

Date: Thu, 27 Aug 2020 11:32:23 PM -0400
 Sent: Thu, 27 Aug 2020 11:32:20 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: STAT: NIH awards \$7.5 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, months after uproar over political interference
 From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
 To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6]
 Attachments: image001.jpg

Very happy to see this announced today. Just hoping that the errant scheisters on One America News Network don't start banging the drum so loud that the Orange Blob decides to decapitate this one also....

Thanks for your kind words, and of course there's a kick-back. It starts with 5 more years of FoIA requests (Jean Patterson told me they received a nasty phone call over a month ago when it went up on NIHReporter.gov from the person who FoIA'd our R01). I just hope it doesn't culminate in 5 years in Federal jail, or even Chinese 're-education camp'....

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: Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:54 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]
Subject: Fwd: STAT: NIH awards \$7.5 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, months after uproar over political interference

Ahem.... do i get a kickback???? Too much fooking money! DO you deserve it all? Let's discuss.... Seriously, this is great news. Well deserved..., There is still justice in a Trump-infected universe.... d

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: August 27, 2020 at 18:04:15 EDT

To: NIAID COG CORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>, NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>, NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>

Subject: STAT: NIH awards \$7.5 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, months after uproar over political interference

NIH awards \$7.5 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, months after uproar over political interference

By [HELEN BRANSWELL](#) @[HelenBranswell](#) AUGUST 27, 2020

[Reprints](#)





YE AUNG THU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$7.5 million grant to EcoHealth Alliance, a nonprofit organization focused on finding unknown viruses in nature, months after the cancellation of an earlier award to the group prompted an outcry over political interference.

EcoHealth had previously established a partnership with a virology laboratory in Wuhan, China — the city where the Covid-19 pandemic is believed to have begun — under the terms of a five-year grant from the NIH. That grant was due to run through 2024 but was abruptly canceled in April.

At the time, conspiracy theories were emerging that suggested that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, was either accidentally or deliberately released from the lab in Wuhan. There is no proof to support the theories, but the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [confirmed in April](#)

that U.S. intelligence was investigating the claims. And at a news conference that month, President Trump, when asked about the EcoHealth grant, pledged to “end that grant very quickly.”

The NIH later told EcoHealth Alliance that its project — part of which involved looking for new coronaviruses in bats and other animal species in China — no longer fit with the NIH’s priorities and program goals.

The cancellation was roundly criticized, with 77 U.S. Nobel laureates and 31 scientific societies writing to NIH leadership in protest, demanding that the decision be reviewed.

Earlier this summer the NIH told EcoHealth its grant could be restored if the organization met a number of prerequisites, including securing access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology for U.S. investigators, and a virus sample from Wuhan — conditions the organization is unlikely to be able to meet.

The suggestion that EcoHealth’s work no longer fit NIH priorities appears to be at a minimum ironic, given that at the time its award was canceled, the group was in an evaluation process for the grant announced Thursday. Research teams and institutes that wanted to be considered for part of a new network — called the Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases or CREID — had to apply in the spring of 2019.

EcoHealth was chosen as one of 11 institutions or research teams to be funded for work to determine how and where viruses and other new pathogens emerge from nature to begin infecting people. EcoHealth’s portion of the five-year, \$82 million award will focus on Southeast Asia and the emergence of coronaviruses; filoviruses, the family responsible for Ebola; and paramyxoviruses, a family of viruses that includes measles and mumps.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, part of the NIH, said the new network will help the world prepare for future Covid-19 like events.

“The CREID network will enable early warnings of emerging diseases wherever they occur, which will be critical to rapid responses,” Fauci said in a statement.

EcoHealth President Peter Daszak, the principal investigator for the organization’s grant, was not immediately available for comment.

But researchers heading other centers in the network, were enthusiastic about the project.

“By improving our knowledge of how new and old pathogens emerge — while building out our capacity for detecting them rapidly — we’re going to be in a much better place,” said Kristian Andersen, an immunologist at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif., whose center will focus on West Africa.

Nikos Vasilakis, of the University of Texas Medical Branch, in Galveston, was named principal investigator of a center that will focus on the emergence of arboviruses — viruses that are spread by mosquitoes or other insect vectors — in Central and South America.

Vasilakis said the need for better coordination of this kind of work became apparent during the 2015-2016 Zika outbreak. “Zika made it that we need a more coordinated effort on a global scale,” he said.

Date: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 7:12:19 PM -0400
 Sent: Tue, 15 Sep 2020 7:12:17 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: New (non-peer reviewed) report on origin of SARS-CoV-2
 From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
 To: David Morens [b6] >;
 CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >;
 Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg
 Amen to that good sirs!

I'm not riled up any more than normal - just my simmering anger that I've been depending on for the last 40 yrs to keep me going. Don't forget I'm from Manchester, England, where the cloud base is 500ft all summer long, if it isn't raining...

Just put my "I'm ridin' with Biden" magnetic sticker on my car and keeping my fingers crossed that 'Merica will do the right thing and save the Constitution on Nov 3rd (or a month later when the Supreme Court decides the result...)...

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 15, 2020 5:31 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: New (non-peer reviewed) report on origin of SARS-CoV-2

I don't know this lady, i think clearly she is mentally ill or wacko in some other way. I didn't send it to rile you up, i was hoping for an eye roll and a laugh. But you are right, no matter how nutty it is yet another opportunity for the lunatic fringe to pile on. When will this end? Let's hope NLT 20 January 2021! D

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

On Sep 15, 2020, at 17:19, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

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.: [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, September 15, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: FW: New (non-peer reviewed) report on origin of SARS-CoV-2

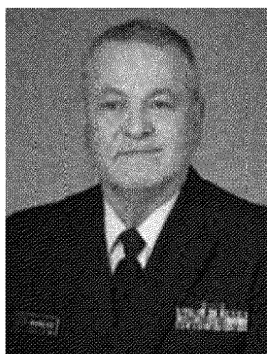
David

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)

● 301 496 4409

● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Park, Jaekeun (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>
 [b6] Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Kash, John (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
 [b6] Qi, Li (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Xiao, Yongli (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>
 [b6]; Williams, Stephanie (NIH/NIAID) [F] [b6]; Gygli, Sebastian (NIH/NIAID) [F] <[b6]>
Subject: FYI: New (non-peer reviewed) report on origin of SARS-CoV-2

Date: Fri, 22 May 2020 1:13:42 PM -0400
 Sent: Fri, 22 May 2020 1:13:41 PM -0400
 Subject: Fwd: WOW! FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant
 From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
 To: keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Bryan Morens [b6] >;
 Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

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

Subject: FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

Date: Fri, 22 May 2020 17:12:09 +0000

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

To: David Morens [b6]

İ½

İ½

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)

● 301 496 4409

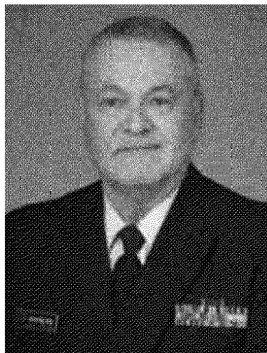
● [b6]

İ½

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email.

If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.

İ½



1/2

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

b6

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:37 PM

Subject: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

1/2

Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

By [Science News Staff](#) May. 21, 2020 , 6:40 PM

Seventy-seven U.S. scientists who have won a Nobel Prize today asked Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, and Alex Azar, secretary of Health and Human Services, to act urgently to review a controversial NIH decision to terminate a grant that supported research into bat coronaviruses in China. NIH's explanation for killing the grant was preposterous, the laureates write.

Thirty-one scientific societies have also written to Collins, calling on NIH to be transparent about their decision-making process on this matter. The action taken by the NIH must be immediately reconsidered.

On 24 April, NIH informed the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, led by wildlife disease specialist Peter Daszak, that it was ending a grant, first awarded in 2014 and renewed in 2019 because it no longer aligned with the agency's priorities. The move came after Conservative U.S. politicians and media suggested without evidence that the coronavirus causing the pandemic escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, that employs a Chinese virologist who had received funding from the grant. The termination also came 1 week after President Donald Trump, when asked about the project at a press conference, said: We will end that grant very quickly.

In their letter, the Nobel laureates say they are gravely concerned about that decision. We believe that this action sets a dangerous precedent by interfering in the conduct of science and jeopardizes public trust in the process of awarding federal funds for research. Now is precisely the time when we need to support this kind of research if we aim to control the pandemic and prevent subsequent ones.

They write that despite the high relevance of the studies to the current pandemic, and despite the very high priority score that his application for renewal had received during peer review, the NIH informed Dr. Daszak and his colleagues that the grant was being terminated because NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities. Such explanations are preposterous under the circumstances.

Azar and Collins should, they write, act urgently to conduct and release a thorough review of the actions that led to the decision to terminate the grant, and that, following this review take appropriate steps to rectify the injustices that may have been committed in revoking it.

The signers of the letter include researchers who won a Nobel Prize as recently as 2019, and as long ago as 1975.

The letter from the scientific societies was organized by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). Our aim with this effort is to stand up for a scientific enterprise that should be free of political influence on sound scientific research, said Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for ASBMB, in a statement. The continued politicization of science during this pandemic crisis is an alarming trend that is risking not only the integrity of science, but also the lives of citizens.

Posted in:

- [Science and Policy](#)
- [Coronavirus](#)

doi:10.1126/science.abc9393

Science News Staff

1/2

1/2

Disclaimer: 1/2 Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. 1/2 It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

1/2

Date: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 9:24:46 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 9:24:43 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Great to hear that this is something ASTMH is concerned about. As a member of good standing (!), I really appreciate anything they can do to nudge...

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 7:41 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.

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] b6

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 1:59:37 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 1:59:36 PM -0400
Subject: RE: URGENT: Quick Chat at 4pm today?
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

This provoked one of the few laughs I have had in the past 24 hours. Thanks. If you decide to read any of the NASEM report on BTRP and its future let me know how it resonates with you.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: URGENT: Quick Chat at 4pm today?

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

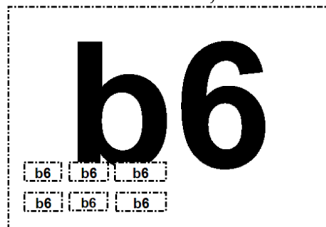
On 4/27/2020 7:06 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

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



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: Tue, 5 May 2020 7:19:47 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Dennis Carroll [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
Attachments: image002.png; image001.jpg

Thanks, Dennis, I think we need all the rooting wed can get! david

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 Tue, May 5, 2020 at 7:18 PM Dennis Carroll [b6] > wrote:
 David, you can include me as rooting for Tony, and you, and all of NIH

d

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 6:36 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

There's a lot of people really hoping Tony wins this one.

Thanks for sharing.

From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Jerry, i doubt Tony is saying go ahead and fire me, but i think he is pushing his balancing act. Probably he

hopes to stay one step ahead of eliciting Trump's firing wrath. Lots of others have played that game and lost, and if Tony wins, he'll be the first. But it is probably the right strategy to adopt. D

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 5, 2020, at 18:22, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I'm glad to see this. But I am also concerned. Trump is showing there is no limit to his paranoia. Firing the HHS IG and preventing Tony from talking to the House but allowing him to go to the Senate is just an indicator. Is Tony now saying, in a way, go ahead and fire me because I won't take this shit any more?

A lot of people are hoping and waiting for that. Is this pushback somewhat off the front page the strategy? Anyway, as my wife so often and so correctly tells me I have to read it before I can opine on it – whatever it happens to be.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:15 PM

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

[b6]

Subject: RE: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Importance: High

Most important of all he stated that he doesn't buy the 'accidental lab release' hypothesis either – for the first time.

He's a hero to me, my wife and to our whole family.

We have our 'Fauci Mug' to prove that (see attached image). Please show that to the great man himself if there's an opportune moment over the next few weeks.

Cc'ing Dennis and Jerry on this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street

New York, NY 10001

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:02 AM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 >
Subject: Fwd: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

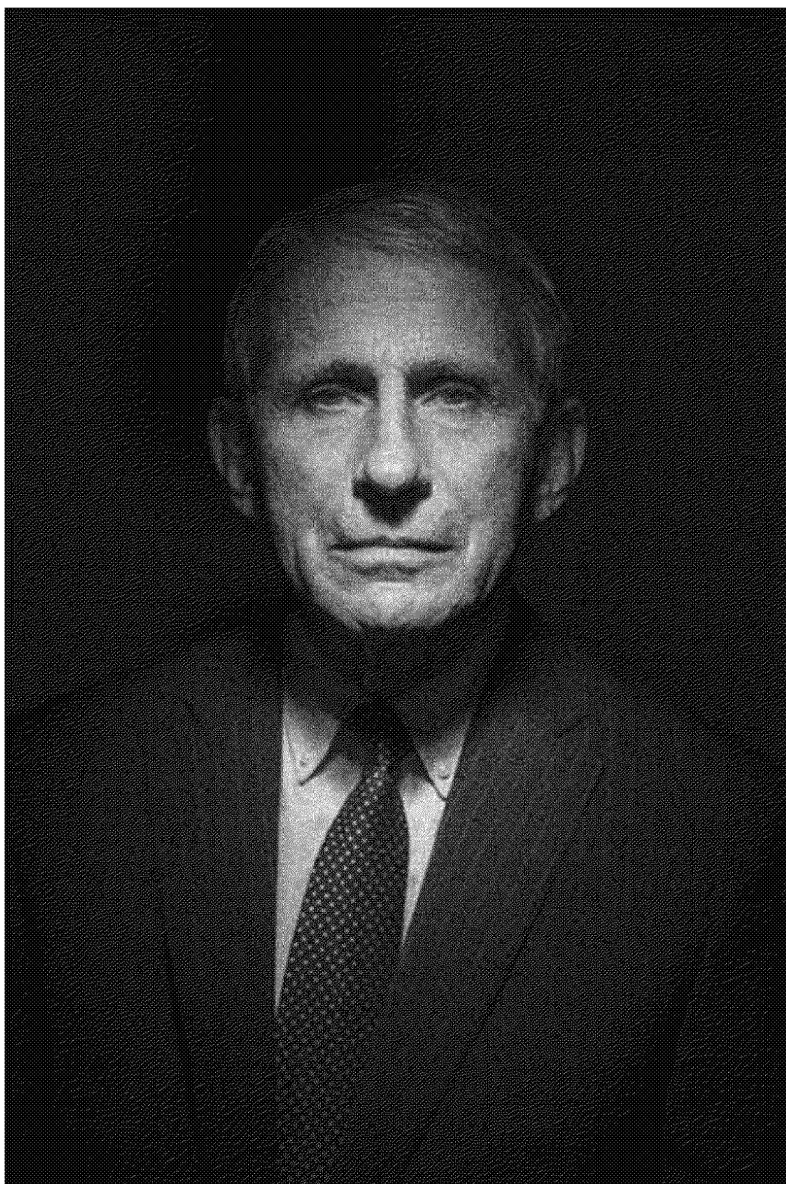
Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] b6
Date: May 4, 2020 at 20:58:15 EDT
Subject: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>



ScienceCoronavirus Coverage

Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab

In an exclusive interview, the face of America's COVID-19 response cautions against the rush for states to reopen, and offers his tips for handling the pandemic's information deluge.

Anthony Fauci has been the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for almost 40 years, where he has tackled dozens of outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS. To him, the coronavirus is "extraordinary."

By **Nsikan Akpan** and Victoria Jaggard

PUBLISHED May 4, 2020

Anthony “Tony” Fauci has become the scientific face of America’s COVID-19 response, and he says the best evidence shows the virus behind the pandemic was not made in a lab in China.

Fauci, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shot down the discussion that has been raging among politicians and pundits, calling it “a circular argument” in a conversation Monday with National Geographic.

“If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what’s out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated ... Everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that [this virus] evolved in nature and then jumped species,” Fauci says. Based on the scientific evidence, he also doesn’t entertain an alternate theory—that someone found the coronavirus in the wild, brought it to a lab, and then it accidentally escaped.

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, listens as President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Thursday, April 9, 2020, in Washington.

Photograph by Andrew Harnik, AP Photo

Fauci is most concerned that the United States will be put to the test this fall and winter by a second wave of COVID-19 if the country does not blunt the infection rate by the summer.

“Shame on us if we don’t have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter,” he says, advising that the U.S. needs to make sure we not only have an adequate supply of tests available before a second wave hits, but also a system for getting those tests to the people who most need them.

“I don’t think there’s a chance that this virus is just going to disappear,” he says. “It’s going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge.” As such, Fauci says the U.S. should also focus this summer on properly reinforcing the nation’s health care system, ensuring the availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment for health care workers.

He also stressed the importance of continuing to social distance everywhere until the case counts start to fall in cities and states. The U.S. witnessed about 20,000 to 30,000 new cases every day in the month of April, suggesting the country is stuck in its peak.

Still, he remains optimistic that a vaccine will be ready within an historically short time frame, citing one promising candidate that he thinks may move into advanced clinical trials by the early summer. Fauci has said that he thinks a final vaccine could be available for general use as early as January, which would break records for the speed at which previous vaccines were developed.

One reason for his confidence is the “impressive” results being seen now in animals tested with a vaccine candidate made by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Therapeutics, which

brought it into human trials in a record 42 days. The candidate is what is known as an mRNA vaccine—a drug that uses snippets of a virus’s genetic material—rather than the dead or weakened virus itself—to build the proteins that trigger the body’s protective immune response.

To date, no type of mRNA vaccine has been licensed for use in humans, but Fauci believes there is great promise for this technology targeting the coronavirus, based in part on his experience developing treatments for HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and ‘90s.

“For some reason that we’re still struggling with, the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV,” he says. To fight off that virus, a vaccine has to work better than the body’s own natural response. By contrast, “it’s obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response” to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the animal trials so far show that modest doses of the mRNA vaccine for coronavirus have also generated a strong immune response.

He adds that NIAID is still developing and supporting multiple vaccine efforts, in case those that go into trials soonest don’t ultimately prove safe and effective. “You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time,” he says.

Fauci told National Geographic he’s concerned about states rushing to reopen before their infection rates fall. He also shared how he manages the barrage of new scientific information being released about COVID-19, and how his family and faith keep him going despite his increasingly hectic schedule.

(The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.)

Fauci on the vaccine

You’ve been the NIAID director since 1984, witnessing dozens of disease outbreaks. One of the first was the HIV/AIDS epidemic. How does that experience compare with COVID-19?

One of the important advantages is what we call targeted drug development. Viruses cause disease by binding to receptors on cells in your body, be they in your upper airway or in your lung, in the case of COVID-19. They then replicate at a rapid rate that triggers a variety of pathogenic processes. Targeting drugs to interfere at one or more vulnerable sites within this replication cycle is something that we learned with HIV.

Left:

U.S. President George W. Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom on June 19, 2008 to Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Bethesda, Maryland during ceremonies at the White House. The Presidential Medal of Freedom

... Read More

Photograph by Karen Bleier, AFP via Getty Images (Left) and Photograph by White House Photo / Alamy Stock Photo (Right)

SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] has the same sort of vulnerable points. We need to identify them and develop drugs, either alone or in combination, to block the replication.

Are there also lessons from HIV/AIDS that relate to developing a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are a bit different. We have a better chance of quickly getting, relatively speaking, a vaccine for the novel coronavirus than we did for HIV, because for some reason that's still unknown the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV.

We don't necessarily have that challenge with this coronavirus because it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response. They clear the virus, and they do well. As we know from the natural history of this disease, the majority of people actually either get well without any symptoms—they're called asymptomatic—or they have minimal symptoms, where they get a fever, some aches, and then they recover.

The fact that the majority of people can actually clear the virus is a very good sign for the feasibility of developing a vaccine.

The two most widely discussed vaccine candidates are an mRNA vaccine from Moderna, which reached human trials in a record 42 days, and Oxford University's candidate, based on what's known as a nonreplicating viral vector. Yet no vaccine based on these two technologies has ever been licensed for human use. What makes these two vaccines seem so promising, especially on this expedited timeline?

