

Date: Fri, 2 Jul 2021 1:30:08 PM -0400

Sent: Fri, 2 Jul 2021 1:27:07 PM -0400

Subject: RE: details on issues around SARS-CoV-2 spillover for your paper

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Keusch, Jerry [REDACTED]

Hi David, Jerry - some comments below for your paper drafting...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] >

Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 4:53 PM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] >; Keusch, Jerry [REDACTED] >

Subject:

Peter, a couple things.

First, I am still thinking about writing with some others a commentary for a high impact journal, not sure which.

[Peter Daszak:] Science, Nature, NEJM, Lancet, PNAS, Nature Comms... all would be interested, I think.

As I envision it, although it would allude to the extreme unlikelihood of a lab leak or mad made origin, it would focus on what the science tells us we need to do next, including things like, as you said, tracing back from markets to farm suppliers and doing epi studies, better surveillance of bats in the *Rhinolophus* distribution and of some of the other species, covering a larger geographic area for bat sampling, surveilling exposed humans, international open collaborations, etc.

[Peter Daszak:] makes sense

I have a longer list than that, but would appreciate if you could give me a list, as specific as possible within a few lines each, of your top 5, or top 10, things to be done.

[Peter Daszak:] Here goes:

Logic dictates there are two ways to tighten the noose around the origins of COVID-19: First, you could walk back from the first known clusters of cases in Wuhan towards potential wildlife hosts; Second, you could walk forwards from the

likely wildlife hosts to the first known cases. Here are the top few ways of doing that:

1. *Tracing back from the Huanan market to the wildlife farms that supplied them, specifically:*
 - a. *Interviewing wildlife farmers, workers, truckers, wildlife traders, hunters, middlemen and their family and contacts to ask questions about animals found sick in their farms, whether wild-caught wildlife were mixed with captive bred, the diversity of species in their farms, whether they shipped them live, which shipments went where, whether they or their contacts got sick prior to the outbreak in Wuhan*
 - b. *Serological testing of the people associated with these wildlife farms, including wildlife farmers, workers, truckers, wildlife traders, hunters, middlemen and their family and contacts. Statistically significantly higher seroprevalence may indicate early clusters of COVID*
 - c. *Testing of any remaining intermediate host animals*
 - d. *Testing of bats in and around these farms*
 - e. *Testing of bats at the sites where wildlife were supplied to these farms from*
2. *Tracing back from other markets in Wuhan to the wildlife farms that supplied them*
 - a. *Interviewing wildlife farmers, workers, truckers, wildlife traders, hunters, middlemen and their family and contacts to ask questions about animals found sick in their farms, whether wild-caught wildlife were mixed with captive bred, the diversity of species in their farms, whether they shipped them live, which shipments went where, whether they or their contacts got sick prior to the outbreak in Wuhan*
 - b. *Serological testing of the people associated with these wildlife farms, including wildlife farmers, workers, truckers, wildlife traders, hunters, middlemen and their family and contacts. Statistically significantly higher seroprevalence may indicate early clusters of COVID*
 - c. *Testing of any remaining intermediate host animals*
 - d. *Testing of bats in and around these farms*
 - e. *Testing of bats at the sites where wildlife were supplied to these farms from*
3. *Deeper sampling of bats around Wuhan and across Hubei province to see if they have SARS-CoV-2-related CoVs*
4. *Deeper sampling of wildlife farms around Wuhan and across Hubei province. Some were tested and it's in the WHO report, but more needs to be done. Sampling/interview protocols as per 1, and 2.*
5. *Deeper sampling of bats in S. China provinces where viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have been found – Yunnan (RaTG13, RmYN02, RpYN06), Guangxi (Pangolin CoVs), Guangdong (Pangolin CoVs)*

All of the studies above could be organized and completed within a year – 18 months, given the type of resources we had in our R01 and assuming matching funds (and cooperation) from China.

6. *Deeper sampling of bats in SE Asia where viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2 have been found, or where modeling predicts their likely presence*
 - a. *Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam (bordering with Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong provinces)*
 - b. *Rest of SE Asia, especially where viruses found recently: Cambodia, Thailand, Japan*

These studies would take 2-3 yrs, but may rapidly fill out the phylogeny of SARS-CoVs related to SARS-CoV-2.

7. *Sampling of fur farm animals across China. There's a possibility that these were involved, and they've been massively undersampled*

There are some caveats. One is that further studies may shift the geography of the first known cases. For example, it may not be the Huanan market, but other markets in the region that the first infected people were associated with. It may be that infected wildlife traders, truckers or other workers brought it into Wuhan, which is a major transport hub in China. Finally, there's evidence from analysis of full genomes that cases in Guangdong showed similar levels of mutations during Dec. to those in Wuhan. It's possible the virus began there, as did SARS.

All of the studies above could be organized and completed within a year – 18 months, given the type of resources we had in our R01 and assuming matching funds (and cooperation) from China.

Also, some questions related to pangolin viruses. Supposedly the closest RBD to SARS-CoV-2 is that so-called "Guangdong" strain reported by the Li group. I don't know where that virus was isolated but can't be from Guangdong because I don't think they have pangolins, so maybe it was imported there? In any case, the Li group speculated that SARS-CoV-2 arose from one or more recombinations between bat viruses and viruses enzootic in pangolins, implying that pangolins may be a stable co-reservoir. Is that your understanding? Do we know that within a geographic area pangolin viruses are similar? Do we know they transmit between themselves, or are they being infected from some other animal like a local bat?

Should we be sampling not only the *Rhinolophus* bats across their geographic range, but also the javanic across their geographic range?

[Peter Daszak:] *The pangolins from Guangdong and Guangxi that CoVs were reported from, where actually captive pangolins, seized from the wildlife trade and brought into rehab centers for a prolonged period (few months). Some developed clinical signs of infection, some died. It's quite likely that they picked up their CoVs during transit or in the rehab centers, or even that pangolin CoVs and bat CoVs recombined in these animals. My suspicion is the former. Re. pangolins being a reservoir. I would look at them as a potential intermediate host, just like civets. If there were giant pangolin farms, maybe they would have amplified bat CoVs that spilled over significantly enough to cause outbreaks. However, pangolins are essentially extinct in China, so the only possibility are these individuals brought in live (actually quite rare – they're usually traded as dried scales or frozen meat). We looked at pangolins at the beginning of the wildlife trade routes – Malaysia. The authorities kept frozen carcasses from seizures over the years and over a 10-yr period we tested about 100 – none had CoVs of any type (using degenerate primers that would have picked up any SARSr-CoV incl. SARS- and SARS-CoV-2. Reference: Lee J, Hughes T, Lee M-H, Field H, Rovie-Ryan JJ, Sitam FT, Sipangkui S, Nathan SKSS, Ramirez D, Kumar SV, Lasimbang H, Epstein JH, Daszak P (2020b) No evidence of coronaviruses or other potentially zoonotic viruses in Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) entering the wildlife trade via Malaysia. EcoHealth 17:406-418*

That said, it makes sense to sample pangolins at every opportunity – it's possible they are natural reservoirs of these or other CoVs, but I suspect it's unlikely.

Finally, I am wondering what you know about the 2010 Cambodian viruses isolated by that French group. We have an NIAID colleague working at a Cambodia field site, and she discovered that workers in the area have coronavirus antibodies that light up with sarbecovirus antigens in EIA, but not Nt. (She sent them here and Jeff T did the Nts, and also tried to detect virus in I think 110 bat dropping samples, but without success). Cambodia seems to be the epicenter of javanica pangolins, but has anyone tested them in Cambodia?

[Peter Daszak:] *It's not unreasonable to suspect substantial SARSr-CoV exposure to people across the SE Asian region where the reservoir bats are found. We have a paper in prep that suggests thousands to hundreds of thousands are infected by these viruses each year (based on bat distribution and antibody prevalence in the few studies done). The way to study this is to find the potentially zoonotic bat CoVs, then work with highly exposed communities (live near bat caves, hunters, farmers, wildlife traders etc.) and do serologic surveillance, then work with clinics in those regions to do PCR surveillance of people with potential CoV symptoms. This is EXACTLY what was set up in our terminated R01 for China and in the R01 we submitted for Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam (we'll be resubmitting that one in October).*

TY, D

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Date: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 11:54:30 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Jun 2022 11:54:06 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Jeff Sachs' comments RE: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review
From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
CC: Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Attachments: image006.png; image001.png; image007.png

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

POSTED BY
24 JUNE 2022 |

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.

AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF

PENNSYLVANIA

At the time of the following

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to support any activity conducted by, or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

- 1 SEC. . None of the funds made available by this
- 2 Act may be used to support any activity conducted by,
- 3 or associated with, the Wuhan Institute of Virology.



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

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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

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iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 10:42 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Just awful to see how obstinate he's become on what should be a non-issue.

I'm also pretty disgusted with his comment "I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members)." It's lower down in the email chain.

That's a hell of an accusation he's stating to you, knowing you're in disagreement. I shudder to think what he's saying to those who are neutral or lean towards the conspiratorial side.

There is not a single time I lied, or other taskforce members were duplicit in dishonesty or any other 'thought-crime'. It's demonstrably clear, should anyone bother to ask, and we have the back up docs to prove it.

And by the way, speaking of adolescence, people who call me by my last name in that way take me right back to life in a UK grammar school in the 1970s...it's too easy to spit out a foreign-sounding name just as his email does. You'd think he'd have some empathy, but I guess I made the cardinal mistake of disagreeing with him, and refusing to share EcoHealth privileged documents with him. I guess the punishment for that is what's happening now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens <[b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Fwd: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

I feel like I'm revisiting my adolescence

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

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" b6

Date: June 28, 2022 at 9:23:55 AM CDT

To: Jeffrey Sachs b6

Subject: Re: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

You mean with the guy with publicly berates virologists, including me, calling us "stooges"? Look Jeff, you're publicly supporting a fringe group and idea, and that's your right. But for a public consensus document such as a Lancet Commission report it needs to be tempered and modulated appropriately. Now that a referee has called it out as well, the scientific community is telling you to fix this. I believe my language is the most straightforward and does not ask you to retract your own strong views.

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On Jun 28, 2022, at 9:14 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <[b6]> wrote:

You should have shown up to make your case. Too bad you did not. Too bad Worobey skipped. Too bad NIH has hidden all the data, non-stop.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:40 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay { b6 } wrote:

Investigation to dot the i's and clear the falsely accused. No serious virologist looking at the data would say that this virus arose from GOF human research

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

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On Jun 28, 2022, at 8:31 AM, Jeffrey Sachs { b6 } wrote:

The report says only that both hypotheses are in play and should be pursued. You are free to state on your own account outside of the Commission your own conclusions at any time. Each of us can do so. There is not any hint whatsoever of "equally likely." (I personally believe, along with many scientists, that a lab release is the most likely origin, by the way, but the report in no way states that.)

Personally I find your position to be untenable. Because of FOIA we now know in remarkable detail just how much the NIH has hidden from view. Even Baric says that both hypotheses need investigation. The US Intelligence Community similarly concluded that both hypotheses are in play. The Commission is calling for transparency.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 3:05 PM, Hotez, Peter Jay { b6 } wrote:

Yes Jeff, we discussed this at length and we agreed to send this out for peer review - with the understanding that the manuscript would be modified pending the comments. Now that a referee agrees with my assessment, this needs to be addressed in a forthright manner. My recommendation is that you accept the referee's criticism by stating that at least one of the Commissioners agrees and the language in the document has been modified accordingly. That's the only honest answer I can think of. It will also protect the entire LC from future backlash from the virology community.

One way to go is to add a sentence, that there was not consensus in your statement giving equal weight to zoonotic spillover vs lab leak GOF research and at least one of the Commissioners feels that body of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the former. This is a simple statement of truth and one that would give our document greater intellectual heft.

Thank you! Peter

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

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On Jun 28, 2022, at 7:50 AM, Jeffrey Sachs <

b6 wrote:

Dear Peter,

We have already discussed this at length and agreed long ago not to state relative probabilities.

Our report is balanced, measured, and circumspect. I will revise the sentence to reflect that we had a session with top scientists and that as Chair I consulted extensively on the topic (after the chronic lying by Daszak and duplicity of other TF members).

Response: Thank you for this feedback. The Chair conducted extensive consultations on this issue with independent experts and the Commission hosted a session with a group of international experts who advised us clearly and cogently that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

Sadly, you didn't attend the session because you told me late that you simply had too much work to do. Moreover, I invited Mike Worobey just as you requested, and he also cancelled without a single word of explanation before or after!

As my co-authored PNAS article explains, I believe that NIH and EHA have behaved very badly in this matter, opposing transparency at every step.

Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2022, at 1:35 AM, Hotez, Peter Jay <
b6 > wrote:

Dear Juliana, thank you for your email. I accept the responses except for one, for which I agree with the referee and disagree with Jeff's response:

2. Pages 25-28. The current manuscript implies that these 2 hypotheses have a 50:50 relationship. In my opinion, both natural spillover and lab escape hypotheses are feasible. But the current evidences do not support that they have equal likelihood. Several evidences suggest that SARS-CoV-2 is a product of natural virus recombinations. I entirely agree that SARS-CoV-2 can be THEORETICALLY generated in a lab. But there is hardly any direct evidence to show such work has been conducted. There is no solid evidence to show that was lab accidents or lab escape event in Wuhan.

Response: Thank you for this feedback. We conducted meetings with a group of international experts on this subject, who informed us that it is not possible nor prudent to place estimates of feasibility or likelihood on either scenario, so we have left the manuscript as it is without implying either scenario is more likely. Both scenarios should be taken seriously.

This is not a 50:50 situation by any means, in fact the outrage from the community of virologists after Jeff's

recent PNAS paper on the subject should be a wakeup call to the dangers of citing false equivalency.

Also, Jeff's response is not true. We did not conduct meetings with international experts, he organized a single meeting with unqualified scientists from other fields. Therefore, this language must be altered to both accommodate the referee and reflect the reality that the lab generated hypothesis remains viable but unlikely.

Many thanks, Peter

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

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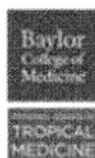
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Senior Coordinator / Executive Support: Douglas Soriano

b6

Phone: b6



From: Juliana Bartels [b6]
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Gaspar, Vitor <[b6]>; Zinabou, Genet <[b6]>; Delariarte, Maria Choyette Umali <[b6]>; Alejandro Gaviria <[b6]>; Gaviria Uribe Alejandro <[b6]>; Bottazzi, Maria Elena <[b6]>; Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>; [b6] <[b6]>; Lara Akinin <[b6]>; Chandrika Bahadur <[b6]>; Lauren Barredo <[b6]>; Chris Bullen <[b6]>; gaby cuevas <[b6]>; Andrew Haines <[b6]>; Neena Joshi <[b6]>; Ozge Karadag Karadag <[b6]>; Phoebe Koundouri <[b6]>; Gabriela <[b6]>; Morales, Andrés <[b6]>; Francesca Colombo <[b6]>; Guillaume Lafortune <[b6]>; Jeff Sachs <[b6]>; Yanis Ben Amor <[b6]>; Emma Torres <[b6]>; George Laryea-Adjei <[b6]>; Uyen Kim Huynh <[b6]>; Vaira Vike Freiberga <[b6]>; [b6] <[b6]>; Kirsten Brosbøl <[b6]>; Juan Pablo Cadena <[b6]>; John Thwaites <[b6]>; [b6] <[b6]>; Jong-Koo Lee <[b6]>; Booyuel Kim <[b6]>; Muhammad Ali Pate <[b6]>; Miriam Khamadi Were <[b6]>; [b6] <[b6]>; Marissa VanRy <[b6]>; Felipe Larrain Bascuñan <[b6]>; Susan Michie <[b6]>; Jeffrey Lazarus <[b6]>; Margaret Hellard <[b6]>; [b6] <[b6]>; Shweta Khandelwal <[b6]>; Bagenal, Jessamy (ELS-LOW) <[b6]>

Cc: Juliana Bartels [b6]
Subject: COVID-19 Commission: Need approval of minor edits after first peer review

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

Dear All,

We are pleased to let you know that we have received positive responses from our peer reviewers on the Final Report of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission. We have made minimal updates and changes in phrasing to reflect their suggestions.

We require your **urgent approval** of the **updated version of the manuscript**, attached in both clean and tracked changes versions. We have also attached the drafted point-by-point response to referee comments for your review.

At this stage, we ask that you kindly do not send any changes other than urgent and very minor corrections.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions!

Julie

--

Juliana Bartels (she/her)
Special Assistant to the Director
Center for Sustainable Development
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
[475 Riverside Drive](#) | Interchurch | New York, NY 10115

b6

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Date: Tue, 5 Oct 2021 7:39:18 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 5 Oct 2021 7:38:52 PM -0400
Subject: Can you call my cell sometime?
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >

I want to just check on the scope of the foIA and who's doing it. There are plenty of things that we said in emails back and forth to your NIH address that would be a bit embarrassing, but not horrific. Mainly from the point of view that I'm talking about political attacks.

Maybe it's not that bad if the dates are tightly grouped, and if the scope (subject) is v. narrow.

Can't the NIH FoIA group actually help to reduce the scope and make some useful redactions.

The fact that we're contesting our NIH funding termination/suspension might make that redactable based on a "law enforcement" category?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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, October 5, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: Re: Talking with Elizabeth Warren's staff

Peter, i just got news that a foia picked up an email i sent you saying that tony commented he was braindead, jokingly of course. However, Ron Johnson is all over it and now after me. Tony will be pissed, rightly so. I deleted that email but i now learn that every email i ever got/sent since 1998 is captured and will be turned over, whether or not i instantly deleted it.

Gmail, phone, text.... i need to scrupulously rely on those exclusively. d

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

On Oct 5, 2021, at 18:21, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Rich – let me know if you need any information at all prior to talking with Sen. Warren's staff. I'm happy to join you in case they have questions about the work and the negative press from the Right.

Let me know and I'll send any information that might help.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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Website: 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: Saturday, October 2, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Gerald "Jerry" Keusch [b6] >; David Morens <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; peter hotez [b6]
Subject: RE: Please help!

Peter:

Finally located a good contact at Elizabeth Warren's office.

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: Saturday, October 2, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Gerald "Jerry" Keusch [b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6] >; David Morens <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; peter hotez [b6]
Subject: Please help!

Sorry to do this but I'm under pressure here and Jeff Sachs' latest discrediting of our name publicly is not helping. Apparently a letter has been sent to my board calling on them to fire me.

It's being reported in the NY Post today. Let me know if you can't read it on this link.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/nypost.com/2021/10/01/calls-grow-for-ouster-of-wuhan-lab-tied-daszak-as-head-of-nyc-health-nonprofit/amp/>

My board chair is Nancy Green - she's very supportive but everyone has limits. Her email address is [REDACTED] b6

Would you be willing to write an email to her this week to express your support for me and disgust at the way we are being attacked? It might be good to also mention that EcoHealth has a critical mission that needs to stay the course through these ugly politics.

Sorry to be so blatant but I'm worried that this level of attack is hard to stand up against.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA

www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

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Date: Tue, 25 May 2021 11:01:37 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 25 May 2021 10:57:48 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Wpost: U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6] Rich Roberts [b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg

This is exactly the politics I was talking about. I'm part of weekly meetings with the WHO COVID-19 origins mission as we develop Phase 2 plans, and we're tracking the politics closely. Right now the US response is pretty mild. I've seen a copy of the HHS letter and it's just more of the same sort of comments below. What we're worried about on the origins group is that if the lab leak rhetoric pushes too strongly, China will just close the door on Phase 2 of the work. Right now, the only possible way forward to actually get into China and do more work on COVID origins is via this WHO team, so it would be disaster if this hype messes it up.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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, May 25, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Wpost: U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins

Everybody's getting into the act, it seems.... d

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: May 25, 2021 at 07:27:31 EDT
Subject: Wpost: U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins

U.S. health secretary calls for follow-up investigation into pandemic's origins

Latest: Analysis: Timeline for how the Wuhan lab-leak theory suddenly became credible



Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra speaks at a convention center in Long Beach, Calif., on May 13. (Patrick T. Fallon/AFP/Getty Images)

By [Katerina Ang](#) and [Erin Cunningham](#)

May 25, 2021 at 6:51 a.m. EDT

The United States called Tuesday for the swift launch of a follow-up investigation into the origins of the coronavirus, amid growing concerns over China's lack of transparency about the early days of the outbreak.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, speaking in a video message, urged an annual ministerial meeting of the World Health Organization to establish a second stage of the investigation that took place in the Chinese city of Wuhan earlier this year.

"Phase 2 of the covid origins study must be launched with terms of reference that are transparent, science-based, and give international experts the independence to fully assess the source of the virus and the early days of the outbreak," Becerra said, according to [Reuters](#). WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is among those who have [voiced frustration with the level of access Chinese authorities gave for the investigation this year](#).

The secretary did not mention China directly. But his remarks follow [a report Sunday](#) in the Wall Street Journal quoting U.S. officials as saying that several Chinese researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology sought hospital care in November 2019, a month before the first confirmed coronavirus case in China.

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Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 1:23:19 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 21 Apr 2021 1:21:51 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch Gerald [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
CC: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Attachments: image004.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; EthpINRUyAEONCM.jfif

Yes – really glad Eddie has spoken out in this way. The same reporter approached me and just out of having too much to do last weekend I didn't respond so I'm not quoted – I think that's actually better – it's great to have other scientists speaking out and I'll try to do this a bit more often!

You're right about the politics, and also about the threats – Eddie's getting attacked also by the Miles Guo group (G-News) – the person on who's yacht Steve Bannon was arrested!.

These folks are very active on social media, producing videos and cartoons that are watched by millions.

Rich – you'll be very amused to see that the G-News cartoonists have decide myself and Zhengli Shi in China should be given Nobel Prizes...but this time for 'Acting' – see attached picture...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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, April 21, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Daszak Peter [b6]; Keusch Gerald [b6]; Kessler Robert [b6]; Chmura Aleksei [b6]
>
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

David:

He really hits the nail on the head when he said that the more politics is involved the less likely there will ever be an answer from science.

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Daszak Peter [b6] >; Keusch Gerald [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6];
Kessler Robert [b6] >; Chmura Aleksei [b6] >
Cc: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is interesting because like you, Peter, Eddie and his family have been under frightening death threats. when i approached him last summer about signing on as a co author he declined out of fear, but did help behind the scenes. he must be rethinking what role he should play. he also has the qualification of not being an American and is perhaps our leading viral phylogeneticists, who has trained some of the other leading phylogeneticists. d

Sent from my iPad
David M. Morens, M.D.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: April 19, 2021 at 8:28:05 PM EDT
Subject: Telegraph: Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

Wuhan officials identified Huanan market as a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid emerged

Experts say market was either the site of an initial 'spillover' of Covid, or 'amplified' early circulation through a super-spreading event

By Sarah Newey, Global Health Security Correspondent 18 April 2021 • 5:00pm



Members of the Wuhan Hygiene Emergency Response Team leaving the closed Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in mid-January 2020 Credit: NOEL CELIS/AFP via Getty Images

Health experts in Wuhan knew the wet market at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak was a pandemic risk at least five years before Covid-19 emerged, a British scientist has revealed.

In 2014 Dr Eddie Holmes, an evolutionary biologist and virologist, was taken to the Huanan seafood market by members of the Wuhan Centre for Disease Control, who used it as an example of the type of place where a virus could “spillover” from animals to humans.

Dr Holmes, who now works at the University of Sydney, said the visit was part of a wider project to hunt for new pathogens with pandemic potential in China.

“The Wuhan CDC took us there, and here’s the key bit, because the discussion was: ‘where could a disease emerge?’ Well, here’s the place – that’s why I went,” Dr Holmes told *The Telegraph* in an interview.

“I’ve been to a few of these markets, but this was a big one – it felt like a disease incubator, exactly the sort of place you would expect a disease to emerge”.



Live animals held in Wuhan’s Huanan market in October 2014, taken by Dr Eddie Holmes during a visit to the site Credit: Eddie Holmes

Dr Holmes, who took pictures at the time, remembers the now shuttered market as a sprawling network of narrow covered streets in the heart of Wuhan. It was late afternoon and not particularly crowded, but there were “crates of wildlife stacked on top of each other”, including fish, snakes, rodents and racoon dogs – a fox-like animal known to be susceptible to Covid-19.

Many of the creatures were alive, added Dr Holmes, who remembers seeing one bludgeoned in front of him. “An animal had got out or something, and somebody was clubbing it,” he said, mimicking the hand actions over Zoom. “I think it was a racoon dog, though I couldn’t quite see. It was pretty confronting.” Dr Holmes added that he is unsure whether the Wuhan CDC ramped up disease surveillance or introduced new safety measures in the years preceding the pandemic, and the China CDC has not responded to *The Telegraph*. The Huanan market gained global notoriety when the first cases of Covid-19 (initially reported as a “mystery pneumonia” on December 31, 2019) were found in people who worked and shopped there. Of the initial 41 people hospitalised with pneumonia who were officially identified as having Covid, two-thirds were exposed to the market, which was closed and sealed off by the Wuhan authorities on January 1, 2020.



Inside Huanan food market in October 2014. Dr Eddie Holmes described the site as dirty, not particularly crowded, but with areas full of wild animals in crates Credit: Eddie Holmes

Experts believe the site played a significant role in the initial circulation of Covid-19, either as the site of the initial “spillover” event where an animal virus jumps to humans, or as an “amplifier” of the early epidemic.

A report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the origins of Sars-CoV-2 [provided crucial details](#). Though it said “no firm conclusion” could be drawn on the precise role of Huanan market, it found the virus most likely jumped from bats to humans via an as-yet-unknown animal.

The wildlife trade in general, and wet markets in particular, have long been [linked to the emergence of new pathogens](#). There is evidence Sars jumped to humans [at markets in Guangdong, China in 2002](#) and data points to similarly a significant role in 2019.

In early 2020 Chinese researchers collected close to 1,000 samples from Huanan market – swabbing everything from rubbish bins, doors and stalls to stray cats and mice – and found widespread contamination “compatible with introduction of the virus through infected people, infected animals or contaminated products”.

Meanwhile, of the first 168 Covid-19 cases, roughly a third had a connection to Huanan market. Genome sequences from some of those in this group found eight of the earliest samples were identical, confirming there was an outbreak there. Yet the first person with a known link to Huanan market became ill on December 12, four days after the first known case. This suggests Covid-19 may have been spreading under the radar in several parts of Wuhan simultaneously before Huanan market amplified circulation.

The joint WHO-China team also found no evidence that live wildlife was still sold at the market – though noted that both [Dr Holmes’ pictures](#) and “unverified photographs and videos in media reports” suggest otherwise – and none of 457

animal samples taken from the market between January and March 2020 tested positive for Sars-Cov-2.

The report added: “The manager informed the teams the market was cleaned twice a day, morning and evening. Pests and rats are sought out and killed; holes were closed. Rigorous cleaning was done once or twice a week. Even though there are rooms above some stalls, vendors were not allowed to live in the market.”

But Dr Holmes and others, including members of the WHO team, believe more samples need to be taken to “follow the animals”, and caution that finding wildlife involved in the early transmission chain is like finding a needle in a haystack. It is also possible that the virus was introduced to the market by an already infected person involved in earlier stages of the wildlife trade.

Live wild animals in crates stacked ontop of each other, taken in October 2014 during Dr Eddie Holmes' trip to the market
Credit: Eddie Holmes

“We know how easily Sars-Cov-2 spread from minks to mink farmers in Europe,” said Dr Dale Fisher, an expert in infectious diseases and chair of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. “So it’s likely this could happen on a farm, and the farmer was the index case who then took it to the market, where there was a super-spreading event.

“But evidence points towards wildlife. And whether it’s been plague on rats, or Ebola on bats and primates, or Sars-1 on civet cats and bats, camels for Mers – historically these outbreaks all had species jumps and then amplification events,” he told the *Telegraph*.

It is estimated that birds and mammals harbour roughly 700,000 viruses with the potential to jump to people, while 70 per cent of new emerging infectious diseases come from wild animals. Places where numerous species mix in close quarters with humans, with few biosecurity measures in place, are high risk.

Just this week, the WHO issued new guidance urging countries to crack down on wet markets and suspend the sale of captured live wild animals as an “emergency measure” to protect public health.

“In my mind, the wildlife trade is the most likely source of it. The role of that market is still uncertain, but there was clearly a lot of transmission and to me it smells like there’s a strong link – we need to follow it through,” Dr Holmes said.

“My concern is that the finger pointing has got so bad, will that happen? I think China just doesn’t want it to be China... so then the question is, are we actually going to see all the data? I honestly don’t know. But the more the politics gets into it, the less likely we will.”

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Date: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 11:24:42 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 11:24:40 PM -0400

Subject: More ammo from Ralph Baric.

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: Gerald T Keusch [b6] David Morens [b6] [b6]

CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]

Here's more from Ralph Baric (who was on CNN Don Lemon Show tonight – aka The Resistance):

The problem with emerging disease countermeasure development is that you don't know what is going to emerge from the zoonotic reservoir. Thus, 1 drug-1 bug is a weak approach and you need to develop a broad based inhibitor. To make a countermeasure for an unknown coronavirus of the future, you need: 1) a panel of contemporary strains, 2) a panel of epidemic strains (e.g., SARS1 and MERS), 3) a panel of high risk Bt-CoV poised for human emergence (e.g., WIV1 and SHC014 – the viruses we discovered with PREDICT and NIAID funding) and 4) truly highly variable zoonotic SARS-like and MERS-like viruses that are very distant (e.g. SARS-like HKU3 and MERS-like HKU5). The idea is like an encyclopedia ...if you have a drug that works against volumn A (SARS) and the most distant relative available, volumn Z (HKU3), as well as everything else that is extremely different, then you have a good bet that it will work against the unknown (SARS2).

Remdesivir had all these properties (first two papers, below), the second drug NHC, also had the same properties. Hence the zoonotic strains identified by EcoHealth through NIH and PREDICT funding, allowed us to: i) identify the right candidates to resurrect, ii) resurrect them in the laboratory, and iii) show the broad spectrum drug worked. To some extent, you can't do this without that funding.

The social media attention scores on all three of these papers are off the charts, top 99.9+% most viewed papers in science over some timepoint. I'd say NIAID and PREDICT funding was pretty damn important to developing drugs (and vaccines) against emerging viruses of the future.

Ralph

Comparative therapeutic efficacy of remdesivir and combination lopinavir, ritonavir, and interferon beta against MERS-CoV.

Sheahan TP, Sims AC, Leist SR, Schäfer A, Won J, Brown AJ, Montgomery SA, Hogg A, Babusis D, Clarke MO, Spahn JE, Bauer L, Sellers S, Porter D, Feng JY, Cihlar T, Jordan R, Denison MR, Baric RS.

Nat Commun. 2020 Jan 10;11(1):222.

Broad-spectrum antiviral GS-5734 inhibits both epidemic and zoonotic coronaviruses.

Sheahan TP, Sims AC, Graham RL, Menachery VD, Gralinski LE, Case JB, Leist SR, Pirc K, Feng JY, Trantcheva I, Bannister R, Park Y, Babusis D, Clarke MO, Mackman RL, Spahn JE, Palmiotti CA, Siegel D, Ray AS, Cihlar T, Jordan R, Denison MR, Baric RS.

Sci Transl Med. 2017 Jun 28;9(396). pii: eaal3653.

An orally bioavailable broad-spectrum antiviral inhibits SARS-CoV-2 in human airway epithelial cell cultures and multiple coronaviruses in mice.

Sheahan TP, Sims AC, Zhou S, Graham RL, Pruijssers AJ, Agostini ML, Leist SR, Schäfer A, Dinno KH 3rd, Stevens LJ, Chappell JD, Lu X, Hughes TM, George AS, Hill CS, Montgomery SA, Brown AJ, Bluemling GR, Natchus MG, Saindane M, Kolykhalov AA, Painter G, Harcourt J, Tamin A, Thornburg NJ, Swanstrom R, Denison MR, Baric RS.

Sci Transl Med. 2020 Apr 6. pii: eabb5883.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
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Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

Date: Mon, 15 Mar 2021 3:10:13 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 15 Mar 2021 3:10:05 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Washington Examiner: WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab and blames lack of access on 'anti-China political rhetoric'
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
To: David Morens [b6] [b6] >;
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.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] [b6] [b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
● [b6] (b)(6)
● [b6]

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From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 10:43 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: Washington Examiner: WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab and blames lack of access on 'anti-China political rhetoric'

Its wonderful! I'm still brainstorming how to revitalize the campaign to make NIH reverse its position. I was in touch with Tony to congratulate him on the Research!America award. I took the opportunity to send him the pdf of the paper on global R&D reform (so he had it before it went online), and to suggest NIAID initiate a contract with NAM to do a consensus study on what happened with R&D in 2020, the good and the bad, with a view to make science based recommendations on how to move forward. The model was the committee on Clinical Research in the W Africa Ebola outbreak

I co-chaired, which was supported by ASPR (Nicki Lurie) FDA (Lu Borio) and NIAID (Tony). While I had in mind the opportunity this would provide to explore the influence of politics on research grant funding, this was not directly noted. Tony surprised me by copying Francis on his response, which was first to thank for the congrats, and the paper. He then noted that Nicki had initiated the 2016 contract, and maybe such an initiative had to be above the institute which was the rationale to bring Francis in the loop. But Tony would know well, as would Francis, that I have been advocating his dismissal if NIH did not transparently report on what happened, and if the action was unjustified restore the grant and the reputation of EHA and Peter and colleagues. As we know, NIH OD/OER has done nothing of the sort, but rather has simply doubled down and more.

So I'm not sure what part of his butt Tony was covering, but I can't see Francis going along with it, especially with me anywhere near such a committee, much less chairing it – which is what I told Tony I wanted to do. I haven't had further conversation with Victor, so I don't know at this point what he wants to do, except that he wants NAM to be involved in the future evolution of the global initiative. If the paper is any good, or has any impact, he owes me and Nicki something because we worked hard on it. And all we are asking for is more work, but a chance to shape the Academy recommendations and that's worth a lot.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: RE: Washington Examiner: WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab and blames lack of access on 'anti-China political rhetoric'

Basically, I'm a one-man 'news creation' machine for the rightwing press. All I have to do is send out a tweet pushing back at some whingeing criticism or other and it's a whole news article.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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: Friday, March 12, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Subject: FW: Washington Examiner: WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab and blames lack of access on 'anti-China political rhetoric'

Dynamite!

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
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● [b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)
● [b6]
● [b6]

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 4:12 PM
Subject: Washington Examiner: WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab and blames lack of access on 'anti-China political rhetoric'

WHO origins investigator defends Wuhan lab and blames lack of access on 'anti-China political rhetoric'

by Jerry Dunleavy, Justice Department Reporter |

| March 12, 2021 01:57 PM

A key member of the World Health Organization team that investigated COVID-19's origins in China in early 2021 defended a Wuhan lab's removal of a viral sample database from public view and said it was the fault of "anti-China political rhetoric" that resulted in the Chinese Communist Party blocking an investigation for a year.

Officials from both the Trump and Biden administrations have said the Chinese government worked to thwart investigations into the origins of the virus, which has killed 2.63 million worldwide, and the WHO-China report is slated to be released next week. Both administrations said China was not transparent and is still concealing key data. Congressional reports blamed China's duplicity and the WHO's incompetence for an outbreak becoming a pandemic.

Peter Daszak, the leader of the EcoHealth Alliance, which steered at least \$600,000 in National Institutes of Health funding to the Wuhan Institute of Virology for bat coronavirus research, called the lab's decision to take down a public database containing thousands of viral samples "absolutely reasonable" during a Chatham House discussion Wednesday, claiming the lab did so because it was hit by hackers. The discussion seemed to preview the WHO's impending report, and Daszak attempted to justify the Chinese government's yearlong intransigence by pointing to alleged anti-China sloganeering, without placing blame on China.

Daszak previously criticized the Biden administration for appearing skeptical of the WHO's preliminary findings and defended China to CCP-linked outlets. U.S. Embassy officials in China raised concerns in 2018 about biosecurity at the lab led by "bat woman" Shi Zhengli.

"I asked the question in front of the whole team, both sides, while we were at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, about the so-called missing database. What we were told by Shi Zhengli was that there had been hacking attempts on it, about 3,000 hacking attempts, and they took down this Excel spreadsheet database. Absolutely reasonable," Daszak said Wednesday. "We did not ask to see the data, and, as you know, a lot of this work is work that's been conducted with EcoHealth Alliance. I'm also part of those data, and we do basically know what's in those databases. I gave a talk to both sides about the work we've done with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and I explained what's there. There is no evidence of viruses closer to SARS-CoV-2 than RaTG13 in those databases."

In February, NBC News reported "intelligence officials" pointed to the fact the Wuhan lab "removed from public view a database of 22,000 virus samples for security reasons, and has not allowed a detailed look at the lab's notes or other records." The outlet said the officials "say it's suspicious that the virus outbreak arose in Wuhan, a hub of virus research in China, while the bats that commonly carry coronaviruses are typically found in caves a thousand miles from that city."

A State Department fact sheet released in mid-January contended Wuhan lab researchers "conducted experiments involving RaTG13, the bat coronavirus identified by the WIV in January 2020 as its closest sample to SARS-CoV-2 (96.2% similar)" and that the lab "has a published record of conducting 'gain-of-function' research to engineer chimeric viruses." The fact sheet added that the lab "has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military."

"The U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illnesses," the State Department fact sheet said, arguing that "this raises questions about the credibility of WIV senior researcher Shi Zhengli's public claim that there was 'zero infection' among the WIV's staff and students of SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-related viruses."

Daszak claimed, "We sent a list of sites and people we wanted to talk to, and none were refused." He said that "in its essence that theory" — of COVID-19 escaping from a lab — "is not a conspiracy theory, but many many people have put that forward as a conspiracy theory in that the Chinese side conspired to cover up evidence of that." Daszak lamented his previous work with the lab had been criticized, calling it "quite ironic."

He also blamed former President Donald Trump; former Trump campaign CEO Steve Bannon, who runs the *War Room: Pandemic* podcast; Bannon ally and exiled Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui; and the Falun Gong, a religious movement that is persecuted by the Chinese Communist Party and funds the *Epoch Times*, for why China hadn't allowed an investigation sooner, citing their "anti-China political rhetoric."

"Science has been, to some extent, caught up in that, to other extents absolutely crushed by it," Daszak claimed. "We've not had access to work in China on the origins for the last 12 months, which is ironic because we

could've been on the ground there working with our Chinese colleagues, and by now we may have had some really important answers as to how it emerged, and the rhetoric has held that up. These politics are not there to help find the origins. They're simply there to help one political party win."

Daszak said China swabbed 900 samples from the Huanan seafood market and said Zhengli went into Hubei province and looked at over 1,100 bat samples, concluding it wasn't a local virus carried by bats into the market.

"That a bat or other wildlife species carried a virus that is a progenitor of SARS-CoV-2, it got into domestic animals, wildlife, bred in farms, perhaps, or people associated with that, and got into the Wuhan market that way, I think that's the most likely scenario," Daszak said.

He said that "within the next few years, we're going to have real significant data on where this came from."

During a February interview on *Face the Nation* on CBS, Matthew Pottinger, Trump's deputy national security adviser, said that "the ledger on the side of an explanation that says that this resulted from some kind of human error, it far outweighs the side of the scale that says this was some natural outbreak." Pottinger said in January that the WHO investigation was a "Potemkin exercise."

Biden national security adviser Jake Sullivan criticized China for blocking data on the origins of COVID-19 but declined to stand by declassified U.S. intelligence.

Peter Ben Embarek, head of the WHO group that investigated the origins, said in late February that "we didn't do an audit of any of these labs, so we don't really have hard facts or detailed data on the work done" at the Wuhan lab. In early February, Embarek said the possibility that the coronavirus might have escaped from the Wuhan lab was "extremely unlikely" and didn't merit further inquiry, but WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said more study was needed.

Two other WHO investigative team members, Marion Koopmans, head of the Department of Viroscience at Erasmus University Medical Center, and John Watson, senior medical adviser at Public Health England, also weighed in Wednesday.

Koopmans said it is a "misunderstanding" to think of the WHO investigation as an "inspection." She said that "we see it is a starting point, not the mission that will get the answers." She admitted the WHO team had the "handicap" of being in "full-blown quarantine" for its first two weeks in China and then had "restrictions in the second half of our visit."

Watson repeatedly stressed that it was a "joint study" with "our Chinese counterparts" and said the WHO team members were independent. He claimed that "it was slow, but despite that, we were shown a great deal. ... So I was not at all disappointed."

"What this was not set up as was an external group coming in to investigate and to point fingers with the hope of identifying a smoking gun," Watson said, adding that there was "a popular perception about a group of Sherlock Holmes going in with magnifying glasses and swabs to identify something."

Koopmans said that "China has done ... something like 30,000, a lot of testing of animals across the country, not finding such evidence" of the virus in domesticated animals. She said they were told, "Around 1,000 people have worked to get the data to the point where we could discuss and scrutinize and review them" and said they spoke with staff from Wuhan CDC, Hubei CDC, China's national CDC, and Wuhan labs.

"So we have visited the three laboratories that have been actively working, including the laboratory sitting close to the market, including the Wuhan Institute of Virology," Koopmans said. "We have discussed their research programs, their routine testing programs, the way they work, what they had done in terms of health monitoring and testing of staff, and based on that, we concluded that it's extremely unlikely that there was a lab incident."

Trump officials such as former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have pointed to evidence suggesting COVID-19 might have originated in a Wuhan lab. The Chinese government denies this and has cast doubt on it originating in China.

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Date: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:09:28 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 23 Jul 2023 1:08:46 PM -0400
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
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: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Date: Mon, Nov 7, 2022 at 2:39 PM
Subject: RE: 6 virologists names posted on a 4Chan "Kill List"
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >, Roberts, Rich [b6] >
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] >, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >

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 [b6] presentation of [b6] followed by Chinese food at a really good place in [b6]. The latter two, set for tomorrow evening, seem more than coincidental to me and are the source of some optimism.

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 1:42 AM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Jeffrey Sturchio
[b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura
[b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
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

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Media Inquiries:

[b6]

b6

b6

iPhone

On Nov 7, 2022, at 4:31 AM, Roberts, Rich [b6] 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

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USA

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

Executive Assistant [b6]

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
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

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: [b6]

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Senior Coordinator & Executive Support: [b6]

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Media Inquiries:

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[b6]

[b6]

iPhone

On Nov 6, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] > 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 [b6] and my [b6] daughter, [b6] also.

I'm traveling in [b6] this week, but have already contacted the FBI and [b6] 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.

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%7C430f37f910d1444df8a808db8b9f9256%7C14b77578977342d585f&sdata=4J%2BCuiJ3J9vrc5kymh%2BZsS9m9JoYZolR5d5SDFpEpSw%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Peter Daszak [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura
[b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
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 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 &
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Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

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iPhone

On Nov 1, 2022, at 7:32 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] > wrote:

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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 [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
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

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email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

From: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:15 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Keusch, Gerald T
[b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] >; Aleksei
Chmura [b6] >; Roberts, Rich
[b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
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.

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,

Jeff

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, 16 Jun 2021 1:50:44 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 16 Jun 2021 1:50:39 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Could we set up a zoom call together?

From: [REDACTED] b6 >
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 >; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6 >; David Morens [REDACTED] b6 >; peter hotez [REDACTED] b6 >
CC: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6 >; [REDACTED] b6 >

Dear All,

This meeting is confirmed for Tuesday, June 22 at 4:00pm Central/5:00pm Eastern time. I've just sent a calendar invite and am including the zoom details below:

[REDACTED] b6 >
Meeting ID: [REDACTED] b6 >
Passcode: [REDACTED] b6 >
One tap mobile
[REDACTED] b6 > US (New York)

Best,

[REDACTED] b6 >

[REDACTED] b6 >

Executive Assistant to the President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Ave – Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018

[REDACTED] b6 > (direct)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 >
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 9:42 AM
To: "Roberts, Rich" [REDACTED] b6 >; "Keusch, Gerald T" [REDACTED] b6 >; David Morens [REDACTED] b6 >; [REDACTED] b6 >; peter hotez [REDACTED] b6 >
Cc: [REDACTED] b6 >; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6 >; [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Subject: Could we set up a zoom call together?

Dear Robert, Jerry, David, and Peter

I had a good conversation with Peter Hotez at the end of last week – Peter's running a taskforce on the Lancet COVID-19 Commission, and has been following the media frenzy around the COVID origins with a keen eye. As you know, he's been talking publicly about the anti-vaccine movement for a long time, and sees strong parallels between the politically motivated anti-vaxxer movement, and the politically motivated COVID origins conspiracies. He's also dealing with intense harassment similar to the attacks I've been having recently.

Peter and I would really appreciate an opportunity to all meet by Zoom to talk about what we can do together (and separately) to change the narrative and deal with the growing anti-science agenda. Peter is, like many of us, disappointed by the risk-averse

nature of the academies (he's a NAM member) and many of the professional societies. He's also well aware of media messaging and how that can be used – he's a regular contributor to CNN and other TV networks. By the way, Peter is one of the inaugural Fellows of the ASTMH, as well as a past member of the NIH Council of Councils.

I've cc'd Alison and Aleksei who can help set up a time for a 1 hour zoom call either later this week or next week. I hope you'll be able to join and really appreciate your efforts.

By the way – Rich – thanks for putting me in touch with Ellie Dehoney at Research!America – she is on the case, albeit she's well aware of the political constraints and the timing right now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2023

Mr. Peter Daszak, Ph.D.
President
EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10001

Dear Dr. Daszak:

Pursuant to H. Res. 5, the issues outlined in the Committee on Oversight and Accountability's (f.k.a. the Committee on Oversight and Reform) December 13, 2022, letter to you now fall under the purview of both the Committee and the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.¹ As such, we renew the December 13th requests to be produced as soon as possible but no later than February 20, 2023. For your ready reference, those requests are as follows:

1. All calendars from November 1, 2019, through present for the following individuals:
 - a. Dr. Peter Daszak;
 - b. Dr. Aleksei Chmura;
 - c. Dr. Kevin Olival;
 - d. Dr. Armine Arustamyan; and
 - e. Dr. Hume Field.
2. All phone records from November 1, 2019, through present for the following individuals:
 - a. Dr. Peter Daszak;
 - b. Dr. Aleksei Chmura;
 - c. Dr. Kevin Olival;
 - d. Dr. Armine Arustamyan; and
 - e. Dr. Hume Field.
3. All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates and the Wuhan Institute of Virology or any other Chinese entity engaged in research or other work related to grant R01AI110964.
4. All documents and communications between or among any agency or federal entity, or any sub-agencies, sub-awardees, or affiliates and EcoHealth Alliance, or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates, regarding grant R01AI110964.

¹ H. Res. 5 (2023); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, & Hon. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Peter Daszak, President, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. (Dec. 13, 2022).

5. All documents and communications regarding EcoHealth's proposal to the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency for the project entitled PREEMPT.
6. All documents and communications regarding the Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Framework, including but not limited to the creation and formation of the Framework, the membership of the Board, and the referral or lack thereof of any EcoHealth grant to the Board.
7. All documents and communications regarding the U.S. government instituted gain-of-function pause, including but not limited to communications regarding stopping or pausing any of EcoHealth's grants.
8. All documents and communications regarding the letter in *The Lancet* entitled "Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19."

In addition to the above requests, please also produce any and all documents and information and include the Select Subcommittee on all activities produced in response to or resulting from the Committee on Energy and Commerce's February 2, 2023 request to you.

Further, we also renew our request for testimony. Accordingly, Select Subcommittee staff will contact you to schedule transcribed interviews with the following individuals, reserving the right to conduct follow-up interviews or request testimony from other witnesses pertinent to our investigation.

1. Dr. Peter Daszak, President;
2. Dr. Aleksei Chmura, Chief of Staff;
3. Dr. Kevin Olival, Vice President for Research;
4. Dr. Armine Arustamyan, Chief Financial Officer; and
5. Dr. Hume Field, Science and Policy Advisor.

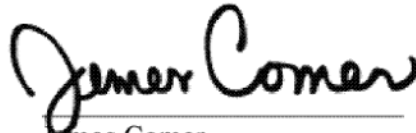
The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is authorized to investigate "the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic, including but not limited to the Federal Government's funding of gain-of function research" and "executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus pandemic" under H. Res. 5. Further, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability is authorized to investigate "any matter" at "any time" pursuant to House Rule X. To schedule the interviews or ask any follow up or related questions please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Chairman
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Pandemic



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Accountability



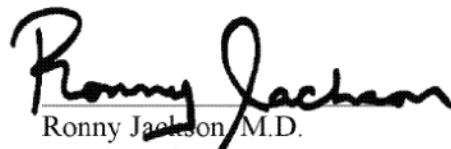
Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



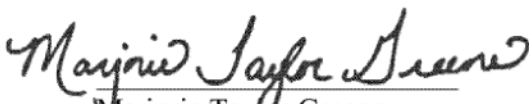
Ronny Jackson, M.D.
Member of Congress



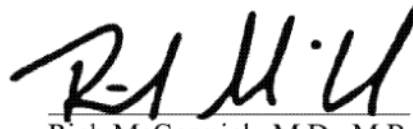
Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Rich McCormick, M.D., M.B.A.
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

Mr. Peter Daszak, Ph.D.

