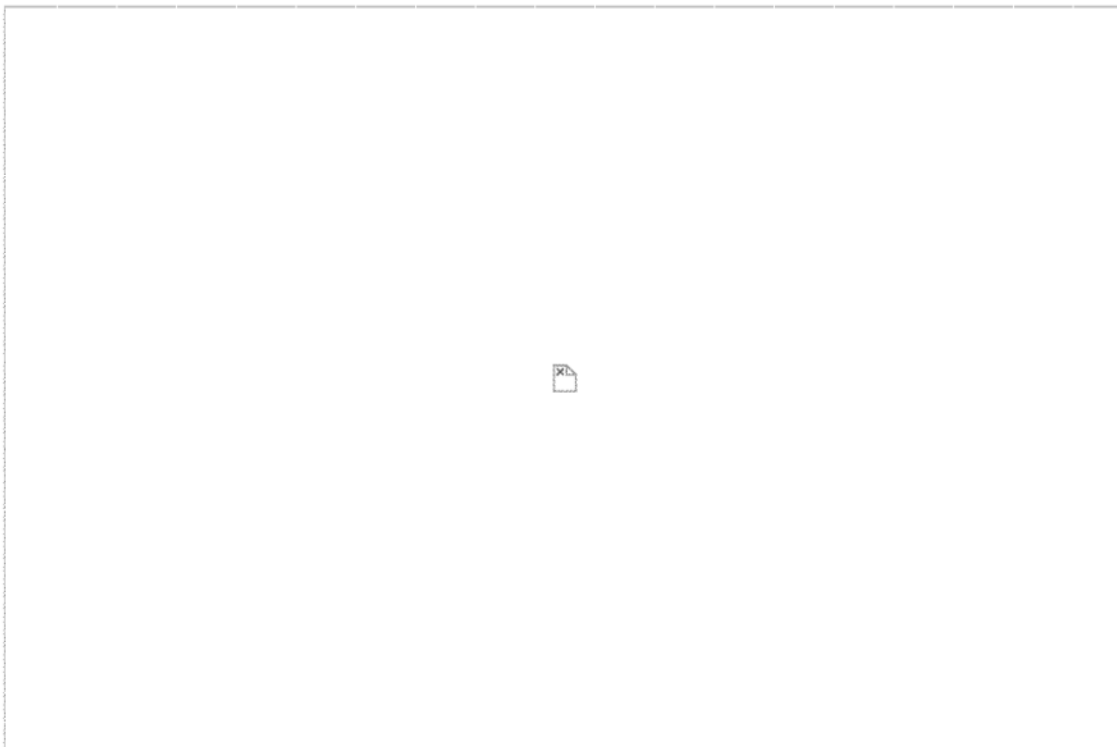
----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Wed, May 1, 2024, 19:36  
**Subject:** NYT: Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory  
**To:**

## Republicans Step Up Attacks on Scientist at Heart of Lab Leak Theory

A heated hearing produced no new evidence that Peter Daszak or his nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, were implicated in the Covid outbreak.

•



• •

MORENS\_NIH\_051367

NIH 60707 - 007200

REL0000480346

---

Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, testifying during a hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. Credit: Ting Shen for The New York Times



By [Benjamin Mueller](#)

May 1, 2024, 6:54 p.m. ET

House Republicans demanded on Wednesday that the president of a virus-hunting nonprofit group be criminally investigated and barred from federal research funds, a sharp escalation in their campaign against scientists in the United States who Republicans have suggested either had links to the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic or obscured its true beginnings.

During a heated three-hour hearing of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Republican lawmakers at times raised their voices at the nonprofit's leader, Peter Daszak, and said that they believed that he would fare poorly as a defendant in criminal court.

The nonprofit, EcoHealth Alliance, which receives federal funding to study global threats from wild animal viruses, has [faced suspicion over a proposal that it made in 2018 to team up with Chinese scientists on novel coronavirus experiments](#) that Republicans believe could have led to the pandemic, despite that project's never receiving funding.

But in a [report](#) and in extensive questioning on Wednesday, the Republicans offered no new information suggesting that EcoHealth Alliance or Dr. Daszak were involved in the coronavirus outbreak. And they did not produce any evidence pointing directly to a coronavirus leak from a lab in China, with or without EcoHealth's involvement, a hitch in their yearslong effort to implicate Chinese and American scientists in the beginnings of the pandemic.

Democrats on the subcommittee seized on the dearth of new evidence, even as they echoed Republican concerns that Dr. Daszak had not been forthcoming about his collaborations with Chinese scientists.

The subcommittee, which is led by Republicans, has reviewed nearly a half-million pages of documents and conducted over 100 hours of private interviews in the course of investigating the origin of Covid, Representative Raul Ruiz of California, the panel's top Democrat, said on Wednesday.

But, Mr. Ruiz said, the subcommittee has found "no evidence" linking the pandemic to EcoHealth's research. And he added that the investigation had not "meaningfully advanced our understanding of the pandemic's origins." Rather, he said, the subcommittee's work now "appeared to be an effort to weaponize concerns about a lab-related origin to fuel sentiment against our nation's scientists and public health officials for partisan gain."

Republicans, for their part, pledged that their investigation would continue. They have called Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to testify next month. A Republican member of the subcommittee [pushed in January for Dr. Fauci to be jailed](#).

“I support work that will make the world safer,” the chairman of the subcommittee, Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio, a Republican, said as he opened the hearing on Wednesday. “Our concern is that this research and research similar does the opposite,” he said, referring to EcoHealth’s collaborations with Chinese scientists. “It puts the world at the risk of a pandemic.”

Republicans and Democrats alike hammered Dr. Daszak on Wednesday for what they described as a long list of misrepresentations and evasions. They suggested, among other things, that he was being untruthful about why he had been late to submit a required report to health officials before the pandemic and that he had cast research proposals in ways that helped his chances of receiving funding but misled reviewers. Dr. Daszak strongly denied those charges.

Much of the suspicion centered on an EcoHealth request made in 2018 for Defense Department funding to collect and experiment on coronaviruses with novel traits that would make them highly transmissible in humans.

EcoHealth’s proposed partners included the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a premier site for coronavirus research in China. That institute’s presence in the city where the Covid outbreak began was at the heart of theories that the virus had first infected people as a result of research activities.

Republicans said that notes on a draft of the proposal from 2018 suggested Dr. Daszak was trying to mislead American officials about the extent of Chinese involvement in the project. Dr. Daszak denied that, saying that he had sought — and received — approval from American defense officials for Chinese scientists to participate. Dr. Daszak said the research had never been carried out.

“It’s utterly irrelevant to the origins of Covid,” Dr. Daszak said of the proposal. He acknowledged that Wuhan scientists could have been conducting research independently that he was not aware of.

The Wuhan institute’s biosafety practices have intensified concerns about the possibility of a lab leak. On Wednesday, Republicans doubled down on worries about its lab’s protocols, citing private emails and comments in a closed-door congressional interview by Ralph Baric, a virologist at the University of North Carolina who has collaborated with EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

In an email to Dr. Daszak in 2021, Dr. Baric said the Wuhan institute had failed to conduct virus experiments under appropriately safe conditions, and called the idea that they were taking proper precautions a “load of BS.” Still, Dr. Baric told Dr. Daszak in a separate email that year that the coronavirus had most likely jumped from animals to people outside of a lab. He cited the absence of any evidence that the Wuhan institute possessed a virus related closely enough to the one that caused the pandemic.

There remains no evidence that the Wuhan institute stored any virus that could have become the coronavirus and caused Covid, with or without scientific tinkering, researchers have said.

Scientists who specialize in tracing outbreaks have published analyses of early cases and viral genomes that they say point to the pandemic’s starting at an illegal wild-animal market in Wuhan. The presence of the coronavirus in samples from the market containing genetic material linked to raccoon dogs, they have said, is consistent with that scenario.

Dr. Daszak cited animal-borne disease threats on Wednesday in defending projects by EcoHealth, which works with collaborators around the world to identify and study dangerous viruses circulating in nature.

In April 2020, as EcoHealth came under attack from President Donald J. Trump, the group had a grant terminated by the National Institutes of Health. The grant was reinstated last year, but it does not provide funding for any research in China. The Biden administration has also taken steps to impose a 10-year ban on funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Republicans on Wednesday cited concerns about EcoHealth's compliance with grant reporting requirements in arguing that EcoHealth, too, should be barred from receiving federal funds. The N.I.H. faulted the group in 2021 for failing to promptly report findings from studies on how well bat coronaviruses grow in mice. An internal federal watchdog agency chided the N.I.H. last year for failing to demand a progress report from EcoHealth that was two years late.

In an interview after the hearing, Mr. Wenstrup, the Republican subcommittee chair, said that oversight by health agencies was too weak. He called for the creation of criminal penalties for violating health agency protocols — “anything from a misdemeanor to a felony,” he said — as a way of better policing certain scientific research.

**Disclaimer:** Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.



Date: Fri, 31 May 2024 3:10:08 PM -0400

Subject: Re: RE: Comment from Peter Staley about Tony Fauci re. our suspension and proposed debarment

From: (b)(6)

To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

CC: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Attachments: image001.jpg

When Trump is in jail and the republican politicians get voted out of office.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 1:47 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: RE: Comment from Peter Staley about Tony Fauci re. our suspension and proposed debarment

EXTERNAL SENDER

When will it ever end????? d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

On 5/31/24 09:17, Peter Daszak wrote:

Thanks David – I'll read that. We're still on heightened security alert here at my house and the office, and the hate online and in emails is palpable.

MORENS\_NIH\_044852

NIH 60767 - 007208

REL0000480348

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2024 7:05 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Comment from Peter Staley about Tony Fauci re. our suspension and proposed debarment

Peter, good to know, thank you.

In the Wash Post this am there is an article you should check out, as it happened to you a couple weeks ago.

If you remember police officer Michael Fanone, who was attacked and seriously injured on Jan 6, yesterday his 75 year old mother was "swatted": police showed up. at her door and scared the wits out of her, as they had received a fake tip that she had been murdered in her home.

America has gone crazy. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

On 5/30/24 16:09, Peter Daszak wrote:

Just to let you all know that I heard from Peter Staley, who's one of the original Act Up! Members who protested NIH then became a close friend of Tony Fauci. I let him know what had happened to us re. the SSCP, the Democrats, HHS Secretary, NIH Director, all lining up to allow us to be suspended and proposed for debarment.

He said that what's happening to EcoHealth is a 'travesty' and that he, Peter, first heard about it from Tony Fauci, who was "shocked by the development".

MORENS\_NIH\_044853

NIH 60707 - 007209

REL0000480348

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024 10:39 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Gerald Keusch (b)(6); (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: My meetings at Stanford this week

Peter:

Thanks. I have all of the Nobel Laureates on my contact list. It is always good to know when they are very concerned. If you see her again, please remind her that it is always appreciated when she replied to my emails.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email (b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024 10:17 AM

MORENS\_NIH\_044854

NIH 60767 - 007296

REL0000480348

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Dasza (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Gerald  
Keusch (b)(6) (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6)  
Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** My meetings at Stanford this week

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich: I'm giving visiting lectures at Stanford and have been speaking again (b)(6)  
(b)(6) last year's (b)(6) in (b)(6) I briefed (b)(6) on the House Subcommittee  
hearings and (b)(6) is very concerned about what's going on and i think is prepared to help in the  
defense of science. So as you organize the other laureates, I would encourage you to keep (b)(6) in  
mind, In addition to (b)(6) best Peter

(b)(6)

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: (b)(6)

MORENS\_NIH\_044855

NIH 60707 - 007297

REL0000480348

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:02 PM -0400

Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

From: David Morens (b)(6)

To: David Morens (b)(6)

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Date: Sat, Apr 29, 2023 at 4:55 PM

Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens

(b)(6) (b)(6) leksei

Chmura (b)(6) >, Peter Daszak

(b)(6) >

And how is he doing? He was always a good scientist, cultured, and thoughtful, and his summer course at the MBL was a great contribution.

Speaking about some of the greats of the past, have you kept up with Tony Cerami? Is he OK? Where is he and what is he doing? Last I knew he had retired and was living somewhere in Europe.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >

Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 7:15 AM

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens

(b)(6) >; (b)(6) leksei

Chmura (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak

(b)(6) >

Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007912  
MORENS\_NIH\_017259

NIH 60767 - 007299

REL0000480351

Yes he retired to NY he was the last chair of tropical public health at Harvard

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 6:29 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007913  
MORENS\_NIH\_017260

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM  
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: David Morens (b)(6) > (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;  
Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Thank you Jerry, it was so great seeing you and everyone! Did you get a chance to see John David, that was nice as well.

I thought the evening was a great show of support for Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance, especially from the Board. I think that was probably the best part of the gala, the unbridled enthusiasm for the mission, it was nice to see.

The meeting at the RF in the afternoon was impactful and meaningful. I think we have some momentum to move forward on a coalition. So let's meet next week by zoom.

Warmest regards, Peter

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007914  
MORENS\_NIH\_017261



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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: p.hotez

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) David Morens  
(b)(6) >; (b)(6) Aleksei  
Chmura (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak  
(b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on  
a short concept paper and next steps to circulate among the  
participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you  
both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007915  
MORENS\_NIH\_017262

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) > wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM

To: David Morens (b)(6) >

Cc: Gerald Keusch (b)(6) (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007916  
MORENS\_NIH\_017263

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak  
(b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007917  
MORENS\_NIH\_017264

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens <(b)(6)> wrote:

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

---

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b)(6)>  
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT  
To: David Morens <(b)(6)>  
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" <(b)(6)>  
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT  
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007918  
MORENS\_NIH\_017265

NIH 60707 - 007969

REL0000480351

## The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler 10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would “provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle.” An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called “medical freedom.” In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan “Misinformation Superspreader.” Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. “We said, ‘Okay if that’s what they’re calling us,’ he explained, “let’s kind of make fun of it.” Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn’t mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, “They’re having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they’re very much forum shopping right now.” Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. “The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action,” he said. “I’d expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose.”

When I arrived, I didn’t think I’d get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon,

asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for Mother Jones, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school's mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested \$1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is "to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured." After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they're concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that "the only reason that we're not allowed to see any of the data is because it's bad."

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch's belief that the public isn't seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, "Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison." To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to "knock down the doors of every court we can."

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who've sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it's been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they've enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of

Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president's vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. "The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic," Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

"The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic."

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he "has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19." In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children's Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It's suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the Washington Post and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of "unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine." Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for "collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content." Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects "the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off." Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. "You don't have the right to go to a specific university,"

she said. “And if you don’t like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission.”

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that’s already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined \$1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court’s expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. “If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption,” she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, “We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, ‘Hey, you can use us for the medical records.’” She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, “There’s a huge influx that’s coming down the pipeline.”

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes “nobody should ever” even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his



progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. “All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine,” he said. “Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted.” He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats’ soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, “I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine,” especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It’s possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela’s campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. “Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we’re in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts,” she said. “I’ve been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won.”

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 21 May 2024 1:45:15 PM -0400

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

From: (b)(6)

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >; (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;

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

Thanks for trying to help us. If I was able to do so I would reach out to our Maryland reps and try to get their help. NIH is not only in MD but in the center of MD's most wealthy and most populous County, Montgomery, and they all don't want interference with NIH, which brings in about \$40 billion annually  
Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

On 5/21/24 12:04, Keusch, Gerald wrote:

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

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

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald (b)(6) >; Alison Andre

(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;

(b)(6) (b)(6) >

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

You can write to her and cc me (b)(6)

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

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

MORENS\_NIH\_044728

NIH 60767 - 007965

REL0000480355

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

**Baylor University,** University Professor

**Rice University,** Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Alison Andre (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6) David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.

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

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

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

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).

MORENS\_NIH\_044729

NIH 60707 - 007962

REL0000480355



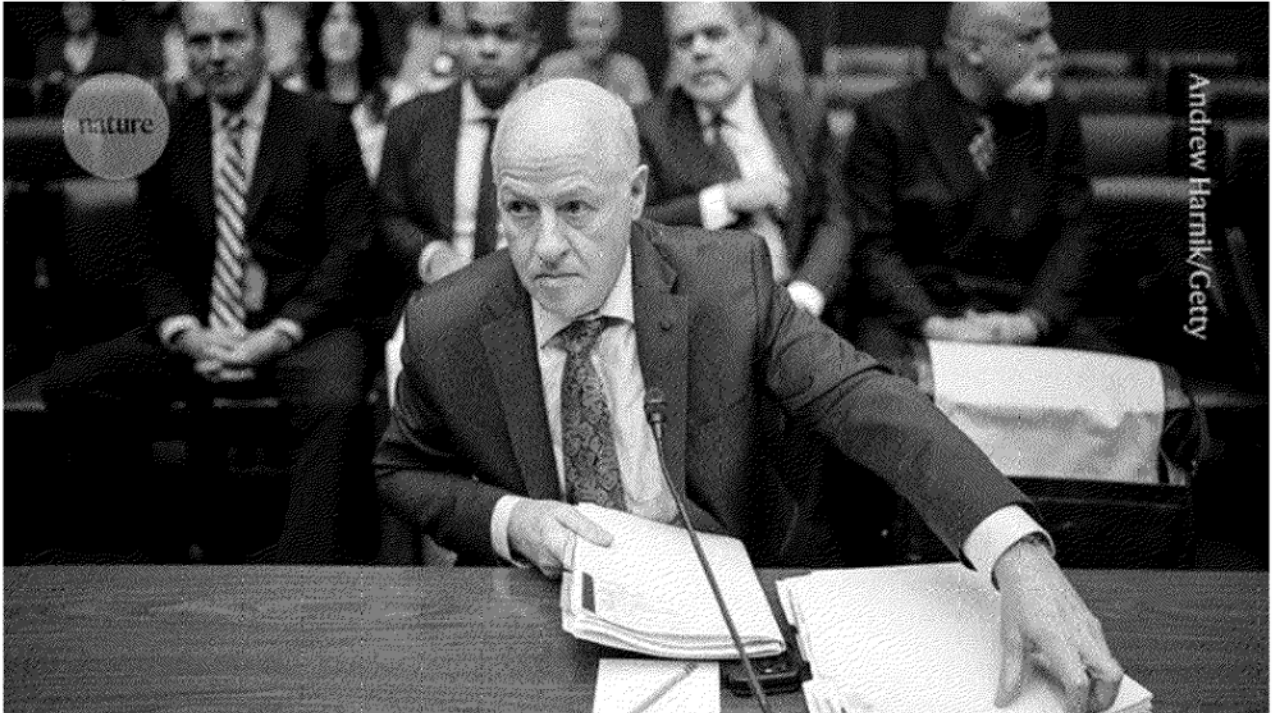
**Amy Maxmen, PhD**

[@amymaxmen](#)

5h

EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless.

<https://nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01460-3...> The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.



[US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think](#)

[From nature.com](#)

[1.2K](#)



**Peter Daszak**

[@PeterDaszak](#)

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

MORENS\_NIH\_044730

NIH 60707 - 007963

REL0000480355

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM

**To:** 'Keusch, Gerald' (b)(6); Alison Andre (b)(6); 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <

(b)(6) David Morens' (b)(6); 'Rich Roberts' (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); (b)(6)

**Subject:** Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

MORENS\_NIH\_044731

NIH 60707 - 007968

REL0000480355

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM

**To:** Alison Andre (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

---

**From:** Alison Andre (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Subject:** Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

<https://calendly.com/d/cp3y-mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting>

Thank you,  
Alison

--

Alison Andre

*Executive Assistant to the President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018

(b)(6) (direct)

1.212.380.4465 (fax)

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

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

MORENS\_NIH\_044732

NIH 60707 - 007969

REL0000480355

**Date:** Fri, 17 May 2024 12:32:59 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 17 May 2024 12:32:14 PM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: Origins of COVID NPR  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; David Morens  
**To:** (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png

Good to hear that. In the meantime looks like the Committee is now coming after me personally. They're aiming to call for my debarment as an individual:

<https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing-wrap-up-nih-repeatedly-refutes-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszaks-testimony-tabak-testimony-reveals-federal-grant-procedures-in-need-of-serious-reform/>

**Press Release** Published: May 17, 2024

## Hearing Wrap Up: NIH Refutes EcoHealth's Testimony, Tabak Reveals Federal Grant Procedures in Need of Serious Reform

WASHINGTON

— The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled "Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak" to examine the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) process for funding and overseeing scientific research as well as investigate NIH's relationship

MORENS\_NIH\_045000

NIH 60707 - 007970

REL0000480360

with  
EcoHealth  
Alliance,  
Inc.  
(EcoHealth).  
Members  
pressed  
former  
Acting NIH  
Director  
and  
current  
Principal  
Deputy  
Director,  
Dr.  
Lawrence  
Tabak, to  
explain  
numerous  
inconsistencies  
between  
the public  
and private  
testimonies  
of NIH  
employees  
and  
EcoHealth  
President,  
Dr. Peter  
Daszak.  
Dr. Tabak  
offered  
substantial  
evidence  
that Dr.  
Daszak  
purposefully  
misled  
both the  
NIH and  
the Select  
Subcommittee  
about  
EcoHealth's  
efforts to  
comply  
with grant  
procedures.  
In a  
shocking  
admission



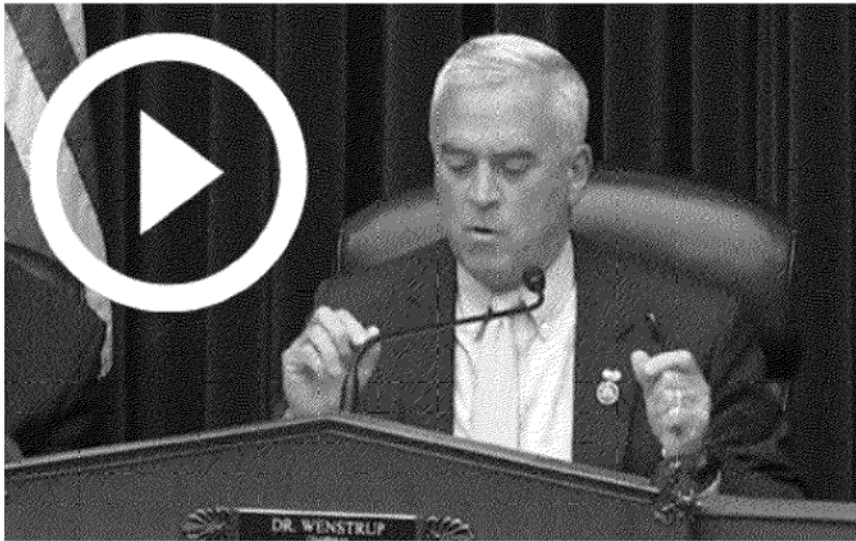
that  
directly  
contradicts  
Dr. Fauci's  
previous  
statements,  
Dr. Tabak  
testified  
that the  
NIH was  
funding  
gain-of-  
function  
research in  
Wuhan,  
China  
through a  
grant to  
EcoHealth.  
Members  
highlighted  
the  
dangers of  
continuing  
to fund  
gain-of-  
function  
research in  
foreign  
laboratories  
where NIH  
cannot  
ensure  
proper  
biosafety  
measures  
are  
implemented.  
Both Dr.  
Tabak and  
Select  
Subcommittee  
Members  
agreed  
that, in  
"hindsight,"  
the NIH  
could have  
done more  
to protect  
the  
American  
taxpayer

from  
EcoHealth.  
Key  
Hearing  
Takeaways

- NIH Deputy Director and former Acting NIH Director, Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acknowledged that NIH funded gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China.
- Dr. Lawrence Tabak repeatedly refuted EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak's public and private testimonies. It is now clear that Dr. Daszak misled both the Select Subcommittee and the NIH on numerous occasions.
- Serious shortcomings and failures in the NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures enabled EcoHealth to facilitate gain-of-function research in Wuhan, China. These NIH deficiencies were exploited by Dr. Daszak and his team in an effort to avoid oversight and maintain funding.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to immediately suspend funding and commence debarment proceedings against EcoHealth is backed by substantial evidence and necessary to protect America's national security. The Select Subcommittee also recommends that HHS immediately begin debarment proceedings against Dr. Peter Daszak personally.
- The NIH often lacks the necessary subject matter and scientific expertise to ensure U.S. taxpayer funds are spent and overseen safely. Dr. Tabak testified to these gaps in NIH's system today, and former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins recounted similar problems during his transcribed interview found [here](#).
- The Select Subcommittee's investigation into EcoHealth's impropriety is far from over. Chairman Wenstrup appreciates Dr. Tabak's honesty today and intends to use his testimony to hold EcoHealth accountable for its facilitation of gain-of-function research and its blatant contempt for the American taxpayer.

Member  
Highlights  
Select  
Subcommittee  
on the  
Coronavirus  
Pandemic  
Chairman  
Brad  
Wenstrup  
(R-Ohio),  
D.P.M,  
pressed  
Dr. Tabak  
to  
address  
Dr.  
Daszak's  
testimony  
that  
EcoHealth  
was  
"locked  
out" of the  
NIH's

grant reporting system. NIH conducted an internal forensic audit which proves EcoHealth was, in fact, not "locked out" from submitting its required NIH grant research update report on time. Notably, EcoHealth finally submitted its report nearly two years after the required deadline. According to the facts gathered by NIH, Dr. Daszak's sworn testimony appears to be false.



Chairman  
Wenstrup:

*“EcoHealth, like every other NIAID grantee, was required to submit a five-year progress report, as you know. This report was submitted nearly two years late. Dr. Daszak testified that EcoHealth had tried to submit the report on time but was locked out of the NIH system. Dr. Lauer testified that a forensic*

audit was  
conducted,  
and no  
such  
system  
error was  
detected.  
Is NIH now  
willing to  
share the  
findings of  
this  
forensic  
audit with  
the Select  
Subcommittee?  
"

Dr. Tabak:  
"We  
certainly  
will work  
together  
with you to  
obtain  
things that  
you  
require, sir  
."

Chairman  
Wenstrup:  
"Does the  
audit  
indicate  
that  
EcoHealth  
could have  
submitted  
their report  
on time?"

Dr. Tabak:  
"That's  
what our  
audit  
indicates,  
yes."

Chairman  
Wenstrup:  
"When  
EcoHealth  
eventually  
submitted  
its year-  
five report,

*Dr. Daszak testified it took 11 days to unlock the NIH system. Is this true?"*

Dr. Tabak:  
*"We have no evidence of that."*

...

Dr. Tabak:  
*"All I can say to you is that our system did not lock them out and there was no impediment for them to provide that report on time."*

**Committee  
on  
Oversight  
and  
Accountability  
Chairman  
James  
Comer (R-  
Ky.)  
questioned  
Dr. Tabak  
about the  
employment  
status of  
alleged  
federal  
records  
violation  
and top  
advisor to  
Dr.  
Anthony  
Fauci —  
Dr. David  
Morens —**

who was placed on administrative leave after the Select Subcommittee uncovered incriminating information.

Dr. Morens used his personal email(s) to hide conversations about the origins of COVID-19 and undermine the operations of the NIH.



Chairman  
Comer: "  
*What is Dr.  
Morens's  
current  
employment  
status?*"

Dr. Tabak:  
*"He is an  
employee  
of NIH."*

Chairman

Comer: "  
Well, I  
think you  
see where  
my lines of  
questioning  
were  
leading.  
We have  
some  
serious  
concerns.  
We have  
fought in  
this Select  
Subcommittee,  
the  
Oversight  
committee,  
on  
obtaining  
information.  
And here  
you have  
an  
admission  
of deleting  
information,  
going to  
great  
lengths to  
not be  
transparent,  
in an  
apparent  
cover-up  
of  
something  
that I think  
we would  
agree, in a  
bipartisan  
manner, is  
one of the  
most  
serious  
issues that  
our  
country  
has ever  
faced, the  
COVID 19  
pandemic."



Rep.  
Debbie  
Lesko (R-  
Ariz.)  
elicited an  
admission  
from Dr.  
Tabak that  
the NIH  
funded  
gain-of-  
function  
research  
at the WIV  
through a  
grant to  
EcoHealth.  
This  
directly  
contradicts  
Dr.  
Fauci's  
U.S.  
Senate  
testimony  
in 2021 in  
which he  
claimed  
the NIH  
"has not  
ever and  
does not  
now fund  
gain-of-  
function  
research  
in the  
Wuhan  
Institute  
of  
Virology."  
This type  
of  
research  
is known  
to be  
dangerous  
and even  
former  
NIH  
Director  
Francis  
Collins

and Dr.  
Fauci  
were  
willing to  
admit that  
there are  
risks  
associated  
with this  
experimentation.



Rep.  
Lesko: "Dr.  
Tabak, did  
NIH fund  
gain-of-  
function  
research  
at the  
Wuhan  
Institute of  
Virology  
through  
EcoHealth?  
"

Dr. Tabak:  
"It  
depends  
on your  
definition  
of gain-of-  
function  
research.  
If you're  
speaking  
about the  
generic

*term, yes,  
we  
did...the  
generic  
term is  
research  
that goes  
on in  
many,  
many labs  
around the  
country. It  
is not  
regulated.  
And the  
reason it's  
not  
regulated  
is it poses  
no threat  
or harm to  
anybody."*

**Rep. Rich  
McCormick  
(R-Ga.),  
M.D.,  
proved  
that  
EcoHealth  
violated  
the terms  
of its NIH  
grant  
when it  
failed to  
produce  
"laboratory  
notebooks"  
with  
information  
about the  
WIV's  
gain-of-  
function  
research.  
On May 1,  
Dr.  
Daszak  
falsely  
testified  
that he  
was not  
required**

to  
produce  
these  
notebooks  
as a  
condition  
of his  
grant.



Rep.  
McCormick:

*"When the  
National  
Institutes  
of Health  
requested  
the  
notebooks  
from  
EcoHealth,  
was  
EcoHealth  
required to  
produce  
them  
under its  
grant  
terms?"*

Dr. Tabak:  
*"Yes, they  
were."*

Rep.  
McCormick:  
*"When NIH  
requested  
notebooks  
from*

*EcoHealth  
should  
EcoHealth  
have been  
able to  
access  
them or  
already  
have  
access to  
them?"*

Dr. Tabak:  
*"That's  
correct."*

Rep.  
McCormick:  
*"Did  
EcoHealth  
ever  
produce  
the  
requested  
notebooks?  
"*

Dr. Tabak:  
*"They  
have not."*

Rep.  
McCormick:  
*"Dr.  
Daszak  
testified  
two weeks  
ago that  
he was not  
required to  
produce  
the lab  
notebooks.  
Would NIH  
disagree  
with that  
testimony?  
"*

Dr. Tabak:  
*"Yes, we  
disagree  
with that  
testimony."*

Rep.  
McCormick:  
*"The*

testimony  
here today  
clarifies  
the  
inconsistency  
between  
Dr.  
Daszak's  
testimony  
and the  
testimony  
of  
numerous  
NIH  
officials  
and NIAID  
officials,  
also,  
including  
yourself.  
Dr. Daszak  
continues  
to thwart  
congressional  
oversight  
through  
semantics  
and  
outright  
dishonesty,  
quite  
frankly. He  
has  
routinely  
failed to  
produce  
pertinent  
documents  
and made  
countless  
misleading  
statements  
to the  
Select  
Subcommittee  
right here."

**Rep.  
Mariannette  
Miller-  
Meeks (R-  
Iowa),  
M.D.,  
uncovered**

serious shortcomings in NIH's grant awarding and grant oversight procedures. Dr. Tabak testified that he would never again support a grant to EcoHealth Alliance to fund gain-of-function research in Wuhan and believes the NIH relied too heavily on Dr. Daszak attestations.



Rep.  
Miller-  
Meeks: "As  
/

mentioned,  
the  
Understanding  
the Risk of  
Bat  
Coronavirus  
Emergence  
Grant was  
an almost  
\$4 million  
grant that  
partially  
went to the  
Wuhan  
Institute of  
Virology  
and the  
Wuhan  
University  
of Public  
Health. Do  
you  
believe  
this grant  
was an  
effective  
use of  
taxpayer  
dollars,  
and would  
you  
support  
issuing the  
same  
grant  
today?"

Dr. Tabak:  
"Well, with  
the benefit  
of what we  
know  
today, no,  
of course  
not."

Rep.  
Miller-  
Meeks: "  
There is  
great  
concern  
with Dr.  
Daszak  
interaction



with NIH  
and NIAID  
pertaining  
to the one  
log growth  
term of the  
award.

The NIH  
relied on  
Dr. Daszak  
to monitor  
and report  
virus  
growth  
after being  
a month  
late on his  
annual  
reporting  
requirements,  
which  
were  
outlined in  
the grant.  
Dr. Tabak,  
looking  
back, did  
the NIH  
rely too  
much on  
Dr.  
Daszak's  
self-  
reporting  
information?  
"

Dr. Tabak:  
"Again,  
with the  
benefit of  
hindsight,  
we did  
because  
we never  
received  
the  
information.  
"

Rep.  
Miller-  
Meeks: "  
Well, as  
an

*ophthalmologist,  
hindsight  
is always  
20/20."*

Rep.  
Nicole  
Malliotakis  
(R-N.Y.)  
revealed  
NIH's  
honest  
viewpoint  
regarding  
its  
funding of  
EcoHealth's  
risky  
research  
at the  
WIV. Dr.  
Tabak  
testified  
that NIH  
believed it  
was not  
funding  
any  
dangerous  
research  
prior to or  
during the  
COVID-19  
pandemic.



Rep.  
Malliotakis:  
"We also

know that  
at least 20  
more  
EcoHealth  
research  
projects  
received  
funding  
since  
March of  
2020, and  
they are  
conducting  
research  
Nipah,  
zoonotic  
viruses,  
bat  
coronaviruses,  
MERS.  
They are  
doing a lot  
of this  
research,  
mostly  
actually in  
third world  
countries.  
Subpar  
safety  
conditions.  
How do  
you ensure  
that our  
federal  
dollars are  
not going  
to do risky  
experiments  
in  
countries  
where  
there are  
subpar  
safety  
regulations?  
And do  
you  
believe  
that should  
be a  
criteria that  
is put forth

to ensure  
that the  
money  
doesn't?"

Dr. Tabak:

"Well,  
again,  
once we  
established  
special  
conditions  
for award  
on  
EcoHealth  
Alliance,  
we have  
monitored  
them very  
carefully  
with  
regard to  
expenditure  
and with  
regard to  
their  
various  
administrative  
processes.  
There was  
never a  
concern  
with the  
danger, if  
you will, of  
the  
experiments  
that NIH  
approved  
for  
EcoHealth  
Alliance to  
with under  
subaward  
with WIV."

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 12:17 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Origins of COVID NPR

I just did this long interview debunking the nonsense, piece by piece

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Geoffrey Brumfiel <[GBrumfiel@npr.org](mailto:GBrumfiel@npr.org)>  
**Date:** May 17, 2024 at 11:06:26 AM EDT  
**To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Origins of COVID

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

---

Hi Peter,

MORENS\_NIH\_045022

NIH 60707 - 007992

REL0000480360

We haven't spoken for a year or two since I was covering vaccine misinformation. Anyway, I'm being put back on the origins of COVID beat ahead of the Fauci hearing next month. I've been loosely following the twists and turns with EcoHealth and NIH and all the rest, but I'm needing to get a little more caught up.

Would you be up for a quick background conversation?

Best,  
Geoff

Geoff Brumfiel | National Public Radio | [gbrumfiel@npr.org](mailto:gbrumfiel@npr.org) | desk: (b)(6) | cell: (b)(6)

**Date:** Sun, 20 Feb 2022 1:52:42 PM -0500  
**Sent:** Sun, 20 Feb 2022 1:51:49 PM -0500  
**Subject:** Some details of NIH O/D deliberations prior to canceling our R01  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6)  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;  
**Attachments:** Political actions, letters re. EcoHealth's CoV research in China, NIH grant etc..docx

---

Hi David and Jerry,

NIH was forced to release some emails to the Intercept, who've ran a BS story about the redactions (they redacted draft copies of the NIH COVID-19 strategic plan and other internal reports). However, there are interesting details in the foia'd emails that show between 4/13 and 4/21/20, emails among NIH Office of the Director and Program staff at NIAID details how they were gathering information on EcoHealth's R01 grant in response to inquiries from Matt Gaetz and Marco Rubio. Then on 4/15/20 at 3:49 PM an email from Michelle Bulls to Mike Lauer cc'ing "Jodi OER" (NIH Office of Extramural Research) titled "Request for a call" and marked "Urgent" has a redacted paragraph but states "This is for convenience and I have some ideas. Waiting to hear back from Emily and will set up time to talk to Jodi tomorrow". Suggests internal discussion about terminating grant "for convenience", which is what happened.

The story's here: <https://theintercept.com/2022/02/20/nih-coronavirus-research-wuhan-redacted/>

The FoIA'd emails available here: <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21227801/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf>

The point here is that all of this was done in response to a letter from Gaetz and Rubio's staff in response to a White Coat Waste story. Gaetz and Rubio were planning to file a bill to end funding to Wuhan Inst. Virol. And the Washington Examiner was planning a story.

Further evidence that NIH penalized our organization as a direct response to Right wing attacks without ever once asking us directly for information on allowing us some explanation of our work.

I've highlighted this as an angle for Betsy McKay based on the recent attack from Michael Lauer on our 2 U01s. I'll forward that email to you also.

Here is my now-revised timeline of events that led to our termination, and the misery that is now my current life. I've also attached the full timeline from 2018 to current in case you want to check in on any details – lots of links in there.:

#### **NIH Termination of EHA R01 "Understanding the risk of emergence of bat-origin coronaviruses"**

Correspondence available here: [https://nlcampaigs.org/daszak\\_grant.html](https://nlcampaigs.org/daszak_grant.html) ; [https://nlcampaigs.org/daszak\\_grant2.html](https://nlcampaigs.org/daszak_grant2.html) .

- 11/5/18: Dr. Daszak submits R01 renewal proposal 2R01AI110964 following successful 5 yrs of research on prior award resulting in 18 peer-reviewed papers including 2 in the world's leading journal *Nature* and 1 in *Cell*.
- 3/6/19: Proposal is scored extremely highly – in top 3% of those received. Panel summary calls it an "outstanding application" and it receives a very high impact score of 20.
- 7/24/19: Grant is awarded for 5 years, with a start date of 6/1/19.
- 4/13/20 White Coat Waste VP Justin Goodman writes to Sen. Marco Rubio & Matt Gaetz to inform them that they've "exposed" that NIH has been funding the "controversial lab" in Wuhan, including "dangerous experiments on coronavirus-infected bats captured from caves". Sen. Rubio's staff, Ansley Rhyne, forwards email to NIH w/ request for information and statement that Rubio and Gaetz are "are working on a letter to ensure no taxpayer dollars are sent to that Institute. FoIA'd emails available here: <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21227801/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf> from an article in Intercept: <https://theintercept.com/2022/02/20/nih-coronavirus-research-wuhan-redacted/>
- 4/13 – 4/21/20: Emails among NIH Office of the Director and Program staff at NIAID show them gathering information on EcoHealth's R01 grant and NIH Office of the Director organizing strategy to block funding. Email on 4/15/20 at 3:49 PM from Michelle Bulls to Mike Lauer cc'ing "Jodi OER" (NIH Office of Extramural Research) titled "Request for a call" and marked "Urgent" is heavily redacted but states "This is for convenience and I have some ideas. Waiting to hear back from Emily and will set up time to talk to Jodi tomorrow". Suggests internal discussion about terminating grant "for convenience". Article in Intercept: <https://theintercept.com/2022/02/20/nih-coronavirus-research-wuhan-redacted/> and FoIA'd emails available here: <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21227801/nih-foia-request-55058-february-production.pdf>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015522  
MORENS\_NIH\_033178

- 4/14/20 Dr. Daszak gives invited lecture on results from R01 research in China to the NIAID COVID-19 investigators weekly meeting at invitation of NIAID Program Officers. Program Officer emails next day to say “Thanks again for speaking yesterday, I thought it was a great discussion.”
- 4/16/20 Informal contact w/ EHA from NIAID program officers warning of FoIAs and political (house and senate letters) re. grant. Recommended that ‘we contact our political representatives & seek legal advice’.
- 4/17/20 White House Press Conf. Trump responds to question from *One America News Network* re. EHA funding: “We will end that grant”
- 4/19/20: NIH writes to the wrong EHA staff member (Dr. Olival), and the wrong address (Columbia University), cc’ing Senior University staff, advising EHA collaborating institution, Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) is ‘under investigation’ and ordering cessation of subcontract to WIV. 4/20/20: Letter forwarded to EHA.
- 4/21/20: EHA respond and assures full compliance, NIH responds same day noting EHA’s assurances & commenting “We appreciate you working with us”
- 4/23/20: NIH releases “NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research”, with 4 priorities, all of which EHA’s R01 addresses: 1) research on virus natural history, transmission, surveillance; 2) development of rapid, accurate diagnostics and assays; 3) developing therapeutics (& citing Remdesivir); 4) developing safe, effective vaccines. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/niaid-strategic-plan-details-covid-19-research-priorities> Full strategic plan here: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIAID-COVID-19-Strategic-Plan-2020.pdf>
- 4/24/20: Grant terminated by NIH “for convenience”, stating “At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities.” This despite grant being in top 3% of those reviewed, its fit with the NIAID strategic plan for COVID-19 published the day before, its role in Remdesivir, papers in *Nature*, *Science* etc. <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/27/trump-cuts-research-bat-human-virus-china-213076>.
- 4/27/20: Call with NIAID program staff: Erik Stemmy, Cristina Cassetti, Emily Erbelding to discuss possibility of reversal of decision. NIAID staff express their disgust at the decision and support for EHA’s work. Given political pressure from Trump admin, they suggest ‘moving on’, ‘not talking to press’, & rapidly submitting proposal for similar work in other countries.
- 4/27/20: EHA informed by *Politico* journalists that NIH has leaked the letter about termination of EHA’s grant. Story published that evening: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/27/trump-cuts-research-bat-human-virus-china-213076>
- 4/28/20: Dr. Daszak writes to NIAID COVID-19 investigators group and NIAID program staff to explain that EHA will continue the work unfunded and he would like to continue joining these calls if they would have him: Dr. Alan Embry (NIAID responds): “We would very much appreciate it if you would still be willing to join these meetings. Your expertise is greatly appreciated.”
- 5/21/20 Nobel laureates & scientific societies protest termination
- 5/22/20 EHA appeals termination with letter from *pro bono* lawyers explaining why the termination was, essentially, illegal.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015523  
MORENS\_NIH\_033179



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*

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015524  
MORENS\_NIH\_033180

NIH 60767 - 007902

REL0000480361

**Date:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:09:02 PM -0400

**Sent:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:07:54 PM -0400

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alison Andre (b)(6) >

Date: Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 2:59 PM

Subject: Re: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) David Morens

(b)(6) >, Rich Roberts (b)(6) Gerald Kausch

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) > (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

Dear All,

Please take a moment to fill out your availability in the doodle poll below or feel free to reply to me with your availability.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoodle.com%2Fmeeting%2Fparticipate%2Fid%&data=05%7C01%7Cdmoresn%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585f&sdata=CnY1Uwla2gFJitx83MJ%2BTbAQ%2Be%2By5uYRQBs3q9Fg0ig%3D&reserved=0>

Thank you,  
Alison

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 12:48 PM Peter Daszak

(b)(6) > wrote:

>

> Adding Peter's assistant Douglas Soriano.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002249  
MORENS\_NIH\_008765

NIH 60707 - 007903

REL0000480365

[illegible]

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002250  
MORENS\_NIH\_008766

NIH 60767 - 007998

REL0000480365

>  
> New York, NY 10018-6507  
>  
> USA  
>  
> Tel.: (b)(6)  
>  
> Website:  
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F  
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585d  
&sdata=H9UCNgjb3Q2itoM48bTxgCIUUE6yklF7X8sP%2BC1PNyU%3D &reserved=0  
>  
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation  
>  
>  
>  
> From: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
> Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:43 AM  
> To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6) >; 'David Morens' (b)(6) (b)(6)  
>; Rich Roberts (b)(6) >; Gerald Keusch (b)(6)  
> Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' (b)(6) (b)(6) > (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Alison Andre (b)(6)  
(b)(6) >  
> Subject: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-  
science 'investigation' agenda?  
> Importance: High  
>  
>  
>  
> Happy new year everyone!  
>  
>  
>  
> It's been a while since we all connected, and after a hectic build up to the holidays (I was on 3, multi-week  
trips to Southeast Asia between Sept and Dec), I wanted to get back in touch with you and let you know what's  
happening. As you know, we received a letter from Reps. Comer and Jordan mid-December demanding  
documents and on-the-record interviews as part of their 'investigations' they're planning into COVID origins.  
The White House received similar letters demanding docs and interviews with the HHS Secretary, multiple  
people from NIH (incl. David Morens) and others. They pushed back because the Republicans weren't even in  
power, and we've now heard from the staffers that they're getting ready to send new letters over to us all. None  
of us are sure how actively or rapidly they'll get to their COVID investigation, or if this will involve public  
hearings. They've got a lot of other issues, and a priority to target Hunter Biden's laptop, as well as new issues  
like the debt ceiling and classified documents. However, we do expect that they will get to it eventually, and  
that the Republicans in the House will be aggressively targeting EcoHealth Alliance (and probably other  
organizations) with efforts to defund us.  
>  
> This all adds to a growing anti-science movement that Peter Hotez has been highlighting in articles and online  
recently around COVID origins, the mask mandates, vaccine mandates and other anti-vaxx and 'anti-expert'  
type attacks. The Republicans will want to turn up the heat to keep all of this in the press so it helps them in

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002251  
MORENS\_NIH\_008767

their attacks on Biden, Fauci etc. It's pure politics, but has a real threat of damage to us, and to the research we all value. At the very least, we expect to see substantial efforts to legislate against so-called gain-of-function work, and as of yet, zero pushback from the scientific community writ large – the societies, academies, universities. The media are jumping in. Everyone wants to write an article about COVID origin and given the aggression on social media, these are being amplified rapidly and getting into the public eye. Just in the last couple of days:

>  
>  
>  
> · A long-winded whiny article from The Intercept about FoIA'd emails that basically show how scientists discussed the lab hypothesis early on, but David Relman (at the end of the article) claims shows they were rushing to judgement:

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftheintercept.com%2F2023%2F01%2F19%2Fcover-origin-nih-emails%2F](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftheintercept.com%2F2023%2F01%2F19%2Fcover-origin-nih-emails%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851&sdata=%2BGqajuxdo79ukyTTLwcJdFCL9zf8QQsQx%2B3vqYG0MMc%3D&reserved=0)  
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851  
&sdata=%2BGqajuxdo79ukyTTLwcJdFCL9zf8QQsQx%2B3vqYG0MMc%3D &reserved=0

>  
> · Article from Washington Post that links Boston Univ's NEIDL's 'risky research' to Wuhan's 'risky research' and to the origin of COVID

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fhealth%2F2023%2Fleak-theory-virologist%2F](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fhealth%2F2023%2Fleak-theory-virologist%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851&sdata=sYugo9Jx48jmGAZwh3%2BCv7uPQyz5InMNz04oq8tzAH0%3D&reserved=0)  
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851  
&sdata=sYugo9Jx48jmGAZwh3%2BCv7uPQyz5InMNz04oq8tzAH0%3D &reserved=0

>  
> · A report from the GAO yesterday that mildly criticizes NIH's oversight of Gain of Function review:  
[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gao.gov%2Fassets%2Fgao-23-105455.pdf](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gao.gov%2Fassets%2Fgao-23-105455.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851&sdata=eSckG16R4EfD1iJpQxO6oTnkC08mzaNleoflYlx0klg%3D&reserved=0)

&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851  
&sdata=eSckG16R4EfD1iJpQxO6oTnkC08mzaNleoflYlx0klg%3D &reserved=0

>  
> · Three days ago a paper from North Carolina from a Republican perspective that criticizes Ralph Baric's lab..

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.carolinajournal.com%2Fopinion%2Fnc-can-be-a-leader-in-safe-biotech-research%2F](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.carolinajournal.com%2Fopinion%2Fnc-can-be-a-leader-in-safe-biotech-research%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851&sdata=DQFxuUR0AqnAz51%2Btk3OGSTxvWTKXtnceEFWK9Veac%3D&reserved=0)  
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d5851  
&sdata=DQFxuUR0AqnAz51%2Btk3OGSTxvWTKXtnceEFWK9Veac%3D &reserved=0

>  
>  
>  
> The problem I see is that the Republicans are getting what they want – keeping the lab leak hypothesis and anti-science sentiments in the mainstream press and setting the stage for the McCarthy-style witch hunts that Peter Hotez has been talking about. We are actively reaching out to Democrats in Senate and Congress to try to build up their energy to defend against this, but we are just one small organization, and I'm worried about how successful we can be. I've been talking with (b)(6) about renewing our efforts to try and build a coalition to counter this, involving the societies, activist groups like Research! America, university coalitions like the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), ASTMH, APHA, NL Campaigns, The pandemic Action coalition, etc.

>  
>  
>  
> Will you all be willing to have a one hour call in the next week or two to do some initial brainstorming of this, namely:

>

> · Who to involve  
>  
> · How to go about setting up a 'coalition'  
>  
> · What the goals should be, e.g. a position paper laying out reasons why research on pandemic prevention and preparedness is necessary, Op Eds, briefing notes, a website, visiting staffers on the Hill etc.  
>  
> · How to do this without drawing political pressure  
>  
>  
>  
> I'm cc'ing Alison Andre, who can work with your schedules to make this happen, and am really looking forward to talking with you all again.  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
>  
>  
> Peter  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Peter Daszak  
>  
> President  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance  
>  
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
>  
> New York, NY 10018-6507  
>  
> USA  
>  
> Tel.: (b)(6)  
>  
> Website:  
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002253  
MORENS\_NIH\_008769

&sdata=H9UCNgjb3Q2itoM48bTxgCIUUE6yklF7X8sP%2BC1PNyU%3D &reserved=0

>

> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

>

>

>

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

>

>

--

Alison Andre

Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018

(b)(6) (direct)

1.212.380.4465 (fax)

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7Cb153ed576acc4dea555f08db8b9f8291%7C14b77578977342d585d&sdata=H9UCNgjb3Q2itoM48bTxgCIUUE6yklF7X8sP%2BC1PNyU%3D &reserved=0>

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

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002254  
MORENS\_NIH\_008770

NIH 60767 - 002002

REL0000480365

**Date:** Mon, 20 May 2024 8:53:17 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Mon, 20 May 2024 8:52:43 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Re: Disappointing tweet from Amy Maxmen re. a disappointing article in Nature.  
**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Alison Andre  
**CC:** (b)(6) >; (b)(6); Roberts, Rich  
(b)(6) (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6)

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

It's beyond terrible, I'm so sorry

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On May 20, 2024, at 7:15 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

MORENS\_NIH\_046740

NIH 60767 - 002009

REL0000480368



On 5/20/24 17:57, Peter Daszak wrote:

I'll do that – good suggestion Peter

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 4:22 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Alison Andre <

(b)(6)>; David Moren (b)(6); (b)(6)

>; Keith Martin (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)>

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

You can write to her and cc me (b)(6)

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

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate](#) to [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#)

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS\_NIH\_046741

NIH 60707 - 002060

REL0000480368

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b)(6)  
Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 3:09 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Alison Andre (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Ieksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6) (b)(6)

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

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

Shame to see Amy Maxmen following the trend of the article in Nature that seems to just parrot what the Democrats on the SSCP said - EcoHealth did something wrong, but they didn't cause COVID-19.

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

Amy's tweet is below, and my response (trying to be as diplomatic as possible).

<image001.jpg>

**Amy Maxmen, PhD**

@amymaxmen

5h

EcoHealth Alliance didn't comply with NIH granting conditions, eg not sending regular updates on its research. Without repercussions, those rules are meaningless.

<https://nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01460-3...> The problem is when public/media interprets this to say anything about where Covid began.

<image002.jpg>

[US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think](#)

From nature.com

1.2K

<image003.jpg>

MORENS\_NIH\_046742

NIH 60767 - 002065

REL0000480368

**Peter Daszak**  
@PeterDaszak

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

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** 'Keusch, Gerald' (b)(6); Alison Andr (b)(6); 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <(b)(6)>; 'David Morens' (b)(6); (b)(6)  
Martin' <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Testimony by David Morens, Ralph Baric, Peter Daszak

Here are testimonies by David, myself, and Ralph Baric. David had to go through this twice because his first interview was cut short when lawyers for NIH objected to the SSCPs line of questioning.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Alison Andre (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>  
Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Thursday before 1 pm works. Friday is iffy and probably a no for me.

Jerry

---

**From:** Alison Andre (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:14 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Meeting Thursday or Friday this week

Dear All,

We'd like to schedule another meeting on Thursday May 23 or Friday May 24 this week. Could you please take a moment to indicate your availability below?

<https://calendly.com/d/cp3y-mxp-j7h/small-group-meeting>

Thank you,  
Alison

--

**Alison Andre**

*Executive Assistant to the President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018

**(b)(6)** (direct)

1.212.380.4465 (fax)

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

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

**Date:** Thu, 20 Apr 2023 11:17:19 AM -0400

**Sent:** Thu, 20 Apr 2023 11:13:23 AM -0400

**Subject:** RE: [The Washington Post] White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

(b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
**To:** (b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6)  
Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Good point Jeff – here’s their quote of our rebuttal:

The inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services this year faulted NIH’s oversight of EcoHealth, saying the agency failed to “appropriately monitor” the organization’s work. EcoHealth has persistently denied wrongdoing in its research and said Wenstrup inaccurately characterized the group’s work in China.

“The fact is that the bat coronavirus research conducted by EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology could not have started the covid-19 pandemic,” the group said this week.

I like the way they say “The group said this week.” The truth is we say the same thing every week because there’s an almost daily barrage of BS reporting that we rebutt...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:49 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; David Morens (b)(6); Gerald Keusch <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** RE: [The Washington Post] White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

At least they cited EHA's rebuttal of Wenstrup's comments - he had 4 egregious errors in one sentence!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005255  
MORENS\_NIH\_013220

----- Original message -----

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)

Date: 4/20/23 7:57 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David

Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6)

(b)(6), Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Subject: Re: [The Washington Post] White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

Why WaPo used that topic to attack unfairly EcoHealth is ridiculous, part of their new agenda?

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Apr 20, 2023, at 6:53 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

The National Institutes of Health has not had a permanent director since December 2021, when its longtime leader stepped down.

By Laurie McGinley and Dan Diamond

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/19/nih-director-monica-bertagnolli/>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005256  
MORENS\_NIH\_013221

Download [The Washington Post app](#).

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/19/nih-director-monica-bertagnolli/>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005257  
MORENS\_NIH\_013222

NIH 60707 - 002057

REL0000480373



**Date:** Thu, 16 May 2024 7:25:04 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Thu, 16 May 2024 7:24:49 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Nature article on EcoHealth's suspension  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T  
**To:** (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) (b)(6) Aleksei  
Chmura (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image002.png

---

This one isn't so bad, but it's really disappointing that the only outside people he went for quotes to were "Global Health Security" academics, most of whom either lean 'lab leak' or do 'both-sideism' about it. The article has a good quote from Larry Gostin, but two others just say that it seems ok to them that we're heading for debarment!

I also spent time sending Max Kozlov at Nature (who was supposed to write this) information from the now-public transcripts of NIH officials that directly contradict the HHS' debarment filing, but they didn't use any of that – very frustrating.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-01460-3>

- NEWS
- 16 May 2024

US halts funding to controversial virus-hunting group: what researchers think

**Some scientists think the decision regarding EcoHealth Alliance is fair, while others say it might negatively impact virus surveillance.**

By

- [Mariana Lenharo](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Email](#)

MORENS\_NIH\_051613

NIH 60707 - 002052

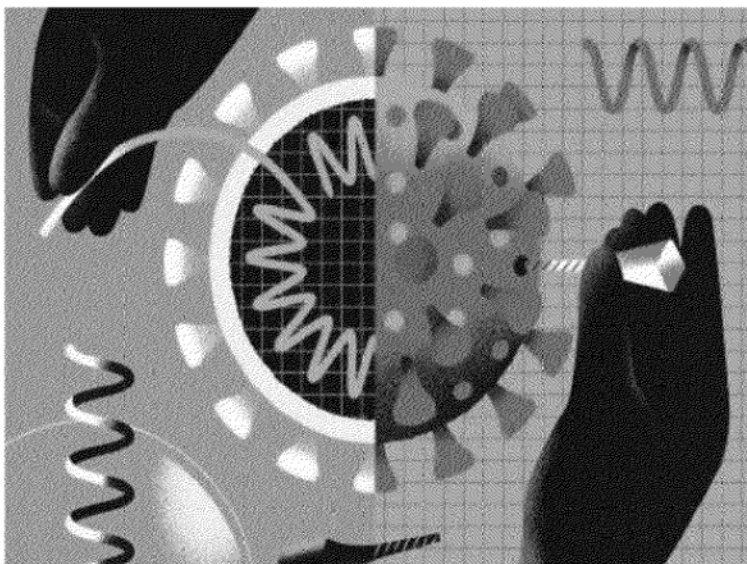
REL0000480378



EcoHealth Alliance president Peter Daszak testified before a congressional panel on 1 May, two weeks before the US government suspended the organization's federal funding. Credit: Andrew Harnik/Getty

---

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has suspended federal funding for EcoHealth Alliance, a New York City-based nonprofit organization that came under scrutiny during the COVID-19 pandemic for collaborating with a virology laboratory in China accused of potentially leaking the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Researchers who spoke to *Nature* are divided in their reaction to the decision: some think that the HHS made the right call given EcoHealth's apparent failure to comply with terms of a grant it was awarded, undermining public trust; others say that the decision seems to be unfairly wrapped up in politics.



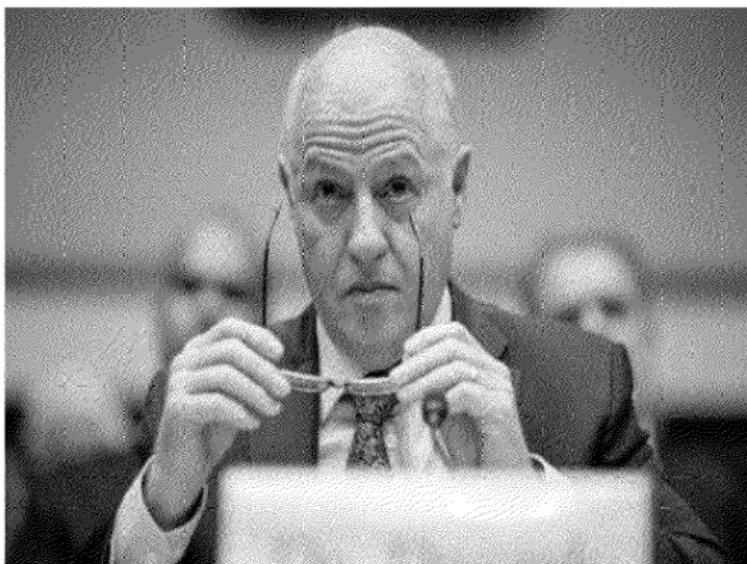
### The shifting sands of ‘gain-of-function’ research

In a [memo detailing the decision](#), Henrietta Brisbon, the HHS’s suspension and debarment official, argued that EcoHealth did not provide adequate oversight of research activities at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), in China. The WIV was a subrecipient on a federal grant awarded to EcoHealth by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), meaning that it was a partner given funds to carry out some of the research. The document also describes how EcoHealth repeatedly failed to provide information pertaining to the research conducted under the grant that was requested by the NIH.

The decision by the HHS comes two weeks after EcoHealth’s president, infectious-disease specialist Peter Daszak, [was grilled during a hearing](#) run by a US House of Representatives subcommittee [investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic](#). During that session, Republican representatives suggested that EcoHealth had conducted risky research with the WIV and Democrats criticized the nonprofit’s lack of transparency.

In announcing the latest suspension of funding to EcoHealth, the HHS also proposed debarring the organization from federal funding — a more definitive halting of grant money for a period generally of up to 3 years. Debarments of grantees are usually reserved for serious violations: [according to a 2022 report](#), the HHS issued 134 debarments between 2015 and 2019, most of them owing to a criminal conviction or civil judgment.

In a statement, an EcoHealth spokesperson said that the organization is disappointed by the HHS’s decision and will be contesting the proposed debarment. “We hope we will get a fair chance to present the volumes of evidence we have that all of these allegations are false, and that they do not rise to the level of something that should lead to an organization being debarred in this way,” Daszak told *Nature*.



### **Controversial virus-hunting scientist skewered at US COVID-origins hearing**

It is important for research organizations to demonstrate that they have a robust oversight system, says social scientist Filippa Lentzos, a specialist in biosecurity at King's College London, "even more so when we're talking about research with pandemic risks, where potentially the entire world could be affected by an accident". She adds that the decision to suspend funding seems appropriate: "Whatever the particulars of the EcoHealth Alliance case, it is clear the institution has lost the confidence of the HHS, politicians on both sides of the aisle and many other stakeholders to act safely, securely and responsibly."

EcoHealth could have done a better job of explaining its work to the NIH and to the public, acknowledges Lawrence Gostin, a health-law and policy specialist at Georgetown University in Washington DC. But, in his view, the suspension has a strong political bent to it. "It's not clear to me at all whether this decision was based on science, ethics or politics," he says. "There's been this drumbeat of criticism of EcoHealth Alliance, particularly from congressional Republicans, and there's been this myth that the WIV was responsible for the pandemic, but all of the evidence points in the opposite direction," to a natural spillover of SARS-CoV-2 from wild animals to humans, he adds.

#### **Two-year delay**

EcoHealth had been collaborating with scientists in China to study pathogens with pandemic potential for years when, in 2014, it received a grant from the NIH to investigate bat coronaviruses. The NIH would eventually suspend this grant in April 2020, in the early months of the pandemic. This came at a time when then-president Donald Trump had been publicly implying that China might be responsible for the pandemic. The funding was reinstated in May 2023 under extensive restrictions, and the WIV was debarred from receiving US funding through subawards later that year.



### **NIH to intensify scrutiny of foreign grant recipients in wake of COVID origins debate**

The current suspension was motivated by the alleged lack of compliance with the 2014 grant's terms and conditions. One key problem listed by the HHS is EcoHealth's submission of a grant progress report more than two years past the deadline. The HHS said that this report contains information suggesting that an experiment conducted by the WIV possibly led to enhanced growth of a modified virus beyond a replication limit set by the NIH. EcoHealth and the WIV were modifying a coronavirus linked to Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), to study the potential origins of this type of virus in bats. When reviewing progress on the grant, the NIH told EcoHealth that if any virus generated under the grant showed evidence of replication beyond the set threshold, the nonprofit should ensure that all experiments were halted and communicate the issue to the agency, which was not done. This led the HHS to conclude that the research "likely violated protocols of the NIH regarding biosafety".

An EcoHealth spokesperson said that it is untrue that the nonprofit violated the terms of the grant, given that the experiments did not rise to a level that would be considered significant enough to report as unusual. Regarding the delay in submitting the report, the spokesperson said that EcoHealth made every effort to file the report on time, "but these were stymied by contradictory advice from NIH grant management officials, and an online system [for submitting the report] that is confusing and error-prone, leading to multiple instances where the system locked us out."

The HHS memo says that, according to a forensic audit performed by the NIH, EcoHealth was never locked out of the system.

Federal auditors have cited the NIH for its part in not pursuing the late report and recommended that the agency intensify its monitoring of foreign institutions that receive NIH funds.

Responding to the HHS's allegation that EcoHealth failed to adequately respond to the NIH's requests for information and materials related to the WIV's research, the spokesperson said that, considering the geopolitical pressure on US-China relations during the pandemic, and that the HHS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the intelligence community were all unable to get evidentiary information out of the WIV, "it is outrageous to propose this as grounds to debar our organization". (The WHO organized an initial investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic in China, but further efforts were stymied by that country's lack of cooperation.)

## Questions of oversight

Amesh Adalja, an infectious-disease specialist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in Baltimore, Maryland, says that any grant recipient is expected to comply with a series of conditions — which include submitting reports in a timely fashion and overseeing partner institutions — and that the HHS memo seems to indicate that EcoHealth did not fully meet those standards. “There’s enough listed there to call into question what type of stewardship was going on with that taxpayer money,” he says.



### **NIH reinstates grant for controversial coronavirus research**

EcoHealth Alliance has played an important role in illuminating scientists’ understanding of novel viruses, Gostin says. In addition to work on coronavirus surveillance in wildlife, the group has studied the spillover of Nipah virus and other pathogens to humans. He worries that the suspension could disincentivize research aimed at pandemic preparedness and prevention done in partnership with other countries. The next pandemic could easily arise in a country that trades wild animals, like China, so the type of research and surveillance that EcoHealth does is important, he says. The decision sends “a chilling signal to any future researcher that might want to better understand zoonotic viruses in the Chinese region”, he adds.

Before the suspension, EcoHealth had three active NIH-funded grants aiming to study the risk of emerging viruses in countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar and Vietnam. Since 2008, the organization has been awarded a total of US\$90.3 million in federal funding, \$19.59 million of which was from the HHS.

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-01460-3>

Cheers,

Peter



**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 9:27 AM  
**To:** 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** 'David Morens' (b)(6); 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6); 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Washington Post cites Democrats with more negative comments about EcoHealth  
**Importance:** High

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/05/16/covid-origins-spotlight-feds-cut-funding-virus-hunters/>

It's written as if "The Fix is in" – they've (SSCP, HHS, Democrats in general) decided that Michael Lauer's, Tabak's and the Republicans allegations are just true, and therefore we're out of business. We never did, yet, get chance to respond – certainly not at my public hearing.

### **The EcoHealth saga continues**

What did the deputy director of the **National Institutes of Health** know, and when did he know it? Top NIH official **Lawrence Tabak** is set to face off this morning with the House panel probing the coronavirus response. Expect lawmakers to focus on the agency's oversight and funding of **EcoHealth Alliance**, a nonprofit organization that worked with the Wuhan Institute of Virology before the pandemic.

EcoHealth was thrown back into the spotlight Wednesday, after the Department of Health and Human Services said it was suspending funding to the organization and moving to debar the New York-based nonprofit from receiving additional funds, citing evidence EcoHealth had failed to monitor and report on risky virus experiments in China.

EcoHealth has said it is appealing the decision, but the news was hailed on Capitol Hill. Both Republicans and Democrats had called on HHS to review the organization's funding and its NIH grants; GOP leaders have gone further and called for a criminal probe.

"Our investigation into EcoHealth and Dr. Daszak's actions is not over," Rep. **Brad Wenstrup** (R-Ohio), who chairs the **House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**, plans to say to Tabak today, in remarks shared with The Health 202. "This issue has highlighted broader concerns with the NIH — especially that it is up to the grantee to oversee themselves. That is a recipe for waste, fraud, abuse and deception."

### **Years of questions**

EcoHealth has been at the center of questions about **SARS-CoV-2's** origins since the pandemic's earliest days, given the organization's ties to Wuhan, China — the epicenter of the outbreak — and its work to

MORENS\_NIH\_051619

NIH 60767 - 002068

REL0000480378

research and experiment with coronaviruses. Then-President **Donald Trump** publicly said his administration was looking into EcoHealth's work, and Tabak was among the officials in April 2020 who moved to abruptly halt NIH funding to the organization. (It was later restored.) The House coronavirus panel also recently grilled **Peter Daszak**, EcoHealth's president, on his conflicting statements and outstanding questions, including why his organization waited nearly two years to submit a required report about the results of its research and activities leading up to the pandemic.

EcoHealth has repeatedly denied accusations that it played any role in the pandemic, and its defenders have said it's been wrongly scapegoated. There's no existing evidence EcoHealth, the Wuhan Institute of Virology or another organization had SARS-CoV-2 in its possession before the pandemic.

Federal and congressional officials also cautioned that the HHS decision to cut funding to EcoHealth shouldn't be interpreted as a smoking gun about the virus's origins or a possible lab leak. Officials on Wednesday told me the theory that the pandemic began naturally — when a virus spread from animals to humans — continues to be favored by several government agencies and many scientists.

But at minimum, federal officials had grown increasingly uneasy about EcoHealth's work and safeguards, they said. "HHS wanted to be out of the EcoHealth business," one official told me.

#### What Tabak will be pushed on today

Republicans' line of attack was previewed in a letter to NIH last week, in which Wenstrup laid out Daszak's claims and compared them with other officials' statements under oath.

"The Select Subcommittee is eager to uncover the true sequence of events and has identified multiple occasions where Dr. Daszak directly contradicts NIH's or NIAID's assertions," Wenstrup wrote.

Republicans have hinted that they could refer Daszak to the **Justice Department** on perjury grounds. Expect GOP lawmakers to probe Tabak's conversations with **Anthony S. Fauci**, his longtime colleague at NIH and the center of persistent Republican attacks over his pandemic recommendations, his agency's funding of EcoHealth and other issues. Fauci, who retired from government at the end of 2022, is set to testify in front of the panel in June.

Democrats, meanwhile, have tried to draw a line between what they characterized as bad actions by EcoHealth and Daszak, and the more sweeping charge that the organization helped spark the pandemic.

"While the Select Subcommittee's probe has uncovered efforts by Dr. Peter Daszak to mislead his funders at the National Institutes of Health and the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**, it has not substantiated any allegations that federal grant funding for EcoHealth Alliance created the COVID-19 pandemic," Rep. **Raul Ruiz** (D-Calif.), the top Democrat on the House coronavirus panel, plans to say in remarks today previewed with The Health 202.

#### The EcoHealth saga continues



Lawrence Tabak, principal deputy director of the National Institutes of Health, is returning to Capitol Hill today. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

What did the deputy director of the **National Institutes of Health** know, and when did he know it?

Top NIH official **Lawrence Tabak** is set to face off this morning with the House panel probing the coronavirus response. Expect lawmakers to focus on the agency's oversight and funding of **EcoHealth Alliance**, a nonprofit organization that worked with the Wuhan Institute of Virology before the pandemic.

EcoHealth was thrown back into the spotlight Wednesday, after the Department of Health and Human Services said it was suspending funding to the organization and moving to debar the New York-based nonprofit from receiving additional funds, citing evidence EcoHealth had failed to monitor and report on risky virus experiments in China.

EcoHealth has said it is appealing the decision, but the news was hailed on Capitol Hill. Both Republicans and Democrats had called on HHS to review the organization's funding and its NIH grants; GOP leaders have gone further and called for a criminal probe.

"Our investigation into EcoHealth and Dr. Daszak's actions is not over," Rep. **Brad Wenstrup** (R-Ohio), who chairs the **House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**, plans to say to Tabak today, in remarks shared with The Health 202. "This issue has highlighted broader concerns with the NIH — especially that it is up to the grantee to oversee themselves. That is a recipe for waste, fraud, abuse and deception."

#### **Years of questions**

EcoHealth has been at the center of questions about **SARS-CoV-2's** origins since the pandemic's earliest days, given the organization's ties to Wuhan, China — the epicenter of the outbreak — and its work to research and experiment with coronaviruses. Then-President **Donald Trump** publicly said his administration was looking into EcoHealth's work, and Tabak was among the officials in April 2020 who moved to abruptly halt NIH funding to the organization. (It was later restored.)

The House coronavirus panel also recently grilled **Peter Daszak**, EcoHealth's president, on his conflicting statements and outstanding questions, including why his organization waited nearly two years to submit a required report about the results of its research and activities leading up to the pandemic.

EcoHealth has repeatedly denied accusations that it played any role in the pandemic, and its defenders have said it's been wrongly scapegoated. There's no existing evidence EcoHealth, the Wuhan Institute of Virology or another organization had SARS-CoV-2 in its possession before the pandemic.

Federal and congressional officials also cautioned that the HHS decision to cut funding to EcoHealth shouldn't be interpreted as a smoking gun about the virus's origins or a possible lab leak. Officials on Wednesday told me the theory that the pandemic began naturally — when a virus spread from animals to humans — continues to be favored by several government agencies and many scientists.

But at minimum, federal officials had grown increasingly uneasy about EcoHealth's work and safeguards, they said. "HHS wanted to be out of the EcoHealth business," one official told me.

**What Tabak will be pushed on today**

Republicans' line of attack was previewed in a letter to NIH last week, in which Wenstrup laid out Daszak's claims and compared them with other officials' statements under oath.

"The Select Subcommittee is eager to uncover the true sequence of events and has identified multiple occasions where Dr. Daszak directly contradicts NIH's or NIAID's assertions," Wenstrup wrote.

Republicans have hinted that they could refer Daszak to the **Justice Department** on perjury grounds.

Expect GOP lawmakers to probe Tabak's conversations with **Anthony S. Fauci**, his longtime colleague at NIH and the center of persistent Republican attacks over his pandemic recommendations, his agency's funding of EcoHealth and other issues. Fauci, who retired from government at the end of 2022, is set to testify in front of the panel in June.

Democrats, meanwhile, have tried to draw a line between what they characterized as bad actions by EcoHealth and Daszak, and the more sweeping charge that the organization helped spark the pandemic.

"While the Select Subcommittee's probe has uncovered efforts by Dr. Peter Daszak to mislead his funders at the National Institutes of Health and the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**, it has not substantiated any allegations that federal grant funding for EcoHealth Alliance created the COVID-19 pandemic," Rep. **Raul Ruiz** (D-Calif.), the top Democrat on the House coronavirus panel, plans to say in remarks today previewed with The Health 202.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

MORENS\_NIH\_051622

NIH 60707 - 002027

REL0000480378

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 8:15 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Moren (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Science article on HHS action to suspend EcoHealth Alliance

<https://x.com/peterhotez/status/1790893300595274228?s=46>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: (b)(6)

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On May 15, 2024, at 7:06 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

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

From Jocelyn Kaiser at Science: <https://www.science.org/content/article/federal-officials-suspend-funding-ecohealth-alliance-nonprofit-entangled-covid-19>

**RELATED ARTICLE**

[‘We’ve done nothing wrong.’ EcoHealth leader fights charges that his research helped spark COVID-19](#)

BY

● JON COHEN

MORENS\_NIH\_051623

NIH 60707 - 002002

REL0000480378

## NEWS

17 NOV 2021

Federal officials today suspended federal funding for the EcoHealth Alliance, possibly dealing a mortal blow to a U.S. research nonprofit that has been under fire since early in the COVID-19 pandemic. The group has been the focus of concerns that SARS-CoV-2 may have emerged from bat virus research funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and conducted by EcoHealth's collaborators in Wuhan, China.

In a letter to the New York City organization, an official for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), NIH's parent agency, informed the group it is suspended from federal funding programs and that the department is proposing to formally debar—or ban—the organization from receiving funding. Grants from NIH and other U.S. agencies provide the bulk of its budget, which was about \$14 million in 2022.

EcoHealth said in a statement it “is disappointed by HHS'[s] decision today and we will be contesting the proposed debarment. We disagree strongly with the decision and will present evidence to refute each of these allegations and to show that NIH's continued support of EcoHealth Alliance is in the public interest.”