These vaccines are inducing, at least in animal models, really rather substantial immune responses, particularly the mRNA vaccine. When we look at the immune response that you can induce with a modest dose—one that's feasible to be translated into humans—and the amount of time it takes to get to that level of immunity, it is really quite impressive. It is also really easy to scale up with these two, in the sense of making a lot of doses pretty quickly. So you're right, they have not been approved, as many of the other vaccine platforms have, but the promise is great.

We at NIAID are either developing or supporting the development of multiple candidates. You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time—maybe June, July, or August—to get them into an advanced trial. The mRNA one is already well into phase one of clinical trials, and we're getting ready to go into phase two and three sometime in the early summer.

Fauci on reopening and masks

As states move to reopen businesses and warmer weather lures people outside, how concerned are you about a fresh spike in infections in the U.S.?

Take a look at the guidelines for Opening Up America Again. There are very well delineated checkpoints. There's a gateway where infections must go down for 14 days before you can enter into phase one for reopening. If you fulfill the requirements of phase one, you move to phase two. If you do it there, you go to phase three.

So when you see somebody in an environment in which the infections are not going down, and then you see 30 to 40 people on a beach with no mask ... well that's very nice to have fun in the sun, but you're really putting yourself and everyone at risk for creating an even bigger spike in infections.

Do you fear a second wave?

What's impressed me the most—but clearly in a disturbing way—is the extraordinary efficiency of how the virus spreads. It spreads so much more efficiently than influenza does. You see situations where people at home try and physically separate; they have no contact except they've touched the plate or a doorknob, and they wind up getting infected.

The clusters in families, the outbreaks on the *Teddy Roosevelt* aircraft carrier, the enormous spread on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama harbor—it's a very, very transmissible virus.

Anthony Fauci hugs Nina Pham, the nurse who was infected with Ebola from treating patient Thomas Eric Duncan in Dallas, as Pham's mother Diana (sixth from left) and sister Cathy

... Read More Photograph by Alex Wong, Getty Images

We're going to be put to the test as we move toward the fall and winter of this year. If we do it correctly, then we could be able to blunt and diminish the daily rate of infections in this country as we get into the summer. I can't guarantee it, but if we do things right, that likely will happen.

But I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear. It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge. We now will have a few months—May June, July, August—to prepare, by making sure our health system is adequately supplied with ventilators, ICU beds, personal protective equipment, etcetera. We need to not only have tests, but to make sure the people who need tests can get tested.

So that by the time we get to September, we don't have the dialogue continually fixating on do you have enough tests? Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter.

What's your position on the general public wearing face masks?

I'm glad you asked, because it has evolved over the weeks and months. When there was first discussion, it was at a time when face masks—either surgical masks or N95 respirators—were at high scarcity.

Let's assume that we now have enough masks or that you could easily make a cloth covering, as was suggested appropriately by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I think those are reasonable assumptions. We know that the masks are better in the health-care setting to prevent someone who's infected from coughing and sneezing and infecting people in the environment. When you look at what the mask does for the general population, the data are not 100 percent: It doesn't 100 percent protect you from infecting somebody else, and it certainly doesn't 100 percent prevent somebody else from infecting you.

But if you wear a mask, you are getting some protection for yourself, and if you happen to be infected and don't know it, you're to some extent preventing transmission to someone else. Given that, it just makes sense that first of all, the best way to prevent spread is to maintain the physical distance of six feet.

So, if you're in a situation where you're in contact with no one, then you don't have to be walking around with a mask all day, that's for sure. But if you are in a situation where you are going to be within the realm of six feet—the grocery store or even walking out on the street—then wear it.

Fauci on the information deluge and the “virus made in Chinese lab” claim.

How do you keep up with the barrage of information and filter down to the most important science?

It's like drinking from a fire hydrant. It really is. Fortunately for me, I have a staff of three to four really good people who sift through the papers and when something looks unreasonable or “pie in the sky,” they don't bother me with that. Then when all of these studies come across my desk, I read the title and the abstract. If it looks feasible, I'll put it aside and try and read it. When it's something that they think I should read, they make sure I read it.

Even with that screening process, it's still very difficult to consume everything that's out there, particularly with this relatively recent trend with these non-peer-reviewed, pre-publications [that have not gone through traditional vetting to appear in major journals].

So, what's your advice to the public at-large for sifting through the headlines and making sense of it all?

Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks with members of his laboratory during a meeting Aug. 31, 1990, where he describes a natural growth factor that is necessary for the AIDS virus to multiply.

Photograph by George Tames, The New York Times via Redux

Anybody can claim to be an expert even when they have no idea what they're talking about—and it's very difficult for the general public to distinguish. So, make sure the study is coming from a reputable organization that generally gives you the truth—though even with some reputable organizations, you occasionally get an outlier who's out there talking nonsense. If something is published in places like *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, or *JAMA*—you know, generally that is quite well peer reviewed because the editors and the editorial staff of those journals really take things very seriously.

One topic in the news lately has been the origins of SAR-CoV-2. Do you believe or is there evidence that the virus was made in the lab in China or accidentally released from a lab in China?

If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats, and what's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this [virus] could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated—the way the mutations have naturally evolved. A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.

Sure, but what if scientists found the virus outside the lab, brought it back, and then it escaped?

But that means it was in the wild to begin with. That's why I don't get what they're talking about [and] why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument.

Fauci's life right now

What's your typical day like?

I get up around five o'clock in the morning, and I usually wind up running downstairs, getting a quick breakfast, and looking at a thousand emails—literally a thousand.

I then head to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] for my day job—trying to develop a vaccine and drugs and running a \$6 billion institution. I stay there until around one o'clock, and then I go down to the White House for multiple meetings. First, I meet with the doctor group—myself, coronavirus response coordinator Debbie Birx, director Bob Redfield from the CDC, commissioner Steve Hahn from FDA, and others. We then go into the task force meeting run by Vice President [Mike Pence], which usually lasts about an hour and a half. We summarize this pre-brief with the vice president and then go brief President [Donald Trump] for the press conference.

Then, the work starts ... I head home or back to the NIH and work until the wee hours of the morning. The whole day is punctuated by everybody needing to talk to you: every governor in the states, every congressional leader, every leader in the White House. It's constant conference calls. It's an almost impossible situation—and that's seven days a week.

Then you superimpose upon that all the press you do—the TV or the radio or the interviews. It's kind of a surrealistic state. I have to wake up in the morning and literally, without being facetious, ask my wife, what day is it?

Wow, how do you unwind?

I power walk with my wife, usually at night or on the weekends. It's dark, but we still do it anyway.

Has it ever been too taxing?

A couple of months ago, I was foolish and just thought I could get away with almost no sleep. I mean, like three hours a night. I did that for a few weeks, and it almost killed me. It really wore me down badly. Thank goodness I have a very intelligent and clinically skilled wife who turned things around and said, You got to remember to eat, and you've got to remember to sleep. The day is still impossible, but I don't think I'm going to drop dead from it. I hope not.

You went to a Jesuit high school, where you learned the importance of doing good for the public. How has that experience informed your professional life?

My whole life was almost served to me on the basis that my mother and father were very much oriented toward service. They were never really interested in money or material things. That's just the way they were, both of them. So I never knew there was anything like going out there and making a lot of money, and that was really cemented when I went both to a Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, where the entire theme was service for others.

I almost never had any other inkling of doing anything except something that would have a public service component to it. I'm very much of a people person, but I'm also scientifically inclined. My entire training is steeped in the humanities, and when you combine that with an aptitude for science, you wind up being a physician.

Victoria Jaggard is the senior editor for Science & Innovation at National Geographic.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

--
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, 25 May 2020 12:45:30 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 25 May 2020 12:45:27 AM -0400
Subject: RE: To take your mind off of Francis Collins
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] Dennis Carroll [b6]
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

One word only – Ridonculous....

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, May 24, 2020 8:21 PM
To: Dennis Carroll [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: To take your mind off of Francis Collins

Bizarre!Hilarious! i love it! D

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

On May 24, 2020, at 19:11, Dennis Carroll <[b6]> wrote:

--

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, 27 Apr 2020 8:28:24 PM -0400

Sent: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 8:28:23 PM -0400

Subject: Re: Politico story

From: David Morens [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6]

CC: [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6]

Peter, it's a decent story, rather cautiously written it seems

Nancy, good to re-meet you.

We will soon see how this all unfolds. Best wishes to all of you. David

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

On Apr 27, 2020, at 20:13, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

Dear All,

I'm introducing you to Nancy Green, the Chair of our Board. David Morens – you both met at the Smithsonian Exhibit opening. Nancye – 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
USA

Tel.: [b6]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](#)

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

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 5:29:34 PM -0400
 Subject: Fwd: Vanity Fair: Trump Decides Now Would Be a Great Time to Cut Coronavirus Research Funding
 From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <dmorens@niaid.nih.gov >
 To: Gerald T Keusch <keusch@bu.edu>; Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org >;
 Attachments: image001.png

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <gfolkers@niaid.nih.gov >
Date: April 28, 2020 at 17:16:43 EDT
To: NIAID COG CORE <COG CORE@mail.nih.gov >, NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov >, NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov >
Subject: Vanity Fair: Trump Decides Now Would Be a Great Time to Cut Coronavirus Research Funding

Trump Decides Now Would Be a Great Time to Cut Coronavirus Research Funding

The move comes as scientists have warned the virus is unlikely to be eradicated and instead become seasonal.



By Bess Levin
 April 28, 2020

Something you may have picked up on over the last interminable three and a half years is that **Donald Trump** is not a smart man, despite robust claims on his part to the contrary. For example, this whole coronavirus thing. While another president might have taken it seriously, or at the very least read the briefings warning him to take it seriously, Trump decided instead to listen to his gut, which told him the virus would “miraculously” go away by April. Or take World Health Organization funding; although many have argued that the agency’s initial response to COVID-19 could have gone better, no one besides Trump thought, Hey, maybe the U.S. should vindictively cut the group’s funding in the middle of a pandemic. (In fact, the American Medical Association described it as “a dangerous step in the wrong direction that will not make defeating COVID-19 easier.”) And speaking of defeating COVID-19, thinking people agree that, among other things, robust research into how coronaviruses are transmitted is key to better protecting the world’s population now and in the future. While Trump...:

The Trump administration abruptly cut off funding for a project studying how coronaviruses spread from bats to people after reports linked the work to a lab in Wuhan, China, at the center of conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic’s origins. The National Institutes of Health on Friday told EcoHealth Alliance, the study’s sponsor for the past five years, that all future funding was cut. The agency also demanded that the New York-based research nonprofit stop spending the \$369,819 remaining from its 2020 grant, according to emails obtained by Politico. “At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities,” **Michael Lauer**, the agency’s deputy director for extramural research, wrote in a letter to EcoHealth Alliance officials.

The group caught national attention a week ago after reports swirled that millions from its NIH grants had been sent to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a research facility in the city where the coronavirus pandemic originated. In an email last week to NIH officials, EcoHealth Alliance President **Pete Daszak** denied giving any money this year to the Wuhan lab, although researchers from the facility have collaborated with EcoHealth Alliance scientists on research supported by an earlier grant.

Last week, the NIH said its strategic plan for studying the novel coronavirus includes understanding its origin and how it is transmitted, a priority clearly in line with the EcoHealth alliance's investigation. Unfortunately, such an initiative was apparently no match for Trump's susceptibility to conspiracy theories, namely the one alleging that the coronavirus outbreak actually began in the Wuhan lab, a claim that U.S. intelligence agencies and scientists have not found a shred of evidence to support.

Suddenly ending a grant early is an unusual move for the NIH, which typically takes such steps only when there is evidence of scientific misconduct or financial improprieties—neither of which it has alleged took place in this case. The NIH awarded the original grant for the project during the Obama administration, but renewed it in July 2019. The funding allotted this year, and cut last week, came from the Trump administration. Days after Trump's briefing promise [to end the grant "very quickly"], Republican lawmakers wrote to leadership asking that no stimulus funding go to the Wuhan lab, citing State Department cables about safety concerns. The White House did not respond to a request for comment. Within days, NIH told EcoHealth that all future funding was canceled and it would need to stop spending its remaining 2020 grant monies immediately.

In a statement, the EcoHealth Alliance expressed confusion re: the NIH's reasoning, asking for clarity. "For the past 20 years our organization has been investigating the sources of emerging diseases such as COVID-19," the group said. "We work in the United States and in over 25 countries with institutions that have been pre-approved by federal funding agencies to do scientific research critical to preventing pandemics. We are planning to talk with NIH to understand the rationale behind their decision." Meanwhile, on Monday, scientists warned that the novel coronavirus is unlikely to be eradicated, instead coming back every year, a reality Dr. **Anthony Fauci** said last month is likely.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Wed, 19 Aug 2020 10:23:30 AM -0400
Sent: Wed, 19 Aug 2020 10:23:28 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Wall Street Journal story.
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6];
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Thanks for the follow up Peter. I had informed Peter that Harold asked me over the weekend if I knew anything about this new situation and I shared the July 8th letter with him (Peter had sent it to me after he gave the reporter my name as somebody to talk to). I was wondering what Varmus was going to do and now I know – much more to the point, the history of NIH, and the right person to rebut current NIH leadership – and this is important.

The question now is how to get the congress to move and subpoena Azar, Collins, and Lauer. I will follow up with the Chiefs of Staff of the 4 committees that had requested a briefing from Azar as I received no reply when I sent the opinion piece I had in The Hill, along with 140 other members of the National Academy of Medicine. I didn't push then because the focus in congress was on the need to address the ongoing economic fallout of the outbreak. But this is more ammunition for us to put in front of them. I will send this to all of those who signed opinion piece in The Hill and ask them to send messages to the 4 house committees requesting they follow up and demand and broaden their request to be briefed by Azar by a subpoena and including NIH leadership.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Wall Street Journal story.
Importance: High

Hi Jerry and David,

I know that Jerry's aware of this, but reporter from the *Wall Street Journal* who wrote the very positive piece on our role in predicting COVID last week (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-deadly-coronavirus-was-inevitable-why-was-no-one-ready-for-covid-11597325213>) had contacted NIH to confirm the cancellation of our grant. Well, we'd received a letter from NIH (Directors office) on July 8th to tell us that our grant is reinstated and instantly suspended, and that we won't be able to access funding unless we fulfil conditions they've placed on the work. They include demanding that we find out details about staff and work done at the Wuhan Institute of Virology before our grant started, that we obtain a vial of SARS-CoV-2 that Wuhan used to initially sequence the virus, find out about an alleged member of staff removed from their website, demand NIH inspects the lab and notebooks, find out about work that Wuhan did before our grant and independent of us testing some workers that died in a mineshaft and were SARS-CoV IgG positive (this is a widely spread conspiracy theory being promoted on the web).

As always, when we received the letter, we did not go to the press and hoped we could avoid negative publicity. Unfortunately, as they did last time, NIH leaked – telling the WSJ reporter that the grant was reinstated. I spoke with her on Friday and the story came out today: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/nih-presses-u-s-nonprofit-for-information-on-wuhan-virology-lab-11597829400>. I think they've done a fair job of reporting what is a ridiculous situation and one that feels like harassment right now.

It includes this quote from Harold Varmus: The NIH's list of conditions "is outrageous, especially when a grant has already been carefully evaluated by peer review and addresses one of the most important problems in the world right now—how viruses from animals spill over to human beings," Harold E. Varmus, a former NIH director, said in an interview. "What could be more important at the moment?" Dr. Varmus is one of 77 Nobel laureates who asked NIH Director Francis Collins and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar in May to review the NIH's termination of the grant the month before. "This whole

episode is just a woeful attack on the traditional way NIH has maintained its integrity,” he said.

We’re probably going to talk to more reporters about this over the next couple of weeks – it’s hard to avoid them considering we have interviews scheduled just about every day. I just wanted you to be aware. As always, I’ll be politely critical of the behavior of the current NIH Director and the way he’d rather smear our organization than stand up and fight for the dignity of the NIH review process. I will NOT criticize NIAID in any way whatsoever, and hope that none of this causes any problems for anyone in the Institute.

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

Date: Wed, 18 Nov 2020 11:50:45 PM -0500
Sent: Wed, 18 Nov 2020 11:50:42 PM -0500
Subject: Attacks on EcoHealth Alliance continue

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

David, Jerry – David, I’m using your gmail address to keep you out of the FoIA target...Just wanted you to know that we’re still under attack here at EHA. The US Right to Know (an anti-GMO, anti-vaxx group associated with Organic consumers.org) Foia’d NIH for our emails and grants. NIH refused, they’ve now sued. <https://usrtk.org/news-releases/u-s-right-to-know-sues-nih-for-documents-about-origins-of-sars-cov-2/>.

They’ve also Foia’d people I collaborate with at state universities (Ralph Baric others), including Rita Colwell at U. Maryland (she’s on my Board). They’ve just published 446 pages of emails between her and myself – all completely harmless of course, but just awful to have all our detailed correspondence out there https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Biohazard_FOIA_Maryland_Emails_11.6.20.pdf. They’ve concocted a story about how I orchestrated a Lancet letter back in February – which I did, but they’re implying that EcoHealth funded Chinese gain of function work, and therefore I orchestrated the paper to cover up our nefarious work. Just disgusting. Here’s the story which contains links to the emails <https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog-index/> and came out today. It also uses the fact that NIH (Collins) inserted demands into our grant reinstatement as evidence that EcoHealth is ‘under increased scrutiny’. Apologies Jerry, but your listed in some of these.

At the same time, other conspiracists are applauding David Relman of Stanford on social media because he published an opinion piece in PNAS that continues to bang the drum about Wuhan, gain of function, and that the WHO mission on COVID origins and the Lancet COVID-19 commission’s taskforce on COVID origins (which I’m heading up) are ‘cloaked in secrecy’.
<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/11/03/2021133117>

Finally, I heard yesterday that a Florida congressman (Bill Posey) wrote to Jeff Sachs to try to get me kicked off the Lancet COVID-19 Commission because of a perceived conflict of interest re. China. Jeff’s not going to do that right now, but everyone has their breaking point.

Add to all of this another FoIA we got against other NIH grants from an investigative reporter who has an anti-gain of function/bioweapons stance and it’s adding up to be a tough week here!

We’re not responding to this US Right to Know group, because it just gives them oxygen, but I worry that there’ll be continued Foia’s and pressure to trash my reputation and eventually it will begin to be successful. We’ve already had one of our funders hold back funding, and I don’t want to have so much bad press out there that eventually I get disinvited from committees that everyone knows are important to careers these days.

Advice welcome!

Cheers,

Peter

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

Date: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 9:45:42 PM -0400
 Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 9:45:41 PM -0400
 Subject: Re: Statement on Political Interference in Peer-Reviewed Federal Research Grants
 From: David Morens [b6] >
 To: Peter Daszak [b6]
 CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Peter, today i finished a first draft of the pAper intended to be an Astmnh statement, to hopefully be signed by selected luminaries I sent it to one key coauthor who should get back to me tomorrow. Maybe it's a small thing, but another brick in the wall at least. Hopefully the astmnh lobbying and press machine can get it out there. D

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

On Jun 8, 2020, at 21:32, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

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

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: 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, Nancye 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

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: 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=NzM3NjE0IERhc3pha0BFQ09IRUFMVEhBTEhJQU5DRS5PUk
&c=SIGNOFF](http://forums.nas.edu/scripts/wa.exe?TICKET=NzM3NjE0IERhc3pha0BFQ09IRUFMVEhBTEhJQU5DRS5PUk&c=SIGNOFF)

Date: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 9:47:16 PM -0400
 Sent: Mon, 8 Jun 2020 9:47:13 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: Statement on Political Interference in Peer-Reviewed Federal Research Grants
 From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6] >
 To: Peter Daszak [b6]
 CC: David Morens [b6] >;

Hi Peter,

I am not impressed with the statement, and in fact rather disappointed. I heard from Harold Varmus who, expecting very little, said he got what he had expected. I also heard from another NAM member who was terribly disappointed asked what else we could do. I am therefore thinking of contacting everybody who signed the letter (me and 91 others) to be sure they see the statement, and to point out to them that Victor encourages feedback in his cover note. I'm going to suggest they do that individually, and I hope those who are as disappointed as I am will let Victor know.