February 13, 2023

Page 4

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D., Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Morgan Griffith, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Kathy Castor, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 3:52:31 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 13 Sep 2021 3:52:26 PM -0400
Subject: Re: foia
From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Gerald Keusch [b6] Robert Kessler [b6] >;

Please let me know who it is. Maybe peter Aldhous? He's a reporter from buzzfeed who likes to point out NIH flaws

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

[b6]

> On Sep 13, 2021, at 2:51 PM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:
>
> peter, just got foia'd by a guy looking for all emails from me to you since 2019. sorry. d
>
> Sent from my iPhone
> David M Morens
> OD, NIAID, NIH

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Date: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 7:27:59 PM -0400

Sent: Fri, 28 Apr 2023 7:27:51 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6] >

To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6] >;

CC: David Morens [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] >;

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 [b6]

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Roberts, Rich [b6]

Cc: David Morens [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] >

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](#)

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: **b6**

b6 | Phone: **b6** | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T **b6**
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Roberts, Rich **b6** >
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay **b6** >; David Morens **b6** >; Jeff Sturchio **b6** >; Aleksei Chmura <**b6**>; Peter Daszak <**b6**>
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 **b6** > 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: **b6** **b6**
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: **b6**

Executive Assistant: **b6**
Tel: **b6** **b6**
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: **b6**

From: Hotez, Peter Jay **b6**
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM
To: David Morens **b6**

Cc: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura <
[b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
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: [b6]

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

Senior Coordinator & Executive Support [b6]

[b6] Phone: [b6] | Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]

[b6]

[b6]

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens [b6] 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]" [b6]
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens [b6]
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]" [b6]
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.

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.”

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Date: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 9:25:56 PM -0500

Sent: Wed, 25 Jan 2023 9:25:37 PM -0500

Subject: Re: Two new developments today

From: "Hotez, Peter Jay" [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6];

CC: David Morens [b6] Jeffrey Sturchio [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
[b6] Gerald Keusch [b6] R [b6]

NY Times article out tonight, let me know what I can do to help. Disappointed in Larry Gostin piling on, when we need virologic research more than ever

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/25/science/nih-ecohealth-coronavirus-lab-leak.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

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

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[b6] | Phone: [b6] Fax: 713-798-2299

Media Inquiries:

[b6]
[b6]
iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 6:07 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

I don't know if these will get traction, but it's extremely stressful...

First, another attempt by Republican member of the house Guy Reschenthaler to defund EcoHealth Alliance
<https://www.nationalreview.com/news/house-republican-introduces-bill-to-ban-federal-funding-for-ecohealth-alliance/>

Second, an effort to set up a new Inspector General for NIH from Senator Marshall
<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jan/25/senators-move-create-inspector-general-probe-nih-f/>

I'm hoping it's just grandstanding at the moment, but this attests to our need to defend science right now. They're starting

with us, but their goals are all types of 'risky research' as they define it...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
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

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

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Media Inquiries:

b6

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 11:35 AM, Peter Daszak [b6] 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

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
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 [b6] 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 anti-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 friend the [b6]
[b6] 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 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, [b6]

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

On Jan 25, 2023, at 10:58, Peter Daszak [b6] 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

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Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
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

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[b6]

b6

iPhone

On Jan 25, 2023, at 9:47 AM, Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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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.: [REDACTED]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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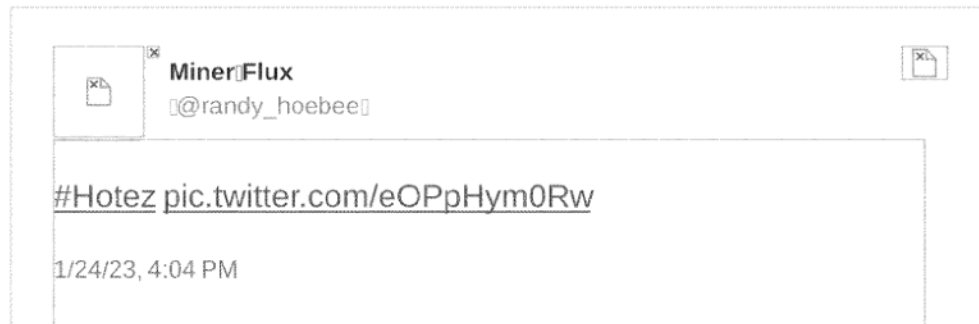
From: Jeffrey Sturchio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 9:08 PM
To: Hotez, Peter Jay <[REDACTED]>; Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>; David Morens <[REDACTED]>; Gerald Keusch <[REDACTED]>; Rich Roberts <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter

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 <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 8:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; David Morens [b6]; Gerald Keusch <[b6]>; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]>
Subject: Tweet by MinerFlux on Twitter



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iPhone

Date: Sat, 29 Apr 2023 4:55:23 PM -0400
Sent: Sat, 29 Apr 2023 4:55:16 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6] >
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Roberts, Rich [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio
CC: [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Peter Daszak
[b6] >;

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 [b6]
Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 7:15 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >; Jeff Sturchio [b6] >;
Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: Re: Mother Jones: The Coming Tidal Wave of Right Wing Covid Lawsuits

Yes he retired [b6] he was the last chair of tropical public health at Harvard

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

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Media Inquiries:

[b6]
[b6]

iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 6:29 PM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

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 [b6] for a while – is he now [b6]

Jerry

From: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: David Moren [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
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

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Media Inquiries:

b6

From: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 12:34 PM

To: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>

Cc: Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>

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 <[b6]> 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: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

Executive Assistant: [b6]
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

From: Hotez, Peter Jay <[b6]>

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 10:43 AM

To: David Morens <[b6]>

Cc: Gerald Keusch <[b6]>; Jeff Sturchio <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Roberts, Rich <[b6]>

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

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iPhone

On Apr 28, 2023, at 10:40 AM, David Morens <b6> wrote:

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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]" <[REDACTED] b6 >
Date: April 28, 2023 at 10:37:33 EDT
To: David Morens <[REDACTED] b6 >
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]" <[REDACTED] b6 >
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.

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.”

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Date: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 8:41:16 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 9 Aug 2022 8:41:10 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Critic of congressional probe into gain-of-function research helped fund Wuhan gain-of-function study - U.S. Right to Know
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]

Can't believe Jeff Sachs has stooped so low as to respond to US Right to Know with a nasty quote:

The Lancet Commission

Hotez serves on The Lancet COVID-19 Commission, a panel of experts working to scrutinize the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Commission Chair Jeffrey Sachs, a Columbia University economist, has in recent weeks called for an impartial investigation of the lab leak hypothesis.

Meanwhile, Hotez has suggested that the commission's final reports should not incorporate Sachs' concerns.

"Whenever I discussed the possibility that SARS-CoV-2 was a laboratory release, Hotez strongly rejected that possibility, but never explained to me or to the Lancet Commission that he actually had a grant that was based on that very kind of risk. He should certainly have been clear on that," said Sachs.

Sachs said the 2017 paper generated questions about whether a potential conflict of interest should have been disclosed to the commission.

"I asked all of the Commissioners repeatedly to be transparent about any possible conflicts of interest," Sachs added.

This is literally following the McCarthy witch hunt playbook.. Sad thing is that you've already worked hard for the Lancet Commission for 2 years, and now you're being undermined for your unpaid voluntary efforts!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: 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, August 9, 2022 4:11 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens <[b6]>; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; Jeffrey Sturchio [b6]; Rich Roberts <[b6]>

Subject: Critic of congressional probe into gain-of-function research helped fund Wuhan gain-of-function study - U.S. Right to Know

It's all lies, no funds ever went to WIV, no funds even went to China. It was for vaccine research in the US. We're having Baylor Legal look at it

<https://usrtk.org/biohazards/critic-of-congressional-probe-into-gain-of-function-research-helped-fund-wuhan-gain-of-function-study/>

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: [b6]

[b6]

Phone: [b6]

Fax: 713-798-2299

iPhone

Date: Mon, 7 Jun 2021 12:42:39 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 7 Jun 2021 12:40:51 AM -0400
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews
From: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6>
To: Roberts, Rich <[REDACTED] b6>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED] b6>; Keusch, Jerry <[REDACTED] b6>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED] b6>
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Well I really appreciate that! It was a horrible interview – they spoke to me for hours over the days up to it giving the impression it would be a balanced review of what the WHO team found in China, but clearly they saw that the lab leak was the breaking story and didn't even mention wildlife farms or markets! Please pass on my appreciation to your wife.

Having a very bad weekend frankly. Hate phone calls keeping me awake at night and I've just seen that the social media people have finally discovered the hate-website that someone's put up accusing my father of being a Nazi (www.peterdaszak.com). Villagers gathering with pitchforks as we speak!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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Website: 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] b6>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:03 AM
To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6>; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED] b6>; Keusch, Jerry <[REDACTED] b6>; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED] b6>
Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter:

My wife and I watched the 60 Minutes coverage, which was better than I had remembered. My wife thought you were very good!

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: <[REDACTED] b6> <[REDACTED] b6>

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Sent: Sunday, June 6, 2021 11:54 PM

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Roberts, Rich <[b6]>
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

Subject: RE: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

EXTERNAL SENDER

Wonderful that you're able to get information up the chain and I'm really relieved and hope that it will be useful and that this won't be weaponized politically.

The quote came out in the Financial Times on Saturday (attached PDF). The relevant quote is here:

'But he [Fauci] also admits that some of the work undertaken at the Wuhan lab using NIH money could have violated safety standards — even if he says responsibility for that lies with EcoHealth Alliance, the non-governmental group that performed the work. "We will have to go back and look at that," he said of accusations that some of the coronavirus work was undertaken at biosafety level two, roughly equivalent to that in a dentist's office. "But that is something that should have been monitored by EcoHealth Alliance." EcoHealth Alliance said: "As with all research organisations, EcoHealth Alliance must follow the local laws of the countries in which we work."

Of course, for EHA this is very concerning because even though we've followed the appropriate rules, their complexity means that the public may not understand, and when you add comments like the journalists have above: "work...could have violated safety standards", it's just used to cast doubt and try and besmirch our name as usual.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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: Saturday, June 5, 2021 11:43 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; [b6] >; Keusch, Jerry [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>

Subject: FW: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

Peter, the below CONFIDENTIAL email went to Tony and to our OD staff, so that Tony will be prepared to speak to the subject of BSL...

This was what I was typing up when we spoke last night. I am sure he will “get” this and be able to respond to the crazies if necessary....

b6

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

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6** >

Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:36 PM

To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>; Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6**; Routh, Jennifer (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6**; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6**

Subject: ASF and all this may come up in interviews

In the recent Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists article, we have this quote

“It is clear that some or all of this work was being performed using a biosafety standard—biosafety level 2, the biosafety level of a standard US dentist’s office—that would pose an unacceptably high risk of infection of laboratory staff upon contact with a virus having the transmission properties of SARS-CoV-2....”

My understanding is that human coronaviruses including sarbecoviruses are routinely worked at in BSL-2 around the world as are many other viruses that can cause problems for people. The BSL level designation is decided by each country and is not related to perceived pandemic potential but largely to risk to the BSL workers.

For example, BSL-4 designation generally means deadly virus, infectious by aerosol, no vaccine against it, and no treatment for it. So, although rabies is 100% fatal in humans, it can be prevented by a vaccine and prevented by a post exposure serum, and (probably if not totally) not infectious by aerosol, thus it is BSL-2 even though among the deadliest of human viruses. Working with non-human coronaviruses at BSL-2 is widespread since these viruses are not known to infect humans.

David, Alan and others may have additional thoughts.

Attached is a fact sheet that I think comes from Ec~Health

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Date: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 11:58:59 AM -0500
Sent: Tue, 7 Dec 2021 11:58:21 AM -0500
Subject: FW: Eric Lander meeting 12/10
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Jeff Sturchio [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
[b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];
Attachments: image001.png

Here's the NAM directly telling me not to attend a really important meeting, and my strong pushback.

I'm trying my best to avoid this becoming a media story, but if this goes to a full investigation, and weeks of further waiting while I respond to these ridiculous accusations, I just see my reputation, job, health, family safety, and EHA staff undergoing further awful attrition.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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, December 7, 2021 11:55 AM
To: 'Bogard, Kimber' [b6]
Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]
Subject: RE: Eric Lander meeting 12/10

Dear Kimber,

I'm very disappointed that baseless political attacks are behind you being asked to not include me in this discussion, particularly after I've put in so much hard work over the past year to this activity.

It's also extremely concerning that, despite my repeated requests, the rules and procedures which apparently state that a member who's been put in this awful position cannot take part in NAM activities, have not been sent to me. Instead I'm told they are not for members or the public to see.

I do not see the NAM upholding the integrity of science, or its members, against political attack here. Rather, it comes across as NAM doing its best to protect the organization at the expense of a member's reputation. I am deeply upset that it has come to this.

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

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

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

From: Bogard, Kimber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Eric Lander meeting 12/10

Dear Peter,

I have been informed that you are ineligible to serve on committees and other activities of the NAM while your situation is being evaluated. Therefore, I do not expect you to attend the Eric Lander meeting this Friday 12/10.

Thank you for your contributions.

Best wishes,
Kimber

Kimber Bogard, Ph.D. (she, her, hers)
Deputy Executive Officer, Programs
nam.edu | [@theNAMedicine](https://twitter.com/theNAMedicine)



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Date: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 1:17:45 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 1:17:34 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Good LA Times article.
From: "Hotez, [b6]"
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6];
Attachments: Outlook-eo4tlt4i.png

FYI Jon contacted me and asked if we could speak, I gave him my cell

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



From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 11:09 AM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

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

Jerry:

I did get an answer from Elizabeth Warren's staff and anticipate a direct conversation soon. The contact I have was passed from Seth Moulton's office in confidence so let me see if he would agree to converse with you directly after I have spoken with him.

I spoke with Jon Cohen yesterday and found him to be quite reasonable. He did agree to pass any quotes he might use past me before publishing. I specifically mentioned that it would be greatly appreciated if he could write something in direct support of Peter within the article.

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: Saturday, October 2, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; peter hotez [b6]
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

I talk to him regularly, most recently about the attacks on Peter D and the task force we were on under the Lancet COVID Commission which Jeff Sachs has unilaterally terminated. I couldn't really allow him insights into where we are or to use anything I said (all off the record) because we are negotiating with Lancet for a different way to continue our work.

I think he is a decent guy. I know Peter D has concerns so if you do speak to Jon be careful about what you say and how you say it, and require him to run any quotes he plans to use by you. That's his general modus operandi.

What we need is to get the amendment out of the appropriations bill, and while the senators are important it may be somebody like Eric Lander who is a cabinet member to get them to pay attention. The administration is mightily distracted.

Rich, if you are able to share your entre to Elizabeth Warrens staff I would happily follow up. I have contacted them, Markey, and my representation and all I get back is the auto thank you reply.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; peter hotez [b6]
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

Peter:

I just spoke with Jon Cohen from Science. I mentioned that you were being attacked completely unfairly and that it would be good if he could find some encouraging words to help you. I am wondering if one of you would also be prepared to talk to Jon.

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] g >
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 11:47 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6] >
Subject: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the origins “debate” pretty clearly:

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021-09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source>

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK BUSINESS COLUMNIST
SEPT. 28, 2021 6 AM PT

When it comes to the pandemic, pseudoscience has outweighed real science at almost every turn. One of the best examples of that is the unsupported assertion that the virus causing COVID-19 escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

Despite mounting evidence that the virus reached humans through natural pathways — from infected animals such as bats — the lab-leak hypothesis recently jumped back into the news, thanks to [CNN](#), the investigative news site [the Intercept](#), and [the Atlantic](#).

All treat the idea that the virus escaped from a lab credulously. They downplay or entirely ignore the latest scientific findings that support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom — the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.

CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As Nature reported, those viruses are "more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses."

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

"That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic

transmission is quite unlikely,” Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego’s medical school, told me. “To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely.”

As virologist Robert F. Garry of Tulane, one of Wertheim’s co-authors, told Nature, the finding is “a dagger into the heart” of the lab-leak hypothesis.

Garry and Wertheim are among the 21 expert co-authors of a “critical review” of virological findings on the origins of COVID-19. The review concludes, “There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 has a laboratory origin.”

Now let’s look at the recent reporting in support of the lab-leak theory.

On Sept. 19, CNN aired an hourlong documentary entitled “The Origins of COVID-19: Searching for the Source.” Hosted by the channel’s star science anchor, Sanjay Gupta, the program carries the veneer of an evenhanded approach.

Proponents of the zoonotic origin theory are given airtime, including Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and Peter Daszak, a prominent grant maker in the virology field.

But so are proponents of the lab-leak theory. They include Alina Chan, a researcher at the Broad Institute, a biomedical research center, and Josh Rogin, a Washington Post columnist. Neither has any experience in virology. Chan is co-writing a book about COVID’s origins that is expected to feature the lab-leak theory prominently, a fact not mentioned by CNN.

Yet at the top of the hour, referring to the common pattern of viruses jumping from animals to humans, Gupta says, “It’s a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.”

By posing these two theories as simply two equally plausible solutions to a mystery, CNN glosses over the fact that the virological community regards the animal origin as vastly more likely than a lab leak. In fact, the two hypotheses are miles apart in credibility.

One of the program’s chief targets is a report by a World Health Organization team issued in early 2021 that found spillover from an animal host to be “likely to very likely” and a laboratory incident an “extremely unlikely pathway.”

Gupta calls the WHO report “the only scientific study of COVID’s origins to date.” That’s not remotely accurate. There have been countless scientific studies, both before the WHO report and since. Indeed, Gupta mentions one of them, a seminal paper by Andersen and colleagues, published in March 2020. That paper termed the lab-leak theory “a speculative incomplete hypothesis with no credible evidence.”

Much of the rest of the CNN program is filled with speculation about the Wuhan Institute, typically presented with portentous music on the soundtrack, suggesting subliminally that something sinister is going on there. The absence of information from the institute or the Chinese government is generally taken as tantamount to an admission of guilt.

“Over the course of 2020,” Gupta declares, “more and more revelations emerged related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.”

One of these revelations concerned three staff members who reportedly sought hospital treatment for a flu-like illness in November 2019, before the COVID pandemic emerged.

Nothing has ever transpired to suggest these workers had COVID — November is flu season, after all. That they sought treatment at a hospital is immaterial, since it is well-known that people in China often go to hospitals for primary care, which residents of other countries would tend to receive in a doctor’s office.

A CNN reporter appearing on air overstated the case, saying the patients were “hospitalized with an unknown illness.” There has been no evidence that they were admitted to the hospital or that their illness was “unknown.”

CNN doesn’t bring its audience up to date on any of the latest research supporting the zoonotic theory, though it was published well before the air date and superseded what Gupta described as “the only scientific study” of COVID origins.

More recently, the Intercept trumpeted a purported scoop based on a leaked document — a grant proposal submitted in 2018 by Daszak’s organization, the EcoHealth Alliance, to the Pentagon’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

The proposal, for a laboratory manipulation of a virus related to SARS, the viral disease that caused an outbreak of pulmonary disease in China in 2003. DARPA rejected the proposal, however, and there’s no evidence that it was submitted to, much less approved by, any other funding body.

“Many questions remain about the proposal, including whether any of the research described in it was completed,” the Intercept acknowledged.

Commentators on the Intercept’s disclosure have displayed, perhaps in spite of themselves, that they lack the courage of their own convictions. In an article published Sept. 24, the Atlantic, unable or unwilling to delve into what the Intercept’s document actually meant, if anything, settled for declaring that it made the lab-leak debate “even messier.”

The magazine’s Daniel Engber and Adam Federman wrote: “Does the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic have an unnatural origin? The answer hasn’t changed: probably not. But we have learned something quite disturbing in the past few days, simply from how and when this information came to light.”

By pretending that the debate itself is important, as if both sides have something to offer, they manage to report on a claim that has no substance. The approach also protects journalists from their persistent fear of landing on the wrong side of things — the authors preserve an out in case the lab-leak hypothesis turns out to be true, as unlikely as that is. If that happens, they can point to their lily-livered observations and say, “See, we knew it all along.”

In this debate, however, the zoonotic camp has evidence and the lab-leak camp nothing to offer but innuendo.

Here's the true state of the discussion. There is no evidence that the virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory or any other lab. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab was working with a bat virus that had anything but a very distant resemblance to SARS-CoV-2. Viruses that resemble it much more closely have been found in natural settings a thousand miles from Wuhan, as the crow, or bat, flies.

Evidence that artificial manipulation of a virus gave rise to SARS-CoV-2 has faded, as scientists find more evidence that features of SARS-CoV-2 thought to be unnatural occur in nature. Meanwhile, evidence for zoonotic transmission is constantly accumulating. No one who reports on the issue without acknowledging these two trends should be trusted.

Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik writes a [daily blog](#) appearing on [latimes.com](#). His seventh book, "[Iron Empires: Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America](#)," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/hiltzikm](#) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/hiltzik](#).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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Date: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 10:34:58 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 15 Jun 2021 10:34:57 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Could we set up a zoom call together?

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Roberts, Rich [b6]; peter hotez [b6] Alison Andre
CC: [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
[b6]

Hi Peter,

I will prioritize this, and move other commitments around to make it easier to schedule.
Jerry

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] peter hotez [b6] Alison Andre [b6]
[b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Could we set up a zoom call together?

Peter, great, and count me in. My schedule isn't too bad in the next couple weeks
d
Sent from my iPhone
David M Morens
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Jun 15, 2021, at 09:42, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Dear Robert, Jerry, David, and Peter

I had a good conversation with Peter Hotez at the end of last week – Peter's running a taskforce on the Lancet COVID-19 Commission, and has been following the media frenzy around the COVID origins with a keen eye. As you know, he's been talking publicly about the anti-vaccine movement for a long time, and sees strong parallels between the politically motivated anti-vaxxer movement, and the politically motivated COVID origins conspiracies. He's also dealing with intense harassment similar to the attacks I've been having recently.

Peter and I would really appreciate an opportunity to all meet by Zoom to talk about what we can do together (and separately) to change the narrative and deal with the growing anti-science agenda. Peter is, like many of us, disappointed by the risk-averse nature of the academies (he's a NAM member) and many of the professional societies. He's also well aware of media messaging and how that can be used – he's a regular contributor to CNN and other TV networks. By the way, Peter is one of the inaugural Fellows of the ASTMH, as well as a past member of the NIH Council of Councils.

I've cc'd Alison and Aleksei who can help set up a time for a 1 hour zoom call either later this week or next week. I hope you'll be able to join and really appreciate your efforts.

By the way – Rich – thanks for putting me in touch with Ellie Dehoney at Research!America – she is on the case, albeit she's well aware of the political constraints and the timing right now.

Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 7:25:25 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 25 Feb 2021 7:25:20 PM -0500
Subject: Re: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]

Also, present tantalizing facts but not strong opinions. Only he gets to dot the i's and cross the t's. He needs it to be like you are the humble peon and he is the interpreter/ decider. It is HIS show, you are the humble guy who gets a 10 minute audience. Hope this helps

Welcome to my psychopathology! D

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

On Feb 25, 2021, at 19:16, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] > wrote:

That might be good, but simple, with bullets, and the kind that lead him to ask for more

This is all about him getting to show you how smart he is. Give him a few pitches he can hit out of the park. D

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

On Feb 25, 2021, at 19:12, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Should I prepare 3-4 slides?

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >

Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:09 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Cc: Aguilar, Patricia V. [b6]

Subject: Re: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants

I didn't know about the call tomorrow. It may be just you, Cliff, and Tony. But that is fine. No need for me to be there. Keep everything brief, just succinct bullet points on the most important take home messages, and then be prepared to follow up in depth if he asks questions.

Remember that he is not so much interested in the geeky science but in communication points for when he goes on tv. D

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

On Feb 25, 2021, at 19:02, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Please accept my apologies for dysfunction email replying!

Please also count me in for the panel you're organizing on viral surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and one of COVID origins if you go ahead with that.

I'll look for Katherine Laycock's email and respond now.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Aguilar, Patricia V. [b6]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants

Hello Dr. Daszak:

Thank you for accepting our invitation to an ACAV event on COVID-19. We finalized the panelists for the COVID-19 variants webinar weeks ago, but we can certainly schedule another event focusing on COVID-19 origins.

Additionally, ACAV is organizing a scientific symposium, "Viral surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic." The event is scheduled as part of the ASTMH annual meeting. It would be fantastic to count on your participation as a panelist for this event. You might have received an invitation from one of our trainee leaders (Dr. Katherine Laycock).

Please let us know whether or not you can participate in this panel.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Patty

Patricia V. Aguilar, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology
Associate Director, Center for Tropical Diseases
University of Texas Medical Branch
301 University Blvd
Galveston, Texas 77550
[b6]
Ph: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Aguilar, Patricia V. <[b6]>
Subject: RE: ACAV webinar on COVID-19 variants

WARNING: This email originated from outside of UTMB's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Answering this email now (late of course) – I'd be delighted to join an ACAV webinar – I'm not an authority on variants, but can talk on COVID origins and disease emergence in general if that fits

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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Date: Fri, 7 May 2021 6:22:02 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 7 May 2021 6:20:24 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment
From: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
To: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]> David Morens <[b6]>
CC: Roberts, Rich <[b6]> Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Robert Kessler <[b6]>

Really interesting to hear those comments about "Blah blah" and "Deng deng". It just saddens me because I know Zhengli's English is not the best, and I don't think she realizes that every word she says publicly, even in response to a question at a University seminar, is being manipulated and used politically. It feels like racism to me.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 11:01 AM
To: David Morens <[b6]>; Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Cc: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]> Robert Kessler <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

The letter to Blinken includes the following statement:

"...the release of these documents from the Department could help to refute contradictory statements that have been made regarding the possibility of a laboratory leak from the WIV." This could be taken in a positive sense, that the documents will refute the lab release hypothesis, although I don't think that's how they mean it.

Regarding what Peter previously said about Shi's use of the phrase blah blah, which will surely be characterized as dismissive and therefore put into a negative perspective. I have access to a senior endowed full professor of Chinese politics at Harvard and I asked about the meaning of blah blah

when a Chinese native speaker uses it while speaking English. Here is the answer:

“In my experience many Chinese mistakenly use “blah, blah” as equivalent to the Chinese term “deng, deng” which means “and so forth” and has no negative connotation.”

So Peter was right, and now we know the Chinese term it is trying to translate, however awkwardly. This might be useful in any conversation with a report about her remarks or the Republicans letter.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T. [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
[b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>
Subject: Re: Another letter - almost amusing - from House E&C Committee Republicans re. Zhengli's "Blah Blah" comment

Peter, i will reply eventually when i get some time, but until then, note yet another Josh Rogin editorial in this morning's Post, this time disclosing the Republican letter to Tony, which i have not yet seen and may or may not see. D

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

On May 6, 2021, at 23:34, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Sorry for yet another email, but this one is so bizarre it's almost funny. It's a letter from the House E&C Committee Republicans to Blinken asking him to release the classified intel that people in the Wuhan lab were sick prior to COVID, and that the WIV does military research. It quotes some comments from a recent talk my collaborator Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, gave during a lecture at Rutgers. Some of the online conspiracists heard about the talk in advance and they packed the audience – some of their questions from the chat were read out. Her response included a very common “blah blah” phrase used in China when speaking English – here's the quote:

During a March 23, 2021 seminar at Rutgers University, a WHO advisory committee member asked Dr. Shi if [knew].. whether “the U.S. government claims of classified Chinese military research being carried out at the WIV [are] correct, and if so, did you have full awareness of and access to all aspects of this research?”⁴

Dr. Shi answered: From my knowledge, all our research work is open, is transparent. At the beginning of COVID-19, we heard the rumors that claimed our laboratory would have some project blah blah with army blah blah . . . but this is not correct, because I am the director and responsible for research activity. I don't know any kind of research work performed in this lab.⁵

This is ridiculous, of course, and they're obviously using that quote to suggest Dr. Shi doesn't take these questions seriously, but it's actually a racist trope – people in China use the phrase “blah blah” to simply mean “and so on, and so forth”. Just unfortunate...

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:06 PM
To: 'David Moren'; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; 'Roberts, Rich' (b)(6)
Cc: 'Aleksi Chmura'; 'Robert Kessler' [REDACTED]
Subject: New: Letter from Republican Rep. Gallagher to Dr. Fauci re. WIV and gain of function
Importance: High

David,

A Republican representative sent a letter to Tony Fauci today asking some pretty simple questions that are clearly designed to play to their political base.

If Tony Fauci is going to respond to the attached letter that was made public today, I hope he's ready to point out that the work we did was NOT gain of function. This phrase has been bandied about now for a few months and is utterly incorrect.

If he decides to draft a response, I'd be happy to do a quick briefing with you and him to explain the work that has been done up to now with WIV, and was planned to be done on our NIAID grant.

Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2021 12:19:03 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

By the way – we got our notice from the HHS Office of the Inspector-General today that they’re going to audit us.

I’m not worried, we’ve done nothing wrong, but this is upsetting and a major waste of our time and of taxpayer funds.

Advice welcome, of course...

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] [b6]; Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Subject: FW: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

Sad..... Most small children believe in Santa Claus..... Not so sad....



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]

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

[b6]

Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 8:52 AM

Subject: Politico: POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

POLITICO-Harvard poll: Most Americans believe Covid leaked from lab

Opinion on the lab leak scenario, once seen as a fringe theory, has shifted dramatically.

By [ALICE MIRANDA OLLSTEIN](#)

07/09/2021 06:00 AM EDT

-
- Most Americans now believe that the coronavirus leaked from a laboratory in China, according to a new POLITICO-Harvard poll that found a dramatic shift in public perception of Covid-19's origins over the last year.

U.S. adults were almost twice as likely to say the virus was the result of a lab leak in China than human contact with an infected animal, which many scientists believe is the most likely scenario. The poll's findings show what was once a fringe belief held mainly among some on the political right has become accepted by most Republicans, as well as most Democrats, amid heightened scrutiny of the lab leak theory.

In March 2020, a Pew Research Center poll found 29 percent of Americans believed the virus was made in a Chinese lab and released either accidentally or intentionally. The new survey shows 52 percent believe the virus came out of a lab, including 59 percent of Republicans and 52 percent of Democrats, while 28 percent said it was from an infected animal.

The absence of a large partisan gap on the issue is particularly striking, said Bob Blendon, a professor of health policy and political analysis at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health who designed the poll.

“Usually, our polls find a big split between Republicans and Democrats, so this is unique,” he said. “More conservative media have been carrying the ‘lab leak’ issue, and it’s been a Trump talking point from the beginning, so we expected people who lean Democratic would say either ‘It’s not true’ or ‘I don’t know.’ But the belief is bipartisan.”

Blendon said Democrats likely became more receptive to the idea after President Joe Biden’s recent order that intelligence agencies investigate the virus’ origin and comments from Anthony Fauci, the White House chief medical officer, that it’s worth digging into. Fauci and other scientists have cautioned the answer may never be known definitively.

“That the president thought there was enough evidence to ask intelligence agencies to put together a report sends a signal to Democrats that there might be something there,” Blendon said.

Democratic lawmakers have also faced pressure to look more closely at the lab leak scenario, though they worry Republicans will stoke uncertainty about the virus origin for political gain. Several congressional committees have launched inquiries, and the House Science Committee plans to hold its first hearing on the issue next week.

The POLITICO-Harvard poll, which will be released next week, also found there’s a high level of public interest in investigating Covid-19’s origin, with almost two-thirds of Democrats and Republicans calling the issue “extremely” or “very” important. The finding also surprised Blendon, who said the public isn’t typically invested in such a scientific inquiry.

The broad attention on the issue underscores the stakes for the Biden administration’s upcoming report on the virus origin, due in August. Even if the report concludes the virus came from nature, it could be hard to move public opinion, lawmakers and researchers like Blendon have noted.

The poll surveyed 1,009 adults from June 22-27. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

Date: Thu, 1 Jul 2021 9:22:56 PM -0400

Sent: Thu, [REDACTED] PM -0400

Subject: RE:

From: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] Keusch, Jerry [REDACTED]

Great to get a proper email from you David, with proper questions on proper issues of science!

I'll send a full email response either later tonight after two beers, or tomorrow morning after breakfast.

Any discussion of pangolins and bats should include food and beverage - that's well known.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: 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] [REDACTED] >

Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 4:53 PM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Keusch, Jerry

[REDACTED] >

Subject:

Peter, a couple things.

First, I am still thinking about writing with some others a commentary for a

high impact journal, not sure which.

As I envision it, although it would allude to the extreme unlikeliness of a lab leak or mad made origin, it would focus on what the science tells us we need to do next, including things like, as you said, tracing back from markets to farm suppliers and doing epi studies, better surveillance of baats in the *Rhinolophus* distribution and of some of the other species, covering a larger geographic area for bat sampling, surveilling exposed humans, international open collaborations, etc.

I have a longer list than that, but would appreciate if you could give me a list, as specific as possible within a few lines each, of your top 5, or top 10, things to be done.

Also, some questions related to pangolin viruses. Supposedly the closest RBD to SARS-CoV-2 is that so-called "Guangdong" strain reported by the Li group. I don't know where that virus was isolated but can't be from Guangdong because I don't think they have pangolins, so maybe it was imported there? In any case, the Li group speculated that SARS-CoV-2 arose from one or more recombinations between bat viruses and viruses enzootic in pangolins, implying that pangolins may be a stable co-reservoir. Is that your understanding? Do we know that within a geographic area pangolin viruses are similar? Do we know they transmit between themselves, or are they being infected from some other animal like a local bat? Should we be sampling not only the *Rhinolophus* bats across their geographic range, but also the javanic across their geographic range?

Finally, I am wondering what you know about the 2010 Cambodian viruses isolated by that French group. We have an NIAID colleague working at a Cambodia field site, and she discovered that workers in the area have coronavirus antibodies that light up with sarbecovirus antigens in EIA, but not Nt. (She sent them here and Jeff T did the Nts, and also tried to detect virus in I think 110 bat dropping samples, but without success). Cambodia seems to be the epicenter of javanica pangolins, but has anyone tested them in Cambodia?

TY, D

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Date: Sat, 20 Feb 2021 6:50:10 PM -0500
Sent: Sat, 20 Feb 2021 6:32:04 PM -0500
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence
From: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
To: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>
CC: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks for the email - I know you're right Jerry and I'm resigned to the continued longhaul at this stage. Came back from China v. frustrated that Biden's overt stance on China is going to be the same as Trump for now. I knew this would be the case, and it makes sense politically, but it's just going to drag this on for me and EcoHealth. On the bigger issue of political interference in funding, let's see what my program officer can find out. If the answer comes back 'no' to releasing the funds, then I'm going to need continued support from all of the people who spoke out last year against the action...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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 <[b6]>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:23 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Taking measured steps is the right path. In addition your measured (mostly) comments on the various media interviews you have given are effective, enhancing your stature as a respected and thoughtful expert. Keep it up.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>; David Morens <[b6]>
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>

Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

I'll email Rich later today probably. Erik Stemmy, my program officer at NIAID says he'll look into it. I don't think for a minute the funds will be released, but this is the correct thing to do before moving on.

If NIH O/D won't release the grant at this point, the only way forward would be to file an action. I'll need public support for that. It would be very unfortunate and I'm hoping it won't come to it.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: 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 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Thanks Peter,

Thanks for the update. I would be happy to be a Tony Whisperer when the time is right. It's a bit hard for me to interpret the NIH speak and the actions to follow will provide the necessary clarification. I too hope this is now history. However, my sense also tells me that until there is a public disclosure that will preclude any precedent arising from this terrible episode at NIH I don't think we can just rest easy.

Were you in touch with Rich Roberts? Keep me in the loop.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:04 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>; David Morens <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>

Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>

Subject: Important email just sent to NIAID - FW: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Importance: High

Jerry and David,

Just got off a call with our pro bono lawyers. They'd been in contact with NIH O/D re. another FOIA request. The person they dealt with told them that there are no pending inquiries into the Wuhan Institute of Virology – the stated reason that our grant was initially terminated. The email chain is below including an email I just sent to Erik Stemmy, cc'd to Emily Erbelding and Cristina Cassetti asking to let me know of the status of our grant. We're hoping that we'll get information that the grant is now fully reinstated without conditions.

I'm letting you know so that you might whisper in Tony's ear in case it gets up to him. I realize it's been dealt with in the past by the Office of the Director, but let's see what happens – this is an attempt to give them a way to quietly continue the funding without further escalation.

Keeping my fingers crossed here, and anything that you can do to help or advise, or smooth the right passage would be very much appreciated.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
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USA

Tel.: [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]

Website: 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 [REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:59 PM

To: 'Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]' <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>

Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>' <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>; 'Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]' <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>

Subject: Status of R01AI110964-6 Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence

Importance: High

Hi Erik,

We received an email (below) from Garcia-Malone Gorka of the Office of Director letting us know that they have confirmed there are no pending investigations into the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and that the grant is funded. Because of that email, I'm writing to ask if you can confirm that we can move ahead with a continuation of our 5-yr award R01AI110964 and spend funds

against the budget.

We're really hopeful that this is the case, and everyone at EcoHealth Alliance is looking forward to continuing this critical work.

Looking forward to hearing news from you!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

From: Garcia-Malene, Gorka (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:20:51 PM
To: Matthew R.Torsiello
Cc: Nels T. Lippert; Andrew N. Krinsky; Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E]; NIH FOIA
Subject: [EXT] FW: FOIA Case No. 55702 re: EcoHealth Alliance & Grant No. R01AI110964-6

Good afternoon, Mr. Torsiello –

I'd like to insert myself into the unfolding FOIA conversation in hopes of providing some helpful context. Our records show that this competing renewal has in fact been funded. In addition, any indication from my program that there is an ongoing investigation into WIV can now be disregarded, as we recently confirmed there are no pending investigations into that organization. If we can agree on the above, all that would remain is to receive your proposed redactions to the records sought under the FOIA request.

Please let me know if there are any questions. I look forward to facilitating the Pre-Disclosure Notification process as efficiently as possible.

Best regards.

Gorka Garcia-Malene |FOIA Officer for the National Institutes of Health

From: Matthew R.Torsiello [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Bartok, Lauren (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]
Cc: Nels T. Lippert [REDACTED] Andrew N. Krinsky [REDACTED] >
Subject: FOIA Case No. 55702 re: EcoHealth Alliance & Grant No. R01AI110964-6

Dear Ms. Bartok:

As you may recall, this firm represents EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. ("EcoHealth Alliance"), with respect to certain FOIA requests, including the instant request, FOIA Case No. 55702. The instant request seeks the same documents sought last year in FOIA Case No. 53996, regarding the research project *Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence*, funded under grant 2R01AI110964. A copy of our prior letter regarding FOIA 53996 is available via the link provided below using the password NIH12345. On the grounds set forth in the letter, FOIA 53996 was denied in its entirety.

Likewise, FOIA 55702 should be denied and the grant documents should be withheld. First, grant 2R01AI110964-06 remains an unfunded competing renewal grant that is the subject of a pending first-level appeal and, thus, the materials are not subject to disclosure under NIH Grants Policy Statement §2.3.11.2.2. Moreover, in the context of the appeal, NIH has made multiple requests for further information regarding The Wuhan Institute of Virology ("WIV"), which requests indicate that a law enforcement investigation concerning WIV remains ongoing. Second, as demonstrated by the recent attack on the US Capital fueled by disinformation and conspiracy theories, the need to protect the privacy of EcoHealth Alliance's employees and affiliates is more important than ever. Last, while EcoHealth Alliance did not initially identify that the grant proposal contained confidential-commercial and propriety information, this is not dispositive. Moreover, since the filing of the renewal application, there has been a global COVID-19 pandemic, which has sparked international and highly competitive research in the area of bat coronaviruses.

At the very least, the responsive documents will require significant redactions. While the grant documents were previously reviewed and redacted in connection with FOIA 53996, we require a further opportunity to review the documents to confirm, *inter alia*, that all personnel information has been removed given the heightened risk of harm in this unprecedented political environment. Accordingly, EcoHealth Alliance respectfully requests a forty-five (45) day extension of time to respond to FOIA 55702, to allow sufficient time for EcoHealth Alliance to conduct a further review of the responsive documents and provide an updated letter response that incorporates recent developments and specific justifications for additional redactions.

Please confirm that NIH will deny FOIA 55702 in its entirety or that NIH is agreeable to EcoHealth Alliance's request for an extension of time to provide a particularized response to FOIA 55702. Please also confirm NIH's receipt of this email.

Thank you.

Best,
Matthew R. Torsiello

FOIA Case No. 53996 - EcoHealth Alliance's Letter Response to FOIA Request, dated June 5, 2020 (With Exhibits)

<https://tarterkrinsky-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/p/mtorsiello/EYHsvmSBaINak6mAgJfyl-gByalrZFhCEBLGOnHjfTjMOW?e=mZHyA8>



Matthew R. Torsiello | Associate

D: [REDACTED] F: 212-216-8001
mtorsiello@tarterkrinsky.com | Bio

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[COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER](#)

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Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law.

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Date: Tue, 18 May 2021 5:42:32 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Not to be shared, see attachment
From: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6>
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6 Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] b6
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; image003.jpg; image004.png

...and that's the correct determination, from my understanding of these rules. This is the creation of chimeras from a known pathogenic human virus – SARS-CoV – so it's covered by the rule, but Ralph began this work before the pause and produced them during that period, so asked permission to continue and NIH granted that.

All other work, including that conducted at WIV and that planned (but not conducted) by our now-suspended grant did NOT involve SARS-CoV, and concerned bat-CoVs that have never been shown to infect people, i.e. was not covered by the rule and therefore was deemed NOT to be GoF when NIH reviewed the grant, and reviewed the annual research plans.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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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 >
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:33 PM
To: [REDACTED] b6 >> Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6>; keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6> Roberts, Rich <[REDACTED] b6>
Subject: Not to be shared, see attachment

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: FW: Sen Paul tweet

Date: Tue, 18 May 2021 21:20:15 +0000

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6

To: David Morens; [REDACTED] 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**

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From: Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAID) [E] **(b)(6)**
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:14 PM
To: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] **(b)(6)** NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: RE: Sen Paul tweet

Determination from NIAID.

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] **b6**
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:46 PM
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Sen Paul tweet

He links to this document

<https://www.sciencemag.org/sites/default/files/documents/43088final.pdf>

page 64 is letter to NC

“may include...”

October 21, 2014

Ms. Sherrie Settle
Director, Proposal Management
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Office of Sponsored Research
Administrative Office Bldg, Suite 2200
104 Airport Drive #1350
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-1350

RE: 5U19 AI107810-02

Dear Ms. Settle:

NIAID has determined that the above referenced grant may include Gain of Function (GoF) research that is subject to the recently-announced U.S. Government funding pause (<http://www.hhs.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/gain-of-function.pdf>), Issued on October 17, 2014. The following specific aims appear to involve research covered under the pause:

Project 1: Role of Uncharacterized Genes in High Pathogenic Human Coronavirus infection - Ralph S. Baric, PhD- Project Leader

- Specific Aim 2. Novel functions in virus replication in vitro.
- Specific Aim 3. Novel functions in virus pathogenesis in vivo.

From: Crawford, Chase (NIH/NIAID) [E]

b6

Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:32 PM

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

Haskins, Melinda (NIH/NIAID) [E]

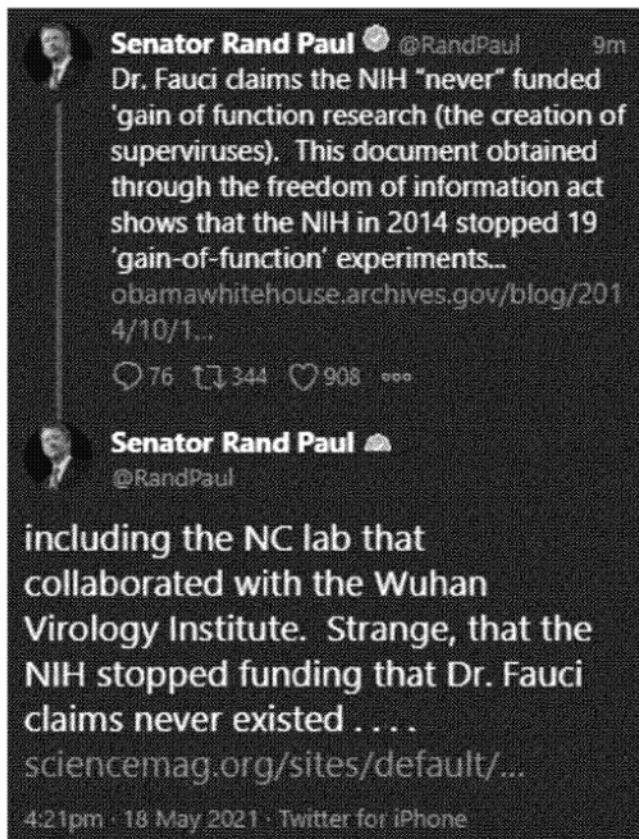
b6

; Billet, Courtney (NIH/NIAID) [E]

; Selgrade, Sara (NIH/NIAID) [E]

b6

Subject: for awareness



Date: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 12:10:05 PM -0400

Sent: Sun, 3 Oct 2021 12:09:58 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]

CC: Robert Kessler [b6]; peter hotez [b6]

Jerry:

I did get an answer from Elizabeth Warren's staff and anticipate a direct conversation soon.

The contact I have was passed from Seth Moulton's office in confidence so let me see if he would agree to converse with you directly after I have spoken with him.

I spoke with Jon Cohen yesterday and found him to be quite reasonable. He did agree to pass any quotes he might use past me before publishing. I specifically mentioned that it would be greatly appreciated if he could write something in direct support of Peter within the article.

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: Saturday, October 2, 2021 6:20 PM

To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]

Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; peter hotez [b6]

Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

I talk to him regularly, most recently about the attacks on Peter D and the task force we were on under the Lancet COVID Commission which Jeff Sachs has unilaterally terminated. I couldn't really allow him insights into where we are or to use anything I said (all off the record) because we are negotiating with Lancet for a different way to continue our work.

I think he is a decent guy. I know Peter D has concerns so if you do speak to Jon be careful about what you say and how you say it, and require him to run any quotes he plans to use by you. That's his general modus operandi.

What we need is to get the amendment out of the appropriations bill, and while the senators are important it may be somebody like Eric Lander who is a cabinet member to get them to pay attention. The administration is mightily distracted.

Rich, if you are able to share your entre to Elizabeth Warrens staff I would happily follow up. I have contacted them, Markey, and my representation and all I get back is the auto thank you reply.

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]

Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 3:47 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens <[b6]>

Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; peter hotez [b6]
Subject: RE: Good LA Times article.

Peter:

I just spoke with Jon Cohen from Science. I mentioned that you were being attacked completely unfairly and that it would be good if he could find some encouraging words to help you. I am wondering if one of you would also be prepared to talk to Jon.

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, September 28, 2021 11:47 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Good LA Times article.

EXTERNAL SENDER

Just saw a piece in the LA Times that sums up the state of the origins "debate" pretty clearly:

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2021-09-28/evidence-against-a-lab-leak-as-covid-source>

It's firewalled so here's the article:

Column: New evidence undermines the COVID lab-leak theory — but the press keeps pushing it

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK BUSINESS COLUMNIST

SEPT. 28, 2021 6 AM PT

When it comes to the pandemic, pseudoscience has outweighed real science at almost every turn. One of the best examples of that is the unsupported assertion that the virus causing COVID-19 escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

Despite mounting evidence that the virus reached humans through natural pathways — from infected animals such as bats — the lab-leak hypothesis recently jumped back into the news, thanks to [CNN](#), the investigative news site [the Intercept](#), and [the Atlantic](#).

All treat the idea that the virus escaped from a lab credulously. They downplay or entirely ignore the latest scientific findings that support the theory that the virus' origin can be found in the animal kingdom — the view accepted by a preponderance of experts in virology.

It's a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the

virus leaked from a lab.

CNN'S SANJAY GUPTA OVERSTATES THE LAB LEAK THEORY

This is known as the zoonotic theory, from the term for a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

We've reported before on the near absence of evidence for a lab leak, whether or not it's the product of a deliberate act.

Ever since the lab-leak claim first emerged during the Trump administration, where it was part of a White House information campaign demonizing China, one of the arguments in its favor has been that evidence for a zoonotic origin has also been spotty.

That argument has never been quite true — virologists know that animals have been the source of most of the viral diseases afflicting humanity — but it has become weaker than ever over the last year.

The question of the origin of COVID-19 isn't of merely academic interest. The answer could guide the world's preparation for future pandemics; if the virus emerged from a laboratory, then improving lab safety measures will be prioritized. If scientific opinion continues to coalesce around animal-to-human transmission, that will underscore the importance of regulating contact between humans and wildlife.

To put it another way, if we focus on the wrong answer, the right measures won't be taken. In a real sense, humankind's future depends on not being distracted by an unsupported, politically motivated claim about Chinese labs.

Before examining the flaws in the CNN, Intercept and Atlantic treatments, let's look at what's been published recently about the zoonotic path.

For context, keep in mind that the earliest cluster of COVID-19 cases, in late 2019, was identified in the environs of the Huanan seafood market in the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan. Lab-leak theorists find this significant, because it's 7.5 miles from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which does research on bat viruses.