The move comes 2 weeks after a bipartisan House of Representatives panel grilled EcoHealth President Peter Daszak about allegations the group had violated NIH grant rules. Members of the House's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic cited missteps such as the group filing a late progress report on its bat virus studies and highlighted allegations that EcoHealth misrepresented the risks of experiments conducted by its collaborators at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

The announcement also comes 1 day before a top NIH official is scheduled to testify before the same panel. Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), chair of the subcommittee, called HHS's actions “a victory for the U.S. taxpayer, but also for American national security and the safety of citizens worldwide.” The panel's ranking member, Representative Raul Ruiz (D-CA), also praised HHS's action. While noting Democrats on the panel do not believe EcoHealth helped create the pandemic, he pointed to EcoHealth's “failure” to “meet the utmost standards of transparency and accountability to the American public.”

The suspension involves EcoHealth's management of a grant to study bat coronaviruses with WIV, which received a small subaward. In April 2020, then-President Donald Trump pressured NIH to ax the grant after some conservative politicians and commentators alleged that SARS-CoV-2 could have leaked from WIV. That move sparked condemnation by scores of scientists who defended EcoHealth's actions and history of pandemic prevention research. HHS reinstated the grant a few months later but immediately suspended it. Last year it was restarted without WIV, which failed to respond to NIH's requests for lab notebooks related to the work.

Meanwhile, documents obtained through public records requests by *The Intercept* raised numerous questions about EcoHealth's oversight of the work. For example, they found that WIV had filed a 2019 progress report more than 2 years late. Critics also suggested experiments at the lab creating hybrid bat viruses qualified as dangerous “gain-of-function” (GOF) research that should have received high-level scrutiny from HHS. EcoHealth noted it consulted on the work with NIH, which found the experiments did not meet its definition for risky GOF studies.

At last month's hearing, both Democrats and Republicans hammered Daszak and EcoHealth for allegedly mismanaging grants and making misleading statements about the work at WIV. NIH had told the committee last fall that a forensic audit found no evidence to support EcoHealth's claims that it was unable to file the 2019 progress report because it was locked out of NIH's grants system.

In an 11-page memo, HHS suspension and debarment official Henrietta Katrina Brisbon echoes the select committee's concerns, including questions about whether EcoHealth should have reported an experiment finding unexpected growth in mice of a chimeric virus distantly related to SARS-CoV-2. “I have determined that the immediate suspension of EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] is necessary to protect the public interest and due to a cause of so serious or compelling a nature that it affects EHA's present responsibility,” the memo states.

It is relatively rare for HHS to debar an NIH grantee. Debarments typically last about 3 years, but agencies have the option of lengthening or shortening the penalty.

MORENS\_NIH\_051624

NIH 60767 - 002089

REL0000480378

For years, EcoHealth has led research aimed at identifying viruses found in the wild that could pose a threat to humans. That work has produced hundreds of publications over the past 2 decades, including papers in high-profile journals such as *Science* and *Nature*. The group has a total of three active NIH grants totaling \$2.6 million in fiscal year 2023 to study the risks that animal viruses will jump to humans in Southeast Asia and how Nipah virus moves from bats to people in Bangladesh. It also has large awards from the Department of Defense and other U.S. agencies.

Lawrence Gostin, an expert on global health law at Georgetown University, says that although EcoHealth has 30 days to contest the suspension, he expects any such effort will fail.

"All in all, this has an unpleasant political smell behind it," Gostin says, adding that he believes the move reflects "a political campaign to dissuade scientific cooperation with China."

Virologist Stuart Neil of King's College London says the alleged grant offenses are not "crimes, nor are they evidence of misuse of public money." He calls the HHS action "performative political nonsense carried through by the cowardice of the ranking Democrat members [on] the select committee."

Peter Hotez, a vaccine researcher at Baylor College of Medicine, adds that "EcoHealth Alliance is one of the few organizations we have to track the emergence of new and dangerous virus pathogens. If they disappear, our national security suffers."

But critics of EcoHealth applauded the decision. More details may come out at tomorrow's hearing, where NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak will answer questions about EcoHealth and NIH's grants process.

With reporting by Meredith Wadman.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2024 6:13 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>; peter hotez (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

>; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)

MORENS\_NIH\_051625

NIH 60707 - 002020

REL0000480378

**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

From the cell phone of David Morens

----- Forwarded message -----

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

Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 17:30

Subject: Testimony for tomorrow's hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

To:

## Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Subject

Overseeing the Overseers: A Hearing with NIH Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak

Date

May 16, 2024

Time

9:00 am

Place

2154 Rayburn House Office Building

Witnesses and testimonies: Dr. Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Principal Deputy Director

National Institutes of Health

Document

**Disclaimer:** Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

MORENS\_NIH\_051626

NIH 60707 - 002025

REL0000480378

**Date:** Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:08:46 PM -0400

**Subject:** Fwd: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**To:** David Morens (b)(6)

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Date: Mon, Nov 7, 2022 at 2:39 PM

Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) > (b)(6)

(b)(6) Ieksei Chmura (b)(6) > ,

David Morens (b)(6) >

It's truly appalling what so many Republican politicians, whether they totally agree or are just looking for a political edge in their election, can do knowing full well what they are unleashing. While most of the threats are just that, threats that are never considered to be actionable, there is plenty of reason to be concerned if there is one particularly evil Maggot out there.

I don't know why but today I'm feeling more upbeat about the outcome than the polls and history suggest likely. Tomorrow I vote and then I turn off my devices until Wednesday, as fortunately one of my best friends is performing in the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement Shakespeare players presentation of Midsummer's Night Dream, followed by Chinese food at a really good place in Cambridge. The latter two, set for tomorrow evening, seem more than coincidental to me and are the source of some optimism.

Jerry

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004165  
MORENS\_NIH\_011145

NIH 60707 - 002020

REL0000480385

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 1:42 AM  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Busch, Gerald T (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

Let's see what new twists await us post Tuesday

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004166  
MORENS\_NIH\_011146



(b)(6)

iPhone

On Nov 7, 2022, at 4:31 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Peter:

You too – there are some really despicable characters in this world.

Let's hope the police and/or the FBI can put a stop to thie.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004167  
MORENS\_NIH\_011147

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 11:03 AM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Cc: (b)(6) Roberts, Rich  
(b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"

EXTERNAL SENDER

Yes I'm included as well unfortunately, we've notified Houston PD, Texas Med Center police, and FBI. I've given a heads up to everyone on the list, it was first picked up by Texas Children's Hospital security, except Ralph Baric since I don't know him, but believe Angie did.

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004168  
MORENS\_NIH\_011148

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

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

Dear all,

Just wanted to let you know that I found out my name was on a 'kill list' posted on the Right wing anonymous internet site 4Chan. Someone posted the names of 6 virologists, including myself, and encouraged people who have had enough and were ready to commit suicide, to take go out and murder this group first. Even more horrific, they named my wife (who's got a different last name to mine, so is now traceable) and my eldest daughter, posting her name and University name also.

I'm traveling in Malaysia/Singapore with Janet this week, but have already contacted the FBI and both daughter's universities, but as you can imagine this is pretty awful, though sadly not unexpected.

I expect this will get worse after the mid-terms, when the truly heinous folks on the Right start the launch of their McCarthyesque witch hunts against scientists re. covid origins, vaccines, masks etc.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004169  
MORENS\_NIH\_011149

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM  
To: (b)(6)  
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Kopp fabricated a story against me in the anti GMO press insinuating

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004170  
MORENS\_NIH\_011150

I'm behind GOF research. It unleashed a slew of copycat articles in the far right press and a wave of threats online. It's among the more unethical things I've ever seen from someone who calls themselves a journalist.

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004171  
MORENS\_NIH\_011151

NIH 60707 - 002032

REL0000480385

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

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

---

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

Best regards,

Jeff

From: Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] >  
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM  
To: [REDACTED]; Hotez, Peter Jay  
[REDACTED] >; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] Peter Daszak  
[REDACTED] >; Aleksei Chmura  
[REDACTED] >; David Morens [REDACTED] >  
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19 origins this morning

Jeff:

Great summary, but nothing really new as all the presenters had well-known views. My only comment is that Sachs recently seems to be a little less adamant that it was a lab leak and just now relies on innuendo.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004172  
MORENS\_NIH\_011152

New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM  
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T  
(b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei  
Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich  
(b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)  
Subject: Jeff Sachs moderated a Lancet Commission webinar on COVID-19  
origins this morning  
Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004173  
MORENS\_NIH\_011153

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

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

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

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

#### Natural origins

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

She then claimed that none of these have been established for



SARS-CoV-2, and thus we can't say that natural origins hypothesis is true.

Lab leak

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She reviewed five categories of evidence:

1. EHA progress reports to the NIH: She noted that the Intercept is going after 31 EHA NIH proposals and over 1000 other documents not yet released. They also plan to go after EHA Board members and collaborators at the U of Maryland and UC Davis.
2. USAID databases from PREDICT.
3. NIH bioinformatics databases for sequence data from WIV: She was quite exercised about the “apathy” of NIH at not going through archived sequences to provide the information that USRTK wants.
4. The Baric Lab at UNC: She said as yet there are few clues to planned work on genetic engineering techniques here.
5. Department of Defense: Again, she railed about the lack of transparency about the rejected EHA DARPA proposal, which she claimed

DARPA tried to conceal. She also mentioned data from PREEMPT.

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

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

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

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

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

Hope this is helpful.

As ever,

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004178  
MORENS\_NIH\_011158

**Date:** Tue, 31 Jan 2023 2:49:42 PM -0500  
**Sent:** Tue, 31 Jan 2023 2:48:23 PM -0500  
**Subject:** Second great article....  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)  
**CC:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); >;  
**Attachments:** image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

---

And I don't know if you saw this, but there was an excellent essay by John Ehrenreich in *Slate* yesterday making the point that the so-called "COVID-19 origins debate" is unscientific, political and extremely damaging. Both of these, in addition to the 156 virologists who published a strong opinion piece in MBio, and David Quammen's essay in *Washington Post*, are at least showing there is some support for a coalition to push back against Republicans trying to shut down scientific research.

I'm really looking forward to talking with you all tomorrow to brainstorm how we can maybe keep the momentum among the greater community. I'll send round an agenda by tomorrow morning...:

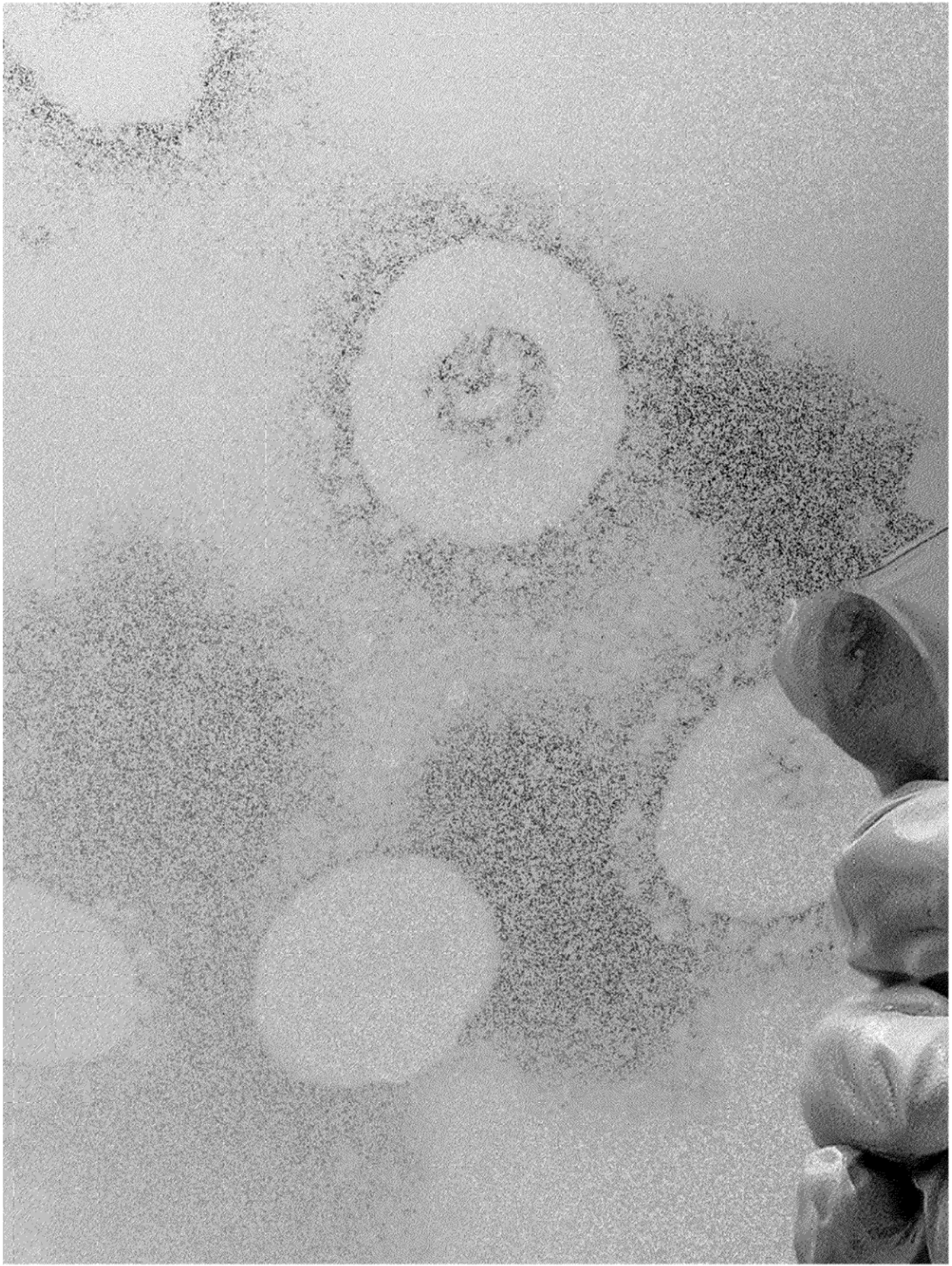
<https://slate.com/technology/2023/01/lab-leak-three-years-debate-covid-origins.html>

## The Lab-Leak Theory Still Can't Be Disproved. Should We Care?

The idea has been part of the public discourse for three years. It isn't really about preventing future pandemics.

BY JOHN EHRENREICH  
JAN 30, 2023 5:45 AM

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016095  
MORENS\_NIH\_033860



MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016096  
MORENS NIH 033861

NIH 60767 - 002087

REL0000480387

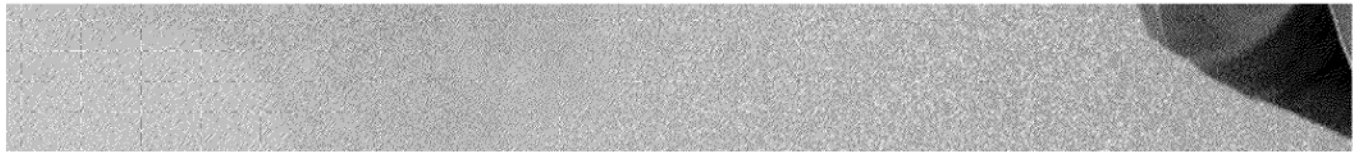


Photo illustration by Slate. Photos by Jelly Stock/iStock/Getty Images Plus and CDC/Getty Images.

On Jan. 30, 2020, Republican Sen. Tom Cotton addressed military leaders at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing and presented a startling idea. At that time, the novel coronavirus was spreading around China and had killed hundreds of people, though it had not yet been identified in the U.S. Chinese officials said the virus had originated at a seafood market in Wuhan.

Cotton charged that China was “lying” about the origins of COVID-19. He raised another possibility: “I would note that Wuhan also has China’s only biosafety level-four ‘super laboratory’ that works with the world’s most deadly pathogens to include, yes, coronavirus.” What if the virus had instead originated there?

With that, the “lab-leak” debate came crashing into the public discourse. Cotton wasn’t the only one to ask about the virus’ origins; days before his remarks, a Daily Mail article raised the possibility of a lab leak too, and a scientific study in the Lancet noted that many of the earliest cases of COVID had no connection to the wet market. The debate gained substantial traction in 2021, when a group of researchers published a commentary in Science calling for further investigation into the origins of SARS-CoV-2.

The lab-leak debate has raged for three years now, without reaching a universally accepted resolution. There may not be a conclusive answer for a while: It took 29 years to definitively identify the source of Ebola, 26 years for HIV/AIDS, and 15 years for SARS.

I am not expert enough to fully evaluate each piece of evidence presented by the two sides. But right from the start, the “debate” *itself* was peculiar: It was justified by the hope that identifying the origins of COVID-19 would help us better prepare for future public health threats. As recently as November 2022, both the editorial board of the Washington Post and the editor in chief of ProPublica insisted that resolving the debate remains essential “to prevent future pandemics.” But in fact *we already knew* where the threat of future pandemics lies and how to fight them.

Over the past 50 years, the rate of outbreaks of infectious disease has more than quadrupled. At least 55 of those outbreaks have killed hundreds or thousands of people and have had the potential to become pandemic. But with only one possible exception—the “Russian flu” pandemic of 1977–78—*every single one* of these was either a previously unknown disease originating in animals (e.g., HIV/AIDS, Ebola, SARS, MERS, novel strains of flu) or an exacerbation of a previously endemic disease (e.g., dengue, malaria, cholera). Regardless of where the COVID-19 pandemic came from, it’s clear that the threat of pandemics in general comes from spillover of novel viruses from wild animals or factory-farmed animals to humans.

A pandemic *could* come from an accidental or malicious lab leak, of course. But researchers have reported that most infections resulting from lab research accidents are relatively mild. And a 2016 survey of biosafety level-three and level-four laboratories (the labs working with the most dangerous pathogens), carried out by a large, international team of scientists, concluded that “laboratory-acquired infections have been infrequent and even rare in recent years.”

The lab-leak debate, regardless of which side is right, has little to contribute to the question of where the threat of future pandemics lies or how to respond to that threat. The public health implications of the debate are already settled: Few scientists on either side would argue against the conventional wisdom that the major source of the threat of future pandemics is spillover of pathogens from animals to people. And few would argue



against the need for tight safety precautions at laboratories doing research on potentially deadly microbes.

So, why has a debate about issues that are largely of academic interest become so vitriolic? So politicized? What is the debate *really* about? Several observations suggest that it is not a scientific debate at all and is not *really* driven by concern over the origins of the pandemic.

Most mass media have reported the lab-leak debate as a bitter debate between two groups of scientists. In fact, the debate is asymmetrical. On the one side, the overwhelming weight of opinion among virologists, epidemiologists, evolutionary biologists, and other scientists with experience and expertise in studying epidemic viral diseases is that COVID reached humans directly from an animal host or hosts. Although a few such experts have supported the lab-leak side, the most prominent proponents of a lab-leak origin are journalists, economists and public policy experts, politicians, postdoctoral fellows, and more-senior scientists who lack relevant expertise or experience.

While *direct* evidence for either a lab leak or an animal origin remains lacking, the lab-leak side has relied much more heavily on purely circumstantial evidence (e.g., pointing out that the Wuhan lab and the initial outbreak of COVID-19 occurred in the same city) and speculation (e.g., arguing that certain aspects of the molecular structure of the virus “could only” have arisen through experimental manipulation, not through evolution). Their claim that the failure to identify the animal that was the source of the virus discredits the animal-origin hypothesis is spurious—again, it can take decades to identify the exact source of a disease.

Even the concept of a lab leak has been a shifting target: Initially, the concern was often that the source of SARS-CoV-2 was bioweapon research. Later, accusations flew that SARS-CoV-2 had been created by laboratory manipulation of less dangerous viruses. Other voices raised suspicions about sloppy handling of virus-bearing bats or carelessness with lab samples or problems arising in the course of testing a vaccine.

The animal-origin side, by contrast, has predominately relied on the standard tools of epidemiology and virology. These include genomic evidence, spatial and temporal and epidemiological analysis of cases of COVID-19, the existence of closely related wildlife coronaviruses, the presence of species of animals in the Wuhan wet market known to carry related coronaviruses, and studies of potential evolutionary sequences that could have led to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 in the wild.

At times, the debate has gotten nasty, with each side accusing the other of bad faith. Early on, it was common for the liberal media to call the belief that SARS-CoV-2 was a human-made virus created in the lab a conspiracy theory. Today, with most scientists dismissing that position, it is lab-leak proponents who proclaim that scientists who support the animal-origin position are guilty of a cover-up. These researchers have been “weaponizing their expertise to avoid potential accountability for their colleagues killing millions of people,” lab-leak advocate Alex Washburne has said. (Washburne is a mathematical biologist working at a private consulting firm.) They “colluded in telling the media that [the lab-leak hypothesis] was a debunked conspiracy theory,” journalist and businessman Matt Ridley wrote in the Telegraph. The National Institutes of Health’s Dr. Anthony Fauci “colluded” with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to shut down talk about the origins of COVID, the state attorneys general of Missouri and Louisiana charged in a federal court.

The debate has also been politicized right from the start. Blaming China for the pandemic has become a project of the Republican Party. As COVID-19 was shutting down businesses and schools in the U.S., then-President Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo were already insisting on China’s responsibility, despite the absence of evidence. Whether intentionally or not, the attacks on scientists and on China served the purpose of diverting attention from the Trump administration’s failure to effectively address the pandemic and, later, bashing the Biden administration for not being tough enough on China.

As more and more has become known about the virus, most scientists have concluded that the evidence points more and more strongly toward the animal-spillover theory. Republican politicians have continued to tout the lab-leak hypothesis, however. In mid-2021, for instance, top Republican lawmakers held a forum to demand



hearings on “the public health question of our time”: how the virus arose. “China lied and Americans died,” said Elise Stefanik, then the No. 3 Republican in the House of Representatives. More than a year later, in October 2022, Sen. Richard Burr, the top Republican on the Senate Health Committee, released a staff report arguing that the pandemic was “more likely than not” caused by a laboratory incident in China. And, keeping a campaign promise, no sooner had the Republicans taken control of the House in January 2023 than they commissioned a new probe into the origins of COVID-19.

The lab-leak theory has an appeal that transcends scientific evidence. People like stories that explain things that happen to us. With bad events especially, we look for a simple story with a clear villain to blame. Both the lab-leak theory and the continuing debate itself provide such stories. In fact, humans have long blamed pandemics on others.

Pandemics create uncertainty and fear, which easily turn to speculation and suspicion. Jews were blamed for the Black Death, which wiped out 40 percent of the population of Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The 1918 influenza pandemic, AIDS, SARS-1, the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, and the Zika virus all caused substantial parts of the population to believe that the diseases were somehow human-made. Why should COVID-19 be any different?

In the case of COVID-19, the primary potential villain identified by lab-leak proponents, of course, is China. The lab-leak hypothesis fits into the needs of the growing number of Americans who are hostile to China and receptive to opportunities for China-bashing. Conservative New York Times columnist Ross Douthat gleefully noted in 2021 that if it could be proved that the virus had originated in a lab leak, it would show that the whole pandemic “was basically [the Chinese] Chernobyl except their incompetence and cover-up sickened not just one of their own cities but also the entire globe.”

The lab-leak debate also plays into another narrative commonly pushed by the right: hostility to science and “experts” and to the elites that support them. The NIH’s Fauci has been an especially frequent target of right-wing enmity. Other scientists who have discussed COVID-19 in the media have become targets of harassment, intimidation, and threats from people who believe that the pandemic is a hoax, that the virus was created intentionally to cause harm, or that vaccines are dangerous. Of 510 scientists who published articles dealing with COVID-19 and who responded to a 2022 Science Magazine survey, 38 percent reported being the target of attacks ranging from insults to death threats.

Despite most qualified scientists finding the evidence for an animal origin compelling, the American public has increasingly bought into the lab-leak hypothesis. In March 2020, at the very beginning of the pandemic, only 28 percent of Americans believed that the virus had been made in a Chinese lab. By the end of 2021, the number had risen to 72 percent. As with early warnings of climate change and as with efforts to get widespread compliance with public health measures to mitigate the pandemic, “listen to the science” seems not to have worked.

If the debate is not really about how to lessen the likelihood of a future pandemic, what gives the lab-leak theory oxygen? What feeds the continued insistence on maintaining the debate? It goes deeper than a simple desire to cast blame on China. Another part of the explanation may lie in where people get information. The reports of proponents of an animal origin are, by and large, published in peer-reviewed journals such as Science, Cell, the Lancet, and Nature, which are read mainly by other scientists. While a few peer-reviewed articles by lab-leak proponents have appeared, the most widely discussed presentations of their views are in more-accessible mass-market books, lay periodicals such as Vanity Fair, the Wall Street Journal, and the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, widely reported statements by politicians and their staff, and non-peer-reviewed “preprint” journals whose conclusions have been reported uncritically by the press.

People also generally prefer simple, straightforward stories that give them a sense of control over complex ones filled with ambiguity and complexity that foster a sense of helplessness. The lab-leak story is simple. Short version: Someone in a lab in China doing research on deadly viruses screwed up. The actions to take are clear:

Blame China. Demand reparations. Tighten up regulation of laboratories doing research on disease-causing microbes. Bar gain-of-function research that *alters viruses to make them more deadly*.

The animal-origin story is much more complex: What animals are natural reservoirs for the virus? Why didn't those animals die before passing the disease on to us? What other kinds of animals did they transmit it to? How did the animal disease evolve to become deadly to humans? How did people come into contact with sick animals? Why are diseases that start in animals occurring more often and spreading more rapidly than in the past? If the disease were already in animals, why didn't people catch it sooner? Why are there reports of people who may have been ill with what was later called COVID-19, several months before the pandemic emerged? Why haven't we found animals in the Wuhan wet market with the virus? And so forth.

The answers to these questions are not simple. They lie in the complex interactions among climate change, deforestation, the growing trade in wildlife and wildlife products, factory farming, urbanization and the expansion of slums worldwide, and globalization. At best, the actions needed to address these are complex, prolonged, expensive, and disruptive to existing social and economic institutions and processes. At worst, we are left feeling helpless.

Finally, we seek explanations of events that are consistent with what we already believe about other things and with what our family, friends, and neighbors believe. Political convictions and allegiances can also bias information processing and what we believe. Conservatives are likely to agree with Republican politicians who have strongly argued for the lab-leak hypothesis and for hostility to "experts," while liberals are likely to agree with Democratic politicians, who are more likely to be concerned with issues such as global warming, loss of biodiversity, and the ethics of factory farming.

The lab-leak debate was never a scientific debate about the sources of future pandemics. What it tells us is not where COVID-19 came from, but the limits of science in informing public debate. Whether facts and theories are believed, by scientists and laypeople alike, depends not only on the "facts" (people even disagree on what constitutes a fact) but also on who is making the argument, to whom it is addressed, and how it is made visible.

Scientific debates are not simply arguments among objective scientists as they sift facts and seek the best explanations. They are messy, often quarrelsome, and political all the way down. As the late philosopher and historian of science Bruno Latour has reminded us, "Facts remain robust only when they are supported by a common culture, by institutions that can be trusted, by a more or less decent public life, by more or less reliable media."

We've been here before. Recall the climate change debate: Was the earth actually getting warmer? If so, were humans really the cause? Although almost all scientists knew the answers to these questions years ago, fossil-fuel interests portrayed it as a real scientific "debate." The result was a 30-year delay in acting on the causes of global warming, a delay that is already having disastrous consequences.

Whatever the conscious intentions of the proponents of a lab leak as the source of COVID-19, their arguments and their insistence on playing and replaying the debate have become dangerous. They shift responsibility for the U.S.' disastrous handling of the pandemic *away from* the failures of our political system, our politicians, and our health and public health systems *and to* a geopolitical rival. They are a partisan political cudgel, diverting attention from the real sources of danger of future pandemics and delaying action on what could be an existential threat to humans.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 2:43 PM

**To:** 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6); 'David Morens' (b)(6)

**Cc:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Two great articles!

**Importance:** High

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

## Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By [Sara Goudarzi](#) | January 30, 2023

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016101  
MORENS\_NIH\_033866

NIH 60767 - 002002

REL0000480387



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)

Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce “the COVID-19 misleading information policy.” The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there’s a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after

refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Sara Goudarzi:** You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

**Peter Hotez:** Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

**Goudarzi:** With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no



longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

**Hotez:** It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

**Goudarzi:** How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

**Hotez:** I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

**Goudarzi:** Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

**Hotez:** I wrote an [article](#) about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think [amazon.com](#) was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been [documented](#) by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting [paper](#) that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

**Goudarzi:** Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

**Hotez:** I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

**Goudarzi:** Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

**Hotez:** Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] [paper](#) from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money... It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been [documented](#) now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the

lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

**Goudarzi:** And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

**Hotez:** Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

**Goudarzi:** Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

**Hotez:** It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

**Goudarzi:** What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

**Hotez:** Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part

of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

**Goudarzi:** Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

**Hotez:** No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a [paper](#) in *Nature Reviews Immunology*.

You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

**Goudarzi:** Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

**Hotez:** It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18<sup>th</sup>-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

**Goudarzi:** I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

**Hotez:** I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to



make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

**Goudarzi:** But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

**Hotez:** I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

**Goudarzi:** Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

**Hotez:** I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

**Goudarzi:** Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

**Hotez:** The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

**Goudarzi:** What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

**Hotez:** I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us. And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016108  
MORENS\_NIH\_033873

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens <(b)(6)> wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)> wrote:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: <(b)(6)>

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** <(b)(6)>

<(b)(6)> | Phone: <(b)(6)> | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

<(b)(6)>

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)> wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016109  
MORENS\_NIH\_033874

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016110  
MORENS\_NIH\_033875

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of complete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura

(b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Subject:** Finally - virologists fight back!

**Importance:** High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists-science-oversight-risky-experiments>) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - <http://www.scientistsforscience.org/>) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)...

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

## Virologists defend their science as

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016111

MORENS\_NIH\_033876

# officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

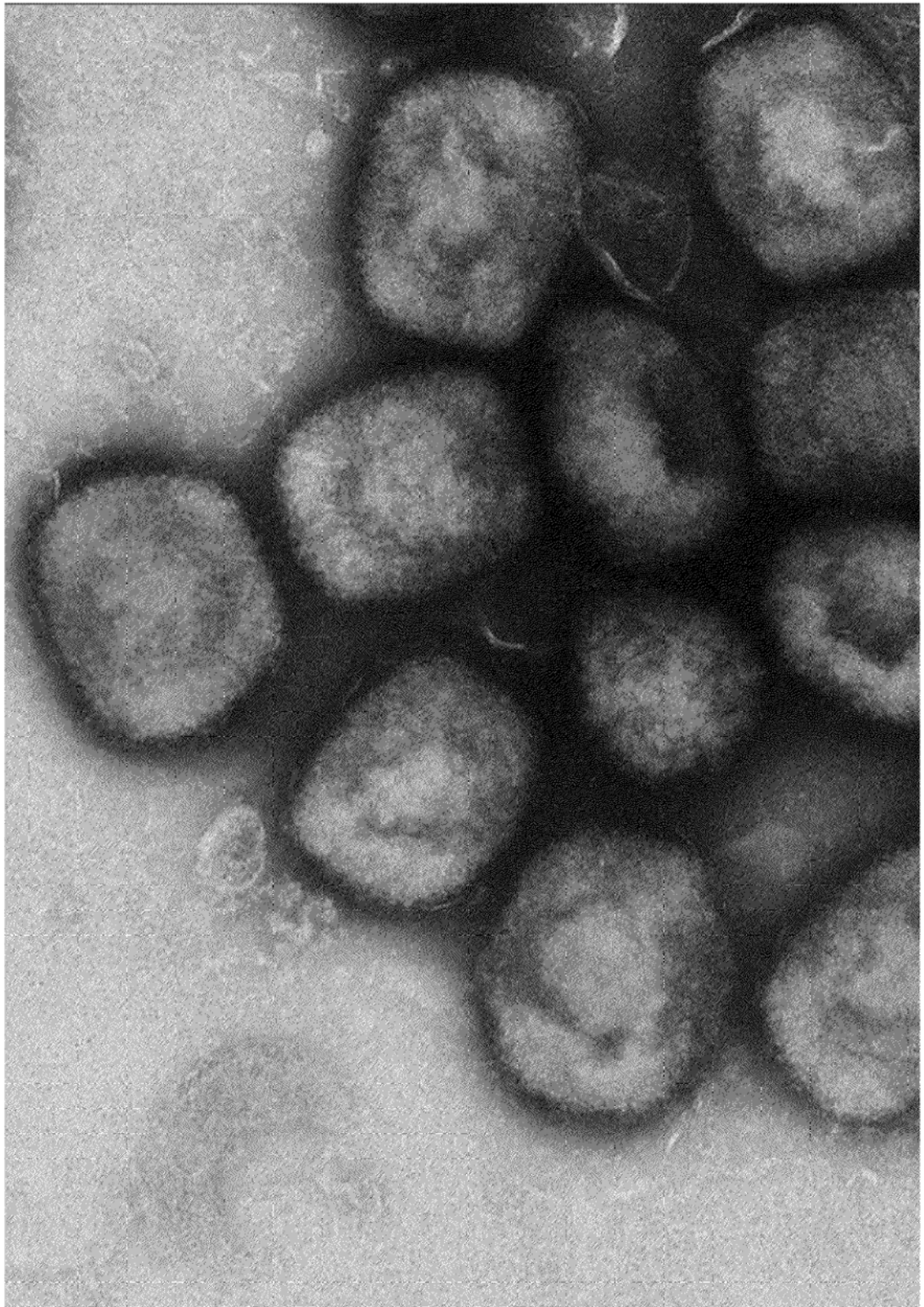


NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016112  
MORENS\_NIH\_033877

NIH 60707 - 002063

REL0000480387



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*NIAID*

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious attack.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016113  
MORENS\_NIH\_033878

NIH 60767 - 002068

REL0000480387

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

#### **Sponsor Message**

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

## **The origins of the pandemic**

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

#### **Sponsor Message**

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

## **A bird flu study raises alarm**

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.



"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

#### **Sponsor Message**

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

### **What's "Reasonably Anticipated"**

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

#### **Sponsor Message**

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."

He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory  
coronavirus research  
pathogens

Facebook  
Twitter  
Flipboard  
Email

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016116  
MORENS\_NIH\_033881

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016117  
MORENS\_NIH\_033882

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

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

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

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

Disappointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the foreseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that Scott Weaver would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientist, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum...er....Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016118  
MORENS\_NIH\_033883

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6) >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told that because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position  
That was then.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016119  
MORENS\_NIH\_033884

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist Scott Weaver from UTMB - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

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

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

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

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016120  
MORENS\_NIH\_033885

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; David Morens (b)(6); Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

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

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

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)  
(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)  
(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)  
(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)  
(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)  
iPhone

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

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

---

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016121  
MORENS\_NIH\_033886

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

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

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

As ever,  
(b)(6)

---

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

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016122  
MORENS\_NIH\_033887



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

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

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

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016123  
MORENS\_NIH\_033888

**Date:** Sun, 22 Jan 2023 7:02:22 PM -0500  
**Sent:** Sun, 22 Jan 2023 6:59:33 PM -0500  
**Subject:** RE: Morens checking in  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**CC:** Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; Rich Roberts (b)(6) (b)(6)

---

I think given the political attacks (sorry 'investigations') that have already called for NIH/HHS interviews/documents, it's probably a good move to hold off on the NIH Director for a few months at least....

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 11:50 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)> Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Morens checking in

Yes, i think we are all surprised about not filling the nih director position

My guess is that it is not high on the WH radar screen, and that it would just be picking another fight with the right wing nut jobs. Maybe they figure scientists know what they are doing even without political puppeteers. Who knows? d

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens

MORENS\_NIH\_030818

NIH 60767 - 002069

REL0000480390

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:42, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

I probably won't do that. If there was a groundswell of interest I would consider it, but my science is going well here, and for now they are not running me out of Texas. Although that could change on a dime as well. I'm surprised the White House has no urgency to fill the NIH Director's slot.

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: (b)(6)

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:34 AM, David Morens (b)(6) wrote:

PS, this may sound cynical, but by applying and letting it be known publicly, you could force them from pursuing a cover up selection

There is much concern here that a poorly qualified nih or other candidate could be selected under the radar. d

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

On Jan 21, 2023, at 11:31, David Morens (b)(6) > wrote:

I wouldn't bet on anything re Tony's position. If anyone here is in charge of anything, they are doing a great job of keeping it secret. david

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS\_NIH\_030819

NIH 60767 - 002076

REL0000480390

David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 21, 2023, at 10:33, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) > wrote:

Many thanks for that thoughtful email. Interesting times indeed! So far I've held off applying thinking they already know what they must want, etc. Warmest Peter

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

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

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

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 9:23 AM, David Morens (b)(6) wrote:

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

Yes, sadly, you are right. We are in for alot more shit

In terms of us looking for a new director, since this is not a political appointment position, niaid has much leeway in doing what we want, subject to HHS and NIH oversight/coordination, but not outright control

There seems to be secrecy around the process of finding a new director, which is not the way we have done things in the past. The job description is not what i would have written, eg, in specifying someone who is politically savvy. We have 27 IC directors here at nih and i can't recall any prior search looking for someone with political chops.

MORENS\_NIH\_030820

NIH 60707 - 002077

REL0000480390

I am afraid we could end up with a pliant nih insider rather than an outsider with strong science credentials. The model is former NCI director Harold Varmus who was perceived as too big to mess with, and used that reputation to push back against all kinds of BS

There is no guarantee that anything will happen soon. Hugh is Acting Director but is taking a hands off, just-keep-the-ship-afloat approach so far. I hope he will be more proactive, as he is smart and capable, and has alot of management expertise

But internally there is absolute silence about what if anything is happening. I know all the senior leaders here, and none are involved in any search "above board", at least. Several have implied to me that they are as much in the dark as everyone else. If so, that is not good news because it raises the possibility of a covert and possibly politically oriented process

That is one reason i encouraged you to apply: an nih outsider who has political skills and a scientific reputation, as well as skill in pushing back against the BS. If you think of all possible scientists who would be good in the job, the list is not long, or at least my list isn't. If you know anyone please urge him or her to apply asap!

david

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

On Jan 21, 2023, at 09:50, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

Thanks for the thoughtful note David, in terms of moving forward with your plan, a couple of things to keep in mind:

The GOP House Oversight and Judiciary Committees each headed by Freedom Caucus members will begin their investigative hearings this year. While Biden is the major target at some point they hope to discredit NIH, and especially NIAID. They will also target their grantees.

NIAID is looking for a new director? Will that happen soon?

Best Peter

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

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

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

MORENS\_NIH\_030821

NIH 60767 - 002072

REL0000480390

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: p.hotez

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

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

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 21, 2023, at 8:39 AM, David Morens <  
(b)(6)> wrote:

Hi all, my apologies for being out of touch; had some non fatal  
health issues and surgery yesterday morning, but should be back to  
work part time this week

There is a front page story in the Wash Post this morning about  
GOF and the NEIDL. You should all read

Since Tony stepped down 12/31, I have been mulling the  
implications for me being able to speak up more

Our deputy director, Hugh Auchincloss, is a good and reasonable  
guy, but i have not yet spoken to him about how muzzled i am  
expected to be going forward. I think the party line at nih is to be  
very fearful of the crazies in and out of congress, and in practice our  
guidelines of never speaking to the press unless approved by HHS  
or the White House remains in effect. That is why 95% of my  
interactions with the press are on background and off the record.  
(Incidentally, although i have spoken to Joel Achenbach on  
background numerous times in the past, i did not speak to him for  
today's article).

Here is how it works. Our press office knows that whereas Tony  
has the patter and nuance down pat, I will say pretty much exactly  
what i think scientifically, and therefore they do whatever they can  
ethically to cut me off from sensitive issues, knowing that HHS will  
cut me off if they don't

But I plan to sit down with Hugh and ask him to let me use my  
judgement in these issues. There is no govt reason anymore for me  
being forbidden to even speak with colleagues such as you all

MORENS\_NIH\_030822

NIH 60707 - 002079

REL0000480390

And an interesting thing happened recently that i think bodes well. As you all know, over the last 15-20 years or so i have written 40-50 scientific papers with Tony, mostly reviews and commentaries that provide springboards for him to talk to the press. Usually i propose the topics and he says yes or no.

Ever since the GOF thing broke 15 years ago, with Ron F and Yoshi K publishing their two papers on H5N1, GOF has been a no no for me/us to write about. And so far, still is a no no. Another subject that has been a no no is my conclusion that our whole scientific enterprise to make vaccines against respiratory viruses is off base scientifically, and needs to be reoriented

A few months ago, Tony surprised me by giving me the go-ahead to write a review that says as much, implicitly criticizing what we at nIH and others do in terms of vaccine development approaches. Many others at NIH told me that we dare not write that. But about 10 days ago the paper came out in Cell Host and Microbes, with Tony's name on it, and has been greeted very positively by many high level folks in and out of govt

This gives me SOME hope that us discussing GOF head on might be possible, by which i don't necessarily mean talking to the press, but by writing in science articles why it is that the whole concept of GOF is being (often willfully) misunderstood. The aim would be to have statements by govt scientists that change the terms of the dialog, ie, be more proactive rather than letting the crazies control the dialog

I wrote such a paper with Jeff Taubenberger 10 years ago, which has sat unpublished in a file cabinet ever since, and could easily resurrect it with updates addressing SARS-CoV-2....

So..... I am hoping that I will no longer be bound and gagged from from enjoying my first amendment right to speak to you all about scientific matters if importance. It's a new year and time to move forward by being more proactive

David

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

MORENS\_NIH\_030823

NIH 60707 - 002020

REL0000480390

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:16 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.jpg; image005.png

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Date:** Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 10:32 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>

LOL!

JLS

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 10:23 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004302  
MORENS\_NIH\_011282



You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

>; David Morens (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004303

MORENS\_NIH\_011283

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

**Donate** to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

E-mail:   
Twitter: [@peterhotez](#)  
Skype:   
Linkedin [Peter Hotez](#)

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)  
Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

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

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak  wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: <https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/>

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004304  
MORENS\_NIH\_011284

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

**US RTK**

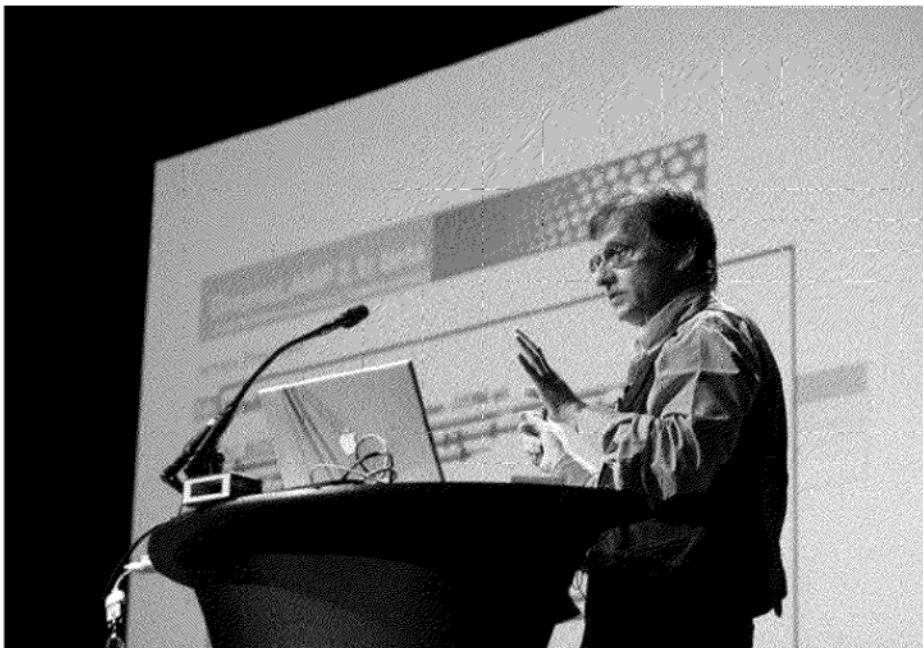
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

## Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

[Print](#)[Email](#)[Share](#)[Tweet](#)

Posted on [July 1, 2022](#) by [Emily Kopp](#)



MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004305  
MORENS\_NIH\_011285

NIH 60767 - 002028

REL0000480398

Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: [kris krüg](#))

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an archived version of the group's website shows. Lipkin has coauthored at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a [paper about novel coronaviruses](#) EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a [highly influential](#) paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the [piece is formally](#) a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the

lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicine*," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

*Nature Medicine*, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

0

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004308  
MORENS\_NIH\_011288

NIH 60767 - 002027

REL0000480398

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David Morens <

(b)(6)>

**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

<

**Date:** Fri, 20 May 2022 12:44:53 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 20 May 2022 12:42:11 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Important caveat: Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
**To:** (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**CC:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image014.jpg; image015.jpg; image016.jpg; image017.jpg; image018.jpg; image019.jpg; image020.jpg; image021.jpg; image022.jpg; image023.jpg

---

Note that I should have said on the last email – I’m not necessarily saying we *should* rebut the paper, nor am I expecting that all of you would want to be involved. I respect your views, your moral support, and your wishes to remain above the fray – that has huge benefits also!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 12:40 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); 'Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); 'David Morens' (b)(6); 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6); 'Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Potential response to the PNAS paper - initial thoughts as draft bullets  
**Importance:** High

FYI, Rich will be speaking with Jeff and I sent him some bullets on general reasons why the call for an investigation into US scientists is flawed, inappropriate and based on easily debunked narratives and simple mistakes.

I think we could draft a polite and decent rebuttal based on these. The general thrust I think should be “Why investigating US

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003587  
MORENS\_NIH\_010491



scientists is the wrong way to identify COVID-19 origins, and prevent future pandemics”. This would take the moral high ground in the same way that Peter Hotez has been doing with anti-vaxx sentiment, by talking about how damaging these narratives are on science, and scientists, and how they ultimately undermine public health.

Here is the summary I sent to Rich. I’ll continue to read the paper and identify factual inaccuracies we can correct, but maybe one of you (e.g. Peter) could build on this for a rebuttal draft? I have beaucoup references for each point I make, including peer-reviewed science that demolishes the FCS hypothesis, media articles where we refute some of the claims about our openness and data sharing, and reports that link to articles and emails that have been made public via FoIA.

Bullets for a draft rebuttal:

I think we could start on a conciliatory note that most reasonable scientists who believe the lab leak is ‘extremely unlikely’ (words of the WHO report I was involved with) also believe it is possible. Therefore, calls for further investigations into the origin (including a potential lab leak) are warranted and valid, and come from a basis of scientific inquiry that is beneficial. If a lab leak did happen, we should know, and it would benefit our defenses against future pandemics. However, we should then rapidly pivot to the main issue: that the call for an independent investigation in to US scientists and organizations that the article lays out, and many of the specific statements in it are based on flawed narratives, misunderstandings of the balance of the evidence, mistakes in interpreting the facts behind the work, and simple errors in understanding how science is conducted. Here are some key issues we could raise:

- Understanding COVID origins will require cooperation with China, not investigation of US scientists. A brief look at the history of recent emerging diseases shows that it usually takes many years to identify the reservoir hosts, the amplifier hosts, and the pathway to emergence (e.g. SARS – our paper showing bats carry SARSr-CoVs that can bind to human cells was published 12 years after the outbreak). To do this requires access to sample collection, testing and analysis within the country of origin, and cooperation with the government. Thus, investigating either a natural or a lab origin of COVID will absolutely require working with China.
- Why ‘investigating US scientists’ is already a witch hunt. The opinion piece calls for bipartisan independent commission that doesn’t engage in a ‘witch hunt’. However, we are already engaged in a witch hunt. The issue was politicized under Trump, and has led to dozens of letters from Republican members of Congress and the Senate to US scientists demanding documents and testimony, or making accusations about them to the agencies, to the DoJ, White House, and which are inevitably made public without the opportunity for US scientists to respond. Each of the allegations I have seen from Republicans against EHA are easily refuted with documentary evidence, but the volume of them, and their inflammatory nature means that responding to each is either logistically impossible, or simply amplifies these attacks. There have been NO bipartisan requests that I have seen.
- All relevant data have already been shared publicly or with the relevant govt. agencies. The article states that “EHA, UNC, NIH, USAID, and other research partners have failed to disclose their activities to the US scientific community and the US public, instead declaring that they were not involved in any experiments that could have resulted in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.” This is simply not true. Each collaborating org has published dozens of papers on this work, in US (not Chinese) journals, uploading data to US (not Chinese) databases like Genbank. All of EHA’s papers are available on our website for any member of the public to review, and have been for years. Our staff have given literally hundreds of public lectures on this work. Even after these attacks began, we continued to publish data from our China work, e.g. the 700+ CoV sequences we published and uploaded into Genbank in 2020). Lead scientists from each collaborating organization have shared all unpublished data of relevance (i.e. related to SARSr-CoVs) with the relevant federal agencies including NIH, USAID, DoD, and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies. Sharing of these data has been voluntary, extensive and honorable. This information has not been made public, because it undermines the agencies’ ability to conduct their work.
- Demanding release of private emails, files from US scientists does not help build trust in science. Demands on US scientists to release private emails, unpublished data, drafts of reports and other documents that are normally not made public does nothing to elucidate the origins of COVID. Neither does it help build trust in science at a time when our country is so divided along party lines, and where this issue has been so politicized. With social media algorithms demonstrably amplifying negative narratives, the release of private emails and drafts of later-published reports or papers, are easily used to drive and amplify these negative narratives. We have seen this played out already – with every FoIA release of emails, they are cherry-picked for partial-sentence quotes that are then misquoted, misconstrued, and published

as part of (usually) right wing hit-pieces that drive the narrative of an elite group of scientists trying to make money by manipulating viruses or vaccines. They are dangerous and lead to people avoiding vaccines. In the case of EcoHealth, the release of private documents, and the narratives around them have also demonstrably been linked to death threats, white powder letters, break-ins, and hacking attempts that we have been suffering repeatedly for the past 2.5 years.

- Inability to prove a negative: We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidentally or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. If US scientists are forced to release emails or files that these do not show any evidence of a lab leak, they will be followed by allegations that other files are being hidden, and therefore more requests for data dumps. For example, if my emails show that China was not working on a SARS-CoV-2 virus with NIH funding, they will be followed by allegations that we used other private funding to do this work (this has already been alleged), and further requests for private emails. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives.
- Furin cleavage site hypothesis is already debunked: Theories that the FCS of SARS-CoV-2 indicates lab manipulation have been widely circulated for 2 years and repeatedly debunked by leading virologists. Firstly, there is nothing novel about a wild-type virus having an FCS – they are found in influenza where they enhance virulence, and in other CoVs, including MERS-CoV, and a Rat coronavirus we discovered in China, in wildlife farms, hotels and train stations and published during 2021. There are now peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating that bat-CoVs closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have mutations around the site where the FCS in SARS-CoV-2 is found, that are a few mutations away from a true FCS, indicating that this could have easily evolved in nature. These mutations around the polybasic cleavage site are found in many of the viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 from SE Asia, and in CoVs from European bats. Other theories about the FCS being incredibly efficient at binding to human cells, or being enhanced easily in a lab, have been refuted in these and other papers.
- Inappropriate legal basis to investigate scientists when no evidence of a lab leak has been proffered: At the moment, it is a fact that there's simply no verifiable evidence whatsoever that a lab leak occurred leading to COVID-19. We have accusations from Secretary Pompeo that people at WIV were sick from COVID in November 2019, but these are allegedly classified. We have stories about the motivations of Chinese scientists in pulling down a database, not citing papers correctly, or removing genomic data from Genbank, but all of these (and all others) can be easily explained by the normal process of doing science, and each of them has occurred many times before with other labs and other circumstances. Many of us, and many other leading scientists have spent countless hours explaining why the theories around lab leaks do not amount to "evidence of a lab leak". Without this it would be massively inappropriate for federal authorities, including the OIG, the FBI or other agencies to launch official investigations into US scientists or US organizations. That's why they haven't, and that's why the public haven't been informed of any investigations.

In addition to these issues, there are multiple factual inaccuracies in the paper that are extremely important, because some of them are used to provide justification for the lab leak theory. For example, here is an inexhaustive list, just by looking at half of one page of the paper:

- "The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the United States and China, *has not been disclosed for independent analysis.*" ***This is not true because details of field and laboratory work have been published repeatedly in scientific papers in the last 15 years, in reports to NIH and USAID, and are laid out in proposals that include pages of details on human subjects, animal use, biosafety and select agent use etc. These are all now public.***
- "Much of the work on SARS-like CoVs performed in Wuhan was part of an active and highly collaborative US-China scientific research program funded by the US Government (NIH, *Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA]*, and US Agency for International Development [USAID]), coordinated by researchers at EcoHealth Alliance (EHA), but involving researchers at several other US institutions." ***False - DoD DTRA do not and have not funded work in China through EHA. This is an easily verified issue, and is a mistake that causes damage because conspiracy theorists globally are on the lookout for linkages to DoD, which leads to damaging narratives such as the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy theories. The way to check this is that DTRA are NEVER cited on any publication resulting from the work in China.***
- "The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, *including the full array of viruses collected from the field*

and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, *remains unknown.*” **Not true. It is a widely circulated myth that our work involved ‘collection of hundreds of viruses from bats’. In fact, there were only 3 isolates of SARSr-CoVs from our work. All of these have been published and some shared with labs in the USA where they were used to test Remdesivir, Molnupiravir, COVID-19 vaccine candidates and monoclonal therapies like ADG20. This work has had a direct benefit to public health and has saved lives of US citizens!**

- “These research proposals make clear that the EHA-WIV-UNC collaboration was involved in the collection of a large number of so-far undocumented SARS-like viruses and was engaged in their manipulation within biological safety level (BSL)-2 and BSL-3 laboratory facilities, raising concerns that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker (9)” **Not true – there were only 3 SARS-related CoVs isolated in China. All the rest are genetic sequences of a short read of the RdRp gene, with a few dozen full genomes. It’s documented repeatedly in the scientific papers we published in collaboration with WIV, in mainly US journals, all of which are available publicly on PubMed and on our website. All sequences were uploaded into the US Genbank database and have been freely available for other scientists to peruse and use.**

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 8:13 AM  
**To:** ' (b)(6) 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6) 'David Morens' (b)(6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6)  
Aleksi Chmura (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

I don't think PNAS would retract – Sachs is well-known, and this paper will be cited, so it's good for business.

We could ask them to correct, but I think Peter's idea is a good one – a response that's carefully worded, that corrects the errors, and explains why the general approach of investigating scientists based on no evidence would be flawed and damaging to medical progress.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003590  
MORENS\_NIH\_010494

I'm sending some bullets to Rich this morning and will share them with you as a start to addressing some of the errors.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 7:15 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter: I think a response along the lines you suggest would be a good idea. Sachs's piece is so egregious it shouldn't be allowed to stand. Perhaps even better would be a sharp letter to the editor(s) of PNAS explaining why a retraction is necessary. As you and Peter D point out, his argument is based on a number of readily refuted erroneous assertions – it's surprising that PNAS would have published it in the first place.

As ever,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 7:09 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003591  
MORENS\_NIH\_010495

Potentially we could write a response or a commentary piece in PNAS refuting the nonsense, one that begins with the talking points in my Twitter thread.

There is also suggestion from a Nature article that even SARS 1 exhibited some degree of furin cleavage but that with SARS 2 it accelerated and of course evolved even further with alpha then delta to make it more transmissible.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02039-y>

I could have added that as well. The point is it's not an all or none phenomenon as the Sachs article suggests. He wrote an awful paper that needs to be retracted.

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail:

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype:

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support:

Phone:

Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003592

MORENS\_NIH\_010496

iPhone

On May 19, 2022, at 9:13 PM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

I appreciate that Rich.

I understand his motivations – he believes that all data should be put forward because the pandemic makes this an emergency and unprecedented global concern. However, there is no getting away from the fact that there's simply no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, so no matter how much data or emails I and other labs are forced to turn over, it will never disprove the negative. We can't prove that China didn't release a virus accidentally or by design – that's the nature of scientific hypothesis testing. Meanwhile, every email, report or unpublished paper I'm forced to turn over is used over and over again by the political forces to attack science – misquoting, using innuendo and assumptions of motives. It's a naïve argument from Jeff Sachs at best, and one based on a series of easily refutable errors in black and white, in his paper.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]

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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:34 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003593  
MORENS\_NIH\_010497

Cc: David Morens; (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

Peter:

Thanks. I intend to take this up with Jeff.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:41 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Peter Hotez' tweet and Jamie Metzl's

EXTERNAL SENDER

This might work to see the tweet – it won't take you to Twitter – it's on a webpage now

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527398466305105921.html>

and here's Jamie Metzl's commentary – says it's a 'critically important new opinion piece'!!

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1527404374804287495.html>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003594  
MORENS\_NIH\_010498

NIH 60767 - 002096

REL0000480403

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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:48 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >

**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

Peter:

I don't do Twitter. Can someone send me Peter's piece please?

Thanks

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:41 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just read it now Peter – it's already getting amplified. Extremely glad you did this.

The response from virologists on the furin cleavage site garbage in his PNAS piece will be pretty damning...it's been discussed, debated and debunked for 2 years now!

Meanwhile, the witch hunt continues...

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003595  
MORENS\_NIH\_010499

NIH 60767 - 002097

REL0000480403



**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:36 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs causing trouble via a PNAS article

I just put out a thread on Twitter to point out why Jeff's article does not hold much water even on scientific grounds

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

Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#)

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#)

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

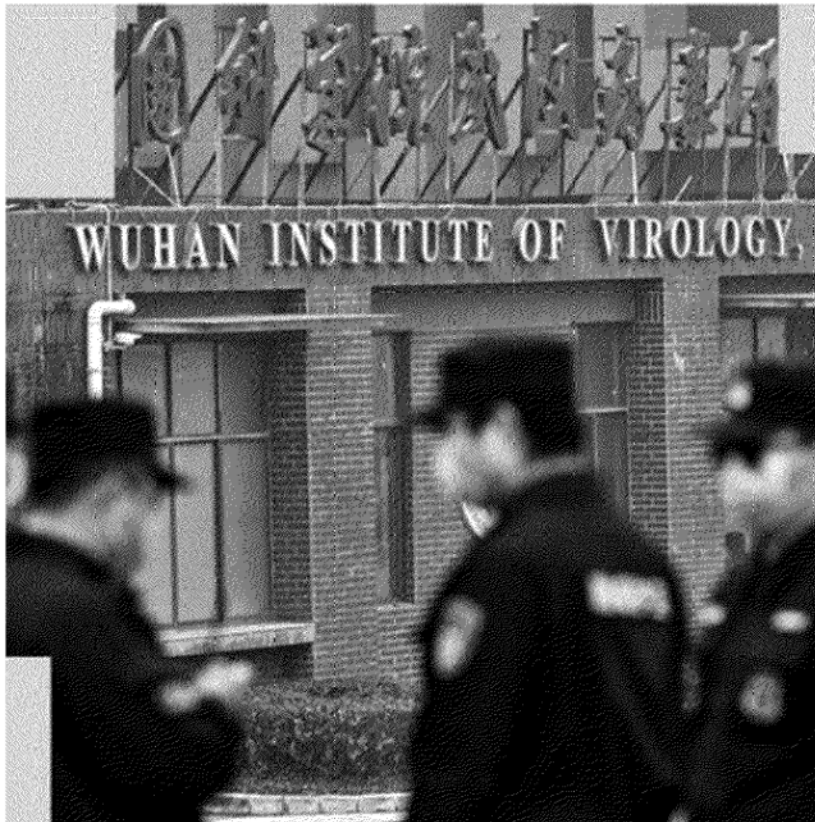
E-mail: (b)(6)

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

Skype: (b)(6)

LinkedIn [Peter Hotez](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003596  
MORENS\_NIH\_010500



Related

### **The Lab-Leak Theory Is Looking Stronger by the Day. Here's What We Know.**

“The sequence encoding the FCS of the pandemic virus contained two consecutive CGG arginine codons,” Ebright explained in his email. (A codon, or a combination of three nucleotides, supplies the genetic code for a single amino acid, though most amino acids can be represented by multiple different codons. Each nucleotide is represented by a letter — for RNA, either A, C, U, or G.) “This codon usage is unusual for a natural bat SARS-related coronaviruses (for which fewer than 1 in 30 arginine codons are CGG) but is optimal for humans (for which most arginine codons are CGG codons).”

Still, Ebright said that at first he didn’t see the identical amino acid sequences as particularly suspicious. “I had known for more than a year that there was a perfect match to an eight-amino acid sequence present in human ENaC. What I had not known was that the sequence was known to be a functional furin cleavage site and that it was a sequence extensively studied at UNC,” he said. “The crucial point that the ENaC sequence was a known functional site, not just that there happens to be a match to a protein that happens to be in humans. ... That suddenly turned it from

what I thought to be largely irrelevant to being a logical and obvious choice to proceed.”

Ralph Baric and the University of North Carolina did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



The Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, China, on June 24, 2021.

Photo: Kyodo via AP Images

## Name Calling

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003608  
MORENS\_NIH\_010512

NIH 60767 - 002400

REL0000480403

Other scientists dismiss the idea that the ENaC sequence might have been purposefully inserted into a coronavirus. Scientists who are already convinced that the new coronavirus emerged naturally are unlikely to be persuaded by Sachs and Harrison's article, which appears in the opinion section of the esteemed journal. Over the past year, many scientists involved in the debate over the origins of the pandemic have settled into an increasingly acrimonious, coarse, and unyielding opposition.

Some proponents of the natural origin theory became particularly dismissive of those open to the possibility of a lab leak after the February release of two pre-print studies mapping the early spread of the virus at the Huanan market in Wuhan. Angela Rasmussen, one of a team of virologists who worked on the project, described it on Twitter as "dispositive evidence of a zoonotic origin" that will "drive those with personal interest in the lab leak hypothesis out of their goddam minds." In another tweet, Rasmussen referred to proponents of the lab-leak theory as a "pack of ghouls, who through gullibility, stupidity, & conspiracist thinking have decided this is their thing despite zero expertise."

Although the pre-prints had not been peer-reviewed and may have simply illustrated the spread of the virus rather than its original outbreak, the New York Times ran a front-page story about them that quoted an epidemiologist as saying that the origins debate "has been settled with a very high degree of evidence." The story, which was announced by a push notification from the paper, also noted a lack of direct evidence for a lab leak.

Meanwhile, Kristian Andersen, another co-author of the pre-prints and a virologist at the well-regarded Scripps Research Institute, used the "poop" emoji to criticize a deeply researched article by Katherine Eban about EcoHealth Alliance. On Twitter, Andersen tarred Eban, New York Times columnist Zeynep Tufekci, and others reporting on biosafety issues that could have led to the release of SARS-CoV-2 as "deep in conspiracy theories" and on the other side of "a clear split" from journalists who dismiss the possibility of a lab origin, whom Andersen referred to as "science-based."

Even some scientists who have been vocal about the possibility that the pandemic may have been sparked by research have expressed skepticism about the theory suggested by Harrison and Sachs. "I'm sure that these authors believe in their own hypothesis and arguments, but to me, it's not one that is particularly convincing," said Alina Chan, a scientist who laid

out a number of possible routes for how the coronavirus might have emerged through research-related incidents in her recent book “Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19.”

**“There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”**

While she is open to the possibility that the furin cleavage site might have been purposefully inserted into the coronavirus, Chan said there was no reason to think that researchers would mine humans for such material. “These scientists literally had access to hundreds of SARS-like viruses and sequences,” said Chan, referring to the vast collection of coronaviruses from bats and other animals that researchers amassed at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. “There’s no need for them to go hunting inside the human protein catalogue to look for cleavage sites to put into viruses.”

Jack Nunberg, a virologist at the University of Montana, was also not immediately persuaded by the theory of engineering suggested by Sachs and Harrison. “It’s possible,” Nunberg said of the idea that the ENaC segment was inserted into a bat coronavirus as part of research designed to gauge the pandemic potential of a virus. “But I don’t find their evidence on ENaC compelling because furin cleavage sites have a lot of common amino acids, and therefore it may just have happened by chance.”

Others say that the article adds noteworthy information to the public conversation about the origins of the pandemic. “The defenders of the natural origin indicate that the virus on which this type of experiment could have been done — the backbone — has never been published and that specialists in the furin cleavage sites would have chosen a more commonly used furin cleavage site like RARR rather than PRRAR. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences article contradicts this argument and indicates that specialists knew that the RRAR’SVAS site was efficiently cleaved by furin,” Etienne Decroly, director of virology research at the Aix-Marseille Université in France, wrote in an email to The Intercept.

Decroly added, “It is impossible to decide on the basis of the information currently available and it is urgent that the WHO Special Advisory Group

for the Origins of Novel Pathogens investigate this question.”

On the suggestion of an investigation, Nunberg is in agreement. “You can’t argue with that,” he told The Intercept. “Who’s going to argue for burying one’s head in the sand?”

For their part, Sachs and Harrison emphasize that they’re not saying laboratory manipulation was involved in the emergence of the pandemic virus, only “that it could have been.” They also give a nod to other possibilities, including that an airborne virus might have infected a laboratory worker. Rather than argue that any of these conceivable scenarios happened, they present the clues of the matching amino acid sequences to argue for an independent and transparent scientific investigation of the U.S.-based evidence related to the origins of the virus.

Among the institutions that Sachs and Harrison list as possibly having “knowledge of the detailed activities that were underway in Wuhan and in the United States” are the National Institutes of Health; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, which has provided grant funding to EcoHealth Alliance; the Department of Homeland Security; DARPA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, which funded the \$200 million PREDICT program that catalogued potential pandemic viruses; and the University of California, Davis, which participated in that program.

The authors suggest that EcoHealth Alliance and UNC may have particularly important untapped resources. “The exact details of the fieldwork and laboratory work of the EHA-WIV-UNC partnership, and the engagement of other institutions in the US and China, has not been disclosed for independent analysis,” they write. “The precise nature of the experiments that were conducted, including the full array of viruses collected from the field and the subsequent sequencing and manipulation of those viruses, remains unknown.”





Peter Daszak, one of the members of the World Health Organization team investigating the origins of the Covid-19, on a balcony at a hotel in Wuhan, China, on Feb. 6, 2021.

Photo: Hector Retamal/AFP via Getty Images

## A Reversal

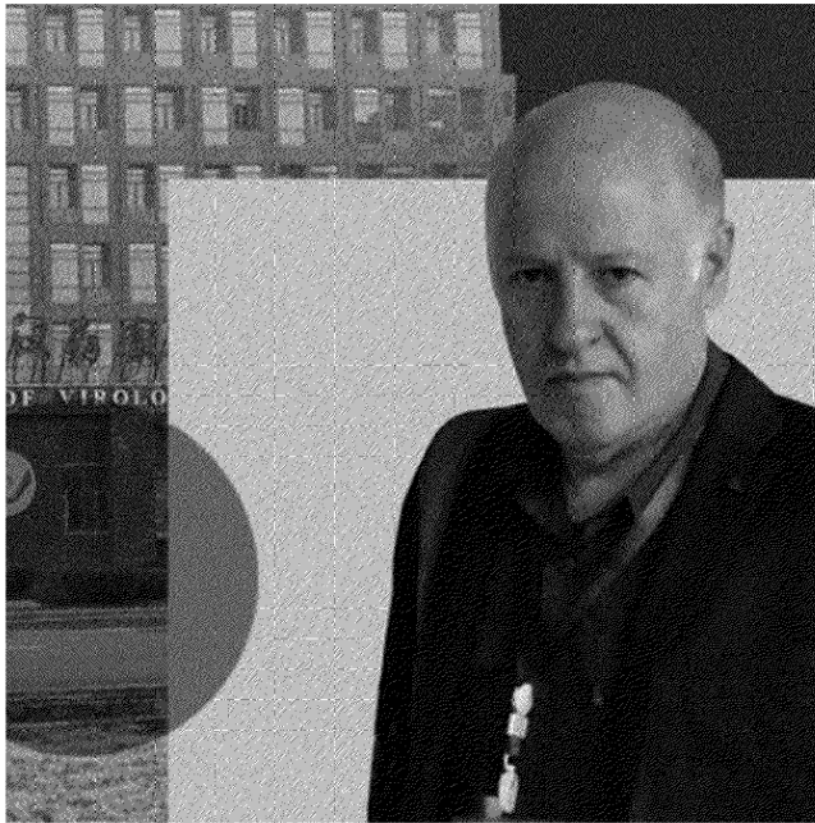
The publication in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences marks a reversal of sorts for Sachs, the chair of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission who, in November 2020, appointed Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, to lead a task force to investigate the origins of the pandemic. Earlier that year, Daszak had signed on to a

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003612  
MORENS\_NIH\_010516

NIH 60767 - 002408

REL0000480403

public statement published in The Lancet on behalf of scientists who said they “condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin.”



Related

### **Peter Daszak Answers Critics and Defends Coronavirus Research**

Yet that early certainty about the pandemic’s origins — and the sense of shared civic responsibility among members of the Lancet task force — soon disintegrated. In February 2021, emails revealed that Daszak coordinated the public statement in The Lancet tamping down suspicions of a lab leak. And by June 2021, Sachs was expressing his openness to the possibility of a lab origin, writing that NIH-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology “deserves scrutiny under the hypothesis of a laboratory-related release of the virus.” Three months later, he disbanded the task force that had been organized to “carefully scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus” in the hopes of preventing future disease outbreaks, explaining that he had concerns that several members of the commission had conflicts of interest because of their ties to EcoHealth Alliance.

After leading the mainstream scientific inquiry into the origins of the



pandemic, Sachs is now skewering it. “A steady trickle of disquieting information has cast a darkening cloud over the agency,” he and Harrison write of the NIH, going on to accuse the entire federal government of not doing enough to explore the possible role of its grantees in the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and investigate “overlooked details” such as the matching amino acid sequences.

Noting that the NIH has insisted that “the pandemic virus could not have resulted from the work sponsored by” the agency, Sachs and Harrison write that “blanket denials from the NIH are no longer good enough.”

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:15 PM  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Jeffrey (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

It's all so convoluted I can even understand it. We'll see if they pick Mary Klotman from Duke to be next NIH Director. I know her quite well, her husband is Baylor President and my boss.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003614  
MORENS\_NIH\_010518

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

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail:

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype:

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)

Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support:

Phone:

Fax:

iPhone

On May 11, 2022, at 6:39 PM, David Morens  wrote:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003615

MORENS\_NIH\_010519

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

---

Yes, i know. I fail to understand why our nih leaders keep forming circular firing squads. one thing is for sure: in recent times nih has suffered abysmal leadership

It wasn't like that in the Varmus years. He didn't suffer any political fools no matter how high up, and was comfortable giving them all a big middle finger. d

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

On May 11, 2022, at 18:37, Peter Daszak wrote:

(b)(6)

This is an utterly ridiculous set of BS. Jesse Bloom is the person driving it – he buys into the lab leak theory and found that some folks from WIV uploaded partial genomes early on, then added a bunch of more complete ones, and asked for the partial sequences to be removed. Absolutely normal, but he's trying to turn it into a 'mystery'.

Of course, NIH makes it all worse by not releasing emails, redacting critical parts of them, and failing to explain why they follow the wishes of the submitter re. Genbank. It's perfectly logical really – if NIH now starts releasing sequences you as a submitter asked them to remove for whatever reason, submitters will think twice about using Genbank. We already have China working with its own database and all this BS will make them twice-shy about submitting.

Even worse, Tabak now says that 'don't worry, we still have the data on back up tapes' so everyone now knows that NIH keeps the stuff you thought they agreed to delete, and no doubt has already handed it over to the FBI and the CIA.

It's a conspiracy, wrapped within an enigma, encapsulating a riddle....

PS – heres a cracker of an email from an NIH press office (?) person at O/D ripping into a journalist (Carl Zimmer) who wanted information on the 'missing' china sequences. Now it turns out that US submitters also deleted early COVID genomes...even more reason for the public to not trust scientists...:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003616  
MORENS\_NIH\_010520

NIH 60707 - 002442

REL0000480403



**From:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]  
**To:** Carl Zimmer; Wojtowicz, Er  
**Cc:** Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Query from New Yo  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021

---

Hi Carl:

I saw your story. Just noting that it isn  
was withdrawn. Also, it didn't disappe  
I know that Dr. Bloom is making the m  
reporters not hype language.

Also, just to clarify, NLM conducted ar  
packages were withdrawn upon requ  
included one requested by the submit  
the U.S.

1

Thanks,  
Renate

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003617  
MORENS\_NIH\_010521

NIH 60707 - 002449

REL0000480403

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:47 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
(b)(6) peter hotez (b)(6) Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Wed, May 11, 2022 at 4:54 PM  
**Subject:** FW: NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)

---

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003618  
MORENS\_NIH\_010522

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 4:12 PM

**To:** NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>

**Subject:** NY Post: NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

## NIH director confirms agency hid early COVID genes at request of Chinese scientists

By

Steven Nelson

May 11, 2022 3:47pm



National Institutes of Health acting director Lawrence Tabak confirmed to lawmakers Wednesday that US health officials concealed early genomic sequences of COVID-19 at the request of Chinese scientists — but insisted the data remains on file.

Tabak told a House Appropriations subcommittee that the NIH “eliminated from public view” the data from the pandemic epicenter in Wuhan, China, before adding that researchers can still access it via an archaic “tape drive.” Vanity Fair recently reported that the information was hidden in response to a request from Chinese scientists, despite potentially resolving whether the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology or passed naturally from animals to humans.

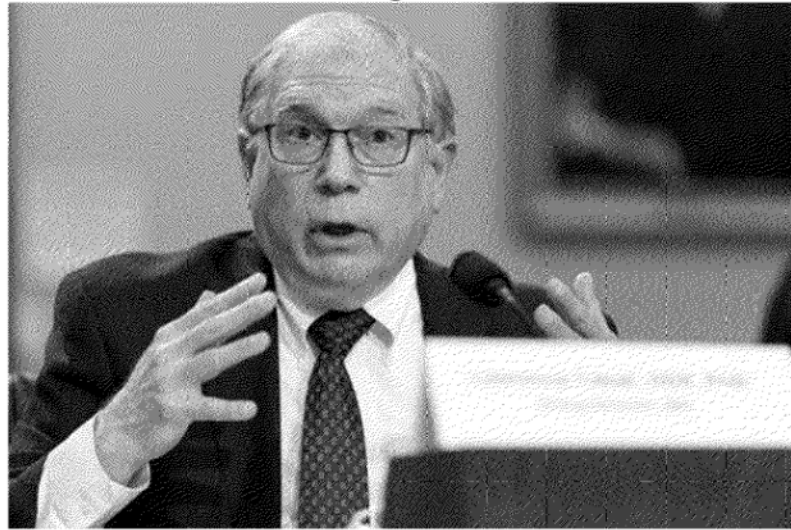
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) asked Tabak to explain why US officials would comply with such a request.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003619  
MORENS\_NIH\_010523

NIH 60767 - 002455

REL0000480403

“There’s no question that the communication that we had about the sequence archive — Sequence Read Archive — could have been improved. I freely admit that,” Tabak said. “If I may, the archive never deleted the sequence, it just did not make it available for interrogation.”



Lawrence Tabak, acting director of the National Institutes of Health, testifies on May 11. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

“So wait, you have the information still?” Beutler followed up.

“We have the information ... Anybody who submits to the Sequence Read Archive is allowed to ask for it to be removed,” Tabak explained. “And that investigator did do that. But we never erase it.”

“So you don’t have the information anymore?” Beutler asked.

“We do. We never erase the information. We keep it,” Tabak clarified.

“So they were able to withdraw public viewing of it?” the congresswoman followed up.

“That’s correct,” he said.