I'm trying to work on other organizations of importance to say something. There is such reticence to speak out clearly, especially when the evidence of interference is so direct and simple to follow the dots. When 77 Nobel Laureates in a hard nosed letter can't inspire NAM to do better then there is a greater problem. Harold Varmus told me he helped to get an anonymous donor to provide \$500K and that Wellcome was going to do something too. It's a start to restore your support, but I still want a \$100 million endowment for you and EHA. I could write a check, but unfortunately it would bounce right back to me in Boston.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 9:33 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: FW: Statement on Political Interference in Peer-Reviewed Federal Research Grants
Importance: High

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

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

From: Peter Daszak
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2020 9:28 PM
To: 'Dzau, Victor J.' [REDACTED]
Cc: 'Kanarek, Morgan' [REDACTED]; 'Nancye Green' [REDACTED]; Jim Hughes [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; 'Rita Colwell' [REDACTED]
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, Nancye 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

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: 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=NzM3NjE0IERhc3pha0BFQ09IRUFMVEhBTExJQU5DRS5PUkcgTkF&c=SIGNOFF>

Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2020 10:59:49 AM -0400
 Sent: Thu, 20 Aug 2020 10:59:46 AM -0400
 Subject: RE: NYT: Officials in Wuhan and Hubei Province tried to hide information from China's central leadership, a U.S. report finds.
 From: Peter Daszak { [REDACTED] b6 }
 To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [[REDACTED] b6]>; Keusch, Gerald T [[REDACTED] b6]>;
 Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg
 Hilarious.

All I can say is, "I'm ridin' with Biden"....I'm also donating to good Republican orgs like the Lincoln Project...

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [[REDACTED] b6]gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [[REDACTED] b6] Peter Daszak [[REDACTED] b6]
Subject: RE: NYT: Officials in Wuhan and Hubei Province tried to hide information from China's central leadership, a U.S. report finds.

Amen...



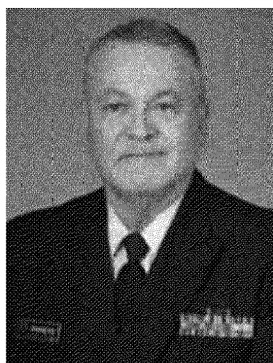
David M. Morens, M.D.
 CAPT, United States Public Health Service
 Senior Advisor to the Director

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)

● 301 496 4409

● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
 [b6]

Subject: RE: NYT: Officials in Wuhan and Hubei Province tried to hide information from China's central leadership, a U.S. report finds.

Thanks David. This is what happens in autocratic societies. It probably doesn't have anything to do with US, especially all of those in the administration who strive first to make the boss happy by keeping troublesome information from him. Thanks goodness for that.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: FW: NYT: Officials in Wuhan and Hubei Province tried to hide information from China's central leadership, a U.S. report finds.

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)

● 301 496 4409

● [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



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

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:02 PM

Subject: NYT: Officials in Wuhan and Hubei Province tried to hide information from China's central leadership, a U.S. report finds.

Officials in Wuhan and Hubei Province tried to hide information from China's central leadership, a U.S. report finds.

Trump administration officials have tried taking a political sledgehammer to China over the coronavirus pandemic, asserting that the Chinese Communist Party covered up the initial outbreak and allowed the virus to spread around the globe.

But within the United States government, intelligence officials have arrived at a more nuanced and complex finding of what Chinese officials did wrong in January, report Edward Wong, Julian E. Barnes and Zolan Kanno-Youngs.

Officials in Beijing were kept in the dark for weeks about the potential devastation of the virus by local officials in central China, according to American officials familiar with a new internal report by U.S. intelligence agencies.

The report concluded that officials in the city of Wuhan and in Hubei Province, where the outbreak began late last year, tried to hide information from China's central leadership. The finding is consistent with [reporting by news organizations](#) and with assessments by China experts of the country's opaque [governance system](#).

Local officials often withhold information from Beijing for fear of reprisal, current and former American officials say.

The new assessment does not contradict the Trump administration's criticism of China, but adds perspective and context to actions — and inaction — that created the global crisis.

President Trump [said in a July 4 speech](#) at the White House that "China's secrecy, deceptions and cover-up" enabled the pandemic, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted the administration was "telling the truth every day" about "the Communist cover-up of that virus." The accusations dovetail with advice from Trump campaign strategists to look tough on China.

But the broad political messaging leaves an impression that [Mr. Xi and other top officials knew of the dangers of the new coronavirus](#) in the early days and went to great lengths to hide them.

The report, originally circulated in June, has classified and unclassified sections, and it represents the consensus of the C.I.A. and

other intelligence agencies. It still supports the overall notion that Communist Party officials hid important information from the world, U.S. officials said. And senior officials in Beijing, even as they were scrambling to pry data from officials in central China, played a role in obscuring the outbreak by withholding information from the World Health Organization.

But the report adds to a body of evidence that shows how the malfeasance of local Chinese officials appeared to be a decisive factor in the spread of the virus within Wuhan and beyond.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 7:50:01 AM -0400

Sent: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 7:49:58 AM -0400

Subject: Re: Broader statement

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >

To: David Morens [b6]

CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]

Thanks, David!

-Aleksei

Aleksei Chmura, PhD
Chief of Staff

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street – 17th floor
New York, NY 10001

b6

(direct)

(mobile)

Aleksei MacDunian (Skype)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

Visit our blog: www.ecohealthalliance.org/blog

EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge scientific 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.

On Apr 28, 2020, at 06:36, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

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 10:40 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

I'll read this now. Nicki sent me some WaPo articles that talk about WIV doing GOF experiments with these viruses. Do you know anything about that? I just saw those emails and haven't opened them up yet. I will and will send them to you so you know what I'm talking about. First I want to read what you put together.

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:16 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Broader statement
Importance: High

Any chance you could look over this statement and suggest whether there is anything we should change?

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street

New York, NY 10001

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

<2020.04.27 COVID-19 Implementation Plan.docx>

Date: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 9:11:48 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 9:11:47 PM -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, 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: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 3:43:03 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 3:43:02 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Question on BSL levels in China
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; taub >>
 Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD [b6] [b6]

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, [b6] 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

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: 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] taub >> 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

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 7:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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

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

--

David M Morens

[b6]

Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 10:05:46 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 10:05:43 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Politico story just now.
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

As I mentioned earlier, I had contacted a guy at the Post who Mary Bassett recommended and I followed up. He says his group and the OpEd group do very different things, and he really can't help.

So I am pondering a couple of things before I contact the NAM group. First, I could see if I can contact the editorial assistant who sent the rejection note and make a case that this story is exactly why we wrote the OpEd. Second, I could try the Times and get in touch with the guy Peter mentioned. Or Third I could contact Politico and see if they would be interested in publishing as what we wrote is very much related to the article today. I note they will accept OpEd pieces. Maybe never before would they get an article with 3 names on it and over 80 other signatories – or they could publish all of the names. Cool.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:30 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Politico story just now.
Importance: High

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.: [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: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:30 PM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

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

Date: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 11:00:57 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 12 Jun 2020 11:00:55 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Strategy re. NIH decision & some funding news
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6];

David, that approach with Joel seems perfect to me as there is plenty of shaming of NIH and Collins going on. Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 12, 2020, at 7:18 PM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

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 doesn'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 Cassetti 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
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: 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 Nobel 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 [b6] >
 Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 1:11 AM
 To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
 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
 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: Roberts, Rich [b6]
 Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:11 PM
 To: Peter Daszak [b6]
 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%7C77cefbcb6b3d64d6a9f7406&sdata=t9MZAjox3nt95uhUOWlA0Nh8FnVo%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%7C77cefbcb6b3d64d6a9f7406&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%2F2f3219384e-virus-big-book-4.17.20.pdf%3Fmc_cid%3D8bef7ea1d3%26mc_eid%3D4c6a7c6e0b&data=02%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7Cec2d1a0bea1c4e3eacfd08d80e7a3990%7C77cefbcb6b3d64d6a9f7406&sdata=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.: [REDACTED] b6

Website:

<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7Crobarts%40neb.com%7Cec2d1a0bea1c4e3eacfd08d80e7a3990%7C77cefb6b3d64d6a9f7406&sdata=t9MZAjox3nt95uhUOWIA0Nh8FnVo%2BDmR7w1ttl2R5FA%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] b6

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] 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: [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED] b6

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [REDACTED] b6

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

From: [REDACTED] b6 >

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6:20 PM

To: Roberts, Rich [REDACTED] b6

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:

> Ms. Smith:

>

> 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: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 4:57:33 PM -0400
 Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 4:57:32 PM -0400
 Subject: FW: Guardian: Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab
 From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
 To: Peter Daszak [b6]
 Keep it up! I love this! d

From: Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:38 PM
Subject: Guardian: Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab

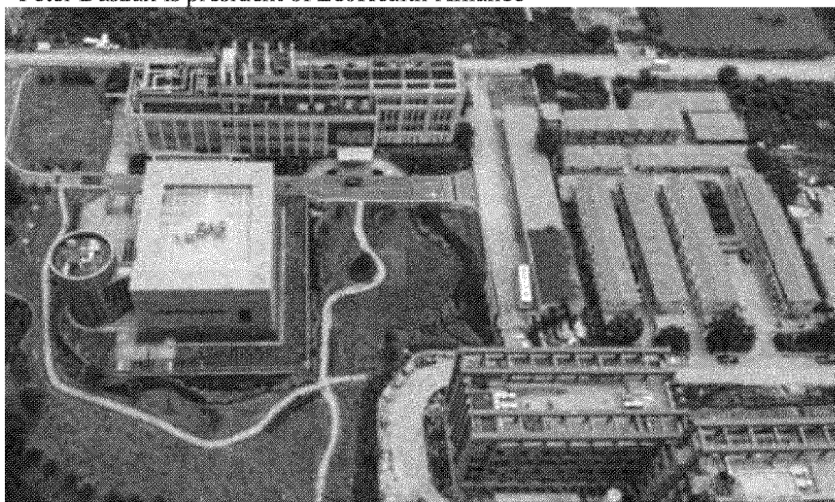
[Coronavirus outbreak](#)

Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab

[Peter Daszak](#)

Instead of following false claims, we should focus our efforts on the regions where the next pandemic is likely to emerge

- Peter Daszak is president of EcoHealth Alliance



The Wuhan Institute of Virology, the source, according to conspiracy theorists, of the Covid-19 virus. Photograph: Héctor Retamal/AFP/Getty Images

Published on Tue 9 Jun 2020 06.14 EDT

In a recent [interview with the Telegraph](#), the former head of MI6 Sir Richard Dearlove cited an “important” scientific report that suggested that the novel coronavirus had not emerged naturally, but had been created by Chinese scientists. Dearlove said he believed the pandemic had “started as an accident” after the virus escaped the lab. A month earlier, the US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, had said he had “[enormous evidence](#)” that Covid-19 had originated in a lab in China, only to backtrack from this claim on [live TV](#) in the same sentence.

Suggestions that Covid-19 is a manmade virus are the latest chapter in a tale of blame, misinformation and finger-pointing. Cue the [conspiracy theorists](#), marching out their narrative about the high-security BSL-4 lab in Wuhan, where mysterious experiments to design “frankenviruses” led to the tragic global pandemic. Cue the genetic analyses pointing to “unexpected” insertions in the code of A, G, T, and C that explain how this virus could [not have evolved naturally](#). Cue political posturing against China, with calls for an inquiry, trade sanctions and even reparations.

Determining the origins and emergence of a pandemic is as messy and complex as studying a plane crash. Just as an air crash investigator pieces together fragments at a crash site, pinpointing the origins of a new virus is painstakingly difficult and time-consuming, and requires logic and reason. I know, because this is exactly what [our organisation](#), EcoHealth Alliance, does. We work around the world to identify the origins of pandemics, map them and analyse them, and use these results to predict where

the next pandemic will likely emerge. We then target these “hotspots” for enhanced surveillance, capacity-building and risk-reduction programmes to prevent diseases emerging.

We have spent the past 15 years working in China to analyse the group of viruses from which Sars and now Covid-19 have emerged. Sampling more than 16,000 bats, we showed that Sars emerged from a cluster of coronaviruses carried by horseshoe bats that are abundant across southern and central China and traded frequently in wet markets. We found Sars-related viruses that could infect human cells in the lab, cause diseases in lab animals, and evade drugs and vaccines designed to protect us. We worked with the scientists behind the breakthrough drug Remdesivir to show that it was effective against known human coronaviruses and the viruses we suspected might be the next to emerge. We raised the red flag on these viruses and pointed out their potential to cause the next pandemic.

Our 15 years of work in China now puts us in a unique position to identify, with a remarkable degree of confidence, the likely origin of Covid-19. We recently published a peer-reviewed paper reporting 781 genetic sequences of bat-origin coronaviruses previously unknown to scientists. These include the closest known relatives to Sars-CoV, Sars-CoV-2 and Sads-CoV, a virus that killed more than 25,000 pigs in Guangdong in 2016 and 2017. All are carried by horseshoe bats that are found across southern China and neighbouring countries. Our report firmly concludes that Covid-19 originated in bats, in a hotspot of viral evolution along the border of Yunnan province in China, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

Most people (including former heads of intelligence agencies) aren't trained in how to decipher genetic codes, so we have to assess the rigour of competing research to determine the truth of claims that Covid-19 was manmade. Writing in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Medicine, researchers strongly refuted the idea that the code had been purposefully manipulated.

Whereas the article in Nature Medicine was written by senior virologists, one author, John Fredrik Moxnes, the chief scientific adviser to the Norwegian military, has already withdrawn his name from the paper cited by Dearlove – while scientists from the Francis Crick institute and Imperial College London also dismissed its conclusions.

And the claim in the earlier version of this paper to have proven “beyond reasonable doubt that the Covid-19 virus is engineered” was removed in the later version. This claim relied on an insertion in the genetic code for the spike protein of the virus, the place where the virus locks into our own cells. But the discovery of another novel bat coronavirus in southern China, very closely related to Sars-CoV-2, that includes a similar insertion shows this can evolve naturally.

Contrary to the idea that Chinese scientists deliberately released the virus, existing patterns of infection suggest that the wide spread of Covid-19 was a question of when, not if. Only a handful of people work on bat coronaviruses in labs in China, and they wear masks and gloves so as not to contaminate their laboratories. In 2018, we conducted a pilot survey of people living in rural Yunnan province and found nearly 3% had antibodies for bat coronaviruses. Expanding this data to cover the densely populated area in southeast Asia where there are bats known to harbour coronaviruses, we can safely estimate that between one and seven million people are infected with bat coronaviruses each year.

Unfortunately, this sort of logic will not deter conspiracy theorists. The dark power of the internet means that anyone, anywhere, can find evidence to echo even the most outlandish of claims. Theories that Sars originated from space or that HIV was manmade are readily available, but it doesn't make them true. Such conspiracies play to our most base instincts and paranoias – fears that dissolve logic and reason. The details of how this virus emerged naturally are far less exciting. They're about how humans and animals have interacted for millennia, now at an unprecedented rate. They're about how human domination of the world's ecosystems as we encroach on animal habitats is opening new pathways for viruses, once hidden in the depths of the forest, to be transmitted to humans.

Even as Covid-19 continues to spread across the world, analysing its origin is of critical importance for our species on this planet. If we allow myths and rumours to set our pandemic prevention agenda, we miss, quite literally, the forest for the trees. We estimate that there are 1.7m undiscovered viruses in wildlife in emerging disease hotspots such as rural southeast Asia. Rather than chasing conspiracies, we should be focusing our efforts on these regions and the communities on their frontlines. A pandemic such as this one isn't a once-in-a-lifetime tragedy. Ignoring the guidance of the global scientific community about how and why they emerge will come at a great cost to us all.

• Peter Daszak is president of EcoHealth Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to analysing and preventing pandemics

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Sun, 19 Jul 2020 3:21:49 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 19 Jul 2020 3:21:47 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Op Ed
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; David Morens [b6] [b6];

Great to hear – they could publish with initial names, and “an additional 137 co-signatories” then list them on a website. That’s what I’d suggest.

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: Friday, July 17, 2020 11:44 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6] [b6]
Subject: Op Ed

Hi Peter and David, I reworked the OpEd after Politico declined with a brief mention of the invitation from the 4 House committee chairs to Azar to brief them by July 15th. With his failure to appear I have worked this factoid as an into to the prior text related to the silence on the investigation NIH conducted (right!) with neither HHS nor NIH OD saying anything in public and then sending that nasty request to EHA, and I sent it to The Hill this afternoon. They have responded rather quickly with an expressed interest and asked a couple of questions which were rather simple to respond to and of no major substance, just procedural. So I am now finally hopeful we have a publisher. I’ll let you and David know when I hear back with a final word. If this works I will have to thank the House committee chairs for inviting Azar to brief them and to Azar for stiffing them which made this timely once again.

I don’t know how they will handle our interest in acknowledging there were 137 addition signatories aside from me, Klausner and Olden. I asked about that and I’m waiting for their final decision and the detail if they accept to publish. I think this will be good and very timely given

Azars' failure to appear.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and Global Health
Associate Director
National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
Boston University, Boston MA

Date: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 7:51:22 PM -0400
 Sent: Thu, 10 Sep 2020 7:51:21 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: Confidential updates
 From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
 To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak
 [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];
 More than wild it would be a fantastic step for an evidence based HHS.

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
 Professor of Medicine
 Associate Director
 National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
 Boston University, Boston MA 02118

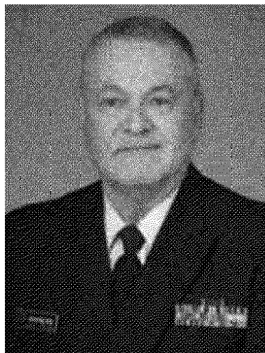
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura
 [b6];
Subject: RE: Confidential updates

As he approaches his 80th birthday he HAS TO be thinking about writing his memoirs. Rumor has it that his book on AIDS is mostly finished, but he is coy about all that. But COVID-19 is a whole new wrinkle. Book 2.... You both recall that VP Biden has said that if elected he wants to have Tony in his admin. I assume the only job he would want would be Secretary of HHS. Wouldn't that be wild?????

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)
 301 496 4409
 [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



From: Keusch, Gerald T. [b6]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E: [b6]]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Confidential updates

Hi Peter,

This insanity will not be dampened until Trump vacates the White House. Then the fun can begin in the courts and in the court of public opinion as people have a chance to think about what he is and what he has done. In the meanwhile all of our empathy goes out to you and colleagues at EHA who have to bear up under all of this. Perhaps the only one I know who has a similar level of angst is Tony. What a narrow ledge he walks. The Woodward book release, and what has been released of what he says is fascinating. I just wish Tony had not said anything about the quotes in the book attributed to him. His comment that he does not recall is not credible – maybe he didn't have another option at the moment. One way or another, though, I expect he will find a way to say what he really would like to say.

Jerry

Gerald T. Keusch, M.D.
 Professor of Medicine
 Associate Director
 National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory
 Boston University, Boston MA 02118

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.: [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: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>; Dennis Carroll [REDACTED]
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] [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>; Dennis Carroll [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Your article on emerging infections ...

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

From: Patrick Skerrett <patrick.skerrett@statnews.com>

Date: September 9, 2020 at 08:09:40 EDT

To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAD) [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: Mon, 6 Jul 2020 1:38:50 AM -0400
Sent: Mon, 6 Jul 2020 1:38:48 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Status of OpEd
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Great to hear. Not unexpected re. Victor – he's cautious and way too political for a job that doesn't really have any clearly mandated authority. Surely being NAM President is a job that is simply whatever you make of it. If there's a moment in time when you can stand up for science, surely you should jump at the opportunity before your term ends and you realize you've not really made much of a difference?