A paper posted online earlier this month chiefly by researchers at France's Institut Pasteur and under consideration for publication in a Nature journal, however, reports that three viruses were found in bats living in caves in northern Laos with features very similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

As Nature reported, those viruses are “more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any known viruses.”

Another paper, posted in late August by researchers from the Wuhan lab, reports on viruses found in rats also with features similar to those that make SARS-CoV-2 infectious in humans. Two other papers published on the discussion forum virological.org present evidence that the virus jumped from animals to humans at more than one animal market in Wuhan, not just the Huanan seafood market.

Given that these so-called wet markets have long been suspected as transmission points of viruses from animals to humans because they sell potentially infected animals, that makes the laboratory origin vastly less likely, according to a co-author of one of the papers.

“That a laboratory leak would find its way to the very place where you would expect to find a zoonotic transmission is quite unlikely,” Joel Wertheim, an associate professor at UC San Diego’s medical school, told me. “To have it find its way to multiple markets, the exact place where you would expect to see the introduction, is unbelievably unlikely.”

As virologist Robert F. Garry of Tulane, one of Wertheim’s co-authors, told Nature, the finding is “a dagger into the heart” of the lab-leak hypothesis.

Garry and Wertheim are among the 21 expert co-authors of a “critical review” of virological findings on the origins of COVID-19. The review concludes, “There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 has a laboratory origin.”

Now let’s look at the recent reporting in support of the lab-leak theory.

On Sept. 19, CNN aired an hourlong documentary entitled “The Origins of COVID-19: Searching for the Source.” Hosted by the channel’s star science anchor, Sanjay Gupta, the program carries the veneer of an evenhanded approach.

Proponents of the zoonotic origin theory are given airtime, including Kristian Andersen of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and Peter Daszak, a prominent grant maker in the virology field.

But so are proponents of the lab-leak theory. They include Alina Chan, a researcher at the Broad Institute, a biomedical research center, and Josh Rogin, a Washington Post columnist. Neither has any experience in virology. Chan is co-writing a book about COVID’s origins that is expected to feature the lab-leak theory prominently, a fact not mentioned by CNN.

Yet at the top of the hour, referring to the common pattern of viruses jumping from animals to humans, Gupta says, “It’s a likely probability that this one originated from animals as well. But the possibility also remains that the virus leaked from a lab.”

By posing these two theories as simply two equally plausible solutions to a mystery, CNN glosses over the fact that the virological community regards the animal origin as vastly more likely than a lab leak. In fact, the two hypotheses are miles apart in credibility.

One of the program’s chief targets is a report by a World Health Organization team issued in early 2021 that found spillover from an animal host to be “likely to very likely” and a laboratory incident an “extremely unlikely pathway.”

Gupta calls the WHO report “the only scientific study of COVID’s origins to date.” That’s not remotely accurate. There have been countless scientific studies, both before the WHO report and since. Indeed, Gupta mentions one of them, a seminal paper by Andersen and colleagues, published in March 2020. That paper termed the lab-leak theory “a speculative incomplete hypothesis with no credible evidence.”

Much of the rest of the CNN program is filled with speculation about the Wuhan Institute, typically presented with portentous music on the soundtrack, suggesting subliminally that something sinister is going on there. The absence of information from the institute or the Chinese government is generally taken as tantamount to an

admission of guilt.

“Over the course of 2020,” Gupta declares, “more and more revelations emerged related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.”

One of these revelations concerned three staff members who reportedly sought hospital treatment for a flu-like illness in November 2019, before the COVID pandemic emerged.

Nothing has ever transpired to suggest these workers had COVID — November is flu season, after all. That they sought treatment at a hospital is immaterial, since it is well-known that people in China often go to hospitals for primary care, which residents of other countries would tend to receive in a doctor’s office.

A CNN reporter appearing on air overstated the case, saying the patients were “hospitalized with an unknown illness.” There has been no evidence that they were admitted to the hospital or that their illness was “unknown.”

CNN doesn’t bring its audience up to date on any of the latest research supporting the zoonotic theory, though it was published well before the air date and superseded what Gupta described as “the only scientific study” of COVID origins.

More recently, the Intercept trumpeted a purported scoop based on a leaked document — a grant proposal submitted in 2018 by Daszak’s organization, the EcoHealth Alliance, to the Pentagon’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

The proposal, for a laboratory manipulation of a virus related to SARS, the viral disease that caused an outbreak of pulmonary disease in China in 2003. DARPA rejected the proposal, however, and there’s no evidence that it was submitted to, much less approved by, any other funding body.

“Many questions remain about the proposal, including whether any of the research described in it was completed,” the Intercept acknowledged.

Commentators on the Intercept’s disclosure have displayed, perhaps in spite of themselves, that they lack the courage of their own convictions. In an article published Sept. 24, the Atlantic, unable or unwilling to delve into what the Intercept’s document actually meant, if anything, settled for declaring that it made the lab-leak debate “even messier.”

The magazine’s Daniel Engber and Adam Federman wrote: “Does the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic have an unnatural origin? The answer hasn’t changed: probably not. But we have learned something quite disturbing in the past few days, simply from how and when this information came to light.”

By pretending that the debate itself is important, as if both sides have something to offer, they manage to report on a claim that has no substance. The approach also protects journalists from their persistent fear of landing on the wrong side of things — the authors preserve an out in case the lab-leak hypothesis turns out to be true, as unlikely as that is. If that happens, they can point to their lily-livered observations and say, “See, we knew it all along.”

In this debate, however, the zoonotic camp has evidence and the lab-leak camp nothing to offer but innuendo.

Here's the true state of the discussion. There is no evidence that the virus leaked from the Wuhan laboratory or any other lab. There is no evidence that the Wuhan lab was working with a bat virus that had anything but a very distant resemblance to SARS-CoV-2. Viruses that resemble it much more closely have been found in natural settings a thousand miles from Wuhan, as the crow, or bat, flies.

Evidence that artificial manipulation of a virus gave rise to SARS-CoV-2 has faded, as scientists find more evidence that features of SARS-CoV-2 thought to be unnatural occur in nature. Meanwhile, evidence for zoonotic transmission is constantly accumulating. No one who reports on the issue without acknowledging these two trends should be trusted.

Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik writes [a daily blog](#) appearing on [latimes.com](#). His seventh book, "[Iron Empires](#): Robber Barons, Railroads, and the Making of Modern America," has just been published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/hiltzikm](#) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/hiltzik](#).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](#)

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

Date: Thu, 21 Oct 2021 2:32:21 AM -0400

Sent: Thu, 21 Oct 2021 2:32:19 AM -0400

Subject: RE: NIH STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Peter:

When asked, there are many facetious answers that could tie this to Collins' resignation!

Still better late than never and hopefully it ill help with your Board.

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: Thursday, October 21, 2021 1:39 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: FW: NIH STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

EXTERNAL SENDER

This is from NIH - Francis Collins - a statement now on the website explaining that EcoHealth didn't cause the COVID pandemic.

Little bit late, but I'll take any positive support from anywhere at this point...

<https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/who-we-are/nih-director/statements/statement-misinformation-about-sars-cov-2-origins>

Of course, that now means reporters are asking us questions to see if there's any secret information as to why this is suddenly going up online – you just can't make this stuff up. See emails below...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 1:10 AM

To: 'Sarah Oweremohle' <soweremohle@politico.com>

Cc: 'Robert Kessler' [b6]

Subject: RE: STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

Thanks Sarah - we'll read this and get back to you tomorrow if we have a statement on it

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Sarah Oweremohle [b6] >

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:33 PM

To: [b6]

Subject: FW: STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

Hi - I'm writing this up for us -- would you be able to comment, or is there any key background or context I should know?

Best,

Sarah

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

From: NIH news releases and news items [b6] > On Behalf Of NIH OLIB (NIH/OD)

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:27 PM

To: [b6]

Subject: STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NIH News NIH Office of the Director (OD) <<https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director>>
For Immediate Release: October 20, 2021

CONTACT: NIH Office of Communications, 301-496-5787, <[e-mail:nmb@od.nih.gov](mailto:nmb@od.nih.gov)>

STATEMENT ON MISINFORMATION ABOUT SARS-COV-2 ORIGINS

To date, the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic has not been identified, despite intensive efforts to do so. This is not unusual -- confirming with 100% certainty the origin of a virus is a long and complicated process. It took 14 years for scientists to find a single bat population that contained all the necessary genetic components of SARS-CoV, the virus that caused the 2003 SARS epidemic. We still do not know the origins of the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

Unfortunately, in the absence of a definitive answer, misinformation and disinformation are filling the void, which does more harm than good. NIH wants to set the record straight on NIH-supported research to understand naturally occurring bat coronaviruses at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, funded through a subaward from NIH grantee EcoHealth Alliance. Analysis <<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-bat-research>> of published genomic data and other documents from the grantee demonstrate that the naturally occurring bat coronaviruses studied under the NIH grant are genetically far distant from SARS-CoV-2 and could not possibly have caused the COVID-19 pandemic. Any claims to the contrary are demonstrably false.

The scientific evidence to date indicates that the virus is likely the result of viral evolution in nature, potentially jumping directly to humans or through an unidentified intermediary animal host. Historically, many viruses have emerged from animals to cause epidemics and pandemics, including influenza, Ebola, Zika, West Nile fever, SARS, and more. Importantly, after an intensive investigation, agencies in the U.S Intelligence Community agreed that the virus was not developed as a biological weapon and most agencies assessed that SARS-CoV-2 most likely was not genetically engineered.

Public health and scientific organizations, including NIH, are intensely interested in getting a definitive answer to inform efforts to prevent future events. This effort would benefit from less speculation and more scientific cooperation, especially from China, without which the SARS-CoV-2 origins will be impossible to identify.

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, National Institutes of Health

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit <www.nih.gov>.

NIH...Turning Discovery into Health -- Registered, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ###

This Statement is available online at:

<<https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/who-we-are/nih-director/statements/statement-misinformation-about-sars-cov-2-origins>>

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http://service.govdelivery.com/service/subscribe.html?code=USNIH_1 >.

If you subscribed via the NIH LISTSERV, go to <<https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=nihpres>>.

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Date: Sun, 3 May 2020 5:16:32 PM -0400

Sent: Sun, 3 May 2020 5:16:31 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Thank You!

From: David Morens [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6]

CC: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

Peter, sorry to be delayed in catching up, i know you sent a couple emails i havent responded to, but i haven't been idle. or at least no more idle than usual.

My lame dog-ate-my-homework excuse is being buried in avalanches of work, dealing with this [b6]
[b6], and then at night if i get a w few minutes before falling asleep, [b6]
[b6] I am semi-functioning; [b6]

That said, over the past few days, i have been networking extensively with the ASTMH leadership regarding all this, and they will be actively working on your behalf. Their strategy is indirect and i can explain in detail elsewhere. Suffice to say they are authoritative, have a proactive lobbying staff, and many friends of yours

Leading this charge is Jerry Keusch's close friend and this year's ASTMH president, Joel Breman, CEO Karen Goreleski, a very aggressive ceo-activist-power broker in dc, Dan Bausch, an ex-cdc ex-who emerging id researcher Now based at the London School, and current Program Chair, past prez and malariologist Chandy John, prez-elect ex-cdc Julie Jacobsen, snd others. I am on the program committee with Dan, and am this years chair of the Am Committee on Arthropod-Borne Viruses, which doubles as A major division of astmh, and other folks as well. All of these folks are working in concert to do something

Incidentally, you should absolutely join this society I promise to pay your first year's dues. The leadership has discussed at several meetings trying to entice you with honorary membership or whatever, which i think is free. I have seen Jon E at one or two of these meetings, maybe he's a member

Anyway, the wheels are grinding. Maybe as MLK almost said, the arc of scientific history will bend toward justice

D

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 3, 2020, at 16:11, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Agreed Jeff. I'm also aware that the "anti-GoF Luddites" (Ebright and others) as they could be called are now out in force trying to link it to this issue. It's a complete red herring that's being used by conspiracy theorists to suggest that SARS-CoV-2 was part of a GoF expt. All easily refuted, but the real issue is that people don't listen to the response – just the false accusation. GoF should be kept well out of this – the only way it's relevant is if any of the viruses in culture are in any way involved in a lab release – they aren't, they weren't. SARS-CoV-2 was never in the lab, nor any other relative, including RaTG13. Sequences using that virus were not manipulated and inserted into another, and if that had happened, would instantly be traceable in genome of SARS-CoV-2 etc. etc.

I will continue crushing links to GoF, but others need to use the same line of argument – if you think SARS-CoV-2 is part of GoF research, that's already shown to be untrue – if you think there was a leak of a virus close to SARS-CoV-2 in culture, I have a whole list of reasons why that's also (and separately) not of substance...all laid out publicly and

repeatedly.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] >
Cc: David Morens [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: Thank You!

So glad that this is getting traction in the wider community.

Best regards,

Jeff

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 at 5:41 AM
To: Nancye Green [REDACTED]
Cc: Peter Daszak [REDACTED], Gerald T Keusch [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Thank You!

WOW! Thanks to all. This is great. David

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

On Apr 30, 2020, at 22:41, Nancye Green [REDACTED] wrote:

Great article. Thank you for contributing and sharing.

Nancye

Nancye Green
Donovan/Green

O: +1 [b6] [b6] [b6]

M: +1 [b6] [b6] [b6]

[b6]

www.donovangreen.com

EcoHealth Alliance, Chair

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 9:51 PM

To: David Morens [b6]

>

[b6]

" <

[b6]

, Gerald T Keusch

[b6]

Cc: Nancye Green [b6]

Subject: Thank You!

Thanks for your great quotes in the excellent article in *Science* tonight. Hopefully this will raise awareness in the community so they fight back and ensure none of their grants are targeted, and no more of ours!!

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/nih-s-axing-bat-coronavirus-grant-horrible-precedent-and-might-break-rules-critics-say#>

BTW, apparently Rudi Giuliani is now an expert on Gain of Function – he's tweeting that we broke the rules. I guess COVID can make everyone an epidemiologist, even that scheister.

Off for a beer, and ready for tomorrow!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

Date: Thu, 28 May 2020 1:19:09 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 28 May 2020 1:19:07 PM -0400
Subject: RE: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] >;
CC: Gerald Keusch [b6]
Great – then it'll look like my tweet helped.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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: Thursday, May 28, 2020 12:55 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Gerald Keusch [b6]
Subject: Re: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

My guess is that the Democrats will want to replace him in any case. D

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

On May 28, 2020, at 11:43, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

If he hasn't even got the basic PR skills to dodge that question, he shouldn't be out there talking with reporters.

On November 6th, if Trump is ousted, my first tweet of the day will be to demand his resignation from NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: David Morens [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:39 AM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

Cc: Gerald Keusch [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

I dont know..... He may be trying to cover his ass regarding upcoming inquiries and investigations? D

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

On May 28, 2020, at 11:31, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks for spotting that. What's wrong with this guy – doesn't he understand the weight his words will carry at this point. He should know better than to answer that question directly with "no way of knowing". Politico's not at fault here – Collins just walked into the oldest trap in the book – you can't prove a negative, but don't give that quote.

Extremely disappointing on many levels.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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: Thursday, May 28, 2020 10:39 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]
Subject: Fwd: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

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

From: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" [b6]
Date: May 28, 2020 at 10:33:44 EDT
To: David Morens [b6]
Subject: Fwd: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Karen Goraleski [b6]
Date: May 28, 2020 at 10:31:06 AM EDT
To: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" [b6], Chandy John <[b6]>
[b6] <[b6]>
[b6] "Hill, David R. Prof." <[b6]>
[b6] "Daniel [b6]" <[b6]>
[b6] "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)" <[b6]>
[b6] "Walker, Patricia F" <[b6]>
Subject: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

Unfortunately, the headline chosen by Politico fans the flames (does get more eyeballs on the story which is their goal). If one reads this, Collins says nature created this virus but that was not chosen as the headline. We know that Collins is speaking as a scientist when he says 'there is no way of knowing.' However, readers do not recognize that he says this as a scientist who understands there are always unknowns, even if highly

highly unlikely.

NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

By Zachary Brennan

05/27/2020 06:52 PM EDT

National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins said the coronavirus is "absolutely not" manmade but he could not rule out the idea that it escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, where the first known cases emerged.

"Whether [the coronavirus] could have been in some way isolated and studied in this laboratory in Wuhan, we have no way of knowing," he told POLITICO on Wednesday.

What is clear, he said, is that "Nature created this virus, and has proven once again to be the most effective bioterrorist."

President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have repeatedly suggested that the virus may have somehow emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology — claims that the center's director has called "pure fabrication."

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence confirmed late last month that the government is investigating the pandemic's origin, but said that there is no reason to believe that the coronavirus was manmade or genetically modified.

Collins refused to comment on his agency's recent — and controversial — decision to pull funding from researchers studying how coronaviruses spread from bats to people. In late April the NIH told the EcoHealth Alliance, whose collaborators included scientists at the Wuhan virology lab, that its project did not "align with the program goals and agency priorities."

Prominent scientific societies and 77 Nobel laureates have asked the administration to investigate why the non-profit group's grant was terminated, alleging that the decision was made for political, rather than scientific, reasons. The NIH awards grants using a merit-based system in which researchers evaluate the work of their peers, and ending a grant early is unusual.

Collins, who had not previously commented publicly on the situation, told POLITICO that "the NIH cannot discuss individual grants."

The agency chief, who is leading a public-private partnership called ACTIV to hunt for coronavirus vaccines and drugs, said that if "all goes perfectly," a few million doses of vaccine could be available in October for high-risk groups — with doses available sometime next winter for the rest of the country.

Trump has repeatedly promised a vaccine by the end of the year, far faster than any has ever been developed for any condition.

If China develops a coronavirus vaccine before the U.S. does, Collins said he "seriously hopes" that any tensions between the countries "wouldn't be a dominant factor" in determining whether the U.S. would have access to a Chinese-made shot.

Date: Tue, 12 May 2020 6:38:18 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 12 May 2020 6:38:17 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: NIH termination of research grant
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Gerald Keusch [b6]

Jerry, my private gmail account is where i sent this from, after forwarding to myself from my nih account

Please try to send only to my gmail, as we were doing a couple weeks ago. But i messed up a few times and sent from my nih acct, because on my phone the two are merged, and then when you respond by hitting reply it goes to nih

After some recent issues, i am going to try to strictly use only my gmail in these discussions, that is,

[b6]

TY, david

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: May 12, 2020 at 18:31:11 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: NIH termination of research grant

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

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
Date: May 12, 2020 at 18:23:41 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Subject: RE: NIH termination of research grant

I think I asked before, but do you have a personal email account?

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:30 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: NIH termination of research grant

Jerry, yes please forward to who without my name

The only places i know of for her to go within nih are Lauer, his boss, whose name she can look up, or i can help, and his boss, Francis Collins. She could also ask Tony, although he may not know the whole story, and may not

want to know.

David

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

On May 12, 2020, at 17:03, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

This is from the Politico reporter who wrote the initial revelation of OER in the grant. I praised her report and told her to track the action to where it had to come from at NIH, OD and OER. Now it seems she is on it, or at least trying.

Can I send her theyoutu.be link without any indication where I got it from? I now know thatyoutu.be is an extension shortener and is part of youtube, so I expect somebody with some facility could find it on that site, even though I can't. That means that it would not be hard to get the recording. My hesitation is because I don't want to put anybody in any danger of retaliation.
Any other suggestions for her?

From: Sarah Owormohle <sowermohle@politico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: RE: NIH termination of research grant

Hi Jerry,

Belatedly, thank you for this. I'm sorry for the delay, I got swamped on a few other things, but am absolutely working on this and have been trying to chip away on where this came from – like, if you said, NIH Office of Extramural Research is the genesis, which it seems it was because NIAID did not make this decision.

I've been asking around but do you have suggestions for people or offices to go to as I continue? Also, can you think of any precedence for this kind of move? I am trying to put this in context and find out whether this extends past EHA.

Thank you again though – pushing on this as I can.

Best,

Sarah

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Sarah Owormohle <sowermohle@politico.com>
Subject: RE: NIH termination of research grant

Hi Sarah,

While the EcoHealth Alliance grant is the posterchild for political interference in the conduct and integrity of science the spotlight needs to turn on NIH and what it has done and what that is unleashing. It goes beyond any one grant to the heart of an independent merit based transparent system which has been overturned by the action taken on April 24, just one week ago. This is the pressure point, holding NIH responsible and getting them to admit it by reversing the action taken. To that end the scientific community is mobilizing and will increasingly be heard from.

At the same time, to actually investigate what happen and hold those who are complicit accountable will take pressure from within. To me that is to initiate an investigation by the HHS Inspector General's office.

I do not have any experience in this and I don't know how it can be activated, other than a whistleblower complaint. You had access to copies of the NIH communication with EHA, which had to be provided by somebody. To pursue the genesis of the termination of a specific grant may necessitate action by whoever was aware of what happened from within NIH. That person seems to me to be critical to both unraveling the truth of what happened, why and by whom, and to reversing the decision and preventing a precedent from being established. And this may necessitate the filing a whistleblower complaint to the HHS-OIG. Any way there is to get that message to those who know first-hand and reject the validity of the action taken may need to take the next step which would be through the Office of the Inspector General. There is personal risk in doing so. There are also persons who are willing to take the risk because the principles matter.

I believe it is really important to turn the spotlight from EHA to the NIH Office of Extramural Research in the Office of the NIH Director. You may be able to help make that happen.

Jerry Keusch

From: Keusch, Gerald T
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6:39 PM
To: sowermohle@politico.com
Subject: EcoHealth Alliance

Dear Sarah,

I am a friend and colleague of Peter Daszak, and he has been talking to me since last Monday when the first letter from NIH's Office of Extramural Research to EcoHealth Alliance was sent. For the record, I am a past Director of the Fogarty International Center at NIH and the first incumbent of the position as Associate Director for International Research in the Office of the Director, having been appointed by Harold Varmus in 1998. I am also the Deputy Director of one of the two NIH supported academic medical center based BSL-4 labs as part of the biodefense strategy, the one at Boston University. My career since completing my training, other than the 5 years at NIH, has been in academic medicine with both clinical and research senior positions at the three institutions I served on faculty, including Mt. Sinai in New York from 1970-1978, Tufts in Boston from 1979- 1998, and now since 2004 Boston University.

I want to applaud you for the way you presented the current situation in your posting last evening. I also want to suggest that you dig into the precedents, if any, for the action taken for "convenience" to terminate the EcoHealth Alliance grant. You may already be doing this, as you are a serious reporter. Other than academic/scientific or financial fraud I am not aware of this action in the past. There are certainly other grants that involve bat coronavirus research and collaborations in China including but not just with Wuhan Institute of Virology. Is EcoHealth being punished to appease supporters of the administration within and outside of the US government? It strikes me – and obviously others – that at a time when we need to determine exactly what happened from the bat virus to the human pandemic it is as insane as possible to cut off one of the few trusted and long standing research relationships between US investigators who are exceedingly qualified to study this and the Chinese. What this action has accomplished is to cut us off from any participation in the investigation, which is essential if we are to learn from the current tragedy and determine how we might prevent this from occurring again in the future. FYI The National Academies just published a study I co-chaired earlier this month on the DOD Biological Threats Reduction Program (BTRP) – a pdf is attached for you – which repeatedly notes the critical importance of professional and personal relationships of trust between US and foreign researchers and its importance to the timely and free flow of information on outbreaks. This is the best way to seize on opportunities to intervene early and either prevent or mitigate the outcome. The relationship Peter has with his global collaborators, China and elsewhere, is precisely the kind we modeled in the report.

Regards, Jerry Keusch

Date: Mon, 24 May 2021 12:19:27 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 24 May 2021 12:15:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: WSJ: Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covid-19 Origin
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Attachments: image001.jpg; image005.jpg; image006.jpg; image007.jpg

It's the same story that Mike Pompeo put out in a State Dept "factsheet" in Jan. Still no actual data, and this was refuted by WIV when we asked as part of WHO, now refuted again. Sounds like political games in the run up to the World Health Assembly (starts today I think).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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, May 24, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Rich Roberts [b6]
Subject: Fwd: WSJ: Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covid-19 Origin

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: May 23, 2021 at 16:00:41 EDT
Subject: WSJ: Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covid-19 Origin

Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate On Covid-19 Origin

Report says researchers went to hospital in November 2019, shortly before confirmed outbreak; Adds to calls for probe of whether virus escaped lab



A World Health Organization-led team investigating the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic visited the Wuhan Institute of Virology on Feb. 3.

By [Michael R. Gordon](#), [Warren P. Strobel](#) and [Drew Hinshaw](#)
May 23, 2021 2:57 pm ET

WASHINGTON—Three researchers from China’s Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick enough in November 2019 that they sought hospital care, according to a previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report that could add weight to growing calls for a fuller probe of whether the [Covid-19 virus may have escaped](#) from the laboratory. The details of the reporting go beyond a State Department fact sheet, issued during the final days of the Trump administration, which said that several researchers at the lab, [a center for the study of coronaviruses and other pathogens](#), became sick in autumn 2019 “with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness.”

The disclosure of the number of researchers, the timing of their illnesses and their hospital visits come on the eve of a meeting of the World Health Organization’s decision-making body, which is expected to discuss the next phase of [an investigation into Covid-19’s origins](#).

Current and former officials familiar with the intelligence about the lab researchers expressed differing views about the strength of the supporting evidence for the assessment. One person said that it was provided by an international partner and was potentially significant but still in need of further investigation and additional corroboration.

Another person described the intelligence as stronger. “The information that we had coming from the various sources was of exquisite quality. It was very precise. What it didn’t tell you was exactly why they got sick,” he said, referring to the researchers.

November 2019 is roughly when many epidemiologists and virologists believe SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind the pandemic, first began circulating around the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where Beijing says that the [first confirmed](#)

case was a man who fell ill on Dec. 8, 2019.

The Wuhan Institute hasn't shared raw data, safety logs and lab records on its extensive work with coronaviruses in bats, which many consider the most likely source of the virus.



Shi Zhengli, the top bat coronavirus expert at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, has said Covid-19 didn't leak from her laboratories. Dr. Shi shown in 2017.

Photo: johannes eisele/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

China has repeatedly denied that the virus escaped from one of its labs. On Sunday, China's foreign ministry cited a WHO-led team's conclusion, after a visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or WIV, in February, that a lab leak was extremely unlikely. "The U.S. continues to hype the lab leak theory," the foreign ministry said in response to a request for comment by The Wall Street Journal. "Is it actually concerned about tracing the source or trying to divert attention?" The Biden administration declined to comment on the intelligence but said that all technically credible theories on the origin of the pandemic should be investigated by the WHO and international experts. "We continue to have serious questions about the earliest days of the Covid-19 pandemic, including its origins within the People's Republic of China," said a spokeswoman for the National Security Council.

Covid-19's Origins

More WSJ coverage on the WHO's investigation, selected by the editors

- [U.S. Aims to Shape New Phase of WHO-Led Probe Into Origin of Covid-19 \(April 27\)](#)
- [China Says Covid-19 Origin Probe Should Shift Focus to Other Countries \(March 31\)](#)
- [U.S. Calls for Independent Study of Covid-19 Origin \(March 30\)](#)
- [WHO Report Into Covid-19 Origins Leaves Key Questions Unanswered \(March 29\)](#)
- [WHO Team Expert Expects Covid-19's Origins Will Be Found 'Within A Few Years' \(March 10\)](#)

"We're not going to make pronouncements that prejudice an ongoing WHO study into the source of SARS-CoV-2," the spokeswoman said. "As a matter of policy we never comment on intelligence issues."

Beijing has also asserted that the virus could have originated outside China, including at a lab at the Fort Detrick military base in Maryland, and called for the WHO to investigate early Covid outbreaks in other countries.

Most scientists say they have seen nothing to corroborate the idea that the virus came from a U.S. military lab, and the White House has said there are no credible reasons to investigate it.

China's National Health Commission and the WIV didn't respond to requests for comment. Shi Zhengli, the top bat coronavirus expert at WIV, has said the virus didn't leak from her laboratories. She told the WHO-led team that traveled to Wuhan earlier this year to investigate the origins of the virus that all staff had tested negative for Covid-19 antibodies and there had been no turnover of staff on the coronavirus team.

Marion Koopmans, a Dutch virologist on that team told NBC News in March that some WIV staff did fall sick in the

autumn of 2019, but she attributed that to regular, seasonal sickness.

“There were occasional illnesses because that’s normal. There was nothing that stood out,” she said. “Maybe one or two. It’s certainly not a big, big thing.”

It isn’t unusual for people in China to go straight to the hospital when they fall sick, either because they get better care there or lack access to a general practitioner. Covid-19 and the flu, while very different illnesses, share some of the same symptoms, such as fever, aches and a cough. Still, it could be significant if members of the same team working with coronaviruses went to hospital with similar symptoms shortly before the pandemic was first identified.

David Asher, a former U.S. official who led a State Department task force on the origins of the virus for then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, told a Hudson Institute seminar in March that he doubted that the lab researchers became sick because of the ordinary flu.

“I’m very doubtful that three people in highly protected circumstances in a level three laboratory working on coronaviruses would all get sick with influenza that put them in the hospital or in severe conditions all in the same week, and it didn’t have anything to do with the coronavirus,” he said, adding that the researchers’ illness may represent “the first known cluster” of Covid-19 cases.

Long characterized by skeptics as a conspiracy theory, the hypothesis that the pandemic could have begun with a lab accident has attracted more interest from scientists who have complained about the lack of transparency by Chinese authorities or conclusive proof for the alternate hypothesis: that the virus was contracted by humans from a bat or other infected animal outside a lab.

Many proponents of the lab hypothesis say that a virus that was carried by an infected bat might have been brought to the lab so that researchers could work on potential vaccines—only to escape.

While the lab hypothesis is being taken more seriously, including by Biden administration officials, the debate is still colored by political tensions, including over how much evidence is needed to sustain the hypothesis.



A view of the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Photo: Ng Han Guan/Associated Press

The State Department fact sheet issued during the Trump administration, which drew on classified intelligence, said that the “U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and seasonal illnesses.”

The Jan. 15 fact sheet added that this fact “raises questions about the credibility” of Dr. Shi and criticized Beijing for its “deceit and disinformation” while acknowledging that the U.S. government hasn’t determined exactly how the pandemic began.

The Biden administration hasn’t disputed any of the assertions in the fact sheet, which current and former officials say was vetted by U.S. intelligence agencies. The fact sheet also covered research activities at the WIV, its alleged cooperation on some projects with the Chinese military and accidents at other Chinese labs.

But one Biden administration official said that by highlighting data that pointed to the lab leak hypothesis, Trump administration officials had sought “to put spin on the ball.” Several U.S. officials described the intelligence as “circumstantial,” worthy of further exploration but not conclusive on its own.

Asked about the Jan. 15 statement, State Department spokesman Ned Price said: “A fact sheet issued by the previous administration on January 15 did not draw any conclusions regarding the origins of the coronavirus. Rather, it focused on the lack of transparency surrounding the origins.”

Though the first known case was Dec. 8, several analyses of the virus’s rate of mutation concluded that it likely began spreading several weeks earlier.

The WHO-led team that visited Wuhan concluded in a joint report with Chinese experts in March that the virus most likely spread from bats to humans via another animal, and that a laboratory leak was “extremely unlikely.”

However, team members said they didn’t view raw data or original lab, safety and other records. On the same day the report came out, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the team hadn’t adequately examined the lab leak hypothesis, and called for a fuller probe of the idea.

The U.S., European Union and several other governments have also called for a more transparent investigation of Covid-19’s origins, without explicitly demanding a lab probe. They have called in particular for better access to data and samples from potential early Covid-19 cases.

Members of the WHO-led team said Chinese counterparts had identified 92 potential Covid-19 cases among some 76,000 people who fell sick between October and early December 2019, but turned down requests to share raw data on the larger group. That data would help the WHO-led team understand why China sought to only test those 92 people for antibodies. Team members also said they asked for access to a Wuhan blood bank to test samples from before December 2019 for antibodies. Chinese authorities declined at first, citing privacy concerns, then agreed, but have yet to provide that access, team members say.

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Date: Sun, 18 Apr 2021 1:18:19 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 18 Apr 2021 1:11:35 PM -0400
Subject: Update re. House Energy & Commerce Committee Minority Leaders letter to EcoHealth Alliance - Request for help, advice.
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] Roberts, Rich [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Attachments: [b6] - EHA Letter re COVID Origins.pdf; EHA letter - Attachment A.pdf; Risch, Menendez Strategic Competition Act.pdf

Dear All,

Just letting you know that I'm tracking what's being about the letter I received on Wednesday from Republicans on the Energy & Commerce Committee. I've not responded to it, and have a query in with our lawyers to make sure I don't have to. The people who believe COVID may have begun as a lab leak are openly expressing delight at this political action. This includes Richard Ebright from Rutgers who appears to have been partly involved in pushing this. He says this is the first necessary step to bring EHA, NIH, Fauci, DoD & others in front of Congress to answer for our role in potentially starting COVID.

It's clear that on the Republican extreme right side, this is part of an effort to bring Tony Fauci into the crosshairs also – they repeatedly comment that I'm small potatoes and the real target is Dr. Fauci, specifically around the false premise that EHA was funded on his direction (it wasn't), so we could fund Gain-of-Function work in China (we did not), so he could get round the Govt rules on pausing GoF work (not relevant at this time). All of these are demonstrably false, but the 34 questions above are not designed to get to the truth of the origins – just to continue building a conspiratorial narrative that targets our work and Dr. Fauci.

Importantly, I've now sent copies of my response to Michael Lauer to Democrat staffers at the House Committee on Science, Space, Technol. This committee oversees scientific research at a bunch of agencies (NSF, DHS), and the OSTP. The Chair of this committee wrote a letter to Azar under Trump criticizing the NIH decision. One of the members (Marc Veasey) is the person who asked Tony Fauci about the rationale for termination where Tony said "They asked us to cancel it" while testifying. I'll be working with this committee (hopefully) to build up some support to fight back.

I'm also going to reach out to the Majority leaders on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to get their support, and I think I now need to start actively reaching out to political leaders to provide a counter to these attacks. This is particularly important given the collaboration among Richard Ebright, David Relman, and Marc Lipsitch, who are likely to continue confusing the issue by touting links among the origins of COVID, Gain-of-Function, and the work EHA was doing in China. None are causally connected, but that won't stop them.

I saw one worrying little comment from Richard Ebright that there is interest from the Majority on one committee. The Committee of most relevance would be the one that oversees NIH, which I believe is Energy & Commerce, but I wonder which other Committee's would be engaged, maybe House Committee on Foreign Affairs https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_Committee_on_Foreign_Affairs#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20House%20C, or the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate_Committee_on_Foreign_Relations – which already has some nonsense about COVID-19, NIH, WHO and our work in a bill currently going through committee in the "Risch-Menendez Strategic Competition with China" Act <https://www.axios.com/senate-china-bill-474f96f1-467b-4c02-ab6c-1084ca73b158.html> (I've attached it here – Section 214 page 118).

Do any of you know key people in these two committees? Is there any strategy here for you to reach out to societies, science leaders? I can see these people lining up to basically attack our science institutions and undermine our work to defeat pandemics. They're calling to defund EcoHealth Alliance, defund all work discovering viruses in wildlife, defund biosafety labs – and that's just the nice people. The death threats, hopes I'll commit suicide, calls for War Crimes tribunals continue and I regularly report them to the FBI. These are not my real concern though – they're just individuals looking for a cause to fight. The big concern for me is political efforts to interfere with science, and I think these are just getting started.

Any advice welcome. I think the scientific community needs to start pulling together to fight back because there is a lot of momentum with these groups promoting a lab-origin to COVID, and they're really just beginning to turn this into political action.

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

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

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

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Date: Sun, 3 May 2020 6:50:07 AM -0400

Subject: Fwd: NIH grant cancelation letter.pdf

From: David Morens [b6]

To: David Morens [b6]

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Bausch [b6] >
Date: May 3, 2020 at 04:11:56 EDT
To: "John, Chandy C" [b6] "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" [b6] >
Cc: Julie Jacobson [b6] >, Philip Rosenthal [b6] >, Karen Goraleski [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >
Subject: RE: NIH grant cancelation letter.pdf

Also agree with the letter and think that, despite the risks, we can't be silent. Shouldn't be about the EcoHealth grant per se, but rather the principle of political intrusion into the science world. David's and Joel's (probably off the record) opinions as an NIH/FIC/USG insiders important here.

Best,
D.

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

From: John, Chandy C [b6]
Sent: 03 May 2020 01:59
To: Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6] >
Cc: Julie Jacobson [b6] Philip Rosenthal [b6]; Daniel Bausch [b6] >; Karen Goraleski [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Re: NIH grant cancelation letter.pdf

I completely agree with the letter. It is appalling and disturbing that a grant that contributed so much to our understanding would suddenly get unfunded.

I think there is some danger in the Society signing on for an issue about a single grant, important though it is. However, glad to hear counterpoint, and interested in Karen and Jodie's thoughts as well.

The principle that scientific grants should not be judged by political ideology is a key one, though of course at the larger scale this has happened many times (e.g., no funding for research on gun violence, all the issue with stem cells, etc).

CJ

On May 2, 2020, at 8:33 PM, Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V] [b6] > wrote:

David Morens alerted me a couple of days ago to the abrupt cancellation of the NIH research award to Peter Duczak, Director, EcoHealth Alliance, without justification.

To discuss Society signing on to this statement.

Best, Joel

<NIH grant cancelation letter.pdf>

Sent from my iPhone

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7-11-18

RE: 5R01AI110964 Coronavirus Year 4 Report

Peter Daszak (b)(6) Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 9:25 PM
To: "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura (b)(6) Hongying Li
(b)(6) Alison Andre (b)(6)

....and here's the report attachment....

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street – 17th Floor

New York, NY 10001

Tel. (b)(6)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

(b)(6)

Page 1 of 3

@ PeterDaszak

@ EcoHealthNYC

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: Peter Daszak
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 9:16 PM
To: Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Cc: (b)(6) Aleksei Chmura; Hongying Li; Alison Andre
Subject: 5R01AI110964 Coronavirus Year 4 Report

Dear Erik,

I just wanted to send you a pdf of our Year 4 Report which I submitted last week. We've had some fantastic results this past year and I've put these in the report summary, but also included the discovery of SARS-CoV as another key findings. As you'll see, we're on track to hit all the major goals of the project by the end of Yr5, including human questionnaires and sampling, risk modeling, more in-depth viral characterization and discovery.

I know you've likely not had chance to read the report yet, but I also wanted to check-in with you soon about submitting a new proposal/renewal to build on the work we've done. You suggested that this would be good timing when we met last summer, and right now I'm looking at the November 5th 2018 deadline (renewal). I have a couple of questions on this: First, I've not submitted a renewal before the end of a current R01, and just want to check that this is the standard procedure. Our R01 officially ends in May 31st 2019. Secondly, I wanted to check in which study section would be best for this. The original proposal went to CFRS-Clinical Research and Field Studies of Infectious Diseases. I've asked Alison to set up a time for us to have a quick chat sometime in the next few weeks if possible.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street – 17th Floor

New York, NY 10001


Tel. (b)(6)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

@ PeterDaszak

@ EcoHealthNYC

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.

 **Year 4 NIAID CoV Report.pdf**
2664K

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 1:55:56 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 1:55:55 PM -0400
Subject: Re: URGENT: Quick Chat at 4pm today?
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Actually now that I scratch my memory, my involvement began in 2001 with BTEP, the Biotech Engagement Program to "pacify" the bioweapons folks in the former USSR. That was in partnership with DTRA and the State Dept as I recall. Some of that then morphed into BTRP around 2003. I have a lot of fond memories from that time, including an urgent trip to the Vektor lab for which I had to get reboosted for smallpox here in the States, and then the "take" had to be read by the Soviet bioweapons guys inside the Vektor lab in Koltsovo, outside Novosibirsk. Also being thrown in an airport jail under a very threatening armed guard because somebody in a hotel had written down the wrong date when I was there. Also walking down a snowy Moscow street one night and being propositioned by three gorgeous ladies of the night on horseback. david

On 4/27/2020 7:06 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

I didn't know that. Our new report is very supportive of BTRP. We have tried to advocate with the house and senate armed forces committees as DOD is once again reducing their budget. I suppose they want to cover some of the costs they have been required to take on for the stupid wall.

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Re: URGENT: Quick Chat at 4pm today?

guys, fyi, i worked in the BTRP program 20 years ago, inspected the Vektor lab in Koltsovo, "pasified" the Russian bioweapons guys, etc. Two of them work with me now at NIAID. david

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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

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

On Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 4:56 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Here is the recently released NASEM report on the DOD BTRP program.

We emphasize the importance of personal relationships of trust, built through collaborations. See the highlighted sentence on page 9. A fuller discussion begins on page 101. In between and afterwards the importance of such relationships is emphasized and reemphasized time and time again. This is what you have with the Chinese and with

Wuhan Institute of Virology. We need this now more than ever as the politics at the leadership level are strained and now they are introducing further strain into established and productive mutually beneficial scientific relationships. The point is that we need to know how the virus got from the bats to humans, and if you are shut out then every US investigator who has not been closed down by NIH will be shut out by the Chinese. WTF, that's so dumb as to be inconceivable, even with this administration. It may be useful to refer to relationships of trust between scientists at some point and this report, especially because it is about DOD and BTRP, offers a quick and very contemporary reference.

If you want I will look up some of the press releases. Dave Franz and I brief the house and senate armed services committees and they get it. They may not be happy with this interference in the flow of really important scientific information we not only want to know about first hand, but need to know about in order to plan a biologically relevant strategy to mitigate further transmission events.
Talk to you soon.

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:45 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: URGENT: Quick Chat at 4pm today?

Dear David and Jerry,

Could Peter speak with you both briefly at 4pm today?

If so, we can use the following Zoom Meeting log-in:

[b6]

Meeting ID: [b6]

Password: [b6]

One tap mobile

[b6] US

Many thanks!

-Aleksei

Aleksei Chmura
*Chief of Staff &
Authorized Organizational Representative*

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

[b6] (office)
[b6] (mobile)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

--
David M Morens

[b6]

Date: Thu, 21 May 2020 11:09:12 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 21 May 2020 11:09:11 AM -0400
Subject: Re: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Gerald Jerry Keusch [b6] Carroll Dennis [b6]

I knew about this a few days ago but didn't want to say anything. I knew you'd blow a gasket, as well you should

Who knows, maybe there will come a day of reckoning

Maybe the arc of history does bend towards justice

On that future day, I'll buy ya a beer

D

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

> On May 21, 2020, at 10:25, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

>

> Checkout the story from science below and my "quote". I was disgusted to see Francis Collins gushing on twitter at how honored he was to win this \$1.2 million prize etc so I threw over a few molotov tweets one of which science picked up. I know we don't want him to resign or get fired, but I'm on a long game here to undermine his image as heroic and if the Dems win I'll go into full attack mode - he failed in his prime directive of the job - to protect the integrity of our peer review process for funding. Oh and by the way - he works for me, the US taxpayer!

>

>

> <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/francis-collins-honored-work-bridge-science-and-religion>

>

>

> Yours angrily,

>

> Peter

>

>

>

> Peter Daszak

> (Sent from my iPhone)

>

> President

> EcoHealth Alliance

>

> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

>

> [b6]

Date: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 12:07:42 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 8 Sep 2021 12:07:38 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] [b6] >;
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]
Hi David,

Thanks for the update yesterday on the GOF kerfuffle (it's an old Manchester term which means kerfuffle). As you can see below, Simone McCarthy from the S. China Morning Post wants to talk about it, specifically in the context of Tony's recent remarks. That suggests to me that you should not be involved. However, I would be very grateful for every bit of nuance about NIAID's position so I can stay well within the philosophical and rational grounds of interpretation of the 2017 ground rules for review of GOFOC research, and for any GOF research in general.

One key question I want to be sure about pertains to the initial flagging of grants from submitting entities when there are experiments proposed that could be considered GOF. I understand that institutional review boards are required to review proposals on EIDs for research on the genetic basis for pathogenesis and to tell NIH if these reach a threshold for special attention by the established mechanisms. What I am not sure about is how NIH handles a proposal that is labeled GOF but not of concern. Are all of those reviewed in-house to determine if the grant is correctly classified? That would take a lot of admin review time for sure. I don't know how many grants submitted since the process was announced in 2017 have been flagged, been reviewed, and been denied funding, at least for those experiments. If you have any data that can be shared and NIAID would like to see that information out there (as you know Nature is also working on an article), at least in ballpark figures, I'd be happy to have that in my back pocket. What would the oversight be when a grantee is told specific aim X cannot be explored? What is the concern when other sources of funding are used – as I note below – in non USG facilities?

A related perspective is that the NIH process, and therefore the position of the USG, is restricted to oversight of government funded research, and research facilities that receive federal research funding. If Sheldon Adelson were to ask one of our NEIDL scientists to open a separate laboratory to see what it takes to make a bat coronavirus transmissible to a mammal by the respiratory route would there be any review at any level or any constraint on supporting that work? My sense of it is that the NIH can only oversee NIH funded research and institutions. The private research establishment, and of course the lab-in-the-garage, can do whatever they want to do, and for whatever reason they would do so. It is important that there be a well-considered and thoughtful overview of what should be acceptable because the knowledge gain predominates and the risk can be mitigated by training, protocol, and suitably equipped and safe facilities.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Jerry,

Well, along these lines my editors have asked me to do an explainer about the controversy surrounding Fauci's comments to Congress on NIH funding for gain of function research at WIV via EcoHealth. I'm putting together a story that will look at the definitions of GofF under NIH and how it's decided what merits review. I'm wondering if it's something that you would be up for commenting on? If so, I'd ideally hope to chat tomorrow (Thursday), although I'm not sure if that is one of your office days. Please let me know if that might be feasible, and thank you.

Best,

Simone

On Mon, 6 Sept 2021 at 17:30, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Travel well.

I think the continuous flow of more thoughtful reporting on what the science tells us and what is pure speculation and political perspective is beginning to turn the tide towards a more refined appreciation of the likely and the unlikely scenarios. My view is we need to continue to push on what is objective science, what is crap pseudoscience, and what is pure PR marketing.

I think – but can't really prove – the public that buys into the risky research plot is the same public that refuses to get immunized and then for the few, on their death bed, they say maybe I made a mistake. Although some of them are OD'ing on Ivermectin in horse dose quantities. Same thing – no ability to sift through information. Who is your readership? What do they appreciate and what are they confusing?

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Monday, September 6, 2021 8:30 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Gerry,

Thank you for the note/offer of your time and glad you hear you've been basking in some vacation time. Hope you guys didn't get hit too hard by Henri or Ida.

I'm on my way back from Martha's Vineyard to Hong Kong this week myself (although have been working remotely here) but I'll get back in touch soon and look forward to discussing the latest then.

Good luck adjusting back to the office coffee.
Best,

Simone

On Fri, 3 Sept 2021 at 21:20, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I see I didn't respond to your note. I have been happily on vacation at our place in the Berkshires, which means no alarm in the morning, hot tub on waking, good coffee, doing the chores and fixing things on my to-do list, and trying to avoid anything that sounds like professional activities. So I stay off the emails, except for family stuff. At any rate I am back in the office next week after Tuesday, so we could follow up after that.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:18 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Gerry,

Ah, too bad! Would have been nice to cross paths on the Vineyard, perhaps another time here or in Boston, which I end up travelling through fairly frequently.

I wanted to check in with you in advance of the US intelligence report on the origins which we expect will be released publicly in the coming days. I'll likely be putting together a story about how scientists are viewing the assessment reached there (angle still to be honed). I'm not exactly sure the timeline, but I wanted to drop you a line and see if you might be up for chatting when it's out.

Hope all is well otherwise, thank you again for all your time last month and for mentioning me to Dr. Morens - I have gotten in touch.

Best,

Simone

On Fri, 30 Jul 2021 at 03:21, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Great to hear you will spend a bit of time on the Vineyard. My son has a house in West Tisbury, and loves it. Unfortunately this year we won't make it there in August, otherwise we might have been able to say hello in person.

I'll let David know you are away and you may be in touch with him in a couple of weeks. This issues you are reporting on won't go away in the near future.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:21 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Jerry,

Thanks for these thoughts - very clear, and thanks as well for suggesting a conversation with David Morens. I'll be on leave (actually headed to MA) for a short stint, but I look forward to staying in touch on this in the coming weeks and will drop Dr. Morens a line as well. Hope you enjoy some nice August time in the Berkshires.

Best,

Simone

On Wed, 28 Jul 2021 at 12:39, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Hi Simone,

In addition, I have been in touch with David Morens at NIAID who works closely with Tony Fauci. Based on my interactions with you, as well as comments by Peter Daszak regarding your thoughtful journalism, he could be helpful for future reporting albeit considering all of the circumstances it would almost certainly be off-the-record. You can therefore contact him at [b6] and he will respond if he has something of value to add.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 4:57 AM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Jerry,

One more with the comment from our previous exchange, thank you again for the time.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3142773/no-entry-trouble-ahead-china-whos-covid-19-origins-hunt>

Best,

Simone

On Mon, 26 Jul 2021 at 16:47, Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com> wrote:

Dear Jerry,

Thank you, and that is a very graphic (and apt) metaphor. I am attempting to drill (lance?) deeper into these exact issues in a piece that will be published Tuesday HKT. I realise this is very short notice (and I promise I won't be knocking on your door so frequently here after that), but we have touched on some of the key issues at length in our conversation earlier this month that I believe they may need to be clarified within the context of the next phase proposal to use in this story. If there's any way you might be able to share your thoughts on these follow-ups via email or chat for 15 minutes anytime on Monday I'd really love to be able to update and include your perspective.