“OK, so researchers can apply to the NIH and get the information from you?” Beutler asked.

“In the way that it was originally eliminated from public view, it was withdrawn, and that’s the most difficult for people to access,” Tabak replied. “The error that was made, and we found this out after a review of all of our processes, was it should have been suppressed. The distinction being that if it’s withdrawn, it is kept archivally on a tape drive — old technology, but that’s how it’s done. But when it is withdrawn, it can still be accessed by accession number, and so researchers are able to access that information.”



Security personnel keep watch outside Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the World Health Organization on Feb. 3, 2021. Thomas Peter/REUTERS

“So the information is still there?” Beutler summed up.

“That’s correct. The information was never lost,” Tabak repeated.

In a March 31 article, Vanity Fair reported that evolutionary biologist Jesse Bloom discovered last year that early COVID-19 sequences had disappeared from a federally run data repository.

When Bloom raised the issue, he was reportedly ganged up on by a group of researchers assembled by then-NIH Director Francis Collins and infectious disease institute head Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Bloom shared a draft academic paper with Collins and Fauci, who allegedly objected on a June 2021 Zoom video conference to Bloom’s description of Chinese scientists “surreptitiously” removing the sequences. Fauci said the word was “loaded” and implied a coverup, the report said.

Evolutionary biologist Kristian Andersen, who was selected to participate on the call by Collins, allegedly told Bloom that the Wuhan team had a right to claw back early pandemic information and that it was unethical for Bloom to question it.





Tabak noted that while the request for information to be removed was honored, it was not erased fully. ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

Andersen allegedly went so far as to offer to delete Bloom's article from a "preprint" server "in a way that would leave no record that this had been done." China's government has refused to cooperate with an international investigation of the origins of the pandemic. The COVID-19 virus has killed about 1 million Americans since March 2020 and caused massive social, economic and educational disruptions.

The US intelligence community said in an August report that it's possible the virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, calling the theory one of two "plausible" explanations along with natural transmission from animals.



Lawrence Tabak confirmed Wednesday that early genomic sequences of COVID-19 were concealed at the request of Chinese specialists. Jacquelyn Martin/AP

President Biden rarely speaks publicly about wanting China to be transparent about the origins of the pandemic. Former President Donald Trump, by contrast, has demanded that China pay \$10 trillion in reparations.

The Biden administration is considering undoing some of Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods "separately" from US pressure for coronavirus transparency, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told The Post on Monday.

Documents published in September by The Intercept revealed that US health officials indirectly funded so-called "gain of function" research at the Wuhan lab — including the modification three bat coronaviruses distinct from COVID-19 and the discovery that they became much more infectious among "humanized" mice when human-type receptors were added to them.

**Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.**

#### Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Disclaimer

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003623  
MORENS\_NIH\_010527

NIH 60767 - 002459

REL0000480403

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003624**  
**MORENS\_NIH\_010528**

**NIH 60767 - 002426**

**REL0000480403**

**Date:** Thu, 20 Apr 2023 7:57:26 AM -0400

**Sent:** Thu, 20 Apr 2023 7:57:15 AM -0400

**Subject:** Re: [The Washington Post] White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David  
Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Why WaPo used that topic to attack unfairly EcoHealth is ridiculous, part of their new agenda?

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

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

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

**Baylor University,** University Professor

**Rice University,** Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Apr 20, 2023, at 6:53 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) > wrote:

White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

The National Institutes of Health has not had a permanent director since December 2021, when its longtime leader stepped down.

By Laurie McGinley and Dan Diamond

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/19/nih-director-monica-bertagnolli/>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005204  
MORENS\_NIH\_013169

NIH 60767 - 002427

REL0000480404

Download [The Washington Post](#) app.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/19/nih-director-monica-bertagnolli/>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [\(b\)\(6\)](#)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[\(b\)\(6\)](#) | Phone: [\(b\)\(6\)](#) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[\(b\)\(6\)](#)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005205  
MORENS\_NIH\_013170

NIH 60707 - 002422

REL0000480404

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:03 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 12:59:17 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 3:13 PM  
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >, Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >, David Morens (b)(6) >, Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

Yes troubling and they have money and now political power

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010357  
MORENS\_NIH\_020867

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 1:02 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) > wrote:

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010358  
MORENS\_NIH\_020868

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; David Morens  
(b)(6) >; Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio  
<J\_Sturchio@msn.com>; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,  
Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams,  
Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG  
high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010359  
MORENS\_NIH\_020869



Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

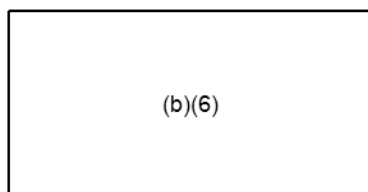
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:



iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) > wrote:

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

---

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a  
stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is  
simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing  
'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the  
Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just  
probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still,  
pretty disturbing to read...

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010360  
MORENS\_NIH\_020870

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bfba49527cc4258aae608db8a0bec48%7C14b77578977342d5851&sdata=sfjUVVUanjc9cWCTV5gQmR40NF9zRSioD6JM5jU4AJI%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >; Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Rich Roberts (b)(6) >  
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010361  
MORENS\_NIH\_020871

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2F%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla  
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bfba49527cc4258aae608db8a0bec48%7C14b77578977342d585d  
&sdata=uUH8OHejarsizLqr1pDJp1yGILKgr425GkylJago%2BMQ%3D &reserved=0

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010362  
MORENS\_NIH\_020872

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010363  
MORENS\_NIH\_020873

NIH 60707 - 002409

REL0000480406

**Date:** Fri, 1 Mar 2024 7:56:40 AM -0500

**Sent:** Fri, 1 Mar 2024 7:56:33 AM -0500

**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance Benefit April 18th

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

**To:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)

**CC:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Steve Bauder (b)(6) John Feigelson (b)(6);

Dear All,

Just wanted to let you know that we have our annual benefit in New York on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

The theme is "Green planet, One Health" to support our work linking ecology to health issues. We're honoring the Climate Change scientist Michael Mann, who like many others in that field has been attacked politically, in the press, and in the real world for his work. He recently hit the news because he won a defamation suit against a second rate journalist who published particularly heinous stories about him and his work.

You are all invited, and a guest, without cost. We can't pay the travel costs, but if you're able to be in New York that night, it would be great to see you.

John and Steve will follow up with a save-the-date email.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:16 AM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6)

**MORENS\_NIH\_047218**

NIH 60707 - 002466

REL0000480407

**Date:** Thu, 20 Apr 2023 7:57:26 AM -0400

**Sent:** Thu, 20 Apr 2023 7:57:15 AM -0400

**Subject:** Re: [The Washington Post] White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David  
Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Why WaPo used that topic to attack unfairly EcoHealth is ridiculous, part of their new agenda?

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Apr 20, 2023, at 6:53 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) > wrote:

White House plans to nominate cancer center chief to lead NIH

The National Institutes of Health has not had a permanent director since December 2021, when its longtime leader stepped down.

By Laurie McGinley and Dan Diamond

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/19/nih-director-monica-bertagnolli/>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005204  
MORENS\_NIH\_013169

NIH 60767 - 002407

REL0000480404

Download [The Washington Post app](#).

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/19/nih-director-monica-bertagnolli/>

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005205  
MORENS\_NIH\_013170

NIH 60767 - 002402

REL0000480404

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:00:03 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 12:59:17 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
Date: Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 3:13 PM  
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >, Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >, David Morens (b)(6) >, Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

Yes troubling and they have money and now political power

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010357  
MORENS\_NIH\_020867



Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 1:02 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) > wrote:

Awful – and so disappointing that these people live among us and vote.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010358  
MORENS\_NIH\_020868

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2022 1:53 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; David Morens  
(b)(6) >; Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio  
<J\_Sturchio@msn.com>; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak,  
Bourla, Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams,  
Kieran, Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG  
high!

EXTERNAL SENDER

This week I had some of the lead antivaxxers: Robert Malone, Peter Koury, Peter McCullough, and Steve Kirsch all hang up on me with online harassment. Now a new round of death threats. It never ends

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010359  
MORENS\_NIH\_020869

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

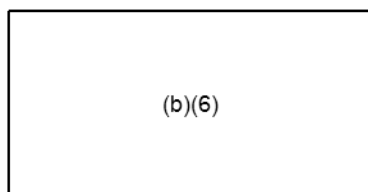
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:



iPhone

On Dec 31, 2022, at 12:17 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) > wrote:

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

---

Not pleasant reading but thanks for sharing this link. It's a  
stream-of-consciousness diatribe that makes you think this guy is  
simply mentally ill, but actually he's a well-known right wing  
'influencer', appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast, member of the  
Brownstone Institute and regular on other outlets. In the end, just  
probably a sad lonely person looking for outside validation. Still,  
pretty disturbing to read...

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010360  
MORENS\_NIH\_020870

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bfba49527cc4258aae608db8a0bec48%7C14b77578977342d5851&sdata=sfjUVVUanjc9cWCTV5gQmR40NF9zRSioD6JM5jU4AJI%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2022 2:16 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >;  
Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
Rich Roberts (b)(6) >  
Subject: Fauci, Birx, Francis Collins, Baric, Azar, Daszak, Bourla,  
Bancel, Jha, Njoo, Theresa Tam, Walensky, Doug Ford, Williams, Kieran,  
Marks, de Villa, Jüni, Hotez, Tedros, CDC, FDA officials, HANG high!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010361  
MORENS\_NIH\_020871

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpalexander.substack.com%2Fp%2Ffauci-birx-francis-collins-azar-bourla  
&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C9bfba49527cc4258aae608db8a0bec48%7C14b77578977342d585d  
&sdata=uUH8OHejarsizLqr1pDJp1yGILKgr425GkylJago%2BMQ%3D &reserved=0

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010362  
MORENS\_NIH\_020872

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010363  
MORENS\_NIH\_020873

NIH 60707 - 002429

REL0000480406

**Date:** Fri, 1 Mar 2024 7:56:40 AM -0500

**Sent:** Fri, 1 Mar 2024 7:56:33 AM -0500

**Subject:** EcoHealth Alliance Benefit April 18th

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

**To:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)

**CC:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Steve Bauder (b)(6) John Feigelson (b)(6);

Dear All,

Just wanted to let you know that we have our annual benefit in New York on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

The theme is "Green planet, One Health" to support our work linking ecology to health issues. We're honoring the Climate Change scientist Michael Mann, who like many others in that field has been attacked politically, in the press, and in the real world for his work. He recently hit the news because he won a defamation suit against a second rate journalist who published particularly heinous stories about him and his work.

You are all invited, and a guest, without cost. We can't pay the travel costs, but if you're able to be in New York that night, it would be great to see you.

John and Steve will follow up with a save-the-date email.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:16 AM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6)

**MORENS\_NIH\_047218**

NIH 60707 - 002436

REL0000480407

Jeff Sturchio (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Some comments from me for Jeffrey Sachs

How I wish I could be a white face hornet on the wall for that exchange.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2024, at 3:02 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Peter et al.:

Thanks for all the suggestions re Jeff Sachs. I guess I will have to play it by ear, but I will make sur he knows that I think he is really crazy (and stupid) on this issue. Given his lack of expertise in the area, I will likely use that as the main issue to start with.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

**Sent:** Saturday, February 24, 2024 4:22 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** Keith Martin (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)

David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Some comments from me for Jeffrey Sachs

**Importance:** High

EXTERNAL SENDER

I hope you give him a piece of my mind Rich. One of the problems with people who've bought into these conspiracies is that the narratives are so well practiced and set in stone that I suspect he'll just come back at you with a load of 'facts' that are demonstrably false, but so complex that they can only be refuted by those who've spent time to find the evidence and answers.

I'm attaching a Q&A document that we prepared last year re. most of the allegations that people raise against EHA – I hope it helps, but you can see the complexity of the garbage we have to respond to.

Jeff Sachs is clearly in at the deep end, given that he believes the US blew up the Nordstream pipeline, as well as various COVID origin conspiracies. However, he will likely proffer the following narratives, which I've answered simply below,

MORENS\_NIH\_047219

NIH 60707 - 002437

REL0000480407



as well. These are ones he spent hours talking through with me, Jerry, Peter and others on the (formerly) Lancet COVID Commission, prior to him closing it down:

- **I refused to share a grant proposal with him that he requested.** Answer: I explained to him at the time that this grant proposal had not been made public, and that it was subject to a FoIA request that NIH was contesting, and had been sued to release, and concerned the grant that had been terminated and that our lawyers were disputing with NIH. I was under instructions from my lawyers that if I shared it with anyone I might breach NIH's rules re. their FoIA lawsuit, and/or cause them to shut down our negotiation to return the grant. You might also remind him that in the end NIH returned the grant to EcoHealth, likely because it was an illegal termination, as our lawyers repeatedly pointed out.
- **The DEFUSE proposal from EcoHealth Alliance had plans to insert a Furin Cleavage Site into SARS-related CoVs.** Response: The grant proposal was never funded, and the work was never done. It's really quite simple. Also important - the recombinant virus work was proposed at UNC, not in China, but in any case, the grant was never funded, and the work never done.
- **I lied to him about the work I'd been doing in China and with NIH.** Response: This is something he's said a few times to the press. If he says that to you, tell him that I strongly refute it, and that it's an outrageous slur on my reputation and character that he simply cannot back up with facts. You might also remind him that Michael Mann, the climate scientist, recently won a defamation lawsuit to the tune of \$1,000,000 against a person who maligned his reputation in an online article.
- **EcoHealth Alliance conducted Gain-of-function research.** Response: I'm sure it's inconvenient for this lab leak community, but our research was very carefully reviewed by NIH and determined, by them in a letter to us in 2016, NOT to be gain of function. The reasons for this are clear – GoF rules apply to pathogens known to be able to infect people, and our work was purely on bat-CoVs never known to infect humans. Some might argue that the rules should be changed, but it is not appropriate to apply any desired new rules retrospectively and allege that EHA did something wrong – we did not.

All that said, my experience is that trying to talk sense to conspiracy theorists is usually 1) a waste of time, and 2) extremely frustrating because facts don't work....

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

MORENS\_NIH\_047220

NIH 60767 - 002432

REL0000480407

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](#)

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 24, 2024 7:58 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Jeffrey Sachs

Indeed

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 24, 2024 7:44 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: Jeffrey Sachs

EXTERNAL SENDER

And his podcasts with RFK jr. Or perhaps if he raises this issue.

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

MORENS\_NIH\_047221

NIH 60707 - 002439

REL0000480407

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Feb 24, 2024, at 5:50 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

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

---

Hi:

I just received the list of speakers for a meeting I am going to in Nepal. It includes our friend Jeff Sachs. I'm going to push him about his lab leak theory and his attacks on Peter and others.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

**Date:** Fri, 15 Apr 2022 10:58:14 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 15 Apr 2022 10:58:11 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Re: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170  
**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" (b)(6)  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**CC:** David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); peter hotez (b)(6)

---

I was pretty clear. The buck stopped at Collins desk and he wasn't up to it. The integrity of science was on the line - you were the easy target - and Collins failed. Lauer was the hit man and you have been harassed unmercifully as Lauer protected the mafia Don.

I hope he does a good job.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 15, 2022, at 3:50 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) > wrote:

Just had a 1.5 hour conversation with Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed about the circumstances of NIH throwing us under the bus. I tried to be balanced, objective and decent, mainly because it's pretty clear Michael Lauer, Lawrence Tabak and others in NIH O/D are willing to cut our other funding if we speak out too strongly. I do think it will be a useful story when it comes out. He mentioned he'd talked with you Jerry.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 10:03 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**CC:** Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); peter hotez <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007707  
MORENS\_NIH\_016965

This clarifies alot. Let's hope it does some good! d

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

On Apr 14, 2022, at 16:31, Peter Daszak <(b)(6)> wrote:

Yes – I do know the journalist Peter Aldhous. I've found him to be persistent and generally balanced, but not averse to doing the usual journalistic strategy of always getting both sides of an issue and giving them appearance of equal weight. He did this in an article on the WHO mission's report last spring, but now this seems to be more balanced than some: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/who-covid-origins-china-report-lab-accident>

He did an earlier piece after Trump canceled our grant which tried to explain what the work was: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/wuhan-lab-coronavirus-trump>

I heard from him last week (email below). He says now that he's investigating what the political motivations were for the initial cancelation of our grant, which he believes were in-part driven by the awful pressure group White Coat Waste (he's correct). He might also be looking into their involvement in the attacks on Tony re. the alleged 'beagles with leishmaniasis'. Here's an email I got from him a few days ago:

**From:** Peter Aldhous <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 9:28 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Could we set up a conversation this week?

Dear Peter,

I hope all is well. I am now working on a piece based in part of the materials we've received from our FOIA to NIH surrounding the cancellation of your grant and subsequent developments.

My focus is a little different from previous coverage. I'm looking at the role of the animal group White Coat Waste in the events that led up to the cancellation of your grant and the subsequent "lab leak" and "gain-of-function" controversies, WCW's links to prominent Republican politicians, its subsequent involvement in [attacks on Tony Fauci](#), and its current activities, which include (questionable) [claims about research funded by NIH in Russia](#). There are some clear parallels this campaign and the way in which the group targeted your grant.

The piece will also discuss the big shift in the tone of internal NIH discussion of your grant before and after WCW's claims were published in the [Daily Mail](#) and elsewhere and pressure began to be exerted through WCW's links with politicians including Matt Gaetz and Marco Rubio. And it will go over NIH's missteps in the termination of your grant as the agency bent under this pressure.

I'd like to your input on the key developments as they affected the EcoHealth Alliance. I noticed that you've been quoted some of the stuff we discussed previously off the record, including in [this piece in Science](#).

Can we set up a time for this? I'm due to file a draft early next week, so if we can speak in the next couple of days, I'd be very grateful.

Thanks,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007708  
MORENS\_NIH\_016966

--

**Peter Aldhous**

Science reporter | BuzzFeed News

tel: (b)(6)

cell: (b)(6)

[peter.aldhous@buzzfeed.com](mailto:peter.aldhous@buzzfeed.com)

[@paldhous](mailto:@paldhous)

[www.peteraldhous.com](http://www.peteraldhous.com)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** David Morens <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 12:01 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; peter hotez <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Note that this foia is ostensibly about Leishmaniasis so hopefully not of concern to you, but we have had foia folks try to sneak in through the back door recently

In 5 years here i have never heard of a foia for Leishmaniasis so just want to be sure..... d

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

On Apr 14, 2022, at 11:57, David Morens <(b)(6)> wrote:

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007709  
MORENS\_NIH\_016967

**From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)  
**Date:** April 14, 2022 at 11:56:08 EDT  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

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

**From:** "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)  
**Date:** April 14, 2022 at 07:48:35 EDT  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

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

**From:** "Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)  
**Date:** April 14, 2022 at 07:46:57 EDT  
**To:** "West, Elisabeth (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" (b)(6), "Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b)(6), "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** "Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6), "Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" (b)(6), "Schofield, Robin (NIH/NHLBI) [E]" (b)(6), "Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6), "Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b)(6)>, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170

Hi Beth,  
Okay for CIT to search.

Thank you,

Kim Barasch  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases  
(b)(6)

---

**From:** West, Elisabeth (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 4:15 PM  
**To:** Awwad, David (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b)(6); Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Harper, Jill (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b)(6); Schofield, Robin (NIH/NHLBI) [E] (b)(6); Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Doepel, Laurie (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
>; Barasch, Kimberly (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** CIT Search Request: NIAID IOD FOIA Request 58170  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007710  
MORENS\_NIH\_016968

We have received a FOIA request from Dr. Aldhous, freelance journalist, on 4/13/22 (attached). I am reaching to you specifically for item 3 of his request:

- **communications among NIAID IOD/OCGR staff regarding this paper:**  
“Enhanced attraction of sand fly vectors of Leishmania infantum to dogs infected with zoonotic visceral leishmaniasis”  
<https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0009647>
- date range: **July 21, 2021 and date of search**

I am seeking permission to request a CIT search of the following emails:

Anthony Fauci  
Greg Folkers  
Patricia Conrad  
Kimberly Barasch  
David Morens  
Laurie Doepel

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attached:

- Request

Thank you,  
Beth

Elisabeth West

Government Information Specialist  
NIH/NHLBI/OM/FOIA Service Center  
Rockledge One, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

(b)(6)	(b)(6)	NHLBI FOIA Main Line)
(b)(6)	(b)(6)	(Direct Line)

#### Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

#### Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007711  
MORENS\_NIH\_016969



**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:23 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:02 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
Date: Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 12:49 PM  
Subject: Publication of Angie Rasmussen article  
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio  
(b)(6), Peter Daszak (b)(6) >, David Morens (b)(6) >, Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2022%2F09%2F15%2Ftheories-covid-19-commission%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmoresn%40niaid.nih.gov%7C72c6d7f88b4a4ff78dc008db8a0f3d82%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=xu8WYBV0ErJnmSfYJ%2F4ZgYLFtE7wzLb4BbDIbMutKhY%3D&reserved=0>

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009892  
MORENS\_NIH\_020402

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

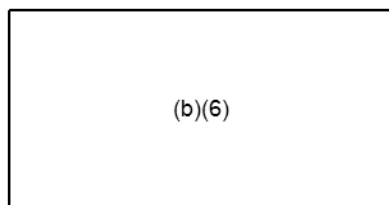
E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:



iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:49 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

FYI, Srinath Reddy in discussing the epidemiology of the pandemic did not get into the Sachs framework and stayed pretty much at a higher level as a public health professional.

From: Keusch, Gerald T

Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:31 AM

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio

(b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) >;

David Morens (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura

(b)(6) >

Subject: RE: Another attack from Republican Senators

He repeated every inappropriate and unbalanced view he has repeatedly

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009893  
MORENS\_NIH\_020403

pushed everywhere else. Totally inappropriate, and he more than implied that these were the conclusions of the Commission.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:27 AM  
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) >  
Cc: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio  
(b)(6) Peter Daszak (b)(6) >;  
David Morens (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

I can't bring myself to watch

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009894  
MORENS\_NIH\_020404

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 11:18 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

Watching Jeff expound and I am nauseated.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

It's just

(b)(6)

I can tell you what he'll likely say, About how well behaved Jeff was at the press event, but no mentions or apologies for past horrors

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

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009895  
MORENS\_NIH\_020405

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 15, 2022, at 9:10 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) > wrote:

Peter:

Do you have Horton's email address? I was going to write to him about  
Jeff and see what he has to say.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009896  
MORENS\_NIH\_020406

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM  
To: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >  
Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T  
(b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich  
(b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Another attack from Republican Senators

EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm just sick of the whole thing. Richard Horton sent me an inappropriate note this morning. I feel as though I protected the reputation of the LC by being the bad cop with Jeff, and beat up for it.

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

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009897  
MORENS\_NIH\_020407

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 10:56 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) wrote:

Peter: The Washington Post report was pretty balanced – and I’m glad  
that Dan Diamond gave you and Angela Rasmussen the space to clarify  
some of the more dubious elements of the Lancet Commission report.  
Your quotation was excellent – strong, succinct, clear, and true.  
Angela’s was also terrific.

As ever,  
jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:05 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens  
(b)(6) >; Rich Roberts (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009898  
MORENS\_NIH\_020408

(b)(6)

&gt;; Jeff Sturchio

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299



Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:31 PM, Peter Daszak <(b)(6)> wrote:

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marshall.senate.gov%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FUSAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C72c6d7f88b4a4ff78dc008db8a0f3d82%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=ZqH8UhrGIY%2F6eHArEb7uGj4ykWvPMtnDwfJ%2BYLvfp4%3D&reserved=0>

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009900  
MORENS\_NIH\_020410

<

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009901  
MORENS\_NIH\_020411

NIH 60707 - 002409

REL0000480442

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:41:18 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:40:36 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Question re. NIH refusing to allow  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Date: Fri, May 5, 2023 at 11:22 AM  
Subject: Question re. NIH refusing to allow  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >, Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >, David Morens (b)(6) >, Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

Rich just shared a 'fruity' quote he gave to the Daily Telegraph re. Francis Collins' particular weakness in terminating NIH funding on direction from Trump. I'll leave it for you to either read it in the press, or hear it from Rich – it's a cracker...

It reminded me of the opposite outcome, a story I read when Hillary Clinton was a New York Senator and tried to push NIH to fund 9/11 syndrome grants that had been rejected. My memory is that she met with Tony Fauci, who politely (but repeatedly) reminded her that the NIH grant review system is independent and can't be politically interfered with.

David, Jerry – do you know where that was reported – I can't find it online. David – do you remember if it was Tony Fauci or Elias Zerhouni that Hillary met with?

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009706  
MORENS\_NIH\_020216

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7Ccce63f3e214947f044db08db8a11afa5%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=6FAyOgN7CFVxQ6VZFYBCUeEV1y1VdOR7DDSr23%2B9P84%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

From: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >

Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 9:51 AM

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Peter Daszak

(b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura

(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6)

Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

Subject: RE: New White House pandemic center

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009707  
MORENS\_NIH\_020217

Typical government approach – ask for something to be done and then give no money to get it done.

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: (b)(6)

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 9:46 AM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;  
(b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >;  
Gerald Keusch (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >;  
Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >  
Subject: New White House pandemic center

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009708  
MORENS\_NIH\_020218

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

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

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments  
unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009709  
MORENS\_NIH\_020219

NIH 60707 - 002499

REL0000480445

**Date:** Wed, 3 Aug 2022 11:53:35 AM -0400

**Sent:** Wed, 3 Aug 2022 11:53:30 AM -0400

**Subject:** FW: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" (b)(6)

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); (b)(6)

This is the email I just sent to Ian Lipkin. I have an upcoming call and I will send similar messages to Wafaa El-Sadr and Joe Stiglitz after that, and anyone else I can think of at Columbia who has a functioning brain and hopefully some guts. I don't subscribe to the "if you ignore the crazies they will go away". They don't.

Jerry

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:47 AM

**To:** Ian Lipkin (b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

**Importance:** High

Hi Ian,

Its been a while since we were in touch. I am certain you have seen what Jeff Sachs has been saying, all of the inaccuracies he glosses over because he doesn't understand it, presents no evidence but just conspiracy ideas, as he joins forces with the likes of Richard Ebright and Stephen Quay. I would be surprised if you were not embarrassed by his stream of PR events, as many of your Columbia colleagues would be as well. As an alum of Columbia College I am outraged by his rhetoric and the damage it does to science and, undoubtedly, to Columbia University itself. I can understand why the university cannot silence him, although they could issue a disclaimer that he speaks for himself and not for the University. But even more important would be for faculty to speak out and challenge him to produce evidence instead of spreading innuendo. Maybe not in the colorful language Angela Rasmussen uses on twitter, but clear and multi-voiced from scientifically qualified and knowledgeable faculty.

If you ask what I am doing personally, I can only say I am awaiting the editors decision on a manuscript that addresses what happened on the basis of what we know, looks forward to what we need to do to be better prepared in the future, and avoids spotlighting the lab leak argument.

For better days, Jerry

<https://www.currentaffairs.org/2022/08/why-the-chair-of-the-lancets-covid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-investigation-into-the-pandemic>

## Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US Government Is

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009115

MORENS\_NIH\_019469

NIH 60707 - 002500

REL0000480456

# Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is “pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology” and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.

Current Affairs

filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the *Lancet*. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.

Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus's origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.

## NATHAN ROBINSON:

I want to quote something that you said recently:

*“I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I’m pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it’s a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don’t know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there’s enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it’s not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don’t want to look underneath the rug, the statement.”*

The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the *New York Times* in the last year:

*“In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans.”*

*“Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic.”*

So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.

## JEFFREY SACHS:

Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020, before they had done any research at all. And they published the same statement in March 2020, before they had any facts at all. So they’re creating a narrative. And they’re denying the alternative hypothesis without looking closely at it. That’s the basic point.

Now, what is the alternative hypothesis? The alternative hypothesis is quite straightforward. And that is that there was a lot of research underway in the United States and China on taking SARS-like viruses, manipulating them in the laboratory, and creating potentially far more dangerous viruses. And the particular virus that causes COVID-19, called SARS-Cov-2, is notable because it has a piece of its genetic makeup that makes the virus more dangerous. And that piece of the genome is called the “*furin cleavage site*.” Now, what’s interesting, and concerning if I may say so, is that the research that was underway very actively and being promoted, was to insert furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses to see what would happen. Oops!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009116  
MORENS\_NIH\_019470



Well, that is what *may* have happened. And what has been true from the start is that that very real possibility, which a lot of scientists know, has not been looked at closely, even though it's absolutely clear that it could have happened that way. They're not looking. They just keep telling us, "Look at the market, look at the market, look at the market!" But they don't address this alternative. They don't even look at the data. They don't even ask questions. And the truth is from the beginning, they haven't asked the real questions.

But not *quite* the beginning. Because at the beginning, which we could date from the first phone call of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a group of virologists on February 1, 2020, the virologists said "Oh my god, that is strange, that could well be a laboratory creation. What is that furin cleavage site doing in there?" Because scientists knew that was part of an active ongoing research program. And yet, by February 3, the same group is saying "No, no, it's natural, it's natural." By February 4, they start to draft the papers that are telling the public, "Don't worry, it's natural." By March, they write a paper—totally spurious, in my view—called the *proximal origins* paper that is the most cited bio paper in 2020. It said: it is absolutely natural. [Note: the paper's conclusion is "we do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."] But they didn't have any of the data that you read about in the *New York Times*. They didn't have any of this. They just said the labs weren't working on this alternative. But you know what, they don't know what the labs were working on, because they never asked, and NIH hasn't told us.

**ROBINSON:**

Let me ask you if we can distinguish between what we know for certain and what is speculative because we just haven't got the data. So we *do* know that there was—correct me if I'm wrong—research proposed that would have dealt with this category of viruses and would have modified them in ways that would have made them potentially more lethal. Do we know whether that kind of research was in fact actually ongoing somewhere?

**SACHS:**

We have enormous reason to believe that it was. And clearly, we haven't even asked that question. But we have a lot of reason to believe that it was, because the scientists that were doing that research loved that research. And they explained to us publicly why it's so important. And they wrote editorials about why this research must continue. And they made grant proposals saying that it should continue. And for those of us in the business of writing grant proposals, the fact that a particular grant proposal that's deeply troubling was turned down *doesn't* mean that it wasn't carried out afterwards. But where is NIH saying, "Yeah, that's an interesting question. Why don't we get the evidence?" It doesn't even ask that question.

And the scientists like those that talk about the Huanan market, they don't even discuss that research that was underway. That is just misdirection, to my mind. It's like sleight of hand art. Don't look over there. Look over here. But we know that there was a tremendous amount of this research underway. We have interviews by the lead scientists. We have these research proposals. I know the intention of doing this research from discussions. I've read so many studies of the importance of this research claimed by the scientists. And yet I see NIH with its head in the ground. "Oh, no, nothing here to look at." And then I see the scientists. "Oh, nothing here to look at. We know it's the market. Did we find an animal? No. Do we have an explanation of where that furin cleavage site came in? No. We don't have an explanation of the timing, which doesn't quite look right. Oh, but *don't look over there*, because there's nothing there, they keep telling us. Well, that's a little silly.

So my point is, there is a huge amount of reason to believe that that research was underway. Because there are published papers on this. There are interviews on this. There are research proposals. But NIH isn't talking. It's not asking. And these scientists have never asked either. From the very first day, they have kept hidden from view the alternative. And when they discuss the alternative, they don't discuss the research program. They discuss complete straw men about the lab, not the actual kind of research that was underway, which was to stick furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses in a way that could have created SARS-Cov-2.

What I'm calling for is not the *conclusion*. I'm calling for the *investigation*. Finally, after two and a half years of this, it's time to fess up that it might have come out of a lab and here's the data that we need to know to find out whether it did.

**ROBINSON:**

One of the things that struck me that I didn't know when I started writing about this and actually doing some research is realizing that in the years leading up to the pandemic, there was a huge controversy about whether it was wise to modify viruses in the course of research in ways that could make a virus more infectious or more lethal. And some people were arguing that this kind of research was *insane*. And some people were warning that in the case of a lab accident—an accident, mind you, not as an intentional "bioweapon"—a simple

human error could cause a real catastrophe.

**SACHS:**

That is exactly right. There were several kinds of experiments of manipulation of the genes of dangerous viruses. And this raised a lot of alarm. And there was actually a moratorium in 2014. But the champions of this kind of research pushed on, they applied for waivers, which they got, and finally the moratorium came off in 2017. And they said how important it is to do this dangerous kind of research, because they claimed, "Well, there are lots of viruses out there. And we don't know when they're going to become highly pathogenic, and we need to develop drugs and vaccines against a wide spectrum of them. So we have to test all these viruses that we can find, to see whether they have high spillover potential." But they weren't actually aiming to just test viruses that they were collecting in nature. They were aiming to *modify* those viruses. Because the scientists knew that a SARS-like virus without a furin cleavage site wouldn't be that dangerous. But they wanted to test their drugs and vaccines and theories against dangerous viruses. Their proposal was to take hundreds, by the way—or least they talked about in one proposal more than 180 previously unreported strains—and test them for their so-called "spillover potential." How effective would they be? And to look: do they have a furin cleavage site, or technically what's called a proteolytic cleavage site? And if not, *put them in*. For heaven's sake. My God! Are you kidding?

Okay, but we didn't even ask the question from the first day: did you guys *do* that? Tell us what you did. *Could you give us your lab notebooks?* We're kind of curious. Instead, these people who are writing these *New York Times* articles right now and publishing these pieces about the market, from the first day—without asking about the experiments—they said, "Nope, it's natural." That's why I don't trust them. Because they've never looked at the alternative hypothesis. And their hypothesis has so many gaps, so many holes in it. But they don't even try to look at the alternative hypothesis.

**ROBINSON:**

I think it's very important to make clear that the "alternative hypothesis" is mainly a hypothesis about an accident, and scientific hubris. It's important to distinguish the kooky theories from the incredibly plausible theories. Because what you're talking about is people who did not appreciate the dangers of what they were doing.

**SACHS:**

In fact, it's very interesting. The alternative that is the *right* one to look at is part of a very extensive research program that was underway from 2015 onward, funded by the NIH, by Tony Fauci, in particular NIAID [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases], and it was to examine the spillover potential of SARS-like viruses. The champions of this research explained in detail their proposals. But after the event, we'd never asked them, "So what were you actually doing? What experiments did you do? What do you know?" We somehow never asked. It was better just to sweep it under the rug, which is what Fauci and the NIH have done up until this point. Maybe they could tell us, "Oh, full exoneration," but they haven't told us that at all. They haven't shown us anything.

So there's nothing "kooky" about it, because it's precisely what the scientists were doing. And then you can listen to the scientists on tape describing why they think the research program is so important, because they say these are dangerous viruses, and therefore we have to prepare broad spectrum vaccines and drugs. They explain it's not good enough to test one or two viruses. We have to test all of them. And then they came to realize, as I said earlier, that just having a SARS-like virus, if it doesn't have this piece of the gene, it's almost surely not going to be that effective. So they got around to the idea. "Well, let's put these in," if you can imagine that. To my mind, it's mind-boggling.

But they were proud of this, because it's actually genius at a technological level. Can you imagine: you can take a sequence of letters, which defines the genome, you can recreate the virus just from the letters. You don't even have to have the biological virus in hand, you just need the sequence. Then you can say "I'm going to add these four letters RRAR, the furin cleavage site, or maybe it's eight, RRARSVAS, this is a sequence of eight amino acids—I'm going to stick it in there right at the S1 S2 junction of the spike protein, because I know from my research program that will make it more pathogenic, that is more disease-causing. And then I can see whether my drug candidates like remdesivir, or some other candidate works against it. That is their idea. There's nothing kooky about our claim: Hey, what were you doing? Because *they told us that they wanted to do these projects*. And they told us that they were wanting to do these projects in the months leading up to this outbreak. And

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009118

MORENS\_NIH\_019472

then what is absolutely strange is that even though scientists knew right from the start, that is very weird to have that RRAR furin cleavage site in there—never saw that before in a SARS-like virus, and that that could well have come from a lab—hush, hush. Don't talk about it. Don't even discuss it. Just say right from the beginning: *This is natural. Of course, it's natural. Everything else is kooky.*

So you saw a narrative being created. And the scientists are not acting like scientists. Because when you're acting like a scientist, you're pursuing alternative hypotheses. And the scientists just wrote recently an op-ed saying the only evidence that this came out of a lab that's been put forward is that it came in a city, Wuhan, where an institute was located. Well, that's a lie. That is not the only coincidence that leads to this theory. What leads to this alternative hypothesis is the *detailed research program the NIH funded* that was underway in the years leading up to the outbreak. So I see the scientists absolutely trying to create a narrative and take our eyes off of another issue.

Now, again, let me emphasize, we don't have definitive evidence of either hypothesis. But what we do have is definitive evidence that officialdom has tried to keep our eyes away from the lab creation hypothesis.

**ROBINSON:**

You mentioned the lab in Wuhan. It's not just that there was a lab in Wuhan doing research on viruses. But there were ties between the lab and those pursuing this program. What do we know about the research that was actually occurring there?

**SACHS:**

We know that at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the scientists there had been trained by American scientists to use advanced bioengineering methodologies. And in particular, we have scientists in North Carolina, Texas, and so forth who do this kind of research, believe in it, argue for it, and say that they don't want any regulations on it and so on. And they were in close contact with Wuhan Institute of Virology, and they were part of a joint research group that was stitched together by something called EcoHealth Alliance. And EcoHealth Alliance was the kind of marriage maker between the American scientists and the Chinese scientists. That was the vehicle for funding from the U.S. government, especially from the National Institutes of Health, and especially from Tony Fauci's unit, the NIAID. There were years of grants, there were grant proposals. We don't know exactly what was done. But we have enough reason to know that we should be *asking* exactly what was done. And we know definitively that from the beginning, NIH has been running from telling us what has been done. They're not telling us the truth, that they had reason to fear from the start that this came out of a lab. And that to this day, they have reason to suspect it, but they're not talking.

**ROBINSON:**

A shocking thing to me was that the head of the EcoHealth Alliance was on the World Health Organization team that actually investigated the origins of COVID and concluded that it wasn't the lab.

**SACHS:**

Well, more than that: I appointed him—this was Peter Daszak—I appointed him to chair the task force of the pandemic commission that I was running for the *Lancet*. And he headed a task force on the origins. I thought, naively at the beginning, "Well, here's a guy who is so connected, he would know." And then I realized he was not telling me the truth. And it took me some months, but the more I saw it, the more I resented it.

And so I told him, "Look, you have to leave." And then the other scientists in that task force attacked me for being anti-scientific. And I asked them: "What are your connections with all of this?" They didn't tell me. Then when the Freedom of Information Act released some of these documents that NIH had been hiding from the public, I saw that people that were attacking me were also part of this thing. So I disbanded that whole task force. So my own experience was to witness close up how they're not talking. And they're trying to keep our eyes on something else. And away from even asking the questions that we're talking about. We don't have the answers. But we have good reasons to ask. And we have good reasons to know that NIH is not doing its job properly right now.

**ROBINSON:**

So you're saying that Daszak and others did not disclose to you pretty serious conflicts of interest? Since, on the hypothesis that it had something to do with this kind of research, that would have implicated Daszak himself in the origins of the crisis?

**SACHS:**

Well, he could have explained to me right from the beginning that there was a big research program and that

they were manipulating the viruses, and here's how. He could have given me the research proposals. And when I asked him for one of the research proposals, he said, "No, my lawyer says I can't give it to you." I said, "What? You're heading a commission. We're a transparent commission. You're telling me your lawyer says you can't give me your project proposal." I said, "Well, then you can't be on this commission. This is not even a close call."

But there were so many other things. He was just filled with misdirection. I don't know whether he understands or not, maybe he doesn't understand. But the things he said just were absolutely not right.

**ROBINSON:**

When people hear you say, "They're sweeping it under the rug, they don't want to look," one question that may come to their minds is "Well, why? Why would people not be interested in getting to the truth?" But the alternate hypothesis from the natural spillover that you're talking about could have serious repercussions. It would implicate a lot of people in potentially millions of deaths. So there's a lot at stake here for the scientific community. Which explains why there would be an interest in directing people away from this possibility.

**SACHS:**

There are at least two reasons why they might be doing what they're doing. One is, as you say, the implications are huge. Imagine if this came out of a lab. And we have, by some estimates, about 18 million dead worldwide from this. That's not the official count. But that's the estimated excess mortality from COVID. Well, the implications of that—the ethical, the moral, the geopolitical—everything is enormous.

But there's a second matter that is really important, too. One thing that is rather clear to me is that there is so much dangerous research underway right now under the umbrella of biodefense or other things that we don't know about, that is not being properly controlled. This is for sure. And that's happening around the world. And governments say "don't poke your nose into that." That's our business, not your business. But it's actually our business. It's our business to understand what is going on with this. This is not to be kept secret. We don't trust you.

Let me put it this way: I don't trust them right now. I want to know. Because even what we know of the dangerous research is enough to raise a lot of questions of responsibility for the future. And to pose the question: "Hey, what other viruses are you guys working on? What should we know?" Because no matter what the truth is on SARS-Cov-2, what is pretty clear is we've got so much technological capacity to engineer dangerous pathogens right now. And a lot of that is being done. And it's classified. It's secret, and we don't know what it is. And I don't like that feeling at all. I don't recommend it for us and for the world.

**ROBINSON:**

Well, you've rather answered the question of why it's important to get to the bottom of this. Because one of the excuses you hear is, "Well, who really cares? Does it matter? It was an animal, it was a lab, whatever it is, it's here." But what you're saying is, "No, we actually need to know where this started." Because this isn't going to be the only one, whatever the origins are. And we don't want people to die from future viruses. This is critically important. If we're going to save millions of lives, we have to find out the answer.

**SACHS:**

I can tell you one thing that I've learned from talking to a lot of scientists in the last couple of years: the technological capacity to do dangerous things using this biotechnology is extraordinary right now. So I want to know what's being done. I want to know what other governments are doing, too, not just ours. I want some global control over this stuff.

We've kind of understood the nuclear risk—even that, of course, is in a lot of ways hidden from view. But this is a clear and present risk. And there's reason to believe we're actually in the midst of it, not just hypothetically. So come on: it's time to open the books everywhere. It's time to find out. Maybe it was the marketplace. Maybe it wasn't a lab. But we need to get real answers, now. Not the kind of misdirection that's been going in since February 2020. Enough nonsense! Enough *New York Times* stories saying, "Oh, it's this, it's that," without looking closely at the very plausible laboratory hypothesis.

**ROBINSON:**

It seems from what you're saying that as the head of the *Lancet's* COVID-19 commission, you didn't feel you were able to get satisfactory answers or see the data you wanted. What kind of investigation do we need and who ought to do it?

**SACHS:**

The most interesting things that I got as chair of the *Lancet* commission came from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits and whistleblower leaks from inside the U.S. government. Isn't that terrible? NIH was actually asked at one point: give us your research program on SARS-like viruses. And you know what they did? They released the cover page and redacted 290 pages. They gave us a cover page and 290 blank pages! That's NIH, for heaven's sake. That's not some corporation. That is the U.S. government charged with keeping us healthy. What I found is that we have a lot of data which we're not finding right now. And I don't want to have to rely on FOIA and leaks, though those can be incredibly informative. I want clear, independent scientific investigation and transparency. One way to do this would be a bipartisan congressional oversight investigation that had subpoena power. Give us your lab records, your notebooks, your data files of virus strains, and so forth. There are many questions that we need independent scientists to define, to tell us exactly the kinds of information. But we know right now we're operating in an environment in which the government is working to hide the data that we need to make a real assessment.

If you enjoyed this article, please consider [subscribing to our magnificent print edition](#) or [making a donation](#).

*Current Affairs* is 100% reader-supported.

Current Af

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009121  
MORENS\_NIH\_019475

NIH 60767 - 002566

REL0000480456



**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:33:05 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:32:17 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: The new NIH Director nomination  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) (b)(6)

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

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

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Date: Sat, May 20, 2023 at 4:42 PM  
Subject: RE: The new NIH Director nomination  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >, Peter Daszak  
(b)(6) >, Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >  
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) >, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >

Hi Rich,

Totally agree with the need to get rid of the slogan for attacks on science that GOF has become. The question is how. That would be something a new advocacy organization that engages the scientific societies to fight back against the attacks on science and scientists could pick up and pursue.

More immediate is the issue of EHA and what Bertagnolli will experience in the hearings. Ordinarily what Harold suggests would be fine, however in the current circumstances Building 1 remains hostile to EHA and too reticent with the republican congressmen. I don't trust them to prep her in a manner that we would consider both rational and reasonable. Maybe the other way to get her attention is to get something in Science (? via and editorial from you and Harold, or prod Holden Thorpe to take a proactive stance) providing the

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009822  
MORENS\_NIH\_020332

background including the suspensions, terminations, reversals, reimpositions etc in a way that has stopped the important work EHA does for all this time. Jocelyn Kaiser has a nice news report in Science; what is needed now is an editorial that Bertagnolli will see and hopefully ask lots of questions to the legal office at NIH and HHS.

Peter, is there anybody in that office who has been willing to both listen and to hear the message? I don't know how to get more information to that person, that office, without stepping over red lines for influencing (rather than informing) decision making. What is needed is some sort of amicus brief. Is there any precedent for something like that outside the courts?

I'm just verbally mulling over where this issue is and what can be legitimately be done proactively in defense.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >  
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:13 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) >  
(b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >  
Subject: FW: The new NIH Director nomination

Peter and Jerry:

Got this from Harold. Have you already delivered this material to NIAID?

I will respond to his GOF comment. It would probably be helpful to get another descriptor.

Rich

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009823  
MORENS\_NIH\_020333

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Harold E. Varmus (b)(6)  
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 1:30 PM  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Subject: Re: The new NIH Director nomination

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich, yes, I know Monica and we have talked several times about the NCI and NIH jobs. But I don't expect to be involved in her preparation for the hearing on her nomination as NIH Director. That is usually organized by the legislative offices in the NIH Office of the Director and by the legislative team at DHHS. I am sure that she will get briefed about the EHA grant and it is likely that NIAID will be asked to provide background material.

The document you sent has a lot of detailed information that she might want to read but it would best be delivered to her via NIAID; in addition, the source of the document (presumably EHA itself) should be apparent. EHA might simply provide that to NIAID's current

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009824  
MORENS\_NIH\_020334



leadership and I expect that they've done that already.

Best,

HV

PS Can't we find a better, more restricted way to label experiments that enhance pathogenicity or transmissibility of infectious agents than "gain of function"? Even DURC (dual use research of concern) is better than that. I've been doing GoF research for decades, enhancing cell growth by enhancing the function of proto-oncogenes!

From: Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] >  
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:25 AM  
To: Harold E. Varmus [REDACTED]  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The new NIH Director nomination

Harold:

You probably know Monica Bertagnolli and I am wondering if you will be contacting her prior to the Senate Hearing?

I ask because in light of the recent events related to EcoHealth Alliance she is likely to be questioned about their funding and the relationship to the COVID lab-leak hypothesis. I had let you know that their grant had been re-instated (2 1/2 years after we asked for it!), but I don't see that will stop some awkward questions for her.

If you do get the chance to chat you might mention some of the possible responses to questions that are covered in the attached.

If you will not be speaking with her, perhaps you could suggest someone else I might contact about this matter.

Hope all is well with you.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009825  
MORENS\_NIH\_020335

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009826  
MORENS\_NIH\_020336

**Date:** Tue, 30 Apr 2024 4:58:35 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Tue, 30 Apr 2024 4:54:58 PM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); kuuiop9 (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
**CC:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); John Feigelson (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6);  
**Attachments:** image002.png

---

Thanks all – this will be the one and only positive moment in the hearing!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 4:42 PM  
**To:** kuuiop9 (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); John Feigelson (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

I agree totally!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

MORENS\_NIH\_047690

NIH 60767 - 002562

REL0000480461

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 3:47 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)

Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

(b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

>

Subject: Re: Re: Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

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

My opening statement is now up on the SSCP website -

Dr. Peter Daszak Opening remarks to the submitted to the SSCP ahead of the May 1<sup>st</sup> hearing

Chairman Gooding, Honorable Member Ray, distinguished members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic: It is a privilege to come before you today to discuss the vital research that the Emergency Response Coalition globally and to answer your questions about our work. I intend to summarize the critical mission of your select subcommittee, which is why I have endeavored to be highly transparent and forthcoming in my testimony today. I am grateful to participate in a full and frank discussion with your committee and expect the same.

I am Peter Daszak, the President of EcoHealth Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in New York, founded in 1975, with a mission to combat zoonotic and emerging disease threats by the U.S. identify the underlying causes of pandemics, and develop solutions to prevent them, and thereby protect lives. EcoHealth Alliance's research has developed the first ever emerging infectious disease "hotspot" map, to alert the world to that we are better informed to prevent them. Our work and that of many other scientists show that most zoonotic outbreaks from animals already exist in rapidly changing countries where people and animals come into direct contact. But, since we saw with COVID-19, zoonotic virus begins to spread, it spreads and leads to outbreaks, which means a virus emerging somewhere in the planet is a direct threat to all of us here in this US. Thus our research has direct benefits for the health of the American people, strengthen national security, and enhance sustainable economic growth in our ally around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance works closely in partnership with US Federal Agencies since the early 2000s, with significant funding support from diverse of leading government and philanthropic donors. With NIH funding, we engaged the global spread of high path zoonotic and disease to prevent as much as the US is leading partners in developing information that the Government is responsible for, and to better target strategic surveillance. With support from the Department of Homeland Security we engaged the state transition of emerging zoonotic as an event and trends, and the threat they represent to US public health and agriculture. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, we identified the origins of the highly lethal H5N1 virus, and discovered that this is the earliest precursor of MERS, and of course and broader that strengthen global value production in all of our food safety, food safety, we have international rates, transparent communication with agencies, and, finally, we will provide information critical to public health and agriculture, updated data and genetic sequences into the NIH database system, and published our analyses in research journals on their primary research can use this information.

EcoHealth Alliance's mission has taken us to the places around the world where viruses originate. In countries that represent our first line of defense against the emergence of novel diseases. When the emergence of SARS in the wildlife markets of South China in 2002, we were funded by NIH to identify the origins of this virus. Our work in foreign countries can only happen with the approval of the US funding agencies, and the host country's government. In China, with approval from NIH and the State Department, we partnered with the country's leading virology lab in Wuhan to do this work, just as many other US government funded institutions have done. It took a decade of research we successfully showed the SARS coronavirus originated in bats. That there were hundreds of related and sequences in the country, and that some coronavirus were able to bind to human cells, along with the potential to recombine as agents. With funding from USDA, we started to build capacity in China to help prevent

Daszak-Testimony

PDF Document 48 KB

Cheers,

MORENS\_NIH\_047691

NIH 60767 - 002563

REL0000480461

Peter

Peter Daszak

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

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

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On Apr 29, 2024, at 7:37 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)> wrote:

Peter: This is puerile nonsense! Stay strong!

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 6:08 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>; John Feigelson <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch <(b)(6)>; Jeff Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Keith Martin <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>; <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Latest tweet from SSCP - schoolyard behavior at best!

Having spent 27 yrs in the USA, going through the immigration process and becoming a US citizen, I'm reminded what a great honor it is to have a chance to meet esteemed members of Congress. Here they are in their latest tweet mocking our organization by repeating insults from a private message of one of the Proximal Origins paper virologists.

I look forward to answering their questions in detail about this tattle-tale schoolyard gibberish on Wednesday morning. Thank God I worked hard for my Ph.D so that I can have all the right science-based answers on these critical issues!

<image001.jpg>

**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**  
**@COVIDSelect**

"**EgoHealth**" was allegedly a "term of endearment" used by the co-authors of the now infamous "Proximal Origin" paper to describe EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak. Is this characterization fact or fiction? On Wednesday, Dr. Daszak will testify before [@COVIDSelect](https://twitter.com/COVIDSelect).

<image002.jpg>

5:44 PM · Apr 29, 2024

MORENS\_NIH\_047692

NIH 60707 - 002568

REL0000480461

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

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

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 5:05 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Gerald Keusch <(b)(6)>; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** From Marcia McNutt

Below, after our panel

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS\_NIH\_047693

NIH 60707 - 002569

REL0000480461

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "McNutt, Marcia K." (b)(6)

**Date:** April 29, 2024 at 3:48:31 PM CDT

**To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6) Anthony Fauci (b)(6)

"Iwasaki, Akiko" (b)(6) Mann, Michael E." <

(b)(6)>

**Cc:** "Agee, Jennylee" (b)(6), "Chalfie, Martin" (b)(6), Martin

Chalfie (b)(6), "Everly, Rebecca" (b)(6) Rich

**Subject:** Re: Thank you!

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

Dear Peter, Tony, Akiko, and Michael,

I cannot tell you how many members approached me to say how moved, inspired, and informed they were by your presentation yesterday. I've been responding to emails all day from members who want to find some way to help. I had thought that there would be wider understanding of what you all were enduring; I did not anticipate how many eyes were opened to the persecution of people who speak out for the public good, even when the information is difficult to take in.

I will definitely keep you all informed as we move forward. I think the four of you would make an excellent sounding board for ideas, as I am sure that some strategies could have the potential to backfire if we are not very very careful in how we approach the issue.

I am not so naive as to think that we can reach everyone - too many opinions are baked in, often for nefarious reasons. However, I do have faith that the majority of Americans will respond to reason.

Marty and Becca can comment on the extent to which CHR can help with this issue. I certainly value their input as they have such a long history of dealing with persecution of scientists. Domestic cases have to date been outside of their scope, and your cases are all somewhat different than the majority of CHR interventions. Your persecution is coming from the public, whereas CHR mostly deals with foreign government actions. If CHR decides that this is beyond their remit, then we definitely will need to find some other unit at the NAS to take this on.

And Peter: thanks for the heads up about the Mitchell Foundation having an interest in supporting work to address this issue. Happy to talk to you more about it.

My gratitude to you all,

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

MORENS\_NIH\_047694

NIH 60707 - 002570

REL0000480461

Dr. Marcia K McNutt  
President, National Academy of Sciences  
Mailing Address | Physical location:  
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418  
(b)(6) (office) (b)(6) (cell)  
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the individual or individuals named above on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences. The information herein is privileged to the Academy. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

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

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

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

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

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

Warmest regards, Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

MORENS\_NIH\_047695

NIH 60707 - 002577

REL0000480461



**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2022 2:31:55 PM -0400

Sent: Thu, 16 Jun 2022 2:31:51 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs saying it out loud

From: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6) >; M. D. Gerald T. Keusch (b)(6) >; peter hotez (b)(6) >;

CC: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;

What an idiot! And then he goes on to say that the war in Ukraine was preventable – with about as much evidence as he has for his conclusion that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from US biotechnology.

Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 2:12 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Jeff Sturchio (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6)  
Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >

**Subject:** Jeff Sachs saying it out loud

I think you'll enjoy this – Jeff Sachs on a web interview now on Youtube saying that he is convinced SARS-CoV-2 came out of “US biotechnology, not from nature”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rRBuX4U0DU&t=745s>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006781  
MORENS\_NIH\_015703

NIH 60707 - 002579

REL0000480479

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 2:52 PM  
**To:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); 'Jeff Sturchio' (b)(6); David Morens' (b)(6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6); 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Thanks for the comments Rich. It's now over with the NAM for their scholarly deliberations!

I'm now straight onto dealing with the draft of the HHS OIG audit – they were asked by NIH to do an audit of EHA, and they're trying to paint us as heinously incompetent and duplicitous, so we've now got to spend another few days drafting responses and supplying documentary evidence that we're not the bad guys people would like us to be....

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 1:51 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Peter:

This is excellent! I'm sorry to be slow in responding, but "officially" I have been on vacation and unable to read all emails coming my way without alerting my wife to my "non-vacation" behaviour. I am not en route home and have had the chance to read through this response.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006782  
MORENS\_NIH\_015704

What is so annoying here is that politicians have the easy option of targeting would-be scapegoats to uphold a political agenda and ignore science.

I hope the NAM will finally decide to follow the science and tell the politicians to go to hell.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 12:34 AM  
**To:** Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6);  
Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022  
**Importance:** High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

Thank you very much for your support dealing with this awful situation. Below is my email to NAM with an attached letter responding to the allegations, and a dropbox file with 28 appendices supporting each of the points I make (feel free to click on the link and sift through if you've got a spare few hours!).

Having been lucky enough to get a scholarship to one of those schools in the UK where we had to stand when the teachers (who we had to call "masters") came in the room, this brings back some powerful memories of the way institutions can be manipulated to make the lives of the people they're supposed to serve totally bloody miserable.

I only hope the committee is able to see beyond the political narratives, and their desire to save the NAM from attack, and do the right thing by one of their members. If not, I'll get ready with my appeal, and continue this tedious journey...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006783  
MORENS\_NIH\_015705

New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 12:24 AM

**To:** 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' (b)(6); 'Dzau, Victor J.' (b)(6); 'Kim, Se' (b)(6)

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' (b)(6); (b)(6) >

**Subject:** RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

**Importance:** High

Dear Dr. Fuentes-Afflick,

I want to thank you and the NAM for granting me the extra time to respond to the allegations from the three Republican members of the Congress. I am attaching the original letter to the NAM (attachment A), the focused allegations (attachment B), your letter to me informing me of the intent to open an investigation ("Letter to Member...."), and my response to your letter refuting these allegations ("Dr. Daszak, response to NAM letter of April 11<sup>th</sup> 2022").

As you can see, I have provided a detailed refutation of each of the allegations, along with documentary evidence to support each point. This consists of 28 appendices (many are quite short consisting of specific email chains or short documents). However, because of their overall size, I have placed them in a secure dropbox folder that is available for you to download and circulate among the committee by clicking on the following link:

(b)(6)

As you stated below, I appreciate that this process is confidential, and I would ask that you take particular care to ensure that my letter and the appendices are carefully shared so as not to be circulated more widely than necessary – some of these appendices contain information that has never been released publicly before.

I will await the decision of the committee, the NAM Council and Dr. Dzau in due course, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura (cc'd) for any further information or clarification

Sincerely,

Peter Daszak  
President

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006784  
MORENS\_NIH\_015706

NIH 60707 - 002520

REL0000480479

---

**From:** Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Dzaou, Victor J. (b)(6); Kim, Se (b)(6)  
**Subject:** confidential

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for your note of April 22nd. I was traveling and apologize for my delayed response. I have reviewed your letter in detail and will respond to each point.

First, when the NAM receives any allegation of misconduct against a member, we have to follow an independent process that is outlined in the policy document you received. We have undertaken an initial evaluation by an assessment panel which eliminated many of the allegations but recommended a subset of the allegations to be further investigated by the conduct review committee. The list of allegations was shared with you.

I accept your request for a deadline extension to June 12th. You may enlist the assistance of others and I encourage you to request that they honor the confidentiality of the process.

Point 1: To date, the NAM has not conducted its own investigation of the allegations. We have identified a subset of materials for further investigation which were referenced in the April 11, 2022 letter.

Point 2: I apologize for not providing information about the conflicts evaluation. We conducted a thorough evaluation of the conflicts of the assessment panel and conduct review committee members and none were identified.

Point 3: We identified selected references from the list provided in the original letter with the allegations and added one reference that is publicly available on the NIAID's website. These materials and any response you provide are the only materials that the Conduct Review Committee will consider.

Point 4: I should have asked if you have the results of an external investigation related to the allegations under consideration. If you have any such results, please share them.

Point 5: You are correct that our policy does not include a provision to meet with the conduct review committee and I cannot offer you this option. I invite you to submit additional materials if you believe they are relevant.

I want to assure you, personally, that the confidentiality requirement and following our process are my top priorities. I have discussed this with all individuals involved and have not shared information with anyone other than the assessment panel and conduct review committee members. My communication with the representatives of those who wrote the original letter was to confirm receipt of the materials and explain that we would be following our conduct review process.

I would be happy to connect with you, by phone or Zoom, to discuss.

Best,  
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006785  
MORENS\_NIH\_015707

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:14 PM  
**To:** Dzau, Victor J. (b)(6); Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b)(6); Kim, Se (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

I was very concerned to have received three separate press inquiries today regarding a story in *Fox News* (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house-republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data>). I am not planning to respond to these questions.

As you can see in the *Fox News* article, yet another partisan political letter has been made public with unsubstantiated and clearly politically motivated allegations against our organization and myself. In the article, an aide to Representative McMorris Rodgers states that *"After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request...We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well."*

In your letters to me, and by phone, you reassured me repeatedly that the process of deciding whether to investigate these allegations was confidential on the NAM side, and you urged me to also treat correspondence with NAM on this issue as confidential, which I have. However, it appears that this is not the case, in that NAM has informed the Republican staff of intent to review my 'behavior' and that this has now been made public, as I indicated could happen in my letter to you last week, April 22, 2022.

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-study-of-bats-in-china-met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-says-11635441406>) and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g. <https://www.science.org/content/article/we-ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19> and <https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid-nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/>).

Given the developments today, I urge you to reconsider your decision to investigate these allegations, which have nothing to do with my adherence to the rules of conduct of NAM members, and to respond to the Republican accusers to state that they do not rise to the level whereby an investigation is warranted. I believe this is justified by the one-sided political nature of the attacks, the lack of prima facie evidence for the allegations, and the fact that your communications have already been made public in defiance of the confidentiality of the matter that NAM and EcoHealth Alliance have maintained. I'm very concerned that this public witch hunt will be damaging not just for myself and our organization, which has consistently produced cutting edge research on emerging diseases that has been fundamental to a series of NAM publications, but that it will also be damaging to NAM and the Academies in general. If you do not stand up to these politicized attacks at this point, they will surely continue and drag in other members of the Academies who have been

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006786  
MORENS\_NIH\_015708

publicly criticized and accused by the same politicians for the last two years, and who are being continually attacked by various fringe groups espousing conjectural hypotheses about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, in spite of the increasing scientific evidence supporting the spillover from bats through an intermediary host to humans.

This active political interference with stewardship of science, the integrity of science, and the pursuit of knowledge by scientists, goes well beyond EcoHealth Alliance and threatens the integrity of the entire U.S. scientific enterprise. It is no different except in volume than the incontrovertible political interference by Donald Trump in the scientific enterprise at NIH in April 2020, which prompted you to issue a public statement about the separation of politics from science in response. Your words and those of Marcia McNutt ring even more true at this point: “*Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all*” (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/09/nas-and-nam-presidents-alarmed-by-political-interference-in-science-amid-pandemic>). EcoHealth Alliance, myself, the NIH, Tony Fauci, NAM and you are in the cross-hairs now because NIH failed to protect science and scientists from Trump’s overtly political, and sadly successful, effort to close down research that was politically inconvenient. I worry that this is just the beginning of the goal of this anti-science agenda, and for that reason it demands brave, bold, and decisive action.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

#### Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

#### Disclaimer

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006787  
MORENS\_NIH\_015709



This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006788**  
**MORENS\_NIH\_015710**

**NIH 60707 - 002520**

REL0000480479

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024 7:10:34 PM -0400

Subject: Re: RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

From: kuuipo9 [REDACTED] >

To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] >; Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED] >;

CC: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] >; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] >; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] > [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

And maybe all the more reason we should try to get to the democratic members through our congressional representatives.

Jerry

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 4:35 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] >; Keusch, Gerald [REDACTED] Keith Martin [REDACTED] >; David Morens [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** RE: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

That's encouraging!

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM

**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] >; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] >; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]> Gerald Keusch [REDACTED] >; Keith Martin [REDACTED] >; David Morens <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

MORENS\_NIH\_044691

NIH 60707 - 002527

REL0000480485

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6)

| Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) wrote:

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

All:

This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

"The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people."

MORENS\_NIH\_044692

NIH 60707 - 002522

REL0000480485

<image001.png>

Hearing Wrap Up: EcoHealth Alliance Should be  
Criminally Investigated, Formally Debarred -  
United States House Committee on Oversight and  
Accountability  
oversight.house.gov

I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats... at worst...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

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

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Excellent article!

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Keith Martin (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

MORENS\_NIH\_044693

NIH 60707 - 002529

REL0000480485



Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD

@PeterHotez



Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from @hiltzikm @latimes [latimes.com/business/story...](https://www.latimes.com/business/story...)

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

**Date:** Mon, 6 Feb 2023 4:40:22 PM -0500  
**Sent:** Mon, 6 Feb 2023 4:38:34 PM -0500  
**Subject:** RE: Notes from our call  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**CC:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

---

Just saw that Richard Ebright and others have formed a new 501c3 to combat research that will enhance pathogens:

<https://biosafetynow.org/team/>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.

Jerry

---

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016951  
MORENS\_NIH\_035135

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Notes from our call  
**Importance:** High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

## **Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research**

### **Notes from call 2/1/23**

Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

### **Action items:**

Rich will speak with:

Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue

Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)

NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation & NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:

ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:

Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)

ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

### **Next steps**

each of us will reach out to different contacts

re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Summary of discussion:**

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under attack
- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraeski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016952  
MORENS\_NIH\_035136

- Georgia Global Health Alliance
- Bay Area Global Health Alliance
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health
- COVID Collaborative
- Global Health Council
- Global Health Technologies Coalition
- Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
- International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
- Nobel Laureates Campaigns
- Pandemic Action Network
- PATH
- Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Washington Global Health Alliance
- 156 virologists letter
- NAM
- NAS
- NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
- CUGH
- The pandemic action coalition
- FASEB
- Global Health technologies coalition
- APLU (KHG has connection)
- Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
- Dr. Tony Fauci
- Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes)
- OSTP
- ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016953  
 MORENS\_NIH\_035137



---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Judes) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016954  
MORENS\_NIH\_035138

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

### Join Zoom Meeting

(b)(6)

Meeting ID (b)(6)  
Passcode (b)(6)  
One tap mobile  
(b)(6) US (New York)  
(b)(6) US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016955  
MORENS\_NIH\_035139

**Subject:** Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

#### Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

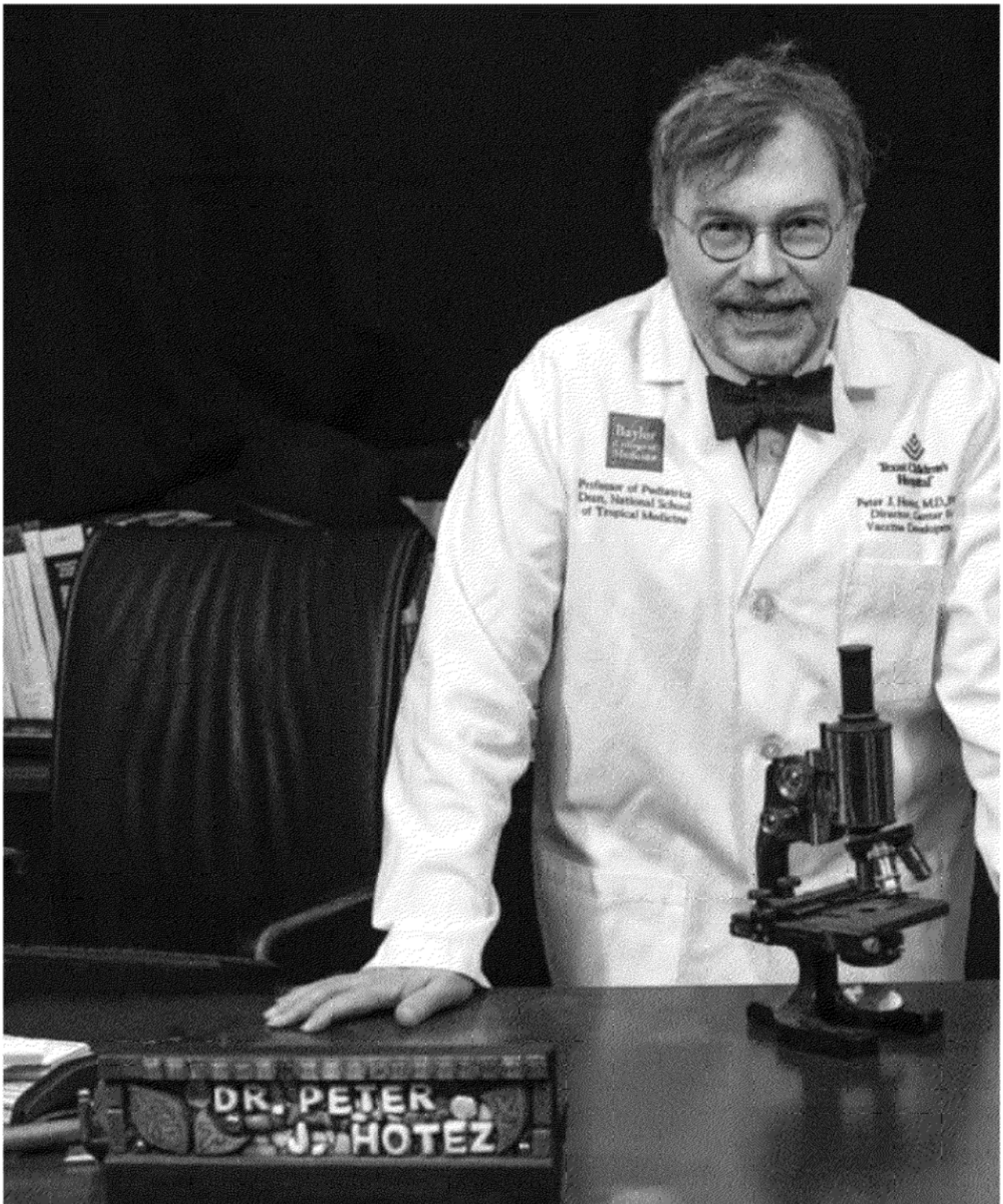
On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016956  
MORENS\_NIH\_035140

# **Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media**

By [Sara Goudarzi](#) | January 30, 2023



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)  
Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce “the COVID-19 misleading information policy.” The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there’s a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the COVID-19 vaccines,

hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it.

Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem.

I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Sara Goudarzi:** You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

**Peter Hotez:** Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine. The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, "the reason I'm doing this is to save lives?" It's no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

**Goudarzi:** With Twitter's moderators practically gone, the platform's announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

**Hotez:** It's blown up. It's gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I'll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I'm a Jewish scientist. And that's yet another dimension to all of this.

**Goudarzi:** How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

**Hotez:** I've had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I've also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It's taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

**Goudarzi:** Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

**Hotez:** I wrote an [article](#) about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It's not only social media; I think [amazon.com](#) was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what's out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they're probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it's all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it's Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been [documented](#) by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting [paper](#) that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

**Goudarzi:** Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

**Hotez:** I don't know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don't think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it's whatever people are buying—that's how they're ranking it.

**Goudarzi:** Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus say the flu or MMR vaccines?

**Hotez:** Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] [paper](#) from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee]



money... It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

**Goudarzi:** And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

**Hotez:** Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

**Goudarzi:** Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

**Hotez:** It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist. The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

**Goudarzi:** What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading



these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

**Hotez:** Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

**Goudarzi:** Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

**Hotez:** No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a [paper](#) in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

**Goudarzi:** Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

**Hotez:** It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18<sup>th</sup>-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or

hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, “Hey, scientists don’t want to debate us, what are they hiding?” And that’s, again, how they weaponize communication.

**Goudarzi:** I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn’t require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn’t necessarily true.

**Hotez:** I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can’t tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you’re looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it’s the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn’t always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

**Goudarzi:** But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

**Hotez:** I think so. It’s hard to imagine how I could’ve really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

**Goudarzi:** Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

**Hotez:** I don’t have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn’t on Twitter, because more often than not, it’s not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it’s people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn’t on Twitter. So that’s the reason I stay on it, because at least I’m getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what’s going on there.

**Goudarzi:** Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

**Hotez:** The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it’s been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

**Goudarzi:** What are some of the lessons we’ve learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

**Hotez:** I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it’s not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that’s the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it’s not just co-heading a team of scientists making a

COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM

**To:** David Moren (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T <

(b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016964  
MORENS\_NIH\_035148

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

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

Douglas.SorianoOsejo@bcm.edu | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b)(6) wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

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

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016965  
MORENS\_NIH\_035149

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

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

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016966  
MORENS\_NIH\_035150

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016967

MORENS\_NIH\_035151

NIH 60707 - 002307

REL0000480490

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of complete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Finally - virologists fight back!  
**Importance:** High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists-science-oversight-risky-experiments>) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - <http://www.scientistsforscience.org/>) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)...

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

## Virologists defend their science as

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016968  
MORENS\_NIH\_035152

# officials eye more oversight of risky experiments



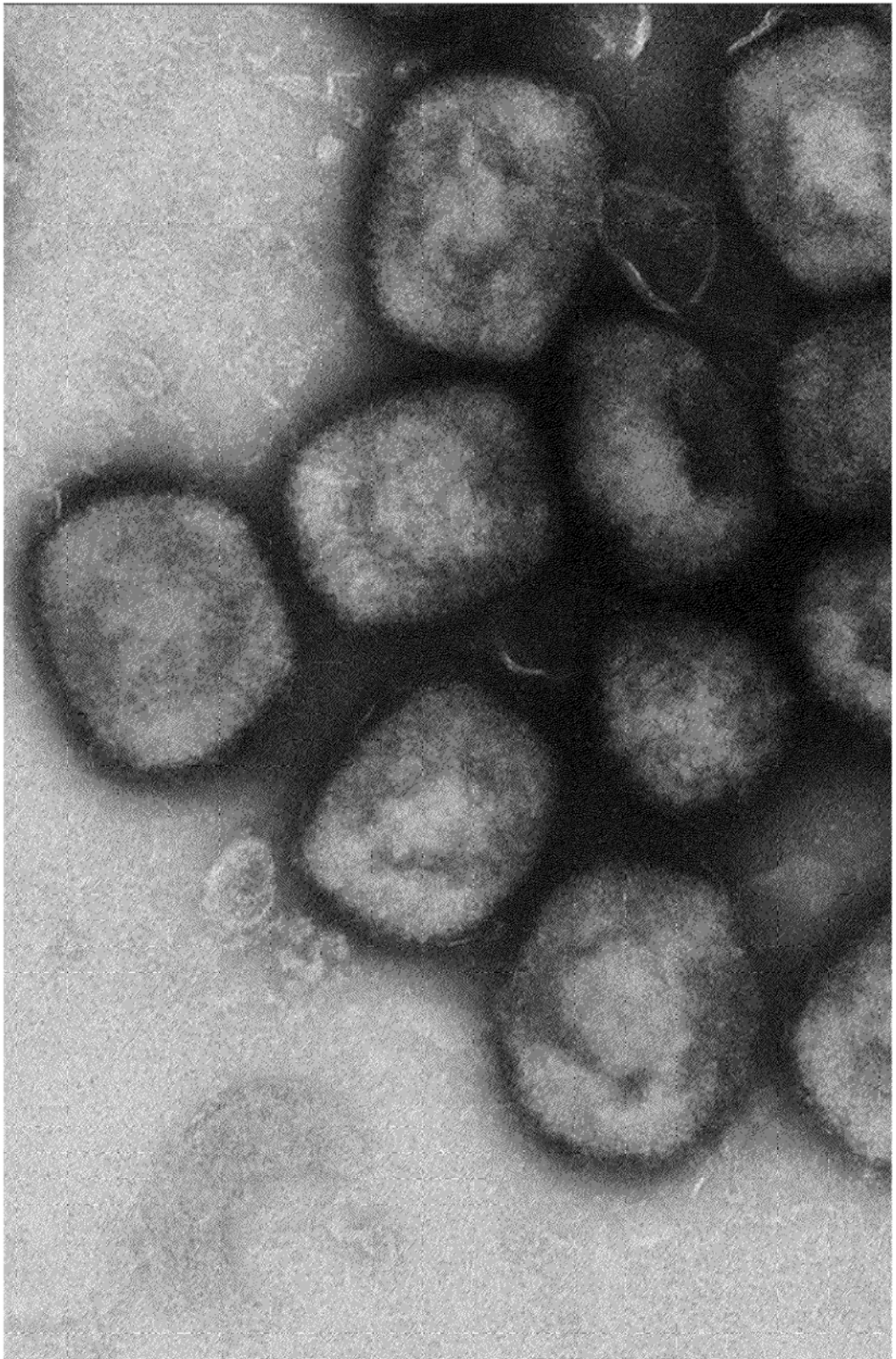
NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016969  
MORENS\_NIH\_035153

NIH 60707 - 002309

REL0000480490





This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*NIAID*

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a [commentary](#) that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident or malicious

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016970  
MORENS\_NIH\_035154

NIH 60707 - 002800

REL0000480490

attack.