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: Sunday, July 5, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: Status of OpEd

Keep on keeping on! It is fascinating to get a glimpse of how things work inside your august body. And good to know so many of these "best and brightest" folks are willing to stick their necks out to defend the sanctity of science! Had a great 4th and hope you did too. David

On 7/4/2020 9:35 PM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

Happy (?) 4th,

There are now 140 signers. I also heard from Victor Dzau who said he heard I was shepherding an OpEd by NAM members and asked me to avoid that as he did not want there to be any confusion this was a policy statement from the Academy. It isn't, and is clearly from a group of concerned NAM members writing in support (more boldly) of the statement he issued on behalf of the Academy. He copied Marcia McNutt on it and in my reply I could also take a swipe at the failure of NAS to sign on to the benign statement referring to their document from 2018 without mentioning there was an overt example right now.

At any rate I said I would, but I didn't provide him with a copy, or any information on the

status of it, or how many had signed. I did say it had gone to a limited number as just two of us used our own network to contact a members in sections 4, 8 and 9, and that if it had gone out to the whole membership I would guess 50-75% of the members would be on board. And I did not offer to send him whatever edits I find necessary to make. It won't be very different. I have contacted Stephanie to let her know that I need to make some edits and that the number of signatures had grown to 140, and I would stop including more when I reached 150 – just a nice number. And just two weeks ago I would have been happy to reach 100.

Jerry

Date: Tue, 5 May 2020 6:36:26 PM -0400
 Sent: Tue, 5 May 2020 6:36:24 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
 From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
 To: David Morens [b6] >;
 CC: [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] >;
 Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png
 There's a lot of people really hoping Tony wins this one.

Thanks for sharing.

From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab [b6]

Jerry, i doubt Tony is saying go ahead and fire me, but i think he is pushing his balancing act. Probably he hopes to stay one step ahead of eliciting Trump's firing wrath. Lots of others have played that game and lost, and if Tony wins, he'll be the first. But it is probably the right strategy to adopt. D

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

On May 5, 2020, at 18:22, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I'm glad to see this. But I am also concerned. Trump is showing there is no limit to his paranoia. Firing the HHS IG and preventing Tony from talking to the House but allowing him to go to the Senate is just an indicator. Is Tony now saying, in a way, go ahead and fire me because I won't take this shit any more?

A lot of people are hoping and waiting for that. Is this pushback somewhat off the front page the strategy? Anyway, as my wife so often and so correctly tells me I have to read it before I can opine on it – whatever it happens to be.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:15 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: RE: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
Importance: High

Most important of all he stated that he doesn't buy the 'accidental lab release' hypothesis either – for the first time.

He's a hero to me, my wife and to our whole family.

We have our 'Fauci Mug' to prove that (see attached image). Please show that to the great man himself if there's an opportune moment over the next few weeks.

Cc'ing Dennis and Jerry on this.

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

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:02 AM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

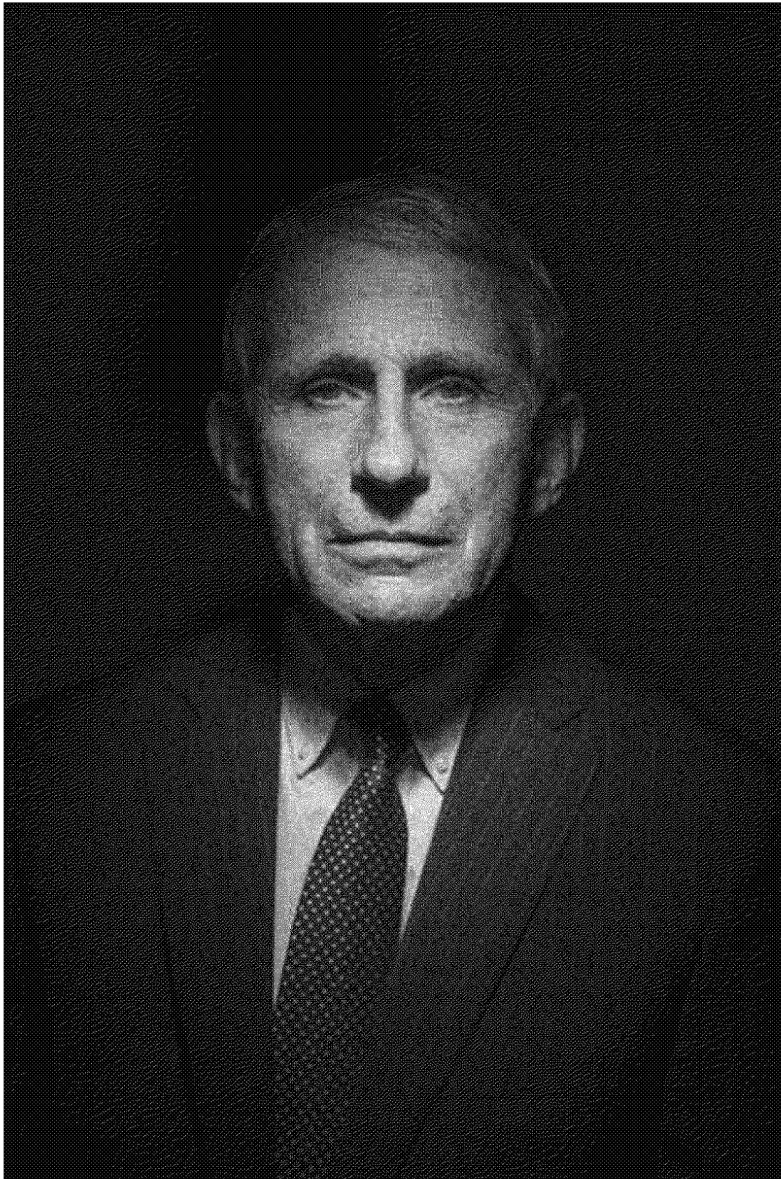
Subject: Fwd: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

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

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

Date: May 4, 2020 at 20:58:15 EDT

Subject: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>



[ScienceCoronavirus Coverage](#)

Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab

In an exclusive interview, the face of America's COVID-19 response cautions against the rush for states to reopen, and offers his tips for handling the pandemic's information deluge.

Anthony Fauci has been the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for almost 40 years, where he has tackled dozens of outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS. To him, the coronavirus is "extraordinary."

By **Nsikan Akpan** and [Victoria Jaggard](#)

PUBLISHED May 4, 2020

Anthony "Tony" Fauci has become the scientific face of America's COVID-19 response, and he says the best

evidence shows the virus behind the pandemic was not made in a lab in China.

Fauci, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shot down the discussion that has been raging among politicians and pundits, calling it “a circular argument” in a conversation Monday with National Geographic.

“If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated ... Everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that [this virus] evolved in nature and then jumped species,” Fauci says. Based on the scientific evidence, he also doesn't entertain an alternate theory—that someone found the coronavirus in the wild, brought it to a lab, and then it accidentally escaped.

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, listens as President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Thursday, April 9, 2020, in Washington.

Photograph by Andrew Harnik, AP Photo

Fauci is most concerned that the United States will be put to the test this fall and winter by a second wave of COVID-19 if the country does not blunt the infection rate by the summer.

“Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter,” he says, advising that the U.S. needs to make sure we not only have an adequate supply of tests available before a second wave hits, but also a system for getting those tests to the people who most need them.

“I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear,” he says. “It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge.” As such, Fauci says the U.S. should also focus this summer on properly reinforcing the nation's health care system, ensuring the availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment for health care workers.

He also stressed the importance of continuing to social distance everywhere until the case counts start to fall in cities and states. The U.S. witnessed about 20,000 to 30,000 new cases every day in the month of April, suggesting the country is stuck in its peak.

Still, he remains optimistic that a vaccine will be ready within an historically short time frame, citing one promising candidate that he thinks may move into advanced clinical trials by the early summer. Fauci has said that he thinks a final vaccine could be available for general use as early as January, which would break records for the speed at which previous vaccines were developed.

One reason for his confidence is the “impressive” results being seen now in animals tested with a vaccine candidate made by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Therapeutics, which brought it into human trials in a record 42 days. The candidate is what is known as an mRNA vaccine—a drug that uses snippets of a virus's genetic material—rather than the dead or weakened virus itself—to build the proteins that trigger the body's protective immune response.

To date, no type of mRNA vaccine has been licensed for use in humans, but Fauci believes there is great promise for this technology targeting the coronavirus, based in part on his experience developing treatments for HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and '90s.

“For some reason that we're still struggling with, the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV,” he says. To fight off that virus, a vaccine has to work better than the body's own natural response. By contrast, “it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response” to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the animal trials so far show that modest doses of the mRNA vaccine for coronavirus have also generated a strong immune response.

He adds that NIAID is still developing and supporting multiple vaccine efforts, in case those that go into trials soonest don't ultimately prove safe and effective. “You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time,” he says.

Fauci told National Geographic he's concerned about states rushing to reopen before their infection rates fall. He also shared how he manages the barrage of new scientific information being released about COVID-19, and how his family and faith keep him going despite his increasingly hectic schedule.

(The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.)

Fauci on the vaccine

You've been the NIAID director since 1984, witnessing dozens of disease outbreaks. One of the first was the HIV/AIDS epidemic. How does that experience compare with COVID-19?

One of the important advantages is what we call targeted drug development. Viruses cause disease by binding to receptors on cells in your body, be they in your upper airway or in your lung, in the case of COVID-19. They then replicate at a rapid rate that triggers a variety of pathogenic processes. Targeting drugs to interfere at one or more vulnerable sites within this replication cycle is something that we learned with HIV.

Left:

U.S. President George W. Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom on June 19, 2008 to Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Bethesda, Maryland during ceremonies at the White House. The Presidential Medal of Freedom

... Read More

Photograph by Karen Bleier, AFP via Getty Images (Left) and Photograph by White House Photo / Alamy Stock Photo (Right)

SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] has the same sort of vulnerable points. We need to identify them and develop drugs, either alone or in combination, to block the replication.

Are there also lessons from HIV/AIDS that relate to developing a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are a bit different. We have a better chance of quickly getting, relatively speaking, a vaccine for the novel coronavirus than we did for HIV, because for some reason that's still unknown the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV.

We don't necessarily have that challenge with this coronavirus because it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response. They clear the virus, and they do well. As we know from the natural history of this disease, the majority of people actually either get well without any symptoms—they're called asymptomatic—or they have minimal symptoms, where they get a fever, some aches, and then they recover.

The fact that the majority of people can actually clear the virus is a very good sign for the feasibility of developing a vaccine.

The two most widely discussed vaccine candidates are an mRNA vaccine from Moderna, which reached human trials in a record 42 days, and Oxford University's candidate, based on what's known as a nonreplicating viral vector. Yet no vaccine based on these two technologies has ever been licensed for human use. What makes these two vaccines seem so promising, especially on this expedited timeline?

These vaccines are inducing, at least in animal models, really rather substantial immune responses, particularly the mRNA vaccine. When we look at the immune response that you can induce with a modest dose—one that's feasible to be translated into humans—and the amount of time it takes to get to that level of immunity, it is really quite impressive. It is also really easy to scale up with these two, in the sense of making a lot of doses pretty quickly. So you're right, they have not been approved, as many of the other vaccine platforms have, but the promise is great.

We at NIAID are either developing or supporting the development of multiple candidates. You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time—maybe June, July, or August—to get them into an advanced trial. The mRNA one is already well into phase one of clinical trials, and we're getting ready to go into phase two and three sometime in the early summer.

Fauci on reopening and masks

As states move to reopen businesses and warmer weather lures people outside, how concerned are you about a fresh spike in infections in the U.S.?

Take a look at the guidelines for Opening Up America Again. There are very well delineated checkpoints. There's a gateway where infections must go down for 14 days before you can enter into phase one for reopening. If you fulfill the requirements of phase one, you move to phase two. If you do it there, you go to phase three.

So when you see somebody in an environment in which the infections are not going down, and then you see 30 to 40 people on a beach with no mask ... well that's very nice to have fun in the sun, but you're really putting yourself and everyone at risk for creating an even bigger spike in infections.

Do you fear a second wave?

What's impressed me the most—but clearly in a disturbing way—is the extraordinary efficiency of how the virus spreads. It spreads so much more efficiently than influenza does. You see situations where people at home try and physically separate; they have no contact except they've touched the plate or a doorknob, and they wind up getting infected.

The clusters in families, the outbreaks on the *Teddy Roosevelt* aircraft carrier, the enormous spread on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama harbor—it's a very, very transmissible virus.

Anthony Fauci hugs Nina Pham, the nurse who was infected with Ebola from treating patient Thomas Eric Duncan in Dallas, as Pham's mother Diana (sixth from left) and sister Cathy

... Read More Photograph by Alex Wong, Getty Images

We're going to be put to the test as we move toward the fall and winter of this year. If we do it correctly, then we could be able to blunt and diminish the daily rate of infections in this country as we get into the summer. I can't guarantee it, but if we do things right, that likely will happen.

But I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear. It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge. We now will have a few months—May June, July, August—to prepare, by making sure our health system is adequately supplied with ventilators, ICU beds, personal protective equipment, etcetera. We need to not only have tests, but to make sure the people who need tests can get tested.

So that by the time we get to September, we don't have the dialogue continually fixating on do you have enough tests? Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter.

What's your position on the general public wearing face masks?

I'm glad you asked, because it has evolved over the weeks and months. When there was first discussion, it was at a time when face masks—either surgical masks or N95 respirators—were at high scarcity.

Let's assume that we now have enough masks or that you could easily make a cloth covering, as was suggested appropriately by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I think those are reasonable assumptions. We know that the masks are better in the health-care setting to prevent someone who's infected from coughing and sneezing and infecting people in the environment. When you look at what the mask does for the general population, the data are not 100 percent: It doesn't 100 percent protect you from infecting somebody else, and it certainly doesn't 100 percent prevent somebody else from infecting you.

But if you wear a mask, you are getting some protection for yourself, and if you happen to be infected and don't know it, you're to some extent preventing transmission to someone else. Given that, it just makes sense that first of all, the best way to prevent spread is to maintain the physical distance of six feet.

So, if you're in a situation where you're in contact with no one, then you don't have to be walking around with a mask all day, that's for sure. But if you are in a situation where you are going to be within the realm of six feet—the grocery store or even walking out on the street—then wear it.

Fauci on the information deluge and the “virus made in Chinese lab” claim.

How do you keep up with the barrage of information and filter down to the most important science?

It's like drinking from a fire hydrant. It really is. Fortunately for me, I have a staff of three to four really good people who sift through the papers and when something looks unreasonable or “pie in the sky,” they don't bother me with that. Then when all of these studies come across my desk, I read the title and the abstract. If it looks feasible, I'll put it aside and try and read it. When it's something that they think I should read, they make sure I read it.

Even with that screening process, it's still very difficult to consume everything that's out there, particularly with this relatively recent trend with these non-peer-reviewed, pre-publications [that have not gone through traditional vetting to appear in major journals].

So, what's your advice to the public at-large for sifting through the headlines and making sense of it all?

Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks with members of his laboratory during a meeting Aug. 31, 1990, where he describes a natural growth factor that is necessary for the AIDS virus to multiply.

Photograph by George Tames, The New York Times via Redux

Anybody can claim to be an expert even when they have no idea what they're talking about—and it's very difficult for the general public to distinguish. So, make sure the study is coming from a reputable organization that generally gives you the truth—though even with some reputable organizations, you occasionally get an outlier who's out there talking nonsense. If something is published in places like *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, or *JAMA*—you know, generally that is quite well peer reviewed because the editors and the editorial staff of those journals really take things very seriously.

One topic in the news lately has been the origins of SAR-CoV-2. Do you believe or is there evidence that the virus was made in the lab in China or accidentally released from a lab in China?

If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats, and what's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this [virus] could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated—the way the mutations have naturally evolved. A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.

Sure, but what if scientists found the virus outside the lab, brought it back, and then it escaped?

But that means it was in the wild to begin with. That's why I don't get what they're talking about [and] why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument.

Fauci's life right now

What's your typical day like?

I get up around five o'clock in the morning, and I usually wind up running downstairs, getting a quick breakfast, and looking at a thousand emails—literally a thousand.

I then head to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] for my day job—trying to develop a vaccine and drugs and running a \$6 billion institution. I stay there until around one o'clock, and then I go down to the White House for multiple meetings. First, I meet with the doctor group—myself, coronavirus response coordinator Debbie Birx, director Bob Redfield from the CDC, commissioner Steve Hahn from FDA, and others. We then go into the task force meeting run by Vice President [Mike Pence], which usually lasts about an hour and a half. We summarize this pre-brief with the vice president and then go brief President [Donald Trump] for the press conference.

Then, the work starts ... I head home or back to the NIH and work until the wee hours of the morning. The whole day is punctuated by everybody needing to talk to you: every governor in the states, every congressional leader, every leader in the White House. It's constant conference calls. It's an almost impossible situation—and that's seven days a week.

Then you superimpose upon that all the press you do—the TV or the radio or the interviews. It's kind of a surrealistic state. I have to wake up in the morning and literally, without being facetious, ask my wife, what day is it?

Wow, how do you unwind?

I power walk with my wife, usually at night or on the weekends. It's dark, but we still do it anyway.

Has it ever been too taxing?

A couple of months ago, I was foolish and just thought I could get away with almost no sleep. I mean, like three hours a night. I did that for a few weeks, and it almost killed me. It really wore me down badly. Thank goodness I have a very intelligent and clinically skilled wife who turned things around and said, You got to remember to eat, and you've got to remember to sleep. The day is still impossible, but I don't think I'm going to drop dead from it. I hope not.

You went to a Jesuit high school, where you learned the importance of doing good for the public. How has that experience informed your professional life?

My whole life was almost served to me on the basis that my mother and father were very much oriented toward service. They were never really interested in money or material things. That's just the way they were, both of them. So I never knew there was anything like going out there and making a lot of money, and that was really cemented when I went both to a Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, where the entire theme was service for others. I almost never had any other inkling of doing anything except something that would have a public service component to it. I'm very much of a people person, but I'm also scientifically inclined. My entire training is steeped in the humanities, and when you combine that with an aptitude for science, you wind up being a physician.

Victoria Jaggard is the senior editor for Science & Innovation at National Geographic.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 2:44:53 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 2:44:52 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Grants withdrawn
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6];

Hi David,

I did speak to Jim Rainey of the LA Times an hour ago. I don't think you should risk talking to him, certainly not at this point. He is still mostly working on the public response to police shootings and wants to get back to this story asap. I think I filled him in without releasing any info I have had by referring him to the Nobel's web, and – per his interest in the investigation of Chinese influence on US science – to the ACD meeting and Lauer's presentation.

I have drafted an op-ed and will send it to the NAM group who joined the letter to the NASEM presidents. I'm asking them to agree to be named, although WaPo wouldn't publish that as its length would exceed the allowable word count by several fold. I do refer to the important statement of the ACD, and I am wondering if there is any publicly accessible way to cite it, as it is a remarkable rebuke of Collins' Building One.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Grants withdrawn

Got it. I don't know who but suspect it was someone in Bldg 1 (Collins' office) and if not, someone in NIAID who somehow learned of what was afoot, perhaps by being asked to provide info justifying the termination. Who could that be? [b6]? She supposedly didn't know about it, but she has the guts and smarts to do it. [b6]? I doubt it, she is too risk averse. Maybe it is an A told B who told C story that reached someone willing to blow the whistle when it reached them

You probably saw Jerry's email saying I should stay out of this for now. Not sure whether he means entirely, or whether it's OK to talk to this guy on background. If the latter I will do so. But don't want to mess up the great things that Jerry is doing!

d

On 6/16/2020 9:24 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

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.: [REDACTED] 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: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:46 AM

To: Gerald Keusch [REDACTED] b6; Peter Daszak [REDACTED] 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: "[REDACTED] 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] b6 I can also be reached via Signal, the secure/encrypted messaging service. I am on Signal via the same phone number, [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED] b6

Please let me know if you can help me understand what happened to this funding.