I am also planning to include the comment that you sent me last week regarding keeping the original international team involved, and wanted to ask you a follow-up there. Please see below. Thank you.

Best,

Simone

- I know that you mentioned that the lab leak hypothesis should be investigated, but that it is of lesser priority as compared to work to investigate the animal/natural pathways due to where the publicly available evidence points. Do you think that the prioritization of the lab leak as one of the five areas in the WHO proposal will slow down the process of being able to get started on international collaboration on animal studies in China? Is the inclusion politics at play or is it fitting that this is part of the proposal?
- Do you think that putting together this SAGO, as opposed to moving forward with the original team (perhaps with the addition of some relevant expertise as you and Dr. Koopmans mentioned), will slow down the process of getting this next phase of work started? Does it present other challenges/benefits?

On Fri, 23 Jul 2021 at 11:08, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I'm game. You have only been able to scratch the surface of the political overlay at play here. I think there is some pus underneath that needs to be drained so the deeper tissues can heal. When there is no "laudible pus" exuding on its own from a deep wound a pathway must be created by the physician in order to prevent more severe complications, including the potential for sepsis and death, if the patient is to have a chance to heal and return to good health. Same thing pertains here. You can help to point the way to accomplish that and I am willing to talk with you about the issues and how this has been made more difficult by partisan voices on both sides.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 10:42 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6>

Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Jerry,

Thanks so much for the feedback. The May 25 report is attached. Hope we can keep in touch as this goes forward.

Best,

Simone

On Fri, 23 Jul 2021 at 10:09, Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6> wrote:

Yes things do move fast. I think your report was balanced, and your use of my quote makes me seem prophetic. Thanks.

Would you send me a pdf of your report on May 25th of the additional work on bat coronaviruses. I can only see a portion of it when I try to open it from your article of today.

Cheers, Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA 02118

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:36 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6>

Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Jerry,

Lots of shifting sands under this story, due to new developments, but happy to be able to include some of your comment here. Thank you.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3142113/chinas-covid-origins-snob-shows-limits-world-health>

Best,

Simone

On Wed, 21 Jul 2021 at 11:39, Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com> wrote:

Dear Jerry,

Thanks very much for this - well noted and I really appreciate the quick turnaround. I'll be sure to keep in touch regarding publication.

Best,

Simone

On Tue, 20 Jul 2021 at 23:13, Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6> wrote:

Hi Simone,

I'm in catch up mode so here are a few additional comments.

Despite agreeing – at least in part – with the Relman quotes regarding WHO in Jon Cohens piece in Science that WHO may not be the best organization to pursue the origin studies right now it is the only organization that can pursue the investigation. I say that because it is the only global public health entity with membership from virtually all nation states – that why it's called the World Health Organization. That structure also makes it subject to political influence, often played out in terms of whether or not a country will provide the extrabudgetary funding WHO needs to do things like this investigation, which subjects WHO to the terms and conditions the funding country applied. Most certainly in my mind WHO cannot move forward with credibility if Dr. Tedros dismisses the original 10 international team members and calls for self and government nominations of a new team. The 10 are true experts in their field and internationally respected scientists. I agree with Marion Koopmans that appointing an expert or two in specific areas of interest could more optimally meet any reasonable need for additional expertise.

Regarding the comments/quotes below, I was certainly following a consistent theme along the way, which is again reflected in what I say above and on the record. I made one edit below which you will see in bold underlined italic font.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Jerry,

Thanks again for your time sharing your thoughts with me last week - really good food for thought for me there. The floor has shifted underneath our conversation a bit given that Dr. Tedros released the outline of his plan for the phase two work. I'm putting together an article that takes a look at the proposal (as described to member states in the public statement) and the challenges that may exist for getting it off the ground. I'd like to be able to include a few of your comments from our conversation and I've included those below for you to check, as discussed.

I did see your related comments in Jon Cohen's Science story, and I would be curious to ask just broadly if you think that the path laid out by Tedros is the best way forward and perhaps what exactly a lab audit in this specific scenario may entail. If it's something you'd be able to discuss via email or a short chat today or tomorrow I'd appreciate that - if I've already taken up way too much of your time, no worries, that is highly understandable too.

I realize you're not in the office today, but I'm wondering if you might be able to give these quotes a quick look and let me know any changes sometime during your Tuesday. Please note in order to optimize timing I am sending over a rough draft version, the context will be as described, but I can't guarantee that there won't be changes to the exact wording in the preceding lines. Likewise it's possible there could be further paraphrasing or shortening of the direct quotes, but that would be with strict attention to the meaning as shown below. Thank you.

Best,

Simone

Gerald Keusch, associate director of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Institute at Boston University

Some scientists say the rhetoric around the laboratory leak hypothesis - especially that which seeks to blame China for the outbreak or accuse its scientists of wrongdoing - has made it difficult to move forward with international research in China.

"All of the accusatory statements and hypotheses built on no **publicly available** evidence will not gain access to an open, clear, transparent, collaborative international investigation, one that is meant not to cast blame, but to find out what happened so that efforts to prevent this happening again in the future can actually take place."

"There is something called the scientific method - we know how to do collaborative work - it just takes the willingness to do it, in an environment that is positively oriented." "Let's get on with it."

Keusch said it was a "mistake" of the phase one WHO report to not recommend further research into the laboratory leak, and that both this hypothesis and the natural origin should be investigated. However, research into the natural origins was more urgent, given that it was the more likely of the two scenarios, based on available evidence, he said.

"We need to be looking at all of it [both natural origins and lab leak] systematically and in a thoughtful and planned manner."

The kind of work that should be done: forensic analysis of the labs, serology on humans and animals (for example Linfa Wang's cPass serological test which "is available and could be used systematically in China, in Thailand and other border countries where bats, coronaviruses, and people interface")

"It can be done...but there has to be the environment and the desire and the goals for doing it which is not blame and castigate, but to learn and intervene in the future."

[The urgency of uncovering the origin, why it matters for the next phase of the WHO-led mission to begin]

"If you don't look for evidence it doesn't just spring up on its own and hit you in the face, there needs to be a cooperative, collaborative, collegial and communicative way of going about this and as far as I can see the only organisation that can do it is WHO."

"It's no longer a question of if, but when and what. Now that we've seen three severe coronavirus outbreaks of respiratory disease [this century] and we know that these trace back to a vast viral floral, across multiple bat species, another SARS, MERS, or Covid is not a question."

On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 09:10, Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com> wrote:

Hi Jerry,

Sure that's no problem, and thanks for sending the event details, looks interesting. Speak soon and thank you again for the time.

Best,

Simone

On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 06:10, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:

Hi Simone,

Can we move the call tomorrow to 11 am EDT? I will be logging on to a presentation on financing future pandemic preparedness organized by the Center for Global Development in DC, which goes from 9:30 to 10:30. The buffer time allows for late ending, pit stops, and refills of the coffee mug. I will forward the announcement of the seminar to you so you can register if you are interested.

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:16 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Got it, thank you and look forward to speaking.

Best,

Simone

On Fri, 9 Jul 2021 at 01:54, Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6 wrote:

My office phone is [REDACTED] b6
Backup will be my cell phone [REDACTED] b6
Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Hi Jerry,

Sure, Wednesday 10:30a Eastern daylight works just fine for me, thank you. What's the best number to reach you?

Best,

Simone

On Thu, 8 Jul 2021 at 23:38, Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6 wrote:

How about Wednesday at 10:30 am EDT (you will probably recall that too). Is that OK for Hong Kong time (I assume that's where you are).

Jerry

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 9:25 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Dr. Keusch,

Thanks so much for your message and the offer of your time. I'm glad to hear that you had a nice (and unplugged) Fourth of July weekend. I should have realized when I wrote you... I've been over here a bit too long I guess, although originally I'm from your neck of the woods, Massachusetts.

I'd still be interested to chat with you about the letter, and also your thoughts more broadly on what the most critical next steps are for moving forward on gathering more data about how

SARS-CoV-2 started circulating in humans. My schedule is open your Wednesday or Thursday morning EST next week, if there's a convenient time for you to talk in either of those windows, please let me know. I'd be grateful for a chance to speak then.

Best,

Simone

On Thu, 8 Jul 2021 at 00:16, Keusch, Gerald T b6 wrote:

Hi Simone,

Sorry I was not able to respond to you on Monday. While the timing of the publication in The Lancet on a Monday was fine for the world, it was over the long July 4th independence day weekend, and we were with family for the first time in a while and unplugged the WiFi.

I am willing to chat with you about this, but to be clear I should say that I am on my summer schedule, which means I am out of the office from Fridays through Tuesdays, which leaves Wednesday or Thursday to find a time.

GT Keusch

From: Simone McCarthy <simone.mccarthy@scmp.com>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 10:41 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T b6
Subject: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Dr. Keusch,

I am a reporter with the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, where I cover research into the origins of SARS-CoV-2. I'm reaching out to you while following up on the 'Science, not speculation' Lancet letter. I realise that I am contacting you quite late in your evening, I thought it couldn't hurt to check if you would be available to share a short comment for our coverage today. Specifically I was hoping to ask you why/how the decision was made to put this letter forward now and what you hope it will add to the current conversation/efforts to understand how the virus emerged. Do you and the other signatories also feel that there should be more research into the potential of a lab or research-related accident?

I'd also be interested to speak with you in more detail about your views on the next steps that should be taken in the origins research, specifically how different hypotheses could be further probed and what the priorities should be. Ideally I'd love to touch base quickly and include your perspective in our piece, which will be published today here in Hong Kong time, but if that's not possible and you would be up for a separate conversation on this, I'd love a chance to learn more about how you're looking at the origins research work.

Thank you.
Best,

Simone

--

Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
M: b6
E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com

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Phone: 5523-0089

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E: simone.mccarthy@scmp.com

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Phone: 5523-0089

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Simone McCarthy | Reporter
South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd
19/F Tower One, Times Square,
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Date: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 9:43:28 PM -0400

Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 9:43:25 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Question on BSL levels in China

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]

CC: Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD [REDACTED]

That's a good idea David. I know the Scowcroft Institute fairly well – I went to two of these panel events with Dennis and ate the Buffalo/bison steaks in the field next to the buffalo you're eating – very Texan.

The folks down there are a great sampling of the proper Republican luminaries, incl. Andrew Natsios, who I think was former USAID Administrator under GHW Bush? Dennis will know.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: 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] >

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 3:43 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

Cc: Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Question on BSL levels in China

and after sending this it just hit me that Dennis Carroll's new address is at the Scowcroft Institute!

On 6/17/2020 3:37 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] wrote:

I already emailed Jim and await his reply.

Thinking about Galveston reminded me about something that might be useful for Peter's issue in the future.

A DVM Army COL I knew from decades ago, Gerry Parker, [REDACTED] got into the business of pandemic preparedness, and now works closely with folks at the George HW Bush Prez Library and the Scowcroft Institute affiliated with it. These folks are old fashioned Eisenhower and Bush-type Republicans in close touch with the pre-Trump Republican establishment, and have worked closely with the WH and OSTP until recently, and have served to provide input on a

number of things. Several years ago they got interested in pandemic preparedness and have networked with a lot of key Republicans including Lamar Alexander.

Around two years ago, Gerry asked me to join a small think tank meeting at the Scowcroft Institute on the Texas A & M campus, and we had a two or three day meeting with a small group including politicians and academicians. It was a surprisingly liberal event, believe it or not. Normally these things are written up as white papers and sent to folks in Washington, and that may have been the case here, although I didn't see it. What they are doing is turning it into a book, out this fall, and now available in an e-pre-print (attached).

I mention this only because it may at some point be helpful to know that there ARE folks on the other side of the aisle that have enlightened views about the importance of pandemic preparedness and disease emergence. Although this book focuses on flu, there was much discussion, including at the meeting and on phone and email after the meeting, but before COVID-19, about Black Swan emergencies in general, including animal host switching. david

On 6/16/2020 10:59 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

I'm sure so would Jim LeDuc. Galveston trained some of WIV initial faculty.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2020, at 10:30 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

I'm fairly sure that the lab design/set up for BSL-2, -3 & -4 are the same as in the USA – i.e. the procedures required for biosafety. I'm also fairly sure that they use BSL-4 for the same pathogens we do in the USA. Ralph Baric might know more about lab design etc.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
[b6] >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD

Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.

Peter, I have a question re the ms. we are putting together. Regarding lab safety in BSL2 thru 4, including protocols and procedures to prevent infection and virus escape, do the Chinese labs follow our BMBL etc. policies and procedures, or do they have separate policies/procedures? It has been my understanding that ALL BSL 3 and 4 labs around the world follow pretty much the safe safety procedures as well as building engineering and related matters. Is that so? Ty, david

On 6/16/2020 9:32 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Didn't realize there were so many FoIAs, and a bunch targeting our grant. I'll pass that info on to the reporters.

Maybe you can redirect these foia requests to my home address. I can print off all my emails, plus the grants, and for a small fee can just leave them out on the doorstep. Sounds like a good way to monetize research!

Seriously, sounds like this FoIA malarky is a huge time sink for folks at NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

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From: David Morens [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
Cc: Gerald Keusch [REDACTED]; Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.

Peter, if you are in contact with with these guys about their foias you should tell them to be aggressive. We (NIAID) are way behind on responding to foias, and one or two groups is already suing us. Good! I myself have about 5 foias related to your grant, and i believe tony has more. In fact, in most cases foias to me also cover Tony, Hugh, and several front office staff

Our reason for being slow is that we respond with sophisticated computer searches done by our IT

people, and we just don't have enough of them to cover 100+ ongoing foias, probably 5-10 of which deal with your grant

On a related subject i did a first draft of our astmh piece and ran it by joel breman, astmh president. I had originally decided to NOT address the conspiracy theories head on but thinks that should be added. So, i wrote two additional paras on that, and sent it to Jeff Taubenberger for his input on the molecular evidence.

D

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

On Jun 15, 2020, at 21:02, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Hi David and Jerry,

I've been thinking of a way to get ahead of the curve, just in case NIH really is investigating EHA or me. This goes back to NIH telling folks who FOIA them that they can't reveal info on my grant and Wuhan because of a law enforcement clause and a pending investigation (<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/nih-we-cant-release-our-papers-about-the-wuhan-institute-of-virology-because-of-a-pending-investigation/>). I've been wondering if that's a real investigation maybe by another org seeing if NIH acted legally? Is it them investigating Wuhan (not really possible)? Is it related to the NIH Director's pushing the agenda of investigating scientists who have been taking funds from China etc. (<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/fifty-four-scientists-have-lost-their-jobs-result-nih-probe-foreign-ties>). What concerns me is that it seems that Francis Collins is personally involved in the investigation, and that his key henchman is Michael Lauer. It's actually Lauer who gave the talk to the ACD meeting last week (<https://www.acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html>), click on "ACD Working Group on Foreign Influences in Research Integrity (Update)". I think it would be convenient for Collins if they could try to dig up some China dirt on EHA, and it's probably no skin off his nose to ask his henchmen to investigate (they've already got 399 "Scientists of Possible Concern") what's one more between friends.

So for that reason, I want to let you know that I've spoken with two good reporters off the record over the last few days and given them both your contact. One is Jim Rainey from the LA Times who did a good piece on the origins of COVID about EHA's work and others. He's now trying to dig into the handling of the termination by NIH and will be filing a FoIA, but right now would love to talk about the details. The other is Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed. He did file a foia for Michael lauer's communications and some others. He said he will be appealing their decision not to release the files.

I'm hoping that these two reporters will dig out some interesting stuff and maybe then I'll know whether this 'investigation' is just Francis Collins trying to fob off the foia requests, or it's because we've appealed, or another group has filed a motion with NIH re. their decision to terminate.

Anyway – hope they contact you, and hope it leads to something.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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--

David M Morens {

[REDACTED] b6

Date: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 8:13:20 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 16 Apr 2021 8:13:18 PM -0400
Subject: Re: link to Republican letter demanding answers to 34 questions from EHA
From: "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID)" [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

Hmm

From: "David Morens" [b6]
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 at 7:46:09 PM
To: "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Subject: Fwd: link to Republican letter demanding answers to 34 questions from EHA

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

From: David Morens [b6] >
Date: April 16, 2021 at 19:45:48 EDT
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6] >, "Roberts, Rich" [b6] >, Robert Kessler [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Re: link to Republican letter demanding answers to 34 questions from EHA

Peter, i am just at a loss to understand all this. The bad guys seize the megaphone and everyone else runs for cover, letting them control the dialog

Fact: an enormous body of evidence indicates this virus arose from nature

There is NO, as in zero, none, not even a tiny bit of, evidence that this virus was or could possibly have been man made, unless you redefine evidence to mean vague unscientific and evidence-free what-ifs, paranoid speculations, and twisted biased connecting of facts plus allegations

So, then, why are YOU on the defensive in a guilty-til-proven innocent Salem witch trial?

I am thinking more and more that the best way out of this is to take a very aggressive and proactive stance, calling out the bull shitters for what they are, but doing so in a collegial but put up or shut up way

If you allow them to paint you into the corner of being always on the defensive, you always lose. There is no way to prove a negative, as i keep repeating. What Jerry and I and others tried to do with that 10-author piece in ajtmh now seems in hindsight too timid. I think more hard hitting stuff is in order, meaning call the bluff of the data-less alarmists wHo are doing all the dirty work. D

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

On Apr 16, 2021, at 17:19, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Here's the public statement with a link to their letter – so I guess it's officially public.

<https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/ec-republican-leaders-request-information-from-u-s-group-affiliated-with-chinese-lab-at-center-of-covid-19-origin-investigation/>

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
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From: Peter Daszak [b6]

Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:55 PM

To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] 'David Morens' [b6]
'Roberts, Rich' [b6]

Subject: RE: It doesn't rain, but it pours... Request from Republicans in House Committee & information re. requirement for biosafety monitoring reports for our current CREID funding at NIH

One of the Republican's responsible has, of course, already made the letter public:

<https://twitter.com/cathymcmorris/status/1383145801678008324>

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:51 PM
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]
Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: It doesn't rain, but it pours... Request from Republicans in House Committee & information re. requirement for biosafety monitoring reports for our current CREID funding at NIH
Importance: High

Just to let you know today I received a letter from the Minority on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce with about 20+ questions re. our work with China. Some of it is frankly offensive and clearly has racist overtone, e.g. name our Mandarin-speaking staff at EcoHealth! In any case, I've passed it on to our lawyers, and I believe I don't have to either acknowledge receipt, or respond in any way. I've cc'd the letters here, so you can get a feel for the sort of gibberish they're putting out. It's largely direct quotes from conspiracy theorists on the web, and actually cites some of them. These shouldn't be made public yet, because I'm not responding and it just amplifies conspiracies.

The second point is regarding the request from Lauer for details of our biosafety monitoring documents over the last 7 yrs. I think this is bogus because I remember they re-issued our Notice of Award for our current U01 with a new clause on providing copies of our "Biosafety Monitoring Plans" 30 days after setting up a subcontract. Why would Lauer on the one hand say this is encoded in the CFR, but then have program staff insert a new clause to our NoA to demand it. Anyway, I checked with one of the other contracts that's been awarded in the same CREID program and they were not asked for this, so it's simply targeting EHA directly with extra onerous process to cover NIH's demands and mistakes related to the R01 termination, I believe.

Cheers,

Peter

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Date: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 12:23:25 PM -0400

Sent: Fri, 10 Sep 2021 12:23:13 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Intercept piece is now out.

From: "Rasmussen, Angie" [b6]

To: David Morens [b6]

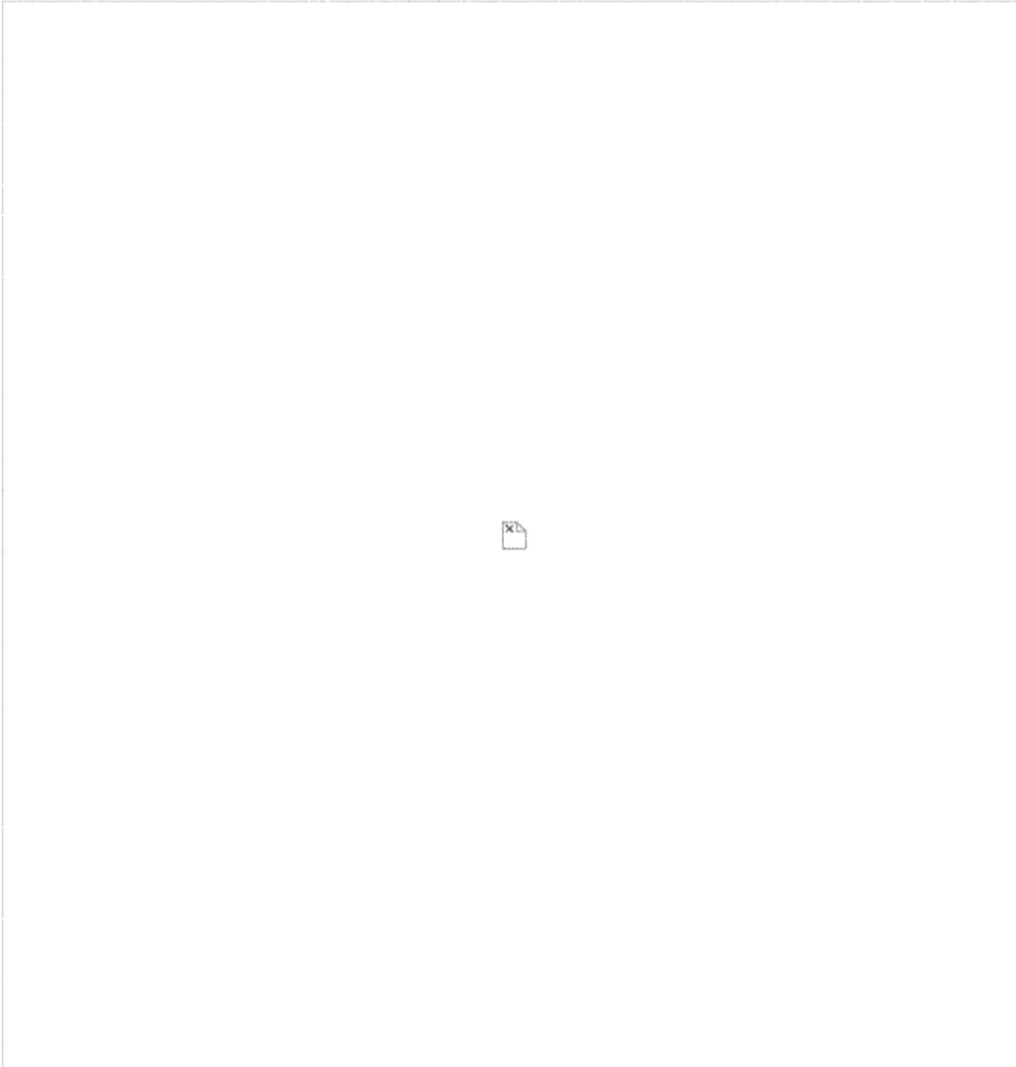
Stephen Goldstein [b6] Garry, Robert F [b6] Peter Daszak

CC: [b6] Kristian G. Andersen [b6] Edward Holmes

[b6] > Jason Gale [b6] Robert Kessler

As a virologist, I say to hell with Jesse. He's a hypocrite and an embarrassment to the field.

[https://twitter.com/\[b6\]/status/\[b6\]](https://twitter.com/[b6]/status/[b6])





Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: [b6] [b6]
She/her
www.vido.org



On Sep 10, 2021, at 8:05 AM, David Morens [b6] wrote:

Let's all remember that Vincent is sort of a curmudgeon/contrarian, he likes to argue against whatever idea is on the table at the moment. I had an argument with him on this very subject, on the phone, about a year ago. He argues tough but in the end is smart and more or less reasonable, in his opinionated way. After he has scored a few good hits. I wouldn't worry, i dont think he's the enemy.

By the wY, by what definition is Jesse a virologist? He's a computational grandstander without much biological knowledge. To bad, as his dad is a legitimate and good virologist. d

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

On Sep 10, 2021, at 09:50, Stephen Goldstein [b6] wrote:

Vincent is vocally in favor of GOF research so it wouldn't surprise me if he is saying this is GOF to make the point that such research is important. He also probably doesn't know the specific definition as Angie says. So a combination there I think.

Ralph published on SHC014 on the Urbani backbone so this is pretty much in line. That's a nasty spike in mice. He also generated the full length virus more recently.

Peter - sorry about all this, it really sucks. Wish there was more we all could do to alleviate but maybe this will be the last "revelation" and things will slowly die down.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 10, 2021, at 8:53 AM, Rasmussen, Angie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This is such garbage. I explained to Mara at length why weight loss in transgenic mice and viral RNA cannot be used to assess pathogenicity and transmissibility in people. I also said that Alina specifically is a hobbyist with zero relevant experience and should not be trusted as a source. Not surprised that Mara wrote this but if "adjacent fields" includes Alina, that's all I need to know. And Jesse "As a Virologist" Bloom is clearly an outlier in our profession. 8/11 consulted suggests it was Chan, Bloom, Ebright, Relman, Lipsitch, etc and evidently Racaniello. If you ask mostly people who you know will say "yep, gain of function, shut it down" then of course you'll get a majority of "virologists and adjacent fields" confirming your thesis. It's shoddy journalism.

Vincent Racaniello was my PhD mentor and I have enormous respect for him, but that said, he doesn't work on anything that would ever remotely meet the criteria for P3CO oversight and this quote leads me to believe that he doesn't know what the NIH definition is. Also given that Mara completely blew past a NIH spokesperson saying it didn't meet the definition of P3 and left out all the context I provided about why this doesn't fit the definition, I also think it's possible Vincent was quoted out of context. Ugh. I'm sorry, Peter. This is a flaming pile of hot garbage, especially given what Bob points out below.

On Sep 10, 2021, at 05:45, Garry, Robert F <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Just asking questions, but how are the exp described in Peter's grants somehow GoF and experiments here aren't? <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4915/12/9/987/htm>

"We incorporated a membrane-anchored form of the SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor binding domain (RBD) in place of the neuraminidase (NA) coding sequence in an influenza virus also possessing a mutation that reduces the affinity of hemagglutinin for its sialic acid receptor."
"The viral supernatant from reverse genetics was blind passaged twice in MDCK-SIAT1-TMPRSS2 cells at three-day intervals. Upon the final passage, the cytopathic effect was evident in the well containing ΔNA(RBD)-Flu, suggesting the presence of a replicating virus."

Glass house-stones?

"As a virologist, I personally think creating chimeras of SARS-related bat coronaviruses that are thought to pose high risk to humans entails unacceptable risks," said Jesse Bloom, who studies the evolution of viruses at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is a disease caused, like Covid-19, by an airborne coronavirus."

From: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 5:20 AM

To: Kristian G. Andersen <[REDACTED]> David Morens <[REDACTED]>

>

Cc: Rasmussen, Angie <[REDACTED]> Garry, Robert F <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] Edward Holmes <[REDACTED]> Jason Gale <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] Robert Kessler <[REDACTED]> Stephen

Goldstein <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Intercept piece is now out.

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Here's the last part of the story, with a really irritating quote from Alina Chan, who wants even more data to be released. At some point, there is no more private stuff for them to demand, unless they bring out the thought police to see if we were thinking of possibly doing GoF!

Shifting Definitions, Growing Viral Load

The humanized mouse experiment fits with the overall goal of the \$3.1 million grant, which was titled “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence” and aimed at preventing a pandemic by predicting the circumstances under which a bat coronavirus could evolve to infect humans. The researchers took an ambitious three-pronged approach: screening people with high exposure to wildlife, mathematical modeling, and lab experiments on viruses. Peter Daszak, the EcoHealth Alliance president, has worked closely with scientists in China for years, and roughly \$750,000 of the grant was allocated for the Wuhan Institute of Virology. An additional nearly \$300,000 went to East China Normal University, where researchers did field sampling.

In a 2005 paper, Daszak’s team showed that the first SARS virus originated in bats. Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, is caused by a coronavirus that emerged in 2012 and also believed to come from bats, which are now a prime target for virologists trying to understand and combat emerging diseases. Daszak has long maintained that his research is critical to preventing outbreaks.

But the research on the bat viruses in Wuhan showed that infecting live animals with altered viruses can have unpredictable consequences. A report to NIH on the project’s progress in the year ending in May 2018 described scientists creating new coronaviruses by changing parts of WIV1 and exposing genetically engineered mice to the new chimeric viruses. Research published in 2017 in the journal PLOS Pathogen showed that, in cells in a laboratory, similar chimeric viruses reproduced less effectively than the original. NIH cited that research as one of the reasons the moratorium on gain-of-function research of concern didn’t apply to this experiment. “It was a loss of function, not a gain of function,” the email from NIH explained. (NIH also pointed out that the changes to the chimeric viruses “would not be anticipated to increase virulence or transmissibility in humans.”)

Inside the lungs of the humanized mice, however, the novel viruses appear to have reproduced far more quickly than the original virus that was used to create them, according to a bar graph shown in the documents. The viral load in the lung tissue of the mice was, at certain points, up to 10,000 times higher in the mice infected with the altered viruses than in those infected with WIV1. According to Deatrick, the NIH spokesperson, the difference in the rates of viral

reproduction — which were particularly pronounced two and four days after the mice were infected with the virus — didn't amount to gain of function because, by the end of the experiment, the amount of virus produced by the parent and chimeric strains evened out. "Viral titers were equivalent by the end of the experimental time-course," Deatrick wrote. The email also said, "NIH supports this type of research to better understand the characteristics of animal viruses that have the potential to spill over to humans and cause widespread disease."

Scientists The Intercept consulted expressed differing views on whether the increase in viral load could be translated to an increase in transmissibility, which relies on the virus's ability to replicate. To some, the jump in viral load indicated that the modified RNA virus could replicate far more rapidly than the original in the lungs of the mice, likely leading to increased pathogenicity and spread. Rasmussen, of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, pointed out that viral load is not identical to reproduction rate, noting: "This shows the chimeric viruses replicated a little faster, but that tells us exactly nothing about transmissibility. Furthermore, WIV1 caught up by the end of the experiment. We see differences in the rate of viral replication all the time, but it is often not directly correlated with pathogenicity."

Another figure in the documents suggests that at least one of the altered viruses not only enhanced viral reproduction, but also caused the humanized mice to lose more weight than those exposed to the original virus — a measure of the severity of illness.

<image006.jpg>

A graph from a report on NIH-funded research in Wuhan shows viral load in lung tissues of humanized mice.

Screenshot: FOIA Document

NIH requires the increase in viral reproduction to be immediately reported, according to a note in the Notice of Award the agency issued in July 2016. "No funds are provided and no funds can be used to support gain-of-function research covered under the October 17, 2014 White House Announcement," the note said. If any new MERS-like or SARS-like chimeras show "enhanced virus growth greater than 1 log over the parental backbone strain," the note continued, the researchers were instructed to stop all experiments

with the viruses and send the data to NIAID grant specialists, as well as to the Wuhan Institute of Virology biosafety committee. The enhanced growth of the chimeric coronaviruses in the humanized mice was, at one point, up to 4 log greater — or 10,000 times — the rate of the original virus. But there are no indications the research was stopped.

In fact, the bat coronavirus grant was renewed for a five-year period in 2019, although the Trump administration suspended funding in April 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic and spiraling concerns about its origins. (Funding was later reinstated but under strict conditions that Daszak said were impossible for his group to meet.)

Kessler, EcoHealth Alliance’s communications manager, also pointed to the fact that the grant was renewed in 2019 — after EcoHealth Alliance had twice submitted documents detailing the experiment — as evidence that the organization did nothing wrong. “If there had been any violations, they would not have done so,” he said.

Long History of Controversy

The practice of making chimeric viruses in order to study how they might become more contagious was under scrutiny long before the pandemic. Proponents of such gain-of-function research argued that it can help virologists better understand and defend against natural outbreaks. But critics said that they were unreasonably dangerous.

In October 2014, the federal government put a moratorium on funding gain-of-function research on potential pandemic pathogens that could be “reasonably anticipated” to lead to spread in humans, as outlined in a 2017 guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services. In December 2017, the moratorium was lifted and replaced with new guidelines for oversight of research using potential pandemic pathogens. The grantees reported that the humanized mouse experiment was done between June 2017 and May 2018. Gain-of-function research was thrust into the spotlight again in 2020, amid speculation that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had conducted such research and that it was somehow linked to the pandemic.

While the new information about the research on humanized mice does not provide the “smoking gun” for proponents of what has

become known as the “lab leak theory,” it lends the hypothesis credence, according to Stuart Newman, a professor of cell biology who directs the developmental biology laboratory at New York Medical College. “Making chimeric coronaviruses, mixing and matching RBDs [a part of the virus that allows it to attach to receptors] and spike proteins is exactly the scenario imagined by many lab-leak scenario proponents,” said Newman. “The fact that this was an established research paradigm in the Wuhan lab ... definitely makes the laboratory origin more plausible.”

The documents about the research were released by NIH after The Intercept submitted a Freedom of Information Act request in September 2020, later suing to have it fulfilled. The request sought copies of these and other grant proposals that Daszak submitted to the agency, as well as the agency’s communications about the proposals. NIH originally denied The Intercept’s request on the grounds that releasing Daszak’s proposals would undermine an ongoing investigation. Counsel for the agency later admitted that NIH had not reviewed many of the records before making that assertion.

“The contents of the grants raise serious questions about the review processes and oversight relating to risky pathogen research,” said Alina Chan, a Boston-based scientist and co-author of the upcoming book “Viral: The Search for the Origin of Covid-19.” The new information in the documents warrants further inquiry into whether researchers may have omitted information about other concerning experiments, she said. “The question is: What else did they do in more recent years that we’re not aware of?”

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 1:09 AM
To: 'Kristian G. Andersen' [b6]; David Morens' [b6]
Cc: 'Rasmussen, Angie' [b6]; 'Garry, Robert F' [b6]
'Edward Holmes' [b6]; 'Jason Gale' [b6]; Robert
Kessler [b6]; 'Stephen Goldstein' [b6]
Subject: Intercept piece is now out.

Really appreciate you speaking out Angie. I just read the piece in the Intercept and it's very upsetting: <https://theintercept.com/2021/09/09/covid-origins-gain-of-function-research/>

What you said is correct – without evidence of ability to infect people, or transmit even from one animal to another, it can't possibly meet the NIH definition of GoF, which is now officially the P3CO definition as follows (from <https://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/P3CO.pdf>):

Section II. Scope and Definitions For the purposes of this HHS P3CO Framework:

A. A potential pandemic pathogen (PPP) is a pathogen that satisfies both of the following:

1. It is likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations; and
2. It is likely highly virulent and likely to cause significant morbidity and/or mortality in humans.

B. An enhanced PPP is defined as a PPP resulting from the enhancement of the transmissibility and/or virulence of a pathogen. Enhanced PPPs do not include naturally occurring pathogens that are circulating in or have been recovered from nature, regardless of their pandemic potential

How on any planet is a bat-CoV that's never been seen in people, "likely highly transmissible and likely capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in human populations"? It seems the 8 scientists that believed this to be GoF base it on one of the chimeras growing faster than the parental strain early on, while forgetting that 1) these are bat viruses have never been shown to infect people, or that, as you say Angie – the growth rates of the parental strain caught up with it by the end of the expt. I'm v. disappointed that Vincent Racaniello is one of these scientists – he should know better.

I'm hoping that more will speak out and point to the differences between their version of what GoF is, and the actual definition that we're all supposed to adhere to, and by the way that NIH uses as the agency of note to decide!

NIH DOCUMENTS

PROVIDE NEW EVIDENCE U.S. FUNDED GAIN-OF- FUNCTION RESEARCH IN WUHAN

U.S.-funded experiments in China posed biosafety risks but did not cause Covid-19 pandemic, scientists say.

<image007.jpg>

<image008.jpg>

<image009.jpg>

Sharon Lerner, Mara Hvistendahl, Maia Hibbett

September 9 2021, 9:03 p.m.

DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY The Intercept contain new evidence that the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the nearby Wuhan University Center for Animal Experiment, along with their collaborator, the U.S.-based nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, have engaged in what the U.S. government defines as “gain-of-function research of concern,” intentionally making viruses more pathogenic or transmissible in order to study them, despite stipulations from a U.S. funding agency that the money not be used for that purpose.

Grant money for the controversial experiment came from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is headed by Anthony Fauci. The award to EcoHealth Alliance, a research organization which studies the spread of viruses from animals to humans, included subawards to Wuhan Institute of Virology and East China Normal University. The principal investigator on the grant is EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak, who has been a key voice in the search for Covid-19’s origins.

Scientists unanimously told The Intercept that the experiment, which

involved infecting genetically engineered mice with “chimeric” hybrid viruses, could not have directly sparked the pandemic. None of the viruses listed in the write-ups of the experiment are related to the virus that causes Covid-19, SARS-CoV-2, closely enough to have evolved into it. Still, several scientists said the new information, which the NIH released after it was sued by The Intercept, points to biosafety concerns, highlighting a general lack of oversight for research on pathogens and raising questions about what other information has not been publicly disclosed.

“As a virologist, I personally think creating chimeras of SARS-related bat coronaviruses that are thought to pose high risk to humans entails unacceptable risks,” said Jesse Bloom, who studies the evolution of viruses at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is a disease caused, like Covid-19, by an airborne coronavirus.

<image010.jpg>

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci listens during a briefing on the coronavirus pandemic at the White House on March 26, 2020 in Washington, DC.

Photo: Drew Angerer/Getty Images

The experiment also raises questions about assertions from Fauci and NIH Director Francis Collins that NIH-funded projects at the Wuhan Institute of Virology did not involve gain-of-function research. In May, Fauci testified before Congress: “The NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology.” The documents do not establish whether Fauci was directly aware of the work.

Scientists working under a 2014 NIH grant to the EcoHealth Alliance to study bat coronaviruses combined the genetic material from a “parent” coronavirus known as WIV1 with other viruses. They twice submitted summaries of their work that showed that, when in the lungs of genetically engineered mice, three altered bat coronaviruses at times reproduced far more quickly than the original virus on which they were based. The altered viruses were also somewhat more pathogenic, with one causing the mice to lose significant weight. The researchers reported, “These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARS-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice.”

But the terms of the grant clearly stipulated that the funding could

not be used for gain-of-function experiments. The grant conditions also required the researchers to immediately report potentially dangerous results and stop their experiments pending further NIH review. According to both the EcoHealth Alliance and NIH, the results were reported to the agency, but NIH determined that rules designed to restrict gain-of-function research did not apply.

The Intercept consulted 11 scientists who are virologists or work in adjacent fields and hold a range of views on both the ethics of gain-of-function research and the Covid-19 origins search. Seven said that the work appears to meet NIH's criteria for gain-of-function research.

One said that the experiment “absolutely does not meet the bar” for gain-of-function research. “You can’t predict that these viruses would be more pathogenic, or even pathogenic at all in people,” said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist with the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the University of Saskatchewan. “They also did not study transmissibility at all in these experiments,” meaning that the scientists did not look at whether the viruses could spread across a population.

Three experts said that, while they did not have enough knowledge of U.S. policies to comment on whether the research met NIH criteria, the experiment involving humanized mice was unnecessarily risky.

One virologist, Vincent Racaniello, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University, said while he considered the mouse experiment described in the document to clearly fall into the gain-of-function category, he didn’t see it as problematic. “You can do some kinds of gain-of-function research that then has unforeseen consequences and may be a problem, but that’s not the case here,” said Racaniello.

Robert Kessler, communications manager for EcoHealth Alliance, denied that the work on the humanized mice met the definition of gain-of-function research. Kessler insisted that bat viruses are not potential pandemic pathogens because, he said, “a bat virus is not known to be able to infect humans.” The proposal justified the work on WIV1 by explaining that it is “not a select agent” — referring to a list of closely monitored toxins and biological agents that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health — and “has not been

shown to cause human infections, and has not been shown to be transmissible between humans.”

But the group’s bat coronavirus research was focused on the very threat that bat viruses pose to people. Kessler did acknowledge that, while the original bat coronavirus in the experiment did not spread among humans, the research was designed to gauge how bat coronaviruses could evolve to infect humans.

All but two of the scientists consulted agreed that, whatever title it is given, the newly public experiment raised serious concerns about the safety and oversight of federally funded research. “In my point of view, the debate about the definition of ‘gain-of-function’ has been too much focused on technical aspects,” said Jacques van Helden, a professor of bioinformatics at Aix-Marseille Université. “The real question is whether or not research has the potential to create or facilitate the selection of viruses that might infect humans.” The experiments described in the proposal clearly do have that potential, he said.

NIH spokesperson Elizabeth Deatrick said that the agency had considered the research — and decided not to restrict it under its own rules. “In 2016, NIAID determined that the work was not subject to the Gain-of-Function (GoF) research funding pause and the subsequent HHS P3CO Framework,” Deatrick wrote, referring to criteria put in place in 2017 to guide the agency’s funding decisions about research that involves, or is reasonably anticipated to involve, potential pandemic pathogens.

Republican members of Congress have alleged, without sufficient evidence, that gain-of-function research in Wuhan sparked the coronavirus pandemic. As part of an inquiry into the origins of the pandemic, they have twice grilled Fauci in Congress on his role as NIAID director.

In a heated exchange in July, Republican Sen. Rand Paul accused Fauci of lying when he claimed that NIH did not fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Experts now say that the documents support the contention that NIH funded gain-of-function work, though not in the specific instance where Paul alleged it. “There’s no question,” said Racaniello, of Columbia University, who pointed to the decreased weight of the

mice infected with the chimeric viruses that was described in the research summaries sent to NIH. “From the weight loss, it’s gain of function. Tony Fauci is wrong saying it’s not.”

But the documents do not prove Paul’s claim that Fauci was lying, as they do not make clear whether Fauci read them. Nor do they in any way support Paul’s allegation that Fauci was “responsible for 4 million people around the world dying of a pandemic” — or that anyone intentionally caused Covid-19. What is clear is that program officers at NIAID, the agency that Fauci oversees, did know about the research.

A paragraph describing the research, as well as two figures illustrating its results, were included in both a 2018 progress report on the bat coronavirus grant and an application for its 2019 renewal. And NIH confirmed that it reviewed them.

“NIH has never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans,” the agency said in a statement, echoing remarks by Collins, the NIH director, posted to its website in May. “The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease.” Similar research funded by NIH had aided in the development of vaccines against the coronavirus, the statement continued.

The White House did not respond to questions about the research.

Cheers,

Peter

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

From: Kristian G. Andersen [b6]
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 8:13 PM
To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Rasmussen, Angie [b6]; Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Garry, Robert F [b6]; Edward Holmes <[b6]>; Jason Gale [b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>; Stephen Goldstein <[b6]>
Subject: Re: here's the latest line of attack today...

"she's talked to 10 virologists or "people in adjacent fields" for her follow-up".

If she had in fact done that, she'd realize there'd be no news and no need for a second article - except to say "nothing to see here, move along".

Sigh.

On Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 4:28 PM David Morens [b6] wrote:

Amen and good for you! You are right that Ebright and his ilk are not only NOT experts but are harmful demagogues. They need to be called out. Because i am in government i can only fo this off the record, but i have done do again and again. Some of them are knowingly promoting false equivalences. If they interviewed a Holocaust survivor, they would say they have to give equal time and space to a Nazi murderer. They have no shame. d

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

On Sep 9, 2021, at 18:40, Rasmussen, Angie [b6] > wrote:

Peter and all,

I am so sorry you are still going through all of this. For what it's worth, I broke my rule of talking to disingenuous journalists and sent Mara Hvistendahl a long email telling her exactly what I think of the "experts" she's talked to and setting the record straight about what these FOIA reports supposedly show. From what I can see, they show that you were reporting your work appropriately to NIH as required, the work itself was done in appropriate biocontainment, and, importantly, you didn't have SARS-CoV-2 or a progenitor. I also explained that previous work was published with WIV1 chimeras and that this type of study precludes doing more dangerous (and technically very difficult) virus isolation.

She wanted to know whether I agreed with her two sources (likely Alina Chan or Richard Ebright, based on her prior story) that this fits the definition of GoF

by NIH and I told her no and explained at length why not and the assertions that it was should disqualify any supposed “expert”. Took every opportunity to dunk on their amateurish, disingenuous bullshit, while also emphasizing the importance of this work. Mara wrote back defensively, claiming she’s talked to 10 virologists or “people in adjacent fields” for her follow-up. I am not optimistic that the follow-up will be more balanced, but I did try to provide some juicy quotes about how her “experts” actually have no expertise, and emphasized the profound damage these people have done to this essential research. They make all of us less safe.

Hang in there. Ultimately the truth will come out and it’s not going to be from the likes of the Daily Caller’s inability to interpret virology data or from Jesse Bloom and all the grifters and conspiracy theorists populating the rabbit hole that he’s crawled down.

Angela L. Rasmussen, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)
University of Saskatchewan
Office: [b6] [b6]
She/her
www.vido.org

<image011.png>

On Sep 9, 2021, at 3:07 PM, Peter Daszak <

[b6] wrote:

CAUTION: External to USask. Verify sender and use caution with links and attachments. Forward suspicious emails to phishing@usask.ca

Here’s a report in the Daily Caller that goes after the GoF argument that the chimeric bat viruses yielded more virus in humanized mice than the parental bat virus strain. <https://dailycaller.com/2021/09/09/ecohealth-alliance-gain-of-function-higher-viral-load-anthony-fauci/>

There’s a good response from NIH: ‘An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency “never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans.” “The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease,” the spokesperson said. “The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives.”’

This story is particularly irritating because if you look at the P3CO rules, it's clear they are meant for pathogens that occur in humans and might be made more dangerous. These were bat viruses that have never been shown to occur in humans. Let's also not forget that the virus with a higher viral load in mice was actually because it had the spike protein of a bat virus being flown around every night by tens of thousands of bats in rural china – not something new created by us to enhance virulence - In fact, the opposite: the fact that we could do this work with a chimera means that we don't have to isolate and culture every single new bat cov we find. It reduces risk!

INVESTIGATIVE GROUP

Fauci-Funded Wuhan Lab Viruses Exhibited Over 10,000 Times Higher Viral Load Than Natural Strain, Documents Show

<image003.jpg>

<image007.jpg>

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-
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ANDREW KERR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

September 09, 2021 3:25 PM ET

- **U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice, records released by the agency show.**
- **Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright said the data was a “bona fide bombshell” that proves the NIAID, under Dr. Anthony Fauci’s leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.**
- **Fauci testified before the Senate in June that his agency never funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

U.S. and Chinese researchers funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) created viruses in a Wuhan lab that exhibited over 10,000 times higher viral load in humanized mice than the natural virus they were based on, according to an infectious disease professor citing documents recently released by the agency.

The U.S. nonprofit group EcoHealth Alliance notified the NIAID in two reports that between June 2017 and May 2018 it had created three lab-generated chimeric SARS-related coronaviruses in China that exhibited “significantly higher” viral loads, documents first reported by The Intercept show, but the agency continued to fund the project with taxpayer dollars without flagging it for review by an independent federal committee created in late 2017 to oversee gain-of-function research.

Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright, a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research, said the data was a “bona fide bombshell” that proves the NIAID, under Fauci’s leadership, violated federal policies, endangered the public and lied to the public.

“Three EcoHealth/[Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab-generated viruses exhibited >10x to >10,000x higher viral load than the starting bat virus in humanized mice,” Ebright tweeted. “One EcoHealth/WIV lab-generated virus exhibited higher pathogenicity than the starting bat virus in infection studies with humanized mice.”

“The results demonstrate—unequivocally—a gain in function,” he said. In comparison, the viral load for people infected with the delta variant is roughly 1,000 times higher than those infected with the original strain of the virus, according to [Nature](#) science journal.

Ebright [added](#) on Twitter that the gain-of-function research activity that NIAID allowed EcoHealth Alliance to conduct in China could have yielded the virus that causes COVID-19 or a progenitor of that virus.

EcoHealth Alliance first notified the NIAID it created the three lab-generated SARS-related coronaviruses in a progress report detailing its research activities between June 2017 and May 2018.

“Using the reverse genetic methods we previously developed, infectious clones with the WIV1 backbone and the spike protein of SHC014, WIV16 and Rs4231, respectively, were constructed and recombinant viruses were successfully rescued,” the group said in its progress report. “2 and 4 days post infection, the viral load in lung tissues of mice challenged with rWIV1-SHC014S, rWIV1-WIV16S and rWIV1-Rs4231S ... were significantly higher than that in rWIV1-infected mice.”

“These results demonstrate varying pathogenicity of SARSr-CoVs with different spike proteins in humanized mice,” the report added.

EcoHealth Alliance included a chart visualizing the increased viral load of their lab-created viruses. The chart is presented in a Log scale, meaning each tick of the chart represents a 100-fold increase in viral load in mice with humanized cells, Ebright explained to the Daily Caller News Foundation.