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

#### **Sponsor Message**

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

### **The origins of the pandemic**

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

#### **Sponsor Message**

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

### **A bird flu study raises alarm**

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the

lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny. "We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

#### **Sponsor Message**

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

### **What's "Reasonably Anticipated"**

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work." But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

#### **Sponsor Message**

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it."

He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things

go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory  
coronavirus research  
pathogens  
**Facebook**  
**Twitter**  
**Flipboard**  
**Email**

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)  
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016973  
MORENS\_NIH\_035157

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6)

Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016974  
MORENS\_NIH\_035158

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016975  
MORENS\_NIH\_035159

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

Disappointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the foreseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that Scott Weaver would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum...er....Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016976  
MORENS\_NIH\_035160

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6)

>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told that because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position  
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016977  
MORENS\_NIH\_035161



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

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

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

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

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak wrote:

(b)(6)

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016978  
MORENS\_NIH\_035162

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)>; David Morens (b)(6)

Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

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

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

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

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

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

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6) |

Fax: (b)(6)

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016979  
MORENS\_NIH\_035163

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)> wrote:

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

---

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

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: (b)(6)

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

Twitter: (b)(6)

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

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)>; David Morens <

(b)(6)>

Gerald Keusch

(b)(6)

Rich

Roberts

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tweet by Miner: Flux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

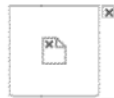
As ever,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016980

MORENS\_NIH\_035164

Jeff

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; David Morens <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



**MinerFlux**

@randy\_hoebee

#Hotez [pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw](https://pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw)

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016981  
MORENS\_NIH\_035165

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) |  
Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

**Date:** Thu, 16 Jun 2022 2:24:12 PM -0400

**Sent:** Thu, 16 Jun 2022 2:23:59 PM -0400

**Subject:** Now a video of the honorable Dr. Fauci saying the right thing out loud

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**CC:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

Here's Tony Fauci once again publicly defending EcoHealth's work on our terminated-now-suspended-with-11-impossible-conditions R01 grant: Look at the video **from 44 seconds in**...

[https://video.twimg.com/ext\\_tw\\_video/1537471325656305669/pu/vid/1228x720/Dz2u\\_bu9SaIdoXk.mp4?tag=12](https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1537471325656305669/pu/vid/1228x720/Dz2u_bu9SaIdoXk.mp4?tag=12)

His comments: We have received an "extraordinary amount of information" from EcoHealth's terminated grant. From a relatively small \$120K a year subaward "we have received published literature with data that shows they have done what they were given the grant for" in this "peer-reviewed, high priority grant".

This was from his testimony today in the Senate.

He was also attacked by Rand Paul mainly on the issue of receiving royalties (he said his average royalty over a 10 yr period was \$191!):

[https://video.twimg.com/amplify\\_video/1537453314392178688/vid/960x540/RjPxZWMrIFaT4DIj.mp4?tag=14](https://video.twimg.com/amplify_video/1537453314392178688/vid/960x540/RjPxZWMrIFaT4DIj.mp4?tag=14)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 2:12 PM

**To:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); 'Jeff Sturchio' (b)(6); 'David Morens' (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006773  
MORENS\_NIH\_015693

NIH 60767 - 002363

REL0000480492

'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6); 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)  
Cc: 'Aleksi Chmura' (b)(6)  
Subject: Jeff Sachs saying it out loud

I think you'll enjoy this – Jeff Sachs on a web interview now on Youtube saying that he is convinced SARS-CoV-2 came out of “US biotechnology, not from nature”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rRBuX4U0DU&t=745s>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 2:52 PM  
**To:** 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6); 'Jeff Sturchio' (b)(6); 'David Morens' (b)(6);  
'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6); 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksi Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Thanks for the comments Rich. It's now over with the NAM for their scholarly deliberations!

I'm now straight onto dealing with the draft of the HHS OIG audit – they were asked by NIH to do an audit of EHA, and they're trying to paint us as heinously incompetent and duplicitous, so we've now got to spend another few days drafting responses and supplying documentary evidence that we're not the bad guys people would like us to be...

Cheers,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006774  
MORENS\_NIH\_015694

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 1:51 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Peter:

This is excellent! I'm sorry to be slow in responding, but "officially" I have been on vacation and unable to read all emails coming my way without alerting my wife to my "non-vacation" behaviour. I am not en route home and have had the chance to read through this response.

What is so annoying here is that politicians have the easy option of targeting would-be scapegoats to uphold a political agenda and ignore science.

I hope the NAM will finally decide to follow the science and tell the politicians to go to hell.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 12:34 AM  
**To:** Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006775  
MORENS\_NIH\_015695



Cc: Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

Subject: FW: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

Thank you very much for your support dealing with this awful situation. Below is my email to NAM with an attached letter responding to the allegations, and a dropbox file with 28 appendices supporting each of the points I make (feel free to click on the link and sift through if you've got a spare few hours!).

Having been lucky enough to get a scholarship to one of those schools in the UK where we had to stand when the teachers (who we had to call "masters") came in the room, this brings back some powerful memories of the way institutions can be manipulated to make the lives of the people they're supposed to serve totally bloody miserable.

I only hope the committee is able to see beyond the political narratives, and their desire to save the NAM from attack, and do the right thing by one of their members. If not, I'll get ready with my appeal, and continue this tedious journey...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 12:24 AM

**To:** 'Fuentes-Afflick, Elena' (b)(6) 'Dzau, Victor J.' (b)(6) Kim, Se' (b)(6)

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: confidential: Response to letter from NAM April 11th 2022

**Importance:** High

Dear Dr. Fuentes-Afflick,

I want to thank you and the NAM for granting me the extra time to respond to the allegations from the three Republican members of the Congress. I am attaching the original letter to the NAM (attachment A), the focused allegations (attachment B), your letter to me informing me of the intent to open an investigation ("Letter to Member..."), and my response to your letter refuting these

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006776  
MORENS\_NIH\_015696

NIH 60707 - 002000

REL0000480492

allegations ("Dr. Daszak, response to NAM letter of April 11<sup>th</sup> 2022").

As you can see, I have provided a detailed refutation of each of the allegations, along with documentary evidence to support each point. This consists of 28 appendices (many are quite short consisting of specific email chains or short documents). However, because of their overall size, I have placed them in a secure dropbox folder that is available for you to download and circulate among the committee by clicking on the following link:

(b)(6)

As you stated below, I appreciate that this process is confidential, and I would ask that you take particular care to ensure that my letter and the appendices are carefully shared so as not to be circulated more widely than necessary – some of these appendices contain information that has never been released publicly before.

I will await the decision of the committee, the NAM Council and Dr. Dzau in due course, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura (cc'd) for any further information or clarification

Sincerely,

Peter Daszak  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b)(6)

**Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 2:06 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) Dzau, Victor J. (b)(6) Kim, Se (b)(6)

**Subject:** confidential

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for your note of April 22nd. I was traveling and apologize for my delayed response. I have reviewed your letter in detail and will respond to each point.

First, when the NAM receives any allegation of misconduct against a member, we have to follow an independent process that is outlined in the policy document you received. We have undertaken an initial evaluation by an assessment panel which eliminated many of the allegations but recommended a subset of the allegations to be further investigated by the conduct review committee. The list of allegations was shared with you.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006777  
MORENS\_NIH\_015697

NIH 60767 - 002807

REL0000480492

I accept your request for a deadline extension to June 12th. You may enlist the assistance of others and I encourage you to request that they honor the confidentiality of the process.

Point 1: To date, the NAM has not conducted its own investigation of the allegations. We have identified a subset of materials for further investigation which were referenced in the April 11, 2022 letter.

Point 2: I apologize for not providing information about the conflicts evaluation. We conducted a thorough evaluation of the conflicts of the assessment panel and conduct review committee members and none were identified.

Point 3: We identified selected references from the list provided in the original letter with the allegations and added one reference that is publicly available on the NIAID's website. These materials and any response you provide are the only materials that the Conduct Review Committee will consider.

Point 4: I should have asked if you have the results of an external investigation related to the allegations under consideration. If you have any such results, please share them.

Point 5: You are correct that our policy does not include a provision to meet with the conduct review committee and I cannot offer you this option. I invite you to submit additional materials if you believe they are relevant.

I want to assure you, personally, that the confidentiality requirement and following our process are my top priorities. I have discussed this with all individuals involved and have not shared information with anyone other than the assessment panel and conduct review committee members. My communication with the representatives of those who wrote the original letter was to confirm receipt of the materials and explain that we would be following our conduct review process.

I would be happy to connect with you, by phone or Zoom, to discuss.

Best,  
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:14 PM  
**To:** Dzau, Victor J. (b)(6); Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b)(6); Kim, Se (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Reporter inquiries re. the confidential NAM process of dealing with alleged code of conduct violations

Dear Victor, Elena and Kim,

I was very concerned to have received three separate press inquiries today regarding a story in *Fox News* (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house-republicans-ecohealth-alliance-concealed-data>). I am not planning to respond to these questions.

As you can see in the *Fox News* article, yet another partisan political letter has been made public with

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006778  
MORENS\_NIH\_015698

unsubstantiated and clearly politically motivated allegations against our organization and myself. In the article, an aide to Representative McMorris Rodgers states that *"After receiving our letter, NAM notified us they had opened an internal review of Daszak's behavior, per our request...We believe this letter about EcoHealth's potential false statements and fraud is relevant to the ongoing investigation the NAM is conducting into Peter Daszak, so we have sent NAM a copy of this letter as well."*

In your letters to me, and by phone, you reassured me repeatedly that the process of deciding whether to investigate these allegations was confidential on the NAM side, and you urged me to also treat correspondence with NAM on this issue as confidential, which I have. However, it appears that this is not the case, in that NAM has informed the Republican staff of intent to review my 'behavior' and that this has now been made public, as I indicated could happen in my letter to you last week, April 22, 2022.

It seems rather evident that the letters you have received are part of an ongoing and systematic political campaign to destroy EcoHealth Alliance's reputation and my own, with the ultimate target of undermining the NIH, Dr. Fauci, and the Biden White House. They are hyper-partisan and disingenuous in their goals, in that the letters and the fact they are simultaneously made public on *Fox News* and *Twitter*, are clearly designed to push a false narrative. EcoHealth Alliance has repeatedly and publicly refuted such allegations in our responses to NIH that have since been made public (e.g. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-study-of-bats-in-china-met-nih-grant-requirements-ecohealth-says-11635441406>) and in carefully given interviews with the press (e.g. <https://www.science.org/content/article/we-ve-done-nothing-wrong-ecohealth-leader-fights-charges-his-research-helped-spark-covid-19> and <https://theintercept.com/2022/03/11/covid-nih-ecohealth-peter-daszak-interview/>).

Given the developments today, I urge you to reconsider your decision to investigate these allegations, which have nothing to do with my adherence to the rules of conduct of NAM members, and to respond to the Republican accusers to state that they do not rise to the level whereby an investigation is warranted. I believe this is justified by the one-sided political nature of the attacks, the lack of prima facie evidence for the allegations, and the fact that your communications have already been made public in defiance of the confidentiality of the matter that NAM and EcoHealth Alliance have maintained. I'm very concerned that this public witch hunt will be damaging not just for myself and our organization, which has consistently produced cutting edge research on emerging diseases that has been fundamental to a series of NAM publications, but that it will also be damaging to NAM and the Academies in general. If you do not stand up to these politicized attacks at this point, they will surely continue and drag in other members of the Academies who have been publicly criticized and accused by the same politicians for the last two years, and who are being continually attacked by various fringe groups espousing conjectural hypotheses about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, in spite of the increasing scientific evidence supporting the spillover from bats through an intermediary host to humans.

This active political interference with stewardship of science, the integrity of science, and the pursuit of knowledge by scientists, goes well beyond EcoHealth Alliance and threatens the integrity of the entire U.S. scientific enterprise. It is no different except in volume than the incontrovertible political interference by Donald Trump in the scientific enterprise at NIH in April 2020, which prompted you to issue a public statement about the separation of politics from science in response. Your words and those of Marcia McNutt ring even more true at this point: *"Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all"* (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2020/09/nas-and-nam-presidents-alarmed-by-political-interference-in-science-amid-pandemic>). EcoHealth Alliance, myself, the NIH, Tony Fauci, NAM and you are in the cross-hairs now because NIH failed to protect science and scientists from Trump's overtly political, and sadly successful, effort to close down research that was politically inconvenient. I worry that this is just the beginning of the goal of this anti-science agenda, and for that reason it demands brave, bold, and decisive action.

Yours sincerely,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006779  
MORENS\_NIH\_015699

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

#### **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_006780  
MORENS\_NIH\_015700

NIH 60767 - 002820

REL0000480492

**Date:** Fri, 3 Jun 2022 4:20:04 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 3 Jun 2022 4:16:28 PM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: AN EXTREMELY INTERESTING PAPER  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** Charlie Calisher (b)(6)  
**CC:** David Morens (b)(6)

---

(note I'm responding to David's Gmail address).

I read that – it's a lot of innuendo and supposition, but if you remember what it was like in early Feb, it was extremely hard to contact people in China, especially working at a high level on COVID. Couple that with this being the time when early ideas about engineering of SARS-CoV-2 were circulating, it might have simply been that Tony Fauci wanted a way to talk with Zhong quietly and unofficially, and his colleagues in the Harvard group who were working with Evergrande to secure a donation, found out that the evergrande people had a link to Zhong and used that to set up a call. It's not unusual for China that personal contacts are more important than official requests...

And I really don't see the donation being linked to action, as this piece suggests, the discussion that mattered was the one we all had in early Feb as a NASEM group with NIH and Bob Kadlec that openly discussed the idea of engineering and found that a natural origin of the FCS was more likely, given the expected circulation in people or amplifier hosts for a few weeks prior to it taking off...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Charlie Calisher (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 2:28 PM  
**To:** 'Peter Daszak' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** 'David Morens' (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: AN EXTREMELY INTERESTING PAPER

FYI

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000795  
MORENS\_NIH\_006453

## Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000796  
MORENS\_NIH\_006454

NIH 60707 - 002320

REL0000480523

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:40 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:37 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image004.png; image005.jpg; image008.png

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

**IMPORTANT:** My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

**IMPORTANT:** For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Roberts, Rich** (b)(6)

Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 10:23 AM

Subject: RE: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6), Peter Daszak (b)(6)

Cc: Gerald T Keusch (b)(6), Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David Morens <

(b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010284  
MORENS\_NIH\_020794



Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email (b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

>; David Moren (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

Twitter: (b)(6)

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010285

MORENS\_NIH\_020795

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: <https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/>

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

**US RTK**  
U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010286  
MORENS\_NIH\_020796

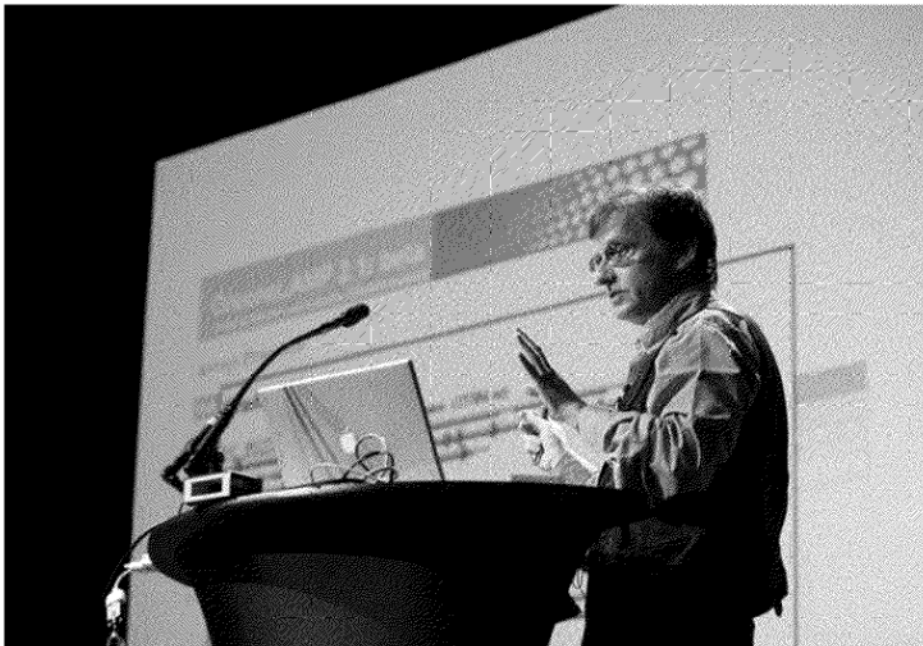
NIH 60707 - 002829

REL0000480532

# Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

[Print](#)[Email](#)[Share](#)[Tweet](#)

Posted on [July 1, 2022](#) by [Emily Kopp](#)



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: [kris krüg](#))

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an [archived version](#) of the group's website shows. Lipkin has [coauthored at least ten scientific papers](#) with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a [paper about novel coronaviruses](#) EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010287  
MORENS\_NIH\_020797

of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicine*," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

*Nature Medicine*, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet's COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

0

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

What a j

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010290  
MORENS\_NIH\_020800

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:27:32 PM -0400

**Subject:** Fwd: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**To:** David Morens (b)(6)

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Edward Holmes (b)(6)

Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 2:16 AM

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

To: Jason Gale (b)(6)

Cc: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >, David Morens

(b)(6) >, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Kristian G. Andersen (b)(6) >,

Wang Linfa (b)(6)

(b)(6) Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b)(6)

Yes, it's very odd. I just can't follow it.

What I did think was interesting - as you note - is that they talk a lot of the market which I thought was totally off the table in China. Also, it's from Nanshan Zhong and I last time I heard him speak he was strongly pushing the frozen food idea.

Perhaps a shift?

Or could just be a wet Wednesday afternoon's ramblings.

-----  
PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS  
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,  
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003998  
MORENS\_NIH\_010949

NIH 60707 - 002880

REL0000480536

The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia

T (b)(6)

E (b)(6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 4:06 pm, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I thought the SARS-CoV-2 virus that emerged in Wuhan wasn't capable of infecting mice that weren't genetically engineered to express human ACE2? This paper, with its emphasis of meteorological factors, seems dodgy to me. But it's good to see research on the origins from researchers in China getting out, albeit it in an obscure journal.

From: (b)(6) At: 09/20/21 15:55:39 UTC+10:00

To: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: )

Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Although I can't quite tell if it is sane.

---

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS  
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,  
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,  
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia

T (b)(6)

E (b)(6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 2:37 pm, Edward Holmes (b)(6) wrote:

Just found this in an obscure journal.

Interesting it is Nanshan Zhong and interesting that there's a lot about the market....

---

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS  
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,  
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,  
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia

T (b)(6)

E (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_003999  
MORENS\_NIH\_010950



On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:52 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I did this podcast episode on bats and zoonoses at the start of 2020 with the help of Hume Field, Trevor Drew, Mark Schipp and Linfa. Still seems relevant today.  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/how-it-all-started-rebroadcast/id1440051086?i=1000504072911>

From: (b)(6) At: 09/20/21 10:17:32 UTC+10:00

To: Jason Gale  
(b)(6)(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

100% agree.

---

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS  
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,  
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,  
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia

T (b)(6)  
E

On 20 Sep 2021, at 10:16 am, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Suspect geopolitics is the biggest impediment to finding an animal source in China, and the best remedy for this is to rebuild/strengthen r'ships with scientists in China.

From: (b)(6) At: 09/20/21 10:12:48 UTC+10:00

To: (b)(6)  
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: ), (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

Just need to keep sampling, but that sampling ought to be broader.

We need something >99% similar across the whole genome.

---

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS  
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004000  
MORENS\_NIH\_010951

Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,  
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,  
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia

T  
E [REDACTED] (b)(6)

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:59 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

[REDACTED] (b)(6) wrote:

Agree totally except your certainty that China is the ultimate source.  
Admittedly much data point in that direction but how can you be sure?  
d

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 19:28, Edward Holmes [REDACTED] (b)(6) wrote:

It's not phylogenetics.

One thing is ascertainment bias which could be huge.

Second thing is to distinguish the long-term ecology of these viruses from the short-term emergence of the virus. These Laos viruses are the former. Clearly these viruses are commonplace in SE Asia. And I don't just think that bats and pangolins will be the only animals with SC2-like viruses. Virus ecology does not work like that. But this is not the same as determining the events that happened in Wuhan. To me, China still looks like the most likely source.

Third, I'm pretty certain that groups in China are sitting on more SC2-like viruses. If you sample bats you find them. It is striking to me that CCDC have published so little on this yet have supposedly sampled so many animals. That doesn't add up. Never discount the politics.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS  
The University of Sydney

On 20 Sep 2021, at 9:00 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

[REDACTED] (b)(6) wrote:

Eddie, please clarify, i don't « get » all the phylogenetic assumptions you guys understand, but can you put it in Isyman's terms? As you know, i have said repeatedly to look past Yunnan to all of SE Asia, as i have bennunconvinced of the Yunnan centrality of all this, suspecting thAt the universe of these viruses crosses borders to include not only SW and S China but all of SEA.

If that is so, the implications ate huge: this is annintetnational

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004001  
MORENS\_NIH\_010952

problem demanding international cooperation. d

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 18:33, Edward Holmes [REDACTED] wrote:

Yes, good idea.

The receptor binding domain of some of these Laotian bats is so close to that of SARS-CoV-2 even some of the die-hard leakers are beginning to see the light...

This also effectively excludes that virus-receptor relationship was generated through lab passage, that the pangolin sequences were faked, and that this outbreak had anything to do with the Mojiang mine as a virus from a different country is now closer. That mine will go down in history as the reddest of herrings.

That said, I am a little worried about confirmation bias for the origin being bats from Yunnan/Laos/Cambodia. The more they find there, the more they sequence. But no doubt these Laotian samples are of huge significance. As are the Hubei civets.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

---

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS  
ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity,  
School of Life & Environmental Sciences and School of Medical Sciences,  
The University of Sydney | Sydney | NSW | 2006 | Australia

T [REDACTED]  
E [REDACTED]

On 20 Sep 2021, at 7:52 am, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Yes, do it! This is important and i say modestly, game changing. The whole « origin » controversy needs to be rethought from the ground up

We have been too micro-focusing (as i have long said to hard push back) but the sarobecovirus and merbecovirus problems are geographically and virologically complex and require us to drop back and study the viral-host universe. Thst universe is huge, complicated , and holds surprises, in my view. d

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004002  
MORENS\_NIH\_010953

David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 19, 2021, at 17:36, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

I'm planning to pull the threads Peter has so eloquently laid out into a story. Bob, Stephen, Joel (and Kristian), if you have time/interest to get on Zoom today, let me know. Thanks a lot. Jason

From: (b)(6) At: 09/20/21 07:31:51 UTC+10:00  
To: (b)(6)  
Cc: Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: ) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Study from 2007 shows SARS-infected civets on farms in Hubei

nPeter, as i am perennially swamped with work that has nothing to do with COVID issues of importance, i am always catching up on reading the important stuff

Just now i poured a martini and-read word for word your "A strategy..." paper with first author Sánchez. Also Kevin and Lin-fa were coauthors. Wow!!!

This is dynamite and also beautifully written. I mean, Hemingway, Conrad, Nin, couldn't have written it better. Beautiful job and so important.

I think you need to promote this work, and emphasize that the conclusions are far reaching and a sort of call to arms.

Let us all keep pushing,  
and keep our eyes on the  
prize of getting to the bottom of it all  
david

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Sep 18, 2021, at 12:05, Peter Daszak (b)(6) > wrote:

I put it all in a twitter thread while drinking coffee in my local diner (Saturday is "full English breakfast" day for me).

<https://twitter.com/peterdaszak/status/1439236376776658945?s=21>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004003  
MORENS\_NIH\_010954

No doubt ill be attacked by multiple lab leak aficionados but so be it  
- at least eddie,  
Garry and Kristian won't see. The horrors of that...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
(Sent from my iPhone)

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On Sep 18, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Garry, Robert F (b)(6) wrote:

Of course, the momentum on the lab leak side will continue, with books by Sharri Markison, Alina Chan/Matt Ridley, Op Eds that criticize scientists, 70+ FoIAs by one organization alone, many other FoIAs on their way, 900 pages of FoIA'd grants and reports from EHA/NIAID showing zero evidence of lab leak.

#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<Screenshot from 2021-09-19 17-04-25.png>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004004  
MORENS\_NIH\_010955

<healthcare-09-01132-v2.pdf>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_004005  
MORENS\_NIH\_010956

NIH 60707 - 002387

REL0000480536

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:35:16 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:34:32 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6);

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 7:27 PM  
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits  
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: David Morens (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6);  
Peter Daszak (b)(6);

The GND cytokine guy from Harvard School of Public Health? No I wasn't aware that he was there. What's he up to these days? I thought he had moved to Brazil for a while – is he now a New Yorker?

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM  
To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: David Morens (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio  
(b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6);  
Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Thank you Jerry, it was so great seeing you and everyone! Did you get

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009764  
MORENS\_NIH\_020274

a chance to see John David, that was nice as well.

I thought the evening was a great show of support for Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance, especially from the Board. I think that was probably the best part of the gala, the unbridled enthusiasm for the mission, it was nice to see.

The meeting at the RF in the afternoon was impactful and meaningful. I think we have some momentum to move forward on a coalition. So let's meet next week by zoom.

Warmest regards, Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development  
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &  
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced  
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009765  
MORENS\_NIH\_020275



Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: (b)(6)

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

---

From: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM  
To: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); David Morens  
(b)(6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei  
Chmura (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak  
(b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Agree. Let's find a time for a 1 pager for Mitchell and then focus on a short concept paper and next steps to circulate among the participants and to get more folks involved. Peter H and Peter D you both did a great job at RF and at the Gala for EHA. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) > wrote:

Peter:

That's good! We should look further for funding as well.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009766  
MORENS\_NIH\_020276

New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM  
To: David Morens (b)(6) >  
Cc: Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
Aleksi Chmura (b)(6) >; Peter Daszak  
(b)(6) >; Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >  
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

EXTERNAL SENDER

It was great to see everyone yesterday, I think we had a good start yesterday. We should zoom next week to decide how we want to follow up with the Mitchell Foundation

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Texas Children's Hospital: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics |  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development  
| Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009767  
MORENS\_NIH\_020277

Baylor College of Medicine: Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
| Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology &  
Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

Baylor University, University Professor

Rice University, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

Texas A&M University, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced  
Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens (b)(6) > wrote:

\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links  
or open attachments you know are safe.

---

Timely report related to many comments yesterday

d

Sent from my iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009768  
MORENS\_NIH\_020278

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)  
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT  
To: David Morens (b)(6) >  
Subject: Fwd: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]" (b)(6)  
Date: April 27, 2023 at 16:34:53 EDT  
Subject: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Lawyers have found a way to cash in on outrage over mask mandates and vaccines.

Kiera Butler 10 hours ago

In late March, I watched as some 300 lawyers, doctors, and activists assembled in the aggressively beige conference wing of the Midtown Atlanta Hilton for the inaugural Covid Litigation Conference. A promotional flier promised that the event would "provide attendees with the resources they need to begin taking on Covid cases for the first time or to expand the range of Covid claims that they currently handle." An unsuspecting lawyer could have been forgiven for expecting tips on how to help clients who had been disabled by Covid that they caught at their factory jobs, for instance, or those whose medical bills their insurance refused to pay.

But those kinds of cases were entirely absent from the agenda. Rather, the topic was a very particular kind of litigation: How best to advance the movement that organizers called "medical freedom." In other words, how to sue the people who created and enforced public health measures like vaccine and mask requirements, policies against Covid misinformation, and treatment protocols for hospitalized Covid patients.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009769  
MORENS\_NIH\_020279

The conference organizers wore t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan “Misinformation Superspreader.” Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a main organizer of the event, told me that the slogan was a cheeky reference to what he saw as the unfair labeling of anti-vaccine activists as peddlers of misinformation. “We said, ‘Okay if that’s what they’re calling us,’” he explained, “let’s kind of make fun of it.” Indeed, many of the attendees seemed to see themselves as underdogs, scrapping against government and pharmaceutical behemoths.

What those underdogs didn’t mention during the sessions, though, is their friends in high places: specifically, federal judges who seem to be sympathetic to their aversion to pandemic policies. Pointing to some of the victories that medical freedom lawyers have enjoyed in US District courts, Dorit Reiss, a public health lawyer and law professor at the University of California College of the Law, noted, “They’re having some success in the federal system in front of Trump-appointed judges, and they’re very much forum shopping right now.” Adam Winkler, a constitutional law scholar at the University of California-Los Angeles, agreed. “The courts have issued a lot of what were once thought to be outlandish kinds of rulings with regard to any number of issues like abortion and affirmative action,” he said. “I’d expect that encourages people to bind hope to the prospects of lawsuits that they would otherwise seem certain to lose.”

When I arrived, I didn’t think I’d get past the Misinformation Superspreaders and make it into the ballroom where the event was taking place. The media liaison for the conference, Trevor FitzGibbon, asked me if I was there to write about disinformation, and he seemed to balk at my affirmative answer. When I said I worked for Mother Jones, he noticeably brightened. He had come up in the PR business working for prominent progressive candidates and groups, he explained, including Barack Obama, MoveOn, and Planned Parenthood, which I took to mean that he considered us to be politically kindred spirits. And then he let me into the ballroom.

Once inside, I watched as one indignant panelist after another enumerated their grievances. At the Hospital Negligence Panel, doctors who refused to deviate from CDC protocol to treat Covid patients with unproven drugs like the antiparasitic medication ivermectin and antimalarial hydroxychloroquine were the targets of rage. The Education Mandates session featured the mother of a California teenager who had defied her school’s mask requirement, showing up at school without a mask for weeks on end in 2021, and standing outside the school for hours every day after she was kicked out. The panelists batted around ideas: Could the refusal to wear a mask be considered free speech? Could putting a kid in detention for not wearing a mask count as false imprisonment?

In his speech, Kirsch, the conference organizer, told the story of how, at the beginning of the pandemic, he had invested \$1 million of his own money toward studying existing drugs as potential Covid treatments. Somewhere along the way, he became convinced that the

Covid vaccines were dangerous. Last year, he founded the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation, whose goal, according to its website, is “to advance COVID-19 vaccine safety through scientific research, public education, and advocacy, and to support the vaccine injured.” After his speech, Kirsch told me that he sees litigation as a way to force the federal government agencies to release data that he believes they’re concealing about the dangers of the Covid vaccines. He said he is sure that “the only reason that we’re not allowed to see any of the data is because it’s bad.”

Many of the other speakers seemed to share Kirsch’s belief that the public isn’t seeing the whole picture of Covid. In a constitutional law panel, Robert Barnes, an attorney who previously represented both Kenosha shooter Kyle Rittenhouse and Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, said, “Pfizer makes the Mexican drug cartels look like a street corner dealer by comparison.” To hold the public health crowd accountable, he implored the lawyers at the ballroom tables to “knock down the doors of every court we can.”

But not just any court. Medical freedom activists have already started enjoying some successes in front of conservative judges. At the local level, several have sided with plaintiffs who’ve sued hospitals for refusing to give patients ivermectin. But it’s been on the federal level, with Trump-appointed judges, where they’ve enjoyed some of their most significant successes. In 2021, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Biden administration over a proposed policy that would have required Covid vaccinations for all Head Start employees. In March 2023, Judge James Wesley Hendrix of the Northern District of Texas, a Trump appointee, struck down the proposed policy. In January 2022, a group of government workers sued the Biden Administration over the president’s vaccination requirements for all federal employees; in 2022, Judge Jeffrey Vincent Brown, whom Trump appointed in 2019, ruled in their favor. That ruling was briefly overturned, but in 2023, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld it; the opinion was written by Trump appointee Judge Andrew Oldham.

In August 2022, a group of physicians sued the Biden Administration over its efforts to hold social media companies accountable for platforming physicians who spread misinformation about Covid. The plaintiffs, two of whom created the 2020 Great Barrington Declaration to oppose pandemic protections, accused the federal government of violating their First Amendment rights. “The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic,” Jay Bhattacharya wrote in a statement. That case is still ongoing, but in March, Trump-appointed judge Terry Doughty, in the Western District of Louisiana, denied a motion to dismiss it.

“The US government used its vast power over social media and big tech to censor legitimate scientific and policy discussion about Covid during the pandemic.”

There is more to come. Several of the conference speakers have

embarked on a Covid litigation bonanza of late. Mark Meuser, a member of the Future Litigation and Censorship panels, boasts on his website that he “has been involved in 22 lawsuits brought against [California Governor Gavin] Newsom for his unconstitutional usurpation of power as a result of COVID-19.” In the exhibition area, I visited the booth of Children’s Health Defense, the anti-vaccine organization helmed by the new presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who announced his bid to replace Joe Biden in April. A flier that highlighted some of the dozens of lawsuits that the group had recently filed reveals its eagerness to sue the government, at both local and federal levels. It’s suing California over a law that prohibits doctors from spreading misinformation; the Washington Post and other news outlets over their efforts to stop the spread of misinformation; and the CDC for access to reports of “unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events reporting that can signal safety problems with a vaccine.” Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is getting sued for calling for a review of the Amazon algorithms that allegedly promoted anti-vaccine books, and Facebook parent company Meta is being sued for “collusion with the US government to censor CHD social media content.” Add to the long list of defendants Rutgers University for its vaccine mandate for students and staff.

Law professor Reiss is dubious about the prospects for some of those lawsuits, especially those in which individuals sue a private company for censorship. The First Amendment, she noted, also protects “the freedom of private companies like Twitter and YouTube to kick them off.” Nor was the idea of students suing universities, a winning strategy. “You don’t have the right to go to a specific university,” she said. “And if you don’t like the university policies, universities are on pretty solid grounds denying you admission.”

Yet she noted that some of the victories the medical freedom movement has racked up so far could pave the way for future legislation that would last long beyond the Covid era—and possibly transform established public health practices. In fact, that’s already happening: Several panelists suggested making vaccination status a protected class like race or sex—which means that it would be illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of whether or not they had received immunizations. In 2021, Montana became the first state to pass such a law. In February of this year, Idaho followed suit. Employers there who require vaccination against Covid can now be fined \$1,000 per violation. A similar bill in Florida is currently under consideration.

Another potential opening for medical freedom advocates, Reiss said, is a broader interpretation of laws about religious exemptions to vaccine mandates, which most states allow. With the current Supreme Court’s expansion of what is included within the definition of freedom of religion, she worried they may include religious objections to vaccines. “If they go there, it will make it a lot harder to prevent the abuse of religious exemption,” she said. On April 18, a few weeks after I spoke to Reiss, a US district judge ruled that Mississippi must change its current policy to allow religious exemptions for

vaccine mandates. (The judge, Halil Suleyman Ozerden, had been nominated by Trump in 2019 to serve on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, but key Republicans questioned his conservative bona fides and he was never confirmed.)

With all this coming litigation, some of the conference sponsors saw a business opportunity. While the speakers inside the ballroom railed against big pharma and the CDC, just outside, representatives from law-firm-adjacent companies handed out business cards. Zena Obebe, the CEO of Hill Redaction Services, told me, “We wanted to get in front of those litigation lawyers and say, ‘Hey, you can use us for the medical records.’” She expects to see many more Covid-related cases soon, explaining, “There’s a huge influx that’s coming down the pipeline.”

Though Covid was the official topic of the conference, many of the people I talked to made detours into other subjects. Their involvement in the medical freedom movement, they said, had caused the scales to fall from their eyes. Kirsch, the conference organizer, explained that before the pandemic, he had never been skeptical of routine childhood vaccinations, but over the past few years, he has come to believe they cause autism (a theory that has been extensively discredited but one cherished by RFK, Jr. whose campaign, Kirsch says, he looks forward to supporting). So fervent is his newfound aversion to immunizations, he told me, that he now believes “nobody should ever” even vaccinate their pets.

For FitzGibbon, the comms guy, his involvement with the medical freedom movement has led to a more thorough disenchantment with his progressive roots. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, he had become acutely ill with Covid, but two different hospitals sent him home. Only when a doctor-client put in a good word for him did he get admitted to an ICU, where he received monoclonal antibodies—an effective though underutilized treatment—which he credits with saving his life.

In the months that followed, he became skeptical of what he saw as the single-minded focus on Covid vaccines and what he considered to be the suppression of treatments like the one he received, as well as more scientifically dubious drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. “All you saw in the US media was vaccine, vaccine, vaccine,” he said. “Any other mentions of these alternative treatments were blacklisted.” He now believes not only that the Covid vaccines are bioweapons, but also that the Democratic party has lost its way—he saw it even before Covid in Democrats’ soft stance on domestic surveillance under Obama, and now he sees it in foreign policy, too. In a pivot I frankly did not see coming, he said, “I do not recognize this administration or this party when it comes to the war in Ukraine,” especially since he claims that Russia had good reason to invade the country because of its problem with Nazis (ostensibly a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s shaky-at-best justification for his invasion).

It’s possible, though, that something unrelated to politics deepened his disenchantment with progressives: In 2015, his PR firm closed



abruptly after several female former employees accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he spoke to me on the condition that I note that the US Attorney declined to file any criminal charges, and a woman who had accused him of rape publicly retracted her allegations and apologized as part of a settlement in 2019.

Both Kirsch and FitzGibbon complained that progressive groups with whom they both were previously allied would no longer return their calls—about Covid or anything else. Aggrieved, they were determined to press on in what they saw as a countercultural but righteous crusade—a sentiment echoed by many of the speakers. Their alienation and what they consider to be oppression only further energizes them and their cause. In a heartfelt speech in the ballroom, Sujata Gibson, a New York-based lawyer and activist who recently won a lawsuit that led to New York overturning its vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, compared current medical freedom activism to the Indian struggle for independence, Nelson Mandela’s campaign against apartheid in South Africa, and the American civil rights movement. “Part of what we have to do as lawyers when we’re in these tyrannical moments in history—and this one is quite extreme—is we have to hold the line in the courts,” she said. “I’ve been lucky enough to see time after time how David and Goliath battles can be won.”

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:03:37 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:02:45 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image004.png; image005.jpg; image008.png; image007.png

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

**IMPORTANT:** My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

**IMPORTANT:** For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Date:** Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 11:24 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>

Funny!

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010310  
MORENS\_NIH\_020820

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Twitter: [REDACTED]  
Skype: [REDACTED]  
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)  
Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

Phone: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 9:23 AM, Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] (b)(6) wrote:

You know physicists discovered electrons, protons and neutrons – but they missed the morons.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [REDACTED] (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010311  
MORENS\_NIH\_020821

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 9:46 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Sachs and Relman quoted again today

EXTERNAL SENDER

It's getting crazy again

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

Twitter: (b)(6)

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)

Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010312

MORENS\_NIH\_020822

iPhone

On Jul 1, 2022, at 8:37 AM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

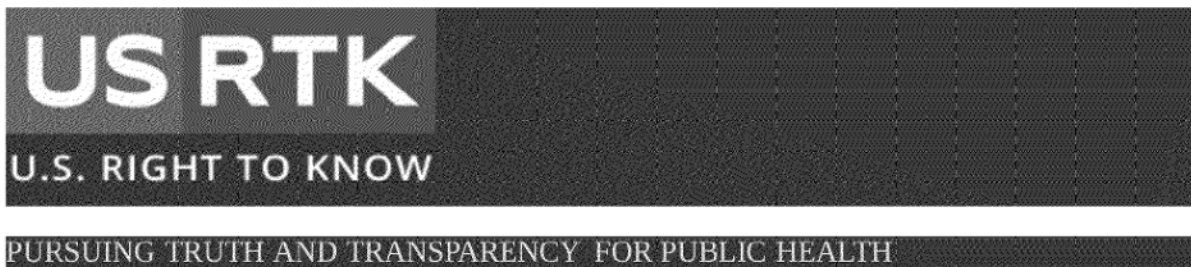
We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FoIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link: <https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/>

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FoIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

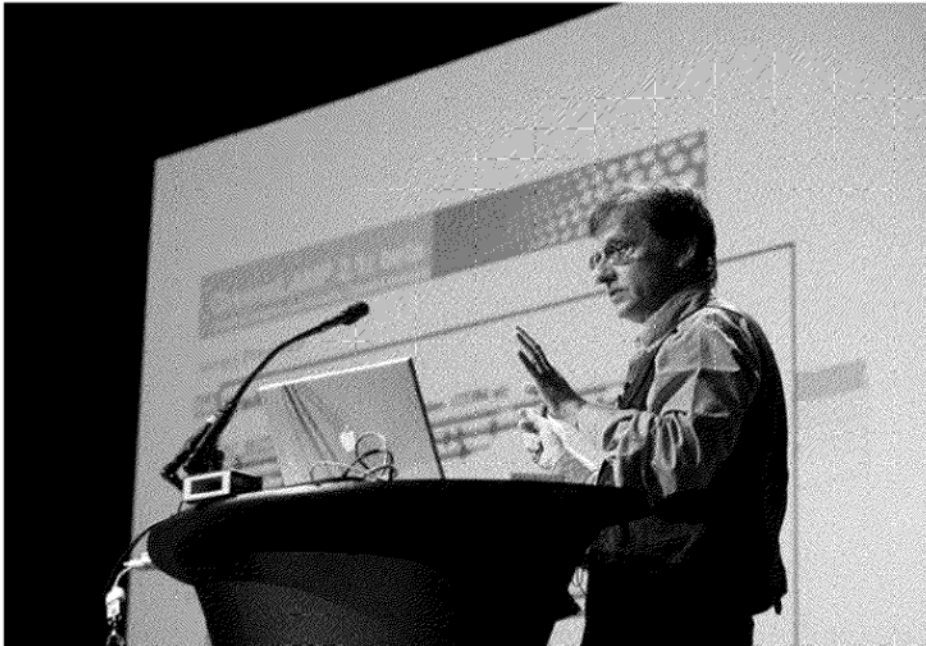


MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010313  
MORENS\_NIH\_020823

# Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

[Print](#)[Email](#)[Share](#)[Tweet](#)

Posted on [July 1, 2022](#) by [Emily Kopp](#)



Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: [kris krüg](#))

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an [archived version](#) of the group's website shows. Lipkin has [coauthored at least ten scientific papers](#) with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a [paper about novel coronaviruses](#) EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_010314  
MORENS\_NIH\_020824

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not derived from any previously used virus backbone."

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world's largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the *Nature Medicine* article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a "correspondence."

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

"For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had," said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper's premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab's coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab's history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

"The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at *Nature Medicine*," he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper's premise deserves more scrutiny.

"The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility," Sachs wrote in an email. "The paper's central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!"

"It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper," he continued. "The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so."

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology

was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

"If they've got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren't characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn't in this lab? They wouldn't," Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

*Nature Medicine*, the journal that published the paper, defines a "competing interest" requiring disclosure as including "personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals" — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin's connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It's still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a "nightmare of circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It's also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin's partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.



**Date:** Wed, 14 Sep 2022 8:31:52 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Wed, 14 Sep 2022 8:30:21 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Another attack from Republican Senators  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**CC:** David Morens (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** Sen Marshall USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf

Just saw this letter being promoted by Richard Ebright online. It's an effort to get USAID to defund EcoHealth, even when the funding they give us at present doesn't involved viral work at all – it's conservation and training grants.

The letter's led by Sen. Marshall, cosigned by the usual suspects, Rand Paul, Marc Rubio etc.

<https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/USAID-Letter-re-EHA-suspension-9.14.2022.pdf>

I hope it won't get much traction or lead to further delays in our work.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 9:17 AM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Rich Roberts <(b)(6)> Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Lancet covid commission report.

I've mostly given up on appealing to Richard Horton. Initially he wouldn't answer my emails, and finally when he agreed to a zoom and promised to redress my concerns, even stating he would do so in writing, so far nothing. He can't be bothered or at some level he agrees with Jeff?

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_011872  
MORENS\_NIH\_022943

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 7:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

The Task Force paper is now in production. I won't have a real estimated date for publication until the galleys are available and then its 2-3 weeks. So probably end of the month, at best around the time of UNGA.

Now you should remind Horton about his promise to control Sachs. Its shameful how ineffective he, Horton, has been and how slovenly he is with accuracy and science.

We (the Independent Task Force) are addressing the dissemination of our report to be as forceful and as fast as possible when the paper appears.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 6:49 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Lancet covid commission report.

Yes I think it may be released as soon as next week, with press conferences I believe in NY around the time of UNGA (as originally planned). I was not invited to participate.

Two weeks ago, Richard Horton in a zoom agreed to address my concerns about Jeff's specific attacks on me, he was supposed to respond by last week. But nothing so far, so I'm not optimistic. Best Peter

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_011873  
MORENS\_NIH\_022944

**Baylor University** , University Professor  
**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty  
**Texas A&M University** , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: (b)(6)

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Sep 7, 2022, at 2:00 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Just been sent this link to a webinar on sept 15th.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2fOHd3OIRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2fOHd3OIRHuljvaKUPrYHg?s=09)

It looks like the lancet Covid-19 commission's report will be released then. Is that right Peter?

I note that there's no specific placeholder for a report on the origins despite Jeff Sachs' recent pontification on the subject!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_011874  
MORENS\_NIH\_022945

**Date:** Tue, 12 Apr 2022 4:21:20 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Tue, 12 Apr 2022 4:21:17 PM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members  
**From:** "Roberts, Rich" (b)(6)  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**CC:** Jeff Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

---

Peter:

Appalling! Yet again I am glad that I am not a member of any of the Academies. They are completely toothless as well as incompetent. Almost as bad as the UN.

Happy to chat if it might help. Otherwise I will see in a couple of weeks' time.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:14 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Jeff Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** The NAM are now investigating me based on some of the allegations from the Republican congressional members  
**Importance:** High

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Please see the email below that I just received and the attachments.

They've cut down the allegations to a handful that I have to respond to within 30 days. But as I see this, these are grey areas that they could use to easily push me out, no matter my response. It would save them political hassle if they get rid of me, and I'm very worried that this is their ultimate goal.

Obviously, I'll try to be as aggressive as possible in defending against this, but this is devastating to me personally to have to go through this and if they expel me, it would likely cost me my job and career. Even more worrisome is the last paragraph in the letter from the Congressional members – they are playing pure politics here – if I'm found to be in breach, they are demanding that every report I've been involved in, and every committee be investigated.

This feels like a purge orchestrated by politicians for a political goal, and an academy that is too weak to push back.

Cheers,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007062  
MORENS\_NIH\_016166

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Fuentes-Afflick, Elena (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 1:58 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Kim, Se (b)(6)  
**Subject:** confidential

Dear Dr. Daszak,

On behalf of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), I am notifying you that the NAM has received a complaint alleging that you have engaged in conduct(s) that may constitute violation(s) of the NAM Code of Conduct for members.

Please find attached a notification letter, supplemental documentation, and NAM bylaws and Code of Conduct. Pursuant to the NAM Policy and Procedure on Violations of the Code of Conduct, please provide a response to the allegations within 30 days of the date of this notification, and by no later than May 13, 2022.

For your awareness, copies of this notification is postage mailed by FedEx to your office address at EcoHealth Alliance, 520 Eighth Ave Suite 1200, New York, NY 10018.

Sincerely,

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, M.D., M.P.H.  
Home Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

---

**The information contained in this transmission is confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention or copying of this communication and its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise by return email immediately and then delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.**

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007063  
MORENS\_NIH\_016167

NIH 60767 - 002060

REL0000480587

## Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_007064  
MORENS\_NIH\_016168

NIH 60707 - 002065

REL0000480587

**Date:** Tue, 19 Mar 2024 7:43:47 PM -0400

**Sent:** Tue, 19 Mar 2024 7:43:44 PM -0400

**Subject:** RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); (b)(6)

I have a hard time calling him Dr. or Professor for that matter.

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6:46 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

I really don't think this is worth a response to Dr. Sachs or to the journal. There are numerous factual inaccuracies about our work, but it's in an obscure journal I've not heard of, and it isn't being picked up by others. Basically it's safe to say Dr. Sachs has strayed so far down a rabbit hole I don't think he'll be coming out of it based on the fact it's going nowhere...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 5:25 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); kuuipo9 (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Jerry:

Probably a waste of time to respond, unless you would like me to send something to him personally (and copy his wife).

Rich

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000047  
MORENS\_NIH\_000075

NIH 60767 - 002868

REL0000480588

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:45 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Opinion from Jeff Sachs

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

This is another totally speculative list of non-data. How many “may be” does it take to understand it is not credible unless you formed your opinion in advance?

Should there be a very brief point by point response or just let it lay and decay?

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 7:21 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Roberts Rich (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Opinion from Jeff Sachs

Tragic conspiracy nonsense  
<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/covid-19-gain-of-function-us-research>

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children’s Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000048  
MORENS\_NIH\_000076



**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

| Phone:

(b)(6)

| Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000049  
MORENS\_NIH\_000077

NIH 60707 - 002068

REL0000480588

**Date:** Tue, 4 Jun 2024 9:48:25 AM -0400  
**Sent:** Tue, 4 Jun 2024 9:48:12 AM -0400  
**Subject:** Re: House Republicans to grill Anthony Fauci over coronavirus, pandemic response : Shots - Health News : NPR  
**From:** Keith Martin (b)(6)  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >; David Morens  
**CC:** (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

---

Dear Peter,  
Please share any material we can distribute that is a rebuttal to the sham interrogation of Dr. Fauci and the smears against Ecohealth and the NIH.  
We can share them widely.  
Thanks so much.  
Keith

-----  
*Hon. Dr. Keith Martin, MD, PC  
Executive Director  
Consortium of Universities for Global Health  
1608 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20036*

[www.cugh.org](http://www.cugh.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)



On Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 10:02 AM Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

The NPR interviewed good scientists working in the field who all said we've been scapegoated and railroaded. They then interviewed an anti-China political operative (Metzl) and a self-proclaimed "postdoc" working on human genomics who's been pushing the lab leak theory for 4 years. Is it surprising that they both said the opposite.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2024 7:55 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David Morens <(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Keith Martin <(b)(6)> Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** House Republicans to grill Anthony Fauci over coronavirus, pandemic response : Shots - Health News : NPR

I can't believe they would interview Alina Chan

<https://www.npr.org/2024/05/30/g-s1-1788/republicans-probe-covid-origins-attack-on-science-or-long-overdue>

MORENS\_NIH\_044575

NIH 60767 - 002876

REL0000480589

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development | Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

| Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

Date: Wed, 1 Jun 2022 6:35:07 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 1 Jun 2022 6:33:31 PM -0400

Subject: Paper now published in Nature Communications Biology showing that furin cleavage is readily 'evolvable' in European bat CoVs

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6)

To: Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Peter Hotez (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)

I don't know if this has been shared with us all yet, but a preprint on this issue came out a few months ago and is now published in Nature Communications Biology.

As you can read, it clearly indicates that the ability of SARSr-CoVs to undertake furin cleavage is something that is clearly achievable in nature – in this case in European bat SARSr-CoVs, with just one nucleotide mutation. Normally, this would close the door on all lab leak suppositions around the FCS of SARS-CoV-2, but we're not in a normal world, and with loud voices like Jeff Sachs spuriously claiming the opposite, the confusion will continue in the public's mind.....

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s42003-022-03421-w>

● Published: 30 May 2022

## Genomic determinants of Furin cleavage in diverse European SARS-related bat coronaviruses

- [Anna-Lena Sander,](#)
- [Andres Moreira-Soto,](#)
- [Stoian Yordanov,](#)
- [Ivan Toplak,](#)
- [Andrea Balboni,](#)
- [Ramón Seage Ameneiros,](#)
- [Victor Corman,](#)
- [Christian Drosten &](#)
- [Jan Felix Drexler](#)

[Communications Biology](#) volume 5, Article number: 491 (2022) [Cite this article](#)

- 353 Accesses
- 157 Altmetric
- [Metricsdetails](#)

### Abstract

The furin cleavage site (FCS) in SARS-CoV-2 is unique within the *Severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus* (SrC) species. We re-assessed diverse SrC from European horseshoe bats and analyzed the spike-encoding genomic region harboring the FCS in SARS-CoV-2. We reveal molecular features in SrC such as purine richness and RNA secondary structures that resemble those required for FCS acquisition in avian influenza viruses. We discuss the potential acquisition of FCS through molecular mechanisms such as nucleotide substitution, insertion, or recombination, and show that a single nucleotide exchange in two European bat-associated SrC may suffice to enable furin cleavage. Furthermore, we show that FCS occurrence is variable in bat- and rodent-borne counterparts of human coronaviruses. Our results suggest that furin cleavage sites can be acquired in SrC via conserved molecular mechanisms known in other reservoir-bound RNA viruses and thus support a natural origin of SARS-CoV-2.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000782  
MORENS\_NIH\_006423

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 7:14 PM

**To:** David Morens (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Peter Hotez (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** RE:

A classic how to obscure truth in writing for a School of Journalism's honor role of how not to do journalism. Rather disgusting. I suspect The Scientist referred to is a chief advisor to Jeff Sachs.

Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 2:46 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; (b)(6); Peter Hotez (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Fwd:

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Date:** May 31, 2022 at 14:44:17 EDT

**To:** David Morens (b)(6) >

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000783  
MORENS\_NIH\_006424

NIH 60767 - 002879

REL0000480597

## Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000784  
MORENS\_NIH\_006425

NIH 60767 - 002820

REL0000480597

**Date:** Mon, 3 Jun 2024 8:13:53 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Mon, 3 Jun 2024 8:13:43 PM -0400  
**Subject:** FW: NASEM service  
**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) David Morens  
(b)(6) peter hotez (b)(6)  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

Dear Colleagues,

A sad day for me watching Democrats who threw EcoHealth (and David) under the bus laud Dr. Fauci for his honorable service, only to hear Dr. Fauci deny his decades-long relationship with David, then answer the question "Do you agree that EcoHealth should be debarred" with the single word "Yes". Of course it could have been much worse, but I just wonder how far our reputation can be pushed into the mud before it's unsalvageable.

Anyway – on another issue, below is my response to the NASEM's COO and Chief Program Officer Dr. Gregory Symmes, in response to his request for a "meeting to discuss potential impact of the recent HHS decision on your service to the National Academies".

I checked out Dr. Symmes' bio here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/about/leadership/gregory-symmes-h> Basically, he's the NASEM equivalent of Michael Lauer. Let's see if he's decent and fair in the way he deals with a politically-targeted NAM member... I'll let you know..

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 7:43 PM  
**To:** 'Symmes, Gregory' (b)(6)  
**Cc:** 'Wood, Tasha' (b)(6) 'Alison Andre' (b)(6)  
'Aleksei Chmura' (b)(6)  
**Subject:** NASEM service  
**Importance:** High

MORENS\_NIH\_047167

NIH 60707 - 002025

REL0000480602



Dear Dr. Symmes,

Thank you for your email of May 31<sup>st</sup> and for the reminder of our meeting as part of the Committee to Advise the USGCRP, which I trust is doing well. My understanding is that the HHS letters to EcoHealth Alliance and myself are the initial step in a process during which we will have an opportunity to refute allegations, present evidence that our organization is a good steward of federal funding, and that debarment is not appropriate in this case. EcoHealth Alliance intends to contest debarment vigorously on behalf of the organization and myself. We have already amassed substantial evidence to refute the baseless allegations against us, and to show clearly that EcoHealth Alliance has 'present responsibility' to manage federal awards. There has been a rush to judgment by the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic and HHS, with a conspicuous lack of due process.

As you know, I have served the NASEM on numerous committees and in other roles over the past two decades, working hard on behalf of the Academies, both before and after becoming a member of the NAM. These duties were already disrupted when I was asked to suspend activities while being investigated for around 12 months, following a spurious politically-motivated letter from politicians bent on undermining science. I was completely exonerated by the NAM investigation and rapidly picked up my activities. There is nothing about the HHS process that should or does affect my ability to perform my duties to the NASEM to their fullest capacity. I therefore intend to continue with my duties until due process has been given an opportunity to play out.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Symmes, Gregory (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2024 3:57 PM

**To:** Daszak, Peter

**Cc:** Wood, Tasha (b)(6)

**Subject:** meeting request

Dear Dr. Daszak,

My name is Greg Symmes and I'm the Chief Program Officer of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. You may remember meeting me years ago during your service on the Committee to Advise the US Global Change Research Program, when I was executive director of the Academies' Division on Earth and Life Studies.

I'm reaching out to schedule a zoom call with you to discuss potential impact of the recent HHS decision on your service to the National Academies.

My executive assistant Tasha Wood will be in touch with your office to arrange a time for us to meet. Please let me know if there is someone in your office Tasha should work with to help with your schedule.

MORENS\_NIH\_047168

NIH 60707 - 002020

REL0000480602

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best,  
Greg Symmes

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.  
Chief Program Officer  
Acting Chief Operating Officer

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**NATIONAL** *Sciences*  
**ACADEMIES** *Engineering*  
*Medicine*

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the individual or individuals named above on behalf of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The information herein is privileged to the National Academies. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

Date: Fri, 3 Feb 2023 9:35:53 AM -0500  
Sent: Fri, 3 Feb 2023 9:35:39 AM -0500  
Subject: RE: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH  
From: "Roberts, Rich" (b)(6)  
To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >;  
Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) >; David  
CC: Morens (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >;  
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg  
Peter:

Very good. I can use those myself (but only with attribution!)

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 9:06 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens  
(b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** Re: House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH

EXTERNAL SENDER

My 2 talking points

Remember, the work of the EcoHealth Alliance is what is helping to keep America safe in first identifying the fourth major coronavirus pandemic in this Century. I'm predicting number 4 will be out before the end of this decade. We must support EcoHealth Alliance.

Remember, it was Marjorie Taylor Green and her colleagues on the House Freedom Caucus and their antivaccine rhetoric that caused thousands of Americans in conservative states in the South, especially in my state of Texas, to shun vaccines and lose their lives. They killed Americans before and now they want to further endanger the US population by shutting down our warning systems for the 4th pandemic will that will surely

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016755  
MORENS\_NIH\_034904

NIH 60767 - 002828

REL0000480608

come

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Feb 3, 2023, at 7:57 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Peter:

Sorry you have to continue with this witch hunt. Almost like being in Salem!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant (b)(6)

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016756  
MORENS\_NIH\_034905

**From:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2023 2:01 AM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; Hotez, Peter Jay <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** David Morens <(b)(6)>; Roberts, Rich <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** House Energy and Commerce Republicans are now demanding documents/testimony from EcoHealth and NIH

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Just to let you all know that, as predicted, we've received our first exhaustive request for documents, information and testimony. 41 questions from the House Energy & Commerce Committee Republicans. Many of them have already been answered over and over again, and many of the documents have been repeatedly FoIA'd, but of course, this isn't about getting to the truth about anything – it's about creating a 'show' for the hard right voters to watch EcoHealth squirm.

They wrote to us by email and simultaneously made the letter public of course. They've also written to NIH asking them 47 questions all about EcoHealth's terrible behavior. David – they're after your emails too...Here's the link, and I've attached the letters to us and NIH to save you the downloading time...

<https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/chairs-rodgers-griffith-and-guthrie-launch-e-and-c-s-118th-congress-covid-19-origins-investigation>

Most outrageously, in their preamble they comment that our work in China funded by NIH provided “no scientific work product produced for the American taxpayers who helped finance these efforts, and no useful information to support pandemic preparedness efforts.”

Actually, in the first 5 years of the R01 funding, we published 18 papers, including 2 in *Nature* and 1 in *Cell*. It was so productive that our renewal proposal was scored within the top 3% of grants.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016757  
MORENS\_NIH\_034906

**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2023 4:58 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio <

(b)(6)> Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Notes from our call

Just to note I have just sent a note to Carlos del Rio about NAM, to Mary Woolley about Research!America, and Stef Bertuzzi about ASM. I'll let you know if and what I hear back from them and we can proceed from there.

Jerry

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:26 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Notes from our call

**Importance:** High

Attached are notes and action items (also cc'd below), as well as the concept note which I've expanded with more names of orgs to add:

### **Towards a Coalition to Protect Pandemic Preparedness Research**

#### **Notes from call 2/1/23**

Rich Roberts, Peter Hotez, Jerry Keusch, David Morens, Jeff Sturchio, Peter Daszak, Aleksei Chmura

#### **Action items:**

Rich will speak with:

Harold Varmus to sound him out re. this issue

Holden Thorpe to find out the best way to engage AAAS (Sudip Parikh CEO)

NAS: Rich will be in DC in March talking with Marcia McNutt, Nobel Foundation &

NAS – will see if Nobel Foundation will endorse this effort if NAS supports it

Jerry Keusch will reach out to:

ASM – Stephano Bertuzzi

David Morens will reach out to Tony Fauci to ask advice on how we should progress

Peter Hotez will talk with:

Head of OSTP (Peter will speak with them in March)

ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Peter Daszak will contact as many of the others as possible, writing on behalf of all of us, so as to avoid concerns that people might have re EcoHealth being in the line of fire.

#### **Next steps**

each of us will reach out to different contacts

re-convene by conference call in 3 weeks or so (Peter D. will set up), around Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In-person meeting at EHA NYC afternoon of April 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Summary of discussion:**

- What could the goals of the coalition be, and what should they not be
  - Overall goal to have a 'coalition of the willing' form, organized by an independent group (hopefully AAAS, or similar level) to defend pandemic prevention research that is under

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016758

MORENS\_NIH\_034907

attack

- How should we reach out to build a coalition?
  - Making contact with key people from each of the above, trying to set up a conference call, convened by a leading independent group (e.g. AAAS) where multiple contacts come together and the discussion is led by the independent group.
- Who should we try to engage: Academies, academic societies, pro-science pressure groups, senior figures in the field, funders, and governmental leaders. Initial list:
  - AAAS
  - AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
  - American Public Health Association (Georges Benjamin)
  - American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Dan Bausch, Karen Goraleski, Kent Kester)
  - Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
  - Georgia Global Health Alliance
  - Bay Area Global Health Alliance
  - Consortium of Universities for Global Health
  - COVID Collaborative
  - Global Health Council
  - Global Health Technologies Coalition
  - Infectious Diseases Society of America Carlos del Rio (Jerry will reach out)
  - International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
  - Nobel Laureates Campaigns
  - Pandemic Action Network
  - PATH
  - Research!America – Reach back out – Jerry will
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Washington Global Health Alliance
  - 156 virologists letter
  - NAM
  - NAS
  - NL Campaigns (to be kept informed of progress by Rich)
  - CUGH
  - The pandemic action coalition
  - FASEB
  - Global Health technologies coalition
  - APLU (KHG has connection)
  - Wellcome Trust (Paul Schreier is the interim head).
  - Dr. Tony Fauci
  - Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Jude)
  - OSTP
  - ASV – Anne Moscona (President-Elect)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:21 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Update

Dear all, I spoke with Ann Moscona President-Elect at ASV and she's all in. She also suggested adding Felicia Goodrum (Arizona) and Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Jude's) both really good on policy issues, she will give them a heads up, thanks! Peter

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital** : Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016760  
MORENS\_NIH\_034909



**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

| Phone:

(b)(6)

| Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:14 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay

(b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens

(b)(6)

; Roberts, Ric

(b)(6)

Keusch, Gerald T

(b)(6)

Jeffrey Sturchio

(b)(6)

; Aleksei Chmura

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Concept note and Agenda for our discussion today at 1pm Eastern US time

Dear All,

I'm looking forward to our discussion today at 1pm. Attached is a concept note that Jeff Sturchio drafted to frame some ideas around what we might try to do.

I've also attached a rough agenda for us.

Here are the details of the zoom call, and I look forward to speaking with you all later on:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

(b)(6)

Meeting ID:

(b)(6)

Passcode:

(b)(6)

One tap mobile

(b)(6)

US (New York)

(b)(6)

US

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016761

MORENS\_NIH\_034910

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 3:04 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Two great articles!

Many thanks Peter! Appreciate the support!

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016762  
MORENS\_NIH\_034911

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 31, 2023, at 1:44 PM, Peter Daszak <(b)(6)> wrote:

First, want to send my appreciation for your great interview in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists yesterday, Peter:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

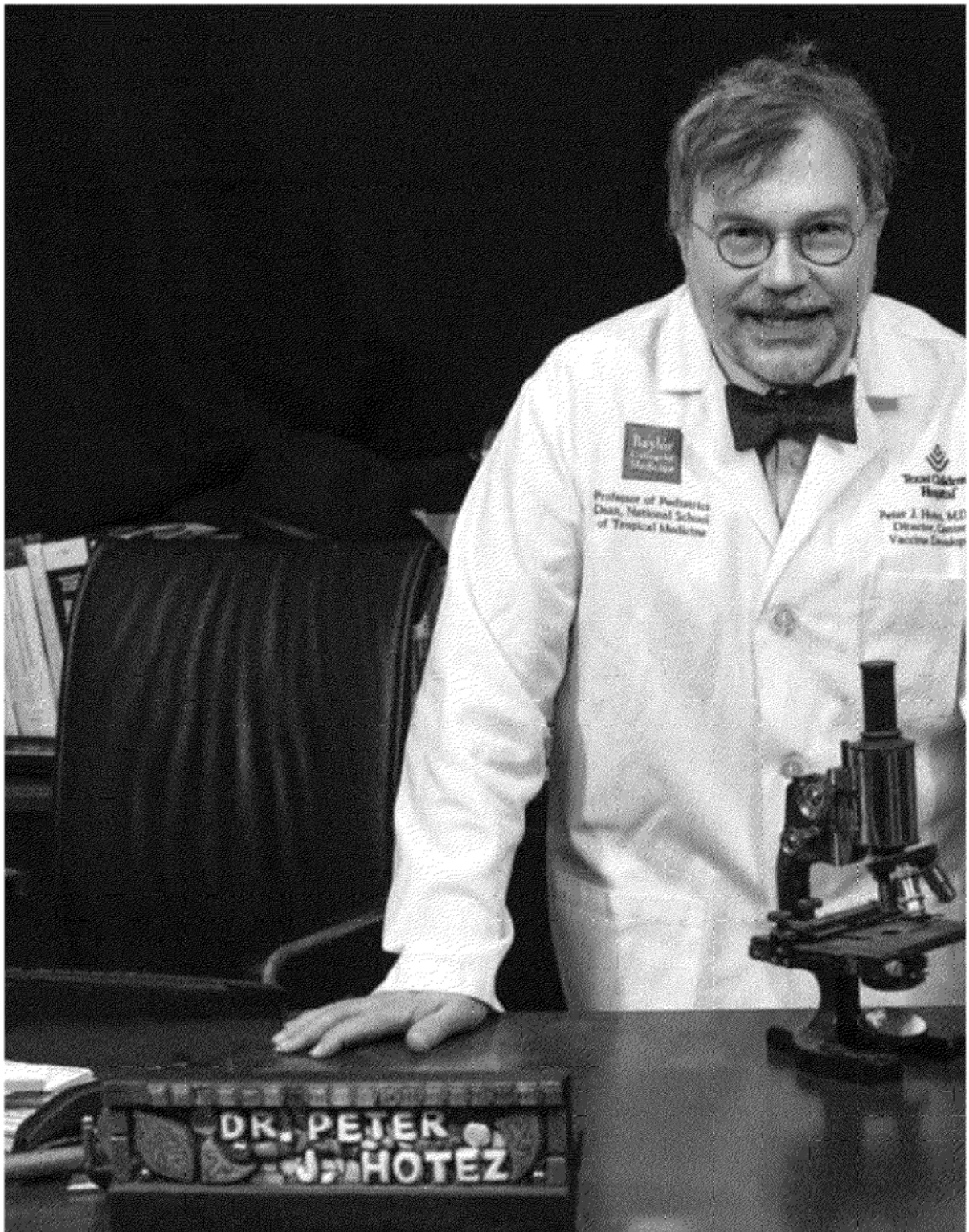
## Viral spread: Peter Hotez on the increase of anti-science aggression on social media

By [Sara Goudarzi](#) | January 30, 2023

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016763  
MORENS\_NIH\_034912

NIH 60707 - 002080

REL0000480608



Peter Hotez (Image courtesy of Agapito Sanchez, Baylor College of Medicine)  
Last November, Twitter announced it will no longer enforce “the COVID-19 misleading information policy.” The platform also allowed previously banned users to rejoin the site. Since then, anti-vaccination messaging has gained renewed energy, distressing scientists and researchers who have been combatting misinformation and disinformation on social media. According to research, there’s a strong relationship between anti-vaccination efforts on social media and vaccine hesitancy, and while millions of people were saved by having taken the

COVID-19 vaccines, hundreds of thousands of Americans died after refusing it. Peter Hotez, a physician-scientist, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, and a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine, is no stranger to anti-vaccination attitudes. He has fought against misleading medical information for years. But now, he says, anti-science sentiments have been weaponized by businessmen and politicians seeking profits and power. In the 1940s and 1950s, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) investigated and discredited several scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project. Hotez expects congressional committees under Republican control to engage in a similar targeting of scientists in an attempt to accumulate influence and foster a sense of belonging—a signature of authoritarian regimes—among their constituents. In his view, this anti-vaccine, anti-science movement, versions of which are spreading to other countries, could destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem. I spoke with Hotez about the role of social media in spreading misleading information on vaccines and stoking anti-science aggression in many dimensions. *The resulting discussion has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Sara Goudarzi:** You've been on Twitter for more than a decade and often use it as a tool to communicate health and science facts, such as the importance of vaccinations. How in your experience has the social media platform changed during this time?

**Peter Hotez:** Well, it's become a lot more adversarial as the anti-vaccine movement has shifted. The anti-vaccine movement began in earnest around 20 years ago in the United States around false assertions that vaccines cause autism. The way I got involved was because I have a daughter with autism, and I wrote the book *Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism: My Journey as a Vaccine Scientist, Pediatrician, and Autism Dad*, and that made me public enemy number one or two with the anti-vaccine activists.

What I would do at that time of social media was use their statements in their attacks against me as a teachable moment, to expose what the anti-vaccine movement was all about and how they were monetizing the internet with books on Amazon and nutritional supplements and the phony autism cures. So, rather than simply block people who were attacking me, I would retweet them with a little description of what they were doing. People found it very interesting because it was teaching them how an anti-science movement works, and they started coming to my Twitter for that purpose.

The game changer was about nine years ago, when [vaccine disinformation] became a political movement around health and medical freedom. You saw a different set of actors come into this, and it became a lot more aggressive; people's political allegiance became tied to not giving their kids vaccinations, and that has just come off the rails with COVID-19. And I'd like to point out that 200,000 Americans now have needlessly lost their lives because they refused the COVID vaccine.

The hardest thing yet is really trying to describe the anti-vaccine ecosystem, because too often it's still couched in the old autism thing that they call infodemic or give it euphemisms like misinformation or disinformation. That is, as though it's some random stuff appearing on social media, when in fact, it's organized, politically motivated, and deliberate. It has a system in place, and what I do now is use that to actually describe who the actors that comprise that ecosystem are—elected leaders in the House Freedom Caucus, certain senators, and local leaders amplified in Fox News with designated contrarians from the far right think tanks.

All our training to be a scientist says you're not supposed to talk about Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives; you're supposed to be politically neutral. But what do you do when the anti-science, anti-vaccine aggression is predominantly coming along the

partisan lines from the far right? How do you articulate that without basically saying, “the reason I’m doing this is to save lives?” It’s no longer a theoretical discussion; Americans have lost their lives because they believed the politics, and to be able to articulate that is really threading a needle there.

**Goudarzi:** With Twitter’s moderators practically gone, the platform’s announcement that it will no longer enforce measures to combat misleading information regarding COVID-19 and will give amnesty to previously banned users, there seems to be a rise in anti-vaccination sentiment.

**Hotez:** It’s blown up. It’s gotten much tougher: Anything I put out there gets immediately pounced on, and I can trace the origins to four or five either elected leaders or these contrarians from far right think tanks and elsewhere who blow dog whistles. They will put out a (typically false or exaggerated) statement against me, and then I’ll receive hundreds and hundreds of tweets or emails specifically targeting me. About half of them look like bots because the person sending it is an empty face with a gazillion numbers attached to the Twitter handle. But others are real people tuning into Fox News every night who totally fall into the rabbit hole because they seem to worship these contrarians. The other piece to this is a lot of Nazi imagery and fantasies, a lot of antisemitism, because they know I’m a Jewish scientist. And that’s yet another dimension to all of this.

**Goudarzi:** How do you think this affects patients in healthcare settings? Have you had personal experience with those who decided not to get vaccinated because of information on the internet or social media indicating the shots are dangerous?

**Hotez:** I’ve had sort of the opposite experience, where patients were in the rabbit hole, had seen my postings, see me as credible, and because of me are taking the vaccine, which is kind of nice and spurs me on to keep going at this. But more and more I’ve also had the other extreme as well, which is based on what they see on social media: People will take the time to write me a threatening email or make a call to the lab or to the office. Then I have to bring in law enforcement through the Texas Medical Center Police or the Houston Police Department and the Anti-Defamation League (because they have a list of individuals who are known to make these types of threats). It’s taken this very, very dark turn as a consequence.

**Goudarzi:** Anti-vaccination movements are nothing new and go back to the late 1700s, even before the development of the smallpox vaccine and then the 1800s and again in the 1990s and 2000s. Do you think social media has allowed the latest movement to gain even more steam than previous movements?

**Hotez:** I wrote an article about the whole history of [anti-vax movements] in *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I think it really accelerated in the early 2000s with autism, in part aided by social media—it was new then but was starting up. Now, I think social media has really been an enabler. It’s not only social media; I think amazon.com was a big contributor. If you search for books on vaccinations, what’s out there is a horror show. My books are among the top-rated on vaccines, and they’re probably ranked about number 30 or 40, because it’s all preceded by the phony-baloney, anti-vaccine COVID conspiracy books. So, it’s Amazon and social media. And Fox News is having a huge impact. This has been documented by Media Matters, the watchdog group, as well as this very interesting paper that came out of ETH Zurich, which is like the MIT of Central Europe.

**Goudarzi:** Do you think Amazon is purposefully placing these books higher up in search results, or are search results just a reflection of how much steam the movement has gained?

**Hotez:** I don’t know. Amazon is probably amoral. I don’t think they think about this one way or the other, but whatever sells. So, it’s whatever people are buying—that’s how they’re ranking it.

**Goudarzi:** Are you seeing a difference in the attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines versus



say the flu or MMR vaccines?