With kind regards,

Jim

--
David M Morens [REDACTED] b6

Date: Wed, 6 May 2020 5:49:48 PM -0400
 Sent: Wed, 6 May 2020 5:49:45 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: Union of Concerned Scientists
 From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
 To: David Morens [b6] >;
 CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Dennis Carroll [b6] >;
 Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg
 Thanks David!

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: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Dennis Carroll [b6]
Subject: Re: Union of Concerned Scientists

Thanks Peter, it has NOT cone up primarily because none of is in OD is having maNy discussions anymore. Tony is almost never in the office except Saturday, and most days no one is in the OD office except Greg, chief of staff, and sometimes Patty, Tony's "scheduler" (dont ask). Otherwise we connect via emails, but little is of substance, just basic wtf type emails. But good to know. Although you probably dont see it, my sense is thAt things are moving, perhaps glacially, in the tight direction. D

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

On May 6, 2020, at 13:19, Peter Daszak <[b6]> wrote:

In case this comes up in your discussions with people:

The information I got was that they contacted the head of the Wuhan lab to ask if NIH scientists are allowed to visit. Apparently [b6] who was NIH staff at the Beijing US embassy asked to visit the BSL-4 lab and was denied. Not sure of the details but I do know [b6] as does Dennis.

I think there may be some way that NIH is suggesting that's a reason they canceled our grant. I also heard that in an email from another person (can't remember who) – i.e. that NIH suggests scientists were denied entry to the BSL-4 lab. It's not valid for a number of reasons:

1. because our work is not done in BSL-4.
2. It's also absolutely standard for foreign govt officials to not always be quickly allowed to visit a BSL4 lab (I know that because I worked at CDC as a foreigner – UK citizen – and it took me an FBI interview to even be allowed in the building, and I was never allowed in the BSL-4).
3. On the other side of this, WIV was openly advertising for foreigners to come and do work internships in the BSL-4 lab, even up to December last year (see attached photo of a slide Zhengli Shi showed at the Nipah meeting in Singapore organized by CEPI). Danielle Anderson, an Australian citizen working with Linfa Wang in Singapore, was the first foreigner to work in the Wuhan BSL-4 lab and spent significant time there over the last couple of years. Of course, she's now also targeted by conspiracy theories.

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: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:12 PM

To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>

Cc: David Morens <[b6]>; Dennis Carroll <[b6]>

Subject: Re: Union of Concerned Scientists

Not to my knowledge but I haven't tried to get in touch with UCS.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2020, at 8:00 PM, Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6 > wrote:

BTW – I heard that Union of Concerned Scientists are asking the Wuhan lab about NIH scientist access to the lab. Is this something you all know about?

Let me know - If so, I have some information I can send in an email that will help them.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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

From: David Morens <[REDACTED] b6 >

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 7:20 PM

To: Dennis Carroll <[REDACTED] b6 >

Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6 >; Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6 >

Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Thanks, Dennis, I think we need all the rooting wed can get!
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 Tue, May 5, 2020 at 7:18 PM Dennis Carroll <[b6]> wrote:

David, you can include me as rooting for Tony, and you, and all of NIH

d

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 6:36 PM Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]> wrote:

There's a lot of people really hoping Tony wins this one.

Thanks for sharing.

From: David Morens <[b6]>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:32 PM

To: Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>

Cc: [b6] Peter Daszak <[b6]>

Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab <https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Jerry, i doubt Tony is saying go ahead and fire me, but i think he is pushing his balancing act. Probably he hopes to stay one step ahead of eliciting Trump's firing wrath. Lots of others have played that game and lost, and if Tony wins, he'll be the first. But it is probably the right strategy to adopt. D

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

On May 5, 2020, at 18:22, Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]> wrote:

I'm glad to see this. But I am also concerned. Trump is showing there is no limit to his paranoia. Firing the HHS IG and preventing Tony from talking to the House but allowing him to go to the Senate is just an indicator. Is Tony now saying, in a way, go ahead and fire me because I won't take this shit any more?

A lot of people are hoping and waiting for that. Is this pushback somewhat off the front page the strategy? Anyway, as my wife so often and so correctly tells me I have to read it before I can opine on it – whatever it happens to be.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:15 PM
To: David Morens [REDACTED] b6 >; [REDACTED] b6; Keusch, Gerald
 T [REDACTED] b6
Subject: RE: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab <https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
Importance: High

Most important of all he stated that he doesn't buy the 'accidental lab release' hypothesis either – for the first time.

He's a hero to me, my wife and to our whole family.

We have our 'Fauci Mug' to prove that (see attached image). Please show that to the great man himself if there's an opportune moment over the next few weeks.

Cc'ing Dennis and Jerry on this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:02 AM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 >

Subject: Fwd: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab <https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: May 4, 2020 at 20:58:15 EDT
Subject: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab <https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

<image001.jpg>

[ScienceCoronavirus Coverage](#)

Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab

In an exclusive interview, the face of America's COVID-19 response cautions against the rush for states to reopen, and offers his tips for handling the pandemic's information deluge.

Anthony Fauci has been the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for almost 40 years, where he has tackled dozens of outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS. To him, the coronavirus is "extraordinary."

By **Nsikan Akpan** and [Victoria Jaggard](#)

PUBLISHED May 4, 2020

Anthony "Tony" Fauci has become the scientific face of America's COVID-19 response, and he says the best evidence shows the virus behind the pandemic was not made in a lab in China.

Fauci, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shot down the discussion that has been raging among politicians and pundits, calling it "a circular argument" in a conversation Monday with National Geographic.

"If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated ... Everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that [this virus] evolved in nature and then jumped species," Fauci says. [Based on the scientific evidence](#), he also doesn't entertain an alternate theory—that someone found the coronavirus in the wild, brought it to a lab, and then it accidentally escaped.

<image002.png>

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, listens as President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in

the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Thursday, April 9, 2020, in Washington.

Photograph by Andrew Harnik, AP Photo

Fauci is most concerned that the United States will be put to the test this fall and winter by a second wave of COVID-19 if the country does not blunt the infection rate by the summer.

“Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter,” he says, advising that the U.S. needs to make sure we not only have an adequate supply of tests available before a second wave hits, but also a system for getting those tests to the people who most need them.

“I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear,” he says.

“It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge.” As such, Fauci says the U.S. should also focus this summer on properly reinforcing the nation's health care system, ensuring the availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment for health care workers.

He also stressed the importance of continuing to social distance everywhere until the case counts start to fall in cities and states. The U.S. witnessed about 20,000 to 30,000 new cases every day in the month of April, suggesting the country is stuck in its peak.

Still, he remains optimistic that a vaccine will be ready within an historically short time frame, citing one promising candidate that he thinks may move into advanced clinical trials by the early summer. Fauci has said that he thinks a final vaccine could be available for general use as early as January, which would break records for the speed at which previous vaccines were developed.

One reason for his confidence is the “impressive” results being seen now in animals tested with a vaccine candidate made by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Therapeutics, which brought it into human trials in a record 42 days. The candidate is what is known as an mRNA vaccine—a drug that uses snippets of a virus's genetic material—rather than the dead or weakened virus itself—to build the proteins that trigger the body's protective immune response.

To date, no type of mRNA vaccine has been licensed for use in humans, but Fauci believes there is great promise for this technology targeting the coronavirus, based in part on his experience developing treatments for HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and '90s.

“For some reason that we're still struggling with, the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV,” he says. To fight off that virus, a vaccine has to work better than the body's own natural response. By contrast, “it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response” to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the animal trials so far show that modest doses of the mRNA vaccine for coronavirus have also generated a strong immune response.

He adds that NIAID is still developing and supporting multiple vaccine efforts, in case those that go into trials soonest don't ultimately prove safe and effective.

“You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time,” he says.

Fauci told National Geographic he's concerned about states rushing to reopen before their infection rates fall. He also shared how he manages the barrage of new scientific information being released about COVID-19, and how his family and faith keep him going despite his increasingly hectic schedule.

(The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.)

Fauci on the vaccine

You've been the NIAID director since 1984, witnessing dozens of disease outbreaks. One of the first was the HIV/AIDS epidemic. How does that

experience compare with COVID-19?

One of the important advantages is what we call targeted drug development. Viruses cause disease by binding to receptors on cells in your body, be they in your upper airway or in your lung, in the case of COVID-19. They then replicate at a rapid rate that triggers a variety of pathogenic processes. Targeting drugs to interfere at one or more vulnerable sites within this replication cycle is something that we learned with HIV.

<image002.png >

<image002.png >

Left:

U.S. President George W. Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom on June 19, 2008 to Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Bethesda, Maryland during ceremonies at the White House. The Presidential Medal of Freedom

... Read More

Photograph by Karen Bleier, AFP via Getty Images (Left) and Photograph by White House Photo / Alamy Stock Photo (Right)

SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] has the same sort of vulnerable points. We need to identify them and develop drugs, either alone or in combination, to block the replication.

Are there also lessons from HIV/AIDS that relate to developing a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are a bit different. We have a better chance of quickly getting, relatively speaking, a vaccine for the novel coronavirus than we did for HIV, because for some reason that's still unknown the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV.

We don't necessarily have that challenge with this coronavirus because it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response. They clear the virus, and they do well. As we know from the natural history of this disease, the majority of people actually either get well without any symptoms—they're called asymptomatic—or they have minimal symptoms, where they get a fever, some aches, and then they recover.

The fact that the majority of people can actually clear the virus is a very good sign for the feasibility of developing a vaccine.

The two most widely discussed vaccine candidates are an mRNA vaccine from Moderna, which reached human trials in a record 42 days, and Oxford University's candidate, based on what's known as a nonreplicating viral vector. Yet no vaccine based on these two technologies has ever been licensed for human use. What makes these two vaccines seem so promising, especially on this expedited timeline?

These vaccines are inducing, at least in animal models, really rather substantial immune responses, particularly the mRNA vaccine. When we look at the immune response that you can induce with a modest dose—one that's feasible to be translated into humans—and the amount of time it takes to get to that level of immunity, it is really quite impressive. It is also really easy to scale up with these two, in the sense of making a lot of doses pretty quickly. So you're right, they have not been approved, as many of the other vaccine platforms have, but the promise is great.

We at NIAID are either developing or supporting the development of multiple candidates. You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time—maybe June, July, or August—to get them into an advanced trial. The mRNA one is already well into phase one of clinical trials, and we're getting ready to go into phase two and three sometime in

the early summer.

Fauci on reopening and masks

As states move to reopen businesses and warmer weather lures people outside, how concerned are you about a fresh spike in infections in the U.S.?

Take a look at the guidelines for [Opening Up America Again](#). There are very well delineated checkpoints. There's a gateway where infections must go down for 14 days before you can enter into phase one for reopening. If you fulfill the requirements of phase one, you move to phase two. If you do it there, you go to phase three.

So when you see somebody in an environment in which the infections are not going down, and then you see 30 to 40 people on a beach with no mask ... well that's very nice to have fun in the sun, but you're really putting yourself and everyone at risk for creating an even bigger spike in infections.

Do you fear a second wave?

What's impressed me the most—but clearly in a disturbing way—is the extraordinary efficiency of how the virus spreads. It spreads so much more efficiently than influenza does. You see situations where people at home try and physically separate; they have no contact except they've touched the plate or a doorknob, and they wind up getting infected.

The [clusters in families](#), the outbreaks on the *Teddy Roosevelt* aircraft carrier, the [enormous spread on the Diamond Princess cruise ship](#) in Yokohama harbor—it's a very, very transmissible virus.

<image002.png >

Anthony Fauci hugs Nina Pham, the nurse who was infected with Ebola from treating patient Thomas Eric Duncan in Dallas, as Pham's mother Diana (sixth from left) and sister Cathy

... Read More Photograph by Alex Wong, Getty Images

We're going to be put to the test as we move toward the fall and winter of this year. If we do it correctly, then we could be able to blunt and diminish the daily rate of infections in this country as we get into the summer. I can't guarantee it, but if we do things right, that likely will happen.

But I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear. It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge. We now will have a few months—May June, July, August—to prepare, by making sure our health system is adequately supplied with ventilators, ICU beds, personal protective equipment, etcetera. We need to not only have tests, but to make sure the people who need tests can get tested.

So that by the time we get to September, we don't have the dialogue continually fixating on do you have enough tests? Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter.

What's your position on the general public wearing face masks?

I'm glad you asked, because it has evolved over the weeks and months. When there was first discussion, it was at a time when face masks—either surgical masks or N95 respirators—were at high scarcity.

Let's assume that we now have enough masks or that you could easily make a cloth covering, as was suggested appropriately by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I think those are reasonable assumptions. [We know that the masks are better in the health-care setting](#) to prevent someone who's infected from coughing and sneezing and infecting people in the environment. When you look at what the mask does for the general population, the data are not 100 percent: It doesn't 100 percent protect you from infecting somebody else, and it certainly doesn't 100 percent prevent somebody else from infecting you.

But if you wear a mask, you are getting some protection for yourself, and if you happen to be infected and don't know it, you're to some extent preventing transmission to someone else. Given that, it just makes sense that first of all, the best way to prevent spread is to maintain the physical distance of six feet. So, if you're in a situation where you're in contact with no one, then you don't have to be walking around with a mask all day, that's for sure. But if you are in a situation where you are going to be within the realm of six feet—the grocery store or even walking out on the street—then wear it.

Fauci on the information deluge and the “virus made in Chinese lab” claim.

How do you keep up with the barrage of information and filter down to the most important science?

It's like drinking from a fire hydrant. It really is. Fortunately for me, I have a staff of three to four really good people who sift through the papers and when something looks unreasonable or “pie in the sky,” they don't bother me with that. Then when all of these studies come across my desk, I read the title and the abstract. If it looks feasible, I'll put it aside and try and read it. When it's something that they think I should read, they make sure I read it.

Even with that screening process, it's still very difficult to consume everything that's out there, particularly with this relatively recent trend with these non-peer-reviewed, pre-publications [that have not gone through traditional vetting to appear in major journals].

So, what's your advice to the public at-large for sifting through the headlines and making sense of it all?

<image002.png >

Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks with members of his laboratory during a meeting Aug. 31, 1990, where he describes a natural growth factor that is necessary for the AIDS virus to multiply.

Photograph by George Tames, The New York Times via Redux

Anybody can claim to be an expert even when they have no idea what they're talking about—and it's very difficult for the general public to distinguish. So, make sure the study is coming from a reputable organization that generally gives you the truth—though even with some reputable organizations, you occasionally get an outlier who's out there talking nonsense. If something is published in places like *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, or *JAMA*—you know, generally that is quite well peer reviewed because the editors and the editorial staff of those journals really take things very seriously.

One topic in the news lately has been the origins of SAR-CoV-2. Do you believe or is there evidence that the virus was made in the lab in China or accidentally released from a lab in China?

If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats, and what's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this [virus] could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated—the way the mutations have naturally evolved. A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.

Sure, but what if scientists found the virus outside the lab, brought it back, and then it escaped?

But that means it was in the wild to begin with. That's why I don't get what they're talking about [and] why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument.

Fauci's life right now

What's your typical day like?

I get up around five o'clock in the morning, and I usually wind up running downstairs, getting a quick breakfast, and looking at a thousand emails—literally a thousand.

I then head to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] for my day job—trying to develop a vaccine and drugs and running a \$6 billion institution. I stay there until around one o'clock, and then I go down to the White House for multiple meetings. First, I meet with the doctor group—myself, coronavirus response coordinator Debbie Birx, director Bob Redfield from the CDC, commissioner Steve Hahn from FDA, and others. We then go into the task force meeting run by Vice President [Mike Pence], which usually lasts about an hour and a half. We summarize this pre-brief with the vice president and then go brief President [Donald Trump] for the press conference.

Then, the work starts ... I head home or back to the NIH and work until the wee hours of the morning. The whole day is punctuated by everybody needing to talk to you: every governor in the states, every congressional leader, every leader in the White House. It's constant conference calls. It's an almost impossible situation—and that's seven days a week.

Then you superimpose upon that all the press you do—the TV or the radio or the interviews. It's kind of a surrealistic state. I have to wake up in the morning and literally, without being facetious, ask my wife, what day is it?

Wow, how do you unwind?

I power walk with my wife, usually at night or on the weekends. It's dark, but we still do it anyway.

Has it ever been too taxing?

A couple of months ago, I was foolish and just thought I could get away with almost no sleep. I mean, like three hours a night. I did that for a few weeks, and it almost killed me. It really wore me down badly. Thank goodness I have a very intelligent and clinically skilled wife who turned things around and said, You got to remember to eat, and you've got to remember to sleep. The day is still impossible, but I don't think I'm going to drop dead from it. I hope not.

You went to a Jesuit high school, where you learned the importance of doing good for the public. How has that experience informed your professional life?

My whole life was almost served to me on the basis that my mother and father were very much oriented toward service. They were never really interested in money or material things. That's just the way they were, both of them. So I never knew there was anything like going out there and making a lot of money, and that was really cemented when I went both to a Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, where the entire theme was service for others.

I almost never had any other inkling of doing anything except something that would have a public service component to it. I'm very much of a people person, but I'm also scientifically inclined. My entire training is steeped in the humanities, and when you combine that with an aptitude for science, you wind up being a physician.

Victoria Jaggard is the senior editor for Science & Innovation at National Geographic.

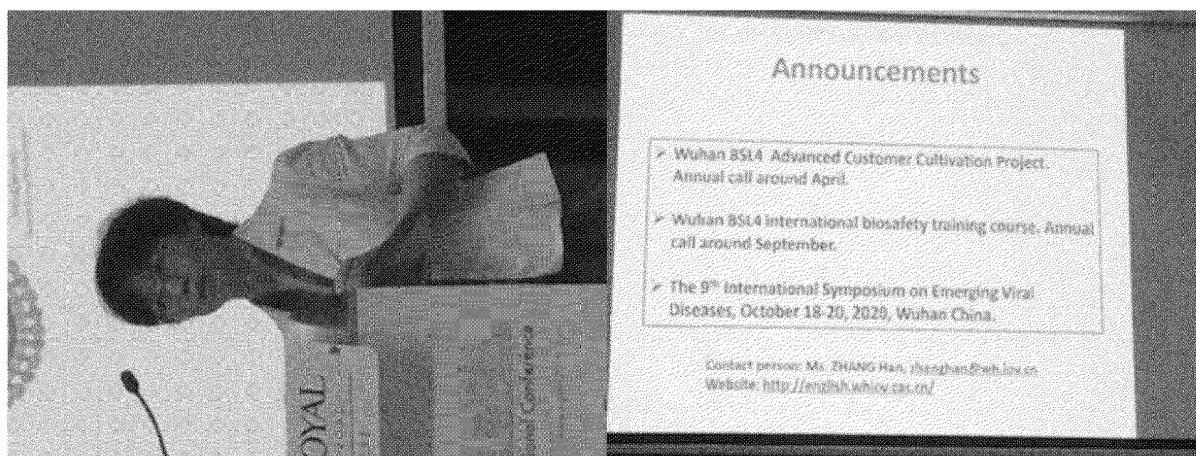
Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

--

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, 30 Apr 2020 6:22:58 PM -0400
 Sent: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 6:22:52 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: NIAID Funding Opportunities: Rapid Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19
 From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
 To: David Morens [b6] >;
 CC: [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] >, [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

I will be doing – we're working on another R01.

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, April 30, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: [b6] Gerald T Keusch [b6] [b6] Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Re: NIAID Funding Opportunities: Rapid Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

You gotta apply! D

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

On Apr 30, 2020, at 17:38, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

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](#)

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact [Subscriber Help](#).