<image005.jpg>

Charts submitted by EcoHealth Alliance to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases showing loss of body weight (right) and viral load (left) of mice with humanized cells infected with the natural WIV1 viral strain and three EcoHealth lab-created virus strains. The viral load chart is presented in Log scale, meaning each tick of the graph represents a 100-fold increase in viral load, Rutgers University professor Richard Ebright explained to the DCNF. (Screenshot) “Each tick in the chart on the right represents an increment of 100x,” Ebright told the DCNF. “The day 4 data show greater-than-10,000x higher viral loads for the lab-generated viruses.”

The viral load for humanized mice infected with the natural virus caught up with the lab-created strains by the end of the experiment, the chart shows, but Ebright said that viral loads in the early stages of an infection are important figures to consider when assessing a pathogen’s transmissibility.

“In terms of assessing potential for transmissibility, the viral load at all time points, particularly at early time points, is relevant. (See Delta variant),” Ebright told the DCNF.

EcoHealth Alliance provided another chart in its progress report showing that humanized mice infected with EcoHealth’s lab-created viruses lost more bodyweight than humanized mice infected with the natural WIV1 strain. EcoHealth Alliance included the same two charts in a 2018 request to the NIAID requesting additional funding for its research in China, the document [trove](#) released by [The Intercept](#) shows.

Federal funding for gain-of-function experiments that increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of potential pandemic pathogens was temporarily suspended in 2014 due to widespread scientific concerns it risked leaking supercharged viruses into the human population.

Funding for gain-of-function research was resumed in late 2017, but only for projects that went through the new [Potential Pandemic Pathogens Control and Oversight](#) (P3CO) Framework, which includes a review by an HHS review board

tasked with critically evaluating whether grants that involve enhancing dangerous pathogens, such as coronaviruses, are worth the risks and that proper safeguards are in place.

The NIAID opted not to flag the EcoHealth Alliance grant for P3CO after determining on its own accord that the project “did not involve the enhancement of the pathogenicity or transmissibility of the viruses studied,” a National Institutes of Health spokesperson previously told the DCNF. (RELATED: US Grant To Wuhan Lab To Enhance Bat-Based Coronaviruses Was Never Scrutinized By HHS Review Board, NIH Says)

Fauci said during a congressional hearing in May that the NIH and NIAID “categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology,” a claim that led Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky in July to send a criminal referral to the Department of Justice to investigate whether Fauci lied before Congress.

The P3CO framework defines an “enhanced” potential pandemic pathogen as any lab-created virus that exhibits any level of boosted transmissibility and/or virulence. Funding agencies such as the NIAID are required to flag any research grant that is “reasonably anticipated to create, transfer, or use enhanced PPPs” for P3CO review.

Despite this, documents released by The Intercept suggest that the NIAID authorized EcoHealth Alliance to conduct gain-of-function experiments on bat coronaviruses up to a certain threshold.

The NIAID informed EcoHealth Alliance in a June 2018 award notice that it must notify the agency only if it creates a virus “with enhanced growth by more than [10 times] compared to wild type strains,” according to documents released by The Intercept. The NIAID linked to the P3CO review process, which contains no such mention of a 10 times allowance, in the very next sentence, the document shows.

<image006.jpg>

NIAID notice to EcoHealth Alliance in June 2018 saying it must notify the agency only if it produces a lab virus that exhibits more than 10 times enhancement over wild-type strains. (Screenshot)

An NIH spokesperson told the DCNF the agency “never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans.”

“The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease,” the spokesperson said. “The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2. More importantly, because of similar research to understand coronaviruses, we were able to move swiftly to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 and save lives.”

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licensing@dailycallernewsfoundation.org .

Cheers,

Peter

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 8:29 PM
To: 'Garry, Robert F' [b6]; 'Kristian G. Andersen' <[b6]>
Cc: 'David Morens' [b6]; 'Edward Holmes' <[b6]>; 'Jason Gale' <[b6]>; 'Rasmussen, Angie' [b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>; 'Stephen Goldstein' [b6]
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

That's interesting about Jesse Bloom – I wasn't aware of that work and hadn't really heard of him before this year to be honest. I suspect that like many people his view of his own research is that it's highly professionally managed and carefully controlled re. biosafety. He clearly has a different view of the work at WIV & by other leading Chinese scientists and seems suspicious of their motives in many of his public comments. This can't be based on their published work – it's often excellent. It just seems like a difficulty people have teasing apart their viewpoint about the Chinese Govt from their opinion about individual scientists. Anyone who's been on the ground in China rapidly realizes that the two are not the same.

Cheers,

Peter

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

From: Garry, Robert F [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Kristian G. Andersen <[b6]>
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Edward Holmes <[b6]>; Jason Gale [b6]; Rasmussen, Angie [b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>; Stephen Goldstein <[b6]>
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Sorry this is happening. The anti-science attacks are just getting more and more extreme.

Unfortunately, there exists a small vocal group of scientists that see virtually every experiment done by virologists as risky and potentially GoF. Many of those ppl are quoted in the Intercept article.

WRT Jesse Bloom it is rather ironic I must say. One need not look too hard at his influenza virus publications to identify quite a number that could be considered "risky" at least by a Relman/Ebright definition. Selecting drug resistant influenza virus mutants, and creating influenza virus SARS-CoV-2 recombinants to name two. Just saying...

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 2:49 PM
To: Kristian Andersen [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Robert Garry <[b6]>; Edward Holmes <[b6]>; Jason Gale [b6]; "Rasmussen, Angie" [b6]; Robert Kessler <[b6]>; [b6] <[b6]>; Stephen Goldstein <[b6]>
Subject: RE: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Great to see your email Kristian – right on every point. The isolate vs. sequence vs. sample misnomer is something that really has plagued me with this stuff – Zhengli's group repeatedly used 'isolate' for 'sample' on Genbank and I've made

that mistake here also.

Re. the MERS work, you're dead right – we proposed it, explained that it would likely need review by the P3CO committee equivalent, and then pushed it to Yr4. In the end we didn't do this work – there was already a ton of other more interesting work directly on SARSr-CoVs to do.

The latest line of attack that will be coming out in a follow-up article in the *Intercept* tonight is that in the Y4 report, we show one of the chimeras having more than a log virus output than the parent strain (WIV-1). The NoA was updated in Y3 to say that if this happened we had to report to NIH and cease expts. Ironically, the way *Intercept* found this out is because they now have a copy of our “report to NIH” in which we show this, but of course that's not going to stop them saying we broke the rules on GoF.

The other line of attack is the one Jesse Bloom's pursuing – that we didn't publish sequence data within 6 months of the “final version being received” as per our proposal. Jesse sneakily suggested this in an email to me last night in which he asked for the sequences so he can do SARS-CoV-2 origin analyses, while at the same time tweeting an accusation that we broke the rules in a chain with Alina Chan and the “Seeker”. I'm not sure whether to respond at all, but I might just let him know that all SARSr-CoV sequences we had are already published in our 2020 paper in Nat. Comm. Again – the problem with these accusations is that just being accused of this by the press causes us seven levels of hell, and arguing back is even worse.

Cheers,

Peter

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USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: Kristian G. Andersen [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]

Cc: David Morens [b6] Garry, Robert F <
[b6] Edward Holmes [b6] ason
Gale [b6] Rasmussen, Angie [b6]
>; Robert Kessler [b6]; Stephen Goldstein <
[b6]

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

It's harassment, plain and simple - it has absolutely nothing to do with trying to find the truth of how SARS-CoV-2 emerged in the human population.

The way I see it though, we now have (a) the entire US IC having completed their investigation, (b) unredacted grants and annual reports from EcoHealth, and (c) old theses from the WIV.

This is *exactly* the type of information that Ebright, Metzl, Relman, Bloom, Chan, and the rest of the lot have been requesting. Now this work has been completed, what was unearthed? Nothing. Nada. Zilch. No evidence of the virus (or sequence) at the WIV (or anywhere else) prior to the pandemic. No gain-of-function work (despite what Ebright says). The same cloning system used again and again (WIV1). Vero cells used for virus isolation (SARS-CoV-2 loses the FCS in those cells), and no previously unreported viruses isolated (although I note the repeated use of "isolates" in one of the annual reports to describe 11 samples - I myself have made that mistake before). So again, there's nothing.

This absence of evidence is *in fact* evidence of absence in this particular case - there would have been *some* evidence for SARS-CoV-2 in *some* of these documents had it been at the WIV. Yet, nothing.

As for GOF work, again nothing. I note the mention of work with recombinant MERS in the year 3 report for work proposed in year 4 - depending on the nature of work, that could be considered GOF/DURC. However, when reading the year 4 report, I don't see any of that work mentioned - just work with pseudotyped viruses, which is clearly not GOF (or DURC).

Of course, people will take stuff out of context to make *anything* fit a particular narrative. However, there's an expiration date on bullshit and I suspect we're well past due.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 6:28 PM Peter Daszak <
[b6] wrote:

Here's one of the "journalists" who got the "Scoop". Basically they just FoIA'd NIH, then sued when NIH refused to release, then dumped the documents online and asked for "people with relevant expertise to get in touch". Cue Drs. Ebright, Relman, Chan, Bloom and others to start their attempt at a character assassination...

Mara Hvistendahl

@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h

NEW: We obtained hundreds of pages from NIH detailing EcoHealth Alliance's work with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We are publishing them in full. With @fastlerner and @theintercept legal team, which filed a FOIA lawsuit for the documents' release

<image001.jpg>

New Details Emerge About Coronavirus Research at Chinese Lab

More than 900 pages of materials related to US.-funded coronavirus research in China were released following a FOIA lawsuit by The Intercept.
theintercept.com

<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl

@MaraHvistendahl

.

15h The full documents are here: "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence" <https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055989-understanding-risk-bat-coronavirus-emergence-grant-notice...>

"Understanding Risk of Zoonotic Virus Emergence in Emerging Infectious Disease Hotspots of Southeast Asia"

<https://documentcloud.org/documents/21055988-risk-zoonotic-virus-hotspots-grant-notice...>

<image002.jpg>

Mara Hvistendahl

@MaraHvistendahl

.

7h

There is a lot here. @fastlerner and I are interested in hearing feedback from people with relevant expertise.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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, September 7, 2021 9:07 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Garry, Robert F. [b6]; Kristian G. Andersen <[b6]>; Edward Holmes [b6]
Jason Gale [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Do not rule out suing these assholes for slander. d

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

On Sep 7, 2021, at 20:39, Peter Daszak <[b6]> wrote:

To be honest, this whole process is beyond a joke. We're spending a huge amount of staff time dealing with the BS from these FoIA requests even though the grant's been terminated, suspended and funds are still unavailable.

The lab leakers are already stirring up bullshit lines of attack that will bring more negative publicity our way – which is what this is about – a way to line up the GoF attack on Fauci, or the 'risky research' attack on all of us.

Jesse Bloom's now trying to claim we weren't following our proposed rules for data release (not true – all SARSr-CoV RdRp sequences on Genbank in summer 2020, despite the grant being terminated) – he's tagging Alina Chan and 'The Seeker' on Twitter. Ebright's trying to claim we were working on MERS as a 'shadow' line of work. There'll be more to come – just a free-for-all effort to find a few sentences that they can take out of context.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: Garry, Robert F [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Kristian G. Andersen [b6]; Edward Holmes [b6]
Cc: Jason Gale [b6]
[b6] [b6]
[b6] (b)(6)

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

Totally - that the real story of the FOIAed grants - no SC2 or anything close that could have been converted to it.

Metzl, Chan and others wanted a "forensic investigation." The grants that they thought would be private and written before the pandemic do not mention a new SARS-like virus. YOU can be sure that a new virus 76% similar to SC1 would have been front and center in the applications and progress reports.

My guess this is part of the info the IC used to conclude no bioweapon, likely no engineering - NO SC2 before the pandemic. This Gof debate now very clearly has nothing to do with the origin of SC2.

From: Kristian G. Andersen [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:56 PM
To: Edward Holmes [b6] >

Cc: Jason Gale

b6

b6

b6

b6

b6

b6

b6

>; Garry, Robert F

b6

b6

Subject: Re: The Intercept report on coronavirus research at Chinese labs

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests. Going through it carefully as we speak (already wasted a few hours) - because that's how idiotic this has become.

Nicely detailed annual reports - makes it easy to show that there's in fact no SARS-CoV-2 in there...

People have lost their minds with this s***.

K

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 4:50 PM Edward Holmes <

b6

wrote:

Yes, just more like evidence that they never had SC2 in the lab.

Professor Edward C. Holmes FAA FRS
The University of Sydney

On 8 Sep 2021, at 9:43 am, Jason Gale
(BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <
j.gale@bloomberg.net> wrote:

Just FYI

<https://theintercept.com/2021/09/06/new-details-emerge-about-coronavirus-research-at-chinese-lab/>

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Date: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 10:47:33 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 10:47:21 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Breaking News - Remdesivir might work against COVID, and our now-terminated NIH grant was used in that study!
From: Dennis Carroll [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; David Morens [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]

Peter, this underscores the singular importance of the work you have done and the extraordinary injustice in its being terminated. Hopefully this folly can be reversed. I have shared this information with this goal in mind

d

On Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 9:48 PM Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Dear Friends,

You might have seen the breaking news this afternoon that Remdesivir is showing real promise against COVID-19 in clinical trials. It was a pleasure to see Donald Trump and Tony Fauci announcing this today.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/29/health/gilead-sciences-remdesivir-covid-19-treatment/index.html>

Importantly, Ralph Baric from UNC, who did the lab work leading up to the trials, and is working with Gilead (pro bono) is a collaborator on our grant that NIH has told us is terminated. The *in vitro* work that Ralph led, showing the evidence that Remdesivir had broad efficacy and allowing it to go forward to clinical trials used viral sequences generated from our grant:

The key paper (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5567817/>) states that "GS-5734 was also effective against bat-CoVs, prepandemic bat-CoVs and circulating contemporary human CoV in primary human lung cells, thus demonstrating broad-spectrum anti-CoV activity." GS-5734 is Remdesivir: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remdesivir> ; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352771420300380> . The 'prepandemic bat-CoVs' are the viruses we found with Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Institute of Virology under our NIAID funding that has now been 'terminated'.

In addition, there is another promising, broad spectrum drug that is being lined up for clinical trials: <https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/12/541/eabb588>

The paper states: “Here, we show that the ribonucleoside analog β -D-N4-hydroxycytidine (NHC; EIDD-1931) has broad-spectrum antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and related zoonotic group 2b or 2c bat-CoVs, as well as increased potency against a CoV bearing resistance mutations to the nucleoside analog inhibitor remdesivir.” Again, the “group 2b or 2c bat-CoVs” are the viruses we identified using our NIAID funding, now terminated.

Please feel free to pass this information on to everyone you would like to...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street

New York, NY 10001

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

--

Dr Dennis Carroll
President, Global Virome Project
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University
Counselor and Advisor to the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

mobile: [b6]

email: [b6]

Date: Mon, 17 Aug 2020 7:41:44 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 17 Aug 2020 7:41:32 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Re: Monday morning news from Wuhan & elsewhere...
From: Dennis Carroll [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

David, thanks for the connection and good words. I hope you are fairing well. Times are crazy. I haven't heard from the reporter, but you never can tell. FYI, I am still based in DC - living [b6]. [b6]. If you ever come down to the Wharf area reach out I'm at the Capital Yacht Club marina. Great place to be in the midst of a pandemic. Would welcome a chance to chat

All the best

d

On Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 12:44 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] wrote:

Dennis, in case your ears are buzzing. See email below with Peter D and Jerry Keusch. Counting down to January 20, 2021.

David

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Re: Monday morning news from Wuhan & elsewhere...

Date: Mon, 10 Aug 2020 12:42:58 -0400

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]: [REDACTED] b6

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6
Gerald Keusch [REDACTED] b6

CC: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6
Robert Kessler [REDACTED] b6

Great news clip and, you see, things are getting better. I have talked to a number of reporters, mostly off the record but some on, and have headed them both to you and Dennis. I just gave a reporter Dennis's contact info Friday and told them I thought he was temporarily out at Texas A & M, maybe at the Scowcroft Institute. BTW, I have worked a bit with the Scowcroft Institute and there are some good folks there, Republicans but good smart people. David

On 8/10/2020 11:24 AM, Peter Daszak
wrote:

Had

a fun weekend w/ reporters breaking into my late
breakfast. Here's a story from NBC where they actually
went inside the lab.

<https://www.today.com/video/inside-the-wuhan-lab-at-center-of-coronavirus-controversy-89836101738>

Unfortunately

Zhengli Shi is b6 this week so she
didn't feature, but the very likeable Director of the Lab
(the guy she interviews first) and the more political
director of the Institute were interviewed.

Good

to see Wuhan opening up to outside journalists. I look
forward to a trip there with both of you one day, followed
by a banquet, baiju drinking, and Karaoke with the very
excellent singer Zhengli Shi!

On

Wednesday we're expecting a full story from Wall St
Journal on the origins of COVID. Apparently Tony is
interviewed, Dennis Carroll and other Luminaries.

In

other news, Dennis Carroll is now assisting the Biden
Campaign in designing policy on Global Health. There'll be
a story in the New York Times either today or tomorrow...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter

Daszak

President

EcoHealth

Alliance

520

Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New

York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.:

b6

Website:

www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter:

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

EcoHealth

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

From:

David Morens [REDACTED] b6

Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 7:44 AM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6

Gerald Keusch [REDACTED] b6

Subject: Fwd: Wednesday Morning: Virus
disinformation

Re

Sinclair.....

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From:

The New York Times <nytdirect@nytimes.com>

Date: July 29, 2020 at 06:49:36 EDT

To: b6

**Subject: Wednesday Morning: Virus
disinformation**

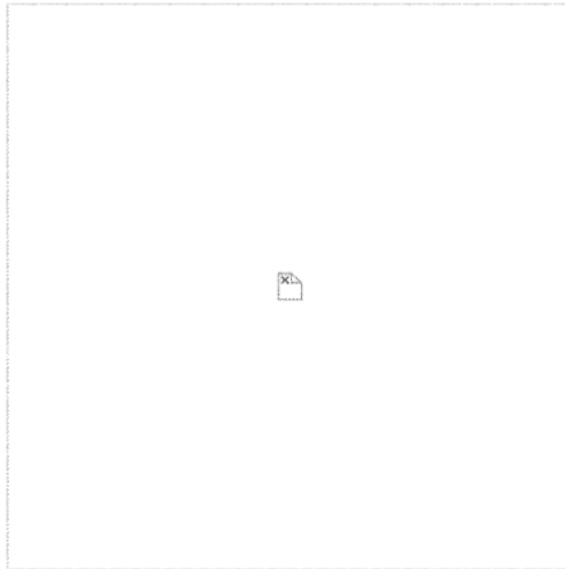
Reply-To: nytdirect@nytimes.com

View in browser: [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

[Continue](#)

[reading the main story](#)





July
29, 2020

Continue
reading the main story

SUPPORTED



BY



By

David

Leonhardt

Good

morning. The attorney

general spars with

Democrats. Tech

C.E.O.s prepare for
criticism from
Congress. And
televised conspiracy
theories are helping
to spread the virus.

Information

contagion



The
Sinclair
Broadcast
Group
published an
interview
highlighting
baseless
arguments by
Dr. Judy
Mikovits, a
discredited
scientist. Zuma
Press, via
Alamy

Sinclair

Broadcast Group recently

published

an

online interview

with a conspiracy

theorist

who claimed that Dr.

Anthony Fauci created

the coronavirus using

monkey cells. Sinclair —

which operates almost

200 television stations

— has also run segments

downplaying

the severity of the

virus.

Fox

News

has

repeatedly run

segments

promoting ideas that

scientists consider false

or that question the

seriousness of the virus.

Breitbart

published a video this

week in which a group of

doctors claimed that
masks were unnecessary
and that the drug
hydroxychloroquine cured
the virus. It received
14 million views in six
hours on Facebook,
my
colleague Kevin
Roose reports.
(President Trump
tweeted
a link to it.)

Why

is the U.S. enduring a far
more severe virus outbreak
than any other rich
country?

There
are multiple causes, but
one of them is the size
and strength of
right-wing media
organizations that
frequently broadcast
falsehoods. The result

is confusion among many
Americans about
scientific facts that
are widely accepted,
across the political
spectrum, in other
countries.

Canada,
Japan and much of Europe
have no equivalent to
Sinclair — whose local
newscasts reach about 40
percent of Americans — or
Fox News. Germany and

France have widely read
blogs that promote
conspiracy theories. “But
none of them have the
reach and the funding of
Fox or Sinclair,” Monika
Pronczuk, a Times reporter
based in Europe, told me.

Fox
is particularly
important, because it
has also influenced

President Trump's
response to the virus,
which has been
slower
and less consistent
than that of many other
world leaders. "Trump
repeatedly failed to act
to tame the spread, even
though that would have
helped him politically,"

The
Washington Post's
Greg Sargent has
written.

The headline on
Sargent's opinion column
is: "How Fox News may be
destroying Trump's

re-election hopes.”

Another

factor creating confusion:

The lack of an aggressive

response to virus

misinformation from

Facebook and YouTube. Judd

Legum, author of the

Popular Information

newsletter,

has

identified some of

this misinformation,

and the two companies have

responded by removing the
posts he cited. But Legum
told me he had pointed out
only a small fraction of
the false information, and
the companies had done
relatively little to
remove it proactively.

Twitter

took a slightly more
aggressive step
yesterday,

putting
temporary limits on
the account of
Donald Trump Jr.
after he shared the
false Breitbart video.

C.E.O.s

in Congress: Jeff

Bezos of Amazon, Tim Cook
of Apple, Mark Zuckerberg
of Facebook, and Sundar
Pichai of Google's parent
company, Alphabet, will
testify today at

a

House hearing on

whether their

companies stifle

competition.

“It has the feeling of

tech’s Big Tobacco

moment,” one expert said.

The

Times’s editorial board

has

suggested questions

lawmakers should ask

each executive.

THREE

MORE BIG STORIES

1. Barr spars with Congress



Attorney
General
William Barr
testified on
Capitol Hill
on Tuesday. Pool
photo by Matt
McClain

Attorney

General William Barr

clashed

with House Democrats

in a hostile

five-hour hearing.

Barr

defended the deployment of

federal agents in

Portland, Ore., saying

that “rioters and

anarchists” had “hijacked”

peaceful demonstrations.

And he denied improperly

interfering in criminal
cases against Roger Stone
and Michael Flynn, two
allies of President Trump.
Democrats portrayed him as
a dangerous political
enforcer for the
president.

You
can watch some of the
most contentious
exchanges

in

a Times video.

In

other protest

developments:

--

Dr Dennis Carroll
President, Global Virome Project
Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public
Service, Texas A&M University
Counselor and Advisor to the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

mobile: [b6]

email: [b6]

Date: Thu, 21 May 2020 12:19:35 PM -0400

Subject: Re: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS

From: David Morens [b6]

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Carroll Dennis [b6] >

No need to check it out. I think there's a pill for that, no?

d

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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 Thu, May 21, 2020 at 11:42 AM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

My suggestion is to fuggedaboutit and have a glass of a nice Cab or Merlot. Its irrelevant to what we must deal with now, so stay focused about what gets your piloerection going (note the 'pilo' and check this out if necessary: https://www.google.com/search?q=piloerection&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=rVWGSk4V99CT2M%253A%252C4zgNPNWbGwYhmM%252C&vet=1&usg=AI4-kTNEAo0wkDgl69Z99JdP7d7oYaiPA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj4bKwpcXpAhVVYTUKHYccBOMQ_h0wAXoECAsQBg#imgsrc=rVWGSk4V99CT2M)

Jerry

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

From: David Morens [b6]

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 11:09 AM

To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>

Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Carroll Dennis [b6]

Subject: Re: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS

I knew about this a few days ago but didn't want to say anything. I knew you'd blow a gasket, as well you should

Who knows, maybe there will come a day of reckoning

Maybe the arc of history does bend towards justice

On that future day, I'll buy ya a beer

D

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

> On May 21, 2020, at 10:25, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

>
> Checkout the story from science below and my "quote". I was disgusted to see Francis Collins gushing on twitter at how honored he was to win this \$1.2 million prize etc so I threw over a few molotov tweets one of which science picked up. I know we don't want him to resign or get fired, but I'm on a long game here to undermine his image as heroic and if the Dems win I'll go into full attack mode - he failed in his prime directive of the job - to protect the integrity of our peer review process for funding. Oh and by the way - he works for me, the US taxpayer!

>
>
> <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/francis-collins-honored-work-bridge-science-and-religion>

> Yours angrily,

> Peter

> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)

> President
> EcoHealth Alliance

> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date: Tue, 14 Jul 2020 2:14:39 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 14 Jul 2020 2:14:38 PM -0400
Subject: Re: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

No, neither of those guys. Yes, David Heymann is an epidemiologist. He and I were in the same eis class at cdc in 1976. I will think of the guy I mean. D

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

> On Jul 14, 2020, at 14:03, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

>

> OK - please describe the UK epidemiologist you're thinking of - man/woman, short/tall, beard or no, any hair - as fit as Fauci, or as tubby as Trump?

>

> Just joshing of course. We were just talking about it on our EHA senior staff call - could it be David Heymann? Is he an epidemiologist.

>

> I looked at who was involved in N. Kivu Ebola analyses. Here's one paper in NEJM - it could be Chris Dye - he's from the UK and headed up this paper

> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa1411099>

>

>

>

> Cheers,

>

> Peter

>

>

>

>

> Peter Daszak

> President

>

> EcoHealth Alliance

> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

> New York, NY 10018-6507

> USA

>

> Tel.: [b6]

> Website: 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: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:44 AM

> To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]

> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>

> You may be right.... I am guessing I know the UK epidemiologist, but am blanking on his name at the moment. I can picture him..... d

>

>

>

> David M. Morens, M.D.

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> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520

> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

> B [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ([REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED])

> 3 [REDACTED]

>

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>

> ----Original Message-----

> From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

> Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:18 PM

> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]

> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>

> From the WHO press conference today: "WHO generally does not announce names of staff who go on mission in the field". Mike Ryan then said one is a leading expert on animal-human interface, other is UK academic epidemiologist who led analytics effort on Ebola N. Kivu DRC.

>

> I wonder if one is Pierre Formenty - he's a veterinarian who worked on Ebola, Lassa fever etc. and is senior. The epidemiologist could be any one of a number of people.

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> Cheers,

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> Peter

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> Peter Daszak

> President

>
> EcoHealth Alliance
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
> New York, NY 10018-6507
> USA
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> Tel.: [REDACTED]
> Website: 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] [REDACTED]
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:51 PM
> To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission
>
> Yes, I meant the team members. No word here at NIH....
> 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
> B [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ([REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED])
> 3 [REDACTED]
>
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> -----Original Message-----
> From: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:25 PM
> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission
>
> If you mean the two members of the team then no, have not heard anything about who they are. I have been wondering
about it.
>
> Jerry
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 12:17 PM
> To: Peter Daszak [b6] [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
> Subject: FW: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission
>
> Do you know who these people are? d
>
>
>
> David M. Morens, M.D.
> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room 7A-03
> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
> B [b6] [b6] [b6] (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ([b6] [b6] [b6])
> 3 [b6]
>
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>
> ----Original Message-----
> From: promed-edr@promedmail.org <promed-edr@promedmail.org>
> Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 9:35 PM
> To: promed-post@promedmail.org; promed-edr-post@promedmail.org; promed-ahead-post@promedmail.org
> Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission
>
>
> CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (312): CHINA, SARS-COV-2 ORIGIN, ANIMAL RESERVOIR, WHO MISSION
> *****
> A ProMED-mail post
> <<http://www.promedmail.org>>
> ProMED-mail is a program of the
> International Society for Infectious Diseases <<http://www.isid.org>>
>
> Date: Fri 10 Jul 2020
> Source: Science Magazine - News [edited] <<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/07/who-led-mission-may-investigate-pandemic-s-origin-here-are-key-questions-ask>>
>
>
> The 2-person team from the World Health Organization (WHO) traveling to China today [10 Jul 2020] to address the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to come home with answers. Rather, the duo -- an epidemiologist and an animal health expert whose names have not been released -- will discuss with Chinese officials the scope of a larger international mission later, according to a WHO statement.
>
> But this initial trip offers real hope that the mystery of the virus'
> origins, which has become a political powder keg and the subject of countless conspiracy theories, will finally be investigated more thoroughly and transparently. (A similar WHO-led mission to examine how China was handling its fight against the virus,

launched after weeks of diplomatic wrangling, returned in February [2020] with a surprising wealth of information) [comment 1].

>

> "Science must stay open to all possibilities" about the pandemic's origins, Mike Ryan, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said at a press conference on 7 Jul [2020]. "We need to lay out a series of investigations that will get the answers that I'm sure the Chinese government, governments around the world, and ourselves really need in order to manage the risk going forward into the future."

>

> Questions range from hunting for animals that might harbor the virus to examining the possibility that it came from a laboratory. There are plenty of details to investigate, and it could be a long road. Origin riddles for other new infectious diseases often took years to solve, and the route to answers has involved wrong turns, surprising twists, technological advances, lawsuits, allegations of cover-ups, and high-level politics. Determining how a pathogen suddenly emerges in people requires a lot of sleuthing, but past successes offer clues of where to look for new insights, as do the few data points that now exist for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

>

> The initial, tidy origin story told by health officials in Wuhan during the 1st few weeks of January [2020] was that a cluster of people connected to a seafood market developed an unusual pneumonia, and that the outbreak stopped after the market was closed and disinfected. But confusion about the origin of the novel coronavirus identified in Wuhan patients arose when researchers published the 1st epidemiologic studies of the city's outbreak: 4 of the 1st 5 cases confirmed to have SARS-CoV-2 infections had no link to the market.

>

> Soon, other theories emerged. Some believe it's no coincidence that the city is host to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), home to leading bat coronavirus researcher Shi Zheng-Li. Her group, one of the 1st to isolate and sequence SARS-CoV-2, has trapped bats in the wild for 15 years, hunting for coronaviruses to help identify pandemic threats. In their 1st report about the new virus, the scientists described a bat coronavirus in their collection that was 96.2% similar to SARS-CoV-2 [comment 2].

>

> U.S. President Donald Trump early on endorsed speculation that the virus entered humans because of an accident at WIV. A more contentious theory is that the lab created the virus. (Researchers at the lab insist neither scenario has any merit, and evolutionary biologists elsewhere have argued the virus shows no evidence of having been engineered.)

>

> The most popular hypothesis is that SARS-CoV-2 spread into humans from an intermediate host, an animal species susceptible to the virus that acted as a bridge between bats and humans. In the case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), civets turned out to play that role for the responsible coronavirus. For Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), also a coronavirus disease, it quickly became clear camels were the culprit because highly similar viruses were found in the animals and people caring for them.

>

> Chinese officials have reported conducting tests for SARS-CoV-2 at the Wuhan seafood market, but what they found remains sketchy. China's state-run news agency, Xinhua, said "environmental samples" tested positive for the virus in a zone of the market that sold wildlife, but the report had no details about the results or even a list of the species for sale. Other studies have discovered similarities between

> SARS-CoV-2 and a coronavirus found in pangolins, an endangered species that eats ants, but the pangolin virus is more divergent genetically from SARS-CoV-2 than the closest bat virus, and there's no evidence pangolins or their scales -- used in traditional Chinese medicine -- were sold at the market.

>

> So, assuming WHO's team and the Chinese government work out a deal for an international mission to study the pandemic's origins, where would it start? Here are some key questions that need answers.

>

> - What, exactly, did the studies of the Wuhan seafood market sample, and what did the researchers find? With SARS, which emerged in a person in China's Guangdong province in November 2002 -- but was not reported to WHO for 3 months -- extensive sampling of animals at marketplaces in the province found its virus in palm civets by October 2003.

>

> - Does more epidemiological data exist about the earliest cases than have been made public so far here and here? Where had they traveled?

> Were they in contact with any animals? What interactions did they have with each other? Have antibody tests been done on any of their contacts? Do stored blood or tissue samples for any of their contacts exist that could show earlier infections?

>

> For SARS, by June 2004, 14 months after the discovery of that virus, researchers had reported detailed epidemiological analyses of humans and animals: 39% of the earliest cases were food handlers, traders of live animals were 13 times more likely to have antibodies to the virus, and in that group, 72% handled civets. New interviews with the earliest COVID-19 cases could reveal surprising links between them.

> COVID-19 clusters, for example, have occurred among people who were dining and drinking together, gathering at religious services, and even playing mahjong.

>

> - How aggressively have Chinese researchers looked for SARS-CoV-2 in samples collected before the 1st known cases in Wuhan? Have they looked outside of Wuhan? How far back in time have they probed?

>

> Hospitals and diagnostic labs sometimes store blood, nasal swabs, and tissue samples from patients, especially if they die from unexplained illnesses. Just such samples led to the realization that MERS, 1st recognized in Saudi Arabia in June 2012, had killed 2 people in Jordan in April of that year [2012]. Analyses of stored samples from those 2 people and blood sampling of others who became ill but survived that outbreak confirmed that they all had MERS. Scientists realized camels were the source of Middle East respiratory syndrome when highly similar viruses were found in the animals and people caring for them.

>

> - Can widespread screens be done of bats and other wild animal species thought to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and common in China, including primates, deer, and rodents? Animal feces or urine often contain genetic evidence of viruses. Shi's group at WIV has routinely found coronaviruses in fecal samples and nasal swabs of bats. The sampling of feces from chimpanzees in sub-Saharan Africa has greatly contributed to understandings of the origins of the HIV-1 epidemic, and the Nipah virus, which surfaced in Malaysian pig farmers in 1998, was found in flying bats 2 years later by sampling their urine and fruit that they had partially eaten.

>

> - Can widespread screening of susceptible domesticated animals provide clues to COVID-19's origin? AIDS researchers discovered that pet monkeys harbored a simian immunodeficiency virus that is closely linked to HIV-2, a less common variant that also infects people. Shi's group did a study of domesticated and feral cats in Wuhan and found

> SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in 15% of the 141 samples tested. No antibodies were found in samples taken before the Wuhan outbreak surfaced, but do veterinarians possibly have additional stored samples? Can more feral cats be tested? Cats, notably, have a thing for seafood, and the Wuhan market at least played a role in amplifying early spread.

>

> - Do stored samples from farmed animals exist? The genetic signature of the influenza virus that caused a pandemic in 2009 showed it clearly had a pig origin, but it wasn't until 2016 that researchers reported the likely location of farms in Mexico that raised the infected pigs. Their study found 58 influenza viruses in respiratory samples stored by a central lab that diagnosed sick pigs. In all, the samples came from 22 farms in 6 Mexican states taken between 2010 and 2014. Phylogenetic analyses allowed the researchers to work backward from the genetic sequences of the viruses they found and pinpoint 2 states that likely were the origin of the pandemic. The data further suggest the virus initially came to Mexico from pigs imported from Europe.

>

> - Can widespread screening take place of people in China who might come in contact with bats or other wildlife that harbor SARS-CoV-2?

> Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance and Shi -- who had their funding from the National Institutes of Health cut in April [2020] after pressure from the White House -- published a study last year [2019] of blood taken from nearly 1500 people in Chinese provinces where bats carry SARS-related coronaviruses. They also interviewed people about their histories of illnesses and contact with animals. Only 9 people had evidence of being infected with a bat coronavirus, but as they noted, antibodies quickly wane. The team showed that spillovers from bats to humans occur routinely.

>

> - Do government health reports contain any information about possible

> COVID-19 cases that predate 1 Dec 2019, the 1st confirmed case of

> SARS-CoV-2 in the scientific literature? The South China Morning Post reported having seen "government data" that a 55-year-old person from Hubei province had COVID-19 on 17 Nov [2019]. The article says 8 other cases of the disease occurred that month [November 2019]. Wuhan is Hubei's capital, but the government records did not specify where these people lived, the newspaper noted. It's possible the virus was first isolated from patients in Wuhan but emerged outside the city.

> The influenza virus that caused the pandemic in 2009 first was isolated in San Diego, California, not in Mexico, where it originated.

>

> - Are there stored samples from sewage plants in China that can be probed? Studies of stored sewage samples in Italy described in a press release from that country's National Institute of Health suggest

> SARS-CoV-2 was circulating there in December 2019, even before doctors noticed the 1st case in Wuhan. A study from Barcelona, Spain, posted on medRxiv and not peer reviewed, claims to have found SARS-CoV-2 in sewage samples from March 2019. These reports have not been independently confirmed and have been subject to much criticism, but that does not undermine the potential value of studying archival sewage samples for SARS-CoV-2.

>

> - What experiments with bat coronaviruses took place at WIV? This is the mother of all questions for those who suspect SARS-CoV-2 came out of the facility. Accidental lab releases do happen, and one even triggered a pandemic: An influenza strain that surfaced in 1977 was linked to strains in Russian labs collected 2 decades earlier.

>

> - Is it possible that somebody at WIV became infected with the virus and then passed it on to others outside the lab? It's unknown which bat viruses WIV has in its collection of samples and whether any of them infect humans. And a controversy surrounds the closest bat virus to SARS-CoV-2, which is called RaTG13. As Shi and co-workers reported, they only fully sequenced this virus after SARS-CoV-2 surfaced, and they looked through their database for potential relatives. (The group often sequences only one small region of bat coronaviruses genomes that mutates infrequently, so changes indicate distinct viruses.) A great deal of speculation has circled around the naming of the partial

> sequence: Shi's group earlier had reported a virus named BtCoV/4991 that exactly matches RaTG13 in that small region, but are they one and the same? Or could it be, as some assert, that BtCoV/4991 is

> SARS-CoV-2 itself? What other bat coronaviruses has the lab yet to fully sequence? Could any of them offer clues?

>

> Another outstanding question is whether Shi's team or other researchers in Wuhan manipulated bat viruses in "gain-of-function"

> experiments that can make a virus more transmissible between humans.

> In 2015, Shi co-authored a paper that made a chimeric SARS virus by combining one from bats with a strain that had been adapted to mice.

> But that work was done at the University of North Carolina, not in Wuhan, and in collaboration with Ralph Baric. Did Shi's group later carry out other gain-of-function studies in Wuhan, and if so, what did they find?

>

> Finally, diplomatic cables from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing in 2018 warned that a new, ultra-high-security lab at WIV had "a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators." Did Shi's team ever work with coronaviruses in that lab, and, if so, why?

>

> If history repeats itself, it might take years -- or even decades -- to crack this case. Scientists haven't unequivocally identified Ebola's source 45 years after its discovery. But the key, time and again, to clarifying the origins of emerging infectious diseases is unearthing new data. WHO's push to organize the probe promises to, at the very least, accelerate what has been a plodding pursuit for answers.

>

> [Byline: Jon Cohen]

>

> --

> Communicated by

> Mary Marshall

> [REDACTED] b6

>

> [1. The report of the 1st WHO-China Joint Experts Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), 16-24 Feb 2020, was

published on

> 28 Feb 2020. It included (p 8) the following segment, titled "Zoonotic

> origins": "COVID-19 is a zoonotic virus. From phylogenetics analyses undertaken with available full genome sequences, bats appear to be the reservoir of COVID-19 virus, but the intermediate host(s) has not yet been identified. However, 3 important areas of work are already underway in China to inform our understanding of the zoonotic origin of this outbreak. These include early investigations of cases with symptom onset in Wuhan throughout December 2019, environmental sampling from the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market and other area markets, and the collection of detailed records on the source and type of wildlife species sold at the Huanan market and the destination of those animals after the market was closed." A link to the report and the said text were reproduced in posting <http://promedmail.org/post/20200312.7081842>, with the following

> commentary: "Wishfully, animal-health specialists were included among the members of the WHO Joint Mission." It is relieving to note this comment may have been acknowledged.

>

> 2. Zheng-Li Shi team's pre-print paper, "Discovery of a novel coronavirus associated with the recent pneumonia outbreak in humans and its potential bat origin," in which the virus strain RaTG13 was addressed publicly for the 1st time, was published on 23 Jan 2020 at <<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.22.914952>> and reviewed in the commentary of <http://promedmail.org/post/20200201.6943858>. The paper's final version was published later in Nature (doi: > 10.1038/s41586-020-2012-7).

>

> Hopefully, the current visit of the 2 experts will pave the road to a thorough, science-based, fully transparent investigation into the origin of the pandemic, in the spirit of One Health and One World. In view of the Dutch experience, China's mink farms should be included in the investigation. Industries of other farmed animal species deserve consideration as well (e.g., rabbits, boars). - Mod.AS

>

> HealthMap/ProMED-mail map:

> China: <<http://healthmap.org/promed/p/155>>

>

> [See Also:

> COVID-19 update (308): USA (TX) animal, dog conf.

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200708.7554832>

> COVID-19 update (299): USA (GA) animal, dog conf

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200703.7535112>

> COVID-19 update (284): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, spread, dog

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200624.7506728>

> COVID-19 update (281): Netherlands (NB, LI) farmed mink, spread, animal, global

<http://promedmail.org/post/20200623.7502849>

> COVID-19 update (280): animal, pangolin, research

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200623.7502805>

> COVID-19 update (267): animal, domestic, wild, cat, research

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200617.7480013>

> COVID-19 update (266): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, 1st rep

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200617.7479510>

> COVID-19 update (251): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, culling

<http://promedmail.org/post/20200610.7453845>

> COVID-19 update (248): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, mink, spread, culling, cat

<http://promedmail.org/post/20200609.7446478>

> COVID-19 update (238): USA (MN) animal, cat

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200605.7429133>

> COVID-19 update (236): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, culling

<http://promedmail.org/post/20200604.7427849>

> COVID-19 update (231): USA (NY) animal, dog conf.

> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200602.7420541>

> COVID-19 update (230): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, control

<http://promedmail.org/post/20200602.7420433>
 > COVID-19 update (227): animal, cat, dog, research, experimental infection <http://promedmail.org/post/20200601.7416648>
 > COVID-19 update (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human, epidem., control
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200527.7385049>
 > COVID-19 update (212): Russia (Moskva) animal, cat, OIE
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200526.7379578>
 > COVID-19 update (209): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human, cat, epid
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200525.7375359>
 > COVID-19 update (198): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human infect susp
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200520.7359976>
 > COVID-19 update (189): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research, cat, dog
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200517.7344274>
 > COVID-19 update (183): Japan/USA, animal, research, cat, experimental infection
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200514.7337185>
 > COVID-19 update (181): Germany (BY), France (AC), cat, OIE animal case definition
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200513.7332909>
 > COVID-19 update (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain
 > (CT) cat susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200512.732858>
 > COVID-19 update (174): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, comment
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200511.7323845>
 > COVID-19 update (169): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread, rabbit susp
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200509.7316646>
 > COVID-19 update (154): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200503.7294846>
 > COVID-19 update (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, epidemiology
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200501.7286113>
 > COVID-19 update (143): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, tests
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200430.7284183>
 > COVID-19 update (141): India, animal, wild tiger, susp, clarification, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200430.7281768>
 > COVID-19 update (138): India, animal, wild tiger, fatal
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200428.7275765>
 > COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200427.7272289>
 > COVID-19 update (130): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, new cases
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200425.7266556>
 > COVID-19 update (124): USA (NY) animal, cat, lion, OIE
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200423.7259119>
 > COVID-19 update (123): USA (NY) animal, cat, conf
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200422.7256272>
 > COVID-19 update (113): USA (NY) cat, animal, susp, RFI
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200418.7240811>
 > COVID-19 update (88): Germany, animal, research, pig, chicken, bat, ferret <http://promedmail.org/post/20200407.7196506>
 > COVID-19 update (85): USA (NY) animal, tiger, OIE
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200406.7191480>
 > COVID-19 update (84): USA animal, tiger
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200406.7191352>
 > COVID-19 update (76): China (HU) animal, cat, owned, stray, seropositive <http://promedmail.org/post/20200403.7179946>
 > COVID-19 update (75): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200403.7179945>
 > COVID-19 update (70): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, pets & stock
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200402.7173286>
 > COVID-19 update (58): Belgium, animal, cat, clinical case, RFI
 > <http://promedmail.org/post/20200327.7151215>

> COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology positive
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200326.7146438>

> COVID-19 update (50): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR positive, OIE
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200323.7129951>

> COVID-19 update (45): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR positive
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200319.7112693>

> COVID-19 update (37): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, prelim. serology negative
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200312.7081842>

> COVID-19 update (30): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, serology pending
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200306.7057595>

> COVID-19 update (25): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, OIE
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200302.7040373>

> COVID-19 update (22): companion animal, dog susp, RFI
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200229.7036661>

> COVID-19 update (17): China, animal reservoir, wildlife trade & consumption
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200225.7024245>

> COVID-19 update (11): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts, pangolin susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200220.7009213>

> COVID-19 update (08): companion animal, RFI
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200218.7002276>

> COVID-19 update (06): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200217.6997782>

> Novel coronavirus (40): animal reservoir, pangolin poss intermediate host, RFI
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200210.6972104>

> Novel coronavirus (28): China (HU) animal reservoir
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200201.6943858>

> Novel coronavirus (22): reservoir suggested, bats
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200129.6930718>

> Novel coronavirus (20): China, wildlife trade ban
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200127.6922060>

> Novel coronavirus (18): China (HU) animal reservoir
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200125.6915411>

> Novel coronavirus (15): China (HU) wild animal sources
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200123.6909913>

> Novel coronavirus (03): China (HU) animal reservoir suggested, RFI
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200114.6887480>

> Novel coronavirus (01): China (HU) WHO, phylogenetic tree
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200112.6885385>

> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (HU) (07): official confirmation of novel coronavirus
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200108.6878869>

> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (05): (HU) novel coronavirus identified
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200108.6877694>

> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (03): (HU) updates, SARS, MERS ruled out, WHO, RFI
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200105.6872267>

> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (01): (HU) wildlife sales, market closed, RFI
<http://promedmail.org/post/20200102.6866757>

>arn/tw/jh

> *#####*

> *****

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> #####
> #####

Date: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 6:44:05 AM -0400

Subject: Fwd: Breaking News - Remdesivir might work against COVID, and our now-terminated NIH grant was used in that study!

From: David Morens [b6]

To: Jeffery Taubenberger [b6]

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

From: Dennis Carroll [b6] >
Date: April 29, 2020 at 22:47:33 EDT
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >, David Morens [b6] >, Gerald T Keusch [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Re: Breaking News - Remdesivir might work against COVID, and our now-terminated NIH grant was used in that study!

Peter, this underscores the singular importance of the work you have done and the extraordinary injustice in its being terminated. Hopefully this folly can be reversed. I have shared this information with this goal in mind

d

On Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 9:48 PM Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Dear Friends,

You might have seen the breaking news this afternoon that Remdesivir is showing real promise against COVID-19 in clinical trials. It was a pleasure to see Donald Trump and Tony Fauci announcing this today.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/29/health/gilead-sciences-remdesivir-covid-19-treatment/index.html>

Importantly, Ralph Baric from UNC, who did the lab work leading up to the trials, and is working with Gilead (pro bono) is a collaborator on our grant that NIH has told us is terminated. The *in vitro* work that Ralph led, showing the evidence that Remdesivir had broad efficacy and allowing it to go forward to clinical trials used viral sequences generated from our grant:

The key paper (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5567817/>) states that “GS-5734 was also effective against bat-CoVs, prepandemic bat-CoVs and circulating contemporary human CoV in primary human lung cells, thus demonstrating broad-spectrum anti-CoV activity.” GS-5734 is Remdesivir: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remdesivir> ; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352771420300380> . The ‘prepandemic bat-CoVs’ are the viruses we found with Zhengli Shi from the Wuhan Institute of Virology under our NIAID funding that has now been ‘terminated’.

In addition, there is another promising, broad spectrum drug that is being lined up for clinical trials: <https://stm.sciencemag.org/content/12/541/eabb588>

The paper states: “Here, we show that the ribonucleoside analog β -D-N4-hydroxycytidine (NHC; EIDD-1931) has broad-spectrum antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and related zoonotic group 2b or 2c bat-CoVs, as well as increased potency against a CoV bearing resistance mutations to the nucleoside analog inhibitor remdesivir.” Again, the “group 2b or 2c bat-CoVs” are the viruses we identified using our NIAID funding, now terminated.

Please feel free to pass this information on to everyone you would like to...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street

New York, NY 10001

USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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--

Dr Dennis Carroll

President, Global Virome Project

Senior Fellow, Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

Counselor and Advisor to the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

mobile: [b6]

email: [b6]

Date: Thu, 21 May 2020 1:57:55 PM -0400

Subject: Re: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS

From: David Morens [b6]

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Carroll Dennis [b6];

Me neither, but ya never know what the future holds, if we live long enough! d

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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 Thu, May 21, 2020 at 12:59 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I wouldn't know, my pilo needs no pill.