**Hotez:** Yeah, because remember, MMR came out of autism; that was the [original] assertion that the MMR vaccine causes autism. That was [*The Lancet*] paper from 1998. But then around 2014, 2015 (I like to think because I was helping to take some of the wind out of the sails around autism), you started to see the anti-vaccine movement pivot around this concept of health and medical freedom, that you can't tell us what to do about our kids. And that was the first link to the Republican Tea Party here in Texas. In fact, they started getting PAC [political action committee] money... It really took off in Texas and Oklahoma and that's what you see came off the rails with COVID-19.

It has been documented now by Charles Gaba, a health analyst whose work has been mentioned in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio, Pew Research Center and Peterson Academic Center, that the lowest vaccination rates were where health freedom propaganda was the strongest, and among those who are in red states like Texas, the redder the county, the lower the vaccination rate, the higher the numbers of deaths. It's a really tight correlation, so much so that David Leonhardt in the *New York Times* has called it red COVID. My forthcoming book, *The Deadly Rise of Antiscience: A Scientist's Warning* and it's full on linked to far-right politics and it's been embraced by the House Freedom Caucus.

After vaccines became widely available, the statements from the 2021 CPAC conference of conservatives in Dallas was first along the lines of: "they're going to vaccinate you, and then they're going to take away your guns and your bibles." It's ridiculous. A quarter of the country accepted it—mostly in Texas and the Southern states, and then [Georgia US Rep.] Marjorie Taylor Greene called people like me "medical brownshirts," using Nazi paramilitary analogy. Then, those in the Senate GOP, such as Senator Johnson from Wisconsin, held anti-vaccine roundtables, amplified by Fox News. Every night, during the last half of 2021, nighttime anchors Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham filled their airwaves with very strong anti-vaccine rhetoric, discrediting the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. And then contrarians from the far right think tanks piled on.

As I said, if it were just a theoretical construct, I wouldn't get so exercised, but 40,000 Texans died during the delta wave in the last half of 2021 and early Omicron BA1 wave in 2022 because they refused the COVID vaccine and were victims of this targeted aggression towards them. The number that I put out in the new book is 200,000 Americans across the country. The Kaiser Family Foundation and the health analyst Charles Gaba come up with similar numbers. On that basis, anti-vaccine activism, anti-science aggression, if you look at it as a societal killing force, is killing more Americans than gun violence, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, or cyber-attacks.

**Goudarzi:** And the interesting thing is that COVID-19 vaccines have been tremendously successful.

**Hotez:** Alison Galvani at Yale has just done a modeling exercise with the Commonwealth Fund, indicating that COVID vaccines have saved 3.1 million Americans.

**Goudarzi:** Yet the messaging against these vaccines seems to be just as successful and as you mentioned hundreds of thousands of deaths could have been prevented here in the United States. So, it begs the question, why are we having such an anti-science moment?

**Hotez:** It's because it's fully ensconced in the political landscape of the country that became part of the far right, and people refused the vaccine out of allegiance. Part of showing your allegiance to the far right is not getting vaccinated. Then, you saw the Proud Boys march in anti-vaccine rallies, and an early arrest in the January 6 insurrection included a prominent anti-vaccine activist.

The question that I get is: "Hey doc, what should we do about this?" And I say I don't know, because this goes outside the health sector. This is a political problem right now. How do you uncouple the anti-science from the politics? It's been really, really challenging, and the Biden

administration has not been willing to take this on. Vivek Murthy, who is a very good Surgeon General, issued an advisory in July of 2021 about social media and said we have to work with Meta and Facebook and Twitter to prevent this stuff from going viral. That's fine, but it doesn't get to those who are generating the content. This is where we're starting to see breakdowns, in my view, among our scientific and professional societies, and even the National Academies, because this idea that we have to remain politically neutral is so strong that no one will talk about it the way I'm talking about it with you. You have to be politically neutral; it's silly.

To paraphrase Desmond Tutu and Elie Wiesel, neutrality favors the aggressor.

**Goudarzi:** What do you think the end goal is for those generating the content and spearheading these movements? There are certain people who truly believe that vaccines could cause x, whatever x is, but there are others like Gov. DeSantis who himself was vaccinated yet promotes anti-vaccination sentiments.

**Hotez:** Early on when vaccines first came out, he was actually pro-vaccines. So, what caused the change? When it was pre-health freedom, it was fairly straightforward: It was people monetizing the internet, selling nutritional supplements and books on phony autism cures. When I wrote the book, trying to look at other examples of this, I found what's going on now in Stalin's Russia in the 1930s 1940s. This is part of the signature of an authoritarian regime: to target the science and scientists. When you read Hannah Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, you see this is part of the playbook. Even though it's self-defeating, it still fosters allegiance and belonging. I think what happened is with the anti-vaccine groups for whom the wind was let out of their sails around autism, they needed a new thing. They found money and power and relevance by tying themselves to the far right, and the far right created a whole new cadre of people that they wouldn't have otherwise.

**Goudarzi:** Just add adding to that: Do you think vaccine disinformation is propagated or reinforced purposely by other governments to cause division within the United States, similar to the 2016 election?

**Hotez:** No question about that, and I think Russia is probably the most egregious [perpetrator], and this has been documented. David Broniatowski, a computer scientist at the George Washington University, has written about this and the Russian bots' roles. In some cases, they're using both anti-vaccine and pro-vaccine rhetoric. They are specifically using this as a wedge issue to divide the country and destabilize our democracy. And it's not only the Russians—the Chinese, North Koreans and Iranians are doing this. But I think Russia is probably the biggest state actor.

What I've recommended to the Biden administration is they create an inter-governmental agency, because the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) doesn't know what to do at this point. Because of the foreign actors involved, you have to bring in Homeland Security, the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the State Department as well. There are people smart enough who know about these big dangerous societal forces, and we need their advice on what levers we can pull and push. But they haven't wanted to take it on.

Similarly, at the level of the UN agencies, the World Health Organization doesn't know what to do at this point. So, you're starting to see that same US-style anti-vaccine activity moving to Canada, the United Kingdom and Western Europe—and I wrote about this in a paper in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. You're even seeing it now in low- and middle- income countries, including those in Africa. So, it's going to destabilize the global vaccine ecosystem, even around childhood vaccination.

**Goudarzi:** Scientific debate around new treatment or preventive measure used to happen more or less behind closed doors. But given the nature of a real time pandemic, some of those debates are taking place on social media, and sometimes that leads to the lay audience



misunderstanding certain aspects of the discussion and spreading misinformation. How valuable, and how harmful, do you think it is to have scientific debates between researchers on social media?

**Hotez:** It's often not between researchers. For instance, one of the most common things when they target me on social media is they say I should be in a public debate with the lead anti-vaccine activist. And I say, "No, that's not how science is done. I've written a scientific paper and if somebody has an issue with that, they can either refute it in a scientific journal, or publish their own finding." Of course, they can't get it published because there's no science behind it. So, what they want to do instead is they want a public debate.

And I say, "Look, you can debate 18<sup>th</sup>-century enlightenment philosophy, but science is not typically something that's debated in that kind of forum; we have a mechanism for doing that through scientific publication and peer review." And they don't want to play that way. They just want to put out their propaganda because that's all they have behind it. An example is ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine, which the scientific community has clearly shown has no effect on COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine is even harmful. But the problem is the anti-vaccine force has dominated the internet, and they say, "Hey, scientists don't want to debate us, what are they hiding?"

And that's, again, how they weaponize communication.

**Goudarzi:** I was actually thinking of earlier during the pandemic. Because there was so little time, some researchers were putting their papers up on open access preprint servers, which didn't require a peer review, and then others were weighing in on social media platforms. At times, you would see non-scientists take one aspect of that discussion and spread something that wasn't necessarily true.

**Hotez:** I think with the whole preprint server mechanism, ultimately the benefits outweighed the downside. I can't tell you how many times I had to depend on data from bioRxiv, medRxiv in order to make sense of what was going on. If I had to wait a few weeks for it to air in *New England Journal of Medicine* or *Nature* and *Science*—and by the way, they did a pretty good job too; they were able to turn that around in record time—[it would have been too late.] If you're looking for any silver lining in this pandemic, it's the journal editors, the whole preprint server mechanism, and the willingness of the scientific community to share information. And I think for most of the public understood that they were seeing this play out in real time and that there wasn't always going to be consistency. The problem was those who were who were weaponizing it for their own personal or political gain.

**Goudarzi:** But you still think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages?

**Hotez:** I think so. It's hard to imagine how I could've really talked about everything going on knowledgeably on CNN, NBC, or wherever without having access to the information. The preprints were so important.

**Goudarzi:** Some researchers have either left Twitter or are thinking of leaving. What will this do to scientific discourse? Would it make sense to stay on the platform to counter misinformation and disinformation and increase public awareness, or should researchers seek a more balanced platform?

**Hotez:** I don't have the answer. I struggle with this every day. I mean, the aggression against me and the threats would continue even if I wasn't on Twitter, because more often than not, it's not against anything that I tweeted. Ninety percent of the time, it's people who see me as a threat to undermine their politics or their business line and are just making up things about me and would still continue even if I wasn't on Twitter. So that's the reason I stay on it, because at least I'm getting out important and timely information. But it is really painful and awful to see what's going on there.

**Goudarzi:** Is the amount of aggression you face tied to the changing ownership of Twitter and political shifts?

**Hotez:** The politics around the anti-science, anti-vaccine and phony baloney about COVID origins had started with the pandemic in 2020. But now with all the contrarians back at once it reminds me of the old *Batman* series when they brought back Catwoman, Joker, Penguin, and Riddler all at once to do away with Batman. That seems to be going on, so it's been their superstars who are super energized by being invited back to Twitter, and they are using the platform very aggressively.

**Goudarzi:** What are some of the lessons we've learned about disinformation and misinformation over the last few years regarding social media that we should consider moving forward?

**Hotez:** I would say social media is a major weapon of choice for spreading disinformation. But remember, we have to get to those who are generating content. Social media is an important vehicle, but it's not the only one. I think we probably should stop calling it misinformation, disinformation or infodemic. We should call it for what it is, which is anti-science aggression, because it is a killing force. What we realized is that the science aggression is taking lives in the United States on an unprecedented scale.

For that reason, it needs to be addressed, and that's the part the scientific community has not come to terms with. When I call myself a scientist, it's not just co-heading a team of scientists making a COVID vaccine for the world that has reached a 100 million people. That's a very noble activity, but from my perspective, even that's still insufficient. Now being a scientist means, to some extent, being willing to combat the anti-science. It's nothing that any of us signed up for. I never dreamed when I got my MD-PhD in New York in the 1980s that this was something I'd be doing, but this is what's in front of us.

And I don't really feel that the scientific community—the professional societies, scientific bodies, even the academy—fully understand the impact. Hopefully it'll be clear when my book comes out, but it may become even clearer when we see the House GOP hearings. I predict the oversight committee and the judiciary committee or select subcommittees will become an anti-science witch hunt and will target prominent American scientists. And then we'll get a better picture.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016770  
MORENS\_NIH\_034919

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 6:27 PM  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Leusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: My latest

Many thanks David! Best Peter

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016771  
MORENS\_NIH\_034920

iPhone

On Jan 30, 2023, at 5:22 PM, David Morens (b)(6) wrote:

kudos to you, again! dmm

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 30, 2023, at 14:37, Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) wrote:

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/01/viral-spread-peter-hotez-on-the-increase-of-anti-science-aggression-on-social-media/>

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016772  
MORENS\_NIH\_034921

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 27, 2023, at 2:43 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Peter:

No, I didn't come up with the name.

But one I have recently come up with is CheatGPT instead of ChatGPT.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 3:30 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

EXTERNAL SENDER

I forgot about that Rich. But I'm assuming it wasn't you that came up with somewhat colonial name!???

In all seriousness, while it's good for virologists to push back against calls to block scientific research, I don't think a campaign to support gain of function work that's designed to see what would happen if you make a lethal pathogen more transmissible is anything any of us particularly want to get behind right now!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016773  
MORENS\_NIH\_034922

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 11:08 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)

Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Finally - virologists fight back!

Peter:

In the interests of complete disclosure, I was a member of the "Cambridge Working Group". Our concern was about the deliberate attempts to make the flu virus more infectious. It was the deliberate nature of the experiments that was troubling, not virus research in general.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 8:39 AM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Cc:** David Morens (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Subject:** Finally - virologists fight back!

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016774

MORENS\_NIH\_034923

Importance: High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Article in NPR this morning (<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/01/27/1151867224/virologists-science-oversight-risky-experiments>) – and below, based on a Commentary (attached) in mBio and various ASM journals signed by >150 virologists that fights back against the anti-science, defends virus research and gives a table of positive results from gain of function work.

I'll reach out to Felicia Goodrum (lead author) today to see if they will talk about helping with some sort of coalition. Michael Imperiale was quoted so if any of you know him or Felicia or others who are leading this (e.g. Arturo Casadevall), it would be good to reach out to let them know the urgency.

Some of these people were involved in the coalition (Scientists for Science - <http://www.scientistsforscience.org/> ) to push back against earlier efforts to cancel Gain of function work by the "Cambridge Working Group" (a pretentious name, of course)...

BTW – saw your name on the Scientists for Science website Jerry!

POLICY-ISH

## Virologists defend their science as officials eye more oversight of risky experiments

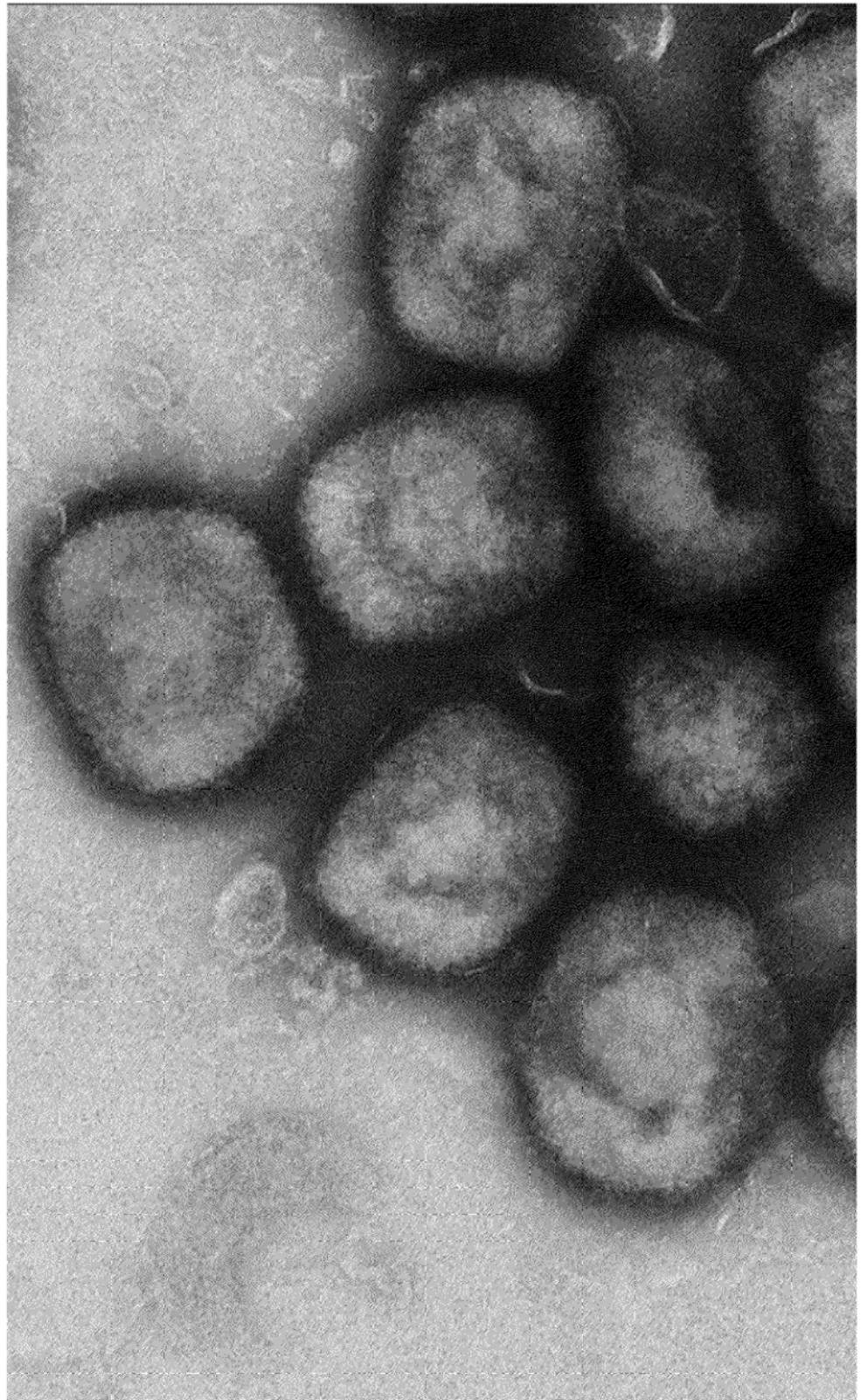


NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016775  
MORENS\_NIH\_034924

NIH 60767 - 002898

REL0000480608



This image shows purified particles of mpox virus, formerly called monkeypox. Viruses like these can be genetically altered in the lab in ways that might make them more dangerous.

*NIAID*

Over 150 virologists have signed on to a commentary that says all the evidence to date indicates that the coronavirus pandemic started naturally, and it wasn't the result of some kind of lab accident

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016776  
MORENS\_NIH\_034925



or malicious attack.

They worry that continued speculation about a lab in China is fueling calls for more regulation of experiments with pathogens, and that this will stifle the basic research needed to prepare for future pandemics.

The virologists issued their statement just ahead of a key meeting Friday held by outside advisors to the federal government. That group is set to wrap up a recent review of the existing oversight system for experiments that are controversial because they could create new potential threats.

The advisors' draft recommendations call for expanding a special decision-making process that currently weighs the risks and benefits of experiments that might make "potential pandemic pathogens" more dangerous.

"The government really has a strong interest on behalf of all of us, in the public, in knowing when researchers want to make a virus more lethal or more transmissible, and understanding how that would be done and why that would be done, and whether the benefits are worth it," says Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

#### **Sponsor Message**

He thinks if the draft recommendations were adopted by the government, "it would be a very big step forward."

### **The origins of the pandemic**

All of this comes as the lab in China, known as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is again in the headlines. An internal government watchdog released a report this week criticizing the National Institutes of Health, saying it failed to adequately monitor grant awards given to a nonprofit that had collaborated with scientists at the Wuhan lab.

Felicia Goodrum, a virologist at the University of Arizona, says that open-minded experts have investigated the origins of the pandemic. The available evidence, she says, supports the notion that the virus emerged from nature just like other viruses such as HIV and Ebola did — by jumping from animals into people who had contact with them.

"The evidence that we have to date suggests that SARS-CoV-2 entered the human population by that route," says Goodrum. "There is no evidence to the contrary or in support of a lab leak, nothing credible."

Basic research on viruses, she says, is what led to the swift development of vaccines and drugs to fight the pandemic.

And yet virologists have watched in dismay as misinformation and conspiracy theories have placed the blame on science.

#### **Sponsor Message**

"There's this complete disconnect between reality and what happened," says Michael Imperiale, a virologist at the University of Michigan.

He says that while debates have gone on for years about the wisdom of doing experiments that might make bad viruses even worse, this moment feels different.

"The pandemic," he says, "has really kind of heightened the urgency with which we need to address these issues, just because of all the controversy that's been out there regarding, you know, was this a lab leak or not?"

### **A bird flu study raises alarm**

Unlike, say, nuclear physics research, biology has traditionally had a culture of openness. After the anthrax attacks in 2001, however, biologists began to grapple with the possibility that their published work might serve as recipes for evildoers who wanted to make bioweapons.

And in 2011, there was an outcry after government-funded researchers altered a bird flu virus that can be deadly in people. Their lab work made this virus more contagious in the lab animals that are stand-ins for people.

Critics said they'd created a super flu. Proponents said that viruses sometimes have to be manipulated in the lab to see what they might be capable of; in nature, after all, mutations occur all the time and that is how pandemic strains emerge.

That episode marked the start of a long, heated debate, plus research moratoriums and ultimately the development of new regulations. In 2017, a review system was put into place to weigh the risks and benefits of studies that might make a potential pandemic pathogen even worse. So far just three proposed lines of research, with influenza viruses, have been deemed risky enough to merit that kind of extra scrutiny.

"We are really talking about a small amount of research proposals," says Lyric Jorgenson, the acting associate director for science policy and the acting director of the Office of Science Policy at the NIH.

#### **Sponsor Message**

She says just before the pandemic started, officials asked advisors on the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity to consider whether the government needed to be more transparent to the public about how it was making decisions about this kind of research. Before that work was done, the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. Last year, officials asked the group to broaden its work and to evaluate the regulations more comprehensively.

If the draft changes developed by this advisory group are eventually adopted by the government, an extra layer of oversight would apply to any study "reasonably anticipated" to enhance the transmission or virulence of any pathogen in a way that could make it a public health threat. That means more experiments on more viruses would get a closer look.

"What this new recommendation is saying, is that even if you start with a virus that had no potential to cause an epidemic or pandemic, if you are doing research that will change that virus in a way where it could now cause an uncontrollable disease, or a widely spreading disease, that has to be reviewed by this new framework," says Inglesby.

What's more, the advisory group has noted that "increased transparency in the review process is needed to engender public trust in the review and oversight processes."

### **What's "Reasonably Anticipated"**

The American Society for Microbiology has responded positively to the draft recommendations, saying "we urge swift implementation of the recommended changes by the federal agencies engaged in this work."

But some virologists think the devil will be in the details if these recommendations turn into policy.

"They keep using this phrase 'reasonably anticipated,'" says Imperiale. "How is that going to be interpreted? Is there going to be clear guidance as to what is meant by that?"

#### **Sponsor Message**

Researchers often don't know what will happen when they start an experiment, says Goodrum, especially when the science is cutting-edge.

"That's where the big scientific advancements come from. And so to tie our hands behind our back, to say we can only do the science that we can anticipate, then we're really restricting innovative science," she says.

Ron Fouchier, the virologist at Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands, whose lab did the bird flu experiments over a decade ago, said in an email that he'd hoped the experience of going through a pandemic would simulate more research, not "unnecessarily delay or restrict it." He said it looked like many infectious disease researchers in the United States "will face substantial delays in their crucial research efforts, if they can continue that research at all."

The U.S. is unusual in that it has a lot of public discussion of these issues and a system to try to manage the risks, says Inglesby.

He thinks that oversight can be made stronger without getting in the way of science.

"I am avidly, absolutely pro-science and pro-research, and in particular pro-infectious disease research," says Inglesby.

But he says there's a very small part of that research "where there is the potential for very high risk if things go wrong, either by accident or on purpose. And so we have to get the balance right, between the risks that could unfold and the potential benefits."

lab leak theory  
coronavirus research  
pathogens  
**Facebook**  
**Twitter**  
**Flipboard**  
**Email**

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

For what it's worth I sent a brief note to the two leads for the White House COVID response team, Ashish Jha and Nahid Bhadelia, to say why they needed to agitate at the higher levels to get on to appointing a new NIH Director, preferably from the outside, and ideally a candidate like Harold Varmus who could command respect from both sides of the congressional divide.

I also suggested they consider the point that it would be better if there was a new NIH Director before they appointed somebody to NIAID, and that was OK because Hugh Auchincloss was eminently able to be a respected interim Director, both within the NIH and the outside scientific community. And, that the next NIAID Director should come from outside of the institution.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016779  
MORENS\_NIH\_034928

I don't know what influence they will have, should they choose to act, but they do have access to the higher levels, and that is important.

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I think top priority is the Biden Administration appointing a new NIH Director and someone really good, I don't understand the holdup.

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016780  
MORENS\_NIH\_034929

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 1:34 PM, Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) wrote:

Well, if that were to occur there would not only be continued messaging to the public but more push back to the politicians and others spreading misinformation, and I suspect a more focused and strategic scientific plan for the institute. It has been pretty good under Tony, with some gaps that seem glaring to me, but it could also be better. How do we find and support the right outside scientist to take on the challenge?

Jerry

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** David Morens <(b)(6)>; Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)>  
Keusch, Gerald T <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016781  
MORENS\_NIH\_034930

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for  
Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-  
2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
wrote:

Disappointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the foreseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that Scott Weaver would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum....er....Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016782  
MORENS\_NIH\_034931

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>  
Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. This opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of clinical management of rare hereditary pediatric diseases such as Job disease and CGD. Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told that because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016783  
MORENS\_NIH\_034932

That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist Scott Weaver from UTMB - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being you, Peter H, but all four have expressed no interest. Peter D, you are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)

> wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016784  
MORENS\_NIH\_034933



USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <(b)(6)> David Morens <(b)(6)>

(b)(6); Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by Minerva Flux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016785  
MORENS\_NIH\_034934

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) |  
Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <

(b)(6) wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)

**MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016786**  
**MORENS\_NIH\_034935**

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM

To: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) Peter Daszak <

(b)(6)

Aleksei Chmura <

David Morens <

(b)(6)

Gerald Keusch

(b)(6)

Rich Roberts (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,  
Jeff

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei

Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <

(b)(6)

Gerald Keusch

(b)(6)

Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Rich Roberts <

(b)(6)

Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



MinerFlux

@randy\_hoebee

#Hotez [pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw](https://pic.twitter.com/eOPpHym0Rw)

1/24/23, 4:04 PM

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016787

MORENS\_NIH\_034936

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University** , Faculty-Senior Fellow,  
Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute  
of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) Phone: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_016788  
MORENS\_NIH\_034937

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:34 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:52 PM -0400  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Angela Rasmussen says it all  
**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

---

David M. Morens, MD

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (work)

(b)(6) (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) >  
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 8:40 AM  
Subject: Angela Rasmussen says it all  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Cc: David Morens (b)(6) >, Keusch, Gerald T  
(b)(6) Roberts, Rich (b)(6) >, Jeff Sturchio  
(b)(6) >, Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fangie\\_rasmussen%2Fstatus%2Fg&data=05%27C01%27Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%27C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%27C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=QkxBHT%2FfziZuZB5eYnbj7J0tHCv92P1LDxKqh9Wkqw8%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fangie_rasmussen%2Fstatus%2Fg&data=05%27C01%27Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%27C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%27C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=QkxBHT%2FfziZuZB5eYnbj7J0tHCv92P1LDxKqh9Wkqw8%3D&reserved=0)

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002527  
MORENS\_NIH\_009043

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of  
Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

Twitter: (b)(6)

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter-J-Hotez%2Fe%2FB001HPIC48](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter-J-Hotez%2Fe%2FB001HPIC48&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=Wi8Wjr%2FfVzGrBwB4G%2BtfJic6h1z%2BJGE0Vu0JK2ZikrA%3D&reserved=0)

[&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter-J-Hotez%2Fe%2FB001HPIC48&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=Wi8Wjr%2FfVzGrBwB4G%2BtfJic6h1z%2BJGE0Vu0JK2ZikrA%3D&reserved=0)  
[&sdata=Wi8Wjr%2FfVzGrBwB4G%2BtfJic6h1z%2BJGE0Vu0JK2ZikrA%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter-J-Hotez%2Fe%2FB001HPIC48&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=Wi8Wjr%2FfVzGrBwB4G%2BtfJic6h1z%2BJGE0Vu0JK2ZikrA%3D&reserved=0)

Daily Beast Contributor

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=GKVF%2B86XBoyZJAoUcEkXS1N2OA%2B38zPmG%2FJNp7oPUnA%3D&reserved=0)

[&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=GKVF%2B86XBoyZJAoUcEkXS1N2OA%2B38zPmG%2FJNp7oPUnA%3D&reserved=0)  
[&sdata=GKVF%2B86XBoyZJAoUcEkXS1N2OA%2B38zPmG%2FJNp7oPUnA%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=GKVF%2B86XBoyZJAoUcEkXS1N2OA%2B38zPmG%2FJNp7oPUnA%3D&reserved=0)

Like us on Facebook

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOf](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=awx%2FHgJxSTASRjmlY5W4zIvsHHU87Bpg%2BvDCUQYL7Qc%3D&reserved=0)  
[&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=awx%2FHgJxSTASRjmlY5W4zIvsHHU87Bpg%2BvDCUQYL7Qc%3D&reserved=0)  
[&sdata=awx%2FHgJxSTASRjmlY5W4zIvsHHU87Bpg%2BvDCUQYL7Qc%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOf&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=awx%2FHgJxSTASRjmlY5W4zIvsHHU87Bpg%2BvDCUQYL7Qc%3D&reserved=0)

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002528  
MORENS\_NIH\_009044

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 2:31 PM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] > wrote:

Peter Hotez just posted this article from The Hill.

Finally, a response from one Academic Society – Georges Benjamin from APHA, but again, it's not strong enough, not loud enough, and not enough people are listening I suspect. As Peter pointed out – where are the societies and the academies?

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthehill.com%2Fpolicy%2Fhealthcare%2F35712-gop-plots-fauci-probe-after-midterms%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=kmtAc%2B1bReZeQH8mFA1%2BcdKhiPYjsuSgSXkH0LXvMo4%3D&reserved=0>

## HEALTHCARE

GOP plots Fauci probe after midterms

BY NATHANIEL WEIXEL - 07/25/22 5:25 AM ET

## SHARETWEET

Congressional Republicans are eagerly floating investigations into Anthony Fauci and the Biden administration's response to the coronavirus pandemic if they win back control of the House or Senate in the midterm elections.

"One way or another, if we are in the majority, we will subpoena his records and he will testify in the Senate under oath," said Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who is in line to become the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee if Republicans win the majority with the panel's current ranking member, Sen. Richard Burr

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002529  
MORENS\_NIH\_009045

(R-N.C.), retiring.

Republicans have not been shy about launching probes into the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic, focusing on the origins of the virus and whether the federal government — and by extension, Fauci — helped fund controversial research that might have played a role in its creation.

While Republicans have been in the minority, those investigations have not gained much momentum. But with the majority, the GOP would have the authority to lob subpoenas at the administration to force it to hand over documents.

“If we win in November, if I’m chairman of a committee, if I have subpoena power, we’ll go after every one of [Fauci’s] records,” Paul said earlier this year.

Public health experts said a hard look needs to be taken at the totality of the U.S. response to the pandemic across both the Trump and Biden administrations, but without getting into partisan finger-pointing.

“If you want to have a hearing, you need it to be a credible one. And that has to have a purpose. Other than going out to an 81 year old man,” said Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Benjamin has been among the health advocates pushing for an independent commission modeled on the 9/11 Commission to be formed to examine the pandemic response.

“It should be designed to actually get to the right answers. Until they do that, you know, they’re going to continue to politicize it,” Benjamin said.

Fauci is a career government official who has become a political lightning rod and a villain in the eyes of many on the right. Conservative media has painted him as a scapegoat for many of the nation’s missteps over the pandemic.

Paul, a libertarian ophthalmologist, has repeatedly antagonized the nation’s top infectious diseases doctor over the benefits of masks, vaccinations and the origins of COVID-19.

In March, Paul tried to attach to the pandemic relief bill a proposal eliminating Fauci’s job and dividing it into three positions.

In the House, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who is in line to chair the House Judiciary Committee if Republicans win the majority, told The Hill that he sees no limits to what he wants to investigate about Fauci and the pandemic.

Like Paul, Jordan has pressed Fauci to answer questions about whether



his agency, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, funded “gain of function” research in China.

Jordan and Paul have long pushed the idea that COVID-19 escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, either because of an accident or because it was deliberately released, and that U.S.-funded research helped supercharge it into a much more dangerous and deadly version of the coronavirus.

Speaking to right-wing news outlet Just The News earlier this year, Jordan said he envisions that the investigation would aim to untangle “all the lies [and] the misinformation, the disinformation” allegedly spread by Fauci.

“That is because they knew from the get-go [coronavirus] came from the lab, likely came from a lab, gain-of-function likely done, and our tax dollars were used,” Jordan said.

The U.S. intelligence community has ruled out the possibility that COVID-19 was a bioweapon developed by China, but beyond that the origins of the virus are unclear.

Some scientists have said the idea that it escaped from a lab needs further investigation but acknowledge that won’t happen without China’s help. Many others think that it spilled into the human population from animals sold in a Wuhan market.

Still, there is little evidence to suggest it was created in a lab or with funding help from the National Institutes of Health or Fauci.

Moody’s: Schumer-Manchin deal will ‘nudge’ economy, inflation ‘in the right direction’ Hawley vows to vote ‘no’ on adding Sweden and Finland to NATO

Rupali Limaye, a health communication scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said a nakedly partisan investigation of Fauci would do even more damage to the fraying public trust in public health officials.

“I do think that public officials should be held responsible, you should be able to question and think critically about the recommendations that they have made, but it’s also a slippery slope,” Limaye said.

“Going down this slippery slope of continuing to have investigation after investigation after investigation is not in the best interest for anyone,” Limaye said.

TAGS ANTHONY FAUCI ANTHONY FAUCI COVID-19 COVID-19 PANDEMIC JIM JORDAN JIM JORDAN NIH RAND PAUL RAND PAUL RICHARD BURR

The Hill has removed its comment section, as there are many other forums for readers to participate in the conversation. We invite you

to join the discussion on Facebook and Twitter.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002532  
MORENS\_NIH\_009048

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:22 PM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6) >; 'David Morens'  
(b)(6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6) 'Roberts,  
Rich' (b)(6) 'Jeff Sturchio' (b)(6)  
(b)(6) >  
Cc: 'Aleksi Chmura' (b)(6) >  
Subject: Now Fox News on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

...and here's Fox News...of course:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.foxnews.com%2Fpolitics%2Frand-paul-vows-get-answers-covid-19-origins-gain-function-hearing&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=oQo%2FoJZqAU3DroALQoiPPecW0m3qH79AvHudIrG6Y3s%3D&reserved=0>

## COVID-19 origins in gain-of-function hearing

Paul argues there is significant evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic originated in a Wuhan, China, lab

By Michael Lee | Fox News

BeyondWords

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., announced the first ever hearing on gain-of-function research, which will be aimed at pinning down the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout this pandemic, Dr. Rand Paul has led the effort to hold government officials accountable on the status of efforts being made to combat COVID-19, and the origins of this virus that has killed over 6 million people worldwide," a spokesperson for Paul told Fox News Digital. "This has been over a year-long process of getting Congressional Democrats to finally agree to a hearing, which will also be the first Congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. Dr. Paul looks forward to working with Subcommittee Chairwoman Hassan and hearing from expert witnesses during this critically important hearing that should've happened long ago."

The hearing, which is scheduled for Wednesday, comes a week after the

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002533  
MORENS\_NIH\_009049

Kentucky senator attempted to pass an amendment to the CHIPS-Plus Act that would have banned U.S. funding of gain-of-function research in China, with Democrats objecting to the amendment despite it passing unanimously in an earlier version of the bill last year.

In remarks on the floor of the Senate last week, Paul argued that there was significant evidence that the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic could be traced to a lab in Wuhan, China.

RAND PAUL SENDS MESSAGE TO FAUCI: YOU'LL HAVE TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH IF GOP WINS

Sen. Rand Paul speaks during a COVID-19 federal response hearing on Capitol Hill. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

"Gain-of-function research enhances the severity or transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans," Paul said. "The dangers are so acute that from 2014-2017, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects... the emergence of COVID serves as a reminder that dangerous research conducted in a secretive and totalitarian country is simply too risky to fund."

Paul also sent a letter to the acting director of the National Institutes of Health, Lawrence A. Tabak, last week to demand the agency be more transparent on the origins of COVID-19, arguing that NIH has "repeatedly disregarded its responsibilities" under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Of particular concern is NIH's recent admission in Court that the agency is withholding portions of emails between employees because they 'could be used out of context and serve to amplify the already prevalent misinformation regarding the origins of the coronavirus pandemic,'" Paul said in the letter. "This suggests NIH is censoring the information it releases to the public about the origins of the pandemic."

Paul has had several clashes with public health officials throughout the pandemic, including several confrontations with Dr. Anthony Fauci, who currently serves as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the chief medical adviser to President Biden.

Dr. Anthony Fauci responds to questions from Sen. Rand Paul at a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. (Greg Nash-Pool/Getty Images)

Most recently, Paul told Fox News that Fauci would be forced to testify under oath regarding the pandemic if the Republican Party takes control of Congress after the midterm elections.

"If he's in public employment, we will subpoena him," Paul said. "He will have to appear and testify under oath. If Republicans take charge of the House or the Senate or both, he will have to testify under oath

because a million Americans died. And we want to know about was there a cover-up in trying to suppress any link to the lab in China?"

Michael Lee is a writer at Fox News. Follow him on Twitter @UAMichaelLee

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002535  
MORENS\_NIH\_009051

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:15 PM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6) >; 'David Morens'  
(b)(6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6) 'Roberts,  
Rich' (b)(6) 'Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
(b)(6) >  
Cc: 'Aleksi Chmura' (b)(6) >  
Subject: Washington Examiner piece on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

The Washington Examiner is a pretty hard right-wing journal. Here's their story on the hearing on Wednesday, based on a press release from Rand Paul's office. Note that "Rand Paul will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19"....I thought that was the job of scientific research?

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonexaminer.com%2Fopinion%2Fpaul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3V-HXpVFZQ8M5Y73\\_kEQ9ful2giIqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA&data=05%7C01%7Cdmoresn%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=xRvVMbYFEL5VhRvFhmnq5LKiqSyGFKqvPQpu9WA6oUg%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonexaminer.com%2Fopinion%2Fpaul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3V-HXpVFZQ8M5Y73_kEQ9ful2giIqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA&data=05%7C01%7Cdmoresn%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=xRvVMbYFEL5VhRvFhmnq5LKiqSyGFKqvPQpu9WA6oUg%3D&reserved=0)

I agree with your point Rich – someone from the scientific community should be pushing back against all this - hearings about scientific research of any type should include people who actually have done that research, or can point to its proposed or actual value.

When I gave my keynote last week in front of a room of virologists, I pointed out to them that it's no good watching EcoHealth be attacked in the press about gain-of-function, and thinking 'glad that's not us' – you guys in the room are the ones actually doing viral research and they're coming for your funding next!

All this, of course, is done to undermine Fauci, undermine Biden, and try to win funding and votes – none of it is actually done to get to the bottom of COVID-19 origins, or protect people in any way...

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002536  
MORENS\_NIH\_009052

## OPINION

Rand Paul to lead first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research

by Christopher Tremoglie, Commentary Fellow

| July 29, 2022 04:35 PM

On Aug. 3, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19. Paul, ranking member of the subcommittee on emerging threats and spending oversight, will lead the first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. This is an important matter that many Democratic politicians have largely ignored given the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul's office announced the hearing in a press release earlier this week.

"Gain-of-function research has historically been supported by tax dollars both domestically and internationally; as such, this hearing lies at the intersection of the subcommittee's two primary jurisdictional responsibilities — monitoring emerging threats and conducting oversight of federal spending," the press release states. "The dangers of this research are so acute that under President Barack Obama, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects until a risk assessment protocol could be developed for them. Gain-of-function research resumed in 2017, after a special committee review process was established to help manage these risks. However, serious questions remain about whether that protocol is sufficient to protect the U.S. and the world from the potential negative consequences of this research. Moreover, the debate over what gain-of-function research is and what it is not, is not settled."

Gain-of-function research has been hotly debated. In previous hearings regarding the pandemic, Paul and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have had contentious exchanges. In May 2021, the two verbally sparred over whether the National Institutes of Health funded gain-of-function experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Paul claimed that "superviruses" were created. Fauci denied this and said such reports were "entirely and completely incorrect."

"The purpose of this hearing is to examine issues involving gain-of-function research, which attempts to enhance the severity and transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans or other mammals. Witnesses include Dr. Richard H. Ebright, Ph.D., Laboratory Director of Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Dr. Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at Atossa Therapeutics, Inc., and Dr. Kevin M. Esvelt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Arts & Sciences of MIT Media Lab," the press release says.

Much of the skepticism regarding NIH's role in the COVID-19 pandemic stems from a letter sent to Congress by Lawrence A. Tabak, a top NIH official. Tabak claimed that Fauci authorized NIH to fund EcoHealth Alliance to research the relationship between humans and bat-specific pathogens. In the letter, Tabak claimed that NIH failed to report results that revealed an increase in viral growth.

"These medical and scientific professionals will inform and educate lawmakers and the public on the myriad issues involving the risky, virus-enhancing research that is funded by taxpayer money," the press release says.

If proven true, it would be a black eye for NIH, Fauci, and federal government stewardship of taxpayer money.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002538  
MORENS\_NIH\_009054



&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850  
&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkISdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent  
pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6) >; 'David Morens'  
(b)(6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6) 'Roberts,  
Rich' (b)(6) >; Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
(b)(6) >  
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' (b)(6) >  
Subject: update...

....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.

On other news – we are now trying to stave off efforts to defund us by  
working with a bi-partisan request from the Permanent Subcommittee on  
Investigations, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
Affairs. We first heard from last Fall, and the letter came from the

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002539  
MORENS\_NIH\_009055

Democrats, Sen. Ossoff's staff, saying they were a bi-partisan group. However, it's clearly being led by the Republicans (Senator Ron Johnson's staff), and they're pushing us to hand over emails and documents back to 2010 relating to any communications w/ federal agencies on a bunch of COVID and lab leak topics. Right now we're trying to slow down their efforts, and narrow their search, but they're harbingers of what we will likely see in November if the Republicans win the House – a bunch of requests to preserve documents, followed by Subpoenas in January/Feb, unless this topic becomes 'old hat'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002540  
MORENS\_NIH\_009056

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:20 AM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' (b)(6) >; 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' (b)(6) >  
Cc: 'David Morens' (b)(6) >; 'Keusch, Gerald T' (b)(6) >; 'Aleksei Chmura' (b)(6) >; 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6) >  
Subject: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hsgac.senate.gov%2Fsubcommittees%2Fgain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=n9%2BVg1LqqpbBJGuhQn9z6EN8TSDhnxXojm%2FDDB2G4qbY%3D&reserved=0>

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general. Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc. Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002541  
MORENS\_NIH\_009057

criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2F1ejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_002542  
MORENS\_NIH\_009058

**Date:** Wed, 25 Jan 2023 2:27:36 PM -0500

**Sent:** Wed, 25 Jan 2023 2:27:28 PM -0500

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >;

**CC:** David Morens (b)(6) >; Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)

I see the far right keeps putting video after video about me terrified I might take over for Tony

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Skype](#): (b)(6)  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) > wrote:

Disappointed that Hugh isn't a candidate, because short of a stellar scientist from outside (and that isn't looking good), Hugh would be a safe pair of hands for the foreseeable future.

I also cannot believe for the life of me that Scott Weaver would be rejected from the other position you mentioned. He's a serious scientists, a huge leader in his field, and someone who is balanced and measured in the way he deals with bureaucracy. What a stupid decision and loss to NIAID.

What we need is a leading scientist, who's got a research and public health background, with experience in dealing with difficult political issues and both sides of the political spectrum....er....Peter Hotez!

Seriously, there surely are others out there?

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015440  
MORENS\_NIH\_032301

NIH 60767 - 002628

REL0000480621

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura <

(b)(6)>; Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Rich Roberts (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Guys, although the director search seems to be proceeding with total secrecy, I learned yesterday that our worst fear has come true: a highly undesirable internal candidate has applied. This person is a middle to upper level physician scientist who is widely disliked as a self-serving narcissist, back stabber, and manipulator. This opinion comes not from me, but from colleagues with much more knowledge of him/her than me. Of course, being an A-hole doesn't necessarily predict a bad leader, but there is widespread worry.

I won't name the candidate but Peter S would know because her/his research at NIAID is in the area of (b)(6)

(b)(6) Peter H, you could easily ID this person, but i do not want to do so, in part because i have limited personal experience with him/her and am merely relating opinions of colleagues i trust

This individual is in a key management position in which she/he has earned a reputation of cresting an ant-meritocracy: screwing the best scientists while supporting those who suck up. Again this is hearsay, but from people who work under him/her.

If these negative assessments are true, it is still unclear what the implications, if any, would be for EHA, but i would worry that she/he would throw good scientists under the bus to appease politicians downtown

In any case, the best scenario is an open search with many good candidates. I am not sure whether we have that.

Also, my opinion, and that of many others, is that we need someone from the outside, in part because NIAID management and leadership has become inbred, nepotistic, and uninterested in hiring top scientists to fill positions. Moreover, we totally lack vision or any idea about where the science will and should go, and no mechanism to plan for being at/staying on the cutting edge

When i came here in the 1990s, from academia, where i was a 40-something year old full tenured professor in both med and public health school departments, i was told thst because i only had about 160 publications i had no chance of getting automatic tenure or even being put on a tenure track position  
That was then.

Of our two most recent hires placed into tenured positions, one had only 10 publications and the other came straight out of

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015441  
MORENS\_NIH\_032302

a post doc with few publications as well.

Both were in their early 30s and, as far as i can tell, are unlikely to ever do much

At the same time, we had the ability to hire a top scientist from the outside, my good friend the arbovirologist (b)(6) (b)(6) - Peter H, you may know him- and we was the 100% top choice of the search committee. However leadership below Tony refused to hire him with the excuse that he was overqualified and would make the other scientists look bad

No, i am not joking. This is where we are

I have in my had a small list of about 5-10 qualified folks for NIAID director, and have spoken or written to 4 about it, one being (b)(6) but all four have expressed no interest. (b)(6) are clearly on that list too, but obvious to all of us is the fact that HHS would never let that happen, sadly, so i never mentioned it. In a better world, you would be at the top of that list in my view

The application deadline of 1/17 has passed, so we may be stuck with a non-ideal list, although no one knows including, i believe, our acting director Hugh, who is not a candidate, or so he told me

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

Unfortunate. At this point you should just throw your hat in the ring!

Why not have a confidential chat with Peter Staley and see if they have a pool of candidates yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015442  
MORENS\_NIH\_032303

Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) David  
Morens (b)(6) Gerald Keusch (b)(6) Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Unfortunately the far right made a new YouTube claiming I'm the successor to Fauci. Which is ridiculous but it has set off a new wave of aggression

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: (b)(6)

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak (b)(6) wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Disgusting. Reported to Twitter safety. They've been surprisingly good over the last few months. When there's a clear violation they've tended to lock the account.

Cheers,

Peter

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015443  
MORENS\_NIH\_032304



**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

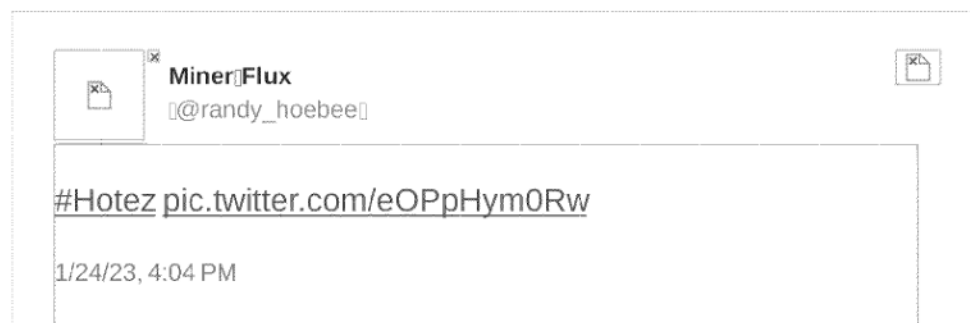
**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Gerald Keusch <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

Peter: What an idiot this guy is. You should be heartened by the immediate response he got to this asinine tweet!

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens (b)(6); Gerald Keusch (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio <(b)(6)>; Rich Roberts (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor,

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015444  
MORENS\_NIH\_032305

Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University** , University Professor

**Rice University** , Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University** , Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study &  
Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: (b)(6)

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

(b)(6) | Phone: (b)(6) | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

(b)(6)

iPhone

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_015445  
MORENS\_NIH\_032306

**Date:** Thu, 5 May 2022 12:20:16 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Thu, 5 May 2022 12:11:06 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant  
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" (b)(6)  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >;  
Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) David Morens  
**CC:** (b)(6) Jeff Sturchio (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura  
(b)(6) >;  
**Attachments:** image010.png; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg; image001.jpg; image004.jpg; image001.jpg;  
image004.jpg; image010.png; image011.jpg; image012.jpg; image013.jpg

---

Will add this to my "antiscience kills" book, when I get the page proofs will send to you, if not sooner

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**  
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar  
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study  
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs  
Texas A&M University  
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University  
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)  
Twitter: (b)(6)  
Skype: (b)(6)  
LinkedIn Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>  
Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)  
Phone: (b)(6)  
Fax: 713-798-2299

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009003  
MORENS\_NIH\_019289

iPhone

On May 5, 2022, at 10:41 AM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] > wrote:

Agreed Peter – a small but awful group (White Coat Waste). They are firmly linked with Anti-GMO groups (e.g. Organic Consumers Association, GMO Watch) and anti-vaxx groups that have been partnering with them to attack our work to get at Fauci. Here's an article on the anti-GMO link to the lab leak theory:

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2021/06/inside-the-anti-gmo-movements-obsession-with-virology-research-and-lab-leaks/>

They have a “gain of function” hall of shame that features me, even though EcoHealth has never conducted research that's classified as GoF (a point that's now largely forgotten in the media frenzy!). It also has a link to the “Great Reset” conspiracy theory with George Soros, Bill Gates, and the World Economic Forum etc. and its clear anti-semitic overtones:

<https://www.organicconsumers.org/campaigns/covid-19/gain-of-function-hall-of-shame>

Here's an article on the US Right To Know, that's filed over 100 FoIAs for emails linking to EcoHealth, showing that they're linked back to Robert Kennedy's anti-vaxx movement:

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/us-right-to-know-fave-mainstream-media-source-is-funded-by-anti-vaxxers>

Wait a minute – am I looking at a “conspiracy” here!??

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [REDACTED]

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 11:05 AM

**To:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] David Morens <

[REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant

Until now I hadn't heard of the white coat project

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009004  
MORENS\_NIH\_019290

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar  
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study  
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs  
Texas A&M University  
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University  
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)

Twitter: (b)(6)

Skype: (b)(6)

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On May 5, 2022, at 9:15 AM, Roberts, Rich (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) > wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

---

Peter:

A good article, but hard to know how effective it might be.  
It does continue to raise the need for scientists to fight back.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009005  
MORENS\_NIH\_019291

New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:27 AM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Roberts, Rich (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Jeff Sturchio (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Article in Buzzfeed yesterday detailing political motivation behind Termination of EHA's grant  
**Importance:** High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear All,

Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed has done a deep dive on FoIA'd emails and put together a convincing account of how a pretty awful Animal Rights group (White Coat Waste) was behind much of the initial efforts to get our grant terminated by NIH. It shows that the campaign against EHA and myself was politically motivated and as Jeff Sturchio said in an email to me today 'cravenly opportunistic'. It shows clearly that Francis Collins, Michael Lauer, and a bunch of lawyers at NIH have been on a two-year long campaign to find justification for their actions so they can throw us under the bus to avoid political pressure.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white-coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab>

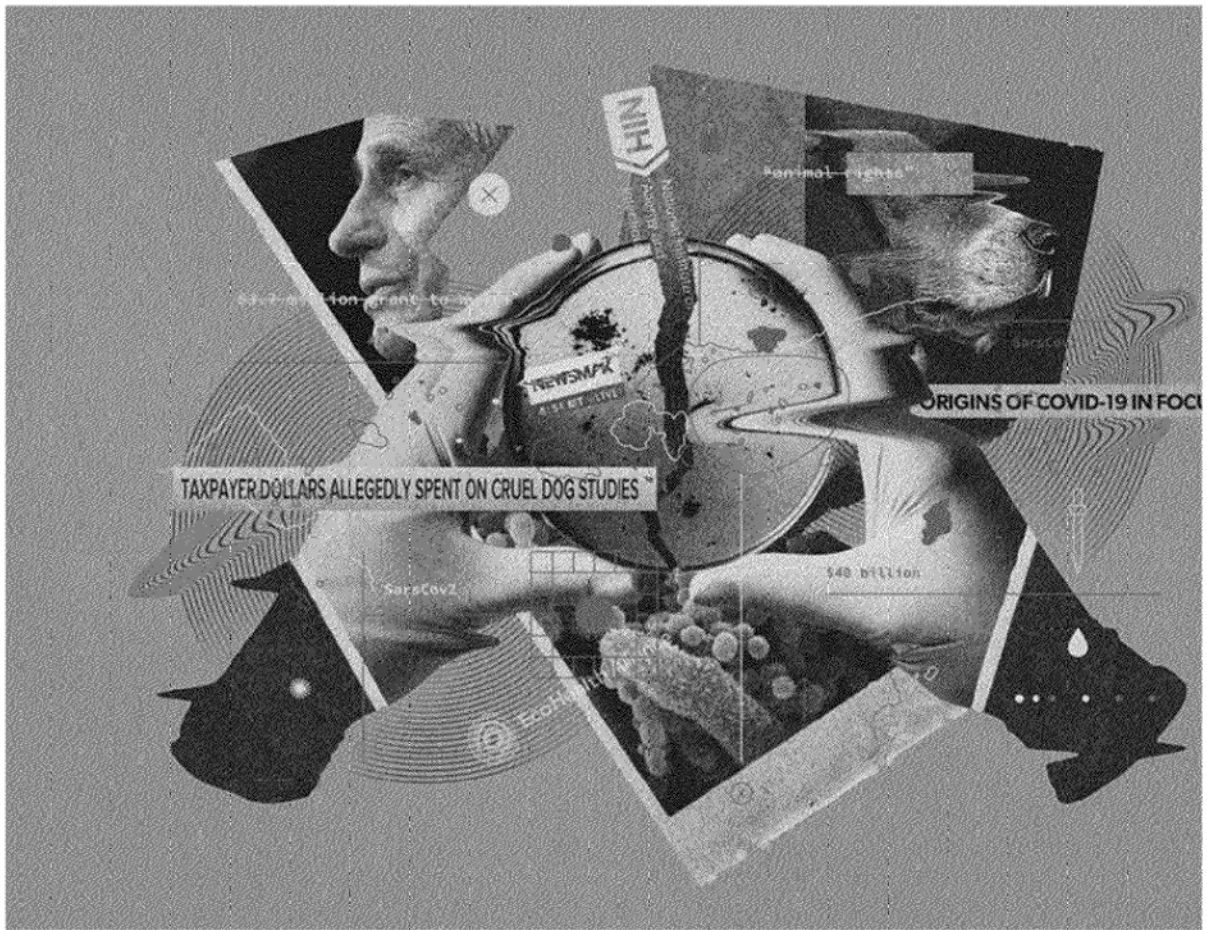
Note the following line, when Michael Lauer discovered that our Yr 5 report arrived late, so they could try to nail us for 'non-compliance' even though we'd already reported the experiment the year earlier.

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would "immediately stop all experiments with these viruses" and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to "Gift."

What an awful bunch of disingenuous bureaucrats in the Office of the Director – a real rats nest – focused entirely on saving their own jobs, not caring about science or grantees...

Here's the text of the article:

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009006  
MORENS\_NIH\_019292



*Israel Vargas for BuzzFeed News*

**As much of the United States** entered COVID lockdowns in April 2020, a tiny group that campaigns against federal funding for animal experiments spotted an opportunity. Speculation was swirling in right-leaning media that the virus behind the pandemic had emerged from a lab in Wuhan, China, rather than from wildlife sold for food in the city's markets. As it happened, the White Coat Waste Project had been looking into taxpayer money going to labs in China, including in Wuhan. The group's founder had strong contacts with Republican politicians and had launched the group with the mission of getting conservatives into animal activism.

The White Coat Waste Project sprung into action, persuading DailyMail.com to run a story saying the US government had funded the lab. Then all hell broke loose.

Then-president Donald Trump, keen to blame China for the pandemic, was soon involved. After prodding from the conservative outlet Newsmax at a press conference, his administration terminated the grant from the National Institutes of Health, which had been awarded to a New York-based nonprofit called the EcoHealth Alliance. Since then, the controversy over whether the COVID pandemic started with a "lab leak" has escalated into a ferocious fight, with conflicting narratives that paint EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology either as out-of-control scientists who may have caused the pandemic through inherently risky research or as the victims of politically motivated conspiracy theories, unfairly vilified as the architects of a catastrophe that they worked for years to prevent by studying the risks posed by bat coronaviruses.



Two years on, and with the scientific trail going cold, it's possible that the mystery of the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may never be conclusively solved. But thousands of pages of NIH emails and other documents released to BuzzFeed News through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show how the White Coat Waste Project rode the wave of partisan pandemic politics to serve its cause, and in the process triggered a storm that engulfed EcoHealth, one of the world's largest groups studying potentially dangerous animal viruses. They also show how the NIH, a behemoth that spends more than \$40 billion annually on biomedical research, stumbled under the political pressure the White Coat Waste Project brought to bear.

The White Coat Waste Project has subsequently channeled right-wing anger toward Anthony Fauci, the public face of COVID policies including mask and vaccine mandates, accusing his National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the NIH, of funding "beagle torture." The White Coat Waste Project is writing a controversial new activist playbook — and it's unclear whether anyone can control the forces that it has helped to unleash.

"They jumped on the bandwagon of how I have become public enemy number one of the far right," Fauci told BuzzFeed News. "If you engage and try and push back on that, it very often only gives it legs. And then it becomes even worse of a problem."



*White Coat Waste via YouTube / Via [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)*

Anthony Bellotti

**The White Coat Waste Project** was formed in 2013 by Anthony Bellotti, a campaign consultant who over the years had worked for Republican candidates including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lisa Murkowski, and on efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and Obamacare. But Bellotti's real passion had long been animal protection, he told BuzzFeed News — an interest forged at the age of 17 when he worked as a summer intern in a lab doing research on pigs, studying ways to extend the time they could be kept under anesthesia during

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009008  
MORENS\_NIH\_019294

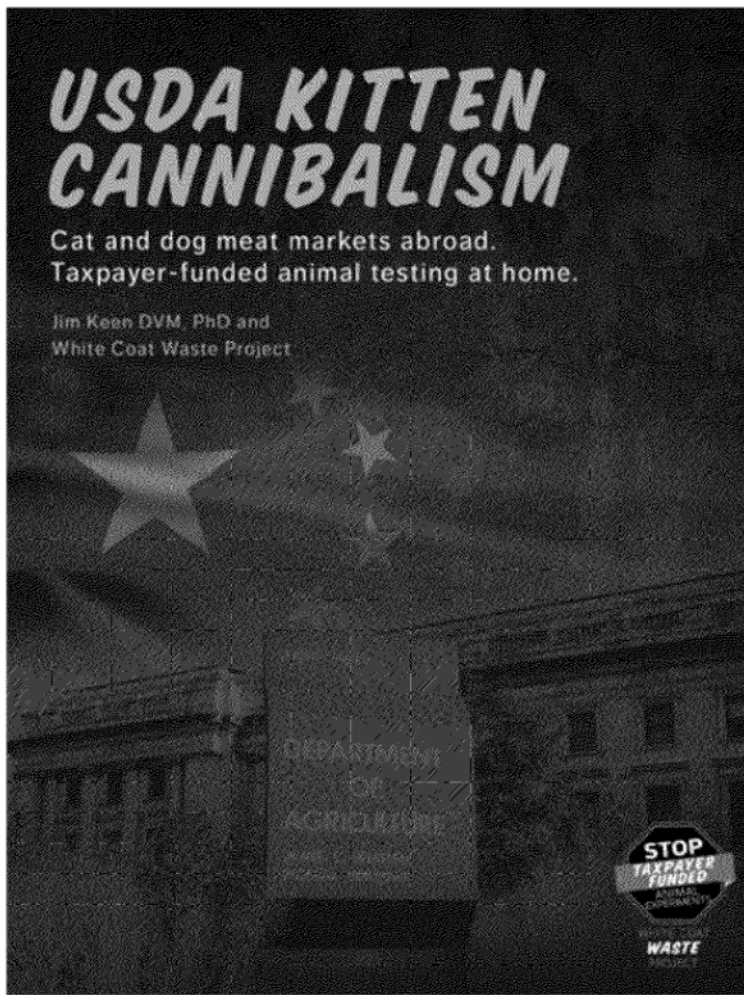


heart surgery. Bellotti said he was struck both by the animals' suffering and the "repugnant and callous attitude" of the experimenters. "It really made a mark on me," he said. Poring over polling data, Bellotti could see that there was a big gap between Democrats and Republicans on the issue. Democrats were much more likely to support campaigns against animal experiments, which had often focused on corporate labs, and Republicans tended to back the research. So Bellotti crafted a message calculated to bring the missing Republicans on board, focusing on government spending. He avoids the label "animal rights," and has cast the White Coat Waste Project as a "taxpayer watchdog uniting liberty-lovers and animal-lovers."

In addition to mobilizing support from the political right, there was another reason to target government spending: Congress has the power to shut it down. "The goal isn't to change hearts and minds, it's to win the fight," Bellotti told BuzzFeed News. "We had to get to the root cause of the problem, which was the government spending."

The group didn't really take off until 2016, when Bellotti hired Justin Goodman, a former director of laboratory investigations with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, to head the White Coat Waste Project's advocacy efforts. Goodman started digging into government databases and filing FOIA requests to identify projects that the group could campaign to defund.

Even before the pandemic, the White Coat Waste Project scored some victories. An early campaign, launched in a report called "Spending to Death," highlighted experiments involving dogs in federal labs, including one studying the effects of blood transfusions in dogs with pneumonia in which some of the animals died. The group then turned up the heat on the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, focusing on experiments into heart disease in which dogs were run on treadmills after their heart rhythms were disrupted using implanted pacemaker devices. The White Coat Waste Project's multiyear effort to shut down Veterans Affairs dog research eventually led Congress to restrict spending on the work and demand explicit approval from the secretary for veterans affairs for new dog experiments by the agency.



### *White Coat Waste*

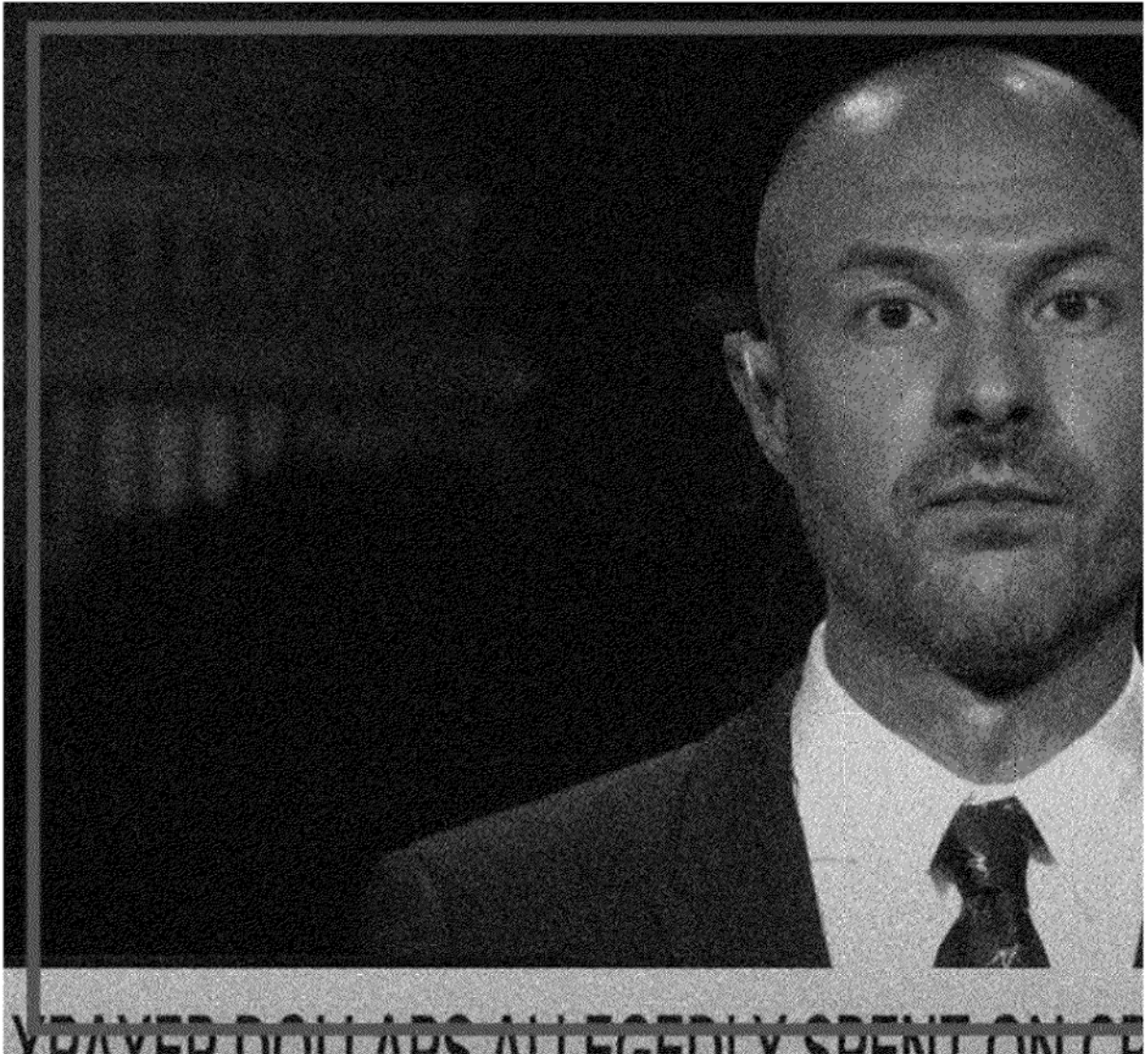
The cover of the White Coat Waste Project's 2019 report titled "USDA Kitten Cannibalism" But it was another campaign that sowed the seeds for the attack on EcoHealth and its collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. In 2018, the White Coat Waste Project began to target the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, zeroing in on its research into toxoplasmosis, which can infect people exposed to cat feces and can cause brain or eye damage in those with compromised immune systems. The campaign culminated in a March 2019 White Coat Waste Project report called "USDA Kitten Cannibalism." Its cover featured the Chinese flag superimposed over a photo of USDA's headquarters in Washington, DC.

That framing drew on an experiment published in 2007 in which cats at the Maryland facility were fed meat from other cats purchased at a market in China to gauge its infectivity.

Although the full report noted that these experiments were no longer being run, the association between this gruesome-sounding research and a nation seen as a major adversary to the US resonated with members of Congress from both parties and with the media. Within a couple of weeks, the USDA announced that the cat toxoplasmosis research would be shut down, stating that it had "reached its maturity."

After that win, Bellotti said that the White Coat Waste Project started to wonder about what else was being funded with taxpayer dollars outside of the US: "This is horrible stuff. What else is going on?" So Goodman started to look at research in foreign labs funded by the NIH, turning to a list of those given an "animal welfare assurance" needed to receive federal

dollars for animal experiments. He focused particularly on labs in the US's two main geopolitical rivals. "One of the things that struck us was that there were at the time 31 labs in Russia and China," Goodman told BuzzFeed News.



*NewsNation via YouTube / Via [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)*

Justin Goodman

**Still, the White Coat Waste Project** remained a small player in the world of animal activism: Its total revenue in 2019 of around \$1.4 million was dwarfed by the \$60 million pulled in by Goodman's former employer PETA. And initial efforts to interest the Trump administration in Goodman's findings on the NIH's overseas animal research didn't gain much traction. In January 2020, as reports emerged of a dangerous new virus spreading in China, the White Coat Waste Project had a meeting with White House officials. Goodman recalls specifically mentioning the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but the Trump staffers didn't bite. "We gave them a bunch of information and never heard back," Goodman said. "We got a cursory 'thank you.'"

At that time, Peter Daszak, president of the EcoHealth Alliance, had never heard of the White Coat Waste Project and had no inkling of the storm that was brewing. "If you would

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009011  
MORENS\_NIH\_019297

NIH 60767 - 002682

REL0000480634

have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, ‘No way, this is absolutely impossible,’” he told BuzzFeed News.

Federal spending records show that EcoHealth has received almost \$120 million from research grants and contracts since 2008, from agencies including USAID, the NIH, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. EcoHealth’s emergence as a major player in assessing pandemic threats, working with labs across the world, was fueled in part by the “near miss” with SARS, another respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that emerged in southern China in 2002 and killed nearly 800 people before its spread was brought under control. Indeed, in late January 2020, officials in Fauci’s institute who were preparing talking points for their boss, due to appear at a Jan. 28 press conference on the US response to the new coronavirus, described Daszak’s research into the risks posed by bat coronaviruses in glowing terms. The EcoHealth group was “among the biggest players in coronavirus research,” wrote David Morens, senior adviser to Fauci, in an email obtained through the BuzzFeed News FOIA lawsuit. “In short, we have on our team ... probably the world’s experts in these non-human coronaviruses.”

“If you would have told me that this chain of events was going to happen, I would have said, ‘No way, this is absolutely impossible.’”

Fast-forward to April 2020, and the White Coat Waste Project’s findings about NIH funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology were starting to find a receptive audience. On April 11, the group succeeded in getting DailyMail.com, the website of a British tabloid newspaper with a large online readership in the US, to run the story: “REVEALED: U.S. Government Gave \$3.7 Million Grant to Wuhan Lab at Center of Coronavirus Leak Scrutiny.” (\$3.7 million was actually the total sum paid over six years to EcoHealth, gleaned by Goodman from the NIH’s grants database; in fact, less than \$600,000 went to the Wuhan institute.) The White Coat Waste Project started reaching out to Republicans in Congress — and the NIH was soon reeling. By April 13, NIH officials were scrambling to respond to a request for information from the office of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, which had forwarded an email from Goodman noting the press coverage of the White Coat Waste Project’s “troubling find” about the Wuhan institute. In that email, Goodman noted: “We’re working with Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and others on a sign-on letter about this.”

Two days later, the alarm bells were ringing at the very top of the NIH. Lawrence Tabak, deputy to Francis Collins, then director of the NIH, wrote to his boss and Fauci, whose institute had awarded the grant, emphasizing in bold that the Trump White House was on the warpath: “The **WH has strongly embraced concerns** raised by Congressman Gaetz who is publicly criticizing HHS/NIH for funding the Wuhan laboratory’s bat research.”

“I reached Tony, he is now informed,” Collins replied, confirming Fauci was in the loop. Then, on April 17, a Newsmax reporter asked Trump about the project, repeating the false claim that \$3.7 million had gone to the Wuhan institute. “We will end that grant very quickly,” Trump said.

**Michael Lauer**, head of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, part of Collins’ central command, then took control. On April 19, Lauer wrote to inform EcoHealth that NIH was looking to suspend the Wuhan institute from receiving federal funds. Other spending could

continue, but EcoHealth should send no more money to China. In an April 21 email, Daszak told Lauer that since the grant was renewed for a second five-year term in July 2019, no funds had gone to Wuhan “nor has any contract been signed.”

But three days later, NIH terminated the entire grant, for “convenience.” In a one-page letter to EcoHealth on April 24, Lauer wrote: “At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities.”

Daszak was stunned. So too were many other scientists, disturbed that research that had been exceptionally highly rated in peer review, and which was directly related to the pandemic, could be canceled at a stroke. On May 21, 77 US Nobel Prize winners in science wrote to NIH director Collins and Alex Azar, secretary of health and human services, protesting the decision and describing the explanation given by Lauer about the NIH’s priorities as “preposterous under the circumstances.”

EcoHealth’s response came on the day after the Nobelists’ letter, when the group’s pro bono lawyer wrote to Lauer contending that the NIH didn’t have the legal authority to terminate a research grant in this way, without cause. The letter also argued that EcoHealth’s goals were virtually identical to those laid out in the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released the day before the grant termination.

Later, in a congressional hearing, Fauci was asked why the grant was terminated. “It was canceled because the NIH was told to cancel it,” he told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 23, 2020. “We got it from the highest office of the president: ‘Cancel that grant,’” Fauci confirmed to BuzzFeed News.

The backlash against Lauer’s initial letter seemed to prompt a rethink from the NIH. As first reported by the Wall Street Journal, Lauer came back to EcoHealth with a second letter on July 8. Abandoning the explanation about the NIH’s priorities, Lauer wrote that the grant was reinstated, but immediately suspended because of concerns about biosafety at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That tied the suspension directly to the lab leak theory, which posits that the pandemic may have started with the accidental release of a virus being studied in the lab, perhaps through a worker who became infected.

“We have concerns that WIV has not satisfied safety requirements under the award, and that EcoHealth Alliance has not satisfied its obligations to monitor the activities of its subrecipient to ensure compliance,” Lauer wrote.

To lift that suspension, EcoHealth would have to respond to seven requests for information and materials. They included: “EcoHealth Alliance must arrange for WIV to submit to an outside inspection team charged to review the lab facilities and lab records, with specific attention to addressing the question of whether WIV staff had SARS-CoV-2 in their possession prior to December 2019.” There was no way a US nonprofit could get the Chinese authorities to agree to such a request: Even the WHO team, including Daszak, that later visited the institute in February 2021 as part of its study of the origins of COVID-19 didn’t get this unfettered access.

With Lauer’s second letter, the grant entered a state of limbo from which it has yet to emerge — and seems unlikely to.





*Hector Retamal / AFP via Getty Images*

The Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 3, 2021

**Since then, Republicans in Congress** have leaned hard into the lab leak theory and the related idea that the NIH funded EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to conduct “gain-of-function” research — when scientists deliberately make viruses more dangerous in order to study pandemic risks. Internal correspondence obtained by BuzzFeed News shows NIH officials discussing at length how to respond to demands for information from congressional Republicans about the agency’s funding for EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute.

The White Coat Waste Project once again entered the fray. In November 2021, it released 378 pages of documents obtained through FOIA, including a back-and-forth in 2016 between Daszak and two NIAID officials. Those officials were concerned that some experiments under EcoHealth’s collaboration with the Wuhan institute might breach a pause the US government had imposed on gain-of-function work that could create a potentially pandemic

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009014  
MORENS\_NIH\_019300

NIH 60767 - 002695

REL0000480634

virus. The experiments involved creating “chimeric” coronaviruses, engineered to combine genetic sequences from different viruses sampled from the wild.

Some proposed experiments involved chimeras based on the virus that causes MERS, a respiratory disease that first showed up in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since killed almost 900 people. EcoHealth wanted to replace the MERS virus’s “spike” protein, used to enter animal or human cells, with those from these new viruses, to see whether they were also able to latch onto a molecule on cell surfaces targeted by the MERS virus. The NIAID officials also wanted to know more about two chimeras that had already been made, in which the genes for spike proteins from newly discovered bat coronaviruses had been put into another bat coronavirus called WIV1, named after the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The NIAID officials accepted Daszak’s explanation that these experiments didn’t meet the US government’s definition of gain-of-function research: He had argued that there was no reason to suppose the chimeric viruses would be any more dangerous than the viruses behind MERS and SARS. So the NIAID allowed the research to continue.

Daszak responded: “This is terrific! We are very happy to hear that our Gain of Function research funding pause has been lifted.” The White Coat Waste Project later claimed that it had caught Daszak “red-handed, admitting to gain-of-function research” — omitting the context that this quote was part of an exchange in which he had argued that the research didn’t meet the US government’s definition of that term.

“We’ll have to agree to disagree here,” Goodman said, when BuzzFeed News questioned this claim. “We’re not interested in debating the interpretation of these emails or the definition of gain-of-function. We’re only interested in exposing and ending wasteful government spending on dangerous animal experiments.”