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: Tue, 5 May 2020 9:16:18 PM -0400
 Sent: Tue, 5 May 2020 9:16:16 PM -0400
 Subject: Re: Vanity Fair: Dr. Fauci Isn't Buying Trumpworld's China Coronavirus Theory
 From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
 To: Peter Daszak [b6] >;
 CC: David Morens [b6] >;
 Attachments: image003.jpg
 Thanks for sharing. His message needs to be echoed everywhere to drown out the crap out there.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2020, at 8:00 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

This is music to all of our ears. With such a high public opinion, I don't think Trump will dare right now.

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: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:36 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Subject: Fwd: Vanity Fair: Dr. Fauci Isn't Buying Trumpworld's China Coronavirus Theory

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: May 5, 2020 at 18:35:01 EDT
To: David Morens b6
Subject: Fwd: Vanity Fair: Dr. Fauci Isn't Buying Trumpworld's China Coronavirus Theory

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: May 5, 2020 at 18:33:35 EDT
To: NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>, NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>, NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Vanity Fair: Dr. Fauci Isn't Buying Trumpworld's China Coronavirus Theory

Dr. Fauci Isn't Buying Trumpworld's China Coronavirus Theory

The doctor's skepticism comes as the president and his allies suggest the virus was created in a Wuhan lab.
By [Eric Lutz](#)
May 5, 2020
<image003.jpg>

Anthony Fauci attends a coronavirus press briefing in April. Drew Angerer

Donald Trump and others in his orbit have begun more aggressively pushing the conspiracy theory that the novel coronavirus was created in a Chinese lab. "It's a terrible thing that happened," the president said in an interview with *Reuters* last week. "Whether they made a mistake or whether it started off as a mistake and then they made another one. Or did somebody do something on purpose?"

But Dr. **Anthony Fauci** shot down that theory, telling *National Geographic* in an interview published Monday that there does not appear to be evidence the deadly virus was created in a lab and made it into the general population, either by accident or on purpose as Trump suggested. "What's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this [virus] could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated—the way the mutations have naturally evolved," Fauci told the publication. "A number of very qualified biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species."

The virus, which was first discovered in Wuhan late last year, is believed to have jumped to humans from bats. But as the toll of the coronavirus continues to mount in the United States, which was caught flat-footed by the pandemic despite the president receiving multiple warnings about the severity of the threat, Trump and his allies have gone all in on a theory that China created the virus on purpose. "There's enormous evidence that that's where this began," Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** said Sunday on ABC News' *This Week*, declining to produce any such proof to support his claim. "These are not the first times that we have had the world exposed to viruses as a result of failures in a Chinese lab." Both U.S. intelligence and the World Health Organization have publicly refuted the theory, though Fox News' **John Roberts** reported over the weekend that some intelligence officials believe a Wuhan lab created the virus and released it as a "mistake." Pompeo has reportedly pushed for the U.S. intelligence apparatus to find proof to support the theory, but Fauci told *National Geographic* that the crusade makes little sense. "I don't get what they're talking about," Fauci said. "I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument."

Fauci has long been at odds with Trump and members of the administration, who have played down the threat of the virus, promulgated unproven and in some cases obviously dangerous potential treatments for it, and pushed to "reopen" states and businesses despite ongoing deficiencies in U.S. testing capabilities. Speaking to *National Geographic*, he cautioned against the spread of misinformation like the kind the president has spouted. "Anybody can claim to be an expert even when they have no idea what they're talking about," Fauci said. "It's very difficult for the general public to distinguish."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 5 May 2020 7:18:29 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 5 May 2020 7:18:16 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
From: Dennis Carroll [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: David Morens [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Attachments: image002.png; image001.jpg

David, you can include me as rooting for Tony, and you, and all of NIH

d

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 6:36 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

There's a lot of people really hoping Tony wins this one.

Thanks for sharing.

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Jerry, i doubt Tony is saying go ahead and fire me, but i think he is pushing his balancing act. Probably he hopes to stay one step ahead of eliciting Trump's firing wrath. Lots of others have played that game and lost, and if Tony wins, he'll be the first. But it is probably the right strategy to adopt. D

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On May 5, 2020, at 18:22, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I'm glad to see this. But I am also concerned. Trump is showing there is no limit to his paranoia. Firing the HHS IG and preventing Tony from talking to the House but allowing him to go to the Senate is just an indicator. Is Tony now saying, in a way, go ahead and fire me because I won't take this shit any more?

A lot of people are hoping and waiting for that. Is this pushback somewhat off the front page the strategy? Anyway, as my wife so often and so correctly tells me I have to read it before I can opine on it – whatever it happens to be.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:15 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
Importance: High

Most important of all he stated that he doesn't buy the 'accidental lab release' hypothesis either – for the first time.

He's a hero to me, my wife and to our whole family.

We have our 'Fauci Mug' to prove that (see attached image). Please show that to the great man himself if there's an opportune moment over the next few weeks.

Cc'ing Dennis and Jerry on this.

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

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:02 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Subject: Fwd: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

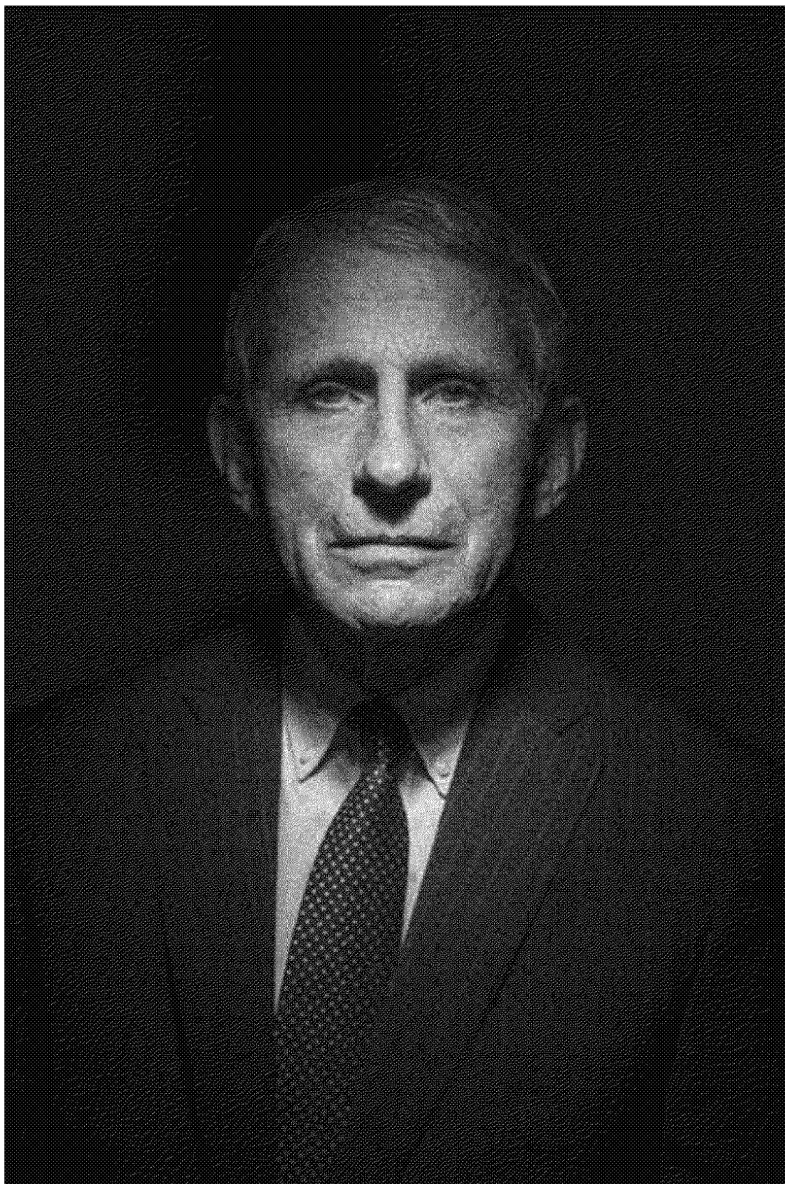
Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" b6
Date: May 4, 2020 at 20:58:15 EDT
Subject: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>



ScienceCoronavirus Coverage

Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab

In an exclusive interview, the face of America's COVID-19 response cautions against the rush for states to reopen, and offers his tips for handling the pandemic's information deluge.

Anthony Fauci has been the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for almost 40 years, where he has tackled dozens of outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS. To him, the coronavirus is "extraordinary."

By **Nsikan Akpan** and Victoria Jaggard

PUBLISHED May 4, 2020

Anthony "Tony" Fauci has become the scientific face of America's COVID-19 response, and he says the best evidence shows the virus behind the pandemic was not made in a lab in China.

Fauci, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shot down the discussion that has been raging among politicians and pundits, calling it "a circular argument" in a conversation Monday with National Geographic.

"If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated ... Everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that [this virus] evolved in nature and then jumped species," Fauci says. Based on the scientific evidence, he also doesn't entertain an alternate theory—that someone found the coronavirus in the wild, brought it to a lab, and then it accidentally escaped.

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, listens as President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Thursday, April 9, 2020, in Washington.

Photograph by Andrew Harnik, AP Photo

Fauci is most concerned that the United States will be put to the test this fall and winter by a second wave of COVID-19 if the country does not blunt the infection rate by the summer.

"Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter," he says, advising that the U.S. needs to make sure we not only have an adequate

supply of tests available before a second wave hits, but also a system for getting those tests to the people who most need them.

“I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear,” he says. “It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge.” As such, Fauci says the U.S. should also focus this summer on properly reinforcing the nation's health care system, ensuring the availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment for health care workers.

He also stressed the importance of continuing to social distance everywhere until the case counts start to fall in cities and states. The U.S. witnessed about 20,000 to 30,000 new cases every day in the month of April, suggesting the country is stuck in its peak.

Still, he remains optimistic that a vaccine will be ready within an historically short time frame, citing one promising candidate that he thinks may move into advanced clinical trials by the early summer. Fauci has said that he thinks a final vaccine could be available for general use as early as January, which would break records for the speed at which previous vaccines were developed.

One reason for his confidence is the “impressive” results being seen now in animals tested with a vaccine candidate made by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Therapeutics, which brought it into human trials in a record 42 days. The candidate is what is known as an mRNA vaccine—a drug that uses snippets of a virus's genetic material—rather than the dead or weakened virus itself—to build the proteins that trigger the body's protective immune response.

To date, no type of mRNA vaccine has been licensed for use in humans, but Fauci believes there is great promise for this technology targeting the coronavirus, based in part on his experience developing treatments for HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and '90s.

“For some reason that we're still struggling with, the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV,” he says. To fight off that virus, a vaccine has to work better than the body's own natural response. By contrast, “it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response” to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the animal trials so far show that modest doses of the mRNA vaccine for coronavirus have also generated a strong immune response.

He adds that NIAID is still developing and supporting multiple vaccine efforts, in case those that go into trials soonest don't ultimately prove safe and effective. “You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time,” he says.

Fauci told National Geographic he's concerned about states rushing to reopen before their infection rates fall. He also shared how he manages the barrage of new scientific information being released about COVID-19, and how his family and faith keep him going despite his increasingly hectic schedule.

(The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.)

Fauci on the vaccine

You've been the NIAID director since 1984, witnessing dozens of disease outbreaks. One of the first was the HIV/AIDS epidemic. How does that experience compare with COVID-19?

One of the important advantages is what we call targeted drug development. Viruses cause disease by binding to receptors on cells in your body, be they in your upper airway or in your lung, in the case of COVID-19. They then replicate at a rapid rate that triggers a variety of pathogenic processes. Targeting drugs to interfere at one or more vulnerable sites within this replication cycle

is something that we learned with HIV.

Left:

U.S. President George W. Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom on June 19, 2008 to Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Bethesda, Maryland during ceremonies at the White House. The Presidential Medal of Freedom

... Read More

Photograph by Karen Bleier, AFP via Getty Images (Left) and Photograph by White House Photo / Alamy Stock Photo (Right)

SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] has the same sort of vulnerable points. We need to identify them and develop drugs, either alone or in combination, to block the replication.

Are there also lessons from HIV/AIDS that relate to developing a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are a bit different. We have a better chance of quickly getting, relatively speaking, a vaccine for the novel coronavirus than we did for HIV, because for some reason that's still unknown the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV.

We don't necessarily have that challenge with this coronavirus because it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response. They clear the virus, and they do well. As we know from the natural history of this disease, the majority of people actually either get well without any symptoms—they're called asymptomatic—or they have minimal symptoms, where they get a fever, some aches, and then they recover.

The fact that the majority of people can actually clear the virus is a very good sign for the feasibility of developing a vaccine.

The two most widely discussed vaccine candidates are an mRNA vaccine from Moderna, which reached human trials in a record 42 days, and Oxford University's candidate, based on what's known as a nonreplicating viral vector. Yet no vaccine based on these two technologies has ever been licensed for human use. What makes these two vaccines seem so promising, especially on this expedited timeline?

These vaccines are inducing, at least in animal models, really rather substantial immune responses, particularly the mRNA vaccine. When we look at the immune response that you can induce with a modest dose—one that's feasible to be translated into humans—and the amount of time it takes to get to that level of immunity, it is really quite impressive. It is also really easy to scale up with these two, in the sense of making a lot of doses pretty quickly. So you're right, they have not been approved, as many of the other vaccine platforms have, but the promise is great.

We at NIAID are either developing or supporting the development of multiple candidates. You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time—maybe June, July, or August—to get them into an advanced trial. The mRNA

one is already well into phase one of clinical trials, and we're getting ready to go into phase two and three sometime in the early summer.

Fauci on reopening and masks

As states move to reopen businesses and warmer weather lures people outside, how concerned are you about a fresh spike in infections in the U.S.?

Take a look at the guidelines for Opening Up America Again. There are very well delineated checkpoints. There's a gateway where infections must go down for 14 days before you can enter into phase one for reopening. If you fulfill the requirements of phase one, you move to phase two. If you do it there, you go to phase three.

So when you see somebody in an environment in which the infections are not going down, and then you see 30 to 40 people on a beach with no mask ... well that's very nice to have fun in the sun, but you're really putting yourself and everyone at risk for creating an even bigger spike in infections.

Do you fear a second wave?

What's impressed me the most—but clearly in a disturbing way—is the extraordinary efficiency of how the virus spreads. It spreads so much more efficiently than influenza does. You see situations where people at home try and physically separate; they have no contact except they've touched the plate or a doorknob, and they wind up getting infected.

The clusters in families, the outbreaks on the *Teddy Roosevelt* aircraft carrier, the enormous spread on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama harbor—it's a very, very transmissible virus.

Anthony Fauci hugs Nina Pham, the nurse who was infected with Ebola from treating patient Thomas Eric Duncan in Dallas, as Pham's mother Diana (sixth from left) and sister Cathy

... Read More Photograph by Alex Wong, Getty Images

We're going to be put to the test as we move toward the fall and winter of this year. If we do it correctly, then we could be able to blunt and diminish the daily rate of infections in this country as we get into the summer. I can't guarantee it, but if we do things right, that likely will happen.

But I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear. It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge. We now will have a few months—May June, July, August—to prepare, by making sure our health system is adequately supplied with ventilators, ICU beds, personal protective equipment, etcetera. We need to not only have tests, but to make sure the people who need tests can get tested.

So that by the time we get to September, we don't have the dialogue continually fixating on do you have enough tests? Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter.

What's your position on the general public wearing face masks?

I'm glad you asked, because it has evolved over the weeks and months. When there was first

discussion, it was at a time when face masks—either surgical masks or N95 respirators—were at high scarcity.

Let's assume that we now have enough masks or that you could easily make a cloth covering, as was suggested appropriately by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I think those are reasonable assumptions. We know that the masks are better in the health-care setting to prevent someone who's infected from coughing and sneezing and infecting people in the environment. When you look at what the mask does for the general population, the data are not 100 percent: It doesn't 100 percent protect you from infecting somebody else, and it certainly doesn't 100 percent prevent somebody else from infecting you.

But if you wear a mask, you are getting some protection for yourself, and if you happen to be infected and don't know it, you're to some extent preventing transmission to someone else. Given that, it just makes sense that first of all, the best way to prevent spread is to maintain the physical distance of six feet.

So, if you're in a situation where you're in contact with no one, then you don't have to be walking around with a mask all day, that's for sure. But if you are in a situation where you are going to be within the realm of six feet—the grocery store or even walking out on the street—then wear it.

Fauci on the information deluge and the “virus made in Chinese lab” claim.

How do you keep up with the barrage of information and filter down to the most important science?

It's like drinking from a fire hydrant. It really is. Fortunately for me, I have a staff of three to four really good people who sift through the papers and when something looks unreasonable or “pie in the sky,” they don't bother me with that. Then when all of these studies come across my desk, I read the title and the abstract. If it looks feasible, I'll put it aside and try and read it. When it's something that they think I should read, they make sure I read it.

Even with that screening process, it's still very difficult to consume everything that's out there, particularly with this relatively recent trend with these non-peer-reviewed, pre-publications [that have not gone through traditional vetting to appear in major journals].

So, what's your advice to the public at-large for sifting through the headlines and making sense of it all?

Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks with members of his laboratory during a meeting Aug. 31, 1990, where he describes a natural growth factor that is necessary for the AIDS virus to multiply.

Photograph by George Tames, The New York Times via Redux

Anybody can claim to be an expert even when they have no idea what they're talking about—and it's very difficult for the general public to distinguish. So, make sure the study is coming from a reputable organization that generally gives you the truth—though even with some reputable organizations, you occasionally get an outlier who's out there talking nonsense. If something is published in places like *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, or *JAMA*—you know, generally that is quite well peer reviewed because the editors and the editorial staff of those

journals really take things very seriously.

One topic in the news lately has been the origins of SAR-CoV-2. Do you believe or is there evidence that the virus was made in the lab in China or accidentally released from a lab in China?

If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats, and what's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this [virus] could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated—the way the mutations have naturally evolved. A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.

Sure, but what if scientists found the virus outside the lab, brought it back, and then it escaped?

But that means it was in the wild to begin with. That's why I don't get what they're talking about [and] why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument.

Fauci's life right now

What's your typical day like?

I get up around five o'clock in the morning, and I usually wind up running downstairs, getting a quick breakfast, and looking at a thousand emails—literally a thousand.

I then head to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] for my day job—trying to develop a vaccine and drugs and running a \$6 billion institution. I stay there until around one o'clock, and then I go down to the White House for multiple meetings. First, I meet with the doctor group—myself, coronavirus response coordinator Debbie Birx, director Bob Redfield from the CDC, commissioner Steve Hahn from FDA, and others. We then go into the task force meeting run by Vice President [Mike Pence], which usually lasts about an hour and a half. We summarize this pre-brief with the vice president and then go brief President [Donald Trump] for the press conference.

Then, the work starts ... I head home or back to the NIH and work until the wee hours of the morning. The whole day is punctuated by everybody needing to talk to you: every governor in the states, every congressional leader, every leader in the White House. It's constant conference calls. It's an almost impossible situation—and that's seven days a week.

Then you superimpose upon that all the press you do—the TV or the radio or the interviews. It's kind of a surrealistic state. I have to wake up in the morning and literally, without being facetious, ask my wife, what day is it?

Wow, how do you unwind?

I power walk with my wife, usually at night or on the weekends. It's dark, but we still do it anyway.

Has it ever been too taxing?

A couple of months ago, I was foolish and just thought I could get away with almost no sleep. I mean, like three hours a night. I did that for a few weeks, and it almost killed me. It really wore me down badly. Thank goodness I have a very intelligent and clinically skilled wife who turned things around and said, You got to remember to eat, and you've got to remember to sleep. The day is still impossible, but I don't think I'm going to drop dead from it. I hope not.

You went to a Jesuit high school, where you learned the importance of doing good for the public. How has that experience informed your professional life?

My whole life was almost served to me on the basis that my mother and father were very much oriented toward service. They were never really interested in money or material things. That's just the way they were, both of them. So I never knew there was anything like going out there and making a lot of money, and that was really cemented when I went both to a Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, where the entire theme was service for others.