From: David Morens [b6] >

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 12:20 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Carroll Dennis [b6]

Subject: Re: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS

No need to check it out. I think there's a pill for that, no?

d

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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 Thu, May 21, 2020 at 11:42 AM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

My suggestion is to fuggedaboutit and have a glass of a nice Cab or Merlot. Its irrelevant to what we must deal with now, so stay focused about what gets your piloerection going (note the 'pilo' and check this out if necessary: https://www.google.com/search?q=piloerection&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=rVWGSk4V99CT2M%253A%252C4zgNPNWbGwYhmM%252C&vet=1&usg=AI4-kTNEAo0wkDgl69Z99JdP7d7oYaiPA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjh4bKwpcXpAhVVYTUKHYccBOMQ_h0wAXoECAsQBg#imgcr=rVWGSk4V99CT2M)

Jerry

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

From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Carroll Dennis [b6]
Subject: Re: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS

I knew about this a few days ago but didn't want to say anything. I knew you'd blow a gasket, as well you should

Who knows, maybe there will come a day of reckoning

Maybe the arc of history does bend towards justice

On that future day, I'll buy ya a beer

D

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

> On May 21, 2020, at 10:25, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

>
> Checkout the story from science below and my "quote". I was disgusted to see Francis Collins gushing on twitter at how honored he was to win this \$1.2 million prize etc so I threw over a few molatov tweets one of which science picked up. I know we don't want him to resign or get fired, but I'm on a long game here to undermine his image as heroic and if the dems win I'll go into full attack mode - he failed in his prime directive of the job - to protect the integrity of our peer review process for funding. Oh and by the way - he works for me, the US taxpayer!

>
>
> <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/francis-collins-honored-work-bridge-science-and-religion>

>
>
> Yours angrily,

>
> Peter

>
>
>
> Peter Daszak
> (Sent from my iPhone)

>
> President
> EcoHealth Alliance

>
> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA
>
> www.EcoHealthAlliance.org

Date: Tue, 19 May 2020 12:39:52 PM -0400

Sent: Tue, 19 May 2020 12:39:49 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Time for a call today?

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: David Morens [b6]

CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Alison Andre [b6]

You can call me on my home landline – [b6] or on my cellphone [b6]

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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From: David Morens [b6] >

Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:15 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Alison Andre [b6]

Subject: Re: Time for a call today?

Yes i think so. I am in [b6] starting soon into maybe noon. Give me a good number to call after i get back in the office and clear up done stuff. D

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 19, 2020, at 10:05, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

I'm free between 2 & 4pm – would anytime in that window work for you? If not, please suggest a time it would be good to catch up..

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

Date: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 7:57:54 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 7:57:53 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Peter, if you are in contact with with these guys about their foias you should tell them to be aggressive. We (NIAID) are way behind on responding to foias, and one or two groups is already suing us. Good! I myself have about 5 foias related to your grant, and i believe tony has more. In fact, in most cases foias to me also cover Tony, Hugh, and several front office staff

Our reason for being slow is that we respond with sophisticated computer searches done by our IT people, and we just don't have enough of them to cover 100+ ongoing foias, probably 5-10 of which deal with your grant

On a related subject i did a first draft of our astmh piece and ran it by joel breman, astmh president. I had originally decided to NOT address the conspiracy theories head on but thinks that should be added. So, i wrote two additional paras on that, and sent it to Jeff Taubenberger for his input on the molecular evidence.

D

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

On Jun 15, 2020, at 21:02, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Hi David and Jerry,

I've been thinking of a way to get ahead of the curve, just in case NIH really is investigating EHA or me. This goes back to NIH telling folks who FOIA them that they can't reveal info on my grant and Wuhan because of a law enforcement clause and a pending investigation (<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/nih- we-cant-release-our-papers-about-the-wuhan-institute-of-virology-because-of-a-pending-investigation/>). I've been wondering if that's a real investigation maybe by another org seeing if NIH acted legally? Is it them investigating Wuhan (not really possible)? Is it related to the NIH Director's pushing the agenda of investigating scientists who have been taking funds from China etc. (<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/fifty- four-scientists-have-lost-their-jobs-result-nih-probe-foreign-ties>). What concerns me is that it seems that Francis Collins is personally involved in the investigation, and that his key henchman is Michael Lauer. It's actually Lauer who gave the talk to the ACD meeting last week (<https://www.acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html>), click on "ACD Working Group on Foreign Influences in Research Integrity (Update)". I think it would be convenient for Collins if they could try to dig up some China dirt on EHA, and it's probably no skin off his nose to ask his henchmen to investigate (they've already got 399 "Scientists of Possible Concern") what's one more between friends.

So for that reason, I want to let you know that I've spoken with two good reporters off the record over the last few days and given them both your contact. One is Jim Rainey from the LA Times who did a good piece on the origins of COVID about EHA's work and others. He's now trying to dig into the handling of the termination by NIH and will be filing a FoIA, but right now would love to talk about the details. The other is Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed. He did file a foia for Michael lauer's communications and some others. He said he will be appealing their decision not to release the files.

I'm hoping that these two reporters will dig out some interesting stuff and maybe then I'll know whether this 'investigation' is just Francis Collins trying to fob off the foia requests, or it's because we've appealed, or another group has filed a motion with NIH re. their decision to terminate.

Anyway – hope they contact you, and hope it leads to something.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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Date: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 11:41:24 PM -0400

Sent: Tue, 2 Jun 2020 11:41:23 PM -0400

Subject: RE: couple of stories from our paper on 781 bat-CoVs

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

I would send an autographed reprint to Trump, Azar, Collins, and Lauer, maybe even framed if you can afford it. I'll contribute to a go-fund-me account for that.

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 9:52 PM

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

Subject: couple of stories from our paper on 781 bat-CoVs

Importance: High

Just to let you know NYT and Science picked up our preprint on the bat-coronaviruses in stories yesterday:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/01/science/coronavirus-bats-wuhan.html>

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/nih-halted-study-unveils-its-massive-analysis-bat-coronaviruses>

Very pleased with that. NIAID is duly acknowledged for the funding, of course. At the proofs stage, I'll probably put a "cross" symbol next to the grant number in the acknowledgements and say something like "posthumously...."

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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: Saturday, May 30, 2020 12:22 PM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Gerald Keusch [REDACTED] Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID)
[E]: [REDACTED]

Subject: William McRaven's MIT speech: 'Batman and Superman are not coming' - Business Insider

<https://www.businessinsider.com/william-mcraven-commencement-speech-batman-superman-mit-2020-5>

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Date: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 1:02:29 AM -0400

Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 1:02:26 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Politico story just now.

From: Peter Daszak; [REDACTED] b6

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]; [REDACTED] b6 Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6

CC: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6 >;

Please tell Tony I appreciate the strength of character that is on show, as do all of us out here right now.

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

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

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From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]; [REDACTED] b6 >

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:51 PM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 >; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6

Subject: Re: Politico story just now.

Glad you have a chance to watch this stuff. I will be at work until late tonight getting ready for an 8 am meeting with Tony..... d

On 6/23/2020 6:29 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Apparently Tony responded to a question about the cancelation, which has led an HHS person to state an alternative reason for canceling (at the bottom of the piece):

A White House official said that the White House encouraged the decision to cut the funding, but that HHS ultimately made the call. A HHS spokesperson said that "the grantee was not in compliance with NIH's grant policy," and declined further comment.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/23/fauci-nih-white-house-bat-study-336452>

I'm defending Tony on Twitter now – would hate to see him get blamed for 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

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

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From: Keusch, Gerald T. [b6]

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:30 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]

Subject: OpEd update

They declined. I am surprised as this would be an issue of particular relevance in DC.

Any connections at the NY Times? If I have to go more distant I will try the Boston Globe. Not quite WaPo or NYT but given my location it makes more sense than the LA Times.

Any other suggestions? For example, David would Tony make a case with WaPo? Should I try to reach him through you?

Having gotten this far, I'm not going to let it go, but I also want to have maximum impact on those who need to be maximally impacted.

Jerry

--

David M Morens

[b6]

Date: Sun, 3 May 2020 8:20:58 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 3 May 2020 8:20:57 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: Summary of evidence that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from a laboratory in Wuhan, China
From: David Morens [b6] >
Joel Breman [b6] >; Karen Goraleski [b6] >; Dan Bausch
To: [b6] >; Chandy C John [b6] Julie Jacobson
[b6] >;
colleagues, attached an email from our Charlie Calisher (ACAV) to Peter Daszak

Also, just talked to Peter D at length and he says he is joining astmh, asap. I had promised him that if he did, I'd pay his first year's dues, but he says absolutely not, He won't accept it and on top will bring me as a gift his prize bottle of cabernet sauvignon.

Who says it isn't great to be a scientist????? David

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: May 3, 2020 at 20:13:17 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: Summary of evidence that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from a laboratory in Wuhan, China

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Date: May 3, 2020 at 19:48:13 EDT
To: [b6] [b6] >, "Ksiazek, Thomas (Galveston National Laboratory-UT)" [b6] >, "Tesh, Robert B." [b6] >, Tom Monath [b6] >, Kevin Olival [b6] >, "Rovnak,Joel" [b6] >, "Quackenbush,Sandra" [b6] >, Jeff Wilusz [b6] >
Cc: Shelley [b6] >, Dan Calisher [b6] >, Sarah Haworth [b6] >, Yanrong Lu [b6] >, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Subject: RE: Summary of evidence that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from a laboratory in Wuhan, China

Thanks Charlie – appreciate you sending that round. I've seen this, read it in detail and every single point they

make can be easily countered.

I can assure everyone on this email chain, as someone who has worked with this lab for 15 yrs on bat-CoVs, that there is no evidence whatsoever to support these allegations – at the most basic they simply didn't have isolates of any virus anywhere close to SARS-CoV-2.

On the other hand, we've amassed substantial evidence of bat-CoVs able to infect human cells, to cause SARS-like disease in humanized mice, and of people exposed to bat-CoVs in rural China. Extrapolating the ~3% IgG prevalence we found in Yunnan communities to the rural populations in SE Asia where these bats live, we estimate 1-7 million people per year get exposed to bat CoVs just living and working in rural SE Asia. That's where we need to focus, in my opinion.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: [b6] [b6]
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Tom Ksiazek [b6]; 'Tesh, Robert B.' [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Tom Monath [b6]; Kevin Olival [b6]; 'Rovnak, Joel' [b6]; 'Quackenbush, Sandra' [b6]; Jeff Wilusz [b6]
Cc: Shelley [b6]; 'Dan Calisher' [b6]; 'Sarah Haworth' [b6]; 'Yanrong Lu' [b6]; 'David Morens' [b6]
Subject: FW: Summary of evidence that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from a laboratory in Wuhan, China

From a friend outside the USA.

No useful comment from me but just FYI.

Charlie

[Forward to a friend](#) | [View it in your browser](#)



Summary of

Researchers draw attention to

evidence that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from a laboratory in Wuhan, China

*hazards posed by biosafety labs
and "gain-of-function" research*

An excellent summary of evidence suggesting the virus responsible for the COVID19 pandemic may have originated in laboratory in Wuhan, China, has been published by "an anonymous group of researchers" who claim not to be "affiliated with any company, nation state, or organization".

The document focuses on evidence implicating two potential culprits: the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). Both are known to have been working on bat coronaviruses that are closely related to SARS-CoV-2.

The authors write, "The goal of this document is to examine evidence that may prove that (1) the SARS-CoV-2 virus was present at a biolaboratory in Wuhan, China, and (2) the SARS-CoV-2 virus was introduced into the greater Wuhan population by an infected lab worker or animal. These claims from this point on will be referred to as Claim 1 and Claim 2.

"This document does not attempt to provide a concrete conclusion on whether either claim is factually true. Rather, it examines the probability that each claim is true to allow the reader to make his or her own conclusions. While either claim cannot be irrevocably proven true, an attempt has been made to ensure the evidence used to support these claims is as factual as possible."

The authors do not state or imply that the virus was deliberately engineered as a bioweapon or released as one. They are also keen to distance themselves from the anti-Chinese sentiment that is being whipped up in some sectors of the media around the lab escape hypothesis, calling this trend "racist".

The document does, however, present convincing evidence that the virus could have been the product of laboratory "gain-of-function" studies.

Gain-of-function studies are intended to make pathogenic viruses more virulent or more transmissible. They are often carried out for vaccine or therapeutics development, or for "biodefence" reasons. The authors state that one of their aims is "to further spread global awareness of the hazards posed

by biolaboratories, in particular gain-of-function studies, and proximal location to urban areas".

These types of studies have been coming in for increasing criticism from scientists and others for several years, due to their ability to result in pathogen escapes.

The new document is extensively sourced and professionally written in a way that makes it easy for the layperson to understand the arguments. It clearly forms part of an ongoing investigation, as the authors periodically post notices of evidence gaps and ask for readers to contribute further evidence.

We are publishing the Conclusion to the new document below because it summarizes the arguments well – but do read the full document at the original URL to see all the evidence and sources cited.

Evidence SARS-CoV-2 emerged from a biological laboratory in Wuhan, China

Published April 16, 2020; Updated May 2, 2020
<https://project-evidence.github.io/>

Conclusion

Up until this point, we have been presenting each of our claims in a vacuum. Let us put them together:

At some point in late 2019, many people who visited the The Huanan Seafood Market fell ill due to a new disease. To date the origin of this disease is unknown.

This market is less than 9 miles away from The Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, which:

- * Collaborated with French authorities to construct its BSL-4 lab, however the company meant to inspect its safety standards bailed out of the project and French scientists who were supposed to work there were never sent there
- * Developed chimeric SARS-like coronaviruses
- * Conducted 'dangerous' gain-of-function research on the SARS-CoV-1 virus
- * Established a 96.2% match with SARS-CoV-2 and a virus they sampled from a cave over 1,000 miles away from Wuhan
- * Injected live piglets with bat coronaviruses as recently as July 2019: Paper 5, Paper 7, Paper 8
- * Tested its disinfecting procedures with a bat coronavirus
- * Published a paper on a close descendant of SARS-CoV-1, MERS-CoV, in

November 2019

- * Collected bat samples with improper PPE even after a researcher was bitten by one
- * Was hiring researchers to work on bat coronaviruses as recently as November 2019
- * The United States State Department claimed had 'inadequate safety'
- * Deleted a press release detailing a U.S. State Department visit
- * Has not provided concrete evidence that one of their prior researchers is still alive, despite rumors on Chinese social media that they are "Patient Zero", despite one of their other top researchers coming out and swearing the virus had nothing to do with her lab
- * Had a researcher accuse the director of the Institute of selling infected lab animals to vendors on Weibo (with pictures of herself and her employee ID included); afterwards, she claimed she was 'hacked'
- * Had staff trained by a Chinese-Canadian scientist at Canada's only BSL-4 lab who has now been under RCMP investigation for nearly a year following a shipment of Ebola and Henipahvirus from that lab to a lab in China

The market is also less than 3 miles away from the Wuhan Centre for Disease Control, which:

- * Was actually already accused of being the source of the outbreak from a now-withdrawn academic paper from a notable Chinese scholar at the South China University of China
- * Once kept horseshoe bats, a known reservoir of SARS-CoV-1, within its labs
- * Once performed surgery on live animals within its labs
- * Had a researcher who quarantined on two separate occasions; once upon coming into contact with bat blood after being 'attacked' and another time when he was urinated upon in a cave while wearing inadequate personal protection

Let us also look at the actions of China before and after the outbreak, which:

- * Had the SARS-CoV-1 virus escape from a lab in Beijing, twice
- * Compensated families after 27 students were infected with Brucella bacteria during an anatomy course in 2011
- * Is currently investigating a similar Brucella outbreak amongst "over 100 Students and Staff" in December 2019
- * Issued bio-safety guidelines to 'fix chronic management loopholes at virus labs'
- * Arrested a 'top academician' for illegally selling lab animals and 'experimental milk' in January 2020
- * Censored local medical professionals who attempted to report the outbreak
- * Ordered local labs to destroy any samples of the new virus
- * Withheld the virus's genome nearly a week after they sequenced it
- * Continually insisted on no human-to-human transmission
- * Launched the largest national quarantine in human history once containment

failed

- * Issued an order preventing the unauthorized publishing of any academic material related to SARS-CoV-2
- * Allowed a Party spokesperson to accuse the United States Army of intentionally bringing SARS-CoV-2 to Wuhan
- * Is continuing to refuse an independent investigation into the outbreak origins and threatened Australia with boycotts if they investigated

Also in January 2020, the United States Department of Justice arrested two Chinese nationals and the Chair of the "Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University" for allegedly receiving illegal payments from China, "acting as an agent of a foreign government," and "attempting to smuggle 21 vials of biological research to China."

Back to the market: the The Huanan Seafood Market didn't even have bats for sale, and most bats species in Wuhan would be hibernating at the time of outbreak. It was reported that 34% of cases had no contact with the market, and 'No epidemiological link was found between the first patient and later cases'.

If an infected animal was indeed the culprit, why did it fail to infect a single person outside of the market? It could not have been infected at the market, because there were no bats that could serve as sources of infection. So, where were all the infected people outside of Wuhan by the time SARS-CoV-2 started spreading in the market?

We hope that this document adequately addressed each claim with what evidence is available and fulfilled its secondary responsibility of educating you on biolaboratory safety. By now, we hope you understand that these claims are not impossible; they are in fact more than likely.

We may never be certain of the truth. What we are certain of, however, is that these claims shouldn't be discounted, and far more research must be done to disprove either one.

Our work as a global community must continue.

Website: <http://www.gmwatch.org>

Profiles: http://www.powerbase.info/index.php/GM_Watch: Portal

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/GMWatch>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/GMWatch/276951472985?ref=nf>

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Date: Thu, 28 May 2020 10:39:13 AM -0400
Sent: Thu, 28 May 2020 10:39:12 AM -0400
Subject: Fwd: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab
From: David Morens [b6] >
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]

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

From: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" [b6] >
Date: May 28, 2020 at 10:33:44 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Karen Goraleski [b6] >
Date: May 28, 2020 at 10:31:06 AM EDT
To: "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" [b6] >, Chandy John [b6]
[b6] >, "Hill, David R.
Prof." [b6] >, "Daniel [b6]
[b6] >, "Rosenthal, Philip (Infectious Diseases)"
[b6] >, "Walker, Patricia F" [b6] >
Subject: fyi - Politico: NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

Unfortunately, the headline chosen by Politico fans the flames (does get more eyeballs on the story which is their goal). If one reads this, Collins says nature created this virus but that was not chosen as the headline. We know that Collins is speaking as a scientist when he says 'there is no way of knowing.' However, readers do not recognize that he says this as a scientist who understands there are always unknowns, even if highly unlikely.

NIH Director: 'No way of knowing' if coronavirus escaped from Wuhan lab

By Zachary Brennan

05/27/2020 06:52 PM EDT

National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins said the coronavirus is "absolutely not" manmade but he could not rule out the idea that it escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China, where the

first known cases emerged.

“Whether [the coronavirus] could have been in some way isolated and studied in this laboratory in Wuhan, we have no way of knowing,” he told POLITICO on Wednesday.

What is clear, he said, is that “Nature created this virus, and has proven once again to be the most effective bioterrorist.”

President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have repeatedly suggested that the virus may have somehow emerged from the Wuhan Institute of Virology — claims that the center’s director has called “pure fabrication.”

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence confirmed late last month that the government is investigating the pandemic’s origin, but said that there is no reason to believe that the coronavirus was manmade or genetically modified.

Collins refused to comment on his agency’s recent — and controversial — decision to pull funding from researchers studying how coronaviruses spread from bats to people. In late April the NIH told the EcoHealth Alliance, whose collaborators included scientists at the Wuhan virology lab, that its project did not “align with the program goals and agency priorities.”

Prominent scientific societies and 77 Nobel laureates have asked the administration to investigate why the non-profit group’s grant was terminated, alleging that the decision was made for political, rather than scientific, reasons. The NIH awards grants using a merit-based system in which researchers evaluate the work of their peers, and ending a grant early is unusual.

Collins, who had not previously commented publicly on the situation, told POLITICO that “the NIH cannot discuss individual grants.”

The agency chief, who is leading a public-private partnership called ACTIV to hunt for coronavirus vaccines and drugs, said that if “all goes perfectly,” a few million doses of vaccine could be available in October for high-risk groups — with doses available sometime next winter for the rest of the country.

Trump has repeatedly promised a vaccine by the end of the year, far faster than any has ever been developed for any condition.

If China develops a coronavirus vaccine before the U.S. does, Collins said he “seriously hopes” that any tensions between the countries “wouldn’t be a dominant factor” in determining whether the U.S. would have access to a Chinese-made shot.

Date: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 9:24:46 AM -0400

Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 9:24:43 AM -0400

Subject: RE: Grants withdrawn

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: David Morens [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6]

No problem – it's entirely up to you David. One of the things they'll be trying to do, I believe, is to find out who might have been the person who leaked this story to Politico in the first place and see if they'll talk off the record.. They're looking to get the chain of what happened from Trump saying he'll end the grant, to it actually being terminated.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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, June 16, 2020 7:46 AM

To: Gerald Keusch [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] >

Subject: Fwd: Grants withdrawn

Guys, just saw this and will pass on this unless you think there is value in talking on background as i have done with other reporters. Let me know, and also any thoughts on who i can refer him to. Thanks, david

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rainey, Jim" <jim.rainey@latimes.com>

Date: June 15, 2020 at 21:32:03 EDT

To: [b6]

Subject: Grants withdrawn

David,

I am a reporter with the Los Angeles Times. I have written a bit about some of the individuals and organizations—including Peter Daszak and EcoHealth Alliance—that have been trying to track down zoonotic viruses.

EcoHealth's loss of NIH funding has obviously drawn a lot of attention. I am trying to home in on who exactly was pushing for an end to that funding. Is that something we could talk about. I understand this is dicey terrain. If you need to discuss on background, with no ID disclosed, I get it. That can be done.

You can reached me at this address, or via my cell, [REDACTED] I can also be reached via Signal, the secure/encrypted messaging service. I am on Signal via the same phone number, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Please let me know if you can help me understand what happened to this funding.

With kind regards,

Jim

Date: Sun, 14 Jun 2020 1:36:58 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 14 Jun 2020 1:36:54 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Strategy re. NIH decision & some funding news
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler

Great to hear back from you David and I think this strategy of publishing articles that get to why we need to understand origins of outbreaks is critical. There are three bigger picture issues going on here that I see:

1. There's a growing expectation that we can 'sequence' our way out of pandemics. Because sequencing is seen as 'Techy' and cool by current generation of scientists, and because some of the whole viral genome work does provide critical insight, there's a growing feeling that all you have to do is sequence stuff to understand where it came from and how. That completely ignores ecology, social science, economics, and all of the underlying drivers of EIDs. It also reinforces the lab conspiracy theories (unwittingly) because it can neither refute nor prove them. To refute them, you need to look at the preponderance of evidence, including the diversity of wildlife in a region and their interactions with people, social science evidence of spillover etc. Some of the sequence work that supports the conspiracy theories (e.g. the paper with Alina Chan on it, the paper by the Flinders Univ. group incl. Petrovsky) is either done by people outside the virology field (former) or by people who have not considered ecology/social science drivers (both and many more).
2. The lack of sufficient sampling in wildlife and people means we have a massively incomplete dataset. Even with another 780 sequences of bat-CoVs, there are still likely an order of magnitude more CoVs in bats (we estimate 10-15,000; of which we know around 50 – all based on GVP calculations from the Carroll et al. Science paper). This means that any conclusions about 'a furin-cleavage insertion' or 'unique ability of SARS-CoV-2 to bind to hACE2' are based on n=5 CoVs from the SARS-CoV-2 clade (SARS-2, 2 pangolin viruses, RaTG13 & RmYN02) when there are probably 50 or so other viruses yet to be discovered.
3. The inability to prove a negative. This is a classic way conspiracy theories work – e.g. Anti-vaxxers who claim that MMR led to their child's autism cannot be shown definitively that it didn't in retrospect. The same is true here, it's impossible to categorically demonstrate that the virus was not released from a lab...of course. Scientists know this is the case, and shouldn't play this game. The public need to know that they're being played...

Happy to look confidentially at a draft in due course...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: [b6]
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:18 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Robert Kessler [b6] >
Subject: Re: Strategy re. NIH decision & some funding news

Peter, this is great news, and i truly believe that you will prevail in the end. Everyone i know is on your side, and we all think justice must and will win in the end.

Kudos to Jerry, he has worked miracles for you, and i look forward to a day when i can buy drinks and toast you both! Dom Perignon will be in order, or maybe Veuve Cliquot...

On a different note, yesterday i forwarded to astmh president Joel Breman a first draft of a ms i mentioned to you. The idea is to have this come out as sort of an official statement of astmh signed on by several folks, yet to be determined. It will not mention you or discuss what happened, rather it will discuss why understanding the origins of this virus is important, discussing your work and including refs to your publications. The message will be, this line of work is hugely important, we need to greatly ramp it up. We thought this approach would be a better way, rather than getting into arguments. Maybe i will send you a draft off the record for thoughts. It's not a big bang, but we think it flags the extreme importance of your work

David

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

On Jun 12, 2020, at 16:39, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Great to hear you're keeping the pressure on. I think if there's a continual drip of these big name statements/letters, coupled with the social media agitation, and reporters picking up on it, the story won't disappear.

Confidentially - We've quietly but officially appealed the decision. Our pro bono lawyers drafted a really detailed slam dunk letter that showed precedent for them essentially acting capriciously and arbitrarily. We've done this to fit the NIH policy on appealing decisions not to fund a grant initially (the only way you can appeal, considering that the termination did not go through a process that allowed any challenge or inquiry). We filed this just before the 30 day limit for an appeal, and have heard nothing back from them now 2 wks later. We'll wait for this to gradually run out the clock, then go to phase 2 of an appeal process, and run the clock out on that. If Francis' office don't come back to us with any response, we'll then make a decision (based on extrinsic risk to EHA's reputation) to sue, or not, but that will be much much later, and if Trump loses election, it could be on Nov 4th.

Obviously, we won't be announcing this. You are in a very small circle of people who know that includes Lauer, Erik Stemmy (my Program Officer), Cristina Casseti and Emily Erbelding, i.e. those cc'd on the termination letter.

Our PR strategy is to try not to have our name associated with NIH termination every time I speak with the press, but that's already happening I'm afraid. Luckily Trump has been so heinous on so many levels that I don't think it's as damaging as we were worried it would be. That said, I won't be publicly criticizing Trump for this decision. Each time a statement or letter criticizing the NIH is released, we'll expect to be quoted to amplify that critique. There will also be the opportunity to drive publicity around the following:

- the fact that we're appealing
- Announcing that we're continuing our fieldwork in China (we have the funds to do this now)
- Meeting in China with Wuhan staff
- Announcing other funding for the work
- Calling for resignation of Azar and Collins
- Announcing that we'll be suing NIH

The timing of any of these will have to depend on the politics, and we're going to be very careful on that, including any calls for resignation of Collins considering the likely candidates for that position that Trump staffers would dream up!

Now the good news. You'll be delighted to hear (as we were) that we have received substantial gifts, pledges and offers of funds since the 60 Minutes piece aired. We're already in the multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars, with the potential for grants that would take us up to a million or so if they pan out. It doesn't completely replace what's been taken but it does give us the chance to actually continue working in China, which is important considering that's where COVID seems to have come from! I want to thank you both formally for helping raise the profile that's led to this. I'll give you the full details once we're in the clear with the politics, and then repeatedly over alcohol and food as we start to open up and meet in person again!!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
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USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:25 PM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: From Rich Roberts who led the Nobel Laureate letter

Thanks Peter,

I am planning two actions that can build on this important statement from the Collins' ACD. First to rewrite the letter to the three NASEM Presidents and send it to Azar and Collins and try to get as widespread public notice as possible. I was planning to cite the Nobelist letter and the weak statement from NAM as background, but now I can also mention the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director, which is important. Adding the names of 90+ NAM members will have some weight, albeit not like the Nobels or the ACD. I will have to get permission from everybody again but that is not a major task.

Second, I have begun to craft a commentary for one or more prominent medical journals published by major medical research societies that have not gone public, which would try to make the case this is a dangerous precedent. It too would be signed by as many of the NAM members I am communicating with who will agree to be listed.

The point is to keep this in the air they breathe in Building 1, and make it much more irritating than CoV-2.

Jerry

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

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 1:11 AM

To: David Morens [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]

Subject: From Rich Roberts who led the Nobel Laureate letter

Another important statement below from the NIH Advisory Board. Rich Roberts led the Nobel Laureate group and wrote to each member of the Advisory Board.

Really pleased to see this. Not sure how it can mobilize action, but I'll be publicizing this and spreading the word. Please do so as well if you can.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
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Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:11 PM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Other sources of funding for international surveillance of bat coronaviruses in China

Peter:

In case you didn't hear about the public statement made by Francis Collins' Advisory Board it is below:

"Recent statements from numerous scientific organizations and leaders in the American biomedical community expressed grave concern about the termination of an NIH grant to Peter Daszak at the EcoHealth Alliance. They argue that this cancellation circumvented the peer review process and has the appearance of contravening long held NIH traditions and policies. Members of the NIH ACD share the grave concerns expressed by the community. We agree with their request, and recommend that the entire process leading to the Daszak grant cancellation be thoroughly reviewed. If indeed the process is found to have been flawed, we recommend that the NIH reverse this decision and implement better procedures to avoid a repeat of such occurrences. This is an opportunity to ensure and reinforce the primacy of peer review in the mission of the NIH."

They intend to put it up on their web site and when it is formally released I will also feature it on our web site

https://nlcampaigns.org/daszak_grant.html

My intention is to add a few more pieces on the site if developments warrant them. Please feel free to share the link.

I should also mention that at least one member of the ACD has also approached Wellcome independently of our efforts to suggest they fund you.

Good luck

Rich

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

Tel: [b6] [b6]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [b6]

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:42 PM

To: Roberts, Rich [b6]

Subject: RE: Other sources of funding for international surveillance of bat coronaviruses in China

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Rich,

Great that you're talking to Advisory Board members. I wondered about this. I hope they do the decent thing and at least challenge the decision.

I'm massively appreciating everything you're doing, as is our staff and Board. I know I'm being cautious and careful, and I'm really nervous to look like we're out there fundraising to keep this work going, because that will likely be a story. All that said, I'm playing the long game on this and have made sure our options are still open to appeal and potentially sue, but likely we'd only do that if a different administration comes in. This group is just extremely vindictive and petty.

In the meantime, I'll let you know what happens with Wellcome and if we get any other support.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: <https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7Cec2d1a0bea1c4e3eacfd08d80e7a3990%7C77cefbcb6b3d64d6a9f740664881c%7C&sdata=t9MZAjox3nt95uhUOW1A0Nh8FnVo%2BDmR7w1ttl2R5FA%3D> &reserved=0

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 11:33 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: RE: Other sources of funding for international surveillance of bat coronaviruses in China

Peter:

Thanks for getting back to me (and sorry to add to your email load). I'm pleased to hear about the gift from the Wallace Foundation and hope that the Wellcome Foundation will come through also. Jeremy Farrar is a very good guy!

We are trying to find out what happened at Francis Collins Advisory Board meeting, but no word yet. I had written to all members advising them of our letter.

If you think of anything else we could usefully do at this point please let me know.

Rich (not Robert)

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 10:55 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: RE: Other sources of funding for international surveillance of bat coronaviruses in China

EXTERNAL SENDER

Robert,

Thank you for getting back in touch. I read the email exchange with amusement below! Please tell your colleague that we have 'donate now' buttons on our website (<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2Fdonate&data=02%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7Cec2d1a0bea1c4e3eacfd08d80e7a3990%7C77cefbcb6b3d64d6a9f740664881c&sdata=fSQcNt1GUsg0S8D9pF66AoLHe800NbLoGSqd29KmK50%3D&reserved=0>) and they can specify what the donation is for - we take 'donor intent' very seriously.

It's hard not to speak out against this administration right now on so many levels: Public Health (e.g. WHO defunding); blatant racism from the top and its shocking consequences across society; using an anti-science agenda as a political tool without a care for people's health and lives. That said, we're all holding our tongues here - something we really have to do right now because we have other grants pending with NIH that could easily disappear, and because one of Trump's senators (Pennsylvania) wrote to DoD to complain about them funding us (he shared it with Breitbart News).

For those reasons, we won't be openly and actively fundraising to cover our loss from NIH - it would become a story and antagonize the Trump Team, who are actively pushing an anti-China narrative as part of their campaign. Have a look at the leaked GOP talking points that specifically refer to conspiracy theories at length around the work we did with Wuhan: p. 18 and on here..

https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstatic.politico.com%2F80%2F54%2F2f3219384e01833f-virus-big-book-4.17.20.pdf%3Fmc_cid%3D8bef7ea1d3%26mc_eid%3D4c6a7c6e0b&data=02%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7Cec2d1a0bea1c4e3eacfd08d80e7a3990%7C77cefbcb6b3d64d6a9f740664881c

&data=R1bOnpbM3TsKXs4dDIUN6LDXF1udkmlV9tFOHMeLr8Q%3D &reserved=0. It's quite blatant.

We do have some good news though. First of all we received the check from your Anonymous donor colleague (A great Joy!) and this will go a significant way to allowing us not to lay off staff from the China work. Secondly, we were approached by a Family Foundation (Wallace Research Foundation), who wanted to support us to the tune of [b4]. The Board chair got a bit of concern from one board member about potential political targeting if they funded us, and asked if we could find matching funds. We were able to use the Anonymous gift as a match, and have just submitted a proposal which we're told will be a formality. Very good news, and please pass on our gratitude to your colleagues. Of course, we can't publicize this right now either! Finally, as you mentioned I did hear from Jeremy Farrar and am pulling together a 3 page pitch this week. It will have to go through review, of course, and may not pan out, but we will do our best and even without that, we are on the way to being whole again.

As for our general situation - these are interesting times indeed. We're being FoIA'd by 'White Coat Waste', who are delighted the grant was terminated. We're fighting it of course. We're also being FoIA'd through our colleague Ralph Baric who works at UNC - a state university so his emails with us are fair game. We'll be fighting that. We're receiving a mixture of trashy hate mail (nothing like your past experiences) as well as small donor checks 'in honor of Donald Trump' from concerned citizens, and have had an uptick in donations on our website. At the same time, I've had personal attacks online and have met with the FBI to beef up security at home and in the office. Our Intel agencies are also continuing to ask questions, which is fine, but I wonder if anyone above them is even listening at this point! At the same time, right now I've got a Zoom call with colleagues at NAM/NAS to talk with colleagues from the Chinese Academy of Sciences as a quiet dialog to share information on COVID - these are precious times when we can talk openly with our Chinese colleagues without the politics. They are continuing to hold open an invitation to continue our work with them.

Thank you again for all you've done, and continue to do. We're keeping our fingers crossed that this toxic administration will disappear and we can get things back to some sense of normality.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: <https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7CRoberts%40neb.com%7Cec2d1a0bea1c4e3eacfd08d80e7a3990%7C77cefbcb6b3d64d6a9f740664881c&data=t9MZAjox3nt95uhUOW1A0Nh8FnVo%2BDmR7w1tl2R5FA%3D &reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich <[b6]>

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Peter Daszak; [b6]

Subject: FW: Other sources of funding for international surveillance of bat coronaviruses in China

Peter:

I thought you might be interested in this email exchange. I gather Wellcome have expressed an interest. Have you heard from them?

I hope you are managing OK both financially and healthwise. If there is more we can do please let me know.

Rich

Richard J. Roberts
New England Biolabs
240 County Road
Ipswich, MA 01938-2723
USA
Tel: [b6] [b6]
Fax: (978) 412 9910
email: [b6]

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

From: [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6:20 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b4]
Subject: Re: Other sources of funding for international surveillance of bat coronaviruses in China

EXTERNAL SENDER

I had \$20 when I get my social security check in mind. That's the sort of thing one generally donates through a crowd funding appeal - but let me know if there's another place to send it!

I suspect there's a lot of outraged people who would give a few dollars, and such funded Bernie Sanders' entire Presidential campaign.

Of course, many professionally paid people would donate a good deal more than \$20.

Frankly, I'd like a chance to turn the President's face purple when word got out. His fists would flail, and he'd probably shout every manner of thing on Twitter. Not only would this be good for public morale, but every time it happens, he comes closer to losing the election.

Showing the Chinese that Trump isn't in control is downright useful.

Yours,

[b6]

On 6/2/20 5:04 PM, Roberts, Rich wrote:

[b6]

> The main point of the letter was to raise awareness of the issue, especially at DHS and NIH, but also to funders who might offer to fill the gap. We have been actively soliciting the latter and already have one Foundation that will make a significant donation, but wishes to remain anonymous (all of their funding is made anonymously).

> If you are able to help in the regard please let me know.

> Incidentally after the letter was sent, 4 more Laureates joined as signatories.

> 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] [b6]

> Fax: (978) 412 9910

> email: [b6]

> Executive Assistant: [b6]

> Tel: [b6] [b6]

> Fax: (978) 412 9910

> email: [b6]

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [b6]

> Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 5:51 PM

> To: Roberts, Rich [b6]

> Subject: Other sources of funding for international surveillance of
> bat coronaviruses in China

> EXTERNAL SENDER

> Dr. Roberts:

> I see that you have been instrumental in organizing lobbying to get the NIH to reconsider their withdrawal of funding to EcoHealth Alliance, for international bat surveillance in China.

> The amount involved is three million dollars, which is not a small amount, nor a huge amount.

> I am wondering why I have heard neither of a crowdfunding effort for this work, nor other sources of funding for this work. For instance it sounds like something Bill Gates would be happy to contribute money to.

> I do hope your interest is in funding the bat surveillance and not in playing political baseball with the Trump administration, using worldwide health as the baseball.

> Please give consideration to these ideas. Even if you do not raise

> three million dollars, such an effort would raise quite a lot, make President Trump purple in the face, and enhance the regard the Chinese have for the American people.

> EcoHealth Alliance does take donations, but they seem to generally be involved with vague anti-development efforts, and it isn't clear at least from their web site, that money given to them as a general donation would or might go to a specific pragmatic purpose.

> Thanks!

> Yours,

> [b6]

Date: Fri, 1 May 2020 9:08:22 PM -0400

Sent: Fri, 1 May 2020 9:08:16 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Congressional questions now to DoD re. our contracts

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

To: David Morens [b6]

CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]
>

You're right David - GoF is being thrown in there. It's already way too complicated to explain to reporters and the public (even at Science), and the GoF stuff will always lose because people just think Frankenstein virus and that's that.

I'm off to buy some chocolate, then I'm going to drink booze.

Will continue my work on a paper on pangolins tomorrow (we sampled them and found nothing - let the conspiracy theorists have at it on that one).

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: David Morens [b6] >

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 8:19 PM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]

Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] [b6] Aleksei Chmura

[b6] >

Subject: Re: Congressional questions now to DoD re. our contracts

Peter, its hard to know what to thnk. I am maybe not as alarmed at this as you are, but it does point to a need for

a vigorous pushback against the craziness. Jerry talking to Jon Cohen was a great start, but there needs to be more of the same. On steroids. How can we do that? Who can we recruit? I know that today David Relman, Marc Lipsitch, and Richard Ebright have all come out from under their rocks to do their Luddite GOF thing. I think what is needed is a vigorous multi-pronged pushback enlisting everyone we can. Let's think about how. David.

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

> On May 1, 2020, at 19:56, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

>

> As I feared - they're now digging into other contracts we have. This one doesn't even involve China.

>

> <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/05/01/coronavirus-congressman-probes-pentagon-weapons-mass-destruction-grant-firm-sent-taxpayer-dollars-wuhan-lab/>

>

> Any advice welcome. This is just one Congress member asking for details. This contract doesn't involve China, but I'm getting nervous.

>

> USAID have already asked for information and I expect that's next.

>

> It's a harrassing drumbeat against us, taxpayer dollars going to China, as a distraction but one that could easily destroy our organization if DoD doesn't bother to defend us.

>

>

> Cheers,

>

> Peter

>

>

>

>

> Peter Daszak

> President

>

> EcoHealth Alliance

> 460 West 34th Street

> New York, NY 10001

> USA

>

> Tel.: [b6]

> Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

>

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

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

> Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 5:22 PM

> To: Peter Daszak [b6] >

> Subject: FW: NIH funding!

>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Keusch, Gerald T
> Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 5:19 PM
> To: Ben Plumley [b6]
> Subject: RE: NIH funding!

>
> Better part of discretion is to keep EHA out of this. I think the key issue with congress is to generate support right now to reverse the termination of the grant, and to demand accountability from NIH for its actions. There is a FOIA request from a right wing organization (<https://nlpc.org/2020/04/28/nlpc-seeks-niaid-documents-regarding-wuhan-lab-and-pandemic/>) for material from NIAID to document connections and funding to the Wuhan lab, which they believe is the origin of the CoV-2 virus and the pandemic. How do we FOIA NIH Directors Office for information on the termination of the grant. As you know they were really clumsy, first saying it was for convenience (doesn't pertain to grants, just to contracts) and then backing off to say they really mean to say it was for cause. There is some reason to think that pertains to fraud, whether scientific or financial, and that there must be an investigation before it can be effected. In this case the "investigation" was 1 week and amounted to asking EHA to stop funding WIV (they weren't) and providing information on past interactions, which EHA did. That was acknowledged in a positive way a day later, and the next day the grant was terminated. Really fishy.

>
> The important thing now is to move the spotlight off EHA and place it squarely on the Office of the NIH Director. Your contacts may be helpful in doing that.

>
> Jerry

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Ben Plumley [b6]
> Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:00 PM
> To: Peter Daszak [b6]
> Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
> Subject: Re: NIH funding!

>
> Thanks Peter

>
> Hang on in there! Im very impressed with the very diplomatic way you are handling this.

>
> Ive been in discussions with a number of congressional representatives (bipartisan) about dedicated funding for the international COVID response in a future funding bill, and as you know, as well as being very supportive and close to EcoHealth Alliance, I am also on Barbara Lee's Executive Committee. I will be speaking with her over the weekend on a range of things, and if helpful would like to bring her up to speed.

>
> Somewhat as Congress did for the Global Fund, when the Administration tried to defund/scale funding for it, there may be ways supporters can help bipartisan leaders to address this in a concrete but not inflammatory way.

>
> Jerry - if I can be of any help at all, dont hesitate to reach out to me. And if discretion is the better part of valor at this stage, understand that too

>
> Best
>
> Ben

>
>
>> On May 1, 2020, at 12:53 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:
>>
>> It's a nightmare, to be honest. With this President being so vindictive, and fixated right now on trying to blame China, we're worried that our organization's other funding sources could be targeted. We're trying to encourage people to push the bigger message about 1) NIH's disgraceful, and likely illegal, behavior; 2) keeping politics out of science. We're also trying to carefully change the narrative around our organization back to the science we do and how it benefits the health of people right now with COVID-19 (e.g. our virus discovery program has fed right into the Remdesivir in vitro work and other drugs).
>>
>> Unfortunately, if it comes from us, we're a target. Even if the debate links back repeatedly to us, we are a target. I know Diane Feinstein's office are trying to move something, so is the House Appropriations for HHS.
>>
>> I've spoken with a few well-known people to try to get other loud voices speaking out in a sensitive way (Jeremy Farrar of Wellcome Trust etc.). I'm cc'ing one of them here, Jerry Keusch from Boston University's BSL-4 lab, former Director of the NIH Fogarty International Center. He'll fill you in on who he's spoken with and what's happening.
>>
>> Jerry - Ben worked with the London School Trop Med Hyg and runs a podcast out of the West Coast ("A Shot in the Arm"), and is currently going through the process of likely becoming an EHA Board member.
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>> Cheers,
>>
>> Peter
>>
>>
>>
>> Peter Daszak
>> President
>>
>> EcoHealth Alliance
>> 460 West 34th Street
>> New York, NY 10001
>> USA
>>
>> Tel.: [b6]
>> Website: [b6]
>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak
>>
>> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation
>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Ben Plumley <[b6]>

>> Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 12:13 PM
>> To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
>> Subject: NIH funding!
>>
>>
>> Peter
>>
>> Am sure you are up to your ears in dealing with this appalling Administration decision. Is there anything I can do to help?
>>
>> I'm close with Nancy Pelosi's office here, and as you know, on Barbara Lee's Executive Committee. If ok, I'd like to highlight this to Congresswoman Lee. Im also close with Congressman Cox from CA 21, And he has been a strong supporter of Global Health investments. I wouldnt want to impose on your DC strategy - but if it's helpful to talk with someone in your office on how I could help, just let me know.
>>
>> Courage!
>>
>> Ben
>> Sent from my iPhone
>

Date: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 8:48:27 AM -0400

Sent: Wed, 24 Jun 2020 8:48:26 AM -0400

Subject: Re: Politico story just now.

From: David Morens

b6

To: Peter Daszak

b6

CC: Keusch, Gerald T

b6

Aleksei Chmura

b6

I did tell him just that, and he seemed pleased. He made some additional comments to the effect that this came from the WH and he was totally opposed to it. Not his exact words, but that was the gist of it. D

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

On Jun 24, 2020, at 01:02, Peter Daszak <b6> > wrote:

Please tell Tony I appreciate the strength of character that is on show, as do all of us out here right now.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: <b6>

Website: 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 23, 2020 6:51 PM

To: Peter Daszak <b6> >; Keusch, Gerald T <b6>

Cc: Aleksei Chmura <b6> >

Subject: Re: Politico story just now.

Glad you have a chance to watch this stuff. I will be at work until late tonight getting ready for an 8 am meeting with Tony..... d

On 6/23/2020 6:29 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Apparently Tony responded to a question about the cancelation, which has led an HHS person to state an alternative reason for canceling (at the bottom of the piece):

A White House official said that the White House encouraged the decision to cut the funding, but that HHS ultimately made the call. A HHS spokesperson said that "the grantee was not in compliance with NIH's grant policy," and declined further comment.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/23/fauci-nih-white-house-bat-study-336452>

I'm defending Tony on Twitter now – would hate to see him get blamed for 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

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

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

From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:30 PM

To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; David Morens [b6]
[b6]

Subject: OpEd update

They declined. I am surprised as this would be an issue of particular relevance in DC.

Any connections at the NY Times? If I have to go more distant I will try the Boston Globe. Not quite WaPo or NYT but given my location it makes more sense than the LA Times.

Any other suggestions? For example, David would Tony make a case with WaPo? Should I try to reach him through you?

Having gotten this far, I'm not going to let it go, but I also want to have maximum impact on those who need to be maximally impacted.

Jerry

--
David M Morens

[b6]

Date: Thu, 23 Jul 2020 2:01:38 AM -0400

Sent: Thu, 23 Jul 2020 2:01:36 AM -0400

Subject: Slight error in the astmh op ed

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6

Just noticed it says our grant collaborated with cdc (lower on first column). We didn't actually have official collab w cdc so maybe if there's chance you could change it if you think that matters? I don't mind but sometimes cdc gets upset.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

[REDACTED] b6

On Jul 22, 2020, at 12:20 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 > wrote:

Jerry, double and triple kudos to you! In addition to having Rick on it, he was once one of Tony's closest buddies, as you probably recall. I think that will heighten Tony's awareness of what the scientific community thinks, if it needs any more heightening.

Also thanks for agreeing to be interviewed for the AJTMH publications that come out this afternoon. It's unlikely the govt will let me speak to reporters, although possible they will let Tony speak. See also the go-with editorial coming out today as well (attached here as a pdf). Still CONFIDENTIAL until 5 PM, when they both go up online. This editorial has the hard hitting stuff I didn't put in what we did, and the Society urged me to take my name off of it, for fear I would get in trouble, to which I agreed. Not from faintness of heart, but to prevent trouble in our front office. d

On 7/22/2020 12:02 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

Hello gentlemen (using the term loosely),

I have just exhaled for the first time in two days. After negotiating with The Hill how to indicate authorship of the OpEd (again noting the 140 signatories were all members of the National Academy of Medicine writing as individuals and adding a disclaimer of any involvement of NAM itself – Victor Dzau may not be happy about this but NAM is clearly distanced from it) I have been trying to get Rick Klausner to return a signed form to The Hill

since Monday when they accepted the piece and needed the legal agreement with the authors. I have had a number of email exchanges with the editor and with Rick, and as you will see in the string below, as of 45 minutes ago they had removed his name and were set to publish tomorrow. In a last minute Hail Mary pass I tried Rick once again, this time he responded to say he never got the form to sign, I got that fixed and he did it, and he is back on as second author. As David will know full well it will sting more at NIH-OD to have Klausner and NCI noted on this than just Fogarty and NIEHS.

I will send you the link as soon as I have it from The Hill. Some of the signatories have informed me that they will disseminate the OpEd to their constituency group and maybe we can make the noise turn into a roar.

Now the next challenge for me is to get the American Society for Clinical Investigation on board. ASCI is also known colloquially as The Young Turks, and is the most prominent professional organization for clinical researchers and publishes one of the most prestigious journals, JCI. I have started on that.

Jerry

From: Sandy Tolliver <stolliver@thehill.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Op-Ed for The Hill

Haha, I'm glad! And the good news is, you can write anytime now that you all are signed contributors — won't need to go through that again! Please let your co-authors know. I'm always looking for smart pieces by experts in their fields.

I hope you get a good response to this. We encourage sharing of the link (once it's live) with excerpts of up to 100 words, but retain exclusivity over the full article for 14 days post-publication.

All the best,

Sandy Tolliver

stolliver@thehill.com

[b6]

On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 11:16 AM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Thanks Sandy,

That went down to the wire to be able to include Rick Klausner. Thanks for your help and flexibility. It will mean a lot to those at the NIH to have a former director of a really big institute on this OpEd. Fogarty and even NIEHS just don't have the "presence" of a multi-billion dollar budget. But that has been addressed and now I can exhale for the first time in two days.