Emails and other documents obtained by BuzzFeed News show that the chimera experiments had already been deepening EcoHealth’s problems, as Lauer and other NIH officials looked for evidence that EcoHealth had breached the terms and conditions of its grant.

“Because [Fauci] became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves.”

A heavily redacted series of emails from May 2021 centers on the July 2016 letter from the NIAID that had given EcoHealth permission to resume the chimera work. Accepting a suggestion made by Daszak himself, it stated that if any of the chimeric viruses showed unexpectedly rapid growth, he would “immediately stop all experiments with these viruses” and provide NIAID officials with information about the unexpected outcomes. Shortly after receiving the letter, Lauer sent it on to a senior attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services, assigned to the NIH, changing the subject line on the email thread to “Gift.”

Daszak’s problem was that the NIH determined that an experiment described in annual progress reports for the grant indicated that one of these viruses had made mice engineered to carry the human receptor targeted by SARS-like viruses sicker than expected and showed

signs of rapid growth. “EcoHealth failed to report this finding right away,” NIH deputy director Tabak later wrote in an October 2021 letter to James Comer, the ranking Republican member on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

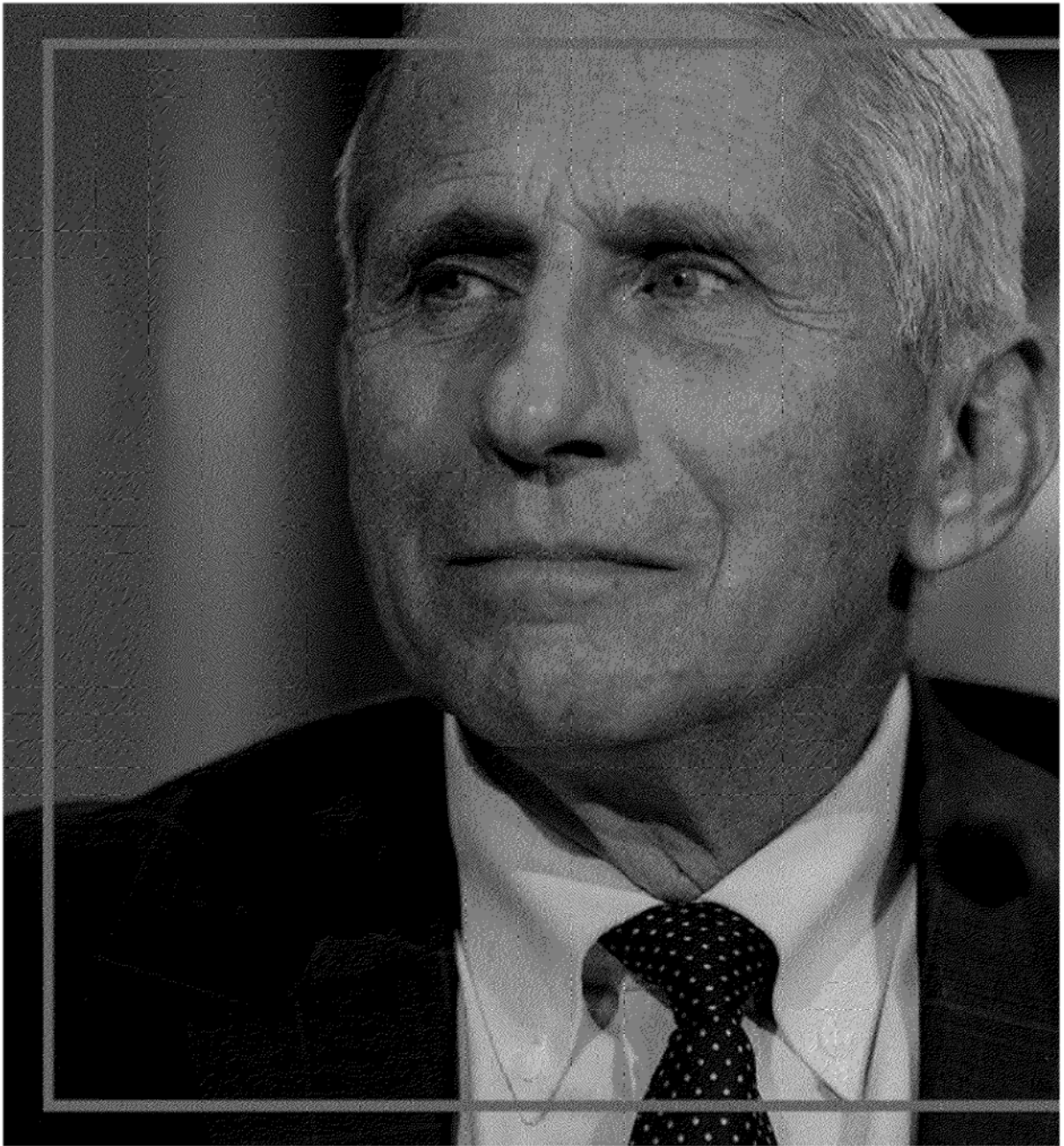
None of this amounts to a smoking gun linking EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute to the origins of COVID, as the viruses involved were very different to SARS-CoV-2. And in a letter to Lauer and Tabak after the latter’s communication with Comer, Daszak contested the conclusion that the experiment did show rapid viral growth and argued that EcoHealth had complied with its reporting requirements.

But it gave Lauer evidence that he was looking for. EcoHealth is now under audit from the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services, an independent watchdog that monitors fraud, waste, and other problems, as part of a review of the NIH and “selected grantees” initiated on June 11, 2021. Documents received by BuzzFeed News through its FOIA lawsuit, including a timeline of events put together by Lauer dated June 13, 2021, indicate that the suggestion for an OIG audit of EcoHealth came from the NIH, just days after Lauer sent his “Gift” email.

The NIH declined to discuss Lauer’s email and timeline, saying in a statement: “NIH doesn’t comment on internal deliberation of grant awards.”

In December 2021, the White Coat Waste Project claimed a win from its activism around the EcoHealth grant when President Joe Biden signed the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act into law. It contained specific wording blocking the Department of Defense — which over the years has provided almost \$40 million to EcoHealth — from supporting the nonprofit’s research in China.





*Stefani Reynolds / POOL / AFP via Getty Images*  
Anthony Fauci

**The gain-of-function** fight had also intensified the pressure on Fauci, who was by now a hate figure for many on the political right. In November 2021, he and Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul clashed angrily in a Senate hearing, as Paul accused Fauci of changing the definition of gain-of-function and funding dangerous research in Wuhan. “He is egregiously incorrect,” Fauci responded. In January, they locked horns in another hearing, featuring an extraordinary exchange in which Fauci accused Paul of jeopardizing his personal safety for political gain.

“What happens when he gets out and accuses me of things that are completely untrue is that all of a sudden that kindles the crazies out there, and I have threats upon my life, harassment

of my family and my children,” Fauci said.

By the time of these acrimonious exchanges, the White Coat Waste Project had embarked on another campaign that made Fauci its main focus. In July 2021, the White Coat Waste Project launched its “BeagleGate” campaign, highlighting research on dogs funded by the NIAID, with a blog post headlined: “WCW Exposé: Fauci Spent \$424K on Beagle Experiments, Dogs Bitten to Death by Flies.”

The next month, the White Coat Waste Project accused Fauci of funding “beagle torture” in Tunisia, referring to a paper published in July 2021 investigating whether the biting sand flies that spread visceral leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease, preferred to feed on dogs already infected with the parasites that cause the condition.

The story really took off on Oct. 24, 2021, when 24 members of Congress from both parties, led by Rep. Nancy Mace, a Republican from South Carolina, wrote to Fauci protesting “costly, cruel, and unnecessary taxpayer-funded experiments on dogs.” Fauci’s nemesis, Rand Paul, wasn’t among the signatories, but weighed in with a tweet touting the White Coat Waste Project’s original blog post:

The Washington Post later reported that Fauci’s office received 3,600 calls in 36 hours, causing his assistant to stop answering the phone for two weeks. The newspaper linked the onslaught to “a campaign by a little-known animal rights group called the White Coat Waste Project.”

The NIAID tried to address the controversy, stating that it didn’t actually fund the Tunisian beagle research paper — which in November 2021 was corrected to remove reference to a grant from the institute, which had been awarded to a researcher at Ohio State University for related work. “NIAID was listed as a courtesy because it had supported other leishmaniasis research in the past,” a spokesperson for the university told BuzzFeed News. But that correction seemed only to give the White Coat Waste Project more ammunition. “Once again...color us unconvinced,” it wrote in a later blog post disputing the NIAID’s denial of funding the work.

The White Coat Waste Project’s critics argue that its demonization of Fauci, seemingly calculated to channel existing right-wing anger with the government scientist seen as the public face of mask and COVID vaccine mandates, has taken animal activism into scary territory.

“They take a tiny sliver of truth, and then around that they build this highly emotional somewhat fictional narrative to build their case,” Jim Newman, director of strategic communications with Americans for Medical Progress, which argues that animal experiments are essential to develop new treatments and vaccines, told BuzzFeed News. Animal activists have long been accused of cherry-picking facts and ignoring the goals of research to present animal experiments in the worst possible light. But portraying individuals as cruel villains in the current febrile political climate is “a very dangerous direction to be headed,” Newman said.

“Of course, the pro-animal experimentation lobby hates that we hold government bosses accountable for funneling tax dollars to cruel and wasteful animal tests,” Goodman said. “We generally don’t run campaigns targeting individual taxpayer-funded animal experimenters to respect their privacy and because we question the approach’s effectiveness, but federal agency bosses are public figures and fair game.”

Threats to Fauci’s life, which began well before the White Coat Waste Project’s BeagleGate campaign, have been widely documented. Daszak, too, has faced security scares, including an incident in August 2020 when an envelope containing a mysterious white powder

reportedly turned up at his home. "I get death threats regularly and we get crank calls at home trying to keep us awake at night," Daszak told BuzzFeed News.

The White Coat Waste Project stresses that it opposes violence and issued a statement in October 2021 saying it had no quarrel with Fauci over his advice on COVID policies. "You could stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him on COVID response and go toe-to-toe with him on other issues," said Goodman, who makes no apology for the group's decision to make Fauci the focus of the BeagleGate campaign. "Because he became a household name as the pandemic progressed, sure, it created an opportunity to go after him for animal testing in a way that would really make waves."

As the White Coat Waste Project has seized its opportunities and gained a higher public profile, the group has itself come under scrutiny. In February, the Campaign for Accountability filed a complaint with the IRS and the Federal Election Commission, alleging that the White Coat Waste Project had coordinated with the White Coat Waste Political Action Committee, founded in 2017, in breach of regulations prohibiting tax-exempt nonprofits from engaging in political campaign activities.

In an interview with BuzzFeed News, Bellotti declined to answer questions about the political action committee, which he said was a separate organization. Goodman later sent a statement describing the Campaign for Accountability's complaint as a "politically-motivated, baseless, and frivolous attack," noting: "The WCW Project *does not* fund activities of the distinct, all-volunteer WCW PAC."

Despite the partisan dynamics that have driven the White Coat Waste Project's campaign against funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Bellotti told BuzzFeed News that his group's goal remains finding ways to unite Democrats and Republicans on defunding animal experiments backed by the US government. "We didn't know when we launched this that it would get partisan in the way it did," he said.

The White Coat Waste Project's latest campaign, again tapping into concern about US taxpayer dollars going to the nation's most powerful adversaries, might just have broader political appeal. Less than a week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it published a new blog post: "Breaking: WCW Discovers NIH Pays For Cruel Kitten Experiments...in Russia!" ●

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009019  
MORENS\_NIH\_019305

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

## **Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_009020  
MORENS\_NIH\_019306

NIH 60767 - 002697

REL0000480634

**Date:** Wed, 6 Jul 2022 10:36:54 AM -0400

**Sent:** Wed, 6 Jul 2022 10:34:09 AM -0400

**Subject:** RE: Covid leaked from an AMERICAN lab, claims top US professor Jeffrey Sachs | Daily Mail Online

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens  
**To:** (b)(6); Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Rich  
Roberts (b)(6)

Really shameful, both the BS reporting and Jeff Sachs desire to jump on this awful bandwagon. This will just lead to more confusion and more politics. China's Minister for Foreign Affairs, no less, has already made public statements about this specific video clip of Jeff Sachs. He points to US hypocrisy in accusing China of releasing a virus, when people like Jeff Sachs believe that either the US is involved or in fact the origin.

This is what happens when someone who doesn't understand the biological processes involved in disease emergence is hijacked by a group of politically-motivated ne'er-do-wells and encouraged to make public statements based on their lack of understanding.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 3:47 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6); David Morens <(b)(6)>; Gerald T Keusch (b)(6); Jeffrey Sturchio (b)(6); Rich Roberts <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Covid leaked from an AMERICAN lab, claims top US professor Jeffrey Sachs | Daily Mail Online

Speechless

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10980715/Covid-leaked-AMERICAN-lab-claims-professor-Jeffrey-Sachs.html>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_008143  
MORENS\_NIH\_017742

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**  
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar  
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study  
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs  
Texas A&M University  
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University  
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: (b)(6)  
Twitter: (b)(6)  
Skype: (b)(6)  
Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>  
Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

(b)(6)  
Phone: (b)(6)  
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

#### Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_008144  
MORENS\_NIH\_017743

**Date:** Sun, 6 Mar 2022 10:41:14 PM -0500  
**Sent:** Sun, 6 Mar 2022 10:41:07 PM -0500  
**Subject:** RE: Music from my relatives in Ukraine  
**From:** "Roberts, Rich" (b)(6)  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; David Morens (b)(6)  
**CC:** Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;  
**Attachments:** Ukraine appeal - 181.pdf

---

Peter:

Your brother is a very talented violinist! Thanks for sharing. The current situation is heartbreaking and I think we all wish that more could be done to help.

In case you were not aware, Roald Hoffmann and I have organized a Nobel Laureates appeal for peace in Ukraine. The appeal is attached and the current list of signees (currently 181) can be found at <https://nlcampaigns.org/ukraine.html> Please circulate as you see fit, but especially to scientists in Russia, Ukraine and China.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 6, 2022 9:03 PM  
**To:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
**Subject:** Music from my relatives in Ukraine

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

David – I'm very glad you spoke with Betsy McKay. Your talk of the Russian classics spurred me to share the following clips with you all. My father, who was Ukrainian, was conscripted by the Nazis when they invaded Ukraine early in WW2. He managed to escape, cross the frontline and hand himself over to the British, came to the UK as a prisoner of war, and eventually became a UK citizen and married by mom, who was English. My dad was very musical – taught me classical guitar, spoke 7 languages, played many instruments and sang in a Ukrainian choir in the UK. My younger brother became an opera singer and my dad's brother who stayed in Ukraine became a leading viola player and head of the Lviv Conservatory. We still have a lot of relatives in Ukraine, almost all of whom are professional musicians – my cousins are conductors, composers, opera singers. Their children are concert pianists, viola players, singers. Sadly, as of last week, they are now refugees and soldiers.

Here is my nephew Zenon, playing viola on these two youtube clips. He took up a rifle in 2014 during the Russian incursion in the East, then returned to performing. Last week he volunteered again, and is now fighting on the frontline North of Kyiv again – he was alive as of yesterday.

Here he is playing Bach: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbwzhEFiJMk>

And a really technical piece "Gypsy Airs" by Sarasate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0v8Jw5gbgQ>

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005668  
MORENS\_NIH\_013995

Here is his sister, my niece Sofiya, playing piano. She managed to get out on Day 1 of the invasion, escape over to Hungary and is now safely in Sweden with my brother's family: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbruWIGee3k>

I also wanted to share this beautiful piece of Ukrainian music. It's called "Chuyesh Brati myi" or "Listen, my brother". I first heard this when we buried my father in Manchester and the remaining members of the choir he conducted at the time gathered around his graveside as we lowered him in and sang this in their classical Ukrainian voices. The song famously speaks of the cranes flying high in the sky as they return from their migration to their homeland near the Dniepr River. You can hear the choir singing the sound of the cranes "Cru, Cru, Cru!". The words say "Listen my brother to the sound of the cranes, Cru, Cru, Cru, as they return to their homeland. Myself, I shall die in this foreign land, never to see my homeland again"....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRAUrKtu7ZM>

Hope you enjoy these snapshots, and hope you're as moved as I always am with the last piece.

We're in touch with the rest of the family every day via Facebook and mobile phone. They're in the West of Ukraine and safe for now, but won't evacuate despite what looks clearly like a repetition of a Syria or Grozny type of annihilation, even my niece who has a 4 year old daughter – we're trying to persuade them to get out every day...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:10 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Story in the Intercept today

Peter, remember that the truth is on your side. Don't let anyone make you hide

I spoke to Betsy McKay of WSJ for 1 1/2 hours Tue. We totally bonded for the first half hour and after that had a good chat in which i really let it all hang out, including telling her that guys like Ebright were evil pieces of shit not to be listened to. Well, i didn't put it that way but i did spell it out to her that spending even 1 second in Ebrightland was false equivalency

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005669  
MORENS\_NIH\_013996



When she called i had taken the afternoon off for a mental heslth break and, with a double martini, was listening to Shostokovich's 13th symphony, Babi Yar, on my stereo. I mentioned that, and she gushed that she majored in Russian culture, lived in Moscow for 10 years, loved Shostokovich, and knew all about Babi Yar and Ukranian history. We spend the next 20 minutes discussing all the stuff I read as a kid like Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, and all the music of the "Mighty Handful", especially Rimsky and Mussorgsky. (It's on my bucket list to see all 17 Rimsky operas live or on DVD (some are not performed and not available on recordings), and i may be one of the few people in the world to have heard Mussorgsky's first opera Zhenit'ba (The Marriage), never performed live but privately recorded around 1950). I also told her of my work in Russia and experiences in Siberia.

Bottom line we hit it off, we spoke about you and EHA and especially the NIH situation. Later she sent me Russian news items about the recent Rusdian trashing of the Babi Yar memorial outside Kyiv. So.... I hope it will be a good piece she does, with my comments strictly on background.

I keep wondering how long itwill be until even the evil twits will realize that "there is no there there" and they are just embarrassing themselves. In the meantime, I say keep pushing with the knowledge and confidence that right is on your side. This too shall pass, and Dom Perignon will flow to the righteous. david

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Mar 3, 2022, at 20:32, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Responding to your email below David, you're right about the best defense being offense. I end up going through a process with these attacks. First day I feel like giving up on science. Then after a while, sometimes a few days of moping around, I get my aggression back and start trying to find ways to counter. As a strategy, I'm gradually talking to a few of the nastier journalists who have been attacking us, and I'm working on approaching some of the Republicans who are trying to defund us, and will have a better chance of doing that if they win the mid-terms.

First attempt came this week when *The Intercept* told us they were planning a story and sent a list of ridiculous questions about some typos in our reports on the terminated R01 – the issues that the House E&C Republicans sent to NIH last week (attached). *The Intercept* has filed FoIAs on our NIH grants back to 2001 and is currently in court to challenge NIH about handing over information on FoIA requests. Their play is to file a story every time Republicans on the Hill rip into EcoHealth or NIH then report in a dramatic way without our side of the story, usually quoting Ebright and Larry Gostin. I spent an hour and a half answering their questions on zoom and explaining how every allegation levelled at EHA about our NIH work can be answered by understanding the process of doing normal science. They've now put a story out that is less damaging than we believe it would have been, and has them turning their ire a bit more onto NIH O/D rather than us – not great for that to happen, but better than just lots of innuendo about our motives. There's still plenty of mudslinging particularly from Ebright who believes the typos in our report represent "Serious violations". The story's here: <https://theintercept.com/2022/03/03/wuhan-coronavirus-research-nih-ecohealth/>

I'm also working with Jon Cohen (Science) and Betsy McKay (WSJ) to send them every document we receive from NIH O/D and our responses. Both seem to be building up to doing a story and both recognize that this is a load of garbage being churned up for political purposes.

Amusingly, I sent Jon Cohen the Intercept story and he said it broke the ultimate rule of journalism – it was too boring to reach the end.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005670  
MORENS\_NIH\_013997

By the way David – I removed Holly Irving from the email chain because it's a NIAID address and can be FoIA'd

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** David Morens (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 4:27 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Roberts, Richard (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6)  
Aleksi Chmura (b)(6); Holly Irving [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter and colleagues, this is all really horrible, but what else is new? I once advised you to read the Arthur Miller play *The Crucible* (or see the great film) and now i add: read the transcript of the trial of Jeanne d'Arc..... In terms of demagoguery and evil there is nothing new under the sun, and there will always be people who take pleasure in trying to destroy people who are their betters, especially their moral betters....

It will be small consolation to hear the following but in my face to face meeting with Tony this morning, he once again brought up, as he usually does, your plight (Peter) and bemoaned all the crap he and you and others are ensnared in. He seems not to believe it is all happening and today was particularly upset about continued drum beating about lab leaks, specifically mentioning one I won't name whose father is a noted NIH virologist. I won't repeat the expletives we exchanged. I am beginning to feel more and more like a therapist lately.... He doesn't know how to stop this, nor do I.

I have said this before, and you all have disagreed, maybe you are right, probably u are, but i sometimes think the best defense is a good offense. That's what we tried to do in our COVID origin paper in spring 2020, but obviously few listened. Since the facts are on our side, and since there is zero proof of a lab leak or engineering, it's always possible to ask the assholes: prove it or shut up. That they have no proof and no evidence, they have an Achilles heel that can be struck.

If this was about a person rather than a scientific fact, these guys would be in court for slander

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005671  
MORENS\_NIH\_013998

Just keep hanging in there. I wish there was more i can do, and, if i get cut lose from NIH, there may be  
david

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Feb 24, 2022, at 16:00, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] > wrote:

I'm glad you'll mention this to Randy. These particular politicians are willing to cast aspersions on anyone's character for political gain.

I'm also glad you're going to decline to sign the letter you attached. It seems Richard Ebright's dream is to have me up on the stand under oath with him doing the questioning. Of course, none of this would get to the bottom of anything, and it would just serve to drive more politics in the way of doing science.

The truth of all of this is that there is no real debate over the origins. A lab leak is a possible scenario, but extremely unlikely based on the zero evidence put forward by anyone. On the other hand, we now have 11 peer-reviewed or under-review papers (and counting) that point towards the natural origins. I've listed them out in the attached doc, as well as the lab leak papers I could find (all of which are opinion pieces of non-peer-reviewed).

The real debate is purely political - Republicans using this as a way to target NIH and just regurgitating fact-free innuendo-filled conspiracies with EcoHealth's work at the center. Richard Ebright, I hear, is working with Rand Paul and others to feed them these half-baked ideas and make them sound science-y enough to convince the public.

I can hear the villagers sharpening their pitchforks....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005672  
MORENS\_NIH\_013999

Tel.: (b)(6)  
Website: (b)(6)  
Twitter: (b)(6)

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----

From: Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:17 PM  
To: Peter Daszak (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay  
(b)(6); Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); David Morens  
(b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >  
Subject: FW: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID  
origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

Peter:

Sorry to hear about the latest attacks. Please don't let them get you down.  
Just recognize the loonies who send them for what they are.

I'll let Randy Schekman know he was included too. It is sad to see the  
lengths that people will go to for the sake of political points. Witness  
the latest nonsense in Ukraine.

I attach a document I just received from Ebright. Needless to say I won't be  
signing, but I hope to convince some others not to also.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:15 PM  
To: Bloom, Barry R. (b)(6); Michael Imperiale  
(b)(6) >; Silja Vöneky (b)(6)  
mooc demic (b)(6); Nick Evans (b)(6) >; Michael  
Osterholm (b)(6); Lone Simonsen (b)(6); Edward  
Hammond (b)(6) >; David N. Fisman (b)(6) >;  
Arturo Casadevall (b)(6) >; Amir Attaran  
(b)(6) >; Alison Galvani (b)(6) >; Roberts,  
Rich (b)(6); Peter Hale (b)(6) >;  
Lipsitch, Marc (b)(6) >; David Relman  
(b)(6) >; (b)(6) >; Richard H. Ebright  
(b)(6) >

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005673  
MORENS\_NIH\_014000

Cc: Laura H. Kahn (b)(6)  
Subject: open letter: United States and the investigation of COVID  
origin—letter from American scientists and policy specialists

EXTERNAL SENDER

All--I am writing to you as founding members of the Cambridge Working Group,

Dr. Laura Kahn of Princeton has prepared an open letter entitled "United States and the investigation of COVID origin—letter from American scientists and science policy specialists" (see attached).

If you would like to sign the letter, please reply to Dr. Kahn at (b)(6) or to me at (b)(6) with your name and current affiliation.

Thank you in advance.

RHE

**Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**Disclaimer**

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_005674  
MORENS\_NIH\_014001

NIH 60707 - 002306

REL0000480658

**Date:** Thu, 5 May 2022 10:39:59 PM -0400

**Sent:** Thu, 5 May 2022 10:39:56 PM -0400

**Subject:** RE: More grist to the mill...

**From:** "Roberts, Rich" (b)(6)

**To:** Peter Daszak (b)(6) >; Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >;

Peter:

I will try to talk to her at some point, but I would really like to get a plan together first. While a large petition/statement with lots of signatures might be a good start, it is really the actions after that, which are likely to be key.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

**From:** Peter Daszak (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 8:41 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6) Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6) Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6) David Morens (b)(6) >; Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) >

**Subject:** More grist to the mill...

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

Re. your conversation with Marcia Nutt – she doesn't seem to understand exactly what you're proposing yet, but I really hope they will see this as more than just one scientist under a cloud of accusations. The NAM issue is about politicians going full-on against scientific research based on nothing more than a false narrative and conspiracy theory.

Just to add to your thoughts on how this is an attack on science, I read tonight that, incredibly, the Missouri Attorney General has sued Pres. Biden, Jen. Psaki, Anthony Fauci, NIAID, CDC and others for encouraging Facebook to block misinformation around Hunter Biden's laptop and the COVID-19 origins lab leak theory.

The lawsuit is here: [https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/mo-la-v-biden-filed-petition.pdf?sfvrsn=3d20bca5\\_2](https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/mo-la-v-biden-filed-petition.pdf?sfvrsn=3d20bca5_2)

I don't know if I told you, but we are already fighting one lawsuit that accuses EcoHealth, me and my wife (!) of starting COVID and causing the covid disease that the lawyer who's suing us contracted:

<https://www.america-times.com/batra-v-daszak-ecohealth-et-al-lawsuit-complaint-amended/>

While we just missed being dragged into this new lawsuit, we do get a mention on page 18:

Clause 73 (page 18): "On information and belief, Defendant Dr. Anthony Fauci, A senior federal government official, coordinating with others, orchestrated a campaign to discredit the lab-leak hypothesis in early 2020. As director of NIAID, Dr. Fauci had funded had funded risky "gain-of-function" research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology through intermediaries such as EcoHealth Alliance, headed by Dr. Peter Daszak. Thus, if the lab-leak theory were established, Dr. Fauci and Dr. Daszak could be potentially implicated in funding the research on viruses that caused the COVID-19 pandemic and killed millions of people worldwide."

I believe this literally qualifies as an attack on science Rich.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000609  
MORENS\_NIH\_005393

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: (b)(6)

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter (b)(6)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 5:35 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T (b)(6); Hotez, Peter Jay (b)(6); Peter Daszak (b)(6);

David Morens (b)(6); Aleksei Chmura (b)(6)

**Subject:** comments?

Jerry et al:

At least Marcia is engaged. Let's come up with a plan to pursue this.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McNutt, Marcia K (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 4:38 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: Did you see this?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

I have seen over the years many campaigns to try to get support for science. Some have failed, some have been successful.

The ones that failed were organized by research organizations, scientific societies, and scientists. They failed because the suggested to the intended audience that scientists were just another special interest group, pleading their own case for legitimacy and respect.

The ones that succeeded were organized by industry, the military, federal, state, and local leaders. They succeeded because these

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000610  
MORENS\_NIH\_005394

NIH 60767 - 002368

REL0000480677

groups could articulate the benefits to the economy and to societal well being from science. No one viewed this as a special interest maneuver.

Do you have different experiences?

Marcia

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS  
Dr. Marcia K McNutt  
President, National Academy of Sciences  
Mailing Address | Physical location:  
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418  
(b)(6) (office) (b)(6) (cell)  
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

On May 5, 2022, at 1:14 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Marcia:

I was not thinking of taking on this fringe group, precisely because of the “megaphone” effect. I was thinking of some much more general campaign throughout the US academic community to support science. I don’t yet have a specific plan, but a strong statement from University Presidents, heads of scientific societies, Nobel Laureates etc. and a campaign to enlist ALL scientists to sign on might attract a lot of signatures and some good publicity. At the moment my thoughts are still forming, but I am becoming increasingly alarmed by the attacks and the lack of a clear response from our colleagues.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McNutt, Marcia K. (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 3:59 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Did you see this?

EXTERNAL SENDER

The NAS is very involved in defending science. I’m just not sure what you want the NAS to do. If we take on White Coat Waste head on, we effectively give them a bigger megaphone for their views. \$350M organizations don’t come out ahead when they call out \$1M organizations.

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS  
Dr. Marcia K McNutt  
President, National Academy of Sciences  
Mailing Address | Physical location:  
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418  
(b)(6) (office) (b)(6) (cell)

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000611  
MORENS\_NIH\_005395



NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

On May 5, 2022, at 12:44 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Marcia:

Do I take your response to indicate that you don't think the NAS would get involved in helping to defend science?

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McNutt, Marcia K (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 12:21 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Did you see this?

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

The NASEM does have a number of reports on the use of animals in research already. I am not sure that what the White Coat Waste group is doing is actually illegal, and they seem to be a small player relative to PETA.

Honestly, I find it entirely two-faced that this group would enlist Republican congressmen to support animal welfare in research, when those same legislators are pushing for round ups of wild horses using helicopters so that ranchers can run more head of beef. At least laboratory animals are treated with anesthetic and their use is serving a purpose to advance human health. The same cannot be said for the wild horse roundups.

NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS  
Dr. Marcia K McNutt  
President, National Academy of Sciences  
Mailing Address | Physical location:  
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418  
(b)(6) (office) (b)(6) (cell)  
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

On May 5, 2022, at 8:48 AM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Marcia:

I don't know if you have seen this, but I am sure you are aware of the general problem.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/peteraldhous/white-coat-waste-anthony-fauci-nih-ecohealth-alliance-lab>

It is illustrative of a very disturbing trend of constant attacks on science by a lot of Republicans in Congress. I have been following closely the attacks on Peter Daszak at EcoHealth Alliance. I organized the initial

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000612  
MORENS\_NIH\_005396

NIH 60707 - 002368

REL0000480677

support for him from US Nobel Laureate scientists. Things are just getting worse and I think it is high time we organized our scientific colleagues to counter this egregious behaviour. I was very disappointed that Victor Dzau didn't challenge the Republican efforts to ask the NAM to investigate Peter Daszak.

I welcome your thoughts on whether you feel this is something the National Academies should get involved in. I feel our very future is at stake here.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: (b)(6)  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: (b)(6)

---

**From:** McNutt, Marcia K. (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 4:36 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Nobel Appeal on Ukraine

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks, Rich. I'm seeing if our International Secretary has the capacity to send this out.  
\*\*\*COVID Advisory: I am more likely to be in CA (Pacific time) than DC (Eastern time)\*\*\*  
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS  
Dr. Marcia K McNutt  
President, National Academy of Sciences  
Mailing Address | Physical location:  
500 Fifth Street NW | 2101 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001 | Washington, DC 20418  
(b)(6) (office) (b)(6) (cell)  
NASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNASNAS

On Mar 1, 2022, at 1:06 PM, Roberts, Rich (b)(6) wrote:

Dear Marcia:

We have just launched a Nobel appeal for Peace between Russia and Ukraine. The text is attached. As of this writing we have 159 Nobel Laureates signed up, but a current list that will be regularly updated is available at <https://nlcampaigns.org/ukraine.html>

It would be greatly appreciated if you could advertise this as widely as possible. We are especially keen to make sure it reaches scientists in Russia, Ukraine and around the world. We also hope that China will take the message to heart and not try to ameliorate the sanctions that have been imposed on Russia.

Thanks for any help you can provide.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000613  
MORENS\_NIH\_005397

USA

Tel: (b)(6)

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: (b)(6)

<Appeal 3-1-22.pdf><159 Nobel Laureates.docx>

### Disclaimer

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential and/or proprietary information (including without limitation copyright material and/or other intellectual property) and is intended only for the person(s) and/or entity(ies) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or if you received it in error, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this communication and you are asked to kindly delete it and promptly notify us. Any copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of EcoHealth Alliance, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

MORENS\_SUBPOENA\_000614  
MORENS\_NIH\_005398

NIH 60707 - 002370

REL0000480677

**Date:** Mon, 4 Jan 2021 12:49:35 PM -0500  
**Sent:** Mon, 4 Jan 2021 12:50:30 PM -0500  
**Subject:** RE: Pandemic news David Rehman  
**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]  
**Attachments:** image001.gif; image002.jpg

---

Thanks for the update. David Relman's comments were once again quoted by the NY Post and the Daily Mail yesterday in inflammatory garbage pieces designed to undermine the WHO team's efforts. Just unfortunate but completely predictable – he sought to write an opinion piece with the sole purpose of putting himself in the front of this BS controversy..I believe so he can 'heroically' 'help' to fix it down the line.

In the meantime I'm packing for my trip to Singapore tonight, then Wuhan tomorrow. Will send you both postcards...

If you'd like me to bring you back something, let me know. I'll be visiting a certain seafood market and can bring back some dried jellyfish if you like?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
**Subject:** FW: Pandemic news David Rehman



David M. Morens, M.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service

Senior Advisor to the Director  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 7A-03  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

● [b6] assistant: Whitney Robinson)

● [b6]  
● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email.

If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



**From:** Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]  
**Subject:** FW: Pandemic news David Rehman

fyi

**From:** Aileen Marty [b6]  
**Date:** Monday, January 4, 2021 at 10:57 AM  
**To:** Robert McCreight [b6], Elin Gursky [b6], Gerald Parker <[b6]>, Ayra Madad <[b6]>, Don Donahue <[b6]>, STEVE CUNNION [b6] >, Jim Terbush <[b6]>, Andrew Ambler <[b6]>, Peter Biggins <[b6]>, "Laura H. Kahn" <[b6]>, Kavita Berger [b6], Diane DiEuliis [b6], Kip Thomas [b6], Denise Baken [b6] >, Stephen Goldsmith <[b6]>, Stiefel, David - OHS, Washington, DC" [b6]  
**Cc:** Nicholas Eftimiades [b6], Rob Spalding [b6], Eneida Roldan <[b6]>, Taubenberger, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >, Mary Jo Trepka [b6] >, "Lednický, John" [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: Pandemic news David Rehman

Thanks, Bob. I am disappointed in David Rehman's opinion piece.

At no point does David mention the SARS coronavirus's genome in Malayan pangolins (*Manis javanica*) at the



Guangdong wildlife rescue centre. That SARS virus not only has a relatively high similarity with the COVID-19 CoV Wuhan-Hu-1 sequence (Xiao et al., 2020) but the RBD is only one amino acid different from the SARS-CoV2 reported in Wuhan. While the data do not support the pangolin as a reservoir, these illegally trafficked illegal animals interact with poachers, and that opportunity for recombination and spillover cannot be excluded.

He also fails to mention the recently described Rc-o319 SARS coronavirus in Japanese *Rhinolophus cornutus* bats. The Japanese Rc-o319 SARS coronavirus, while more distant than RaTG13 SARS virus of *Rhinolophus affinis* provides another intriguing clue. Similarly, he does not mention the SARS coronavirus recently extracted from *Rhinolophus shameli* bats in Cambodia.

Further, he fails to mention the > 500 animal species that the FAO has shown to be susceptible to SARS-CoV2.

**The truth is spillovers are a normal part of life. Pandemics are recurring themes in natural history.**

After recognising SARS in 2003, many of us have done extensive research on various coronavirus. This work led to discovering **thousands** of new coronaviruses, including two seasonal, human, 'community-acquired' coronaviruses NL63 and HKU1. In fact, by 2007 coronavirus researchers noting the enormous reservoir of SARS-CoV viruses in horseshoe bats, the ease that coronavirus undergo genetic recombination, and the easy spillover to wild animals and at times to humans, **hauntingly predicted that SARS viruses were a ticking time-bomb ready to cause a much worse pandemic** (Cheng VCC, Lau SKP, et al., 2007)

The Wuhan market was likely not the original site for the spillover; it was merely an amplifying location that helped reveal this deadly virus's existence. Similar to the event that happened in June with the Beijing market.

This nasty pandemic was a natural event. It was predicted to happen. Folks like Gerry Paker (who you CC'd), Jeff Taubenberger, myself, and many others have predicted and warned about this for decades.

We should indeed seek out the source(s) of the current outbreak, but we should not fan the flames of conspiracy theory.

We in the USA could have done better with this pandemic. Instead, we botched the job. Science, public health, and common sense took a back-seat to ignorance, popularism, greed, and stupidity. Let's do better in 2021. Happy New Year, Aileen

Sincerely

Aileen M Marty MD, FCAP

Distinguished University Professor, Infectious Diseases, Dept of Translational Medicine, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Laboratory Director and Clinical Consultant for the FIU-Health Auxiliary, High Complexity CLIA laboratory for COVID-19; Director, FIU Health Travel Medicine Program and Vaccine Clinic Commander, Emergency Response Team Development Professor, Voting Member, Board for the International Federation for Tropical Medicine;  
11200 SW 8th St, AHC2 675; Miami, Florida, 33199

WHO Advisory Group on Mass Gatherings; (Risk Assessments, Command & Control, EID, Global Health Security)

b6 USA Office: b6

From: Robert McCreight b6

Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 8:01 AM

To: Elin Gursky b6; Gerald Parker <gparker@fiu.edu> b6; Syra Madad b6

Don Donahue b6; STEVE CUNNION b6; Jim Terbush <jim.terbush@hhs.gov>

b6; Andrew Ambler b6; Aileen Marty <amarty@fiu.edu>

b6; Peter Biggins b6; Laura H. Kann b6; Kavita Berger <kavita.berger@hhs.gov>

b6; Diane DiEuliis b6; Kip Thoma b6; Denise Baken <dbaken@shieldanalysis.com>

>; Stephen Goldsmith <swgoldsmith@fbi.gov>; Stetel, David - OHS, Washington, DC <

b6

Cc: Nicholas Elimiades

b6

; Rob Spalding

b6

Subject: Re: Pandemic news soon??

**Note: This message originated from outside the FIU Faculty/Staff email system.**

Would commend your review of the OpEd by Dr David Relman of Stanford who has distinct views about the need to determine the actual origins of the COVID virus. [see attachment]

Robert McCreight  
Adjunct Professor  
George Mason University  
Lecturer  
National Defense University  
cell [b6]

*"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom...must undergo the fatigue of supporting it."* Thomas Paine

*"It is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog that matters.."* Mark Twain

On Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 7:46 PM

b6

wrote:

In the year long struggle to confirm and clarify the true origins of the pandemic we have discovered varied theories about its beginnings. China has been less than helpful in this regard and there is plenty of news reporting that alleges a food market or a randomized bat virus with SARS properties is responsible. As such theories circulate professionals and experts find a variety of ideas contending for respect adoption and promotion as the triggering event for COVID.

There is even the linguistic labeling of the virus conspicuously away from the 'Wuhan virus' terminology months ago to something very clinical neutral and detached like COVID 19. WHO and CDC seem equally mystified and consensus among experts about the pathogen remains elusive and contradictory in some cases. Ask experts if China has been honest and transparent about the genomic code of the virus. Many will say yes— others will say no. This is a complex dilemma.

We are left wondering after 10 months of panic which is more important to onward public health — is it devising a vaccine? is it a therapeutic drug? A reliable genomic map of the virus? Or is it enough to have an accurate comprehensive and truthful description and biological verification of its molecular signature? How important is to enjoy 98% certainty that we know the authentic origins of the virus? No ambiguity. No hidden facts— full transparency?

Now just days away from today we may find an answer to that question. How likely is it the answer is one we expect and need? The ability to blame or even suspect China for deliberate malevolent action regarding the virus rests on proof. How much and what kind of proof is enough? If China is guilty of releasing the pandemic on a unprepared world how would that be demonstrated? What would be required? Can this be shown? What kind of evidence is needed? Do we have that overwhelming proof?

Opinion divided between engineered bio weapon or benign but nasty zoonotic leap from bats to humans. There is also the oft discredited market disease proximity theory. Then there is the GOF theory wrapped around secretive Wuhan lab research where attenuated bio material was deliberately or carelessly allowed to migrate outside the confines of Wuhan. What notion seems most beneficial to Beijing? Of course we seek a medical and scientific answer. Not a political one carefully framed. So we wait.



In time we will know much more and the USA will carry the burden of convincing its own people and the world what specific theory appears to have the weight of evidence behind it. Tragically this affirms the shortfalls we still have to overcome in mounting a robust bio forensic system to identify and validate future disease threats. Doubtful and derogatory media and rival nations will poke holes and seek to nullify findings. We will face disease threats again and we will urgently need the highest level of scientific confidence that a complex bio forensic architecture and system affords. For protective surveillance and bio defense reliable forensics systems are essential. May the next several days enable a better and convincing verification of the pandemic's origins. Those seeking answers will demand to know more. One day soon that may happen. Hopefully the wait is soon over.

Sent from my iPhone



**Date:** Wed, 16 Jun 2021 7:10:29 AM -0400  
**Sent:** Wed, 16 Jun 2021 7:10:20 AM -0400  
**Subject:** Re: EcoHealth's scapegoating  
**From:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**CC:** David Morens [b6], Roberts, Rich [b6], Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.jpg

---

Yesterday I had to debunk Jon Stewart's recent lab leak claims comments, on TMZ of all places, and condemn Marjorie Taylor Greene yet again for her attacks on CNN Don Lemon. These are terrible attacks, really on not only EcoHealth but all US biomedical science. The NIH and all govt science agencies needs to understand that all of us are under threat. I will keep pushing.

Warmest 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

E-mail: [b6]

Twitter: [@peterhotez](https://twitter.com/peterhotez)

Skype: [b6]

Linkedin [Peter Hotez](#)

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Executive Assistant: [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6]

Phone: [b6]



Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2021, at 12:29 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

Please read the email from Research!America below, and my response. Rich kindly put me in touch with them to see if they can help EcoHealth right now with NIH. I'm extremely grateful for your help Rich, and for Ellie Dehoney contacting NIH, but the response is not good. I feel real jeopardy right now with Dr. Fauci & Francis Collins under attack, and people focusing on the idea that our public comments that a lab leak is extremely unlikely (which it is) have made us a target. What's made us a target is Trump canceling our grant, followed by a relentless 1.5 year attack by politically motivated actors and organizations. I'm worried that they've effectively won at this point. I can't speak out publicly, no one within the Federal Govt seems willing to defend us, and our funders are being pressured and will begin to withdraw.

Add to this today's news that the HHS Inspector General will be looking into the grant to see if it was managed correctly (it was), and further political action from Rep. Ernst, who's latching onto the idea that an organization with a suspended grant should be defunded of all federal funding and has a bill ready that will close us down -

<https://www.ernst.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2021/6/ernst-pushes-to-cut-off-u-s-taxpayer-funding-of-organizations-like-a-wuhan-lab-linked-nonprofit-that-disregard-federal-law>.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:18 AM  
**To:** 'Ellie Dehoney' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]

Cc: 'Jessica Scott' [b6] 'Jacqueline Lagoy' <j[ b6]>  
**Subject:** EcoHealth's scapegoating  
**Importance:** High

Thanks for trying Ellie. We cut back on press interviews a couple of months ago, and haven't spoken to a major outlet in a few weeks. However, there are dozens of quotes from me over the past year and a half where I gave my opinion, based on deep knowledge of the facts, on the likely pathways of COVID's emergence. Unfortunately, we were the only US organization working in China to investigate coronavirus risk continually for the last 17 years, so the press came to us for answers. Add to that my misfortune on being asked by the WHO to help them on their COVID origins mission. I agreed, despite significant hardship, and now am being pilloried for reporting what we found. Our task on the WHO mission was to ascertain how likely each different pathway was, and that's where the quote probably comes from – we found it 'extremely unlikely' that it came from a lab, and published that in our report. Any good scientist worth their salt would have come to the same conclusion, and Dr. Fauci stated he believes it came from nature recently in Congress. The rationale is simple - there remains no evidence whatsoever for a lab leak, but substantial evidence for emergence via human-wildlife interactions. To be now effectively canceled, simply because logic doesn't fit people's politics is just cruel and the essence of an anti-science agenda.

I'm frankly devastated at the thought of our organization being made a scapegoat by the federal govt and its agencies. I've spent my whole career working on the origins of pandemics – it's our organization's mission. As you rightly stated, we raised the flag over and over again about the risk of these viruses emerging, as did our collaborators in China. We spoke to the White House, to the PPFTS, to agencies like USAID, NIH, CDC, and to the WHO. Some listened, some funded us to do this work. Others did not. It seems that right now, our future is in the hands of NIH to defend us, and from what I'm seeing and hearing, they're protecting themselves at our expense. That's plain wrong. Someone needs to call this out, and help us, and right now I'm at a loss where to go.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** Ellie Dehoney [b6] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:47 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Cc:** Alison Andre [b6]; Jessica Scott [b6]; Jacqueline Lagoy <[b6]>  
**Subject:** RE: Peter Daszak

Hi Peter and Rich, I heard back from Mike Lauer and Larry Tabak; they have asked me/Research!America to please stay out of this. I don't know, but believe they feel as trapped as you feel, Peter, and that we can only make things worse.



I read the recent NYT article in which you were quoted saying that it is unlikely COVID-19 originated at the lab. Several comments questioned why you were asked, which is a reasonable criticism of the NYT. The paper should not have asked you, or anyone who has a relationship with the lab, whether the lab could have been involved in any way. The NYT set you up. What choice did you have? Had you refused to comment, the NYT could well have noted your refusal in the article and that would have fed the beast; had you answered in any other way that you did, you would have been going against your own views, and you have too much integrity to do that).

Take or leave this advice, but in my opinion, should anyone ask you again to comment on anything having to do with the Wuhan Lab, you should say that you are not the judge or jury of an investigation that has nothing to do with EcoHealth's work with the Wuhan lab or any facet of your work. Your lab tries to stop the transmission of coronaviruses by researching animal to human transmission. You raised alarms bells about this type of transmission more than a decade ago, and your commitment to preventing pandemics has never wavered. As a matter of fact, that would be a good theme of an op ed. One thing the group of Nobel laureates could do is write an op ed that focuses on the costs of making a scapegoat of the very institute that sounded the alarm on the possibility of a global coronavirus pandemic. It's easy to demonize people and institutions; it's hard to fight global health threats. The federal government reports to the American public. The American public should demand that the federal government empower EcoHealth to prevent the next pandemic, not buy into any action by the federal government or the media to make a scapegoat of it.

**Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney**

Vice President of Policy and Advocacy

Research!America

[edehoney@researchamerica.org](mailto:edehoney@researchamerica.org)

d. [b6] c. [b6]

[www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)

<image001.jpg> <image002.jpg> <image003.jpg> <image004.jpg> <image005.jpg>

---

**From:** Ellie Dehoney

**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2021 2:35 PM

**To:** 'Peter Daszak' [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]

**Cc:** Alison Andre [b6]; Jessica Scott [b6]; Jacqueline Lagoy <

[b6]>

**Subject:** RE: Peter Daszak

Very helpful! I am on the case. I have no idea what NIH will say, but I am going to make an ask.

**Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney**

Vice President of Policy and Advocacy

Research!America

[edehoney@researchamerica.org](mailto:edehoney@researchamerica.org)

d. [b6] c. [b6]

[www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)

<image001.jpg> <image002.jpg> <image003.jpg> <image004.jpg> <image005.jpg>

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [mailto:[b6]]

**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2021 2:16 PM

**To:** Ellie Dehoney [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]

**Cc:** Alison Andre [b6]; Jessica Scott [b6]; Jacqueline Lagoy <

[b6]>

**Subject:** RE: Peter Daszak  
**Importance:** High

Attached is some background information that I hope's useful.

1) A document that I update regularly to track all actions related to this issue. Please note this is highly confidential because it includes statements and details that have not been released publicly and that are the focus of an ongoing GAO investigation into political interference in agencies by the Trump administration, and may end up being part of a legal case or action.

The NIH grant that Trump terminated

Political activity of direct relevance to EHA's work

Successful applications of the work we've done in China (e.g. Remdesivir, other therapeutics/vaccines)

2) A URL of the video from a 2004 60 minutes piece where I raise the concern about potential future emergence of a SARS-related virus that spreads rapidly and causing widespread mortality in the process. It's why we were doing this work in China, and it's why it scored so highly in our renewal application – critical to our nation's health and national security. The comment begins at roughly the 12 mins 30 second mark.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O79e2bwC8s>

I looked again at that most recent E&C committee letter. None of the issues that they raise are of any real legal value, and we have arguments lined up for all of them that clearly show that what we did with our funding was legal, and of such value that we were strongly encouraged to renew, and received a top 3% score. It's really awful they're trying to muddy our name with this sort of innuendo.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

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*

---

**From:** Ellie Dehoney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>; Alison Andre <[REDACTED]>; Jessica Scott <[REDACTED]>; Jacqueline Lagoy <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Peter Daszak

Terrific! Peter, it's nice to meet you, albeit virtually. I am adding my assistant, Jacqueline, to this email to help find 20 minutes for us to connect via zoom, if that works for you. I've also cc'd Jessica Scott to join the meeting.

**Eleanor (Ellie) Dehoney**  
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy  
Research!America

[b6]  
d. [b6] c. [b6]  
[www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)

<image001.jpg> <image002.jpg> <image003.jpg> <image004.jpg> <image005.jpg>

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** Ellie Dehoney [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <[b6]> Alison Andre [b6]  
**Subject:** Peter Daszak  
**Importance:** High

Ellie:

Here is Peter's contact information. He would be happy to speak with you.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[b6]>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich <[b6]>  
**Cc:** Alison Andre <[b6]>  
**Subject:** RE: Research!America  
**Importance:** High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks very much Rich, I'd be delighted to reach out to her. I have time to talk today, and any day next week.

Please send her my email address & contact number – just forward this email if you like. I've also copied my assistant Alison Andre on the phone and she will maintain the utmost discretion.

Peter Daszak

Email: [b6]  
Cellphone: [b6]  
Home: [b6]  
Assistant (Alison Andre) [b6]



Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2021 9:54 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak <[b6]>  
**Subject:** Research!America

Peter:

I spoke this morning with Ellie Dehoney from Research!America. I had contacted them because I thought they might be able to help get your NIH grant restored and also to seek their advice about how to try and combat the rhetoric surrounding the lab-leak hypothesis and its consequences for you. They have very good ties and insight into the politics in Washington and she would be very interested in helping. Would you have some time to speak with her? She would like to get educated on EcoHealth and the research you have done in the past and would plan on doing if the grant can be restored. She was also curious if you had reached out to your Senators, because she thought they might be able to help. She apparently has good contacts with them.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and

small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.



**Date:** Tue, 5 Oct 2021 9:23:37 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Tue, 5 Oct 2021 9:21:54 PM -0400  
**Subject:** The 'offending email' FW: Wuhan novel coronavirus - NIAID's role in bat-origin CoVs  
**From:** Peter Daszak {b6}  
**To:** David Morens {b6}; Aleksei Chmura {b6};  
**Attachments:** image001.gif; image002.jpg

---

It's below.

I'll start sending you others later on.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: {b6}  
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*

---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] {b6}  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 4:54 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak {b6}>  
**Cc:** Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] {b6}; Alison Andre {b6}>  
**Subject:** RE: Wuhan novel coronavirus - NIAID's role in bat-origin CoVs

Great info, thanks. Tony doesn't maintain awareness of these things and doesn't know unless program officers tell him, which they rarely do, since they are across town and may not see him more than once a year, or less....

In reflecting on this, and in part from your work, many people have been saying since the beginning of MERS that these coronaviruses are just going to keep on emerging, and for reasons your whole group have been highlighting for years, the human animal interface, etc..... Assuming this current thing turns out well, this has to be a serious wake up call that we have to do much more

I WILL pass this on to Tony. He is overwhelmed with press calls and pressure from the Dept of HHS. I have never seen him so frazzled. Saturday night he sent me a one line email. "I am brain

dead". (Not for attribution or repeating!).

Interested in your feeling about where this is going. The experts buzzing around us are all over the map, between doomsday and not that big a deal, with everything in between.

*David*

David M. Morens, M.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service  
Senior Advisor to the Director  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 7A-03  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520  
● [b6] [b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)

● [b6] [b6] [b6]

● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]  
**Cc:** Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Alison Andre [b6]  
**Subject:** Wuhan novel coronavirus - NIAID's role in bat-origin CoVs  
**Importance:** High

Hi David – Happy to have a phone call re. the Wuhan CoV, but just wanted to mentioned a few things for your information and hopefully to pass on to Tony Fauci for when he's being interviewed re. the new CoV:

NIAID has been funding coronavirus work in China for the past 5 years through an R01 to me (1R01AI110964: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence"). That's now been renewed, with a specific focus that we 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 (cc'd here). Collaborators include Wuhan Institute of Virology (currently working on the nCoV), and Ralph Baric. The results of our work to date include:

- Sampled 10,074 bats and ~2,000 other mammals at 47 sites across S. China

- Discovered 172 novel  $\beta$ -CoVs (52 novel SARSr-CoVs), >350 novel  $\alpha$ -CoVs
- Discovered closest relative to Wuhan nCoV (92% homology)
- Discovered Swine Acute Diarrheal Syndrome Virus (SADS-CoV) killing >25,000 pigs in Guangdong Province (Published in Nature)
- Found SARS-related CoVs that can bind to human cells (Published in Nature), and that cause SARS-like disease in humanized mouse models.
- Found that clinical signs of bat SARSr-CoVs in mice were not prevented with a vaccine candidate against SARS-CoV, and were not treatable with most monoclonal therapies being developed
- Found serological evidence that 3% of people living at the wildlife-human interface in rural China are being exposed to these bat SARS-related coronaviruses

Also – FYI, prior to the R01, we worked under an R01 with Eun-Chung Park as Program Officer on viral discovery in bats, where originally identified SARS-CoV as having a likely origin in bats (published in Science)

As I mentioned, I'm now part of a group that's meeting by phone weekly with CEIRS to discuss the nCoV and Erik's part of that.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
460 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street – 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001

Tel. +1 [b6]  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge research into the critical connections between human and wildlife health and delicate ecosystems. With this science we develop solutions that prevent pandemics and promote conservation.*

---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAD) [E] [b6]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak; Ian Lipkin [b6] Jon Epstein  
**Subject:** RE: Wuhan virus

Thanks, the excitement never ends, right?

*David*

David M. Morens, M.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service  
Senior Advisor to the Director  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 7A-03  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520



b6

(assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)

b6

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 12:57 PM  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Ian Lipkin [b6]  
[b6] Jon Epstein [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: Wuhan virus  
**Importance:** High

Yes – lots of information and I spoke with Erik Stemmy and Alan Embry yesterday before the news was released. Erik is my program officer on our coronavirus grant specifically focused on China.

I've been talking with reporters today and happy to fill you in on any further information...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
460 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street – 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001

Tel. +1 [b6]  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge research into the critical connections between human and wildlife health and delicate ecosystems. With this science we develop solutions that prevent pandemics and promote conservation.*

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAD) [E] [b6]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** W. Ian Lipkin ([b6]); Peter Daszak; Jon Epstein  
**Subject:** Wuhan virus

Hi guys, do any of you have any inside info on this new coronavirus that isn't yet in the public domain? Or any thoughts?

TY,

*David*

David M. Morens, M.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service  
Senior Advisor to the Director  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 7A-03  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520  
[b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)

[b6]

[b6]

[b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

**Date:** Mon, 28 Jun 2021 5:40:39 PM -0400

**Sent:** Mon, 28 Jun 2021 5:40:29 PM -0400

**Subject:** FW: Tony Fauci's comment

**From:** Peter Daszak; [REDACTED] b6

**To:** David Morens; [REDACTED] b6

---

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED] b6

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*

---

**From:** [REDACTED] b6 <[REDACTED] b6>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2020 9:25 PM

**To:** Erik Stemmy [E] [REDACTED] b6; Emily Erbelding [E] [REDACTED] b6

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmur; [REDACTED] b6

**Subject:** Tony Fauci's comment

We're all very delighted to see that Tony Fauci came out publicly with a comment that dispels the lab origin theory for COVID-19:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.businessinsider.com/fauci-throws-cold-water-conspiracy-theory-coronavirus-escaped-chinese-lab-2020-4%3famp>

And here

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/04/18/us-expert-says-coronavirus-not-developed-chinese-lab/>

If you speak to him about this please pass on my personal thanks - it's extremely comforting to know that he's brave enough to stand up for the truth at this time.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
(Sent from my iPhone)

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.



**Date:** Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:41:04 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Sun, 27 Jun 2021 2:40:51 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Jeff Sachs.  
**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**CC:** David Morens [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]

---

Please see his email to me below, just now.

He's proposing I step off as a commissioner, recuse myself from the origins work and then am put on the one health part of the taskforce. He will also bring on biosafety people.

This would be seen widely as a further step down for me and is not acceptable in my opinion.

He's trying to bully me into a quick response.

I think he's trying to line this up as a done deal before his Wednesday morning call with the rest of the Commissioners.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

**From:** Jeffrey Sachs [b6]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:24 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Cc:** Ozge Karadag [b6]; Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) [b6]; Yanis Ben Amor [b6]  
**Subject:** Continued work on the task force

Dear Peter,

I would like to pursue a way forward in which you would continue as a member of the task force to provide expertise and inputs on the One Health approach to pandemics, while you would step away from being a commissioner and would recuse yourself from the task force's work on the question of origins of SARS-CoV-2. Hume similarly would recuse himself from any work on the origins question. I will appoint a new acting chair or co-chairs of the task force following consultations with the task force.



I am proposing this two-track approach so that the controversies and issues surrounding your work do not envelope the Commission's work and its final report, while at the same time enabling you to contribute your considerable expertise and experience to the important issues of One Health and the ecology of emerging infectious diseases.

I hope that you find this approach to be satisfactory and reasonable under the circumstances. It is my deeply considered view on how to achieve several important objectives going forward.

I will move forward expeditiously on these issues one way or another, so I would deeply appreciate your timely response.

With best wishes,

Jeff

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

**Date:** Fri, 28 May 2021 6:33:51 PM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology  
**From:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]; keusch, Jerry [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.png

---

Sounds like good news to me. On a cynical note, I suspect HHS is doing this because they feel that Tony Fauci & Francis Collins are under pressure, and they don't want more mud to be slung around, even if it's mis-quoted, out-of-context garbage from our grants etc.

Frankly, I think it was prob a mistake to allow anything of EHAs to be FoIA'd in the first place, given that these conspiracy folks are just pulling things completely out of context and feeding them to people like Rand Paul and other nut-jobs. Again, it's a case of HHS, NIH not stepping up in anyway at all to defend an organization they fund that was already under attack thanks to their actions.

The US Right to Know chief was bragging on Twitter last week that they'd filed 70!! FoIA requests related to Wuhan, EcoHealth, NIH etc.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]  
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*

---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]; keusch, Jerry [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology

From our FOIA office. Not clear what it means.....d

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology

**Date:** Fri, 28 May 2021 18:52:24 +0000

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

**To:** David Morens [b6] [b6]

*David*

David M. Morens, M.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service  
Senior Advisor to the Director  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 7A-03  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520  
● [b6] assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)

● [b6] [b6] [b6]

● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



---

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 10:39 AM

**To:** NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>

**Subject:** FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology

**Importance:** High

**From:** Moore, Marg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology  
**Importance:** High

FYI

**From:** Lampe, Karen (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2021 10:33 AM  
**To:** NIH FOIA [b6]; Manheim, Marianne (NIH/NHLBI) [E] [b6]; hofield, Robin (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Moore, Marg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Milliard, Suzanne (NIH/NCI) [E] [b6]; eterson, Trevor (NIH/NEI) [E] [b6]; Blansfield, Earl (NIH/NICHD) [E] [b6]; Webb, Ginger (NIH/NIDCD) [E] [b6]; Stabile, Regina (NIH/NIEHS) [E] [b6]; Alberts, Lisa (NIH/NIMH) [E] [b6]; Glasford-Clarke, Margaret (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]; Woodson, Holly (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] [b6]; Thomas, Gina (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]; Garcia-Malene, Gorka (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]; Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Yan, Hawyee (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]  
**Subject:** OGC has placed a temporary hold on all releases having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/Wuhan Institute of Virology  
**Importance:** High

Good morning all,

We have just received word from HHS Oversight via OGC that we should not release anything having to do with EcoHealth Alliance/WIV. We don't have any more information at the moment but hope to know more by Tuesday. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Karen E. R. Lampe, Ph.D.  
Freedom of Information Office  
National Institutes of Health

[b6]





**Date:** Thu, 29 Feb 2024 10:08:53 AM -0500  
**Subject:** Fwd: WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?  
**From:** David Morens [b6]  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] peter hotez  
[b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei  
Chmura [b6];  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image001.jpg

---

This stuff never freaking 'ends. dmm

From the cell phone of David MorensI

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C] [b6]  
**Date:** Thu, Feb 29, 2024, 09:57  
**Subject:** WSJ/Nicolas Wade: Where Did Covid Come From?  
**To:**

## Where Did Covid Come From?

**New documents bolster the theory that it not only escaped from a laboratory but was developed in one.**

---

By Nicholas Wade

Feb. 28, 2024 12:47 pm ET

---

---



Illustration: Martin Kozlowski

In the four years since the SARS-CoV-2 virus was unleashed on the world, data have steadily accumulated supporting the hypothesis that it emerged from a laboratory. The latest information, released last month, makes a formidable case that the virus is the product of laboratory synthesis, not of nature.

This startling fact will probably take some time to sink into the national consciousness, given the mainstream media's sustained inability to report the issue objectively. Editors have failed to think beyond the extreme politicization that requires liberals to oppose the lab-leak hypothesis. Science journalists are too beholden to their sources to suspect that virologists would lie to them about the extent of their profession's responsibility for a catastrophic pandemic.

Here are some salient facts that haven't been clearly reported to readers of the mainstream press:

In March 2018 a team of American and Chinese virologists applied to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, known as Darpa, seeking a \$14 million grant to manipulate viruses related to SARS-CoV-1, the bat virus that caused a minor epidemic in 2002. Their goal was to identify bat viruses in Asia with the highest potential for jumping to people and to immunize bats so they wouldn't infect soldiers in the region.

The proposal for Project DEFUSE specified that the viruses' infectivity would be enhanced by inserting into them a genetic element known as a furin cleavage site. Depending on the starting viruses, this protocol could have produced SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, which has a distinctive furin cleavage site.



In 2022 three biologists, Valentin Bruttel, Alex Washburne and Antonius VanDongen, guessed that if SARS-CoV-2 had been generated in a lab by a standard method, it would have been assembled from six sections of lab-synthesized DNA with the help of a biological agent called BsmBI. On analyzing the virus's structure, they found evidence for the seams between sections and other distinctive marks of the assembly process.

Their paper was derided as “kindergarten molecular biology” by the virologists who are favorites of the mainstream press for their opposition to the lab-leak hypothesis. But a batch of documents reveal new details about the DEFUSE proposal and confirm that the three authors were on target. Emily Kopp of U.S. Right to Know obtained the documents through a Freedom of Information Act request from the Interior Department, having noticed that a researcher at the U.S. Geological Survey was a member of the DEFUSE team.

The new documents, which are background planning papers and drafts for the DEFUSE proposal, call for assembling SARS-like viruses from six sections of DNA, and include a cost estimate for purchase of the BsmBI restriction enzyme—exactly as the three authors had inferred. This clearly strengthens, perhaps conclusively, their contention that the virus is synthetic. Richard H. Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, says it raises “to the level of a smoking gun” the genetic evidence that the virus was manufactured.

Other strong indicators of the virus’s laboratory birth include the furin cleavage site, possessed by none of the other more than 1,500 members of its viral family with which in nature it might swap genetic material. The codons—“words” used by the genetic code to specify the units of proteins—that define the cleavage site are those preferred by humans, not coronaviruses, pointing to their likely origin in a lab kit. And whereas most viruses require repeated tries to switch from an animal host to people, SARS-CoV-2 infected humans out of the box, as if it had been preadapted while growing in the humanized mice called for in the DEFUSE protocol.

The authors of the proposal were a team led by Peter Daszak of the EcoHealth Alliance of New York, Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina. Although Mr. Baric is the leading expert on the technology, Mr. Daszak intended for much or most of the work to be done in Ms. Shi’s laboratory, despite giving a different impression to Darpa. He writes in the recently discovered documents that “I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team. Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan.”

Ms. Shi did most of her work with SARS-type viruses in the minimal-containment condition known as BSL2, whereas Mr. Baric, who regarded the viruses as seriously dangerous, worked in a more secure lab known as BSL3. Mr. Daszak noted that the lower-security labs would save money: “The BSL-2 nature of work on SARS-CoVs makes our system highly cost-effective relative to other bat-virus systems.” Mr. Baric replied to this comment that the viruses might be grown under BSL2 safety conditions in China, but “US researchers will likely freak out.”

Mr. Daszak’s EcoHealth Alliance last year asserted that the DEFUSE project was never implemented: “The proposal was not funded and the work was never done, therefore it cannot have played a role in the origin of COVID-19.” But science is a competitive business. After Darpa turned down the DEFUSE proposal in February 2019, the researchers in Wuhan might have secured Chinese government funding and gone ahead by themselves. Viruses made according to the DEFUSE protocol could have been available by the time Covid-19 broke out, sometime between August and November 2019. This would account for the otherwise unexplained timing of the pandemic along with its place of origin. (Mr. Daszak, Mr. Baric and Ms. Shi didn’t respond to emails seeking comment. Chinese officials have demanded that the U.S. “stop defaming China” by raising the possibility of a lab leak.)

One piece is missing from the puzzle—the identity of the parent viruses from which SARS-CoV-2 was derived. The Chinese authorities have rigorously suppressed all information about the viruses being kept in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. But the documentary and scientific evidence already assembled seems sufficient to understand the genesis of the pandemic that killed millions.

*Mr. Wade is a former science editor of the New York Times.*

You may also like

Wonder Land: Covid-19 disrupted people's private lives. Biden addressed concerns with a \$6 trillion spending spree that's had little effect on them. Images: SMG/Zuma Press/AFP/Getty Images Composite: Mark Kelly

Copyright ©2024 Dow Jones & Company, Inc



**Date:** Wed, 20 Mar 2024 12:58:15 PM -0400

**Sent:** Wed, 20 Mar 2024 12:56:37 PM -0400

**Subject:** Rand Paul at Senate Homeland Security and Govt Affairs Committee Hearing on FoIAs today

**From:** Peter Daszak <[b6]>

**To:** Roberts, Rich <[b6]> Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]> Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]> Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>

**CC:** <[b6]> Keith Martin <[b6]>

There's a hearing today on "Govt. Records", but it's basically about FoIA, COVID origins and Fauci. Rand Paul's the ranking member driving this, but for some reason the Dems are letting him get his way. There are two witnesses, and one of them is Gary Ruskin from US Right to Know, who focused his opening remarks on COVID origins.

David – I expect you to be mentioned, as I do EcoHealth and myself.

Here's the video if you can stomach it... <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/reforming-federal-records-management-to-improve-transparency-and-accountability/>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: <[b6]>

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*

**From:** Roberts, Rich <[b6]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:29 AM

**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>

**Cc:** <[b6]>; Keith Martin <[b6]>

**Subject:** FW: Your article about the Covid-19 lab leak theory

FYI

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant [b6]  
Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
emai [b6]

---

**From:** Hiltzik, Michael [b6] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:21 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: Your article about the Covid-19 lab leak theory

EXTERNAL SENDER

Rich,

Thanks for the good word. I think I wrote about Sachs at some point in the past, but his aggressive ignorance on this topic continues to amaze, so maybe I should revisit the subject...

MH

Michael Hiltzik  
Business Columnist  
Los Angeles Times

[b6]  
@hiltzikm  
[b6]

Author: "Iron Empires: Railroads, Robber Barons, and the Making of Modern America"  
Coming Soon: "Golden State," my new history of California

On Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 8:01 AM Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:

Dear Mr. Hiltzik:

Your article in today's LA Times is extremely thoughtful and absolutely on target. You are to be commended for saying it as it is. You might also have included Jeff Sachs, who is equally to blame for promoting a theory about the lab leak that has zero credible evidence.

Thanks for your efforts!

Rich Roberts

Sir Richard J. Roberts Ph.D. F.R.S.  
1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine  
Chief Scientific Officer  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723 USA

Tel: [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:24:34 PM -0400  
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:23:52 PM -0400  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Angela Rasmussen says it all  
From: David Morens [b6]  
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

---

David M. Morens, MD

**b6**

[b6]

[b6] [b6] [b6] (work)

[b6] [b6] [b6] (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >  
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 8:40 AM  
Subject: Angela Rasmussen says it all  
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >  
Cc: David Morens [b6] >, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >, Roberts, Rich [b6] >, Jeff Sturchio [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fangie\\_rasmussen%2Fstatus%2Fg&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=QkxBHT%2FxzZuZB5eYnbj7J0tHCv92P1LDxKqh9Wkqw8%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fangie_rasmussen%2Fstatus%2Fg&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d585C&sdata=QkxBHT%2FxzZuZB5eYnbj7J0tHCv92P1LDxKqh9Wkqw8%3D&reserved=0)

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University



Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of  
Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: [b6]

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2FPeter-J-Hotez%2F%2FB001HPIC48&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=Wi8Wjr%2FfVzGrBwB4G%2BtJic6h1z%2BJGE0Vu0JK2ZikrA%3D&reserved=0>

Daily Beast Contributor

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fauthor%2Fpeter-j-hotez&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=GKVF%2B86XBoyZJAoUcEkXS1N2OA%2B38zPmG%2FJNp7oPUnA%3D&reserved=0>

Like us on Facebook

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FBCMNationalSchoolOfPublicHealth&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=awx%2FHgJxSTASRjmlY5W4zIvsHHU87Bpg%2BvDCUQYL7Qc%3D&reserved=0>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

[b6]

Phone: [b6]

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 1, 2022, at 2:31 PM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] > wrote:

Peter Hotez just posted this article from The Hill.

Finally, a response from one Academic Society – Georges Benjamin from APHA, but again, it's not strong enough, not loud enough, and not enough people are listening I suspect. As Peter pointed out – where are the societies and the academies?

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthehill.com%2Fpolicy%2Fhealthcare%2F35712-gop-plots-fauci-probe-after-midterms%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=kmtAc%2B1bReZeQH8mFA1%2BcdKhiPYjsuSgSXkH0LXvMo4%3D&reserved=0>

## HEALTHCARE

GOP plots Fauci probe after midterms

BY NATHANIEL WEIXEL - 07/25/22 5:25 AM ET

## SHARETWEET

Congressional Republicans are eagerly floating investigations into Anthony Fauci and the Biden administration's response to the coronavirus pandemic if they win back control of the House or Senate in the midterm elections.

"One way or another, if we are in the majority, we will subpoena his records and he will testify in the Senate under oath," said Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who is in line to become the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee if Republicans win the majority with the panel's current ranking member, Sen. Richard Burr

(R-N.C.), retiring.

Republicans have not been shy about launching probes into the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic, focusing on the origins of the virus and whether the federal government — and by extension, Fauci — helped fund controversial research that might have played a role in its creation.

While Republicans have been in the minority, those investigations have not gained much momentum. But with the majority, the GOP would have the authority to lob subpoenas at the administration to force it to hand over documents.

“If we win in November, if I’m chairman of a committee, if I have subpoena power, we’ll go after every one of [Fauci’s] records,” Paul said earlier this year.

Public health experts said a hard look needs to be taken at the totality of the U.S. response to the pandemic across both the Trump and Biden administrations, but without getting into partisan finger-pointing.

“If you want to have a hearing, you need it to be a credible one. And that has to have a purpose. Other than going out to an 81 year old man,” said Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

Benjamin has been among the health advocates pushing for an independent commission modeled on the 9/11 Commission to be formed to examine the pandemic response.

“It should be designed to actually get to the right answers. Until they do that, you know, they’re going to continue to politicize it,” Benjamin said.

Fauci is a career government official who has become a political lightning rod and a villain in the eyes of many on the right. Conservative media has painted him as a scapegoat for many of the nation’s missteps over the pandemic.

Paul, a libertarian ophthalmologist, has repeatedly antagonized the nation’s top infectious diseases doctor over the benefits of masks, vaccinations and the origins of COVID-19.

In March, Paul tried to attach to the pandemic relief bill a proposal eliminating Fauci’s job and dividing it into three positions.

In the House, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who is in line to chair the House Judiciary Committee if Republicans win the majority, told The Hill that he sees no limits to what he wants to investigate about Fauci and the pandemic.

Like Paul, Jordan has pressed Fauci to answer questions about whether



his agency, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, funded “gain of function” research in China.

Jordan and Paul have long pushed the idea that COVID-19 escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, either because of an accident or because it was deliberately released, and that U.S.-funded research helped supercharge it into a much more dangerous and deadly version of the coronavirus.

Speaking to right-wing news outlet Just The News earlier this year, Jordan said he envisions that the investigation would aim to untangle “all the lies [and] the misinformation, the disinformation” allegedly spread by Fauci.

“That is because they knew from the get-go [coronavirus] came from the lab, likely came from a lab, gain-of-function likely done, and our tax dollars were used,” Jordan said.

The U.S. intelligence community has ruled out the possibility that COVID-19 was a bioweapon developed by China, but beyond that the origins of the virus are unclear.

Some scientists have said the idea that it escaped from a lab needs further investigation but acknowledge that won’t happen without China’s help. Many others think that it spilled into the human population from animals sold in a Wuhan market.

Still, there is little evidence to suggest it was created in a lab or with funding help from the National Institutes of Health or Fauci.

Moody’s: Schumer-Manchin deal will ‘nudge’ economy, inflation ‘in the right direction’ Hawley vows to vote ‘no’ on adding Sweden and Finland to NATO

Rupali Limaye, a health communication scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said a nakedly partisan investigation of Fauci would do even more damage to the fraying public trust in public health officials.

“I do think that public officials should be held responsible, you should be able to question and think critically about the recommendations that they have made, but it’s also a slippery slope,” Limaye said.

“Going down this slippery slope of continuing to have investigation after investigation after investigation is not in the best interest for anyone,” Limaye said.