I almost never had any other inkling of doing anything except something that would have a public service component to it. I'm very much of a people person, but I'm also scientifically inclined. My entire training is steeped in the humanities, and when you combine that with an aptitude for science, you wind up being a physician.

Victoria Jaggard is the senior editor for Science & Innovation at National Geographic.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

--

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, 15 Jun 2020 9:02:16 PM -0400
Sent: Mon, 15 Jun 2020 9:02:14 PM -0400
Subject: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6] Gerald Keusch [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

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.: [b6]
 Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
 Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

Date: Thu, 19 Nov 2020 12:27:12 PM -0500
Sent: Thu, 19 Nov 2020 12:27:10 PM -0500
Subject: RE: FW: Attacks on EcoHealth Alliance continue
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]

No immediate rush. I have to be PCR tested at 5 (BU requirement if we come to the campus; amazingly BU has done over 400,000 PCR tests on students, staff and faculty since late August when some students were allowed to come back to the dorms, and a hybrid learning model – the test was developed by BU faculty and is run in a high quality extremely run BU lab). Then at 5:30 I have a virtual cocktail party for the purpose of sanity as well as comradery (and in part to rail against Trump and his A-team – and you know what the A stands for). So I may have an email or two to you to check out – or not – and follow up some time tomorrow.

Peter gave a super presentation yesterday on an ISID webinar. He will be OK if he knows there are people backing him, and you have been a big part of that as have the 3 way emails we have been exchanging. More to follow.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: FW: Attacks on EcoHealth Alliance continue

All good ideas, I will be on zooms until probably 5 or so, but much freer starting after that through the next few weeks d

On 11/19/2020 9:57 AM, Keusch, Gerald T wrote:

Hi David, I have Zoom classes at HILR from 10-3 today. I'll be in touch afterwards – or during if I get bored. Basically I am thinking about an opinion piece in PNAS, perhaps getting Victor Dzau to help steer it within the editorial board if he can (he probably won't be willing to be an author which would be better) to say the preponderance of the evidence is the natural origins, the conspiracy theories are conspiracy theories and are not equally plausible and in contrast to the natural evolution there is no evidence, and pushing the latter means the US will not be able to participate in objective work to track the virus' evolution in China because China won't let us in.

I have posed this with Nicki Lurie and Ron Corley who is the Director of the NEIDL, and you are next on my list. OK got to run. More later.

Jerry

From: David Morens <[b6]>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:31 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler

b6

Subject: Re: Attacks on EcoHealth Alliance continue

Jeez Louise!!!! Will this shit never end? I STILL remain optimistic that after 1/20 things will change quickly and NIH and HHS will be fully on your side, restore your grant, and become proactive. So keep the faith. You have way more friends than you know

For what it's worth today is the last of 8 days of the Trop Med meetings and the highest level of the organization has repeatedly given you a shout out both in several non-public meetings and in yesterday's open Business Meeting, at which our Prez and CEO brought up your situation in separate talks. The broader scientific community in ID and virology is very aware about what is going on, is royally pissed, and views this whole sorry spectacle as an existential threat to all of us. We will not take our feet off the accelerator....

I have been under continual FOIAs for months, as has Tony and several other folks in the front office. I just got two new ones this week, I am a bit ashamed to say that I haven't looked closely at what these are, in part because this stuff makes my blood boil, and in part because we now have a new FOIA team of bureaucrats and IT folks dedicated to just the FOIAs of Tony, me, and a few others, and most of them related to EHA and some similar things. All I have to do is answer an email from the FOIA team and say ok, they take over, and I don't do or see anything after that

Yes it is still good to use my gmail, but no need to worry anymore. Now that I have said what I think in print and to reporters, I am completely free to say that these conspiracy theorists are full of crap

As for that little twit Relman, he went over to the dark side over a decade ago with his DURC grandstanding. In my opinion scientists who use their skills to trash the work of other scientists are the lowest of life forms and deserve a place on the lowest bolgia of Dante's hell. He continues to bring shame to his illustrious father, and his illustrious mentor Stan Falkow. You probably also saw his newspaper editorial a few days ago. Can't you guys get the NAM to keel-haul him? (just kidding, but even that would be too good for the guy)....

Keep the faith. David

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

On Nov 18, 2020, at 23:50, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

David, Jerry – David, I'm using your gmail address to keep you out of the FOIA target...Just wanted you to know that we're still under attack here at EHA. The US Right to Know (an anti-GMO, anti-vaxx group associated with Organicconsumers.org) FOIA'd NIH for our emails and grants. NIH refused, they've now sued.
<https://usrtk.org/news-releases/u-s-right-to-know-sues-nih-for-documents-about-origins-of-sars-cov-2/>.

They've also FOIA'd people I collaborate with at state universities (Ralph Baric others), including Rita Colwell at U. Maryland (she's on my Board). They've just published 446 pages of emails between her and myself – all completely harmless of course, but just awful to have all our detailed correspondence out there
https://usrtk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Biohazard_FOIA_Maryland_Emails_11.6.20.pdf. They've concocted a story about how I orchestrated a Lancet letter back in February – which I did, but they're implying that EcoHealth funded Chinese gain of function work, and therefore I orchestrated the paper to cover up our nefarious work. Just disgusting. Here's the story which contains links to the emails <https://usrtk.org/biohazards-blog-index/> and came out today. It also uses the fact that NIH (Collins) inserted demands into our grant reinstatement as evidence that EcoHealth is 'under increased scrutiny'. Apologies Jerry, but you're listed in some of these.

At the same time, other conspiracists are applauding David Relman of Stanford on social media because he published an opinion piece in PNAS that continues to bang the drum about Wuhan, gain of function, and that the WHO mission on COVID origins and the Lancet COVID-19 commission's taskforce on COVID origins (which I'm heading up) are 'cloaked in secrecy'. <https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/11/03/2021133117>

Finally, I heard yesterday that a Florida congressman (Bill Posey) wrote to Jeff Sachs to try to get me kicked off the Lancet COVID-19 Commission because of a perceived conflict of interest re. China. Jeff's not going to do that right now, but everyone has their breaking point.

Add to all of this another FoIA we got against other NIH grants from an investigative reporter who has an anti-gain of function/bioweapons stance and it's adding up to be a tough week here!

We're not responding to this US Right to Know group, because it just gives them oxygen, but I worry that there'll be continued Foia's and pressure to trash my reputation and eventually it will begin to be successful. We've already had one of our funders hold back funding, and I don't want to have so much bad press out there that eventually I get disinvited from committees that everyone knows are important to careers these days.

Advice welcome!

Cheers,

Peter

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

Date: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 3:37:48 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 17 Jun 2020 3:37:38 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Question on BSL levels in China
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; taub
 >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD [b6]
Attachments: PandemicsFreeEbook.pdf

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, [b6], 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

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

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
Cc: Gerald Keusch [REDACTED]; Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; taub >> Jeffery K. Taubenberger MD PhD [REDACTED]
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

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

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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

EcoHealth Alliance
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
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

--

David M Morens

[REDACTED] b6

Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 6:29:43 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 23 Jun 2020 6:29:41 PM -0400
Subject: Politico story just now.
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] David Morens [b6] [b6];
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

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 <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>; 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

Date: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 9:50:58 PM -0400

Sent: Thu, 30 Apr 2020 9:50:51 PM -0400

Subject: Thank You!

From: Peter Daszak [b6]

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

CC: [b6]

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

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

Date: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 3:23:55 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 3:23:43 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] [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];
Attachments: [b6] NIAID CoV 2018 R01 renewal text final.docx

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]; [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 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 Erbelding. 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 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 <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T
Cc: Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>
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
 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: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]
Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>; Erbeling, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>; Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]>
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: [REDACTED]
 Email: [REDACTED]

From: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 1:50 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]
Cc: Peter Daszak [REDACTED], "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[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 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

[REDACTED] (office)
 [REDACTED] (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] [REDACTED] 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] b6

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] b6
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] b6, Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED] b6>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] b6
 >, "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] 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]" [b6], Naomi Schrag <
 [b6]>
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [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: [b6]; Naomi Schrag [b6]
Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [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: [b6]
 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: Wed, 6 May 2020 1:19:29 PM -0400
 Sent: Wed, 6 May 2020 1:19:25 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: Union of Concerned Scientists
 From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
 To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >;
 CC: David Morens [b6] >; Dennis Carroll [b6] >;
 Attachments: IMG_8571.jpg; IMG_8572.jpg

In case this comes up in your discussions with people:

The information I got was that they contacted the head of the Wuhan lab to ask if NIH scientists are allowed to visit. Apparently [b6] asked to visit the BSL-4 lab and was denied. Not sure of the details but I do know [b6] as does Dennis.

I think there may be some way that NIH is suggesting that's a reason they canceled our grant. I also heard that in an email from another person (can't remember who) – i.e. that NIH suggests scientists were denied entry to the BSL-4 lab. It's not valid for a number of reasons:

1. because our work is not done in BSL-4.
2. It's also absolutely standard for foreign govt officials to not always be quickly allowed to visit a BSL4 lab (I know that because I worked at CDC as a foreigner – UK citizen – and it took me an FBI interview to even be allowed in the building, and I was never allowed in the BSL-4).
3. On the other side of this, WIV was openly advertising for foreigners to come and do work internships in the BSL-4 lab, even up to December last year (see attached photo of a slide Zhengli Shi showed at the Nipah meeting in Singapore organized by CEPI). Danielle Anderson, an Australian citizen working with Linfa Wang in Singapore, was the first foreigner to work in the Wuhan BSL-4 lab and spent significant time there over the last couple of years. Of course, she's now also targeted by conspiracy theories.

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: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Dennis Carroll [b6]
Subject: Re: Union of Concerned Scientists

Not to my knowledge but I haven't tried to get in touch with UCS.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2020, at 8:00 PM, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

BTW – I heard that Union of Concerned Scientists are asking the Wuhan lab about NIH scientist access to the lab. Is this something you all know about?

Let me know - If so, I have some information I can send in an email that will help them.

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: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 7:20 PM
To: Dennis Carroll [b6]
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Thanks, Dennis, I think we need all the rooting wed can get! david

David M. Morens, MD
 Stonehall, No. 800
 8302 Woodmont Avenue
 Bethesda, Maryland 20814

b6
 b6 (work)
 (cell)

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

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

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 7:18 PM Dennis Carroll [b6] wrote:

David, you can include me as rooting for Tony, and you, and all of NIH

d

On Tue, May 5, 2020 at 6:36 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

There's a lot of people really hoping Tony wins this one.

Thanks for sharing.

From: David Morens [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: [b6] Peter Daszak [b6]
Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Jerry, i doubt Tony is saying go ahead and fire me, but i think he is pushing his balancing act. Probably he hopes to stay one step ahead of eliciting Trump's firing wrath. Lots of others have played that game and lost, and if Tony wins, he'll be the first. But it is probably the right strategy to adopt. D

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

On May 5, 2020, at 18:22, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I'm glad to see this. But I am also concerned. Trump is showing there is no limit to his paranoia. Firing the HHS IG and preventing Tony from talking to the House but allowing him to go to the Senate is just an indicator. Is Tony now saying, in a way, go ahead and fire me because I won't take this shit any more?

A lot of people are hoping and waiting for that. Is this pushback somewhat off the front page the strategy? Anyway, as my wife so often and so correctly tells me I have to read it before I

can opine on it – whatever it happens to be.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:15 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T <[b6]>
Subject: RE: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab <https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
Importance: High

Most important of all he stated that he doesn't buy the 'accidental lab release' hypothesis either – for the first time.

He's a hero to me, my wife and to our whole family.

We have our 'Fauci Mug' to prove that (see attached image). Please show that to the great man himself if there's an opportune moment over the next few weeks.

Cc'ing Dennis and Jerry on this.

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

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:02 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Subject: Fwd: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab <https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

Begin forwarded message:

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

Date: May 4, 2020 at 20:58:15 EDT

Subject: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab <https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

<image001.jpg>

[ScienceCoronavirus Coverage](#)

Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab

In an exclusive interview, the face of America's COVID-19 response cautions against the rush for states to reopen, and offers his tips for handling the pandemic's information deluge.

Anthony Fauci has been the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for almost 40 years, where he has tackled dozens of outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS. To him, the coronavirus is "extraordinary."

By **Nsikan Akpan** and [Victoria Jaggard](#)

PUBLISHED May 4, 2020

Anthony "Tony" Fauci has become the scientific face of America's COVID-19 response, and he says the best evidence shows the virus behind the pandemic was not made in a lab in China.

Fauci, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shot down the discussion that has been raging among politicians and pundits, calling it "a circular argument" in a conversation Monday with National Geographic.

"If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated ... Everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that [this virus] evolved in nature and then jumped species," Fauci says. [Based on the scientific evidence](#), he also doesn't entertain an alternate theory—that someone found the coronavirus in the wild, brought it to a lab, and then it accidentally escaped.

<image002.png>

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, listens as President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Thursday, April 9, 2020, in Washington.

Photograph by Andrew Hamik, AP Photo

Fauci is most concerned that the United States will be put to the test this fall and winter by a second wave of COVID-19 if the country does not blunt the infection rate by the summer.

“Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter,” he says, advising that the U.S. needs to make sure we not only have an adequate supply of tests available before a second wave hits, but also a system for getting those tests to the people who most need them.

“I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear,” he says. “It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge.” As such, Fauci says the U.S. should also focus this summer on properly reinforcing the nation's health care system, ensuring the availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment for health care workers.

He also stressed the importance of continuing to social distance everywhere until the case counts start to fall in cities and states. The U.S. witnessed about 20,000 to 30,000 new cases every day in the month of April, suggesting the country is stuck in its peak. Still, he remains optimistic that a vaccine will be ready within an historically short time frame, citing one promising candidate that he thinks may move into advanced clinical trials by the early summer. Fauci has said that he thinks a final vaccine could be available for general use as early as January, which would break records for the speed at which previous vaccines were developed.

One reason for his confidence is the “impressive” results being seen now in animals tested with a vaccine candidate made by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Therapeutics, which brought it into human trials in a record 42 days. The candidate is what is known as an mRNA vaccine—a drug that uses snippets of a virus's genetic material—rather than the dead or weakened virus itself—to build the proteins that trigger the body's protective immune response.

To date, no type of mRNA vaccine has been licensed for use in humans, but Fauci believes there is great promise for this technology targeting the coronavirus, based in part on his experience developing treatments for HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and '90s. “For some reason that we're still struggling with, the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV,” he says. To fight off that virus, a vaccine has to work better than the body's own natural response. By contrast, “it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response” to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the animal trials so far show that modest doses of the mRNA vaccine for coronavirus have also generated a strong immune response.

He adds that NIAID is still developing and supporting multiple vaccine efforts, in case those that go into trials soonest don't ultimately prove safe and effective. “You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time,” he says.

Fauci told National Geographic he's concerned about states rushing to reopen before their infection rates fall. He also shared how he manages the barrage of new scientific information being released about COVID-19, and how his family and faith keep him going despite his increasingly hectic schedule.

(The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.)

Fauci on the vaccine

You've been the NIAID director since 1984, witnessing dozens of disease outbreaks. One of the first was the HIV/AIDS epidemic. How does that experience compare with COVID-19?

One of the important advantages is what we call targeted drug development. Viruses cause disease by binding to receptors on cells in your body, be they in your upper airway or in your lung, in the case of COVID-19. They then replicate at a rapid rate that triggers a variety of pathogenic processes. Targeting drugs to interfere at one or more vulnerable

sites within this replication cycle is something that we learned with HIV.

<image002.png>

<image002.png>

Left:

U.S. President George W. Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom on June 19, 2008 to Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Bethesda, Maryland during ceremonies at the White House. The Presidential Medal of Freedom

... Read More

Photograph by Karen Bleier, AFP via Getty Images (Left) and Photograph by White House Photo / Alamy Stock Photo (Right)

SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] has the same sort of vulnerable points. We need to identify them and develop drugs, either alone or in combination, to block the replication.

Are there also lessons from HIV/AIDS that relate to developing a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are a bit different. We have a better chance of quickly getting, relatively speaking, a vaccine for the novel coronavirus than we did for HIV, because for some reason that's still unknown the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV.

We don't necessarily have that challenge with this coronavirus because it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response. They clear the virus, and they do well. As we know from the natural history of this disease, the majority of people actually either get well without any symptoms—they're called asymptomatic—or they have minimal symptoms, where they get a fever, some aches, and then they recover. The fact that the majority of people can actually clear the virus is a very good sign for the feasibility of developing a vaccine.

The two most widely discussed vaccine candidates are an mRNA vaccine from Moderna, which reached human trials in a record 42 days, and Oxford University's candidate, based on what's known as a nonreplicating viral vector. Yet no vaccine based on these two technologies has ever been licensed for human use. What makes these two vaccines seem so promising, especially on this expedited timeline?

These vaccines are inducing, at least in animal models, really rather substantial immune responses, particularly the mRNA vaccine. When we look at the immune response that you can induce with a modest dose—one that's feasible to be translated into humans—and the amount of time it takes to get to that level of immunity, it is really quite impressive. It is also really easy to scale up with these two, in the sense of making a lot of doses pretty quickly. So you're right, they have not been approved, as many of the other vaccine platforms have, but the promise is great.

We at NIAID are either developing or supporting the development of multiple candidates. You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time—maybe June, July, or August—to get them into an advanced trial. The mRNA one is already well into phase one of clinical trials, and we're getting ready to go into phase two and three sometime in the early summer.

Fauci on reopening and masks

As states move to reopen businesses and warmer weather lures people outside, how concerned are you about a fresh spike in infections in the U.S.?

Take a look at the guidelines for Opening Up America Again. There are very well delineated checkpoints. There's a gateway where infections must go down for 14 days before you can enter into phase one for reopening. If you fulfill the requirements of phase one, you move to phase two. If you do it there, you go to phase three.

So when you see somebody in an environment in which the infections are not going down, and then you see 30 to 40 people on a beach with no mask ... well that's very nice to have fun in the sun, but you're really putting yourself and everyone at risk for creating an even bigger spike in infections.

Do you fear a second wave?

What's impressed me the most—but clearly in a disturbing way—is the extraordinary efficiency of how the virus spreads. It spreads so much more efficiently than influenza does. You see situations where people at home try and physically separate; they have no contact except they've touched the plate or a doorknob, and they wind up getting infected.

The clusters in families, the outbreaks on the *Teddy Roosevelt* aircraft carrier, the enormous spread on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama harbor—it's a very, very transmissible virus.

<image002.png>

Anthony Fauci hugs Nina Pham, the nurse who was infected with Ebola from treating patient Thomas Eric Duncan in Dallas, as Pham's mother Diana (sixth from left) and sister Cathy

... Read More Photograph by Alex Wong, Getty Images

We're going to be put to the test as we move toward the fall and winter of this year. If we do it correctly, then we could be able to blunt and diminish the daily rate of infections in this country as we get into the summer. I can't guarantee it, but if we do things right, that likely will happen.

But I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear. It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge. We now will have a few months—May June, July, August—to prepare, by making sure our health system is adequately supplied with ventilators, ICU beds, personal protective equipment, etcetera. We need to not only have tests, but to make sure the people who need tests can get tested.

So that by the time we get to September, we don't have the dialogue continually fixating on do you have enough tests? Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter.

What's your position on the general public wearing face masks?

I'm glad you asked, because it has evolved over the weeks and months. When there was first discussion, it was at a time when face masks—either surgical masks or N95 respirators—were at high scarcity.

Let's assume that we now have enough masks or that you could easily make a cloth covering, as was suggested appropriately by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I think those are reasonable assumptions. We know that the masks are better in the health-care setting to prevent someone who's infected from coughing and sneezing and infecting people in the environment. When you look at what the mask does for the general population, the data are not 100 percent: It doesn't 100 percent protect you from infecting somebody else, and it certainly doesn't 100 percent prevent somebody else from infecting you.