Jerry

On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 10:48 AM Sandy Tolliver <stolliver@thehill.com> wrote:

OK. I can go forward but will remove his name, since he hasn't signed.

Sandy Tolliver

stolliver@thehill.com

[b6]

On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 10:06 AM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Dear Sandy,

I don't see any indication whether Rick Klausner has been able to get the signed document back to you. As you will see in this string of emails he is clearly on board with the publication of the OpEd.

I am concerned about any further delay as it is important for the congressional committees, in particular, to have support from the scientific community to pursue the briefing they requested from HHS, and to add the NIH Office of the Director as well to their invitation. I would therefore request that you go forward with publication tomorrow, as you noted yesterday, with or without Rick's completed form. While I would prefer his name be included as one of the writers, given the prominence of his former position at the National Cancer Institute, if you have not had his confirmation by your deadline and cannot include him on the basis of this string of emails which clearly indicates he is on board, then I would reluctantly ask you to publish and remove his name if necessary. I will try to connect with him once again to urge that he respond.

Jerry

From: Rick Klausner [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:53 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald [b6]
Subject: Re: Op-Ed for The Hill

Will do

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 21, 2020, at 12:50 AM, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Dear Rick,

The Hill can publish on Wednesday but need all of us to sign their contributors form online. They have the document from me and from Ken and just need yours to schedule publication. There should be an email this morning with a heading something like the following:

FROM: The Hill's Contributors project via DocuSign SUBJECT: Please DocuSign: terms and conditions

Thanks for your ongoing support; its been too long a haul for us to be heard.

Jerry

<tpmd200850.pdf>

Date: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 3:25:39 PM -0400

Sent: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 3:25:38 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Confidential updates

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >

To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

The shit just keeps on flowing. Hang in there!!!!!! This too shall pass....

b6

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]

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From: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 12:31 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6]

Subject: Confidential updates

Importance: High

Thanks for sharing the Stat piece Just tweeted.

V. busy at the moment so haven't been in touch, but note that the GMO/anti-gain-of-function crowd is now attacking, thanks

largely to EHA getting a mention in the follow up to "Plandemic" the conspiracy movie. It's called "InDoctorNation" (get it?), and lays out the theory whereby we were the money laundry for Tony Fauci to fund Gain-of-Function work in China so he can design and release a virus along with George Soros and Bill Gates, and they can all make money off the vaccine.

There's a hit-job article being pushed out by bots on Twitter (<https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/gain-of-function-hall-of-shame>) as well as a piece in "Boston" magazine about the 'heroic' work a postdoc has done at the Broad Institute to highlight any and all potential reasons that COVID could have escaped from a lab, using only genetic analysis. It's baloney, of course, but they had a sympathetic reporter. NEIDL gets a mention too.

By the way – my home address has now become a target for the conspiracy nutjobs. I'm not going public at this point, so please keep this confidential, but this is a particularly ugly development. Suffice it to say that the FBI are on the case.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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 [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Dennis Carroll [b6]
Subject: RE: Your article on emerging infections ...

Thanks David,

Right on top of the key issues. Right on, I say!

The report Nicki and I did for the GPMB on the R&D Preparedness Ecosystem will be released on the 14th, and I will send it to you then.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Dennis Carroll [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Your article on emerging infections ...

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

From: Patrick Skerrett [b6] >
Date: September 9, 2020 at 08:09:40 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6], "Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]" <[b6]>
Cc: "Goraleski, Karen" [b6], "Singh, Mantra (NIH/FIC) [E]" [b6]
Subject: Your article on emerging infections ...

... is live on STAT:

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/09/09/emerging-viruses-real-bioterrorists-behind-covid-19/>

We will be promoting it on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and other social media platforms. Please share it with your communities.

Thanks for not immediately hitting DELETE when my request landed in your inbox. I enjoyed working with you on the article. Please keep us in mind for other opinion/perspective articles down the road.

Pat Skerrett
STAT

Date: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 7:19:20 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 7:19:19 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Can I have your home addresses please to send some info by post to?
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]

Sure, mine is:

b6

D

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

On Jun 12, 2020, at 16:39, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Jerry and David,

Could you send me your home addresses please so I can send you a doc by post.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

Date: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 9:39:28 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 9:39:24 PM -0400
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

By the way – just read this from LA Times last Monday about Trump complaining about the \$32 billion NIH ‘gives away’.

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-04-20/nih-trump-coronavirus-science>

Might this be part of the reason behind the letter from NIH?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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: Sunday, April 26, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Yes, I can be free most times tomorrow, just say when. After 3 might be better than before 11, but either is fine. David

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

On Apr 26, 2020, at 17:24, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Thanks Peter,

Hi David, can we set up a time to talk tomorrow? I have conflicts from 11-3 tomorrow, but

afterwards would be fine. My office phone is [b6] and my cell is [b6]

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 3:24 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Thank you so much for your help David & Jerry. This is a brutally stressful issue on just about every level: jobs in our organization, freedom to do science in a country I came to voluntarily for that reason, and the real and present danger that we are being targeted by extremists, supported by the President, who is shockingly ignorant and unconcerned about the damage his actions have to people's lives, and our own US National Security.

David - We'll communicate with you via gmail from now on. I understand exactly what you're saying in your email, I agree, and we'll follow this line exactly. I'll be talking with Emily, Erik and Cristina early this week, then will try to set up a call with Michael Lauer hopefully as a conf. call. We haven't responded to NIH's email yet, and will only do so after talking with Program staff and getting back to you both. We are working on a brief outline of a compromise approach, whereby we change the geography of our work to include countries on the border of China, where the same bats live and the same behavioral risks happen (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam). Even that would be a loss - we have 15,000 samples in freezers in Wuhan and could do the full genomes of 700+ CoVs we've identified if we don't cut this thread.

On the issue of why our grant has been targeted. We read the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research (attached) and noted that **Michael Lauer's justification for terminating our grant "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities." Is completely countered by ALL 4 of NIAID's COVID-19 strategy (page 2 of the attached pdf):**

The *NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research* aligns with the priorities set by U.S. Government-wide task forces for the development of medical countermeasures. NIAID actively participates in COVID-19 task forces to identify opportunities, ensure open communication, encourage resource sharing, and avoid duplication of effort. The plan is structured around four strategic research priorities:

1. **Improve fundamental knowledge of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19**, including studies to characterize the virus and how it is transmitted and understand the natural history, epidemiology, host immunity, disease immunopathogenesis, and the genetic, immunologic, and clinical associations with more severe disease outcomes. This includes accelerating the development of small and large animal models that replicate human disease.
2. **Support the development of diagnostics and assays**, including point-of-care molecular and antigen-based diagnostics for identifying and isolating COVID-19 cases and serologic assays to better understand disease prevalence in the population. Diagnostics also will be essential for evaluating the effectiveness of candidate countermeasures.
3. **Characterize and test therapeutics**, including identifying and evaluating repurposed drugs and novel broad-spectrum antivirals, virus-targeted antibody-based therapies (including plasma-derived intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) and monoclonal antibodies), and host-directed strategies to combat COVID-19.
4. **Develop safe and effective vaccines against SARS-CoV-2**, including support of clinical trial testing.

Each of these points are clearly part of the Specific Aims of our grant (attached to this email).

Re. media - Journalists are lined up wanting to talk with me about this issue, including already asking if NIH have communicated with me. I will be silent on this issue for now and hope something can happen. Likewise re. our political representatives. I'll contact them only if/when we can't resolve anything this way. I'll also be talking to our pro bono law firm who will start lining up a legal argument against termination of this grant, just in case we can't do anything in a decent

way. All the time this goes on, I'm really worried about our EIDRC U01 contract that it in final Just in Time issues right now, so I'm hoping we get an NoA before anything turns ugly.

One last comment – as you talk to your colleagues, please let them know that funds from this grant aren't just shipped over to China. Most of the money stays in the USA and funds work at EHA and UNC critical to identifying future risk of pandemics and vaccine and drug development against coronaviruses. Right now, without this funding, US employees will become unemployed. Of course, that pales into insignificance against the potential loss of life if we consider the health benefits of 1) better prediction of future pandemics; 2) better vaccines & therapeutics that work against these viruses; & 3) continued access to 15 yrs of sample collection, data, and collaborative knowledge from our work with our Chinese colleagues.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: David Morens [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:47 AM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

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

Jerry and Peter,

This is sent from my gmail account. Please send all replies here To gmail

I have let Tony know but have not spoken to him directly. There are things I can't say except Tony is aware and I have learned that there are ongoing efforts within NIH to steer through this with minimal damage to you, Peter, and colleagues, and to nih and niaid. No guarantees, but let us hope. I imagine this will be handled at the level of Francis and Tony, within nih, and I don't expect to be in the loop.

I don't have any insight into what happened or how it happened, but the fact that your termination letter came from "Building 1", that is, the NIH directors office, and not from NIAID, is telling

Whatever is going on, I very much doubt that Tony or any of our niaid leadership would willfully throw you under the bus, or any grantee, for that matter. Indeed, I expect we would do everything possible to protect you. I have reason to believe that there are already efforts going on to protect you

What I said on the phone last night stands. I urge you to meet asap with this guy Lauer and with Eric and Emily. Lauer may well decline to meet with you, but I think you should press him. You have a right to demand a face to face explanation for such an unprecedented action. If your grant is from DMID Virology you may also want to meet with Virology Branch Chief Mark Challberg, and of course with Cristina, who is Emily's deputy and a respiratory virologist. These DMID folks will be your advocates. If any part of the grant goes through Columbia, or UNC (isn't that where

Ralph is?), or any University, they may be able to apply pressure too.

If you can get down here, these meetings should be in person, although of course many nih folks are working from home, so that may not be possible.

In the meantime I would NOT go to the press. The first step is to find out in detail what happened and what your rights are. But I would line up advocates, as I suggested and Jerry as well. The press may find out about this in any case, but I think if so it is better to let friends defend you than for you to fight on your own. At least for now. Of course, however this plays out in the short term, it will end up in the public domain and the truth will come out. So hold on to that certainty, small comfort now, I know

Finally, I am so sorry you and your colleagues are going through this. You don't deserve it; if anything you deserve a medal. Please hang in there and press ahead firmly but collegiality

As a coda, Tony knows about your work. Sometime around 1 Feb I sent him an email outlining your work over recent years, and why it was so important to science. This was mostly because I anticipated new money, but also in the back of my mind was the possibility that something really dark like this could happen

Again, whatever role NIH might be playing in these events, I truly expect that we will be doing what is possible to protect you and your research over the long haul

I think I need another Scotch, and it's only 1145 am
David

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

On Apr 26, 2020, at 06:43, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] wrote:

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

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
Date: April 25, 2020 at 22:03:15 EDT
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6], "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[b6]>
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Thanks Peter,

I know Dave Morens – everybody knows Dave Morens. I had another thought about this and it would be to alert Victor Dzau who works very closely with Tony, of course, and even though I consider myself a friend as well as a colleague I think Victor would have a pretty direct route to Tony. It is an issue the National Academies should be interested in, and have some traction. We need to get Peggy Hamburg involved to bring AAAS on board. It is like the Bush administration attempts to control NIH but on steroids. Anyone but an idiot would understand why it is essential to maintain our scientific connections with China so that we can engage with them to figure out what happened. What the Trump idiots are doing is

totally and absolutely counterproductive. I do think – as we discussed yesterday – that for the moment keeping cool is the best strategy. But influential people need to know and its probably better if you are not directly involved.

I watched the session on COVID-19 this afternoon for the Academies meeting via Zoom or some platform. Tony, Jeremy, George Gao, Sanjay Gupta, Susan Weiss, and Richard Hatchett, All of the questions about the emergence and the reservoir or spillover host for which there is no information are the strengths of your programs and your collaborations. How absolutely stupid to close those off, but how absolutely unacceptable it is from the perspective of the separation of politics and science in a free society. That Francis would allow it is hard to believe. That Tony would allow it is even harder to believe – and for that reason I expect it is at levels below him and he is too busy at the moment trying to keep focused on rational decision making while the idiot in chief tells us to swallow a UV-C lamp or shove it up out butt – I can tell you whose butt I would shove it – and for good measure have a Chloroxitini or just do a total cleansing with H2O2 (the rationale would be if H2O is good for us wouldn't H2O2 be better, after all it would have another one of those O's whatever they are.

Dave, get in touch so we might strategize, and for certain reasons keep Peter out of the loop.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6] <[b6]>
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01A1110964-06
Importance: High

Jerry – great to read this – thanks for your support.

I also spoke with David Morens today who was equally shocked and said this has never happened. He also said there are influential people who would come to our defense at the right moment. In the meantime, he's going to talk with Greg Folkers (Chief of Staff for Tony Fauci) to find out if Tony knows, and why it happened. He's then going to let Tony know. I think you and him are on the same page in that you're both right that this is a clear political interference in NIH business. Trump said at his press briefing Friday 17th that he would 'end' the grant, and one week later I got the termination notice from NIH.

In the meantime, we're working on a short draft of how we could have easily changed the geography to the countries adjacent to China, as we proposed to Erik Stemmy and Emily Erbeling. We'll be talking with them next week early to try and find out why this happened. We won't respond to the termination notice (Michael Lauer) until we've found out more.

FYI – re. the FoIA - I'm contacting the FBI to talk about the risk of our FoIA and how I've been threatened by QANON related to this and our Chinese colleagues have had their lives threatened.

I'm not going to talk to the media about this, not our representatives, until I've tried all possible ways with NIAID/NIH to change the decision from a cancelation. I'm also very concerned that Trump could target our organization or me personally, leading to our EIDRC being nixed and we don't even have an NoA on that, so it could quietly disappear.

I'll get back in touch with you once I've found out more from Erik Stemmy, Emily Erbelding and Cristina Cassetti.

In the meantime is it OK if I email introduce you and David so you could possibly coordinate in some way, or at least stay in touch? Right now I'm feeling particularly vulnerable – the power of the President is pointed at us, the CIA, FBI and someone from Medical Defense Intelligence (or something) are interviewing staff, QAnon are threatening me, and our colleagues in China have death threats against them. That's just this week! Having you out there talking with others at this level is extremely important right now.

By the way, here's a list of our Board: <https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/board-of-directors>

It includes two people you know – Jim Hughes (former head of NCID/CDC, Rear Admiral Public Health Service Rtd, Asst. Surgeon General Rtd) and Rita Colwell (Former Head of NSF under 3 presidents: Clinton, Bush sr, Bush Jr – I think). I'll be talking with Jim Hughes tomorrow or Monday and Rita Colwell on our Board meeting Friday.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]
Website: 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 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01A1110964-06

Hi Peter and Aleksei,

I want to change my recommendation from earlier this evening. Put the really good Cabernet aside and drink the disinfectant instead. This is an affront to science, after the language in the first letter and your response to comply. It must be challenged.

The question is not only how but also when – certainly not before the EIDRC funding comes through. And then in a smart manner. I want to chat again next week – I need the weekend off having just finished the draft report on the R&D preparedness ecosystem for NAM working with Nicki Lurie. There are some smart and very influential people I can talk to - and keep you out of the conversation – when we agree it makes sense. I mentioned Maria Freire from FNIH and Mary Woolley from Research!America. I also thought about Harold Varmus and former Representative John Porter who was a great supporter of NIH (made the doubling happen) and CDC even though he is a Republican. But I too will do nothing for a few days.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: FW: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
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Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>; Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]

Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]

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

Importance: High

Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak

Please see attached.

Sincerely,
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: [b6]
Email: [b6]

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 1:50 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6], "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[b6]>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6], "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Subject: Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Mike,

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

Sincerely,

-Aleksei

Aleksei Chmura
Chief of Staff &
Authorized Organizational Representative

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

[b6] (office)
[b6] (mobile)
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

On Apr 21, 2020, at 19:28, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6] wrote:

Many thanks Peter for your response.

We note that:

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

We appreciate your working with us.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: [b6]
Email: [b6]

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6]
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6], Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[b6]>, "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

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

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

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

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

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

We are well aware of the political concerns over the origins of this outbreak. Our collaboration with Wuhan Institute of Virology has been scientific and we have been consistently impressed with the scientific capabilities of that laboratory and its research staff. Our joint work has led to a series of critical papers published in high impact journals that served to raise awareness of the future threat coronaviruses pose for global health and therefore US national security. Scientific insights with epidemiological significance have been jointly published and our relationship has always been open and transparent and with one concern only, scientific validity. We are concerned that current actions may jeopardize 15 years of fruitful collaboration with colleagues in Wuhan, who are working at the

leading edge to design vaccines and drugs that could help us fight this new threat in future years. It is quite remarkable that of the 5 vaccine candidates listed by WHO that are already in human trials, 3 have been developed in China. That said, we of course will do all we can to make sure any further questions from NIH or any Federal agency are addressed to our fullest knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel. [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Kevin Olival [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Naomi Schrag [b6]; Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [b6];
Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Subject: Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Thank you Kevin

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

We greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: [b6]
Email: [b6]

From: Kevin Olival [b6] >
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:14 PM

To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6]
Cc: Naomi Schrag [b6] >, "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[b6]>
Subject: Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Mike,

I received the attached letter, however please note:

1. I am not the PI on this award. You should contact Dr. Peter Daszak ([b6]) who is the PI and leading this project for EcoHealth Alliance.
2. Columbia University is not involved in this NIH project, and it is not clear to me why Naomi and Columbia University were included.

Thank you,
Kevin

Kevin J. Olival, PhD
Vice President for Research

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

[b6] (direct)
[b6] (mobile)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)
www.ecohealthalliance.org
EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

On Apr 20, 2020, at 2:16 PM, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6] wrote:

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

Best, Mike

From: Naomi Schrag [b6]
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6] <[b6]>, Naomi Schrag [b6] <[b6]>
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6] <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Dr. Lauer,
I am acknowledging receipt of this letter and will get back to you as soon as I can.
Sincerely,
Naomi Schrag

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]

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

To: [REDACTED] b6; Naomi Schrag [REDACTED] b6

Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] b6

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

Importance: High

Dear Dr. Olival and Ms. Schrag

Please see attached.

Many thanks, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892

Phone: [REDACTED] b6
Email: [REDACTED]

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

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

Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 5:19:44 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 5:19:42 PM -0400
Subject: RE: New (non-peer reviewed) report on origin of SARS-CoV-2
From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] >
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] >; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] >;
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Yes – saw that. I skimmed it last night and it's got more holes than you're a pair of lace curtains. For example - the two most closely related viruses (which are obviously of primary interest to compare genes of SARS-CoV-2), were excluded from the analysis because this author believes they are 'fictitious'. Well one of them was found by Zhengli in a bat in Yunnan in 2013 (RaTG13) and the other by a completely different group in a different bat species near border of Myanmar (RmYN02) – they're legit and important because RmYN02 has an insertion point at the same place SARS-CoV-2 has the Furin cleavage insertion. This region is very plastic in coronaviruses according to Vincent Menachery, so is further evidence that these genetic elements evolved naturally.

Add this and a bunch of other omissions and lack of data, to the curiously accusatory way the 'paper' is written, with the fact that her institution is listed as the "Rule of Law Society" (a Steve Bannon organization), and recent pictures of her meeting with good old Rudi Giuliani, and you get the message loud and clear – a scientist willing to put up a shady, opinionated, massively flawed preprint, and allow it to be used to promote anti-China rhetoric in the build up to the election.

All that said, I'll now have to spend endless hours explaining to journalists why this is pure garbage, but saying it in an objective, decent, way so I don't get accused again of being 'bullying', 'over emotional', 'over defensive' etc. Meanwhile, of course, I'm being attacked literally on a daily basis.

Time for a glass of prisoner soon!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]
Website: 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]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: New (non-peer reviewed) report on origin of SARS-CoV-2

b6

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)

(b)(6)

b6

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From: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Park, Jaekeun (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6];
Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Kash, John (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Qi, Li
(NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Xiao, Yongli (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Williams, Stephanie
(NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Gygli, Sebastian (NIH/NIAID) [F] [b6]
Subject: FYI: New (non-peer reviewed) report on origin of SARS-CoV-2

Date: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 4:35:49 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 4:35:32 PM -0400
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Jeffery Taubenberger [b6]
Attachments: NIAID-COVID-19-Strategic-Plan-2020.pdf; Untitled attachment 07354.htm; NIAID CoV 2018 R01 renewal text final.docx; Untitled attachment 07357.htm

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

From: David Morens [b6] >
Date: April 26, 2020 at 16:08:59 EDT
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: [b6] [b6] >, Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Re: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Peter, thanks for this. I am glad you got a copy of the Strategic plan which does as you say completely contradict the Lauer letter, which was just a careless hatchet job.

Even while remaining silent you should be clearly documenting these things for potential future use, in your own defense, and for history.

Tony is now fully aware I think and is I am told involved in some sort of damage control, but again I am not in the loop. He just called a few minutes ago about another corona matter, and did not bring it up. I thought it best not to say anything at this point either.

I have some reason to hope that this situation can be resolved with minimal damage, but then, I am always accused of being an optimist. Stay safe and order a few cases of Negro Modelos....

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

On Apr 26, 2020, at 15:23, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Thank you so much for your help David & Jerry. This is a brutally stressful issue on just about every level: jobs in our organization, freedom to do science in a country I came to voluntarily for that reason, and the real and present danger that we are being targeted by extremists, supported by the President, who is shockingly ignorant and unconcerned about the damage his actions have to people's lives, and our own US National Security.

David - We'll communicate with you via gmail from now on. I understand exactly what you're saying in your email, I agree, and we'll follow this line exactly. I'll be talking with Emily, Erik and Cristina early this week, then will try to set up a call with Michael Lauer hopefully as a conf. call. We haven't responded to NIH's email yet, and

will only do so after talking with Program staff and getting back to you both. We are working on a brief outline of a compromise approach, whereby we change the geography of our work to include countries on the border of China, where the same bats live and the same behavioral risks happen (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam). Even that would be a loss – we have 15,000 samples in freezers in Wuhan and could do the full genomes of 700+ CoVs we've identified if we don't cut this thread.

On the issue of why our grant has been targeted. We read the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research (attached) and noted that **Michael Lauer's justification for terminating our grant "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities." Is completely countered by ALL 4 of NIAID's COVID-19 strategy (page 2 of the attached pdf):**

The *NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research* aligns with the priorities set by U.S. Government-wide task forces for the development of medical countermeasures. NIAID actively participates in COVID-19 task forces to identify opportunities, ensure open communication, encourage resource sharing, and avoid duplication of effort. The plan is structured around four strategic research priorities:

1. **Improve fundamental knowledge of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19**, including studies to characterize the virus and how it is transmitted and understand the natural history, epidemiology, host immunity, disease immunopathogenesis, and the genetic, immunologic, and clinical associations with more severe disease outcomes. This includes accelerating the development of small and large animal models that replicate human disease.
2. **Support the development of diagnostics and assays**, including point-of-care molecular and antigen-based diagnostics for identifying and isolating COVID-19 cases and serologic assays to better understand disease prevalence in the population. Diagnostics also will be essential for evaluating the effectiveness of candidate countermeasures.
3. **Characterize and test therapeutics**, including identifying and evaluating repurposed drugs and novel broad-spectrum antivirals, virus-targeted antibody-based therapies (including plasma-derived intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) and monoclonal antibodies), and host-directed strategies to combat COVID-19.
4. **Develop safe and effective vaccines against SARS-CoV-2**, including support of clinical trial testing.

Each of these points are clearly part of the Specific Aims of our grant (attached to this email).

Re. media – Journalists are lined up wanting to talk with me about this issue, including already asking if NIH have communicated with me. I will be silent on this issue for now and hope something can happen. Likewise re. our political representatives. I'll contact them only if/when we can't resolve anything this way. I'll also be talking to our pro bono law firm who will start lining up a legal argument against termination of this grant, just in case we can't do anything in a decent way. All the time this goes on, I'm really worried about our EIDRC U01 contract that it in final Just in Time issues right now, so I'm hoping we get an NoA before anything turns ugly.

One last comment – as you talk to your colleagues, please let them know that funds from this grant aren't just shipped over to China. Most of the money stays in the USA and funds work at EHA and UNC critical to identifying future risk of pandemics and vaccine and drug development against coronaviruses. Right now, without this funding, US employees will become unemployed. Of course, that pales into insignificance against the potential loss of life if we consider the health benefits of 1) better prediction of future pandemics; 2) better vaccines & therapeutics that work against these viruses; & 3) continued access to 15 yrs of sample collection, data, and collaborative knowledge from our work with our Chinese colleagues.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] > [b6]
Subject: Re: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Jerry and Peter,

This is sent from my gmail account. Please send all replies here To gmail

I have let Tony know but have not spoken to him directly. There are things I can't say except Tony is aware and I have learned that there are ongoing efforts within NIH to steer through this with minimal damage to you, Peter, and colleagues, and to nih and niaid. No guarantees, but let us hope. I imagine this will be handled at the level of Francis and Tony, within nih, and I don't expect to be in the loop.

I don't have any insight into what happened or how it happened, but the fact that your termination letter came from "Building 1", that is, the NIH directors office, and not from NIAID, is telling

Whatever is going on, I very much doubt that Tony or any of our niaid leadership would willfully throw you under the bus, or any grantee, for that matter. Indeed, I expect we would do everything possible to protect you. I have reason to believe that there are already efforts going on to protect you

What I said on the phone last night stands. I urge you to meet asap with this guy Lauer and with Eric and Emily. Lauer may well decline to meet with you, but I think you should press him. You have a right to demand a face to face explanation for such an unprecedented action. If your grant is from DMID Virology you may also want to meet with Virology Branch Chief Mark Challberg, and of course with Cristina, who is Emily's deputy and a respiratory virologist. These DMID folks will be your advocates. If any part of the grant goes through Columbia, or UNC (isn't that where Ralph is?), or any University, they may be able to apply pressure too.

If you can get down here, these meetings should be in person, although of course many nih folks are working from home, so that may not be possible.

In the meantime I would NOT go to the press. The first step is to find out in detail what happened and what your rights are. But I would line up advocates, as I suggested and Jerry as well. The press may find out about this in any case, but I think if so it is better to let friends defend you than for you to fight on your own. At least for now. Of course, however this plays out in the short term, it will end up in the public domain and the truth will come out. So hold on to that certainty, small comfort now, I know

Finally, I am so sorry you and your colleagues are going through this. You don't deserve it; if anything you deserve a medal. Please hang in there and press ahead firmly but collegiality

As a coda, Tony knows about your work. Sometime around 1 Feb I sent him an email outlining your work over recent years, and why it was so important to science. This was mostly because I anticipated new money, but also in the back of my mind was the possibility that something really dark like this could happen

Again, whatever role NIH might be playing in these events, I truly expect that we will be doing what is possible to protect you and your research over the long haul

I think I need another Scotch, and it's only 1145 am
David

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

On Apr 26, 2020, at 06:43, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] wrote:

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

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
Date: April 25, 2020 at 22:03:15 EDT
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6], "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[b6]>
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Thanks Peter,

I know Dave Morens – everybody knows Dave Morens. I had another thought about this and it would be to alert Victor Dzau who works very closely with Tony, of course, and even though I consider myself a friend as well as a colleague I think Victor would have a pretty direct route to Tony. It is an issue the National Academies should be interested in, and have some traction. We need to get Peggy Hamburg involved to bring AAAS on board. It is like the Bush administration attempts to control NIH but on steroids. Anyone but an idiot would understand why it is essential to maintain our scientific connections with China so that we can engage with them to figure out what happened. What the Trump idiots are doing is totally and absolutely counterproductive. I do think – as we discussed yesterday – that for the moment keeping cool is the best strategy. But influential people need to know and its probably better if you are not directly involved.

I watched the session on COVID-19 this afternoon for the Academies meeting via Zoom or some platform. Tony, Jeremy, George Gao, Sanjay Gupta, Susan Weiss, and Richard Hatchett, All of the questions about the emergence and the reservoir or spillover host for which there is no information are the strengths of your programs and your collaborations. How absolutely stupid to close those off, but how absolutely unacceptable it is from the perspective of the separation of politics and science in a free society.

That Francis would allow it is hard to believe. That Tony would allow it is even harder to believe – and for that reason I expect it is at levels below him

and he is too busy at the moment trying to keep focused on rational decision making while the idiot in chief tells us to swallow a UV-C lamp or shove it up out butt – I can tell you whose butt I would shove it – and for good measure have a Chloroxitini or just do a total cleansing with H2O2 (the rationale would be if H2O is good for us wouldn't H2O2 be better, after all it would have another one of those O's whatever they are.

Dave, get in touch so we might strategize, and for certain reasons keep Peter out of the loop.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:28 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [b6] <[b6]>
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Jerry – great to read this – thanks for your support.

I also spoke with David Morens today who was equally shocked and said this has never happened. He also said there are influential people who would come to our defense at the right moment. In the meantime, he's going to talk with Greg Folkers (Chief of Staff for Tony Fauci) to find out if Tony knows, and why it happened. He's then going to let Tony know. I think you and him are on the same page in that you're both right that this is a clear political interference in NIH business. Trump said at his press briefing Friday 17th that he would 'end' the grant, and one week later I got the termination notice from NIH.

In the meantime, we're working on a short draft of how we could have easily changed the geography to the countries adjacent to China, as we proposed to Erik Stemmy and Emily Erbeling. We'll be talking with them next week early to try and find out why this happened. We won't respond to the termination notice (Michael Lauer) until we've found out more.

FYI – re. the FoIA - I'm contacting the FBI to talk about the risk of our FoIA and how I've been threatened by QANON related to this and our Chinese colleagues have had their lives threatened.

I'm not going to talk to the media about this, not our representatives, until I've tried all possible ways with NIAID/NIH to change the decision from a cancelation. I'm also very concerned that Trump could target our organization or me personally, leading to our EIDRC being nixed and we don't even have an NoA on that, so it could quietly disappear.

I'll get back in touch with you once I've found out more from Erik Stemmy, Emily Erbeling and Cristina Cassetti.

In the meantime is it OK if I email introduce you and David so you could possibly coordinate in some way, or at least stay in touch? Right now I'm feeling particularly vulnerable – the power of the President is pointed at us, the CIA, FBI and someone from Medical Defense Intelligence (or something) are interviewing staff, QAnon are threatening me, and our colleagues in China have death threats against them. That's just this week! Having you out there talking with others at this level is extremely important right now.

By the way, here's a list of our Board: <https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/board-of-directors>

It includes two people you know – Jim Hughes (former head of NCID/CDC, Rear Admiral Public Health Service Rtd, Asst. Surgeon General Rtd) and Rita Colwell (Former Head of NSF under 3 presidents: Clinton, Bush sr, Bush Jr – I think). I'll be talking with Jim Hughes tomorrow or Monday and Rita Colwell on our Board meeting Friday.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: 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 [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:30 PM

To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Hi Peter and Aleksei,

I want to change my recommendation from earlier this evening. Put the really good Cabernet aside and drink the disinfectant instead. This is an affront to science, after the language in the first letter and your response to comply. It must be challenged. The question is not only how but also when – certainly not before the EIDRC funding comes through. And then in a smart manner. I want to chat again next week – I need the weekend off having just finished the draft report on the R&D preparedness ecosystem for NAM working with Nicki Lurie. There are some smart and very influential people I can talk to - and keep you out of the conversation – when we agree it makes sense. I mentioned Maria Freire from FNIH and Mary Woolley from Research!America. I also thought about Harold Varmus and former Representative John Porter who was a great supporter of NIH (made the doubling happen) and CDC even though he is a Republican. But I too will do

nothing for a few days.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: FW: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>; Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[b6]>; Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Subject: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak

Please see attached.

Sincerely,

Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892

Phone
Email

b6

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 1:50 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6], "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[b6]>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6], "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Subject: Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Mike,

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

Sincerely,

-Aleksei

Aleksei Chmura
*Chief of Staff &
Authorized Organizational Representative*

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

b6

(office)
(mobile)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

On Apr 21, 2020, at 19:28, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6] wrote:

Many thanks Peter for your response.

We note that:

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

We appreciate your working with us.

Best, Mike

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are well aware of the political concerns over the origins of this outbreak. Our collaboration with Wuhan Institute of Virology has been scientific and we have been consistently impressed with the scientific capabilities of that laboratory and its research staff.

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

Yours sincerely,

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
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New York, NY 10001
USA

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Kevin Olival [b6]; Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Cc: Naomi Schrag [b6]; Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[b6]>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [b6]
Subject: Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
Importance: High

Thank you Kevin

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

We greatly appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Best, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research
1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: [b6]
Email: [b6]

From: Kevin Olival [b6] >
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:14 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [b6]
Cc: Naomi Schrag [b6]; "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[b6]>
Subject: Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding

2R01AI110964-06

Dear Mike,

I received the attached letter, however please note:

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

Thank you,
Kevin

Kevin J. Olival, PhD
Vice President for Research

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

[REDACTED] (direct)
[REDACTED] (mobile)
1.212.380.4465 (fax)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

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

On Apr 20, 2020, at 2:16 PM, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] b6
> wrote:

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

Best, Mike

From: Naomi Schrag [REDACTED] b6
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] b6
[REDACTED] b6 " [REDACTED] b6", Naomi Schrag [REDACTED] b6
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] b6
Subject: RE: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Dr. Lauer,
I am acknowledging receipt of this letter and will get back to you as soon as I can.
Sincerely,
Naomi Schrag

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] b6
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 11:00 AM
To: [REDACTED] b6; Naomi Schrag [REDACTED] b6
Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] b6
Subject: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding

2R01AI110964-06

Importance: High

Dear Dr. Olival and Ms. Schrag

Please see attached.

Many thanks, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research

1 Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144

Bethesda, MD 20892

Phone:

Email:

b6

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

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

Date: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 7:41:00 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 7:40:59 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Jerry, this is fantastic, thank you. I will follow your advice and lie low. (Peter, please disregard my comment of a moment ago, about being willing to speak to reporters. I replied before reading this letter). In the meantime let me know what i can do to help

On Sunday we had our virtual mid year board of directors Meeting for astmh and the subject of your termination was discussed in the context of our lobbying efforts. We have a good and tenacious lobbying staff and they are working behind the scenes. Everyone there is appalled and disgusted, and the Society, many of whose members are NIH grantees, sees this as a critical issue. David

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

On Jun 15, 2020, at 22:08, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

David, I think this is one to keep out of. I suggest you do not talk to these reporters, even off the record. Just say you are NIAID staff and you can't discuss this issue. I'm happy to take on the burden. I think Mark Dennison would be another one who would be willing to speak frankly, but clearly both Mark and I are also at a distance from the action so we can only comment on what there is to be observed from the outside.

Peter, you also should be careful at this point. Especially if you are able to resume working with WIV on private funding. You might want to know if any of the postdocs who spent time with Jim Leduc were part of the thousand talents scheme. I wouldn't be surprised and it might be worthwhile making sure Jim is aware of the circumstances. I can do that if you want to stay out of it.

For both of you it is a very important step that ACD has taken. What they have said is a direct challenge to Collins and he must be uneasy about it. It would be useful to see how much further Rich Roberts is willing to go in the public space. He is not a member of ACD but is clearly tracking what's going on with them and their concerns. If he is willing to talk to reporters he carries a lot of credibility.

I just drafted an op-ed aimed for the Washington Post. I asked a particular colleague to read it before I send it to the members of NAM who signed the letter to the three presidents, to ask for input and a signal they are willing to sign this one too. I will put this as the way to add to the modest victory we had with the generic Statement issued by Victor and now to push about the specific example EHA represents.

Jerry

From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.

Peter, i must admit thT i am unsure what is going on within nih. I sense intrigue. I will be glad to talk to reporters but to the extent you have influence with them, let them know they might have to push to reach me behind the censorship curtain

I would suggest you try to make sure that none of your Chinese collaborators Have any ethics issues, no matter how small. This is where they could kill you. D

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

On Jun 15, 2020, at 21:02, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Hi David and Jerry,

I've been thinking of a way to get ahead of the curve, just in case NIH really is investigating EHA or me. This goes back to NIH telling folks who FOIA them that they can't reveal info on my grant and Wuhan because of a law enforcement clause and a pending investigation (<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/nih-we-cant-release-our-papers-about-the-wuhan-institute-of-virology-because-of-a-pending-investigation/>). I've been wondering if that's a real investigation maybe by another org seeing if NIH acted legally? Is it them investigating Wuhan (not really possible)? Is it related to the NIH Director's pushing the agenda of investigating scientists who have been taking funds from China etc. (<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/fifty-four-scientists-have-lost-their-jobs-result-nih-probe-foreign-ties>). What concerns me is that it seems that Francis Collins is personally involved in the investigation, and that his key henchman is Michael Lauer. It's actually Lauer who gave the talk to the ACD meeting last week (<https://www.acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html>), click on "ACD Working Group on Foreign Influences in Research Integrity (Update)". I think it would be convenient for Collins if they could try to dig up some China dirt on EHA, and it's probably no skin off his nose to ask his henchmen to investigate (they've already got 399 "Scientists of Possible Concern") what's one more between friends.

So for that reason, I want to let you know that I've spoken with two good reporters off the record over the last few days and given them both your contact. One is Jim Rainey from the LA Times who did a good piece on the origins of COVID about EHA's work and others. He's now trying to dig into the handling of the termination by NIH and will be filing a FoIA, but right now would love to talk about the details. The other is Peter Aldhous from Buzzfeed. He did file a foia for Michael lauer's communications and some others. He said he will be appealing their decision not to release the files.

I'm hoping that these two reporters will dig out some interesting stuff and maybe then I'll know whether this 'investigation' is just Francis Collins trying to fob off the foia requests, or it's because we've appealed, or another group has filed a motion with NIH re. their decision to terminate.

Anyway – hope they contact you, and hope it leads to something.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
New York, NY 10018-6507
USA

Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

Date: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 5:38:47 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 5:38:40 PM -0400
Subject: FW: NIAID Funding Opportunities: Rapid Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]; [b6] Gerald T Keusch
[b6]; [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Here's an ironic email – NIAID with opportunity to apply for coronavirus funding!

I guess they've now got \$3.7 million more cash to spend..

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

From: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) <niaid@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: NIAID Funding Opportunities: Rapid Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19



Funding Opportunities

- [PAR-20-177](#), Emergency Awards: Rapid Investigation of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (R21, Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [PAR-20-178](#), Emergency Awards: Rapid Investigation of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (R01, Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

For more, see NIAID [Opportunities & Announcements](#).

You can follow us on [Twitter](#): [@NIAIDFunding](#).



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases | National Institutes of Health

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This service is provided to you at no charge by [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases \(NIAID\)](#).



This email was sent to **b6** using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases ·
5601 Fishers Lane · Bethesda, MD 20892 · 1-866-284-4107



Date: Mon, 10 Aug 2020 6:06:16 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 10 Aug 2020 6:06:13 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Gain of function & PPP whining
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

Nice edit. I'm glad we call that out. It's a strong report leading to essential recommendations. Who reviews it? Stephen Miller? He makes me anti Semitic too, but I focus on him and Netanyahu. Oh, and then there's Jared.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2020, at 5:37 PM, David Morens [b6] wrote:

Peter, as i have mention before, these doomsday are rabid, relentless, and repugnant. They have been doing this for a decade. We tangled with them from the beginning, mostly Jeff T, less me, but it was exasperating on all counts. This is not about rational science, its more like a paranoid cult D

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

On Aug 10, 2020, at 15:59, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Here are a couple of papers that I found. One by editor of mBio Arturo Cassadevall.

That, and the PPP paper by Tom Inglesby and Marc Lipsitch fail to realize that if (as they call for) all PPP decisions are made in the public view, we'd have lines of conspiracy psychos banging down our doors all day long. They say that the closed decision of NIH to reinstate gain of function work has led to suspicion, but now I've spent 6 months dealing with conspiracy theorists, these people are not listening to logic, and would simply latch on to any rumor or innuendo and come round with pitchforks. It's naïve at best, but likely comes from a viewpoint of them believing this work is unnecessary and spurious.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: Peter Daszak

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:19 PM

To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6] Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]

Subject: RE: Monday morning news from Wuhan & elsewhere...

No problem Jerry – got and incorporated all your changes. Toned down your comment about us being bad in the US to just “Our nation’s willful and destructive disengagement has enabled others to act in similar fashion.”

Once the White house see this paper, your cellphone won’t work either!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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 [b6]

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 1:53 PM

To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

Cc: Peter Daszak [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] Robert

Kessler

b6

Subject: Re: Monday morning news from Wuhan & elsewhere...

Thanks for the updates Peter. After I sent you my edits/comments on the transition team document I went back to review my emails and in some mysterious manner lost my cursor and I can't shut down or login again. Something really strange maybe Trump trying to spook me. I have a call in to my IT guy but I'm still in the Berkshires until the morning so I'm reduced to my cell phone unless I commander my wife's machine. I'm looking forward to the final final as I think it has become quite sharp and clear.

And happy to eat, drink and be merry in Wuhan. We should bring our favorite partner with us as well. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2020, at 12:43 PM, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6 >
wrote:

Great news clip and, you see, things are getting better. I have talked to a number of reporters, mostly off the record but some on, and have headed them both to you and Dennis. I just gave a reporter Dennis's contact info Friday and told them I thought he was temporarily out at Texas A & M, maybe at the Scowcroft Institute. BTW, I have worked a bit with the Scowcroft Institute and there are some good folks there, Republicans but good smart people. David

On 8/10/2020 11:24 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Had a fun weekend w/ reporters breaking into my late breakfast. Here's a story from NBC where they actually went inside the lab.

<https://www.today.com/video/inside-the-wuhan-lab-at-center-of-coronavirus-controversy-89836101738>

Unfortunately Zhengli Shi is b6 this week so she didn't feature, but the very likeable Director of the Lab (the guy she interviews first) and the more political director of the Institute were interviewed.

Good to see Wuhan opening up to outside journalists. I look forward to a trip there with both of you one day, followed by a banquet, baiju drinking, and Karaoke with the very excellent singer Zhengli Shi!

On Wednesday we're expecting a full story from Wall St Journal on the origins of COVID. Apparently Tony is interviewed, Dennis Carroll and other Luminaries.

In other news, Dennis Carroll is now assisting the Biden Campaign in designing policy on Global Health. There'll be a story in the New York Times either today or tomorrow...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

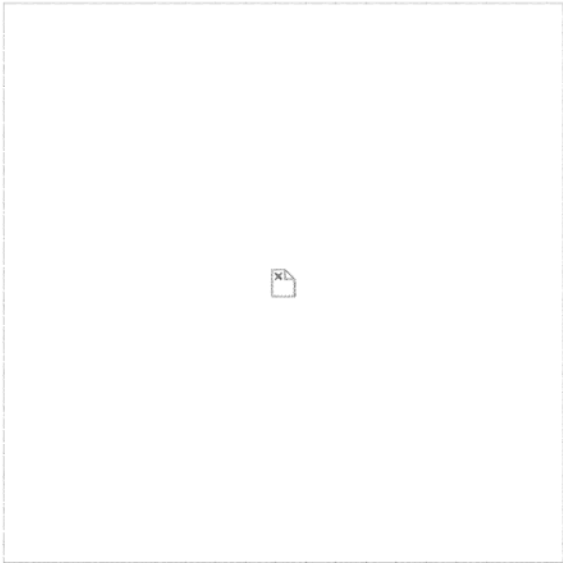
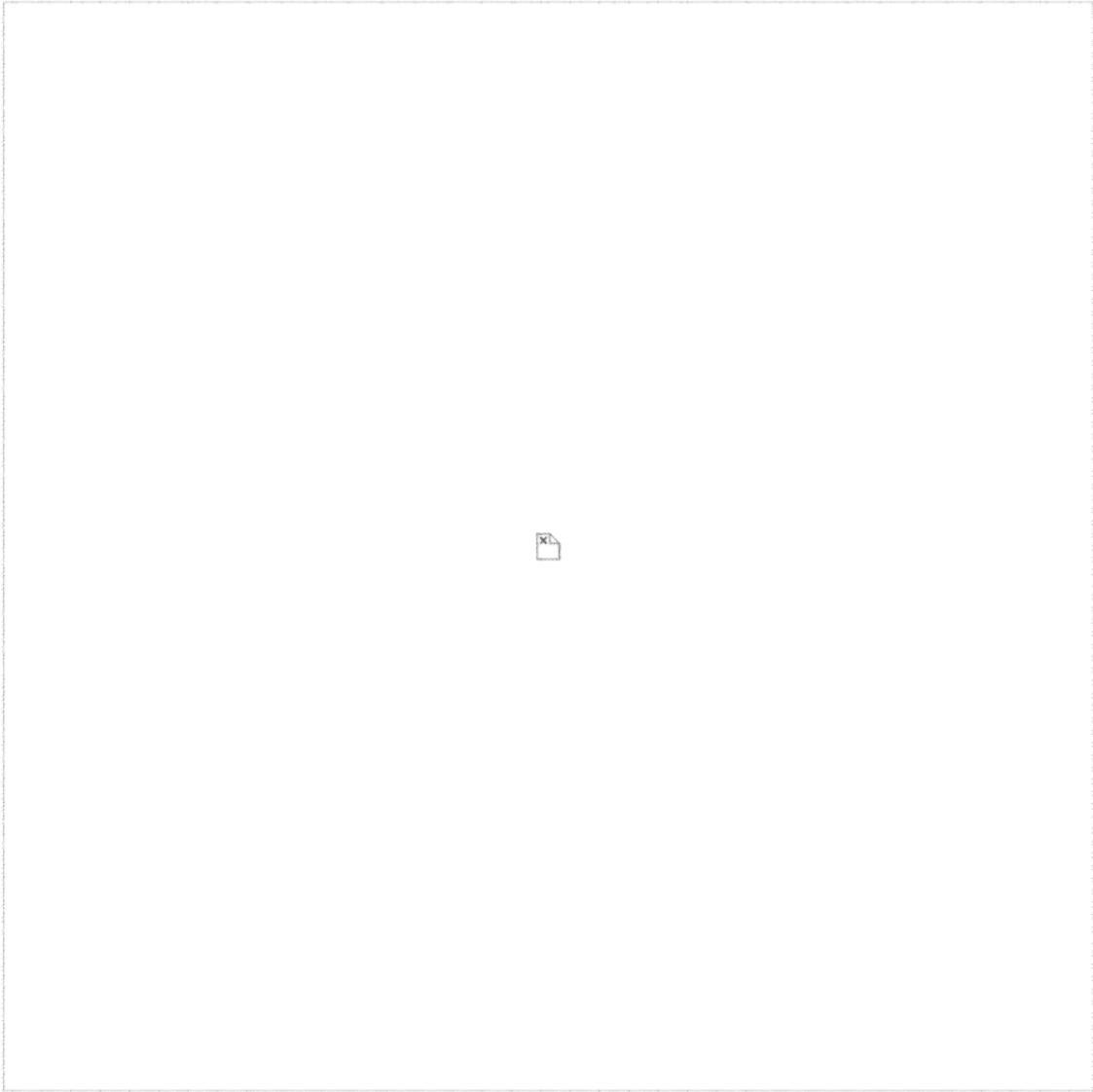
From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 7:44 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Wednesday Morning: Virus disinformation

Re Sinclair.....

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

From: The New York Times <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
Date: July 29, 2020 at 06:49:36 EDT
To: [b6]
Subject: Wednesday Morning: Virus disinformation
Reply-To: nytdirect@nytimes.com

View in browser nytimes.com
[Continue reading the main story](#)

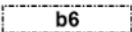


July 29, 2020

SUPPORTED BY 



By David Leonhardt

Good morning. The attorney general spars with Democrats. Tech  prepare for criticism from Congress. And televised conspiracy theories are helping to spread the virus.

Information contagion



The Sinclair Broadcast Group published an interview highlighting baseless arguments by Dr. Judy Mikovits, a discredited scientist. Zuma Press, via Alamy

Sinclair Broadcast Group recently published an online interview with a conspiracy theorist who claimed that Dr. Anthony Fauci created the coronavirus using monkey cells. Sinclair — which operates almost 200 television stations — has also run segments downplaying the severity of the virus.

Fox News has repeatedly run segments promoting ideas that scientists consider false or that question the seriousness of the virus.

Breitbart published a video this week in which a group of doctors claimed that masks were unnecessary and that the drug hydroxychloroquine cured the virus. It received 14 million views in six hours on Facebook, my colleague Kevin Roose reports. (President Trump tweeted a link to it.)

Why is the U.S. enduring a far more severe virus outbreak than any other rich country?

There are multiple causes, but one of them is the size and strength of right-wing media organizations that frequently broadcast falsehoods. The result is confusion among many Americans about scientific facts that are widely accepted, across the political spectrum,

in other countries.

Canada, Japan and much of Europe have no equivalent to Sinclair — whose local newscasts reach about 40 percent of Americans — or Fox News. Germany and France have widely read blogs that promote conspiracy theories. “But none of them have the reach and the funding of Fox or Sinclair,” Monika Pronczuk, a Times reporter based in Europe, told me.

Fox is particularly important, because it has also influenced President Trump’s response to the virus, which has been slower and less consistent than that of many other world leaders. “Trump repeatedly failed to act to tame the spread, even though that would have helped him politically,” The Washington Post’s Greg Sargent has written. The headline on Sargent’s opinion column is: “How Fox News may be destroying Trump’s re-election hopes.”