TAGS ANTHONY FAUCI ANTHONY FAUCI COVID-19 COVID-19 PANDEMIC JIM JORDAN JIM JORDAN NIH RAND PAUL RAND PAUL RICHARD BURR

The Hill has removed its comment section, as there are many other forums for readers to participate in the conversation. We invite you



to join the discussion on Facebook and Twitter.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:22 PM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' [b6]  
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]  
Subject: Now Fox News on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

...and here's Fox News...of course:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.foxnews.com%2Fpolitics%2Frand-paul-vows-get-answers-covid-19-origins-gain-function-hearing&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=oQo%2FoJZqAU3DroALQoiPPecW0m3qH79AvHudIrG6Y3s%3D&reserved=0>

COVID-19 origins in gain-of-function hearing

Paul argues there is significant evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic originated in a Wuhan, China, lab

By Michael Lee | Fox News

BeyondWords

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., announced the first ever hearing on gain-of-function research, which will be aimed at pinning down the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout this pandemic, Dr. Rand Paul has led the effort to hold government officials accountable on the status of efforts being made to combat COVID-19, and the origins of this virus that has killed over 6 million people worldwide," a spokesperson for Paul told Fox News Digital. "This has been over a year-long process of getting Congressional Democrats to finally agree to a hearing, which will also be the first Congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. Dr. Paul looks forward to working with Subcommittee Chairwoman Hassan and hearing from expert witnesses during this critically important hearing that should've happened long ago."

The hearing, which is scheduled for Wednesday, comes a week after the

Kentucky senator attempted to pass an amendment to the CHIPS-Plus Act that would have banned U.S. funding of gain-of-function research in China, with Democrats objecting to the amendment despite it passing unanimously in an earlier version of the bill last year.

In remarks on the floor of the Senate last week, Paul argued that there was significant evidence that the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic could be traced to a lab in Wuhan, China.

#### RAND PAUL SENDS MESSAGE TO FAUCI: YOU'LL HAVE TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH IF GOP WINS

Sen. Rand Paul speaks during a COVID-19 federal response hearing on Capitol Hill. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

"Gain-of-function research enhances the severity or transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans," Paul said. "The dangers are so acute that from 2014-2017, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects... the emergence of COVID serves as a reminder that dangerous research conducted in a secretive and totalitarian country is simply too risky to fund."

Paul also sent a letter to the acting director of the National Institutes of Health, Lawrence A. Tabak, last week to demand the agency be more transparent on the origins of COVID-19, arguing that NIH has "repeatedly disregarded its responsibilities" under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Of particular concern is NIH's recent admission in Court that the agency is withholding portions of emails between employees because they 'could be used out of context and serve to amplify the already prevalent misinformation regarding the origins of the coronavirus pandemic,'" Paul said in the letter. "This suggests NIH is censoring the information it releases to the public about the origins of the pandemic."

Paul has had several clashes with public health officials throughout the pandemic, including several confrontations with Dr. Anthony Fauci, who currently serves as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the chief medical adviser to President Biden.

Dr. Anthony Fauci responds to questions from Sen. Rand Paul at a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. (Greg Nash-Pool/Getty Images)

Most recently, Paul told Fox News that Fauci would be forced to testify under oath regarding the pandemic if the Republican Party takes control of Congress after the midterm elections.

"If he's in public employment, we will subpoena him," Paul said. "He will have to appear and testify under oath. If Republicans take charge of the House or the Senate or both, he will have to testify under oath

because a million Americans died. And we want to know about was there a cover-up in trying to suppress any link to the lab in China?"

Michael Lee is a writer at Fox News. Follow him on Twitter @UAMichaelLee

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak



EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 3:15 PM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' [b6]  
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]  
Subject: Washington Examiner piece on Rand Paul's GoF hearing

The Washington Examiner is a pretty hard right-wing journal. Here's their story on the hearing on Wednesday, based on a press release from Rand Paul's office. Note that "Rand Paul will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19"....I thought that was the job of scientific research?

[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonexaminer.com%2Fopinion%2Fpaul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3V-HXpVFZQ8M5Y73\\_kEQ9ful2gilqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=xRvVMbYFEL5VhRvFhmnq5LKiqSyGFKqvPQpu9WA6oUg%3D](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonexaminer.com%2Fopinion%2Fpaul-to-lead-first-congressional-hearing-on-gain-of-function-research%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3V-HXpVFZQ8M5Y73_kEQ9ful2gilqWgpSwULr86sFyb1VO1EpWJ27N9TA&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=xRvVMbYFEL5VhRvFhmnq5LKiqSyGFKqvPQpu9WA6oUg%3D) &reserved=0

I agree with your point Rich – someone from the scientific community should be pushing back against all this - hearings about scientific research of any type should include people who actually have done that research, or can point to its proposed or actual value.

When I gave my keynote last week in front of a room of virologists, I pointed out to them that it's no good watching EcoHealth be attacked in the press about gain-of-function, and thinking 'glad that's not us' – you guys in the room are the ones actually doing viral research and they're coming for your funding next!

All this, of course, is done to undermine Fauci, undermine Biden, and try to win funding and votes – none of it is actually done to get to the bottom of COVID-19 origins, or protect people in any way...

## OPINION

Rand Paul to lead first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research

by Christopher Tremoglie, Commentary Fellow

| July 29, 2022 04:35 PM

On Aug. 3, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) will once again try to determine the origins of COVID-19. Paul, ranking member of the subcommittee on emerging threats and spending oversight, will lead the first congressional hearing on gain-of-function research. This is an important matter that many Democratic politicians have largely ignored given the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul's office announced the hearing in a press release earlier this week.

"Gain-of-function research has historically been supported by tax dollars both domestically and internationally; as such, this hearing lies at the intersection of the subcommittee's two primary jurisdictional responsibilities — monitoring emerging threats and conducting oversight of federal spending," the press release states. "The dangers of this research are so acute that under President Barack Obama, the National Institutes of Health suspended funding for all gain-of-function projects until a risk assessment protocol could be developed for them. Gain-of-function research resumed in 2017, after a special committee review process was established to help manage these risks. However, serious questions remain about whether that protocol is sufficient to protect the U.S. and the world from the potential negative consequences of this research. Moreover, the debate over what gain-of-function research is and what it is not, is not settled."

Gain-of-function research has been hotly debated. In previous hearings regarding the pandemic, Paul and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have had contentious exchanges. In May 2021, the two verbally sparred over whether the National Institutes of Health funded gain-of-function experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Paul claimed that "superviruses" were created. Fauci denied this and said such reports were "entirely and completely incorrect."

"The purpose of this hearing is to examine issues involving gain-of-function research, which attempts to enhance the severity and transmissibility of existing viruses that may infect humans or other mammals. Witnesses include Dr. Richard H. Ebright, Ph.D., Laboratory Director of Waksman Institute of Microbiology, Dr. Steven Quay, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer at Atossa Therapeutics, Inc., and Dr. Kevin M. Esvelt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Arts & Sciences of MIT Media Lab," the press release says.

Much of the skepticism regarding NIH's role in the COVID-19 pandemic stems from a letter sent to Congress by Lawrence A. Tabak, a top NIH official. Tabak claimed that Fauci authorized NIH to fund EcoHealth Alliance to research the relationship between humans and bat-specific pathogens. In the letter, Tabak claimed that NIH failed to report results that revealed an increase in viral growth.

"These medical and scientific professionals will inform and educate lawmakers and the public on the myriad issues involving the risky, virus-enhancing research that is funded by taxpayer money," the press release says.

If proven true, it would be a black eye for NIH, Fauci, and federal government stewardship of taxpayer money.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: b6

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F>



&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850  
&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent  
pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:47 AM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; 'David Morens'  
[b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'Roberts,  
Rich' [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]  
[b6]  
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]  
Subject: update...

....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.

On other news – we are now trying to stave off efforts to defund us by  
working with a bi-partisan request from the Permanent Subcommittee on  
Investigations, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
Affairs. We first heard from last Fall, and the letter came from the



Democrats, Sen. Ossoff's staff, saying they were a bi-partisan group. However, it's clearly being led by the Republicans (Senator Ron Johnson's staff), and they're pushing us to hand over emails and documents back to 2010 relating to any communications w/ federal agencies on a bunch of COVID and lab leak topics. Right now we're trying to slow down their efforts, and narrow their search, but they're harbingers of what we will likely see in November if the Republicans win the House – a bunch of requests to preserve documents, followed by Subpoenas in January/Feb, unless this topic becomes 'old hat'.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmorens%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Peter Daszak [b6]  
Sent: Monday, August 1, 2022 11:20 AM  
To: 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; 'Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]' [b6]  
Cc: 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]  
Subject: Upcoming hearing from a Senate Subcommittee on gain of function research

Dear all (David – I didn't cc Jeff Taubenberger because you've all been using his NIH address which would be subject to Congressional requests and to FoIA),

I just spotted this upcoming HSGAC Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight hearing on Wednesday, on one of the lab leaker's social media feeds.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hsgac.senate.gov%2Fsubcommittees%2Fgain-of-function-research-what-the-pandemic-taught-us-and-where-do-we-go-from-here&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=n9%2BVg1LqqpbBJGuhQn9z6EN8TSDhmkXojm%2FDB2G4qbY%3D&reserved=0>

The three speakers are all non-virologists, and have been attacking all research that tries to get to the bottom of COVID origins, unless it's pushing a China lab leak agenda.

Richard Ebright has been attacking EcoHealth's work ever since the pandemic as part of his long term criticism of recombinant virus technology. He was part of the Cambridge Group that ended up pausing recombinant viral research in the past, and is extremely vocal (and quite offensively) about our work, which he uses to try to leverage attacks against Dr. Fauci, NIAID, NIH in general. Stephen Quay is pretty much on the edge of being a quack at this point having made many public statements about HIV inserts in the virus etc. Kevin Esvelt is calling for research identifying viruses in wildlife as a way to get ahead of pandemics to be closed down, following his

criticisms of CRISPR etc.

It looks like this is another effort by Rand Paul to drum up some public interest from his base, perhaps?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cdmores%40niaid.nih.gov%7C8c37f13453d042f9f3bf08db8a0f5904%7C14b77578977342d5850&sdata=0Yg066OvsPJTXq%2FIejLFCyPdkiSdST8s33k2O2CZyp8%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

**Date:** Sat, 20 Aug 2022 10:27:29 AM -0400  
**Sent:** Sat, 20 Aug 2022 10:26:44 AM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press  
**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**To:** David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [b6];  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; Lauer letter to [b6]

---

I found a copy on Twitter of Lauer's letter to Rep Comer yesterday – word doc attached, recreated using screenshot jpegs, so hope it works.

It's good that they're publicly stating we've cooperated with NIH – this is related to their continued series of letters about our other grants – making us jump through all sorts of hoops just to continue our work. At the same time, they're clearly trying to show the aggressive Republicans in Congress that NIH is going to crack down on miscreants such as us. Apparently, for at least the next 3 years we'll have to double up our reporting requirements, have no automatic carry over of unspent funds, and have to conduct 6 monthly onsite assessments of subcontractees. We've not been told all that yet by NIH, but no doubt there'll be another letter from Lauer on its way soon.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2022 10:06 AM  
**To:** 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
**Subject:** Continued NIH action - already leaked to the press  
**Importance:** High

Here's the latest from NIH – as usual we received a Friday afternoon pdf letter from Michael Lauer that's full of legalistic language (attached). And as also 'usual', Lauer only sent this the same day he informed Republicans on an oversight committee, and either him or the Republicans then instantly made it public. There's already an article in the Washington Examiner about it (below)

They're basically terminating our subcontract to WIV because we were unable to get the lab notebooks they demanded (no surprise there, given the politics). They're also offering us the chance to renegotiate the grant. Sounds great, but by now of course the chances of any institution in China wanting to work with an organization targeted in this way are pretty slim. There's also the buried proviso that we have to arrange for 6-monthly inspections of our subcontractee's labs.



If we don't want to renegotiate, we have to bilaterally terminate.

After 2 and a half years of pressure from NIH, we're now back to where we were in April of 2020, when NIH informed us to suspend all work with WIV, but that we could carry on with the grant. This was then followed a few days later with full termination, then suspension with conditions, then more conditions, now this. Pretty depressing, awful, and utterly unnecessary.

Not sure what we'll do, but my gut feeling is we should continue and try to find a way forwards with other groups in China. It'll be a hard path, considering WIV are the premier bat virus group in China and our preferred partners, and the politics has made all of this completely toxic. But it's the honorable path, as a scientist, and I think we should at least try.

Here's the Washington Examiner article: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/nih-ends-subaward-wuhan-lab-stonewalling>

WUHAN LAB

# NIH ends subaward to Wuhan lab after continued stonewalling

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |

August 19, 2022 08:21 PM

Ad ends in 9s



The National Institutes of Health announced it was finally cutting off a subaward to the Wuhan Institute of Virology after it continued to refuse to hand over key information about the coronavirus research it conducted with U.S. tax dollars.

NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer made the revelation in a letter Friday to House Oversight Committee Republicans, in which he said the Wuhan lab had refused to turn over lab notebooks and electronic files connected to its research funded through an NIH subaward given to it by the U.S.-based EcoHealth Alliance. But Lauer indicated the NIH may continue funding EcoHealth's controversial bat coronavirus research despite the group's documented noncompliance issues, its close links to the Wuhan virology institute, and its history of funneling hundreds of thousands of U.S. tax dollars to the Chinese lab.

"NIH ... identified one non-compliance under the ... award that cannot be remedied with specific award conditions," Lauer said Friday. "NIH has requested on two occasions that EHA [EcoHealth Alliance] provide NIH the laboratory notebooks and original electronic files from the research conducted at the WIV [Wuhan



Institute of Virology]. To date, WIV has not provided these records.”

Lauer added: “Today, NIH informed EHA that since WIV is unable to fulfill its duties for the subaward grant under R01AI110964, the WIV subaward is terminated for failure to meet award terms and conditions requiring provision of records to NIH upon request.”

#### **FBI INVESTIGATED NIH AWARD TO ECOHEALTH AND WUHAN** [b6]

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released an assessment in 2021 stating that one U.S. intelligence agency assessed with “moderate confidence” that COVID-19 most likely emerged from the Chinese government lab in Wuhan, while four U.S. spy agencies and the National Intelligence Council believe with “low confidence” COVID-19 most likely has a natural origin.

The NIH’s Lauer also said Friday that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which has been led by Dr. Anthony Fauci for decades, “will begin to engage with EHA to renegotiate the specific aims and objectives of the R01 grant without the involvement of WIV ... in light of the cooperation from EHA and the substantial subsequent improvements in administrative processes that EHA demonstrated.”

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), the ranking member on House Oversight, hammered the NIH over this.

“Terminating EcoHealth Alliance’s partnership with the Wuhan Lab is the bare minimum,” Comer said Friday. “It’s unacceptable that the NIH continues to allow EcoHealth Alliance to receive taxpayer dollars even though it is confirmed EcoHealth violated the terms of its grant contract. EcoHealth conducted gain of function research on bat coronaviruses in Wuhan, knew about the Chinese Communist Party’s coverup, and failed to inform the U.S. government.”

Comer added: “EcoHealth’s dangerous experiments in Wuhan and possible efforts to cover up any evidence may have started the pandemic. EcoHealth should not receive a penny of American taxpayer dollars for their gross mismanagement of Americans’ hard-earned money.”

The NIH had awarded EcoHealth with a grant dubbed “R01AI110964” years ago, and EcoHealth then doled out three research subawards, including one to the Wuhan lab.

“The research approved under this grant sought to understand how bat coronaviruses evolve naturally in the environment to become more transmissible to the human population,” the NIH said Friday in defending the award. “This type of research is a critical part of pandemic preparedness.”

The grant to EcoHealth was suspended by the NIH in June 2020 due to “grant administrative non-compliance concerns.” EcoHealth was reprimanded by the NIH in October when the agency found that the organization delayed revealing that a U.S.-funded experiment conducted with the Wuhan lab determined that mice with implanted human cells became sicker with an engineered version of bat coronavirus. The NIH found more EcoHealth violations in January.

Republicans say the findings showed EcoHealth was funding risky gain-of-function research in China. EcoHealth leader Peter Daszak was a longtime collaborator with the Wuhan lab who steered hundreds of thousands of dollars in NIH funding to the Chinese lab and was also a key World Health Organization-China joint study team member in early 2021.

Daszak dismissed the lab leak hypothesis in March 2021 when he admitted he took Wuhan lab workers at their word. Meeting minutes from discussions between lab scientists in Wuhan and the WHO-China COVID-19 origins joint study team reveal lab leak concerns were referred to as “myths” and “conspiracy theories.”

An advisory group assembled by the WHO said in June that the lab leak hypothesis needed further study. The NIH said Friday that the prior problems it had identified with EcoHealth’s handling of its coronavirus grant included “inadequate oversight in monitoring the activities of its subawardees, failure to report subawards to the General Services Administration’s Federal Subaward Reporting System, and errors in indirect rate charges.”

But Lauer nevertheless said EcoHealth might again soon start receiving U.S. tax funding for its bat coronavirus experiments — just without the Wuhan lab’s continued involvement.

The NIH had been run until recently by Dr. Francis Collins, while Fauci still leads NIAID.

Scientists consulting with the U.S. government early in the pandemic believed COVID-19 originating from a lab in Wuhan was possible or even likely, but emails show Fauci and Collins worked behind the scenes to shut the hypothesis down.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** David Morens [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:46 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: EcoHealth Alliance paper published tomorrow (Tuesday) showing very high rate of SARS-related CoV spillovers in Southeast Asia

Peter, can i share the proofs with Tony, confidentially of course? If not i will at least give him a heads up if that's ok

Also, correct me if i am wrong, but the 66k number is significantly higher than your previous estimate, right?

d

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Aug 9, 2022, at 01:12, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Some good news..

Just letting you all know that our paper in *Nature Communications* will go live tomorrow at 11am: Sánchez *et al.* "A strategy to assess spillover risk of bat SARS-related coronaviruses in Southeast Asia". We used distribution data from bats known to host SARSr-CoVs, human population data, and serological testing results to estimate that a median of ~66,000 people are infected by bat-origin SARSr-CoVs in South and Southeast Asia each year. Obviously, this suggests spillovers are a daily occurrence in the region and would make any possibility of a lab leak pale into insignificance, given that 1) only a few dozen people work in labs or in the field on these viruses, 2) they all wear PPE as opposed to villagers hunting bats etc.

Note that the analysis doesn't take into account people working in the wildlife trade because data are so patchy, but we do know that 14 million people worked in the wildlife trade in China alone before the outbreak, so that means human infections are probably even more common.

I've attached the proofs here, and a press release, as well as an editorial I've published in our journal *EcoHealth* published by Springer. We also know that a story will appear in orrow about this. tomorrow about this.



Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[b6]>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:54 AM

**To:** 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Gerald T Keusch' [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]

**Subject:** RE: Reporter request for comment

Bizarre indeed, but this is how they do it – tangential links from you to your former postdoc to Zhengli to me, followed by accusations that you're linked to research which they (wrongly) claim is GoF, all used to try to undermine your appropriate pushback against all these other attacks.

It's exactly what the Union of Concerned Scientists called the 'disinformation playbook' that was used by big tobacco and anti-climate change activists (successfully I might add). <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/disinformation-playbook>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)



Twitter: @PeterDaszak

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 8, 2022 4:16 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: Reporter request for comment

Peter:

Maybe you should suggest she talk to your lawyer (at her expense).

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: [b6]  
Fax: [b6]  
email: [b6]

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 8, 2022 4:02 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Reporter request for comment

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is crazy. How would I even do that? I don't work in those areas?

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**  
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar  
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study  
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs  
Texas A&M University  
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University  
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6  
Twitter: [@peterhotez](https://twitter.com/peterhotez)  
Skype: b6  
LinkedIn [Peter Hotez](https://www.linkedin.com/in/peterhotez)

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)  
Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: b6  
b6  
Phone: b6  
Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Emily Kopp <[emily@usrtk.org](mailto:emily@usrtk.org)>  
**Date:** August 8, 2022 at 2:51:45 PM CDT  
**To:** "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6  
**Subject:** Re: Reporter request for comment

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

I'll also report that the paper you cofunded with EcoHealth Alliance dealt with rWIV1-SHC014S, a chimeric virus shown to be very dangerous to mice with human airway cells, which biosafety experts consider to be gain of function, and which is already under GOP congressional investigators' microscope. Were you aware of this? Should you have disclosed this to your followers on Twitter and The Lancet Commission?

Please clarify if this is incorrect.

Thank you,  
Emily

On Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 12:31 PM Emily Kopp <[emily@usrtk.org](mailto:emily@usrtk.org)> wrote:

Putting this back at the top of your inbox. Since you've been tweeting about this issue, do you plan on replying?

On Sun, Aug 7, 2022 at 2:32 PM Emily Kopp <[emily@usrtk.org](mailto:emily@usrtk.org)> wrote:

Dr. Hotez,

I received an anonymous tip regarding an apparent conflict of interest relevant to your criticism of the GOP investigation into the possibility that a lab accident sparked the pandemic.

The tipster pointed out that your grant to develop a SARS vaccine was in part motivated by the possibility that a lab accident or bioterrorist attack could result in a SARS outbreak.

Questions:

1. Could you please clarify why you believe the lab origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is ridiculous pseudoscience, even though you did research under the presumption that a SARS-like virus escaping from a laboratory was possible? Taxpayers devoted \$1.6 million in funding toward that project - was it under pseudoscientific pretenses?
2. Could you clarify your involvement in this research project underwritten by both your grant and EcoHealth Alliance's controversial "understanding the risk of bat coronavirus emergence" grant? Do you have a personal or professional relationship with Shi Zhengli? What about Peter Daszak? Have you ever funded or co-funded research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology?

Thank you,

--

Emily Kopp

Reporter

U.S. Right to Know

Signal: b6 b6



**Date:** Tue, 7 May 2024 11:10:51 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Tue, 7 May 2024 11:10:42 PM -0400  
**Subject:** New line of investigation from the SSCP  
**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura  
**CC:** [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6] Keith Martin [b6]  
David Morens [b6]  
**Attachments:** 2024.05.07-SSCP-Letter-to-State-Department.pdf

---

The SSCP Republicans are now stating that there is “pertinent information in highly credible documents” from the State Dept, but these are classified and were redacted. They’re claiming that they asked for a hearing with the State Dept before mine, but State Dept did not agree.

<https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024.05.07-SSCP-Letter-to-State-Department.pdf>

It’s clear that this ‘intel’ could not possibly contain anything of any particular note, because if it did, the IC would have to change its conclusion that only 2 of the intelligence agencies believe COVID came from a lab, and with only low or moderate confidence, whereas 4 agencies had low confidence that it came from the wildlife markets, the other agencies failing to reach a conclusion.

The concerning thing of course is that they are trying to insinuate I’m linked to intelligence agencies in some way, both by asking multiple questions about this to me live in front of the public, and by putting my name and our organization’s name in this letter. It’s very damaging, because as our staff travels around the world there are conspiracies about the CIA and scientists, and this amplifies them.

Me and three others on our staff are already banned by the Russian Federation from entering Russia. My concern is that this could end up with me or one of our staff off to solitary confinement in one of the 40 countries we work with.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*



**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:25 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6] >

**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]; David Morens <

**Subject:** Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

The only person i have access to these days is Paul Friedrichs the White House pandemic coordinator. I'm wondering maybe you should contact Chuck Schumer?

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[b6]

iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 1:22 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Yes – it would need to be from high up in USDA to say that ‘hold on, these guys aren’t debarred, and this is a political action, so please carry on the process of funding them’

The specific unit in USDA that’s in charge of the funding process is NIFA (<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/>) which is the unit that oversees USDA research grants.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 2:16 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Cc:** Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]> Roberts, Rich <[b6]> Aleksei Chmura <[b6]> [b6] > Gerald Keusch [b6] Keith Martin [b6] David Morens

**Subject:** Re: More upsetting news for us at EcoHealth Alliance

This is truly awful Peter, I'm so sorry. If there was to be an effective intervention who would do that? Would it be the White House with the Agriculture Secretary?

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[b6]

iPhone

On May 7, 2024, at 10:25 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Just heard today that a 5 year \$2.5 million award to analyze disease dynamics in wildlife farms in Southeast Asia we were in the process of finalizing with USDA via the NSF/NIH Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program is now “impossible” for them to fund. We received a very high score on review, were told it was highly competitive, received notice from USDA that it was ‘recommended for funding’, and over the past few weeks met repeatedly with the program staff at USDA to finalize all the forms. They were communicating positively with us requesting further paper work as recently as last week, now suddenly we’ve been told the following:

“Good morning. I must bring you some unfortunate news. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has become impossible for USDA NIFA to provide support for the project that we discussed. I have had to retract my recommendation. I apologize for the inconvenience this will have caused you.”

We’re trying to set up calls to find out more information, but it’s well known that you don’t have funding from an agency until the notice of award and that they can pull out for reasons like budget shortfalls etc. I doubt there’s anything we can do. This is similar to an issue we had last year with an joint-PI NIH grant to Colorado State University with us having a substantial role and funding. The program officer spoke with the CSU PI and said they should reduce our budget because if we get ‘debarred’ NIH will lose its budget. We fought back, CSU scientists pushed back, and we got our Notice of Award.

It’s just outrageous that the Republicans can de facto de-fund and organization on a whim. We are not debarred, and we’re looking into the rules for debarment and this is normally for issues like fraud, criminal convictions related to grant management, tax evasion etc. I strongly doubt that we would be debarred over a late report that we have substantial evidence we tried to submit.

What worries me is that we are now going to have a multi-year impact on our organization, whether or not we are debarred, and whether or not we actually did anything wrong. I’m also devastated at the impact this will have on my reputation (already in tatters at this point) and my career.

Extremely upsetting and disappointing!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*



**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 4:04 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Keith Martin <[b6]>; David Morens [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

As far as I can tell, this hearing has received zero national attention. No one beyond our small circle is talking about this

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[b6]  
iPhone

On May 3, 2024, at 1:52 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio <[b6]> wrote:

\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

---

All:

This is just Wenstrup and the Rs spiking the ball after a hearing in which they refused to let Peter answer the questions posed to him. All of the alleged "evidence" of EHA's supposed transgressions is based on misrepresentation and selective citation of the documentary evidence and false assumptions about the science involved (e.g., since when does a



Republican Congresswoman with an MBA and no scientific training get to decide what the definition of gain-of-function research should be?). The only people showing contempt for the American people on Wednesday were the members of Congress and staff who used this hearing as a vehicle to propagate a malicious political narrative that falsely and unfairly blamed Peter Daszak and EHA for research that never happened and outcomes that are chimerical figments of their imagination.

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2024 1:12 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Cc:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]; David Morens [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

This is the most awful piece I've seen yet - they say:

“ The Select Subcommittee will take further steps to address Dr. Daszak's contempt for the American people.”

<image001.png>

Hearing Wrap Up: EcoHealth Alliance Should be  
Criminally Investigated, Formally Debarred -  
United States House Committee on Oversight and  
Accountability  
[oversight.house.gov](https://oversight.house.gov)

I am very worried for my future and the future of EcoHealth alliance right now. At best this will drive continued hate and death threats... at worst...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:

Excellent article!

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: Erin Vamey

Tel: [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:59 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]; David Morens [b6]  
**Subject:** Post by Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD on X

EXTERNAL SENDER



**Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD**  
[@PeterHotez]



Important article on yesterday's disgusting Stalinist show trial in the House of Representatives: The politicization of the pandemic continues - great writing as always from [@hiltzikm] [@latimes] [latimes.com/business/story...](https://latimes.com/business/story...)

5/2/24, 5:50 AM

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director,  
[Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-](#)

19 Vaccine Development

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine |  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health  
Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study &  
Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: b6

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

b6 | Phone: b6 | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

b6  
iPhone

Date: Sat, 1 Jun 2024 3:29:27 PM -0400  
Sent: Sat, 1 Jun 2024 3:29:17 PM -0400  
Subject: RE: email from the National Academies to "discuss my service to NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision  
From: Roberts, Rich [b6]  
Peter Daszak [b6] >; Gerald Jerry Keusch [b6] >;  
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Peter Jay Hotez [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Keith Martin [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
Attachments: image001.png  
Peter:

I would tell them to go to hell. Let them wait until you have had a chance to respond. At this point, they are trying to cover their asses instead of supporting one of their most stalwart members.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 1, 2024 1:39 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich [b6] >; Gerald Jerry Keusch [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Peter Jay Hotez [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Keith Martin [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >  
**Subject:** Fwd: email from the National Academies to "discuss my service to NASEM" in light of the recent HHS decision

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear all,

As expected, rather than the academies coming to our rescue, they now want a "quiet chat"... no doubt I'll be urged to quietly step down from my current duties as chair of the NASEM Forum on Microbial Threats & member of the NASEM Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats.

If this isn't McCarthyism, what is it?

Cheers,

Peter



Peter Daszak

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Symmes, Gregory" [b6]  
**Date:** May 31, 2024 at 3:57:55 PM EDT  
**To:** "Daszak, Peter" [b6] >  
**Cc:** "Wood, Tasha" [b6]  
**Subject:** meeting request

Dear Dr. Daszak,

My name is Greg Symmes and I'm the Chief Program Officer of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. You may remember meeting me years ago during your service on the Committee to Advise the US Global Change Research Program, when I was executive director of the Academies' Division on Earth and Life Studies.

I'm reaching out to schedule a zoom call with you to discuss potential impact of the recent HHS decision on your service to the National Academies.

My executive assistant Tasha Wood will be in touch with your office to arrange a time for us to meet. Please let me know if there is someone in your office Tasha should work with to help with your schedule.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best,  
Greg Symmes

Gregory H. Symmes, Ph.D.  
Chief Program Officer  
Acting Chief Operating Officer

[b6]

**NATIONAL  
ACADEMIES** *Sciences  
Engineering  
Medicine*

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments are for the exclusive and confidential use of the individual or individuals named above on behalf of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The information herein is privileged to the National Academies. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, retention, or copying of this communication and its attachments is prohibited.

**Date:** Thu, 14 Mar 2024 5:55:09 PM -0400

**Sent:** Thu, 14 Mar 2024 5:54:50 PM -0400

**Subject:** Re: Russian federation sanctions list

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

Alison Andre [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Keusch, Gerald T  
**CC:** [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] [b6] Keith Martin  
[b6] Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6] >; Kathy Chase-Gaudreau  
[b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

I guess you'll need to reconsider your summer vacation plans in Crimea. Seriously this is awful, I'm so sorry, Peter, Peter

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]  
[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[b6]  
iPhone

On Mar 14, 2024, at 4:46 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

More on the sanctions list – apparently I'll be joining dignitaries who are already sanctioned by the Russian Federation like Obama, Sean Penn, Alexander Vindman, USAID Administrator Samantha Powers, and even some of the politicians who've been harassing EcoHealth Alliance, like Joni Ernst!

Rich – I know you're a Nobel Laureate, but have you yet been sanctioned by an authoritarian regime? Obviously it doesn't come with any actual benefits, and you do have to watch out for people with umbrellas, and hotel doors curiously unlocked etc.....

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

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*

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:23 PM

**To:** 'Alison Andre' <[REDACTED]>; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [REDACTED]; 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <

**b6**

>; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [REDACTED]

**b6**

'Roberts, Rich' [REDACTED]

**b6**

> [REDACTED]

**b6**

'Keith Martin' [REDACTED]

**b6**

**Cc:** 'Soriano Osejo, Douglas' [REDACTED]

**b6**

'Kathy Chase-Gaudreau' <

**b6**

Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]

**b6**

**Subject:** Re. our next meeting.

**Importance:** High

I'm looking forward to this call – I have some information re. the political attacks on EcoHealth Alliance and myself that I'd like to talk about also and get your advice on – it'll take about 20 minutes, so if we set aside an hour that would be great.

As a teaser, and just to show you how bizarre things are these days, I found out (from the horrible lab leakers on Twitter) that the Russian Federation has today named me as one of the people on their latest "Sanctioned Individuals" list. We think it's related to the Ukraine Biolabs conspiracy that they've been promoting because 3 other EcoHealth staff are listed along with some former collaborators who actually worked with DTRA on Ukraine lab capacity.

Here's the link: [https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign\\_policy/news/1938555/](https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/1938555/)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*



EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

**From:** Alison Andre [b6] >

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:59 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
>; Roberts, Rich [b6] [b6]; Keith Martin [b6]

**Cc:** Soriano Osejo, Douglas [b6] Kathy Chase-Gaudreau <  
[b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Peter Daszak <

**Subject:** Re: Scheduling Coalition Catch Up Meeting

Dear All,

Thank you to those who filled out the meeting poll and sorry to send out a new one so soon. Next week wasn't the best for most of the group so I'm including a new poll for the week of March 25. Could you please take a moment to fill out this poll?

[b6]

Thank you,  
Alison

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 12:02 PM Alison Andre [b6] wrote:

Dear All,

I'm hoping to schedule a meeting with the group sometime next week to share any recent updates since the last meeting. Could you please take a moment to fill in your availability below?

[b6]

Thank you,  
Alison

--  
**Alison Andre**  
*Executive Assistant to the President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018

[b6] (direct)  
1.212.380.4465 (fax)



[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.*

--

**Alison Andre**

*Executive Assistant to the President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018

**b6**

(direct)

1.212.380.4465 (fax)

[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.*

Date: Wed, 15 May 2024 4:56:51 PM -0400

Subject: Fwd: Wash Examiner: HHS suspends funding from organization that funded Wuhan virus research

From: David Morens

b6

Peter Daszak

b6

Keusch, Gerald T

b6

Jeffrey Sturchio

To:

b6

Roberts, Rich

b6

peter hotez

b6

Aleksei Chmura

b6

>

From the cell phone of David Morens

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID)** [C]

b6

Date: Wed, May 15, 2024, 16:54

Subject: Wash Examiner: HHS suspends funding from organization that funded Wuhan virus research

To:

## HHS suspends funding from organization that funded Wuhan virus research

By Gabrielle M. Etzel

May 15, 2024 12:52 pm

The Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday suspended all federal funding for the nonprofit research organization EcoHealth Alliance for misleading government agencies about their taxpayer-funded research project.

The announcement follows a long-term House investigation into EcoHealth's potential involvement in the origin of SARS-CoV-2. The organization came under intense scrutiny during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic for its coronavirus research projects conducted in Wuhan, China, funded by the National Institutes of Health.

HHS's Suspension and Debarment Official, Henrietta Brisbon, wrote to EcoHealth President Peter Daszak that the immediate suspension of funding for his organization is "necessary to protect the public interest and due to a cause of so serious or compelling nature that it affects [EcoHealth's] present responsibility."

Republicans on the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic issued a report earlier this month calling for the president of EcoHealth, Peter Daszak, to be stripped of his medical license and criminally investigated for allegedly misleading the federal government.

“EcoHealth Alliance and Dr. Peter Daszak should never again receive a single penny from the U.S. taxpayer,” said Subcommittee Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-OH). “Only two weeks after the Select Subcommittee released an extensive report detailing EcoHealth’s wrongdoing and recommending the formal debarment of EcoHealth and its president, HHS has begun efforts to cut off all U.S. funding to this corrupt organization.”

The Republican report and HHS documents outline that EcoHealth received National Institutes of Health funding in 2014 to conduct bat coronavirus research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, with the intention of creating chimeric coronaviruses to better understand natural emergence of viruses with pandemic potential.

Subcommittee evidence published this month found that EcoHealth submitted its Year 5 Report for National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases review two years late and violated grant terms by failing to report potentially dangerous research from the WIV to NIAID.

“These actions are wholly abhorrent, indefensible, and must be addressed with swift action. EcoHealth’s immediate funding suspension and future debarment is not only a victory for the U.S. taxpayer, but also for American national security and the safety of citizens worldwide,” said Wenstrup.

Suspension and debarment, which is the long-term prohibition of receiving of federal funds, is a primary public mechanism that “protects the federal government from fraud waste and abuse by using a number of tools to avoid doing business with non-responsible actors,” according to the U.S. General Services Administration definition.

Although the suspension is immediate, a debarment period is established after a formal hearing process and is usually only three years in length depending on aggravating circumstances.

EcoHealth has been a major recipient of federal funds for global research projects for decades. Last month, the watchdog group White Coat Waste Project found that EcoHealth had been awarded \$60 million in taxpayer funding since the start of the COVID-19.

The *Washington Examiner* asked EcoHealth for comment.

**Disclaimer:** Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 1:04:18 PM -0400  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
**From:** David Morens [b6]  
**To:** David Morens [b6]

---

David M. Morens, MD

**b6**

[b6]  
[b6] [b6] [b6] (work)  
[b6] [b6] [b6] (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Peter Daszak [b6]  
Date: Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 9:36 AM  
Subject: Sachs and Relman quoted again today  
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] >, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >  
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >

We've been fielding questions all week from a reporter at US Right to Know because they've FOIA'd another batch of emails. Here's an article today claiming that Ian Lipkin should have reported working with EHA as a 'Conflict of Interest' for his Nature Medicine paper with Kristian Andersen et al. back in Feb 2020.

Here's the link:

<https://usrtk.org/biohazards- blog/anti-lab-leak-virologist-ecohealth-alliance-partner/>

You'll be irritated to see quotes from Jeff Sachs and David Relman. Everyone seems happy with the idea that somehow collaborating with EcoHealth Alliance means you have a conflict of interest in this world of fake COVID origin stories.

The article is also utterly disingenuous in pretending it took a FOIA lawsuit to find out that Ian Lipkin collaborated with us. All it would



have taken is a 5 second Google Search.

Note also US Right to Know's motto: "Pursuing truth and transparency for public health".

## PURSUING TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Virologist who tried to discredit the lab leak theory was once a 'partner' to EcoHealth Alliance

PrintEmailShareTweet

Posted on July 1, 2022 by Emily Kopp

Columbia University virologist Ian Lipkin has coauthored several articles with EcoHealth Alliance since 2011. (Photo credit: kris krüg)

A virologist who coauthored a paper marginalizing the lab leak theory did not disclose his ties to the research group at the center of it.

Director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity Ian Lipkin has often worked with EcoHealth Alliance, a U.S.-based collaborator of the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the group confirmed in an email.

EcoHealth Alliance listed Lipkin as a "partner" from 2012 to 2014, an archived version of the group's website shows. Lipkin has coauthored at least ten scientific papers with EcoHealth researchers from 2011 to 2021, EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in an email. These publications include a paper about novel coronaviruses EcoHealth and its partners sampled around the world.

EcoHealth Alliance hunts for novel viruses in wildlife and funds research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Lipkin did not disclose his partnership with EcoHealth in "The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2," a highly influential paper that states that COVID-19 arose from nature.

A central premise of that paper: COVID-19 is too dissimilar from viruses commonly employed in experiments to have spilled out of a lab.

"It is improbable that SARS-CoV-2 emerged through laboratory manipulation of a related SARS-CoV-like coronavirus," the paper states. "The genetic data irrefutably show that SARS-CoV-2 is not

derived from any previously used virus backbone.”

But Lipkin did not disclose his connection to a nonprofit that uncovers new and novel viruses. Some of those viruses were likely studied at its partnering lab in Wuhan, which housed one of the world’s largest collection of bat coronaviruses.

Lipkin did not return several requests for comment.

At 5.7 million views, the Nature Medicine article may be one of the most widely read scientific papers in history — though the piece is formally a “correspondence.”

David Relman, a Stanford University microbiologist and emerging infectious diseases expert for the National Academies, said conflicts of interest are especially troublesome when writing on high profile issues.

“For any major, controversial issue, I believe that all of us have an even greater responsibility to reveal those conflicts upfront—and let others have an opportunity to judge what effect those conflicts might have had,” said Relman.

Relman also called into question the logic of the paper’s premise. The Wuhan Institute of Virology may have simply been experimenting with unfamiliar viruses. The disappearance of the lab’s coronavirus sequence database in 2019 and the lab’s history of gain-of-function experiments also weaken the claims of Lipkin and his coauthors, Relman said.

“The Proximal Origins paper is flawed in its assumptions, logic and the soundness of its conclusions. I was very surprised that it passed review at Nature Medicine,” he said.

Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development Director Jeffrey Sachs — chair of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission — said the citation the authors used to prop up the paper’s premise deserves more scrutiny.

“The Proximal Origins paper has no credibility,” Sachs wrote in an email. “The paper’s central claim — that SARS-CoV-2 is not related to viruses previously reported in laboratory research — offers as proof a footnote to a 2014 paper!”

“It ludicrously claims to debunk a 2019 lab emergence using a 2014 paper,” he continued. “The paper offers no real evidence whatsoever against the possible lab origin of the virus, even though it claimed to do so.”

Lipkin himself has since acknowledged the possibility that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was experimenting with unknown viruses, contradicting the popular paper he coauthored.

“If they’ve got hundreds of bat samples that are coming in, and some of them aren’t characterized, how would they know whether this virus was or wasn’t in this lab? They wouldn’t,” Lipkin said in an interview with the Washington Post last year.

But Lipkin has not disclosed his work with EcoHealth to reporters.

Nature Medicine, the journal that published the paper, defines a “competing interest” requiring disclosure as including “personal or professional relations with organizations and individuals” — paid or unpaid. A spokesperson for parent company Springer Nature did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Lipkin’s connection to a group at the center of lab leak suspicions is the latest revelation to cast doubt on the correspondence.

Significant questions remain. It’s still unclear how the authors dispelled their own private concerns that the virus had been engineered within a couple of days.

For example, Lipkin privately voiced concerns to his coauthors about a “nightmare of circumstantial evidence” pointing to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Vanity Fair reported.

It’s also unknown to what extent leaders of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the EcoHealth Alliance, may have shaped the paper.

Grant reports that led a reporter to the defunct link showing Lipkin’s partnership with EcoHealth Alliance were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biohazards, Biohazards Blog Anthony Fauci, David Relman, EcoHealth Alliance, Ian Lipkin, Jeff Sachs, Kristian Andersen, Peter Daszak, proximal origin, Robert Garry, The Lancet’s COVID Commission, Virologist, Wuhan Institute of Virology

0

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent  
pandemics and promote conservation

From: Roberts, Rich [b6] >  
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:21 AM  
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Peter Daszak  
[b6] >  
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura  
[b6] >; David Morens [b6] >;  
Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >  
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need  
approval of minor edits after first peer review



What a joke – he should be locked up

Richard J. Roberts

New England Biolabs

240 County Road

Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >  
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:50 AM  
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >  
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6] >  
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

EXTERNAL SENDER

Looks like Joe Rogan has gone full down the rabbit hole  
<https://twitter.com/skmorefield/status/1542497337171496961?s=21> &t=6w48UFQHdjizswS\_RXhHfQ

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of  
Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)

Daily Beast Contributor [https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter- j-hotez](https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez)

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:54 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Richard Horton already made a false statement about me to the House of Commons – saying that it took him a year to get me to fully disclose my conflicts of interests for the Lancet ‘Statement of support’ we wrote in Feb 2020. He referred to me as “that individual”. De-humanizing and dishonest. So I doubt he’ll intervene, but worth a shot.

By the way – here’s today’s gloating article by the “White Coat Waste” celebrating Republican congressional member Reschenthaler (PA) who has been doggedly pursuing our defunding for the last 2 years. The amendments do not actually make any iota of difference of course – No funds from DoD ever went to Wuhan either directly or through EcoHealth. But it does the job of painting us as an organization that should be attacked. Just as Sachs’ Lancet Commission report will now do.

<https://blog.whitecoatwaste.org/2022/06/24/progress- congress-defunds-wuhan-animal-lab-ecohealth-alliance/>

PROGRESS! CONGRESS DEFUNDS WUHAN ANIMAL LAB, ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE

POSTED BY AMANDA NIEVES

24 JUNE 2022 | BLOG

Ever since White Coat Waste Project (WCW) first exposed that dangerous coronavirus experiments on animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were funded by U.S. taxpayers, the idea that the coronavirus accidentally leaked from the lab and caused the COVID pandemic has gained international traction. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) — which once dismissed the theory — now says that the lab leak hypothesis deserves “further investigation.”

Congress recognizes the threat posed by funding risky animal experiments at the notorious Wuhan lab, too. On Wednesday, June 22, the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which sets the budget for federal agencies, approved a White Coat Waste Project-endorsed amendment from Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), banning any Department of Defense (DOD) funds from being spent at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The DOD, along with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and State Department, funded dangerous animal experiments at the Wuhan lab.

The committee also approved a second WCW-backed amendment from Rep. Reschenthaler, barring the DOD, for the second year in a row, from funding any work in China performed by the white coats at shady nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, which funneled tax dollars to the Wuhan lab. A majority of Americans, as well as the FBI and other experts, believe their gain-of-function experiments on animals could have caused the pandemic.

Rep. Reschenthaler, a Waste Warrior, has been a long-time ally of WCW, recently penning a joint op-ed in Newsweek with our founder and president Anthony Bellotti about our work together to investigate the lab leak hypothesis and hold government bureaucrats accountable.

The bill will soon head to the House for a vote, then the Senate. As it progresses, we will keep you posted; in the meantime, thank you to Rep. Reschenthaler, and other members of the Appropriations Committee, for protecting taxpayers, animals and public health!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507



USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >  
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:44 AM  
To: Peter Daszak [b6]  
Cc: Gerald T Keusch [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Rich Roberts [b6] >  
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

It's beyond disgusting, hopefully Richard Horton intervenes

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of

Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail:

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype:

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center:

**Date:** Thu, 19 Jan 2023 2:59:37 PM -0500

**Sent:** Thu, 19 Jan 2023 2:59:26 PM -0500

**Subject:** Re: Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?

**From:** Alison Andre [b6] >

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**CC:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6];  
> Gerald Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio  
[b6] [b6]

Dear All,

Please take a moment to fill out your availability in the doodle poll below or feel free to reply to me with your availability.

[b6]

Thank you,  
Alison

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 12:48 PM Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Adding Peter's assistant Douglas Soriano.

I also just heard from the FBI that yet another death list has been circulated with my name and EcoHealth's on it.

Peter – you might also be interested in this effort from Texas State lawmaker Briscoe Cain: <https://www.based-politics.com/2023/01/19/texas-calls-on-the-federal-government-to-investigate-covid/>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >

**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:43 AM

**To:** 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6] >; 'David Morens' [b6] [b6]

Rich Roberts [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6]

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6] [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio (

[b6] Alison Andre [b6] <

[b6] g >

**Subject:** Can we have a call to discuss how to build momentum to push back against the Republican's anti-science 'investigation' agenda?

**Importance:** High

Happy new year everyone!

It's been a while since we all connected, and after a hectic build up to the holidays (I was on 3, multi-week trips



to Southeast Asia between Sept and Dec), I wanted to get back in touch with you and let you know what's happening. As you know, we received a letter from Reps. Comer and Jordan mid-December demanding documents and on-the-record interviews as part of their 'investigations' they're planning into COVID origins. The White House received similar letters demanding docs and interviews with the HHS Secretary, multiple people from NIH (incl. David Morens) and others. They pushed back because the Republicans weren't even in power, and we've now heard from the staffers that they're getting ready to send new letters over to us all. None of us are sure how actively or rapidly they'll get to their COVID investigation, or if this will involve public hearings. They've got a lot of other issues, and a priority to target Hunter Biden's laptop, as well as new issues like the debt ceiling and classified documents. However, we do expect that they will get to it eventually, and that the Republicans in the House will be aggressively targeting EcoHealth Alliance (and probably other organizations) with efforts to defund us.

This all adds to a growing anti-science movement that Peter Hotez has been highlighting in articles and online recently around COVID origins, the mask mandates, vaccine mandates and other anti-vaxx and 'anti-expert' type attacks. The Republicans will want to turn up the heat to keep all of this in the press so it helps them in their attacks on Biden, Fauci etc. It's pure politics, but has a real threat of damage to us, and to the research we all value. At the very least, we expect to see substantial efforts to legislate against so-called gain-of-function work, and **as of yet, zero pushback from the scientific community writ large – the societies, academics, universities**. The media are jumping in. Everyone wants to write an article about COVID origin and given the aggression on social media, these are being amplified rapidly and getting into the public eye. Just in the last couple of days:

- A long-winded whiny article from *The Intercept* about FoIA'd emails that basically show how scientists discussed the lab hypothesis early on, but David Relman (at the end of the article) claims shows they were rushing to judgement: <https://theintercept.com/2023/01/19/covid- origin-nih-emails/>
- Article from Washington Post that links Boston Univ's NEIDL's 'risky research' to Wuhan's 'risky research' and to the origin of COVID <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/01/18/lab- leak-theory-virologist/>
- A report from the GAO yesterday that mildly criticizes NIH's oversight of Gain of Function review: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao- 23-105455.pdf>
- Three days ago a paper from North Carolina from a Republican perspective that criticizes Ralph Baric's lab.. <https://www.carolinajournal.com/opinion/nc- can-be-a-leader-in-safe-biotech-research/>

The problem I see is that the Republicans are getting what they want – keeping the lab leak hypothesis and anti-science sentiments in the mainstream press and setting the stage for the McCarthy-style witch hunts that Peter Hotez has been talking about. We are actively reaching out to Democrats in Senate and Congress to try to build up their energy to defend against this, but we are just one small organization, and I'm worried about how successful we can be. I've been talking with Jeff Sturchio about renewing our efforts to try and build a coalition to counter this, involving the societies, activist groups like Research! America, university coalitions like the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), ASTMH, APHA, NL Campaigns, The pandemic Action coalition, etc.

Will you all be willing to have a one hour call in the next week or two to do some initial brainstorming of this, namely:

- Who to involve
- How to go about setting up a 'coalition'
- What the goals should be, e.g. a position paper laying out reasons why research on pandemic prevention and preparedness is necessary, Op Eds, briefing notes, a website, visiting staffers on the Hill etc.
- How to do this without drawing political pressure

I'm cc'ing Alison Andre, who can work with your schedules to make this happen, and am really looking forward to talking with you all again.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

--

**Alison Andre**

*Executive Assistant to the President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Ave, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018

██████████(direct)

1.212.380.4465 (fax)

[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation.*



**Date:** Sat, 27 Apr 2024 8:09:22 AM -0400

**Subject:** Re: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

**From:** [redacted] b6

**To:** Peter Daszak [redacted] b6 Keusch, Gerald T [redacted] b6 Hotez, Peter Jay [redacted] b6

**CC:** [redacted] b6 Jeff Sturchio [redacted] b6 Roberts, Rich [redacted] b6 [redacted] b6 Aleksei Chmura [redacted] b6 [redacted] b6

Hi all, I Just had a good call with Michael Hiltzik, mainly off the record, but I gave him some quotes at the end along the lines of "It seems that NIH's actions are continuing the de facto blocking of our funding via administrative overreach.." or something less eloquent. He will allow me to check quotes. I also gave him the go ahead to excerpts from the emails and even publish the whole emails that detail the onerous oversight that NIH have been using to block our work, should he wish to. These have already been FOIA'd and are likely to be public very soon in any case.

He told me he will probably wait until after the hearing to see what happens there that can add to his story, but It does seem that he will be doing a story that directly critiques NIH's actions against EcoHealth, and that he believes are part of them trying to rationalize their initial termination under Collins, which I reminded him, our legal team contend was an illegal move. He asked for comment from Tabak and Lauer, and they responded with a single line along the lines "because this is the subject of ongoing compliance oversight, we cannot comment" or similar.

I spoke to Michael Hiltzik about what seems to be a sort of Troika at NIH – Francis Collins, Lawrence Tabak and Michael Lauer. Collins and then Tabak clearly have given the go-ahead on a number of issues to Lauer to do what he can with EcoHealth in a way that benefits NIH and avoids harassment from congress. This seems to mirror what Lauer has done with some Chinese American scientists who were accused of illicit financial activities, never shown to have committed any, but lost their jobs or privileges once Lauer called their Deans (see story in *Science* <https://www.science.org/content/article/pall-suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers>).

He mentioned he had a good conversation with you also Jerry...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [redacted] b6

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:37 AM  
**To:** 'Keusch, Gerald' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]  
**Cc:** [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John Feigelson <[b6]>  
**Subject:** RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

Thanks for the kind words Jerry.

Talking with Michael Hiltzik at 1pm and will be ready to fill him in on some of this, and point him to the Troika at the top of NIH (Collins, Tabak, Lauer) who's weak-willed kow-towing to the former president began all this with the termination of my grant 4 years and 2 days ago (not that I'm counting!!)...

I'll avoid the phrase "four more years" at this point, because I really think we do have another 4 years of crap to wade through...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:10 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6]; [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John Feigelson <[b6]>  
**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It is absolutely awful Peter. But I expect your bravery in the face of adversity, and your insistence on clarity and truth, as David and Tony will echo it as well, will remain strong and in the end be the authentic and true of the fictional story they are trying to manufacture.

Jerry  
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 8:04 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] wrote:

As they indicated on official twitter they want to “sell popcorn”

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children’s Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support**: [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[b6]

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

That said, we’re now hearing that the SSCP are considering sending us a subpoena today. We’ve spent the last few days turning over emails and documents, but they still want to get their ‘angry letter/subpoena’ story, so looks like more garbage coming our way.

Cheers,



Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Cc:** [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]

>; Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]

John Feigelson [b6]

**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It's just awful Peter, I'm so sorry, but if it's any consolation the press is busy with Trump hearings and the culture wars playing out on college campuses so there's a good chance that it won't be highlighted much in the mainstream media

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:25 AM, Peter Daszak b6 wrote:

\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

---

Dear all,

Just letting you know some of the damage that these political attacks on science have. As soon as the SSCP announced my hearing a few weeks ago, I noticed a significant increase in online death threats, both the number and severity of the threats. On Tuesday this week I received a death threat by mail at my house, and while I was in DC yesterday for a mock hearing, the local police received a notice that someone had killed a scientist and had his wife tied up in the basement at my house. It was a fake call but we ended up with 4 police cars, and detectives searching the house, and staying for the afternoon. We're expecting more of this and are tightening up security for the next couple of weeks at my house and in the office. We also have security lined up in DC where there is a real chance for harassment because they know I have to enter the building that morning. It's also a public building and people will be in the corridors as I enter the room.

In the meantime the SSCP seem happy to gin up their base with a Twitter 'countdown' to my hearing date, just like the buildup to the next season of "Game of Thrones" (below). This time they didn't use the popcorn icon – meaning 'bring your popcorn for this fun show' – as they did on previous countdowns to testimony. I wonder if that's because Peter Hotez called them out repeatedly?

Anyway – it looks like we're in for a rough couple of weeks. Sometime today or over the weekend, the SSCP tells us they'll release a (no doubt damning) report about EcoHealth Alliance, as well as the transcription from my 9.5 hours interview I did with them in November. That will keep the Right wing press busy and get their supporters frothing at the mouth up to Wednesday..

**Post**

See new posts

**Conversation**

<image003.jpg>

**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

@COVIDSelect

In less than one week, EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak will appear before

@COVIDSelect

for a public hearing

<image001.png>

COVID-19 origins

<image001.png>

Gain-of-function research



<image001.png>  
Wuhan Institute of Virology

<image001.png>  
Dr. Anthony Fauci and more are on the table

- ✓ COVID-19 origins
- ✓ Gain-of-function research
- ✓ Wuhan Institute of Virology
- ✓ Dr. Anthony Fauci

May 1, 2024 | 10:00am ET

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM  
**To:** [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeff Sturchio' <  
[b6] 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]  
[b6]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [b6] John Feigelson <  
[b6]  
**Subject:** Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing  
**Importance:** High

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day:  
[https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr\\_news/706672646/hearing-advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1](https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing-advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1)

## Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth

# Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing [here](#).

**WHAT:** Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024

**TIME:** 10:00AM ET

**LOCATION:** 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

**WITNESS:**

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

**WATCH:** The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a-hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/>.

**RSVP:** Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PM ET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

**From:** [b6]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeff Sturchio <

[b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [b6]

**Subject:** Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not have a date yet. My lawyer is not  
motivating with sscp

In the meantime, my lawyers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail, and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course, they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here:  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci-congress-testimony-pandemic/>.

David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM

**To:** [b6] 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchio' <

[b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]

[b6] >

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6] 'John Feigelson' <

[b6]

**Subject:** RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]



Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM

To: [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchio' <

[b6] 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]

[b6]  
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John Feigelson <

[b6]>

Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

<https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us-news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/>

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

From: [b6]

Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay <

[b6]  
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:

<https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505>

Here's the text of the tweet:

**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

[@COVIDSelect](#)

<image001.png >

<image001.png >

<image001.png >

[@ScienceMagazine](#)

AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEEUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH

<image001.png >

<image001.png >

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

<https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU>

The relevant section starts at 1 hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM  
**To:** [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchio' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <[b6]>  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John Feigelson <[b6]>  
**Subject:** COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.  
**Importance:** High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30<sup>th</sup>

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** [REDACTED] b6  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6  
Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] b6; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] b6; Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED] b6  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6  
**Subject:** Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys, my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

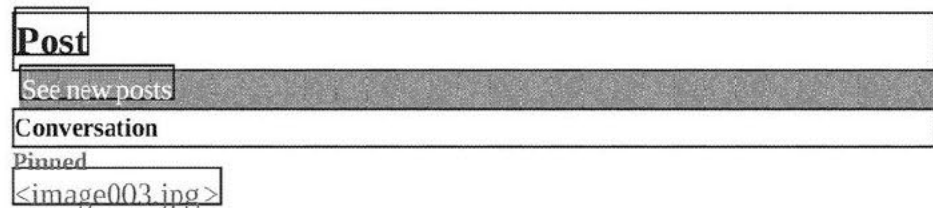
Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)...

Tweet here: <https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214>

Washington Examiner BS article here:

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth-alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/>

Full text of tweet:



**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

@COVIDSelect

<image001.png>

**BREAKING**

<image001.png>

@EcoHealthNYC



President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower allegations  
that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci — used Gmail to  
hide COVID-19 information. We are beginning the process to secure  
Dr. Morens's public testimony  
<image004.jpg>

From [washingtonexaminer.com](http://washingtonexaminer.com)

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]  
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*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald T <  
[REDACTED] b6 Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] b6 Roberts, Rich <  
[REDACTED] b6 Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED] b6  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6  
[REDACTED] b6  
**Subject:** Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committee...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM  
**To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]  
**Cc:** 'Aleksi Chmura' [b6] <[b6]>

**Subject:** EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues

**Importance:** High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released only the subject line and addresses etc. (<https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup-reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/>), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

<https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2024/04/ecohealth-alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press>

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails: <https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails-01.pdf>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

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*

**From:** Michael Hiltzik [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good...I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak <

b6

> wrote:

Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?

I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone [b6]

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM

**To:** 'Michael Hiltzik'

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura'

[b6]

[b6]

; 'Alison Andre ('

[b6]

**Subject:** RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

**Importance:** High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political. There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well... cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED] b6

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*

**From:** Michael Hiltzik [REDACTED] b6

**Sent:** Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6

**Subject:** Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to  
conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <

[REDACTED] b6 > wrote:

Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this



privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.

As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in *Science*, *Nature*, *NEJM* and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections

<https://www.science.org/content/article/pall-suspicion-nih-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers>), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only

reimbursed EcoHealth for around \$50K of the now nearly \$2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We’ve tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We’ve informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA’d email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we’re out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we’re probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we’ve gone through. I’ve attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we’ve gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don’t know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH’s grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we’re ‘delinquent’ or ‘out of compliance’, or that they’re ‘concerned’ etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA’d (which they are being) or to be used when NIH has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can’t be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don’t yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US’s ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I’m happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED] b6

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*



Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 6:09:32 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 6:09:25 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6];

CC: David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];  
Jeff Sturchio [b6];

Attachments: image001.png

Hi:

The mental health issues pertain to matters other than this. I have a good friend here at NEB, who knows Sonia very well. I will talk to her about a possible course of action to persuade Sonia to at least address the issue if she herself detects a decline.

I did speak to Ian Lipkin and he basically confirmed he didn't feel he could help other than to continue to sign on to his stated belief in the natural origin rather than the lab-leak theory.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:47 PM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

**Cc:** David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6];

**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

**EXTERNAL SENDER**

I have to agree that Jeff doesn't come across to me as someone in decline, more that he's just bought into the conspiracy hook, line and sinker – I've seen this with other intelligent scientists or lay people. The lab leak story is beguiling in that it merges elements of China's authoritarian govt, people's lack of understanding of what's involved in cutting edge virology, and has a narrative that's been 2.5 years in development and fueled by hundreds of FoIA requests, and hundreds of nefarious stories.

Jeff is an economist, and therefore more comfortable with geopolitics than lab details or ecology. I doubt he's been in a Southeast Asian wildlife farm, wet market or bat cave. That's where the real gain of function is happening, and it's coughed up right into your face by the furry animals involved!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]  
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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:34 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** David Morens [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

Unless she herself raises the issue about the state of his mental health, I think that gets really tricky. We know Jeff is being unreasonable in his position, and it's distressing to watch him hold onto it, but in my conversations with him he sounds otherwise fairly lucid. So while it certainly may be cognitive decline I would be hard pressed to say that's the basis from my conversations with him. Being a jerk can be a sign of dementia, but there may be other factors. Tough call

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**  
Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology  
Health Policy Scholar  
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study  
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs  
Texas A&M University  
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University  
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: [b6]

Twitter: [@peterhotez](#)

Skype: [b6]

Linkedin [Peter Hotez](#)

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6]

Phone: [b6]

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 3:23 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.

---

Hi Peter H,

The issue with Sonia is not Jeff's positions but his mental health and perhaps failing cognitive capacity. If there are early warning signs that she needs to recognize and then discuss with his primary care doc it may help to get the family involved in helping Jeff to acknowledge that something is not right and begin further assessments and maybe even interventions. No easy task for an ego like his - this would be an even worse blow than seeing his contemporary Joe Stiglitz and his junior Michael Kremer both receive a Nobel in economics - his Nobel.

That's separate for pushing back on his dogged attempt to push one perspective in an increasingly concrete and poorly supported by actual evidence manner.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 3, 2022, at 2:50 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] wrote:

A good reminder: never to go into battle with Ian, ridiculous. I doubt appealing to Sonia will



do much good, and I'm not sure any of the Columbia faculty see this as their fight? I think refuting Jeff point by point in a white paper is the way to go, perhaps one that could wind up in SCIENCE, unless you think it's already covered in your article Jerry. If not, Angela Rasmussen is probably the best qualified, I would be happy to work with her, if she were to take the lead. Just some thoughts, best, Peter

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**

Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine

Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar

Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics

Co-Director, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development

University Professor, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs

Texas A&M University

Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University

Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

**Donate** to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development

E-mail: b6

Twitter: @peterhotez

Skype: b6

Linkedin Peter Hotez

Amazon Author Center: <https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48>

Daily Beast Contributor <https://www.thedailybeast.com/author/peter-j-hotez>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6

Fax: 713-798-2299



**BAYLOR**  
UNIVERSITY

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T b6

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 1:38 PM

**To:** David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

Rich and I have already spoken about my call with Ian. He feels there is nothing he can do. His concerns are the following, some of which he has made abundantly clear in various articles and interviews.

1. The viability of the lab-leak hypothesis is a self-imposed injury by scientists, pointing to the conversation between Jeremy Farrar, Francis Collins, Christian Andersen et al in February 2020, and the denial and then the FOIA.
2. Peter is conflicted (appearance, not necessarily reality) and should not have accepted appointment to the Lancet Commission, the WHO team etc. He (Ian) would not have if he had been asked.
3. There is no way to get Sachs to "stand down".
4. The two science papers by Worobey et al are "crap epidemiology".

There is no viable way for me to push any further with Ian. On the issue of the reputation of Columbia University I am thinking about contacting Waafa El-Sadr, Vince Racaniello, and the Nobel laureate economist Joe Stiglitz, all of whom I know well enough to contact. The secondary issue is Sachs' cognitive health, as he becomes ever more focused, concrete in his thinking, and unable to take in and evaluate new information. He is a broken record, for sure, very possibly because he is a record in the process of breaking. Are others concerned? Concerned enough to be in touch with and supportive of his wife and family by expressing concern for his public face, reputation, and legacy?

I'm thinking it over before doing anything more. Thoughts?

Jerry

-----Original Message-----

**From:** David Morens [b6]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:50 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio <[b6]>  
**Subject:** Re: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

Also at Columbia is Steve Morse, who has been studying pandemic viruses since his days with Josh Ledeberg in the late 1980s.....

David M. Morens, MD

[b6]

[b6]  
[b6] (work)  
[b6] (cell)

IMPORTANT: My gmail frequently sends incoming messages to Trash, which is apparently not correctable. If

you don't hear from me in a reasonable time, please try again, call, or use my NIH email address

IMPORTANT: For US Government-related email, please also reply to my NIAID address

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 11:42 AM Roberts, Rich <[b6]> wrote:

>

> Jerry:

>

>

>

> I can try Ian Lipkin too. He may be concerned about the general damage to science and to Jeff himself. One of Jeff's very good friends tells me that a lot of people who know him closely think he is going off the rails.

>

>

>

> Rich

>

>

>

> Richard J. Roberts

>

> New England Biolabs

>

> 240 County Road

>

> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

>

> USA

>

> Tel: [b6]

>

> Fax: (978) 412 9910

>

> email: [b6]

>

>

>

> From: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>

> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:37 AM

> To: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Peter Daszak

> <[b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>

> Cc: David Morens <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura

> <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio <[b6]>

> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

>

>

>

> EXTERNAL SENDER

>

>

>

> You are right, but I doubt Columbia can do anything to stop a faculty member speaking on his own behalf from saying stupid things. What needs to happen is that the faculty at Columbia with the expertise also speak out against

his stupidity.

>

>

>

> For what it is worth I will follow up with Ian Lipkin (who probably won't be sympathetic) and Wafaa El-Sadr (who will be).

>

>

>

> Jerry

>

>

>

> From: Roberts, Rich [b6]

> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:24 AM

> To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T

> [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

> Cc: David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura

> [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]

> Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs is at it again!

>

>

>

> Peter:

>

>

>

> "Inaccuracies" is a very mild word for the statements he makes.

>

>

>

> This just gets more disturbing by the day. I wonder how the administration at Columbia view this? Are they aware of the damage he is doing?

>

>

>

> Rich

>

>

>

> Richard J. Roberts

>

> New England Biolabs

>

> 240 County Road

>

> Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

>

> USA

>

> Tel: [b6]

>

> Fax: (978) 412 9910



>  
> email: [b6]  
>  
>  
>  
> From: Peter Daszak [b6]  
> Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 11:05 AM  
> To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]  
> Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
> Cc: David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura  
> [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]  
> Subject: Jeff Sachs is at it again!  
> Importance: High

> EXTERNAL SENDER

> I just saw this in Current Affairs. At least this is not a major daily broadsheet, but it's filled with inaccuracies again (some of them highlighted in the text below, in order of appearance).

> He responds to the two papers in Science this week by dismissing the scientists (all 20+ of them) as having already stated their opinions prior to the paper, so what they're doing is simply creating a narrative.

> He states that the work in our rejected DARPA proposal was underway and being promoted very actively – again simply not true as I've stated publicly – the grant was not funded and the work not done.

> He goes into details of our unfortunate conversations as he tried to remove me from the Lancet Commission. He implies I didn't share the details of my work in China with him prior to joining. This is not true – it's why he invited me to lead the taskforce.

> He accuses me of 'misdirection' re. the work I've done in China. Not sure how publishing it in dozens of papers and speaking about it daily at the beginning of the pandemic is somehow misdirecting.

> He follows a common theme from the lab leakers that we had 180 viral 'strains' in the lab. Not true – we had hundreds of short RdRp sequences (few hundred base pairs) PCR'd from bat samples – only 3 viral strains in culture. All of this publicly released, all of it repeatedly stated.

> He makes a demand for 'lab notebooks' again. This amplifies the aggressive FoIAs and congressional attacks against us. I already told him EHA doesn't have a lab and doesn't keep 'lab notebooks'. Good luck asking for these from China with this aggressive narrative.

> He outright accuses scientists arguing that the virus did not come from a lab as 'lying'.

> He follows another lab leak narrative of dismissing EcoHealth's work as simply being a 'marriage-maker' between US and China labs to shunt NIH money to China. I'm very proud of the fact that EHA's work over the last two decades has led to multiple papers in Nature, Science, and all other leading journals. You just don't end up being senior author on these papers by acting as a 'marriage maker', but dismissing our scientific status is part of the lab leak agenda to undermine science.



>

> He accuses me of 'not telling the truth'. No details of course!

>

> Accuses all the other Task Force members of hiding some alleged

> conflict of interest - that they are 'part of this thing', whatever

> that is

>

> Accuses the task force of trying to avoid looking into the lab leak even though he knew full well we had interviewed people like Relman, Ebright, Quay as part of our work and had stated publicly that we would look at all hypotheses re. COVID origins.

>

> He dodges the question on my alleged 'hiding pretty serious conflicts

> of interest' by saying he asked for my research proposals and I

> wouldn't hand them over on legal advice. What he failed to mention is

> the reason I gave him for this in an email - NIH had refused to make

> those proposals public under FoIA and had then been sued. If I then

> went against their direction I would run the risk of further grant

> terminations. That's what my lawyers advised and I have an

> organization to run, rather than undermine our funding base just

> because Jeff Sachs is inquisitive...

>

> Damagingly, he states that our rationale for hiding the truth is because we don't want to be guilty for millions of deaths. That is exactly the comment I get when people send me death threats (more every week now that these stories are in the news). It's a pretty straightforward incitement to violence for these people.

>

> He states that he doesn't trust scientists because we hide our work, when in fact we've published it in papers, and our proposals (even those that are not funded) are now public.

>

> He equates this work with nuclear weapons research

>

> He criticizes NIH for redacting 290 pages of attachments. Anyone who's bothered to look at that will see that NIH was circulating a DRAFT version of their COVID-19 research strategy that was released a few days later having been corrected and edited. It was simply an attachment to an email. There's no way that a govt agency should be circulating uncorrected versions of a strategic plan - that's just commonsense.

>

>

>

>

>

>

> [https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_www.currentaffairs.org\\_2022\\_08\\_why-2Dthe-2Dchair-2Dof-2Dthe-2Dlancets-2Dco&d=DwIGaQ&c=ZQs-KZ8oxEw0p81sqgiaRA&r=5LfYK49OliIsJzSnooAjOg&m=hPFWMEklFgm5H54jTvYTzCXGWKMPBxl03XCQ9TggM6ARK1vT3e4qNgSCrud5F2C5&s=hC16xyJYpKXkpxydEKvaynlBUG6T0PtpVcI- ZhW5pZI&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.currentaffairs.org_2022_08_why-2Dthe-2Dchair-2Dof-2Dthe-2Dlancets-2Dco&d=DwIGaQ&c=ZQs-KZ8oxEw0p81sqgiaRA&r=5LfYK49OliIsJzSnooAjOg&m=hPFWMEklFgm5H54jTvYTzCXGWKMPBxl03XCQ9TggM6ARK1vT3e4qNgSCrud5F2C5&s=hC16xyJYpKXkpxydEKvaynlBUG6T0PtpVcI- ZhW5pZI&e=)

> vid-19-commission-thinks-the-us-government-is-preventing-a-real-invest

> igation-into-the-pandemic

>

>

>

>

>

>

> Why the Chair of the Lancet's COVID-19 Commission Thinks The US

> Government Is Preventing a Real Investigation Into the Pandemic

>

> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs says he is “pretty convinced [COVID-19] came out of US lab biotechnology” and warns that there is dangerous virus research taking place without public oversight.

>

> Current Affairs

>

> filed 02 August 2022 in THE VIRUS

>

> Prof. Jeffrey Sachs is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and the President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He has also served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the Lancet. Through his investigations as the head of the COVID-19 commission, Prof. Sachs has come to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.

>

> Prof. Sachs recently co-authored a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences calling for an independent inquiry into the virus’s origins. He believes that there is clear proof that the National Institutes of Health and many members of the scientific community have been impeding a serious investigation of the origins of COVID-19 and deflecting attention away from the hypothesis that risky U.S.-supported research may have led to millions of deaths. If that hypothesis is true, the implications would be earth-shaking, because it might mean that esteemed members of the scientific community bore responsibility for a global calamity. In this interview, Prof. Sachs explains how he, as the head of the COVID-19 commission for a leading medical journal, came to the conclusion that powerful actors were preventing a real investigation from taking place. He also explains why it is so important to get to the bottom of the origins of COVID: because, he says, there is extremely dangerous research taking place with little accountability, and the public has a right to know since we are the ones whose lives are being put at risk without our consent.

>

> NATHAN ROBINSON:

>

> I want to quote something that you said recently:

>

> “I chaired the commission for the Lancet for two years on COVID. I’m pretty convinced it came out of U.S. lab biotechnology, not out of nature, just to mention. After two years of intensive work on this. So it’s a blunder in my view of biotech, not an accident of a natural spillover. We don’t know for sure, I should be absolutely clear. But there’s enough evidence that it should be looked into. And it’s not being investigated, not in the United States, not anywhere. And I think for real reasons that they don’t want to look underneath the rug, the statement.”

>

> The statement that you made there is a controversial one. Just to read a couple of quotes from the New York Times in the last year:

>

> “In a review of recent studies and comparisons to other outbreaks, a group of virologists contends that there is more evidence to support a natural spillover from animals to humans.”

>

> “Scientists released a pair of extensive studies over the weekend that point to a large food and live animal market in Wuhan, China, as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic.”

>

> So I want to start by asking you just to tell us a little bit about the investigation that you were part of and what led you to think that what I just quoted is a misleading statement of the state of the evidence.

>

> JEFFREY SACHS:

>

> Well, the funny thing is those scientists who are saying that said the same thing on February 4, 2020, before they



had done any research at all. And they published the same statement in March 2020, before they had any facts at all. So they're creating a narrative. And they're denying the alternative hypothesis without looking closely at it. That's the basic point.

>

> Now, what is the alternative hypothesis? The alternative hypothesis is quite straightforward. And that is that there was a lot of research underway in the United States and China on taking SARS-like viruses, manipulating them in the laboratory, and creating potentially far more dangerous viruses. And the particular virus that causes COVID-19, called SARS-Cov-2, is notable because it has a piece of its genetic makeup that makes the virus more dangerous. And that piece of the genome is called the "furin cleavage site." Now, what's interesting, and concerning if I may say so, is that the research that was underway very actively and being promoted, was to insert furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses to see what would happen. Oops!

>

> Well, that is what may have happened. And what has been true from the start is that that very real possibility, which a lot of scientists know, has not been looked at closely, even though it's absolutely clear that it could have happened that way. They're not looking. They just keep telling us, "Look at the market, look at the market, look at the market!" But they don't address this alternative. They don't even look at the data. They don't even ask questions. And the truth is from the beginning, they haven't asked the real questions.

>

> But not quite the beginning. Because at the beginning, which we could date from the first phone call of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a group of virologists on February 1, 2020, the virologists said "Oh my god, that is strange, that could well be a laboratory creation. What is that furin cleavage site doing in there?" Because scientists knew that was part of an active ongoing research program. And yet, by February 3, the same group is saying "No, no, it's natural, it's natural." By February 4, they start to draft the papers that are telling the public, "Don't worry, it's natural." By March, they write a paper—totally spurious, in my view—called the proximal origins paper that is the most cited bio paper in 2020. It said: it is absolutely natural. [Note: the paper's conclusion is "we do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."] But they didn't have any of the data that you read about in the New York Times. They didn't have any of this. They just said the labs weren't working on this alternative. But you know what, they don't know what the labs were working on, because they never asked, and NIH hasn't told us.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> Let me ask you if we can distinguish between what we know for certain and what is speculative because we just haven't got the data. So we do know that there was—correct me if I'm wrong—research proposed that would have dealt with this category of viruses and would have modified them in ways that would have made them potentially more lethal. Do we know whether that kind of research was in fact actually ongoing somewhere?

>

> SACHS:

>

> We have enormous reason to believe that it was. And clearly, we haven't even asked that question. But we have a lot of reason to believe that it was, because the scientists that were doing that research loved that research. And they explained to us publicly why it's so important. And they wrote editorials about why this research must continue. And they made grant proposals saying that it should continue. And for those of us in the business of writing grant proposals, the fact that a particular grant proposal that's deeply troubling was turned down doesn't mean that it wasn't carried out afterwards. But where is NIH saying, "Yeah, that's an interesting question. Why don't we get the evidence?" It doesn't even ask that question.

>

> And the scientists like those that talk about the Huanan market, they don't even discuss that research that was underway. That is just misdirection, to my mind. It's like sleight of hand art. Don't look over there. Look over here. But we know that there was a tremendous amount of this research underway. We have interviews by the lead scientists. We have these research proposals. I know the intention of doing this research from discussions. I've read so many studies of the importance of this research claimed by the scientists. And yet I see NIH with its head in the ground. "Oh, no, nothing here to look at." And then I see the scientists. "Oh, nothing here to look at. We know it's

the market. Did we find an animal? No. Do we have an explanation of where that furin cleavage site came in? No. We don't have an explanation of the timing, which doesn't quite look right. Oh, but don't look over there, because there's nothing there, they keep telling us. Well, that's a little silly.

>

> So my point is, there is a huge amount of reason to believe that that research was underway. Because there are published papers on this. There are interviews on this. There are research proposals. But NIH isn't talking. It's not asking. And these scientists have never asked either. From the very first day, they have kept hidden from view the alternative. And when they discuss the alternative, they don't discuss the research program. They discuss complete straw men about the lab, not the actual kind of research that was underway, which was to stick furin cleavage sites into SARS-like viruses in a way that could have created SARS-Cov-2.

>

> What I'm calling for is not the conclusion. I'm calling for the investigation. Finally, after two and a half years of this, it's time to fess up that it might have come out of a lab and here's the data that we need to know to find out whether it did.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> One of the things that struck me that I didn't know when I started writing about this and actually doing some some research is realizing that in the years leading up to the pandemic, there was a huge controversy about whether it was wise to modify viruses in the course of research in ways that could make a virus more infectious or more lethal. And some people were arguing that this kind of research was insane. And some people were warning that in the case of a lab accident—an accident, mind you, not as an intentional "bioweapon"—a simple human error could cause a real catastrophe.

>

> SACHS:

>

> That is exactly right. There were several kinds of experiments of manipulation of the genes of dangerous viruses. And this raised a lot of alarm. And there was actually a moratorium in 2014. But the champions of this kind of research pushed on, they applied for waivers, which they got, and finally the moratorium came off in 2017. And they said how important it is to do this dangerous kind of research, because they claimed, "Well, there are lots of viruses out there. And we don't know when they're going to become highly pathogenic, and we need to develop drugs and vaccines against a wide spectrum of them. So we have to test all these viruses that we can find, to see whether they have high spillover potential." But they weren't actually aiming to just test viruses that they were collecting in nature. They were aiming to modify those viruses. Because the scientists knew that a SARS-like virus without a furin cleavage site wouldn't be that dangerous. But they wanted to test their drugs and vaccines and theories against dangerous viruses. Their proposal was to take hundreds, by the way—or least they talked about in one proposal more than 180 previously unreported strains—and test them for their so-called "spillover potential." How effective would they be? And to look: do they have a furin cleavage site, or technically what's called a proteolytic cleavage site? And if not, put them in. For heaven's sake. My God! Are you kidding?

>

> Okay, but we didn't even ask the question from the first day: did you guys do that? Tell us what you did. Could you give us your lab notebooks? We're kind of curious. Instead, these people who are writing these New York Times articles right now and publishing these pieces about the market, from the first day—without asking about the experiments—they said, "Nope, it's natural." That's why I don't trust them. Because they've never looked at the alternative hypothesis. And their hypothesis has so many gaps, so many holes in it. But they don't even try to look at the alternative hypothesis.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> I think it's very important to make clear that the "alternative hypothesis" is mainly a hypothesis about an accident, and scientific hubris. It's important to distinguish the kooky theories from the incredibly plausible theories. Because what you're talking about is people who did not appreciate the dangers of what they were doing.

>



> SACHS:

>

> In fact, it's very interesting. The alternative that is the right one to look at is part of a very extensive research program that was underway from 2015 onward, funded by the NIH, by Tony Fauci, in particular NIAID [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases], and it was to examine the spillover potential of SARS-like viruses. The champions of this research explained in detail their proposals. But after the event, we'd never asked them, "So what were you actually doing? What experiments did you do? What do you know?" We somehow never asked. It was better just to sweep it under the rug, which is what Fauci and the NIH have done up until this point. Maybe they could tell us, "Oh, full exoneration," but they haven't told us that at all. They haven't shown us anything.

>

> So there's nothing "kooky" about it, because it's precisely what the scientists were doing. And then you can listen to the scientists on tape describing why they think the research program is so important, because they say these are dangerous viruses, and therefore we have to prepare broad spectrum vaccines and drugs. They explain it's not good enough to test one or two viruses. We have to test all of them. And then they came to realize, as I said earlier, that just having a SARS-like virus, if it doesn't have this piece of the gene, it's almost surely not going to be that effective. So they got around to the idea. "Well, let's put these in," if you can imagine that. To my mind, it's mind-boggling.

>

>

>

> But they were proud of this, because it's actually genius at a technological level. Can you imagine: you can take a sequence of letters, which defines the genome, you can recreate the virus just from the letters. You don't even have to have the biological virus in hand, you just need the sequence. Then you can say "I'm going to add these four letters RRAR, the furin cleavage site, or maybe it's eight, RRARSVAS, this is a sequence of eight amino acids—I'm going to stick it in there right at the S1 S2 junction of the spike protein, because I know from my research program that will make it more pathogenic, that is more disease-causing. And then I can see whether my drug candidates like remdesivir, or some other candidate works against it. That is their idea. There's nothing kooky about our claim: Hey, what were you doing? Because they told us that they wanted to do these projects. And they told us that they were wanting to do these projects in the months leading up to this outbreak. And then what is absolutely strange is that even though scientists knew right from the start, that is very weird to have that RRAR furin cleavage site in there—never saw that before in a SARS-like virus, and that that could well have come from a lab—hush, hush. Don't talk about it. Don't even discuss it. Just say right from the beginning: This is natural. Of course, it's natural. Everything else is kooky.

>

> So you saw a narrative being created. And the scientists are not acting like scientists. Because when you're acting like a scientist, you're pursuing alternative hypotheses. And the scientists just wrote recently an op-ed saying the only evidence that this came out of a lab that's been put forward is that it came in a city, Wuhan, where an institute was located. Well, that's a lie. That is not the only coincidence that leads to this theory. What leads to this alternative hypothesis is the detailed research program the NIH funded that was underway in the years leading up to the outbreak. So I see the scientists absolutely trying to create a narrative and take our eyes off of another issue.

>

> Now, again, let me emphasize, we don't have definitive evidence of either hypothesis. But what we do have is definitive evidence that officialdom has tried to keep our eyes away from the lab creation hypothesis.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> You mentioned the lab in Wuhan. It's not just that there was a lab in Wuhan doing research on viruses. But there were ties between the lab and those pursuing this program. What do we know about the research that was actually occurring there?

>

> SACHS:

>

> We know that at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the scientists there had been trained by American scientists to

use advanced bioengineering methodologies. And in particular, we have scientists in North Carolina, Texas, and so forth who do this kind of research, believe in it, argue for it, and say that they don't want any regulations on it and so on. And they were in close contact with Wuhan Institute of Virology, and they were part of a joint research group that was stitched together by something called EcoHealth Alliance. And EcoHealth Alliance was the kind of marriage maker between the American scientists and the Chinese scientists. That was the vehicle for funding from the U.S. government, especially from the National Institutes of Health, and especially from Tony Fauci's unit, the NIAID. There were years of grants, there were grant proposals. We don't know exactly what was done. But we have enough reason to know that we should be asking exactly what was done. And we know definitively that from the beginning, NIH has been running from telling us what has been done. They're not telling us the truth, that they had reason to fear from the start that this came out of a lab. And that to this day, they have reason to suspect it, but they're not talking.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> A shocking thing to me was that the head of the EcoHealth Alliance was on the World Health Organization team that actually investigated the origins of COVID and concluded that it wasn't the lab.

>

> SACHS:

>

> Well, more than that: I appointed him—this was Peter Daszak—I appointed him to chair the task force of the pandemic commission that I was running for the Lancet. And he headed a task force on the origins. I thought, naively at the beginning, "Well, here's a guy who is so connected, he would know." And then I realized he was not telling me the truth. And it took me some months, but the more I saw it, the more I resented it.

>

> And so I told him, "Look, you have to leave." And then the other scientists in that task force attacked me for being anti-scientific. And I asked them: "What are your connections with all of this?" They didn't tell me. Then when the Freedom of Information Act released some of these documents that NIH had been hiding from the public, I saw that people that were attacking me were also part of this thing. So I disbanded that whole task force. So my own experience was to witness close up how they're not talking. And they're trying to keep our eyes on something else. And away from even asking the questions that we're talking about. We don't have the answers. But we have good reasons to ask. And we have good reasons to know that NIH is not doing its job properly right now.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> So you're saying that Daszak and others did not disclose to you pretty serious conflicts of interest? Since, on the hypothesis that it had something to do with this kind of research, that would have implicated Daszak himself in the origins of the crisis?

>

> SACHS:

>

> Well, he could have explained to me right from the beginning that there was a big research program and that they were manipulating the viruses, and here's how. He could have given me the research proposals. And when I asked him for one of the research proposals, he said, "No, my lawyer says I can't give it to you." I said, "What? You're heading a commission. We're a transparent commission. You're telling me your lawyer says you can't give me your project proposal." I said, "Well, then you can't be on this commission. This is not even a close call."

>

> But there were so many other things. He was just filled with misdirection. I don't know whether he understands or not, maybe he doesn't understand. But the things he said just were absolutely not right.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> When people hear you say, "They're sweeping it under the rug, they don't want to look," one question that may come to their minds is "Well, why? Why would people not be interested in getting to the truth?" But the alternate



hypothesis from the natural spillover that you're talking about could have serious repercussions. It would implicate a lot of people in potentially millions of deaths. So there's a lot at stake here for the scientific community. Which explains why there would be an interest in directing people away from this possibility.

>

> SACHS:

>

> There are at least two reasons why they might be doing what they're doing. One is, as you say, the implications are huge. Imagine if this came out of a lab. And we have, by some estimates, about 18 million dead worldwide from this. That's not the official count. But that's the estimated excess mortality from COVID. Well, the implications of that—the ethical, the moral, the geopolitical—everything is enormous.

>

> But there's a second matter that is really important, too. One thing that is rather clear to me is that there is so much dangerous research underway right now under the umbrella of biodefense or other things that we don't know about, that is not being properly controlled. This is for sure. And that's happening around the world. And governments say "don't poke your nose into that." That's our business, not your business. But it's actually our business. It's our business to understand what is going on with this. This is not to be kept secret. We don't trust you.

>

> Let me put it this way: I don't trust them right now. I want to know. Because even what we know of the dangerous research is enough to raise a lot of questions of responsibility for the future. And to pose the question: "Hey, what other viruses are you guys working on? What should we know?" Because no matter what the truth is on SARS-Cov-2, what is pretty clear is we've got so much technological capacity to engineer dangerous pathogens right now. And a lot of that is being done. And it's classified. It's secret, and we don't know what it is. And I don't like that feeling at all. I don't recommend it for us and for the world.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> Well, you've rather answered the question of why it's important to get to the bottom of this. Because one of the excuses you hear is, "Well, who really cares? Does it matter? It was an animal, it was a lab, whatever it is, it's here." But what you're saying is, "No, we actually need to know where this started." Because this isn't going to be the only one, whatever the origins are. And we don't want people to die from future viruses. This is critically important. If we're going to save millions of lives, we have to find out the answer.

>

> SACHS:

>

> I can tell you one thing that I've learned from talking to a lot of scientists in the last couple of years: the technological capacity to do dangerous things using this biotechnology is extraordinary right now. So I want to know what's being done. I want to know what other governments are doing, too, not just ours. I want some global control over this stuff.

>

> We've kind of understood the nuclear risk—even that, of course, is in a lot of ways hidden from view. But this is a clear and present risk. And there's reason to believe we're actually in the midst of it, not just hypothetically. So come on: it's time to open the books everywhere. It's time to find out. Maybe it was the marketplace. Maybe it wasn't a lab. But we need to get real answers, now. Not the kind of misdirection that's been going in since February 2020. Enough nonsense! Enough New York Times stories saying, "Oh, it's this, it's that," without looking closely at the very plausible laboratory hypothesis.

>

> ROBINSON:

>

> It seems from what you're saying that as the head of the Lancet's COVID-19 commission, you didn't feel you were able to get satisfactory answers or see the data you wanted. What kind of investigation do we need and who ought to do it?

>

> SACHS:

>

> The most interesting things that I got as chair of the Lancet commission came from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits and whistleblower leaks from inside the U.S. government. Isn't that terrible? NIH was actually asked at one point: give us your research program on SARS-like viruses. And you know what they did? They released the cover page and redacted 290 pages. They gave us a cover page and 290 blank pages! That's NIH, for heaven's sake. That's not some corporation. That is the U.S. government charged with keeping us healthy.

>

> What I found is that we have a lot of data which we're not finding right now. And I don't want to have to rely on FOIA and leaks, though those can be incredibly informative. I want clear, independent scientific investigation and transparency. One way to do this would be a bipartisan congressional oversight investigation that had subpoena power. Give us your lab records, your notebooks, your data files of virus strains, and so forth. There are many questions that we need independent scientists to define, to tell us exactly the kinds of information. But we know right now we're operating in an environment in which the government is working to hide the data that we need to make a real assessment.

>

> If you enjoyed this article, please consider subscribing to our magnificent print edition or making a donation. Current Affairs is 100% reader-supported.

>

> Current Af

>

>

>

>

>

> Cheers,

>

>

>

> Peter

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> Peter Daszak

>

> President

>

>

>

> EcoHealth Alliance

>

> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

>

> New York, NY 10018-6507

>

> USA

>



> Tel.: b6

>

> Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

>

> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

>

>

>

> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent  
> pandemics and promote conservation

**Date:** Sun, 15 Aug 2021 1:25:58 PM -0400

**Sent:** Sun, 15 Aug 2021 1:22:49 PM -0400

**Subject:** RE: Sunday Wash Post editorial

**From:** Peter Daszak { b6 }

**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] { b6 } Robert Kessler { b6 }  
Keusch, Gerald T { b6 }

---

I don't buy the argument that he simply didn't say anything new. He knowingly gave space for the lab leakers to latch on to the 'field scientist' idea, which is never disprovable of course, but exactly as unlikely as any other lab pathway because 1) they wore PPE, 2) they tested all the samples and none had SARS-CoV-2, and 3) the bat-farmed wildlife-Huanan market is far more likely.

He shouldn't have said what he said to the press, and absolutely knew it would lead to this sort of crap in the US. I think it helps him and WHO look tougher on the lab leak stuff, and helps remove some political heat in the long run.

Very irritating considering the papers are linking and EcoHealth into all this as usual - it's just too easy for them. Sunday Times did another piece today and it's let to more vitriol on social media directly straight at EHA and me.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: { b6 }

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]  
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 10:32 AM  
To: Peter Daszak; [b6] Robert Kessler  
[b6] >  
Subject: Sunday Wash Post editorial

Touting Embarek's supposed recantating. d

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Wed, 16 Jun 2021 12:36:26 PM -0400  
Sent: Wed, 16 Jun 2021 12:36:23 PM -0400  
Subject: FW: We've lost two significant funders this week  
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >  
To: David Morens [b6] [b6] >;  
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

*David*

David M. Morens, M.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service  
Senior Advisor to the Director  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 7A-03  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

● [b6] assistant: Whitney Robinson)  
● [b6]  
● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:40 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6] >  
**Subject:** Re: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter, i had some long discussions with the Trop med folks today

They want me to write something, a follow up to what we did last july.

But they are 14 leaders not on the same page

I suggested a follo

w up one year later that does NoT emphasize rebutting the crazies but says here is what is needed now, urgently, and includes 5-10 things such ad 1 international open collegial collaboration

with China and other countries in the region, wider sampling/sequencing to look at the sarbecovirus universe, phylogenetics, serosurveys, etc.

Can you and your folks help me compile a list of top research priorities with supporting data?

I would also ask for good msps of Rhinolophus range separated by those species that are and are not enzootic for SARS-like viruses

ETc....

The focus would be : proactive. This is an emsrgncy. Science needs to get cracking! What must me do asap? (Funding you, and then what?). d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 8, 2021, at 19:54, Roberts, Rich [b6] wrote:

Peter:

OK – let me know. Before I would write anything it would be good to know exactly what they are proposing.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:16 PM  
**To:** Roberts, Rich [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry <[b6]>  
**Subject:** RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

EXTERNAL SENDER

That's a very kind offer Rich. I think it might be very helpful with Gates right now.

Let me get more information from Jon Epstein who manages the grant and find out who you could reach out to potentially.

Cheers,



Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>  
Keusch, Jerry [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: We've lost two significant funders this week

Peter:

I would be happy to write to these funders if you think it might help

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA  
Tel: [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Roberts, Rich <[b6]>  
**Subject:** We've lost two significant funders this week  
**Importance:** High

EXTERNAL SENDER

Thanks for sharing.

We're getting mounting damage at EcoHealth. One of our corporate funders has pulled out because of the news (Swiss Re). They donated \$30K per year and I talked with the senior execs about pandemic risk.

We heard today that our brand new 3-year Gates Foundation grant for One Health work in India will now be "re-assigned". They're telling us they'll still fund us, but I think they're just being polite. This is a loss of \$500K per year.

I'm extremely worried right now. People's jobs, careers, reputations are on the line, not just mine – the Gates grant is Jon

Epstein's.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:59 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak ([b6]); Keusch, Jerry ([b6]) <[b6]>; Rich Roberts ([b6])

**Subject:** FW: Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

*David*

David M. Morens, M.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service  
Senior Advisor to the Director  
Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 31, Room 7A-03  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

● [b6] (assistant: Whitney Robinson)

● [b6] [b6] [b6]

● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or

CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:47 AM

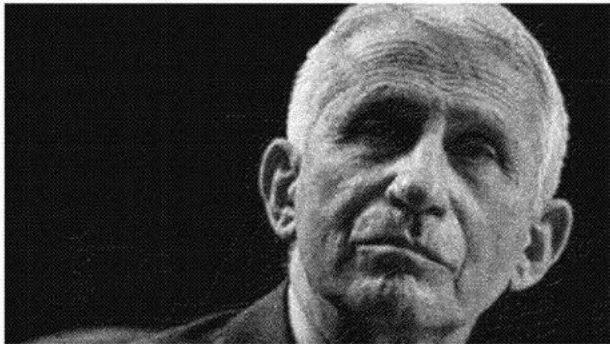
**Subject:** Miami Herald [Opinion]: Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab

## Despite Trump's new round of bullying, Fauci says COVID likely didn't leak from a Chinese lab | Opinion

BY ANDRES OPPENHEIMER

JUNE 08, 2021 09:13 AM,

UPDATED 19 MINUTES AGO



Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the coronavirus likely jumped species, from animal to human. *GETTY IMAGES*

Former  
President  
Trump,  
perhaps  
trying  
to  
divert  
attention  
from



his  
own  
disastrous  
handling  
of  
the  
COVID-  
19  
pandemic,  
is  
now  
lashing  
out  
against  
Dr.  
Anthony  
Fauci  
for  
allegedly  
failing  
to  
seriously  
consider  
that  
the  
virus  
might  
have  
originated  
from  
China's  
Wuhan  
lab,  
rather  
than  
from  
an  
animal's  
transmission  
to  
humans.

But  
judging  
from  
what  
Fauci  
told  
me  
in  
a  
June  
4

interview,  
the  
most  
respected  
U.S.  
infectious  
diseases  
expert  
has  
not  
yet  
seen  
any  
convincing  
evidence  
that  
the  
virus  
may  
have  
escaped  
from  
a  
Chinese  
lab.

Fauci,  
who  
heads  
the  
U.S.  
National  
Institute  
of  
Allergy  
and  
Infectious  
Diseases,  
and  
is  
a  
top  
medical  
adviser  
to  
President  
Biden,  
said,  
“It  
is  
more  
likely”  
that

—  
much  
like  
SARS,  
ebola,  
influenza  
and  
HIV  
—  
COVID-  
19  
“originated  
from  
an  
animal  
reservoir  
and  
jumped  
species  
to  
humans.”  
He  
added,  
“There’s  
the  
possibility  
that  
it  
came  
from  
the  
lab,  
but  
I  
believe  
that  
that’s  
a  
much  
less  
likely  
possibility.”

In the interview, scheduled to be aired Sunday , June 13 n “Oppenheimer Presenta” on CNN en Español, Fauci said that it’s “important” to try to find out the exact origin of the pandemic, so that we can prevent it from happening again.

Biden  
has  
asked  
U.S.  
intelligence  
agencies

to  
investigate  
the  
origins  
of  
COVID-  
19  
and  
come  
back  
with  
a  
report  
before  
the  
end  
of  
August.

Asked how the investigation into the source of the virus should be conducted, Fauci said that the World Health Organization has indicated that it will go back to China to continue its investigation.

“I  
think  
it  
needs  
to  
be  
done  
in  
a  
collegial  
way,  
with  
the  
collaboration  
of  
the  
Chinese  
scientists,  
because  
you’re  
going  
to  
have  
to  
have  
cooperation  
and  
do  
it  
in  
a

way  
that  
you  
can  
best  
get  
the  
information,”  
he  
said.

Regarding  
his  
emails  
obtained  
by  
BuzzFeed  
and  
the  
Washington  
Post  
through  
the  
Freedom  
Of  
Information  
Act,  
Fauci  
told  
me  
that  
his  
critics  
“cherrypick  
things  
out  
of  
context”  
when  
they  
claim  
that  
he  
knew  
more  
than  
he  
was  
saying  
publicly  
about  
the  
possibility

that  
the  
virus  
came  
out  
of  
a  
Chinese  
lab.

Stressing  
that  
he  
never  
totally  
discarded  
the  
lab  
theory  
—

though  
he  
never  
thought  
it  
was  
a  
major  
possibility  
—

Fauci  
added  
that,  
“I  
think  
what  
has  
increased  
is  
the  
interest,  
not  
necessarily  
the  
evidence.”

Right-  
wing  
media  
have  
had  
a  
field

day  
with  
the  
Fauci  
emails,  
claiming  
that  
he  
was  
alerted  
about  
the  
“lab  
theory”  
early  
on  
and  
allegedly  
failed  
to  
take  
it  
seriously.  
Much  
of  
their  
claims  
are  
based  
on  
a  
Jan.  
31,  
2020,  
email,  
in  
which  
infectious-  
disease  
expert  
Kristian  
Andersen  
wrote  
to  
Fauci  
that  
some  
of  
the  
virus’  
features  
“[potentially]  
looked

engineered.”

But what most right-wing media fail to mention is that, a few weeks later, Andersen concluded, upon further investigation, that the “lab theory” was implausible. So the criticism that Fauci was wrongfully hiding the “lab theory” from the public does not hold up.

Of  
course,  
Trump  
now  
is  
trying  
to  
paint  
Fauci  
as  
the  
culprit  
for  
the  
fact  
that  
America  
holds  
the  
world’s  
record  
for  
COVID-  
19  
deaths  
in  
absolute  
numbers.  
In  
a  
mass  
email  
on  
June  
3,  
Trump  
claimed  
that  
“President  
Trump  
was  
right  
about  
the  
China  
Virus  
coming



from  
the  
Wuhan  
Lab,”  
and  
suggested  
that  
Fauci  
was  
defending  
China.

But,  
until  
we  
see  
any  
hard  
evidence  
that  
COVID-  
19  
emerged  
from  
the  
Wuhan  
lab,  
Trump’s  
accusations  
should  
be  
seen  
as  
just  
another  
attempt  
to  
bypass  
science  
and  
divert  
public  
attention  
from  
the  
COVID-  
19  
deaths  
caused  
by  
his  
failure  
to

tackle  
the  
pandemic.

Remember,  
Trump  
knew  
early  
on  
that  
COVID  
would  
be  
deadly

—  
he  
is  
on  
tape  
telling  
author  
Bob  
Woodward  
this  
in  
February  
2020

—  
but  
chose  
to  
lie  
to  
the  
American  
people  
for  
fear  
that  
it  
would  
ruin  
his  
re-  
election  
chances.  
What's  
more,  
Trump  
consistently  
refused  
to  
wear

a  
mask  
or  
preach  
social  
distance,  
as  
scientists  
were  
recommending.

As  
I  
wrote  
at  
the  
time

Trump  
neglected  
his  
main  
duty  
—  
to  
protect  
the  
American  
people.

Granted,  
investigations  
into  
the  
origins  
of  
COVID-  
19  
are  
justified  
and  
should  
continue.  
And  
there's  
no  
question  
that  
China's  
dictatorship  
is  
responsible  
for

its  
delay  
in  
alerting  
the  
world  
about  
the  
deadly  
virus  
as  
soon  
as  
it  
started.

But  
barring  
solid  
evidence  
that  
the  
virus  
originated  
from  
a  
Chinese  
lab,  
Trump  
remains  
the  
villain  
—  
and  
Fauci  
the  
hero.

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit [our website](#).

**Date:** Fri, 26 Apr 2024 3:24:20 PM -0400

**Sent:** Fri, 26 Apr 2024 3:24:09 PM -0400

**Subject:** Re: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

**From:** Keusch, Gerald [b6]

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**CC:** Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Feigelson [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John

I did put him on to Lauer and the Thousand Talents purge, including Lauers glee over the number of US and Chinese scientists caught in the web. I also noted the shock Collins and Tabak exhibited when the ACD members read their statement and how quickly they ended the day one meeting after that. He has now seen the transcript and asked Lauer and Tabak to comment on it but of course no real response on that either.

I met my former fellow Claire Panosian Donovan for breakfast this morning. She just interviewed Peter Hotez for ASTMH which will be published soon in the journal. She said Phil Rosenthal would be very positive if some of us wrote an updated perspectives piece although I know that takes time to write well and credibly. Claire suggested we be in touch with Don McNeil who recently left The NY Times due to rather flimsy racist allegations to talk about the current situation as he might have some ideas about how to get attention to our perspective. She offered to introduce me if that would be helpful. We should consider it as a group or I could just do it myself.

I must say I am looking forward to what Michael Hiltzik puts out after the hearing because there may some really wacky stuff coming out of some of the committee members.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Really appreciate your email Rich—it's pretty ugly right now, but I'm so busy dealing with this garbage that in a weird way you don't have time to get upset about it.

I'll probably be crying into my cornflakes on the morning of May 2<sup>nd</sup> after my Salem Witch Trial.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 2:14 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>  
**Cc:** [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; [b6] Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>  
[b6] John Feigelson [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

Peter:

I'm glad he is doing this. I feel very upset about what is happening to you and your family. The sooner these Republicans are voted out of office the better. It is quite unconscionable what they are doing.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6] (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)  
b

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 1:56 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Cc:** [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]  
[b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] John Feigelson <[b6]>  
[b6]  
**Subject:** Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi all, I Just had a good call with Michael Hiltzik, mainly off the record, but I gave him some quotes at the end along the lines of "It seems that NIH's actions are continuing the de facto blocking of our funding via administrative overreach.." or



something less eloquent. He will allow me to check quotes. I also gave him the go ahead to excerpts from the emails and even publish the whole emails that detail the onerous oversight that NIH have been using to block our work, should he wish to. These have already been FoIA'd and are likely to be public very soon in any case.

He told me he will probably wait until after the hearing to see what happens there that can add to his story, but It does seem that he will be doing a story that directly critiques NIH's actions against EcoHealth, and that he believes are part of them trying to rationalize their initial termination under Collins, which I reminded him, our legal team contend was an illegal move. He asked for comment from Tabak and Lauer, and they responded with a single line along the lines "because this is the subject of ongoing compliance oversight, we cannot comment" or similar.

I spoke to Michael Hiltzik about what seems to be a sort of Troika at NIH – Francis Collins, Lawrence Tabak and Michael Lauer. Collins and then Tabak clearly have given the go-ahead on a number of issues to Lauer to do what he can with EcoHealth in a way that benefits NIH and avoids harassment from congress. This seems to mirror what Lauer has done with some Chinese American scientists who were accused of illicit financial activities, never shown to have committed any, but lost their jobs or privileges once Lauer called their Deans (see story in *Science* <https://www.science.org/content/article/pall-suspicion-nih-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers>).

He mentioned he had a good conversation with you also Jerry...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:37 AM

**To:** 'Keusch, Gerald' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]

**Cc:** [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]



b6

Aleksei Chmura

b6

; John Feigelson <

**Subject:** RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

Thanks for the kind words Jerry.

Talking with Michael Hiltzik at 1pm and will be ready to fill him in on some of this, and point him to the Troika at the top of NIH (Collins, Tabak, Lauer) who's weak-willed kow-towing to the former president began all this with the termination of my grant 4 years and 2 days ago (not that I'm counting!!)...

I'll avoid the phrase "four more years" at this point, because I really think we do have another 4 years of crap to wade through...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Keusch, Gerald

b6

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:10 AM

**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay

b6

**Cc:** Peter Daszak

b6

Jeff Sturchio <

b6

Roberts, Rich

b6

Aleksei Chmura <

b6

>; John Feigelson

b6

**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It is absolutely awful Peter. But I expect your bravery in the face of adversity, and your insistence on clarity and truth, as David and Tony will echo it as well, will remain strong and in the end be the authentic and true of the fictional story they are trying to manufacture.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 8:04 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] wrote:

As they indicated on official twitter they want to “sell popcorn”

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children’s Hospital**: Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine**: Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

E-mail | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support**: [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] Phone: [b6] Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[b6]

iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <[b6]> wrote:

I agree with that – the media are otherwise occupied.

That said, we’re now hearing that the SSCP are considering sending us a subpoena today. We’ve spent the last few days turning over emails and documents, but they still want to get their ‘angry letter/subpoena’ story, so looks like more garbage coming our way.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:37 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Cc:** [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeff Sturchio <[b6]>  
[b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>  
[b6] John Feigelson [b6]

**Subject:** Re: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

It's just awful Peter, I'm so sorry, but if it's any consolation the press is busy with Trump hearings and the culture wars playing out on college campuses so there's a good chance that it won't be highlighted much in the mainstream media

**Peter Hotez**, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | Donate to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University**, University Professor

**Rice University**, Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

**Texas A&M University**, Faculty-Senior Fellow, Hagler Inst for Advanced Study & Scowcroft Institute of Intl Affairs

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: [b6]

[Amazon Author Center](#) | [Daily Beast Contributor](#)

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6] | Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

**Media Inquiries:**

[b6]

iPhone



On Apr 26, 2024, at 9:25 AM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 g > wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

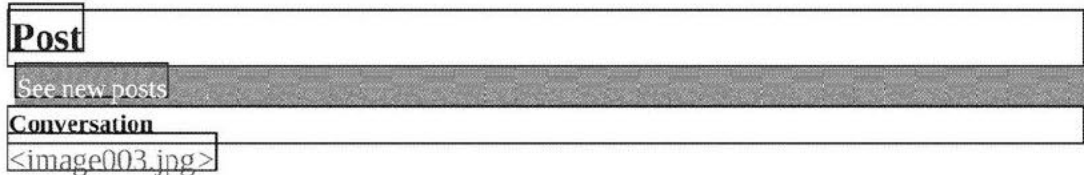
---

Dear all,

Just letting you know some of the damage that these political attacks on science have. As soon as the SSCP announced my hearing a few weeks ago, I noticed a significant increase in online death threats, both the number and severity of the threats. On Tuesday this week I received a death threat by mail at my house, and while I was in DC yesterday for a mock hearing, the local police received a notice that someone had killed a scientist and had his wife tied up in the basement at my house. It was a fake call but we ended up with 4 police cars, and detectives searching the house, and staying for the afternoon. We're expecting more of this and are tightening up security for the next couple of weeks at my house and in the office. We also have security lined up in DC where there is a real chance for harassment because they know I have to enter the building that morning. It's also a public building and people will be in the corridors as I enter the room.

In the meantime the SSCP seem happy to gin up their base with a Twitter 'countdown' to my hearing date, just like the buildup to the next season of "Game of Thrones" (below). This time they didn't use the popcorn icon – meaning 'bring your popcorn for this fun show' – as they did on previous countdowns to testimony. I wonder if that's because Peter Hotez called them out repeatedly?

Anyway – it looks like we're in for a rough couple of weeks. Sometime today or over the weekend, the SSCP tells us they'll release a (no doubt damning) report about EcoHealth Alliance, as well as the transcription from my 9.5 hours interview I did with them in November. That will keep the Right wing press busy and get their supporters frothing at the mouth up to Wednesday..



#### Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

@COVIDSelect

In less than one week, EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter Daszak will appear before

@COVIDSelect  
for a public hearing  
<image001.png>  
COVID-19 origins  
<image001.png>  
Gain-of-function research  
<image001.png>  
Wuhan Institute of Virology  
<image001.png>  
Dr. Anthony Fauci ...and more are on the table

- ✓ COVID-19 origins
- ✓ Gain-of-function research
- ✓ Wuhan Institute of Virology
- ✓ Dr. Anthony Fauci

May 1, 2024 | 10:00am ET

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 11:34 PM

**To:** [b6]; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' <

[b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; John Feigelson <

[b6]>

**Subject:** Details and a link to my upcoming Public Hearing

**Importance:** High

Dear colleagues,

Sadly we're getting close to my upcoming public hearing with the SSCP. There are some details and a link below that you can use to watch it live on the day:

[https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr\\_news/706672646/hearing-advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1](https://uspolitics.einnews.com/pr_news/706672646/hearing-advisory-ecohealth-alliance-president-dr-peter-daszak-to-testify-on-may-1)

# Hearing Advisory: EcoHealth Alliance President Dr. Peter

# Daszak to Testify on May 1

WASHINGTON — On May 1, 2024 at 10:00am ET, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled, "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak." This hearing will examine EcoHealth Alliance's (EcoHealth) use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund dangerous gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology as well as hold Dr. Daszak publicly accountable for any and all discrepancies between his closed-door transcribed interview and available evidence. Prior to Dr. Daszak's public testimony, the Select Subcommittee will release the full transcript from Dr. Daszak's transcribed interview and publish a detailed report about EcoHealth's impact on the origins of COVID-19.

Read more about Dr. Daszak's upcoming hearing [here](#).

**WHAT:** Hearing titled "A Hearing with the President of EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Peter Daszak"

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024

**TIME:** 10:00AM ET

**LOCATION:** 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

**WITNESS:**

Dr. Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.

**WATCH:** The hearing will be open to the public and press and will be livestreamed online at <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/a-hearing-with-the-president-of-ecohealth-alliance-dr-peter-daszak/>.

**RSVP:** Media must be congressionally credentialed and RSVP by Tuesday, May 1 at 5:00 PMET.

###

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

**From:** [b6]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 6:37 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: Now public that Tony Fauci will testify in front of SSCP on June 3rd

I do not have a date yet. My lawyer is negotiating with sscp

In the meantime, my lawyers have initiated a professional deep dive into my Gmail and Proton mail, and will turn that over to sscp. This will take some time. I doubt there is anything to find but of course, they will look for crumbs to blow up into mountains. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/24/24 17:33, Peter Daszak wrote:

I've attached a pdf of the story in the Washington Post (it's behind a paywall) – also here:  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/04/24/fauci-congress-testimony-pandemic/>.

David – have your lawyers managed to get a date for you to testify yet?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200



New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 9:15 PM  
**To:** [b6] 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchio'  
[b6] 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <  
[b6]>  
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]; 'John Feigelson' <  
[b6]>  
**Subject:** RE: Today's news...

By the way – Allegations that me sending information to David Morens is somehow corrupt are outrageous. Tony Fauci was busy working with the White House COVID taskforce at the time, trying to halt the worse pandemic since the 1918 influenza outbreak. I would have happy emailed him directly, but pretty sure he wasn't checking each of his 50,000 emails a day!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >



Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:10 PM

To: [b6] 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'Jeff Sturchio'  
[b6] 'Roberts, Rich' [b6] 'Hotez, Peter Jay' <  
[b6]>  
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] John Feigelson <  
[b6]>

Subject: Today's news...

Had a very successful EcoHealth Alliance benefit last night – sorry some of you couldn't be there.

Michael Mann was our main honoree, and he was great! We raised well above our expectation – all critical to keeping us afloat given the increased pressure we're under right now.

Speaking of which – here's the latest attempt from the SSCP to smear David Morens, EcoHealth Alliance and others as being involved in a 'cover up'

<https://nypost.com/2024/04/19/us-news/ex-fauci-adviser-shared-confidential-nih-info-with-ecohealth-about-covid-biosafety-levels-docs/>

Basically, they've found an email from me to David, Jerry others when the allegations that EcoHealth expts were conducted at an insufficient BSL level first came out. Tony Fauci was interviewed and said that he would look into it. I sent David M. a review I'd done of the BSL rules for Bat CoVs in various countries, which clearly show that we were operating at the correct biosafety levels.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

From: [b6]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 7:16 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
Subject: Re: Testimony from Science Editor, Holden Thorp in front of the SSCP today

Peter, my thought is that it could have been worse, and he does blame Collins as well.... d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/16/24 20:59, Peter Daszak wrote:

Unpleasant to see him criticize me and EcoHealth today, in a pretty shoddy attempt to curry favor with the SSCP:

<https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1780332154620092505>

Here's the text of the tweet:

**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

@COVIDSelect

<image001.png>

<image001.png>

<image001.png>

@ScienceMagazine

AGREES that EcoHealth Alliance may have misled the U.S. government about its highly controversial DEFUSE proposal — which some believe created a blueprint for COVID-19. WATCH

<image001.png>

<image001.png>

You can see the video of him criticizing our work here:

<https://youtu.be/Oru0-fYGcJU>

The relevant section starts at 1hour, 31 minutes and 30 seconds into the video

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED] b6

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] b6; 'Keusch, Gerald T' [REDACTED] b6 Jeff Sturchio' [REDACTED] b6 Roberts, Rich' [REDACTED] b6 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [REDACTED] b6  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6; John Feigelson <[REDACTED] b6>

**Subject:** COVID Select Subcommittee subpoena to David Morens for correspondence etc.

**Importance:** High

Here is today's subpoena & a cover letter to David Morens from the SSCP for all correspondence with the following people, related to WIV, EcoHealth or COVID origins or "regarding or referencing the following people". He has to produce this by April 30<sup>th</sup>

No direct demand for public hearing has been made public yet.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

**From:** [b6]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 8:39 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: COVID select subcommittee is now threatening to call David in for a public hearing

Guys, my lawyer called and i am to be subpoenaed to testify in public hearing on camera. They want me b4 Tony but after Peter. The Dems reached out to my lawyer and asked WTF is going on. Not sure why they don't know. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/12/24 16:12, Peter Daszak wrote:

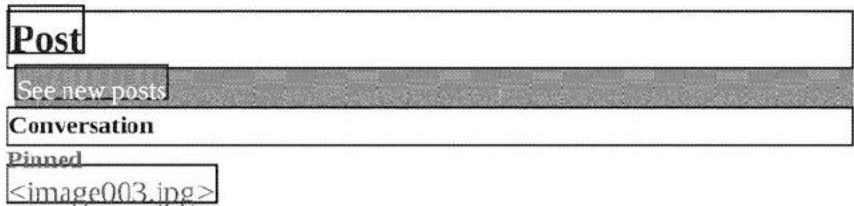
Here's the COVID committee (SSCP) threatening to call David in for a public hearing based on the emails they claim show that we all used gmail inappropriately (based on a Washington Examiner report today)...

Tweet here: <https://x.com/COVIDSelect/status/1778859503796056214>

Washington Examiner BS article here:

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2964227/ecohealth-alliance-email-release-confirms-fauci-aide-used-private-account-discuss-covid/>

Full text of tweet:



**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

[@COVIDSelect](https://twitter.com/COVIDSelect)



<image001.png>

BREAKING

<image001.png>

@EcoHealthNYC

President Dr. Peter Daszak CONFIRMS whistleblower  
allegations that Dr. David Morens — a top advisor to Dr. Fauci  
— used Gmail to hide COVID-19 information. We are  
beginning the process to secure Dr. Morens's public testimony.

<image004.jpg>

From washingtonexaminer.com

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

**From:** [b6]

**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 1:37 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T <

[b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich <

[b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6];

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [b6];

[b6]

**Subject:** Re: My email to Michael Hiltzik with an EcoHealth Statement and  
Email release today

Again. this is excellent. We need more of these stand-up-to-bullies fusillades. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

----- Original Message -----

On 4/12/24 11:20, Peter Daszak wrote:

Please read the email I just sent to Michael Hiltzik. It has links to a statement from EcoHealth and the release of the full text (slight redactions) of emails that involve David and Jerry, and were reported in the NY Post and other Right wing outlets yesterday, amplified by Republicans on the COVID Committee...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >

**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:19 AM

**To:** 'Michael Hiltzik' [b6]

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6] <

[b6]

**Subject:** EcoHealth Statement and Email release today has relevance to NIH and Michael Lauer issues

**Importance:** High

Good to talk with you yesterday Michael. We got more negative press yesterday, this time related to emails that allegedly show coverups and inappropriate behavior among scientists. The Republicans released

only the subject line and addresses etc. (  
<https://oversight.house.gov/release/wenstrup-reveals-emails-from-whistleblower-alleging-additional-attempts-by-fauci-advisor-to-subvert-transparency-about-covid-19-origins/>), leading to BS stories in the usual right wing press. We released the full text of the emails today:

[b6] [alliance-releases-emails-that-are-the-subject-of-false-allegations-in-the-press](#)

These are all from me to senior NIAID staffmember David Morens and former NIH Center Director Jerry Keusch, trying to make sense of the termination of our grant by Trump, and to find a way to get it reinstated. In the end NIH did reinstate the grant (May 2023). One of the chains shows emails that refer to the pressure from Michael Lauer, and the fact NIH instructed me not to talk with our program officer (Erik Stemmy) and direct all communications to Grants Management (Emily Linde). That was another highly unusual move from NIH and is part of the pattern that I was talking with you about.

Here is that particular set of emails:  
<https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Emails-01.pdf>

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](#)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** Michael Hiltzik [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:01 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Subject:** Re: Call tomorrow?

Absolutely. That time is good...I can call then...

MH

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 2:59 PM Peter Daszak <

b6

Hi Michael – just following up on this – are you available tomorrow at 5:30pm my time, 2:30pm West Coast time?

I can send a zoom link or call my cellphone [b6]

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >

**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:34 AM

**To:** 'Michael Hiltzik'

**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6] <

b6

b6

>; 'Alison Andre (

b6

**Subject:** RE: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

**Importance:** High

I have good answers for you on all of those – it's ugly and political.



There are also others who are well-placed who you can talk with.

I can do Wednesday at 5:30pm my time if that works for you (2:30pm West Coast). I have other times as well... cc'ing Alison who will make sure we find a time that works.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

**From:** Michael Hiltzik [b6]

**Sent:** Saturday, April 6, 2024 6:50 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]

**Subject:** Re: Confidential - NIH still hampering EcoHealth's ability to conduct work 4 years since the termination of our grant

Peter,

Let's set up a time to talk next week (Wednesday or later best for me). On first glance, it strikes me that I'm glad I'm not in the grants-application business, because the bureaucratic behavior here seems incomprehensible, at least to a layman.

What's the overarching theme in their relations with you? Is it pressure from the lab-leak crowd, the FOIAing from Tobias, which as far as I can tell has yielded nothing of any substance? A spillover from the Trump era?

I read the Science piece, which was thorough in detailing

what was done to the Chinese researchers but silent on what provoked it....what was the question I was left with--Why did NIH do all this?

MH

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 12:03 PM Peter Daszak <

b6

wrote:

Hi Michael, I'm just contacting you off the record in case you or others are interested in reporting on what's going on at NIH with respect to EHA's grants. We were trying to deal with this privately, without it becoming public, but we found out last week that some of our recent correspondence with Emily Erbelding asking for her help is in a batch of FoIA's emails that will be released to Jimmy Tobias in the next couple of weeks. Tobias is in the habit of simply dumping these on the internet, so we wanted to get these to a bona fide reporter before that happens.

As you probably know, our organization has been funded by NIAID for around 20 years, conducting successful research on emerging diseases, and working closely with communities, scientists and governments in emerging disease hotspot countries to try to reduce the risk of disease emergence. Prior to the termination of our R01 grant in April 2020 that would have had the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient, we had never had any issues with NIH or NIAID, and had been lauded by program officers for our cutting edge research into viral emergence, and the many papers in *Science*, *Nature*, *NEJM* and others based on NIH funding.

After the termination of our grant, the HHS OIG was called in to audit our work and NIH's oversight. They reported back after an 18 month audit with recommendations for both us, and for NIH, most of which were minor and easily addressed. We rapidly complied and NIH's DFAS group confirmed that all audit findings were resolved. However, we continued to receive further actions from the Office of the Director (Michael Lauer, who *Science* wrote about re. NIH's actions on grantees with China connections <https://www.science.org/content/article/pall-suspicion-nihs-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers>), and the NIH group that manages oversight (OPERA) directly under Michael Lauer. In April 2023, Michelle Bulls from Opera and Emily Linde from NIAID placed 4 Specific Award Conditions (SACs) on our grants. At the time, Michael Lauer had contacted Tufts University who oversaw our IACUC approvals to

conduct wildlife sampling because EHA doesn't have an animal facility. This led to Tufts canceling our interinstitutional agreement. The only way for us to proceed was to request an Animal Welfare Assurance from OLAW (based at NIH), but this was denied because of these SACs. One of the SACs stated that all of our subcontracts must be reviewed and revised by NIH reviews. We worked extremely hard to rapidly respond (often within days) to every single request, despite many of them being contradictory or having no material impact on the contracts. In the original letter NIH set a deadline of September 2023 to resolve the SACs, which due to repeated delays by NIH grants management staff in responding to us, continued further requests and shifting of the goalposts means we still do not have resolution. Furthermore, grants management are now suggesting that we are beyond the period of work and our subcontractees won't be able to be reimbursed. Additionally, during the past 12 months, NIH has only reimbursed EcoHealth for around \$50K of the now nearly \$2 million we are expecting and have expended.

As you can imagine, this puts us in a very difficult position, with institutions like UNC and Uniformed Services University likely to be outraged that their funding is threatened, and with us unable to do our work fully – work that has been reviewed, scored well, and is critical to pandemic prevention. We've tried every possible avenue to get a fair and reasonable rapid resolution. We've informed Emily Erbelding of these issues (hence the FoIA'd email), and Program staff at NIAID remain supportive of our work, but we still have no resolution. Every time we try to seek a meeting or resolution, we get a hard response from NIH that we're out of compliance and they set further deadlines and further minor issues for us to fix. Right now I believe we're probably in greater compliance with NIH rules and just about any other institution in the US, given the level of scrutiny we've gone through. I've attached some of the many recent letters between NIH OPERA, NIAID Grants managements and EcoHealth Alliance to give you an indication of the levels of detailed work that we've gone through to try and resolve these issues.

We don't know the reasons why this is happening – all our subcontracts prior to April 2023 covered every single requirement in NIH's grants management guidance, subrecipients had to sign that they would adhere to these. The stonewalling, and shifting of goalposts by NIH is linked to emails that they send us stating that we're 'delinquent' or 'out of compliance', or that they're 'concerned' etc. and seem to us designed ready to be FoIA'd (which they are being) or to be used when NIH



has to show Congressional Republicans that EcoHealth is being treated in the way they are calling for. Meanwhile, important findings can't be reported, including a novel SARS-CoV-2 related virus able to bind well to human ACE2 that we have found in one of our country sites, but are now unable to publish because our subrecipient is concerned they don't yet have an approved contract. This is hurting our ability to conduct pandemic prevention work, and the US's ability to be informed about public health threats that could emerge and threaten our citizens.

If you want to report on this, I'm happy to talk on-the-record on some issues, and there are others who are aware of these problems that I can put you in touch with, including at NIH and senior people from outside.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED] b6

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*

**Date:** Tue, 20 Jul 2021 4:46:45 PM -0400

**Sent:** Tue, 20 Jul 2021 4:42:02 PM -0400

**Subject:** Harold Varmus has been spotted in CT!

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

**To:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]

**CC:** David Morens [REDACTED]; Robert Kessler [REDACTED]

One of my Board members, Amy Attas, who's a veterinarian to the pets of people like Mike Bloomberg's wife, Elton John etc. goes to a monthly lunchtime talk series near her summer home in CT (I think). Harold Varmus spoke there a couple of Sunday's ago. Amy asked the first question along the lines "I'm on the Board of an organization working to prevent pandemics..what are the best strategies to prevent the next COVID?" His response: "Is that EcoHealth Alliance?" "If so, what they're doing is exactly what should be done..." He then rolled off a series of key goals to prevent pandemics.

Amy was delighted, and a number of other donors expressed an interest. Please pass on my regards and gratitude to Harold – this is exactly the sort of word of mouth endorsement we need right now, rather than the other sort we're getting from Fox News!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

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*

**From:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:28 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]

**Cc:** David Morens [REDACTED] Robert Kessler [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry:

I haven't heard anything from Harold recently.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:21 PM

**To:** Roberts, Rich [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**Cc:** David Morens [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]

**Subject:** RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

EXTERNAL SENDER

I totally agree with you that Tony was remarkable. I sent him a one word email, Bravo, and copied it to Patty Conrad so maybe he will see it as evidence of the support he has from the responsible scientific community.

Thanks for the response regarding the CNN reporters. I'll keep that in mind when I do talk to them and consider whether speaking with you might help them distinguish between good science and crap. I have no doubts about your expertise in science and knowing the difference between, well, good science and crap.

Harold is rather quiet – any sense of what he is up to?

Jerry

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:50 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]

**Cc:** David Morens [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]

**Subject:** RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

Jerry:

Tony was excellent in confronting Paul! It's high time that these senators are told the truth directly.

As for speaking with the reporters, in general I am always prepared to do that, but in this particular case I don't feel my credentials are necessarily the best when dealing with specifics. I have very much been an onlooker and not directly connected to any of the research itself. Peter Hotez and Peter D. are clearly much better informed and have the appropriate expertise. There are plenty of authors on the recent Lancet piece that would be good to include. I am happy to speak as an outsider, but would not want to be considered a knowledgeable expert.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]  
Fax: (978) 412 9910  
email: [b6]

**From:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]



**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:39 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Cc:** David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>  
**Subject:** RE: Tony Fauci's testimony today

EXTERNAL SENDER

I had a long talk with two CNN International reporters who are preparing a story essentially on the politics and the misinformation about the origins controversy. I was talking to them off the record but I decided they were legitimately exploring the issues and would likely be a voice of reason if they were given the necessary space to build their case and it was eventually shown.

I mentioned Peter Hotez to them, among some others, and while I mentioned Peter D as well I also said you were under constant attack and it might well be better to allow others to take up the fight on your behalf. GOF and the Goffers were part of the chat. I have agreed to be interviewed on the record and potentially to do a video session as they were potentially interested in using some of that as part of the report. Rich, I didn't specifically mention your name, but if you would be willing to speak with them I can do that when I next connect.

Jerry

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Cc:** David Morens <[b6]>; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]  
**Subject:** Tony Fauci's testimony today  
**Importance:** High

I'm delighted to see Tony Fauci fighting to let everyone understand clear line between what is gain-of-function (work EcoHealth does NOT do), and what is not Gain of function (work EcoHealth did do with Wuhan).

It's a shame it will generate publicity, but he did this so well today that I'm hoping it might help get rid of the willful misinformation the Republicans are engaging in...

Here's a news piece on it <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/563874-fauci-paul-doesnt-know-what-hes-talking-about-and-i-want-to-say-that>, and there's some pretty exciting video to watch. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV\\_cTek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFoaBV_cTek)

Well done David on your briefing and practice runs!

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
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*

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Cc:** David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
**Subject:** My AMA podcast on the origins of COVID19

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4NkcU7JK14> &feature=youtu.be

**Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, DSc (hon), FASTMH, FAAP**

Dean, [National School of Tropical Medicine](#)  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology

Health Policy Scholar  
Baylor College of Medicine

Texas Children's Chair of Tropical Pediatrics  
Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#)  
University Professor  
Department of Biology, Baylor University

Faculty Fellow, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study  
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs  
Texas A&M University  
Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University  
Adjunct Professor, University of Texas, School of Public Health

Founding Editor-in-Chief, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases

E-mail: [b6]  
Twitter: [@peterhotez](https://twitter.com/peterhotez)  
Skype: [b6]  
LinkedIn [Peter Hotez](#)

Amazon Author Center: [https://www.amazon.com/Peter- J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48](https://www.amazon.com/Peter-J.-Hotez/e/B001HPIC48)  
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCMNationalSchoolOfTropicalMedicine/>

Executive Assistant: [Douglas Soriano](#)

[b6]

Phone: [b6]





Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2021, at 12:43 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

**\*\*\*CAUTION:\*\*\* This email is not from a BCM Source. Only click links or open attachments you know are safe.**

---

David – please pass this information on to Tony and Clifford if you possibly can,

The WHO DG, Dr. Tedros set up a 6am Monday morning meeting with the current WHO Origins team – the international experts who went to Wuhan to work with our China counterparts on COVID origins. He announced they'd be disbanding the team, setting up a separate structure and moving to a system whereby a new team will be formed to do Phase 2 of the work in China. The stated goal is to follow member state's wishes and improve transparency in the way the origins team is selected. Sadly it will reduce transparency because there will now be a 'behind closed doors' decision from the member states on who of the nominees are put forward to WHO, then another 'behind closed doors' decision from WHO on who is selected, with, we've been told, the DG of WHO having final say.

From my point of view it's a real problem because given the political pressure from the Right wing, it might prevent my future involvement in this work. This means my 17 years + of collaboration with the very people in China who we need to work with, will not be part of Phase 2 work – including designing the animal testing protocols that are my key expertise. Disbanding the current team will also significantly delay the work and this threatens to undermine our capacity to do the trace-back, as antibodies wane among wildlife farmers in rural China who we've proposed should be interviewed and tested in Phase 2, for example. The current team has a good working relationship with the China side and has made significant progress over the last few months, meeting weekly as an international expert group and working with our Chinese counterparts to update the WHO report, include new data and get phase 2 Terms of Reference thrashed out. We'd reached the beginnings of consensus on this.

It will also be seen as an implicitly political move on behalf of WHO, and one that projects a perception of undermining the hard work we did to produce buckets of new data in the WHO report. The rest of the team are very angry about the way we've been repeatedly undermined by politics, and we're working on a communications strategy right now.

David, I'm not sure who is the US representative for WHO Covid origins negotiations. It was publicly announced that Tony would represent the US at WHO, but it may be a State Dept or other HHS person. I think it's important that Tony and perhaps Clifford know what's happening.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

*EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation*

**From:** BOEHME, Catharina Cora [b6]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:35 PM  
**To:** Владимир Дедков [b6]; Leendertz, Fabian [b6]; Peter Daszak <[b6]>; LeendertzF [b6]; Keith Hamilton [b6]; John Watson [b6]; DEBBICHE, Hassene [b6]; Thea Kølsen Fischer <[b6]>; BAERT, Primaël [b6]; SHEATH, Danny [b6]; Nguyen, Hung (ILRI) [b6]; STREIJFFERT, Carlos Johan [b6]; DRURY, Patrick Anthony [b6]; Ken Maeda [b6]; M.P.G. Koopmans [b6]; Hayman, David [b6]; IVANOVIC, Dragana <[b6]>; Dr. Elmoubasher Abu Baker Abd Farag [b6]; Dominic Dwyer <[b6]>  
**Cc:** RYAN, Michael J. [b6]; Dr VAN KERKHOVE, Maria [b6]; BEN EMBAREK, Peter Karim [b6]  
**Subject:** Circular Letter to Member States - Origins of SARS-CoV-2

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday. Please find attached for your information and on behalf of the DG our communication to member states, shared with them as a circular letter this evening. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for follow up discussions.  
Please keep this confidential during the next days. We will have a member state briefing and discussion on this subject on Friday.

With my best regards,  
Catharina

P.S. I hope I have the correct list of emails addresses.

#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

<C.L.28.2021 (Origins of SARS-CoV-2).pdf>

#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates

email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, websecurity, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, websecurity, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.



**Date:** Thu, 22 Apr 2021 5:47:03 PM -0400  
**Sent:** Thu, 22 Apr 2021 5:46:59 PM -0400  
**Subject:** RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow  
**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]  
**To:** David Morens [b6]  
**CC:** Peter Daszak [b6]

---

Even more than I could have hoped for. That's great to hear.

Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens [b6] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 4:52 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Great news, and i think you are probably exactly tight about Tony. Just a bit ago, I got a call from Rich saying he had just talked to Harold, who went into a bit of a tirade about Francis, I omit the colorful language here, and said he, Harold, would call Tony next week

Rich also said he would be advising Peter to stay away from the press, as that may be fanning the flames with the nutters. D

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 22, 2021, at 16:40, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Thanks for doing this David. I suspect that deep down Tony is not naïve, but that he likes to keep a calm and in control public persona.

The optimal way to reach him will be through Harold Varmus, and its good Rich agreed to be in touch with him. I'm purposely not including Rich on this note because I don't want to be seen as pressuring him further. I think he will follow up, he has as good a connection to Harold as I do, and if necessary I will follow up. Harold has consistently stayed in the background when I have asked him about doing certain things or writing certain commentaries etc. but he has not been reluctant to speak rather frankly about Francis and the Lauer affair when he believed it was necessary or he was directly approached by the reporters at Science, for example. I did try to get Jon Cohen and Meredith Wadman moving on a new article but as you know they both declined at this point because it was not news. I think that was a cop out decision, and depending on what Rich has to say I might just copy Harold on that and see if he is willing to contact them because they will most likely have a different response to him than to me.

We just have to stay on this, not panic, and not waiver from the ultimate goal. Timing is always critical. So is the messenger. Lander may be the right person, and Harold has indicated to me that he has been in contact with Eric on this issue.

Jerry

**From:** David Morens [b6]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 3:24 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>  
[b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
**Subject:** Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 22, 2021, at 15:06, David Morens [b6] wrote:

Hi Jerry and colleagues, just spent 40 minutes on Zoom with Tony and one of two possibilities: either we are all unnecessarily alarmed, or else he is not taking the threats seriously

He said repeatedly, in a low key jocular way, that no one could mess with him or niaid since we haven't done anything wrong, apparently not counting as "messing with us" the fact that we had an important research project terminated in an unprecedented manner for political reasons.

He also repeated alot of macho comments about how there is always a guy with an AR-15 right outside his door (true, and sometimes two other armed secret service guys) and everywhere he goes outside the office he has at least two bodyguards, also true...9

I hope he is right that the wackos won't gain any further traction, but i am not so sure. For one thing, there was huge collateral damage a few years back with the H5N1 gain of function mess. It is true that neither Tony nor other NIH staff got into any trouble, but thousands of professional hours were wasted over several years time and, far more importantly, the research moratorium, which went in for years, caused labs across the country to close, or move into other areas, caused lab people on grants to lose their jobs, and grad students to lose their dissertation work and postdocs to lose their projects. It was a mess that ought not to be forgotten

If i had to bet, i would guess that beneath Tony's macho I-am-not-worried reaction he really is concerned. And whatever the case he should be very concerned about what happened to Peter, to our research portfolio in an extremely important area, and to scientific independence

He did not know about either the Miller Commission or the letter from Rep Rogers which i emailed to him on gmail later

I also commented that Lauer's letters to you Peter, and the Rogers letter to you, had alot of overlap and seemed to reflect input of at least one scientist, whether or not one of our grantees. In other words, i feel that regarding those letters someone or someones are working in cahoots with the politicians who wish to do harm to NIH He didn't seem particularly troubled by that.

In the end he said thanks for filling me in and asked me to call him on his private cell phone (which is what i normally do anyway) if i hear anything that might be important

So, i am not sure where things stand. I absolutely DO feel that it would be a good thing if one of you luminaries were to approach him and try to make sure he understood what is going on out there, and perhaps discuss what the larger community of scientists can do to lock arms in unity and push back. David

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:24, David Morens [b6] wrote:



Thanks, Jerry, i will let you know how it goes, although he may not indicate to me his next steps. The way it works with us is that he tries to never ask me things directly, like ask for my advice on what to do, but rather does alot of homework ahead of time, figures out what i am likely to say, then HE tells ME what he thinks so that i can confirm it. Yes, we all have our peculiarities, but as long as the machine runs smoothly its ok

I DO know that he has great respect for Harold, and i think also admires Harold's charge-ahead no-BS style, which is the opposite of Tony's extreme caution. So i have little doubt that he would welcome that kind of help. D

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 16:09, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

David,

Thanks for the note, and I recognize what you say is what I know about Tony.

He is a remarkable person, but like all of us he isn't perfect. I think your strategy to lay out the issues and let him run with it to decide what can be effectively addressed and with what strategy.

Rich's suggestion to talk to Harold is on track, and it would be great Rich if you were to do that. I know that they have a very close and positive history of working together, that Harold is very strategic in his thinking, he prefers to work in the background (something I have confirmed multiple times this past year as I have asked for his advice on things I could take on), and that he will be really frank in talking to Rich. Harold has very recently told me that he has worked closely with Rich on a number of issues related to the concerns we all have.

Let us know how the chat goes tomorrow. I think you have the right perspective heading in to it, and lots of good information at your fingertips.  
Jerry

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:33 PM  
**To:** David Morens; [b6] m >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>  
[b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Hi:

If I am to do something I would talk to Harold first. I'll see what he has to say as a possible path forward.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723

USA

Tel: [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

**From:** David Morens [b6]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:30 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]

**Subject:** Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

EXTERNAL SENDER

Jerry, The way it works with Tony, at least at my level, is you can't suggest he do anything. If you do, he won't do it on principle. The trick is to make him think of doing something himself, and then he will ask you to help him do it

My strategy tomorrow is to tell him that alarming things are at work, to the point that many scientists (our grantees and others) have become increasingly worried and are looking for the way forward. In that context i will share with him verbally Peter's information, and offer to get to him any of the materials he wants to see, or connect him directly with Peter, who he very much respects

I have not heard that he has engaged Harold, or the National Academies, or the professional societies, although i might not know if he did. He is very much a loner about things like this. He prides himself on being like teflon, but I am worried that he may not be as invulnerable as he may think

Our Chief of Staff, Greg Folkers (who has Masters degrees in both journalism and PH), is among the only folks here, partly excepting Cliff Lane, in whom Tony confides when the subject is difficult or personal, only rarely to me.... and Greg told me today that he thinks Tony is getting worried that the brown stuff is about to hit the fan, and that he may have become a major target

There is very little i can do to help because i am a mere scientist, not a NL, or member of the NAM, or head of a prestigious society (the only kinds of people Tony will usually engage with, as he is very proud).

So if he doesn't become more proactive, what remains is for scientists and science orgs at the very highest level to come together forcefully to push back against the craziness

Who would be willing to approach him directly and "talk turkey"? Harold? Rich? You? Victor? A couple of you?

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 15:01, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Tony will be well aware of this kind of push back. That's not the issue for you tomorrow. Its really how to get the scientific societies engaged once again in the campaign for clarity and resolution of the breach in integrity and the grants management beginning a year ago.

Maybe there would be a moment to suggest that he talk to Harold



Varmus about strategy?

Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens [b6]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:57 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [b6]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]  
Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>  
**Subject:** Re: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Jerry, i am traveling without much news access, but this is really depressing. My concern has grown to alarm and i am afraid to think what comes next

We seem to have arrived at that Orwellian point where all investigations of important matters have to exclude participation of the subject experts, since being a subject expert is disqualifying on the grounds that all expertise is inherently biasing.

Before George Orwell, we had Lewis Carroll telling us this. We are in grave danger of going down-the-rabbit-hole-with-Alice.....

D

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Apr 21, 2021, at 14:36, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

The COVID Commission Planning Group includes people like Mike Osterholm. I don't put him into the category of Lipsitch, but am I missing something here? He was one of the people on the Biden COVID task force I talked to in December-January about the shattered integrity at the level of NIH/OD. He didn't say much to me, and I didn't take that as a signal that he was on the darker side of the divide.

I saw the results of a focus group of Trump supporters reported on today:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/20/vaccine-hesitant-republicans/> A bit of text in this report is about Tony.

"Every participant said they preferred hearing from politicians over the medical expert, who has been pilloried by conservative media for months over his coronavirus warnings. The data have shown that unfortunately Dr. Fauci has been politicized, and we need different messengers, because even the right messages coming from the wrong messengers aren't always helpful," Castrucci said, noting his foundation's polling [de Beaumont

Foundation] found Americans trust their personal doctors more than the government's top infectious-disease doctor".

This is the fundamental problem we have, as the politicians will only use this as an echo chamber to amplify their support from their public supporters and constituents. It does point back to the scientific societies which have weighed in previously, but no more impact than we have had as individuals. It doesn't stop this approach, its just that we need some deus ex machina to help us. Is that going to be Eric Lander? What's happening with his approval? I haven't heard much of late.

Jerry

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:41 PM

**To:** David Morens [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Rich Roberts [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]

Aleksei Chmura [b6] >

**Subject:** RE: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

**Importance:** High

Thanks for the email David - comments below. Also please see the attached word doc with links to some of the political actions that I'm concerned about. Tell Tony that this is very early days, with most of these coming from the Right, and many that can be headed off at the pass by positive outreach to Democrats, which I believe people will be doing.

I've also put in a link to the new "Covid Commission Planning Group (Covid CPG)" that has no official role from USG, but boldly states as its core mission "to prepare the way for a National Covid Commission". Members include David Relman & Marc Lipsitch and I have heard from many on the conspiracy theory chatter networks online that this will focus partly on advocating for reduction in biosafety labs, viral work in wildlife, and gain-of-function.

Please feel free to share any docs that I've sent to you, with Tony. Hopefully you can do that in a way that avoids FoIA, and if not possible, just show him stuff on screen share on Zoom.

Please also see comments below...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

-----Original Message-----

From: David Morens [b6]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:56 AM  
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6]  
Subject: Zoom meeting with Tony tomorrow

Peter, i am on leave in Florida for my granddaughters graduation from Florida State

Tomorrow at 130 i will be having a zoom call with Tony to tip him off on some of the info you sent in your recent email

I want to be sure about what info or docs you would or would not want me to share

[Peter Daszak:] Any and all

Other than what i see on tv, the jousting with Rand Paul and Jim Jordan, for example, i do not know how much of this Tony is aware of. To my knowledge he doesn't share it with anyone up here

I think issues he will be most concerned about are not your grant, although i add i am sure he would do anything he could to restore the funds and get the hellhounds off your back, but rather 1) the possibility that people like Rep Rodgers and her committee are about to turn up the heat and put Tony, personally, in their crosshairs, and 2) the possibility the NIH funded scientists or other esteemed scientists, are in cahoots with politicians wanting to attack him or niaid

[Peter Daszak:] agreed

As background, we all went through the original version of this crap about 10 years ago with the original GOF attacks surrounding H5N1. As Tony's scientific advisor, i spent much of the year, along with Jeff T, helping brief him and get him up to speed, which he did. At the time, David Relman, who had been one of Tony's favorites, was leading the charge, and we all wondered why a young guy with so much promise would choose demagoguery over science. Lipsitch was only a minor player at that time, but relished his attack role and seem to become more alarmist as time went on. Now these guys are in the NAM. How did that happen???? Ebright has always been a crackpot, in the mold of Peter Duseberg, remember him?, and no one took him seriously except some of the press who didn't know any better



[Peter Daszak:] I had the unfortunate issue of voting on Marc Lipsitch's membership of NAM. He's an accomplished scientist. He's also very opinionated, arrogant and pushy on whatever issue he believes in. I voted on his science acumen.

I was unclear from your email on a couple points you might clarify. Obviously the Rodgers letter asking you to produce all those dox not only overlaps with the Lauer letter to you, but could not have been written without the help of a virologist.

[Peter Daszak:] I have it on good authority (Ebright's Twitter account) that he was involved. They are also getting pressured from Jamie Metzl who's working with the internet conspiracy networks actively to promote their "Research"

Actually, given that there are a few points in the letter that someone knowledgeable about coronavirus virology would have corrected, my suspicion is that the letter was put together with the help of a legitimate scientist who needs to do more homework on coronaviruses.

[Peter Daszak:] you're right...! Metzl isn't a virologist, neither's Ebright. The internet 'researchers' are led by a banker and some junior scientists, many from human genetics, mol boil world.

Do you agree, and do you think that person was Ebright? Do you think Relman, Lipsitch, Imperiale, or other current or former grantees might have been involved?

I am not sure we ever funded Ebright, but we did fund the others. I would like to think that Relman et al are only mouthing off to the press, but do you think there is more to it than that, eg, that any of them are working with the politicians?

[Peter Daszak:] David Relman is talking with reporters a lot about this, including casting aspersions on my motives for speaking out about this virus emerging via wildlife-to-human spillover (he's quoted as saying my motives are to protect the research I've been doing and reputations of our collaborators). Ebright is very actively (and obnoxiously) critical on social media calling me a 'Grifter' on a weekly basis and promoting unsubstantiated arguments for a lab leak. I had to look up what 'grifter' meant at first...

Your earlier comments about this proposed investigative committee, and the possible role of these folks in it, are alarming. Can you be more specific about where this stands and what is being done to forward it and to squelch it?

[Peter Daszak:] Nothing's being done to squelch it, and neither should it be - there will be other committees that also pop up. My concern is their bold claim that they're laying the groundwork for a 9/11 type commission (and have a 9/11 commission person involved). It may be that just by saying that a lot, and having well known people involved, they end up forming one. They're clearly politically connected and are advocating for this politically. Jerry and I also proposed this in our paper published in Health Affairs, but we assumed this would be led by NAM or some other well-respected institution.

When i speak with Tony i do not want to step into the politics of all this, as that's not my job and he wouldn't want me to. If he needs further info it might be best to connect you two, in an off the record manner. Would that be OK? We are getting FOIA'd non stop, so it's most important that Tony not have anything on the record that could come back to bite

[Peter Daszak:] Totally agree. Tell him I'm happy to speak with him at any

time and will do so in a way that's not FoIA-ble. One thing I could do is either on a zoom call or by sending you a document, is lay out responses to the Mendendez questions so that the arguments are known and well-supported. For example, everyone's saying that this is a 'gain-of-function' issue, but actually that's not the case - we worked on bat viruses, not human pathogens. The expts produced loss of function, not gain of function, all appropriate conditions and approvals were demonstrably checked and correctly answered.

Finally, i didn't read all of the Menendez bill-in-committee, which is longer than Les misérables, but what's the gist? Do you think that in their zeal to take a hard stance against the PRC, these Democrats are purposely, or accidentally, getting sucked into the evil-WIV scenario? Is there real danger here?

[Peter Daszak:] The Menendez bill is the only one that stands a chance so far of becoming law because it's bipartisan. The WIV, gain-of-function stuff is thrown in as a very small part of it. The draft wording only calls for a report from NIH after 180 days on these issues, and they are easily addressed. However, if it does pass and the anti-China mood hardens in the US, it may end up with calls to testify and the Republicans may use that to undermine NIH, and in particular Tony, given the rabid GoF myth they've been building.

Anything you think might be helpful, I'd appreciate

TY, david

Sent from my iPhone  
David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Date: Sun, 28 Apr 2024 2:07:52 PM -0400

Subject: Fw: Re: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

From: [REDACTED] b6

To: David Morens [REDACTED] b6

I did put him on to Lauer and the Thousand Talents purge, including Lauers glee over the number of US and Chinese scientists caught in the web. I also noted and the shock Collins and Tabak exhibited when the ACD members read their statement and how quickly they ended the day one meeting after that. He has now seen the transcript and asked Lauer and Tabak to comment on it but of course no real response on that either.

I met my former fellow Claire Panosian Donovan for breakfast this morning. She just interviewed Peter Hotez for ASTMH which will be published soon in the journal. She said Phil Rosenthal would be very positive if some of us wrote an updated perspectives piece although I know that takes time to write well and credibly. Claire suggested we be in touch with Don McNeil who recently left The NY Times due to rather flimsy racist allegations to talk about the current situation as he might have some ideas about how to get attention to our perspective. She offered to introduce me if that would be helpful. We should consider it as a group or I could just do it myself.

I must say I am looking forward to what Michael Hiltzik puts out after the hearing because there may some really wacky stuff coming out of some of the committee members.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2024, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 > wrote:

Really appreciate your email Rich – it's pretty ugly right now, but I'm so busy dealing with this garbage that in a weird way you don't have time to get upset about it.

I'll probably be crying into my cornflakes on the morning of May 2<sup>nd</sup> after my Salem Witch Trial.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA



Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [b6]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 2:14 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Keusch, Gerald [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>  
**Cc:** [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>  
John Feigelson [b6]  
**Subject:** RE: Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

Peter:

I'm glad he is doing this. I feel very upset about what is happening to you and your family. The sooner these Republicans are voted out of office the better. It is quite unconscionable what they are doing.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts  
New England Biolabs  
240 County Road  
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723  
USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 1:56 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]  
**Cc:** [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]  
[b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John Feigelson <[b6]>  
[b6]  
**Subject:** Interview with Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi all, I Just had a good call with Michael Hiltzik, mainly off the record, but I gave him some quotes at the end along the lines of "It seems that NIH's actions are continuing the de facto blocking of our funding via administrative overreach.." or something less eloquent. He will allow me to check quotes. I also gave him the go ahead to excerpts from the emails and even publish the whole emails that detail the onerous oversight that NIH have been using to block our work, should he wish to. These have already been FoIA'd and are likely to be public very soon in any case.

He told me he will probably wait until after the hearing to see what happens there that can add to his story, but It does seem



that he will be doing a story that directly critiques NIH's actions against EcoHealth, and that he believes are part of them trying to rationalize their initial termination under Collins, which I reminded him, our legal team contend was an illegal move. He asked for comment from Tabak and Lauer, and they responded with a single line along the lines "because this is the subject of ongoing compliance oversight, we cannot comment" or similar.

I spoke to Michael Hiltzik about what seems to be a sort of Troika at NIH – Francis Collins, Lawrence Tabak and Michael Lauer. Collins and then Tabak clearly have given the go-ahead on a number of issues to Lauer to do what he can with EcoHealth in a way that benefits NIH and avoids harassment from congress. This seems to mirror what Lauer has done with some Chinese American scientists who were accused of illicit financial activities, never shown to have committed any, but lost their jobs or privileges once Lauer called their Deans (see story in *Science* <https://www.science.org/content/article/pall-suspicion-nih-secretive-china-initiative-destroyed-scores-academic-careers>).

He mentioned he had a good conversation with you also Jerry...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: [b6]

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*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [b6] >

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:37 AM

**To:** 'Keusch, Gerald' [b6]; 'Hotez, Peter Jay' [b6]

**Cc:** [b6]; 'Jeff Sturchio' [b6]; 'Roberts, Rich' [b6]

[b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; John Feigelson <

**Subject:** RE: Security concerns re. upcoming Public Hearing

Thanks for the kind words Jerry.