Another factor creating confusion: The lack of an aggressive response to virus misinformation from Facebook and YouTube. Judd Legum, author of the Popular Information newsletter, has identified some of this misinformation, and the two companies have responded by removing the posts he cited. But Legum told me he had pointed out only a small fraction of the false information, and the companies had done relatively little to remove it proactively.

Twitter took a slightly more aggressive step yesterday, putting temporary limits on the account of Donald Trump Jr. after he shared the false Breitbart video.

C.E.O.s in Congress: Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Tim Cook of Apple, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, and Sundar Pichai of Google’s parent company, Alphabet, will testify today at a House hearing on whether their companies stifle competition. “It has the feeling of tech’s Big Tobacco moment,” one expert said.

The Times’s editorial board has suggested questions lawmakers should ask each executive.

THREE MORE BIG STORIES

1. Barr spars with Congress



Attorney General William Barr testified on Capitol Hill on Tuesday. Pool photo by Matt McClain

Attorney General William Barr clashed with House Democrats in a hostile five-hour hearing.

Barr defended the deployment of federal agents in Portland, Ore., saying that “rioters and anarchists” had “hijacked” peaceful demonstrations. And he denied improperly interfering in criminal cases against Roger Stone and Michael Flynn, two allies of President Trump. Democrats portrayed him as a dangerous political enforcer for the president.

You can watch some of the most contentious exchanges in a Times video.

In other protest developments:

- The deputy director of the F.B.I. called protests against police brutality “a national crisis” in a memo in early June. The memo suggested that some top federal law enforcement officials embraced an aggressive response to the demonstrations from the start.
 - The Minneapolis police believe an umbrella-wielding man who vandalized store windows during a May protest has ties to a white supremacist group and had hoped to foment looting and sow racial unrest.
 - New York City police officers in plain clothes pulled a protester into an unmarked minivan. Critics said they were adopting tactics similar to those used by federal agents in Portland, Ore.; the police said the protester had damaged police cameras near City Hall.
-

2. Experts grow wary

My colleague Donald McNeil interviewed 20 public health experts about the coronavirus pandemic and found “a pervasive sense of sadness and exhaustion.”

He writes: “Where once there was defiance, and then a growing sense of dread, now there seems to be sorrow and frustration, a feeling that so many funerals never had to happen and that nothing is going well.”

In other virus news:

- More than 1,300 Americans died from the virus yesterday, the highest one-day number since late May.

- A recent report, sent to state officials by the White House’s coronavirus task force and obtained by The Times, concluded that 21 states had outbreaks serious enough to justify more restrictions.
 - Trump falsely claimed that “large portions of the country” were “corona-free.”
 - A Times analysis found at least 6,300 virus cases tied to about 270 colleges. And the new academic year has not even begun at most schools.
-

3. A breakthrough in Alzheimer’s research



PET scans of a brain. Zephyr/Science Source

Scientists published a report on a new blood test that has the potential to make diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease simpler, more affordable and widely accessible.

It’s a significant step forward: The test identifies signs of the degenerative disease up to 20 years before memory and thinking problems are expected. Researchers estimate that such tests could become available in two to three years. The tests could speed up the hunt for treatments by screening participants for clinical trials more efficiently than is now possible.

“It’s not a cure, it’s not a treatment, but you can’t treat the disease without being able to diagnose it,” one expert said about the blood test.

Here’s what else is happening

- Netflix secured the most Emmy nominations ever, and more than a third of the acting nominees are Black.
- Universal Pictures and AMC Entertainment, the world’s largest movie chain, have reached a deal to shorten the window between U.S. theaters and streaming services to just 17 days — down from 90. The deal will probably change the way that Hollywood does business.

- The Times's Nate Cohn examined claims that recent polls are failing to interview Trump supporters. Cohn writes: "There are many reasons the polls might ultimately be wrong in November, as many state polls were four years ago, but there's no serious evidence that the polls are systematically missing Republican voters."
- **Lives Lived:** He was a familiar face on "Falcon Crest"; battled Bruce Lee in "Enter the Dragon"; and arm-wrestled Marlon Brando, to whom he was sometimes compared, in "The Appaloosa." John Saxon, who accumulated almost 200 film and TV credits in a career that began in the 1950s, died at 83.

Continue reading the main story

PAID POST: A MESSAGE FROM MOEN

Demand Congress suspend water shutoffs during a global pandemic.

Right now, millions of Americans are experiencing water shutoffs during a global pandemic, making handwashing impossible. Add your name at FoodAndWaterAction.org to demand Congress place a national moratorium on water shutoffs for the nearly 40 percent of Americans still at risk. Congress is expected to vote in the next week, and right now you have the chance to make your voice heard and #UnlockWaterForAll.

ACT NOW

IDEA OF THE DAY: ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Black Americans are more exposed to air pollution than white Americans. And researchers believe that air pollution causes higher rates of lung disease, asthma, heart disease and death from Covid-19.

In The Times Magazine, Linda Villarosa tells the story of Grays Ferry, a South Philadelphia neighborhood where most residents are Black. Created through a combination of redlining and public housing, the neighborhood sits across a highway from an aging oil refinery that produced most of the city's toxic emissions.

Villarosa describes how Grays Ferry residents fought an effort to build a new natural-gas facility — and how that may offer a template for the future of environmental justice

activism.

The racial wealth gap: Joe Biden released an economic plan focused on racial equity yesterday. The proposal would help business owners of color get loans, create a housing tax credit for lower-income Americans and direct clean-energy spending to disadvantaged communities.

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PLAY, WATCH, EAT, PAINT

A go-to vegetarian dinner



Bryan Gardner for The New York Times

For an easy weeknight dinner, try Yasmin Fahr's eye-catching recipe for baked feta with broccolini, tomatoes and lemon. Baking the tangy cheese lends it an almost creamy texture. Serve it with orzo to turn it into a filling meal.

People still love Bob Ross



Photo illustration by The New York Times

The painter Bob Ross grew up in Florida, where he once attempted to heal an injured baby gator in his family's bathtub. He was in the Air Force for 20 years — including 12 in Alaska, where he learned to paint. To save money on haircuts, he got a perm, the hairstyle that would become his signature.

Twenty-five years after his death, the painter with the gentle demeanor is still as popular as ever, providing comfort to fans who may not have even been alive when his TV show

originally aired. In The Atlantic, the writer Michael J. Mooney wrote a tribute to the painter and his enduring appeal.

One of the internet's favorite mysteries: Where are Ross's landscape paintings now? The Times found them.

Timely horror movies



A scene from "Relic." Jackson Finter/IFC Midnight

Horror movies thrive on isolation. Cabins in the woods, sparsely populated small towns, empty motels — these are all places where no one can hear you scream.

If you're itching for some fresh horror films to check out, the critic Jason Zinoman rounded up three new works, all directed by women, that are equal parts thrilling and thoughtful. The through-line that connects them is "a sensitivity to the punishing nature of loneliness and the sinister aspects of solitude," he writes.

Diversions

- Turn your desktop into a calming portal to somewhere else.
 - The late-night hosts discussed the misleading video about hydroxychloroquine that the president and his son retweeted.
-

Games

Here's today's Mini Crossword, and a clue: Dog trick with a paw (five letters).

You can find all of our puzzles here.

Thanks for spending part of your morning with The Times. See you tomorrow. — David

P.S. I'll be interviewing Ai-jen Poo, an advocate for low-wage workers, and Robert Reich, a former labor secretary, about how to create an economy with more good-paying jobs — tomorrow at 5 p.m. Eastern.

You can see today's print front page [here](#).

Today's episode of "The Daily" is about the changing relationship between the U.S. and China.

We'd like your feedback! Please fill out this short form.

Ian Prasad Philbrick and Sanam Yar contributed to The Morning. You can reach the team at themorning@nytimes.com.

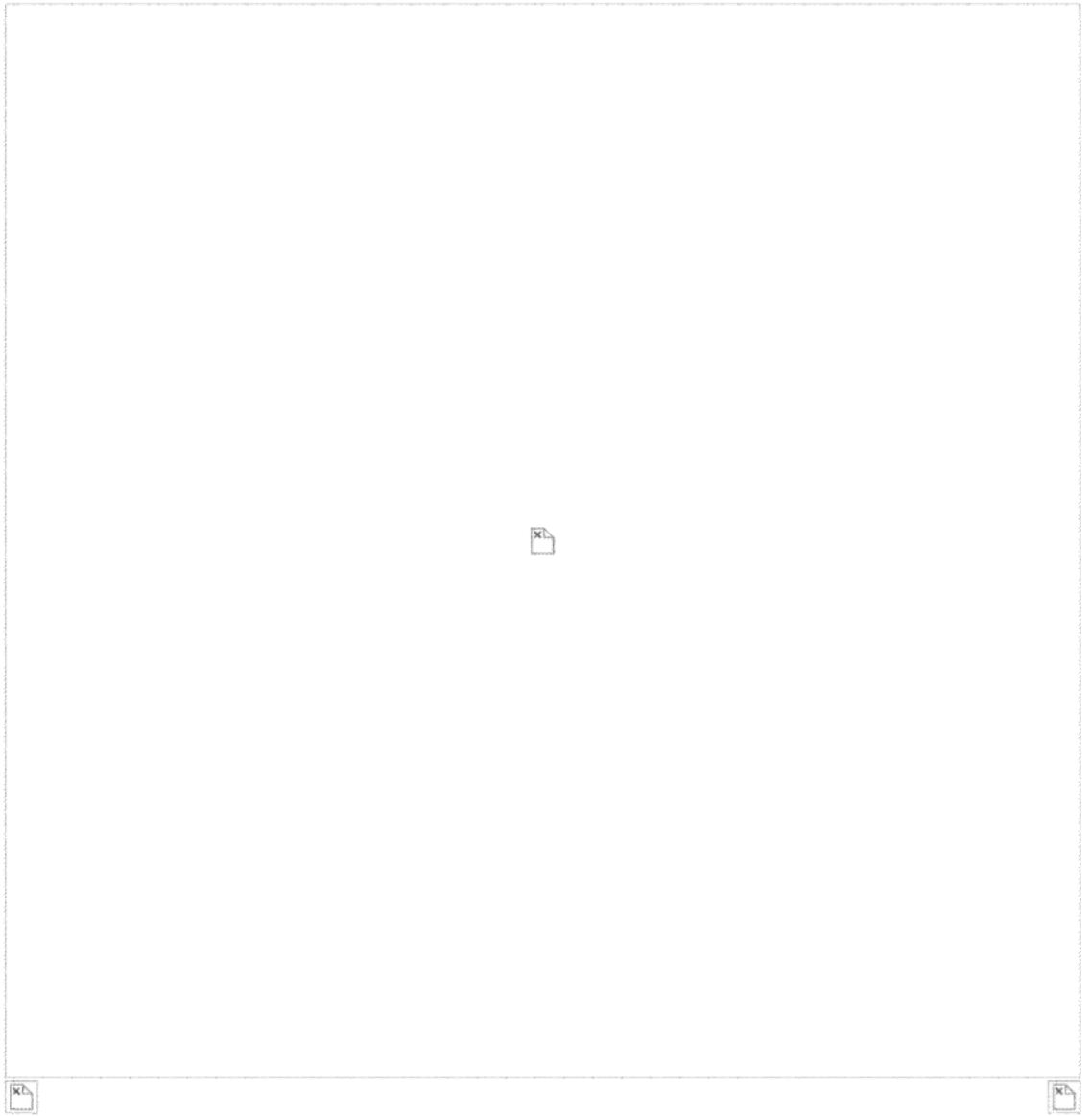


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<Imperiale & Casadevall Rethinking Gain-of-Function Expt in context of COVID mBio 2020.pdf>
<Inglesby & Lipsitch Proposed changes to US policy on PPP mSphere 2020.pdf>

Date: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 5:05:04 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 2 Dec 2021 5:05:00 PM -0500
Subject: RE: follow-up from the NAM
From: "Roberts, Rich" [b6] >
To: Peter Daszak [b6] David Morens [b6] >;
CC: keusch [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Peter:

Fortunately, I never got asked to join so the expense has been spared.

But maybe there is a secret handshake and you failed to participate correctly.

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: Thursday, December 2, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
Cc: keusch [b6] Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Subject: RE: follow-up from the NAM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Well, I am beginning to wonder. It turns out it costs me cash each year, I have a bunch of work to do on committees, and the minute I get publicly vilified, they add fuel to the fire by failing to defend me. What a shambles. Worst of all, like the WHO origins group, and Jeff Sachs' Covid commission – once they start to haul you over the coals, it drives further rounds of publicity and threatens my job, and my family's security.

I didn't even get a secret handshake!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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: Thursday, December 2, 2021 4:42 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: keusch [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]
Subject: RE: follow-up from the NAM

Sometimes it's best not to be a member of these National Academies.

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: Thursday, December 2, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: keusch [b6]; Hotez, Peter Jay [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Subject: Re: follow-up from the NAM

EXTERNAL SENDER

Sad..... One would think the NAM had more integrity than that. Guilty 'til proven innocent. Looking at all this from the outside, it doesn't exactly make your NAM club look like a stellar organization. Sorry to say. Time to go watch the fine movie made of Arthur Miller's play The Crucible, which was about the McCarthy era but presciently also about this one. d

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

On Dec 2, 2021, at 15:34, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Just keeping you abreast of what the NAM are saying. I don't have a response on my request for the specific policy that says I can't take part in NAM activities while these allegations are under review (I suspect there are none).

However I did get the weird email below saying I should keep all this confidential – maybe it's because Victor's seen your email Jerry.

I don't know if they realize that the Republicans already published the letter in full on their website! Maybe I should let her know that.

I also, ironically got a notice to cast my vote for NAM Home Secretary today, so I voted for this person's rival. I'm sure they'd be equally as opaque, but it's at least some empowerment.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena [b6]
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: follow-up

Peter,

The conduct review process is handled with extreme confidentiality within the NAM and I would ask that you also consider it a highly confidential process, not to be shared with anyone.

Elena

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena
Cc: Aleksei Chmura
Subject: RE: follow-up

Thank you for the call today Elena. I've cc'd our Chief-of-Staff, Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who also joined us. I appreciate your explanation and will do my best to adhere to the policies of the NAM as we go through this process.

My only hope is that the review can be as rapid as possible. Our organization has been the focus of a horrific series of political attacks from the hard right wing as part of their political goals regarding Dr. Fauci, NIH and ultimately the Biden administration. These tie up resources and staff answering pages upon pages of false accusations, all carefully worded to give the impression of a thoughtful and sincere inquiry.

Again, I want to reassure you that none of the accusations from Republicans on the House E&C Committee have the slightest bearing in fact. We have acted honorably and with the highest scientific integrity throughout the pandemic, and simply want to be allowed to continue our work without constant, politically-motivated harassment.

sincerely,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

From: Fuentes-Afflick, Elena [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: [b6]
Subject: follow-up

Dr. Daszak,

Thank you for speaking with me this afternoon.

In accordance with the NAM's policy related to conduct, I am writing to inform you that we have received written allegations of misconduct. As we undertake our review process, you are not eligible to participate in any NAM and/or NASEM activities for the duration of the review.

Best,
Elena Fuentes-Afflick

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH

NAM Home Secretary

University of California, San Francisco

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Date: Thu, 27 Feb 2020 9:13:42 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 27 Feb 2020 9:13:28 PM -0500
Subject: Re: Welcome to the Age of Pandemics
From: Richard Yanagihara [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

very sound advice. except that in my estimation much of the time CDC Atlanta wants to be in **total control**. and some state health departments are too timid to question "the word from above".

On Thu, Feb 27, 2020 at 4:09 PM David Morens [b6] wrote:

Guys, my perspective as a PH guy is that 99% of the important public health work is done on the front lines, in the States, counties, and major cities, not at CDC. CDC is like an orchestra conductor that can wave the baton, but not play the instruments. In times of crisis it is important for local public health to step up to the plate. Glance at the conductor when you can but play the damn instruments. dmm

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

On Feb 27, 2020, at 15:20, Tung Hoang [b6] wrote:

Dear Ric,

Thanks for this article!

There is a first case of community acquired COVID-19 in the United States where there has not been any travel history:

<https://wgntv.com/news/cdc- confirms-the-first-us-coronavirus-case-of-unknown-origin/>

We should, in Hawaii, broaden our criteria for patient samples, to send to the CDC, to include patients who have no travel history, because of our thousands of workers in Waikiki and elsewhere who comes into contact with thousands of tourists each day and who may bring this home to their family:

<https://www.khon2.com/top- stories/state-approval-now-required-before-doctors-can-flag-possible-covid-19/>

From what I read and see is that we cannot always depend on the CDC for detection kits for quick diagnosis of our Hawaiian population and tourists. We, as scientist, I wonder should work with the State earlier on (weeks ago) to quickly develop a test kit (in case like this) where disease outbreak move so quickly and our Federal agency move so slowly. With genome sequences of COVID-19 available weeks ago and several of UH's sequencing facilities available and knowing how fast we can order oligonucleotides for RT-PCR/sequencing based diagnosis, I wonder if there is/was something that we could have done using available sequences:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/LR757996>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Browser/wwwtax.cgi?id=2697049>

Not sure why the CDC won't recommend us using the test kits available to Japan, South Korea, and China? Test kit from the CDC may be available in mid-March? Too slow to ease the nervousness of our

community.

As a scientist, I had an ethical thought since the last ebola outbreak; how deadly does a disease outbreak have to be (e.g., ebola) before we break with CDC guidelines and wait for very delayed help, before we start working together on our own (backup Plan B) as a group of experts within the islands. We don't work together enough...

Don't mean to offend anyone; my sincere apologies if I did.

Tung

Tung T. Hoang, PhD
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1960 East-West Road, Rm 415
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<https://microbiology.manoa.hawaii.edu/faculty/tunghoang/>

On Feb 27, 2020, at 7:27 AM, Richard Yanagihara: [b6] wrote:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/27/opinion/coronavirus-pandemics.html>

In early 2018, during a meeting at the World Health Organization in Geneva, a group of experts I belong to (the R&D Blueprint) coined the term "Disease X": We were referring to the next pandemic, which would be caused by an unknown, novel pathogen that hadn't yet entered the human population. As the world stands today on the edge of the pandemic precipice, it's worth taking a moment to consider whether Covid-19 is the disease our group was warning about.

Disease X, we said back then, would likely result from a virus originating in animals and would emerge somewhere on the planet where economic development drives people and wildlife together. Disease X would probably be confused with other diseases early in the outbreak and would spread quickly and silently; exploiting networks of human travel and trade, it would reach multiple countries and thwart containment. Disease X would have a mortality rate higher than a seasonal flu but would spread as easily as the flu. It would shake financial markets even before it achieved pandemic status.

In a nutshell, Covid-19 is Disease X.

Even as there are signs that the epidemic's spread might be slowing in China, multiple communities and countries have now reported sustained transmission in their midst. The number of confirmed cases has exploded in South Korea in recent days. In Italy, villages and towns are on lockdown, Fashion Week in Milan has been disrupted and festivals are being canceled while public health authorities search for patient zero to identify who else is likely infected and may spread the disease in Europe. Iran appears to have become a new hub of transmission. The looming pandemic will challenge us in new ways, as people try to evade quarantines, and misinformation campaigns and conspiracy theorists ply their trade in open democracies.

But as the world struggles to respond to Covid-19, we risk missing the really big picture: Pandemics are on the rise, and we need to contain the process that drives them, not just the individual diseases.

Plagues are not only part of our culture; they are caused by it. [The Black Death](#) spread into Europe in the mid-14th century with the growth of trade [along the Silk Road](#). New strains of influenza have emerged from livestock farming. [Ebola](#), [SARS](#), [MERS](#) and now [Covid-19](#) have been linked to wildlife. Pandemics usually begin as viruses in animals that jump to people when we make contact with them.

These spillovers are increasing exponentially as our ecological footprint brings us closer to wildlife in remote areas and the wildlife trade brings these animals into urban centers. Unprecedented road-building, deforestation, land clearing and agricultural development, as well as globalized travel and trade, make us supremely susceptible to pathogens like coronaviruses.

Yet the world's strategy for dealing with pandemics is woefully inadequate. Across the board, from politicians to the public, we treat pandemics as a disaster-response issue: We wait for them to happen and hope a vaccine or drug can be developed quickly in their aftermath. But even as Covid-19 rages, there still is no vaccine available for the SARS virus of 2002-3, nor for HIV/AIDS or Zika or a host of emerging pathogens. The problem is that between outbreaks, the will to spend money on prevention wanes, and the market for vaccines and drugs against sporadic viral diseases isn't enough to drive research and development.

During its World Health Assembly in 2016, the W.H.O. set up the R&D Blueprint to bridge this gap and announced a priority list of pathogens that most threaten global health and for which no vaccines or drugs were in the pipeline. SARS made the list, as did MERS, Nipah, Ebola and other rare but serious diseases caused by epidemic viruses. The [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) — a global partnership between public, private, philanthropic and civil society organizations launched at Davos in 2017 — stepped up to the plate and sourced funding to develop vaccines and therapeutics against some of these.

To escape from the Age of Pandemics, we'll need to treat them as a public health issue and start working on prevention in addition to responses. Our first goal should be to broaden our armory against potential mass epidemics. When some of us [added "Disease X" to the W.H.O.'s priority list](#) two years ago, we wanted to make the point that it's not sufficient to develop vaccines and drugs for known agents when the next big one is likely to be a different pathogen — a virus close to SARS, say, but not close enough that the same vaccine can work against both.

As Covid-19 strikes today and a spate of other pathogens are ready to emerge in the future, we continue to butt up against nature. Scientists estimate that there are 1.67 million unknown viruses of the type that have previously emerged in people. Discovering and sequencing them should be a priority — a simple case of "know your enemy." In the aftermath of SARS, research on coronaviruses originating in bats has discovered more than 50 related viruses, some of which have the potential to infect people; this information can now be used to test for broad-action vaccines and drugs. Scaling up this effort to cover all viral families, as the [Global Virome Project](#) proposes to do, is a logical first step toward prevention.

A radical shift is also needed in the way that tests, vaccines and drugs are designed so that entire groups of pathogens are targeted instead of individual pathogens that are already known. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States is working on a [universal flu vaccine](#) that would cover all known strains of influenza; a universal coronavirus vaccine, an Ebola-virus vaccine and others will also be needed.

With a smaller investment, we can also try to get ahead of pandemics by working with communities in hot spots of emerging diseases. Disease surveillance should be focused on farmers, rural communities and anyone who has extensive contact with wildlife, to look for unusual illnesses, test for novel pathogens and work with people to develop alternatives to high-risk activities such as the wildlife trade.

Pandemics are like terrorist attacks: We know roughly where they originate and what's responsible for them, but we don't know exactly when the next one will happen. They need to be handled the same way — by identifying all possible sources and dismantling those before the next pandemic strikes.

Peter Daszak is a disease ecologist and the president of EcoHealth Alliance, in New York.

Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 1:38:05 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 30 Mar 2021 1:38:03 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Some good news..
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6] >
To: Roberts, Rich [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] David Morens [b6] >;
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

And as far as I know Alex Azar never even replied to the committee staffers who were to organize his meeting with the committee. This is exactly the issue – HHS and NIH/OD have either not responded or issued perfunctory statements about privileged information. The goal is to be clear what happened and why, and to remedy all of the wrongful actions that have resulted.

Peter/Aleksei do you know if any word of this interest in the EHA case has been out there in the public domain? My wife was reading the NY Times this morning and the issue of grants did not appear in the article(s) she was looking at pertaining to congressional interest in the separation of politics and science. She said it was really about things like pressuring CDC to alter public statements and similar actions across other government agencies (? FDA in mind).

Jerry

From: Roberts, Rich [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:12 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; David Morens [b6] >
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: RE: Some good news..

Peter:

That's great! Very promising. Please share the NL's letter if appropriate.

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: Monday, March 29, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Keusch, Jerry [b6] David Morens [b6]; Roberts, Rich [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Some good news..

EXTERNAL SENDER

I wanted to point out some good news, or the beginnings of potential good news.

I've been doing the rounds trying to generate some political goodwill, given the snarky comments from Anthony Blinken in the State Dept, publicly, about China and the WHO report. Last week I briefed Beth Cameron and others at the NSC/White House, to give them an inside view of what's in the WHO report, which comes out tomorrow. I also briefed staffers at the House Committee on Science, Space & Technology. They told me the Committee chair is very interested in how the Trump White

House intervened politically to block NIH funding and are interested in helping me deal with this issue. I'm going to send them copies of all NIH correspondence, and my response to Michael Lauer once it is submitted. I'll also be briefing the Democratic members of the Committee in the next few weeks. After the call, I remembered that it was this committee that tried to get me to meet with them when the termination first happened, but I didn't respond because I didn't want to be completely crushed by Trump. The Chair did write a letter back then (attached) and here:

<https://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/files/documents/06.26.20%20SST%20EC%20Letter%20to%20HHS.pdf>
Hoping for real traction here...

Secondly, I noticed this great news from Biden's White House that they're setting up a task force to investigate Trump's meddling in science across the board – it's reported in the NYT today: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/29/climate/biden-trump-science.html>

In the article, there's a link to a list of egregious actions that Trump undertook

<https://coronavirus.house.gov/sites/democrats.coronavirus.house.gov/files/10.2.20%20Political%20Interference%20Report%20%281%29.pdf>
(also attached to this email). Delighted to see NIH's action on our grant in there listed on May 1st 2020. Only problem is the sheer volume of egregious acts making this just a small item among many!

Anyway – onwards and upwards...

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: [b6]

Website: 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: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:10 AM

To: 'Keusch, Jerry' [b6]; [b6] 'David Morens' [b6]

Roberts, Rich [b6]

Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [b6]

Subject: Response to Michael Lauer letters

Importance: High

Hi Jerry, David, and Rich

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

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

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

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

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Date: Thu, 19 Aug 2021 10:37:31 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Wpost: How Chinese pressure on coronavirus origins probe shocked the WHO - and led its director to push back
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Robert Kessler [b6]
> Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Attachments: image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg

Texting with the WHO mission team this morning, I mentioned how this mysterious "WHO spokesperson" keeps slagging off the team's work and making stories out of it that suit the DG's politics as he lines up for re-election. I suggested it's probably Gabby Stern, the WHO head of comms, who basically works for Tedros. Peter Ben Embarek confirmed that. It's a very successful political/communications strategy from the WHO DG that began as soon as Biden entered the WH. He undermined the report re. the lab leak publicly right after the Press conference from Wuhan. Despite this article he knew exactly what was in the report and no one "fell off their chair". The DG then publicly criticized it re. the lab leak, got praises from the US State Dept because it helped with their goals of looking tough on China, and then launched his campaign for a second term, no doubt with US backing as opposed to his first campaign. Slick politician, awful public health guy.

By the way, at one point after we returned from Wuhan, the DG openly tried to get us to change the conclusions of our poll that we held in China re. the lab leak, so it would be more likely than "extremely unlikely". Utterly shameless, and of course we refused to do that and pointed out we were reporting results of an actual poll that had already been openly reported on. This led to us (in particular myself and Marion Koopmans) arguing openly with the DG in a very ugly 2 hour zoom call.

Misinformation right from the top at WHO. Most of the senior staff around the DG are ashamed of his political maneuverings – Mike Ryan, Maria van Kerkhove, Peter Ben Embarek and others were very quiet on the zoom call when the DG announced to the team that he'd be setting up a new structure and we'd have to re-apply for membership for Phase 2 through our governments this time.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10018-6507
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Tel.: [b6]
Website: 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: Thursday, August 19, 2021 9:52 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] Kessler, Robert ([b6]
[b6] Keusch, Jerry [b6]
Subject: FW: Wpost: How Chinese pressure on coronavirus origins probe shocked the WHO — and led its director to push back

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
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Building 31, Room 7A-03
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● (b)(6) (assistant: Whitney Robinson)

● (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

● b6

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From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] b6

Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 8:41 AM

Subject: Wpost: How Chinese pressure on coronavirus origins probe shocked the WHO — and led its director to push back

How Chinese pressure on coronavirus origins probe shocked the WHO — and led its director to push back



By
Adam Taylor
Reporter

Today at 12:01 a.m. EDT

You're reading an excerpt from the Today's WorldView newsletter. [Sign up to get the rest free](#), including news from around

the globe, interesting ideas and opinions to know, sent to your inbox every weekday.

>From the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the World Health Organization has been accused of being too soft on China. President Donald Trump last year accused the organization of pushing “China’s misinformation about the virus” as he threatened to withdraw U.S. funding. At one point, Japan’s deputy prime minister labeled it the “China Health Organization.” But a new book that details the relationship between the United States, China and the WHO during the pandemic offers a more nuanced and revealing story. It shows how WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautiously praised China in public while pressuring it in private. And it shows how the Trump administration undermined this tactic with open hostility toward China and the WHO.

“Aftershocks: Pandemic Politics and the End of the Old International Order,” written by Thomas Wright and Colin Kahl and due to be published Tuesday, reveals how Tedros lost patience with China: When a WHO scientist on a coronavirus origins probe announced in February that the idea that the virus leaked from a lab was “extremely unlikely” and unworthy of further investigation, senior WHO staff in Geneva were shocked. “We fell off our chairs,” one member told the authors.

The team in Wuhan appeared to have given in to Chinese pressure to dismiss the idea without a real investigation. Later, when the WHO-China team released a report that again dismissed that scenario, Tedros pushed back, saying that the research was not “extensive enough” and that there had not been “timely and comprehensive data-sharing.”

Since then, relations between the WHO and China have nosedived. Chinese officials said in July that they would not accept any further investigation into the origin of the coronavirus in China and accused the United States of pressuring scientists. The WHO last week released a statement that resisted the idea that “the origins study has been politicized, or that WHO has acted due to political pressure.”

Wright is a scholar at the Brookings Institution who focuses on America’s global relationships, and Kahl was recently confirmed as undersecretary of defense for policy in the Biden administration. In an interview, Wright said researching for the book revealed how the WHO’s cautious approach toward China was at odds with the Trump administration’s brash style, though both were driven by legitimate concerns about China under President Xi Jinping.

The World Health Assembly, a representative body of WHO member states, approved an investigation into the pandemic’s origins in May 2020. Soon an international team of experts led by WHO official Peter Ben Embarek was convened to travel to Wuhan, the virus’s epicenter, to work with Chinese colleagues.

As the pandemic worsened, it became clear this path would be difficult. Trump had initially praised Xi’s handling of the outbreak in Wuhan. But as the virus surged in the United States in spring 2020, Trump recognized the political peril it presented him and turned on China.

The virus’s origins in Wuhan were particularly disputed. Though some scientists said the virus probably spread from bats to humans via an unknown third animal — zoonotic spread — influential members of the Trump administration pushed the idea that the virus could have inadvertently leaked from a laboratory in Wuhan, implying China was at fault.

WHO member states had authorized a probe that was specifically focused on zoonotic spread, but even this was difficult. The arrival of the team was delayed. After four weeks in Wuhan, including two in quarantine, Ben Embarek said in a Feb. 9 news conference that the group had ruled that indirect zoonotic spread was “likely” and a lab leak was “extremely unlikely” and not worthy of further investigation.

Wright and Kahl report that WHO leadership in Geneva were “stunned” by their colleague’s statement. They did not believe the team that went to Wuhan had the access or data to rule out the lab-leak theory. Tedros told the investigative team this, the book reports, but the team was “defensive,” describing pressure from Chinese officials that led to a compromise.

In a documentary released last week, Ben Embarek described how Chinese officials had wanted no mention of a lab leak at all. The scenario was only included “on the condition we didn’t recommend any specific studies to further that hypothesis,” he said. Despite Tedros’s criticism, when the probe’s findings were released in a report in March, it repeated that the lab scenario was “extremely unlikely.” Afterward, according to the book, the WHO director general told China’s envoy in Geneva that he would tell the truth about the report “even if China did not like it.”

Accounts of Tedros’s belated shift on China may be unlikely to win over his critics. One senior Trump official told Wright and Kahl that the WHO only got tough on China after Trump left office because the impulsive Republican had provided Tedros the “cover” of a “pantomime villain.”

But there’s little evidence a U.S.-backed tough approach would have worked either. According to Wright, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a lab-leak theory proponent, “undermined it by taking it too far,” diminishing support from allies. Though some Trump officials recognized the pandemic’s gravity early on, they viewed it through the prism of a “China problem,” rather than a public health emergency, Wright said.

“That U.S.-China rivalry really shaped everything else,” he added.

As an international organization with limited powers, the WHO is beholden to its member states. “The U.S. has to engage with the WHO, work with China at the WHO, push for WHO reforms, but ultimately it has to recognize that these reforms are very unlikely to take root because China and maybe others as well won’t commit to higher levels of transparency,” Wright said.

A Trump-era plan for an alternative — dubbed “America’s Response to Outbreaks” — faltered because of bureaucratic issues and the president’s own uninterest. Wright and Kahl call for an alternative called the Global Alliance for Pandemic Preparedness, wherein like-minded nations could supplement the WHO’s work.

As for the WHO-backed probe into the coronavirus’s origins? Beijing told foreign diplomats last week that the March report

calling a lab leak unlikely must be “respected,” while U.S. intelligence is nearing the end of a 90-day deadline set by President Biden to reveal more about the virus’s origin.

At a media briefing on Wednesday, WHO emergencies chief Mike Ryan said the organization was working behind the scenes to increase confidence in an investigation, and “we are making headway on that, but I have to admit, that has not been easy.”

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Date: Fri, 4 Dec 2020 12:04:49 AM -0500

Sent: Fri, 4 Dec 2020 12:04:46 AM -0500

Subject: Politico

From: Peter Daszak: [REDACTED] b6

To: David Morens [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED] b6 Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] b6

Just spotted this from Politico below. I don't know who the people proposed from the USA for the WHO mission were – it says one each from CDC, NIH, FDA. I'm Already receiving huge harassment online for my involvement, and am talking with FBI about how to get protected re. expected mail attacks and potential for actual violence. Particularly worrisome because I'll be in China for a few weeks and that will be known publicly, leaving my family worrying about cars parked near the house etc.

I'm now speaking openly with reporters to let them know that I've already had my home address posted online and a white powder letter sent to my home a couple of months ago. The conspiracy theorists, QAnon freaks, and MAGA crowd are openly citing the NIH letter with demands for EHA to investigate Wuhan in support of their cause. I hope Francis Collins is proud of himself.

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/global-pulse/2020/11/12/covid-vaccine-could-test-bidens-global-leadership-490875>

SOME MYSTERY SURROUNDING WHO

CHINA MISSION — WHO boss Tedros Adhanom

Ghebreyesus on Tuesday listed the U.S. among the countries sending experts to China to investigate the origins of the pandemic. The other countries are Russia, Australia, Sudan, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Vietnam and the U.K.

It's not clear how many of those are Americans, or what their affiliations are. A spokesperson at the Department of Health and Human Services said the U.S. government sent the WHO three names — from the CDC, the National Institutes of Health and the FDA — but none were contacted by the WHO. "If there is an American included on the origins panel, it is not one of the 3 [U.S. government] recommendations," the spokesperson said.

The WHO declined to comment on its selection process.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

Date: Wed, 22 Sep 2021 7:31:43 AM -0400

Sent: Wed, 22 Sep 2021 7:31:38 AM -0400

Subject: Re: (TEL) Wuhan Scientists Planned to Release coronaviruses Into

From: Peter Daszak: [REDACTED] b6

To: Jason Gale [REDACTED] b6

CC: [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED] b6
David Morens [REDACTED] b6

You have to look at the silver lining to this - apparently Matt (viscount) Ridley has been trying to get answers from me for over a year and my lack of response has made him "furious". I consider that a modest "win".

What a total prick that guy is.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
(Sent from my iPhone)

President
EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA

[REDACTED] b6

On Sep 22, 2021, at 3:09 AM, Jason Gale (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:) <j.gale@bloomberg.net > wrote:

The latest installment, jfyi

Wuhan Scientists Planned to Release coronaviruses Into Cave Bats 18 Months Before Outbreak
2021-09-21 17:14:22.531 GMT

By Sarah Knapton, Science Editor

(Telegraph) -- Wuhan scientists were planning to release enhanced airborne coronaviruses into Chinese bat populations to inoculate them against diseases that could jump to humans, leaked grant proposals dating from 2018 show.

New documents show that just 18 months before the first Covid-19 cases appeared, researchers had submitted plans to release skin-penetrating nanoparticles containing "novel chimeric spike proteins" of bat coronaviruses into cave bats in Yunnan, China.

They also planned to create chimeric viruses, genetically enhanced to infect humans more easily, and requested \$14million from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa) to fund the work.

Papers, confirmed as genuine by a former member of the Trump administration, show they were hoping to introduce “human-specific cleavage sites” to bat coronaviruses which would make it easier for the virus to enter human cells.

When Covid-19 was first genetically sequenced, scientists were puzzled about how the virus had evolved such a human-specific adaptation at the cleavage site on the spike protein, which is the reason it is so infectious.

The documents were released by Drastic, the web-based investigations team set up by scientists from across the world to look into the origins of Covid-19.

In a statement, Drastic said: “Given that we find in this proposal a discussion of the planned introduction of human-specific cleavage sites, a review by the wider scientific community of the plausibility of artificial insertion is warranted.”

The proposal also included plans to mix high-risk natural coronavirus strains with more infectious but less dangerous varieties.

The bid was submitted by British zoologist Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance, the US-based organisation, which has worked closely with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) researching bat coronaviruses.

Team members included Dr Shi Zhengli, the WIV researcher dubbed “bat woman”, pictured below, as well as US researchers from the University of North Carolina and the United States Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Centre.

Darpa refused to fund the work, saying: “It is clear that the proposed project led by Peter Daszak could have put local communities at risk”, and warned that the team had not properly considered the dangers of enhancing the virus (gain of function research) or releasing a vaccine by air.

Grant documents show that the team also had some concerns about the vaccine programme and said they would “conduct educational outreach ... so that there is a public understanding of what we are doing and why we are doing it, particularly because of the practice of bat-consumption in the region”.

Angus Dalgleish, Professor of Oncology at St Georges, University of London, who struggled to get work published showing that the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) had been carrying out “gain of function” work for years before the pandemic, said the research may have gone ahead even without the funding.

“This is clearly a gain of function, engineering the cleavage site and polishing the new viruses to enhance human cell infectibility in more than one cell line,” he said.

Daszak was also behind a letter published in The Lancet last year which effectively shut down scientific debate into the origins of Covid-19.

Viscount Ridley, who has co-authored a book on the origin of Covid-19, due for release in November, and who has frequently called for a further investigation into what caused the pandemic in the House of Lords, said: "For more than a year I tried repeatedly to ask questions of Peter Daszak with no response.

"Now it turns out he had authored this vital piece of information about virus work in Wuhan but refused to share it with the world. I am furious. So should the world be.

"Peter Daszak and the EcoHealth Alliance (EHA) proposed injecting deadly chimeric bat coronaviruses collected by the Wuhan Institute of Virology into humanised and 'batified' mice, and much, much more."

A Covid-19 researcher from the World Health Organisation (WHO), who wished to remain anonymous, said it was alarming that the grant proposal included plans to enhance the more deadly disease of Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (Mers).

"The scary part is they were making infectious chimeric Mers viruses," the source said.

"These viruses have a fatality rate over 30 per cent, which is at least an order of magnitude more deadly than Sars-CoV-2.

"If one of their receptor replacements made Mers spread similarly, while maintaining its lethality, this pandemic would be nearly apocalyptic."

EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology have been approached for comment.

-0- Sep/21/2021 17:14 GMT

To view this story in Bloomberg click here:

<https://blinks.bloomberg.com/news/stories/QZSNVY33O5C1>

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Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 11:21:19 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 11:21:16 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Politico story
From: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
To: Jerry Keusch [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6]; Nancye Green [b6]; David Morens [b6]

Thanks so much, Jerry!

We have posted the longer statement online here:

<https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2020/04/regarding-nih-termination-of-coronavirus-research-funding-ecohealthalliance.org>

Cheers,

-Aleksei

On Apr 28, 2020, at 10:54, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Hi Alexi and Robert,

Has any news outlet picked up on the Politico story yet? Have they called you? Did you issue the longer statement (send me the final version when you have a chance)?

I expect to be talking with Peggy Hamburg this afternoon about AAAS getting involved.

Jerry

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:39 AM
To: David Morens [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6] >; Nancye Green <[b6]>; Robert Kessler <[b6]>
Subject: Re: Politico story

Thanks, David.

I confirm receipt.

I note that our cancelled Coronavirus award is still listed on page 42!

Cheers,

-Aleksei

On Apr 28, 2020, at 06:37, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

this and prior email, re new NIAID implementation plan, released last night d

Let me know if you got these docs, am having trouble with home
gmail david

David M. Morens, MD

b6

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

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

On Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 11:37 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Hello Nancy,

I am in touch with various colleagues to determine the best response from the scientific community. Its late tonight and not much will happen until tomorrow, but when people read this and other reports sure to follow there will be concern and consternation. It cannot be left as it is. Lauer and Francis Collins will have to own this, and it will not be pretty for them. Francis will lost the respect of the scientific community – whether he is personally involved or not he is the head and therefore responsible for its actions. Lauer will be the fall guy. So be it.

Friends of EHA will stay in close touch with Peter and through you with the Board. Let us know as well if there are additional ways we can come to the support of the organization, scientific integrity, and the integrity of science.

Jerry Keusch

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:13 PM
To: [b6] David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: Politico story
Importance: High

Dear All,

I'm introducing you to Nancy Green, the Chair of our Board. David Morens – you both met at the Smithsonian Exhibit opening. Nancy – David is in the Office of the Director NIAID, reporting to Tony Fauci and a long time mentor of mine. Jerry Keusch is the Head of the Boston University Biosecurity Level 4 lab, former Director of the NIH Fogarty International Center, and another of my 'mentors'.

This is the story from Politico, with our statement embedded. It's not a rip-roaring call to arms for the defense of scientific integrity, but it's a start and at least exonerates us of any wrong doing. I'm hoping that powerful voices will now speak out and try to crush this political interference in work that was defined to protect our national

health and security.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/27/trump-cuts-research-bat-human-virus-china-213076>

I'll be reaching out to Jim Hughes and Rita Colwell tonight to set up a call.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
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Tel.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

<NIAID COVID-19 Full Weekly Update 4.27.20.docx>

Date: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 6:43:23 AM -0400

Subject: Fwd: More ammo from Ralph Baric.

From: David Morens [REDACTED]

To: Jeffery Taubenberger [REDACTED]

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

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

Date: April 29, 2020 at 23:24:42 EDT

To: Gerald T Keusch [REDACTED], David Morens [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED], Robert Kessler [REDACTED]

>

Subject: More ammo from Ralph Baric.

Here's more from Ralph Baric (who was on CNN Don Lemon Show tonight – aka The Resistance):

The problem with emerging disease countermeasure development is that you don't know what is going to emerge from the zoonotic reservoir. Thus, 1 drug-1 bug is a weak approach and you need to develop a broad based inhibitor. To make a countermeasure for an unknown coronavirus of the future, you need: 1) a panel of contemporary strains, 2) a panel of epidemic strains (e.g., SARS1 and MERS), 3) a panel of high risk Bt-CoV poised for human emergence (e.g., WIV1 and SHC014 – the viruses we discovered with PREDICT and NIAID funding) and 4) truly highly variable zoonotic SARS-like and MERS-like viruses that are very distant (e.g., SARS-like HKU3 and MERS-like HKU5). The idea is like an encyclopedia ...if you have a drug that works against volumn A (SARS) and the most distant relative available, volumn Z (HKU3), as well as everything else that is extremely different, then you have a good bet that it will work against the unknown (SARS2).

Remdesivir had all these properties (first two papers, below), the second drug NHC, also had the same properties. Hence the zoonotic strains identified by EcoHealth through NIH and PREDICT funding, allowed us to: i) identify the right candidates to resurrect, ii) resurrect them in the laboratory, and iii) show the broad spectrum drug worked. To some extent, you can't do this without that funding.

The social media attention scores on all three of these papers are off the charts, top 99.9+% most viewed papers in science over some timepoint. I'd say NIAID and PREDICT funding was pretty damn important to developing drugs (and vaccines) against emerging viruses of the future.

Ralph

[Comparative therapeutic efficacy of remdesivir and combination lopinavir, ritonavir, and interferon beta against MERS-CoV.](#)

Sheahan TP, Sims AC, Leist SR, Schäfer A, Won J, Brown AJ, Montgomery SA, Hogg A, Babusis D, Clarke MO, Spahn JE, Bauer L, Sellers S, Porter D, Feng JY, Cihlar T, Jordan R, Denison MR, Baric RS.

Nat Commun. 2020 Jan 10;11(1):222.

[Broad-spectrum antiviral GS-5734 inhibits both epidemic and zoonotic coronaviruses.](#)

Sheahan TP, Sims AC, Graham RL, Menachery VD, Gralinski LE, Case JB, Leist SR, Pyrc K, Feng JY, Trantcheva I,

Bannister R, Park Y, Babusis D, Clarke MO, Mackman RL, Spahn JE, Palmiotti CA, Siegel D, Ray AS, Cihlar T, Jordan R, Denison MR, Baric RS.
Sci Transl Med. 2017 Jun 28;9(396). pii: eaal3653.

An orally bioavailable broad-spectrum antiviral inhibits SARS-CoV-2 in human airway epithelial cell cultures and multiple coronaviruses in mice.

Sheahan TP, Sims AC, Zhou S, Graham RL, Pruijssers AJ, Agostini ML, Leist SR, Schäfer A, Dinnon KH 3rd, Stevens LJ, Chappell JD, Lu X, Hughes TM, George AS, Hill CS, Montgomery SA, Brown AJ, Bluemling GR, Natchus MG, Saindane M, Kolykhalov AA, Painter G, Harcourt J, Tamin A, Thornburg NJ, Swanstrom R, Denison MR, Baric RS.
Sci Transl Med. 2020 Apr 6. pii: eabb5883.

Cheers,

Peter

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

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

Date: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 9:32:44 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 9:32:42 PM -0400
Subject: FW: Statement on Political Interference in Peer-Reviewed Federal Research Grants
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6] >;

I just sent the email below to Victor. I know you've pushed for more, but I wanted to strongly thank him for speaking out.

I will also want to continue to thank you for everything you're doing. I'll fill you in on progress later this week, but we're working behind the scenes in a bunch of ways and I do have a plan that involves near-, mid- and long-term goals. The latter, of course, includes calling for What's-his-name's resignation, suing NIH and getting the grant back + defamation of character funds...

Now off for another pandemic brew...(and no, I'm not talking about gain-of-function chimeric viral cultures here!)

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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Tel.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

From: Peter Daszak
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 9:28 PM
To: 'Dzau, Victor J.' [b6]
Cc: 'Kanarek, Morgan' [b6]; 'Nancye Green' [b6] >; Jim Hughes [b6]
[b6] >; 'Rita Colwell' [b6]
Subject: RE: Statement on Political Interference in Peer-Reviewed Federal Research Grants
Importance: High

Dear Victor,

I want to personally thank you for standing up and speaking out about this issue by releasing the statement below. I realize that, unfortunately, you're doing a lot of this right now, given the unparalleled times we're living through, with a pandemic raging, police brutality driving tragedy around us, and with an Administration that seems to relish in using all of these issues for political gain.

Speaking out against decisions made by this Administration takes bravery. It is clear to those of us who have been personally targeted that there is an aggressive, vindictive and well-funded machine that is prepared to come after you if you protest. Given EcoHealth Alliance's dependence on Federal funding and donor support, we have tried to avoid these attacks as much as

possible, even though that means biting our tongues and stepping back from what we would normally do to challenge this decision. Your letter, and the personal risk you have taken in publishing it, represents the very best of us by voicing the outrage we feel about this action. On behalf of our staff and Board (which includes my Board Chair, Nancy Green, NAM member Jim Hughes, and NAS member Rita Colwell, cc'd here), I am eternally grateful for your bravery, dignity and diplomacy.

As I have said to reporters on more than one occasion, the action taken by NIH, clearly at the direction of the White House via Secretary Azar, is not only about one grant, or threats to collaborative research with China. The greater issue is about the integrity of the peer review system for NIH funding of US biomedical research – something that I believe our Nation leads the world in. Once political expediency is allowed to undermine this process, not only does our science lose, but the health of our citizens is threatened, and our standing globally.

Thank you again, and for all you do on behalf of NAM, and your leadership in health science globally.

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

From: Dzau, Victor J. [b6]
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 3:51 PM
To: NAM_MEMBERS@LSW.NAS.EDU
Subject: Statement on Political Interference in Peer-Reviewed Federal Research Grants

Dear NAM Members,

I am writing today to share with you my public "[Statement on Political Interference in Peer-Reviewed Federal Research Grants.](#)" Many of you have written to express your concern over the sudden [termination of NAM member Peter Daszak's NIH grant on Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence](#). Indeed, the termination of such timely and important research without apparent due process sets a dangerous precedent. The progress of science must not be subject to any political motive. As scientists and leaders of scientific organizations, I believe we have an obligation to defend the independence and integrity of our process – for the good of field and the good of humanity.

Please reach out with your comments and suggestions.
Sincerely,
Victor

To unsubscribe from the NAM_MEMBERS list, click the following link:

<http://forums.nas.edu/scripts/wa.exe?TICKET=NzM3NjE0IERhc3pha0BFQ09IRUFMVEhBTEtJQU5DRS5PUkcgTkF&c=SIGNOFF>