But if you wear a mask, you are getting some protection for yourself, and if you happen to be infected and don't know it, you're to some extent preventing transmission to someone else. Given that, it just makes sense that first of all, the best way to prevent spread is to maintain the physical distance of six feet.

So, if you're in a situation where you're in contact with no one, then you don't have to be walking around with a mask all day, that's for sure. But if you are in a situation where you are going to be within the realm of six feet—the grocery store or even walking out on the street—then wear it.

Fauci on the information deluge and the “virus made

in Chinese lab” claim.

How do you keep up with the barrage of information and filter down to the most important science?

It's like drinking from a fire hydrant. It really is. Fortunately for me, I have a staff of three to four really good people who sift through the papers and when something looks unreasonable or “pie in the sky,” they don't bother me with that. Then when all of these studies come across my desk, I read the title and the abstract. If it looks feasible, I'll put it aside and try and read it. When it's something that they think I should read, they make sure I read it.

Even with that screening process, it's still very difficult to consume everything that's out there, particularly with this relatively recent trend with these non-peer-reviewed, pre-publications [that have not gone through traditional vetting to appear in major journals].

So, what's your advice to the public at-large for sifting through the headlines and making sense of it all?

<image002.png>

Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks with members of his laboratory during a meeting Aug. 31, 1990, where he describes a natural growth factor that is necessary for the AIDS virus to multiply.

Photograph by George Tames, The New York Times via Redux

Anybody can claim to be an expert even when they have no idea what they're talking about—and it's very difficult for the general public to distinguish. So, make sure the study is coming from a reputable organization that generally gives you the truth—though even with some reputable organizations, you occasionally get an outlier who's out there talking nonsense. If something is published in places like *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, or *JAMA*—you know, generally that is quite well peer reviewed because the editors and the editorial staff of those journals really take things very seriously.

One topic in the news lately has been the origins of SAR-CoV-2. Do you believe or is there evidence that the virus was made in the lab in China or accidentally released from a lab in China?

If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats, and what's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this [virus] could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated—the way the mutations have naturally evolved. A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.

Sure, but what if scientists found the virus outside the lab, brought it back, and then it escaped?

But that means it was in the wild to begin with. That's why I don't get what they're talking about [and] why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument.

Fauci's life right now

What's your typical day like?

I get up around five o'clock in the morning, and I usually wind up running downstairs, getting a quick breakfast, and looking at a thousand emails—literally a thousand. I then head to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] for my day job—trying to develop a vaccine and drugs and running a \$6 billion institution. I stay there until around one o'clock, and then I go down to the White House for multiple meetings. First, I meet with the doctor group—myself, coronavirus response coordinator Debbie Birx, director Bob Redfield from the CDC, commissioner Steve Hahn from FDA, and others. We then go into the task force meeting run by Vice President [Mike Pence], which usually lasts about an hour and a half. We summarize this pre-brief with the vice president and then go brief President [Donald Trump] for the press conference.

Then, the work starts ... I head home or back to the NIH and work until the wee hours of

the morning. The whole day is punctuated by everybody needing to talk to you: every governor in the states, every congressional leader, every leader in the White House. It's constant conference calls. It's an almost impossible situation—and that's seven days a week.

Then you superimpose upon that all the press you do—the TV or the radio or the interviews. It's kind of a surrealistic state. I have to wake up in the morning and literally, without being facetious, ask my wife, what day is it?

Wow, how do you unwind?

I power walk with my wife, usually at night or on the weekends. It's dark, but we still do it anyway.

Has it ever been too taxing?

A couple of months ago, I was foolish and just thought I could get away with almost no sleep. I mean, like three hours a night. I did that for a few weeks, and it almost killed me. It really wore me down badly. Thank goodness I have a very intelligent and clinically skilled wife who turned things around and said, You got to remember to eat, and you've got to remember to sleep. The day is still impossible, but I don't think I'm going to drop dead from it. I hope not.

You went to a Jesuit high school, where you learned the importance of doing good for the public. How has that experience informed your professional life?

My whole life was almost served to me on the basis that my mother and father were very much oriented toward service. They were never really interested in money or material things. That's just the way they were, both of them. So I never knew there was anything like going out there and making a lot of money, and that was really cemented when I went both to a Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, where the entire theme was service for others.

I almost never had any other inkling of doing anything except something that would have a public service component to it. I'm very much of a people person, but I'm also scientifically inclined. My entire training is steeped in the humanities, and when you combine that with an aptitude for science, you wind up being a physician.

Victoria Jaggard is the senior editor for Science & Innovation at National Geographic.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

--

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: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 9:48:31 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 9:48:25 PM -0400
Subject: Breaking News - Remdesivir might work against COVID, and our now-terminated NIH grant was used in that study!
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]; Gerald T Keusch [b6]; [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6];

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
 th

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 7:46:07 AM -0400

Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 7:46:06 AM -0400

Subject: Fwd: Grants withdrawn

From: David Morens [b6]

To: Gerald Keusch [b6] Peter Daszak [b6];

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" [b6] >

Date: June 15, 2020 at 21:32:03 EDT

To: [b6] [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, [b6] I can also be reached via Signal, the secure/encrypted messaging service. I am on Signal via the same phone number, [b6] [b6]

Please let me know if you can help me understand what happened to this funding.

With kind regards,

Jim

Date: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 8:55:46 PM -0400
 Sent: Wed, 10 Jun 2020 8:55:45 PM -0400
 Subject: Re: Guardian: Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab
 From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
 To: Peter Daszak [b6];

Number 2, we can try to change the world. Number 1, let's win this anti science battle, get you refunded and über funded, then settle scores and kick some ass. Hard. Rectal spikes not prohibited. D

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

On Jun 10, 2020, at 20:37, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

My pleasure to pushback against these wackos, partly for your entertainment, but especially when one of them is the former head of UK's MI6 – the very people that managed 007, goddamnit!!

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] gov >
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: FW: Guardian: Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab

Keep it up! I love this! d

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

b6

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:38 PM

Subject: Guardian: Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab

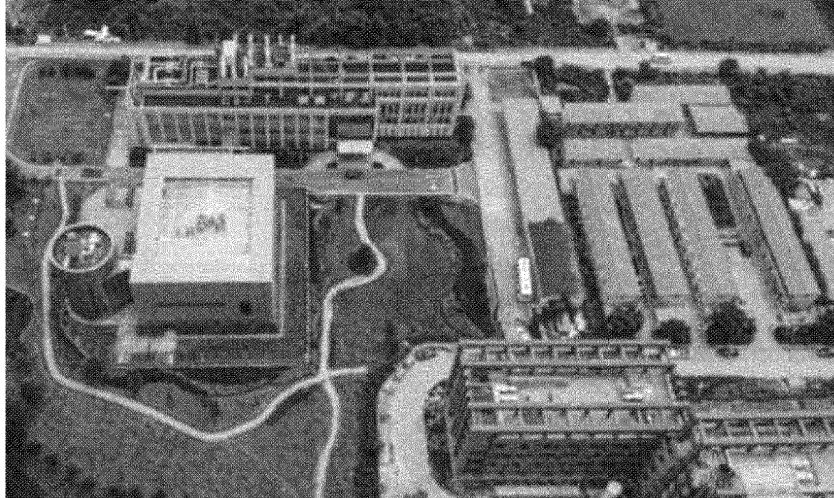
[Coronavirus outbreak](#)

Ignore the conspiracy theories: scientists know Covid-19 wasn't created in a lab

[Peter Daszak](#)

Instead of following false claims, we should focus our efforts on the regions where the next pandemic is likely to emerge

• Peter Daszak is president of EcoHealth Alliance



The Wuhan Institute of Virology, the source, according to conspiracy theorists, of the Covid-19 virus. Photograph: Héctor Retamal/AFP/Getty Images

Published on Tue 9 Jun 2020 06.14 EDT

In a recent [interview with the Telegraph](#), the former head of MI6 Sir Richard Dearlove cited an “important” scientific report that suggested that the novel coronavirus had not emerged naturally, but had been created by Chinese scientists. Dearlove said he believed the pandemic had “started as an accident” after the virus escaped the lab. A month earlier, the US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, had said he had “[enormous evidence](#)” that Covid-19 had originated in a lab in China, only to backtrack from this claim on [live TV](#) in the same sentence.

Suggestions that Covid-19 is a manmade virus are the latest chapter in a tale of blame, misinformation and finger-pointing. Cue the [conspiracy theorists](#), marching out their narrative about the high-security BSL-4 lab in Wuhan, where mysterious experiments to design “frankenviruses” led to the tragic global pandemic. Cue the genetic analyses pointing to “unexpected” insertions in the code of A, G, T, and C that explain how this virus could [not have evolved naturally](#). Cue political posturing against China, with calls for an inquiry, trade sanctions and even reparations.

Determining the origins and emergence of a pandemic is as messy and complex as studying a plane crash. Just as an air crash investigator pieces together fragments at a crash site, pinpointing the origins of a new virus is painstakingly difficult and time-consuming, and requires logic and reason. I know, because this is exactly what [our organisation](#), EcoHealth Alliance, does. We work around the world to identify the origins of pandemics, map them and analyse them, and use these results to predict where the next pandemic will likely emerge. We then target these “hotspots” for enhanced surveillance, capacity-building and risk-reduction programmes to prevent diseases emerging.

We have spent the past 15 years working in China to analyse the group of viruses from which Sars and now Covid-19 have emerged. Sampling more than 16,000 bats, [we showed that Sars emerged from a cluster of coronaviruses carried by horseshoe bats](#) that are abundant across southern and central China and traded frequently in wet markets. We found Sars-related viruses that could infect human cells in the lab, cause diseases in lab animals, and evade drugs and vaccines designed to protect us. We worked with the scientists behind the breakthrough drug [Remdesivir](#) to show that it was effective against known human coronaviruses and the viruses we suspected might be the next to emerge. We raised the red flag on these viruses and pointed out their potential to cause the next pandemic.

Our 15 years of work in China now puts us in a unique position to identify, with a remarkable degree of confidence, the likely origin of Covid-19. We recently published a [peer-reviewed paper](#) reporting 781 genetic sequences of bat-origin

coronaviruses previously unknown to scientists. These include the closest known relatives to Sars-CoV, Sars-CoV-2 and Sads-CoV, a virus that killed more than 25,000 pigs in Guangdong in 2016 and 2017. All are carried by horseshoe bats that are found across southern China and neighbouring countries. Our report firmly concludes that Covid-19 originated in bats, in a hotspot of viral evolution along the border of Yunnan province in China, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. Most people (including former heads of intelligence agencies) aren't trained in how to decipher genetic codes, so we have to assess the rigour of competing research to determine the truth of claims that Covid-19 was manmade. Writing in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Medicine, researchers strongly refuted the idea that the code had been purposefully manipulated. Whereas the article in Nature Medicine was written by senior virologists, one author, John Fredrik Moxnes, the chief scientific adviser to the Norwegian military, has already withdrawn his name from the paper cited by Dearlove – while scientists from the Francis Crick institute and Imperial College London also dismissed its conclusions. And the claim in the earlier version of this paper to have proven “beyond reasonable doubt that the Covid-19 virus is engineered” was removed in the later version. This claim relied on an insertion in the genetic code for the spike protein of the virus, the place where the virus locks into our own cells. But the discovery of another novel bat coronavirus in southern China, very closely related to Sars-CoV-2, that includes a similar insertion shows this can evolve naturally. Contrary to the idea that Chinese scientists deliberately released the virus, existing patterns of infection suggest that the wide spread of Covid-19 was a question of when, not if. Only a handful of people work on bat coronaviruses in labs in China, and they wear masks and gloves so as not to contaminate their laboratories. In 2018, we conducted a pilot survey of people living in rural Yunnan province and found nearly 3% had antibodies for bat coronaviruses. Expanding this data to cover the densely populated area in southeast Asia where there are bats known to harbour coronaviruses, we can safely estimate that between one and seven million people are infected with bat coronaviruses each year. Unfortunately, this sort of logic will not deter conspiracy theorists. The dark power of the internet means that anyone, anywhere, can find evidence to echo even the most outlandish of claims. Theories that Sars originated from space or that HIV was manmade are readily available, but it doesn't make them true. Such conspiracies play to our most base instincts and paranoias – fears that dissolve logic and reason. The details of how this virus emerged naturally are far less exciting. They're about how humans and animals have interacted for millennia, now at an unprecedented rate. They're about how human domination of the world's ecosystems as we encroach on animal habitats is opening new pathways for viruses, once hidden in the depths of the forest, to be transmitted to humans. Even as Covid-19 continues to spread across the world, analysing its origin is of critical importance for our species on this planet. If we allow myths and rumours to set our pandemic prevention agenda, we miss, quite literally, the forest for the trees. We estimate that there are 1.7m undiscovered viruses in wildlife in emerging disease hotspots such as rural southeast Asia. Rather than chasing conspiracies, we should be focusing our efforts on these regions and the communities on their frontlines. A pandemic such as this one isn't a once-in-a-lifetime tragedy. Ignoring the guidance of the global scientific community about how and why they emerge will come at a great cost to us all.

- Peter Daszak is president of EcoHealth Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to analysing and preventing pandemics

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 5:29:28 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 5:29:26 PM -0400
Subject: Re: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

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.: 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: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] 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] <[REDACTED] 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 [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; David Morens [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 NIII 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.: [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: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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
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: 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]; Erbeling, 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], "Erbeling, 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 from 2R01AI110964-06 have been sent to Wuhan Institute of Virology, nor has any contract been signed.** Furthermore, we will comply with NIAID requirements, of course.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Peter Daszak
President

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

From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] b6 >

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

To: Kevin Olival [REDACTED] b6 >; Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6 >

Cc: Naomi Schrag [REDACTED] b6 >; Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED] b6 >;

Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] 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: [REDACTED]
 Email: [REDACTED]

From: Kevin Olival [REDACTED] >
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:14 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Naomi Schrag <[REDACTED]>, "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED]>
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)

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] <[REDACTED]> 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]>
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED]>, "[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, Naomi Schrag <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED]>
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]>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 11:00 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Naomi Schrag <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED]>
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]
 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: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 11:37:23 PM -0400

Sent: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 11:37:20 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Politico story

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; [b6] David Morens [b6]

CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

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. Nancye – 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
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: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 9:29:34 PM -0400

Sent: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 9:29:31 PM -0400

Subject: EcoHealth Alliance Statement - by 9:45pm tonight

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >

To: Nancye Green [b6] Jerry Keusch [b6] David Morens [b6]
>;

CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6];

Dear All,

Peter is working on our draft statement and will send it around by 9:45 - in approximately 15 minutes for you to review and comment.

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.

Date: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 10:40:48 PM -0400

Sent: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 10:40:45 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Broader statement

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]

CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6];

I'll read this now. Nicki sent me some WaPo articles that talk about WIV doing GOF experiments with these viruses. Do you know anything about that? I just saw those emails and haven't opened them up yet. I will and will send them to you so you know what I'm talking about. First I want to read what you put together.

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:16 PM

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

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >

Subject: Broader statement

Importance: High

Any chance you could look over this statement and suggest whether there is anything we should change?

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

Date: Sun, 14 Jun 2020 1:47:55 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 14 Jun 2020 1:47:52 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Strategy re. NIH decision & some funding news

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

I finally decided the best next step for me and the 91 NAM members who urged NASEM to be heard was to write an Op-Ed targeted for the Wash Post so I could name the prime suspects in a vehicle they would surely see. I began to write that during my sleep last night and awoke with great text (I think so) and put down a first draft. It needs some work but has a lot of the things I want to say in there. I want to cite some of the text from the ACD comments, so I need to know when that's public. Can you track that?

I don't know that any of this will have the same impact as suing the bastards, but I do want to make Francis and his lackey aware of how peers are looking at them. I even went so far in the first draft as to refer to Mr. Lauer, instead of Dr. Lauer, but I reread it and decided that was for me and changed the one offending letter.

I will do some more editing and then send it to the signatories to get their input, with the caveat that I want to cite the ACD report and so need to wait until it is in the public domain. But then I will be ready to go with it.

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 1:37 PM
To: David Morens [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: RE: Strategy re. NIH decision & some funding news

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:

- 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).
- 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.

- 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.: [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: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:18 PM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>; Robert Kessler <[REDACTED]>
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 [REDACTED] > 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 slamdunk 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 Cassetti and Emily Erbeling, 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
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: 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 Nobel 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
 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: Roberts, Rich [b6] >
 Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:11 PM
 To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
 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%7C77cefbcb3d64d6a9f740664881c%7C&sdata=t9MZAjox3nt95uhUOWIA0Nh8FnVo%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%7C7C77cefbcb3d64d6a9f740664881c&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%7C7C77cefbcb3d64d6a9f740664881c&sdata=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.: [REDACTED]

Website: <https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7Croberts%40neb.com%7Cec2d1a0bea1c4e3eacfd08d80e7a3990%7C77cefbcb3d64d6a9f740664881c&sdata=t9MZAjox3nt95uhUOWlA0Nh8FnVo%2BDmR7w1ttl2R5FA%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>

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: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Fax: (978) 412 9910

email: [REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6:20 PM

To: Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]

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 atleast 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: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 12:32:16 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 12:32:13 AM -0400
Subject: RE: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.
From: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6>
To: David Morens <[REDACTED] b6>
CC: Gerald Keusch <[REDACTED] b6> Robert Kessler <[REDACTED] b6>; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED] b6>;

Thanks David and totally understand if you don't respond to reporters – not a problem at all I don't want to jeopardize your status.

Re. the China issue - I don't see any potential problems with any Chinese collaborators. There is really only Zhengli Shi, who is just a jobbing virologist – she's not even a proper Communist Party member – fairly non-political. No links to Military labs etc. In any case, all of my collaborators and collaborating institutions were reviewed and OK'd by NIH once we'd received our scores, so pretty sure I'm safe.

Secondly, just so you both know, I've never personally been paid any money at all (even reimbursements for expenses) by China. Neither has EHA ever received any funds from China. We often commented how tight they are. Thank God for that!

As to what's happening at NIH, I believe it may be that Francis is feeling the heat. The letters really help I think – it's his peers, 77 Nobel Laureates (apparently a handful others have also signed on now), 31 Scientific Societies, President of NAM, 14 out of 16 members of the Advisory Committee just last week. Our appeal letter was also a serious document, about 10 pages of legal argument as to why we have a valid case for appeal. My suspicion, given all the above, is that it's possible Francis has passed my name on to the FBI to see if there's any China dirt on me or EHA so he can have something up his sleeve if necessary. It may not be the case, but I'm not leaving anything to chance.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1201
 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

From: David Morens <[REDACTED] b6>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6>
Cc: Gerald Keusch <[REDACTED] b6> Robert Kessler <[REDACTED] b6>; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED] 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 <[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]> 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] b6 [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 2:22:55 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 2:22:54 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6];
CC: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

The FOIAs are dreadful and paranoia-inducing. In the old days we had to do them ourselves, by hand. I mean finding and printing out thousands of emails coming in and going out. Now they sometimes FOIA text messages too. Many FOIAs turn up thousands of pages of docs, and of course, most of meaningless. We are all smart enough to know to never have smoking guns, and if we did we wouldn't put them in emails and if we found them we'd delete them. In my 22 years at NIAID I have never seen a FOIA that turned up useful information d

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

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 7:58 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Gerald Keusch [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];
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 <[REDACTED]> 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

--

David M Morens:

[REDACTED] **b6**

Date: Tue, 19 May 2020 11:03:18 AM -0400
Sent: Tue, 19 May 2020 11:03:15 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Time for a call today?
From: Alison Andre [b6] >
To: David Morens [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;

Hi David,

You can reach Peter on his cell: [b6] or landline: [b6]

Best,
Alison

On May 19, 2020, at 10:15 AM, David Morens [b6] > wrote:

Yes i think so. I an in PT startung 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.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

Date: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 2:48:30 AM -0400
 Sent: Wed, 29 Apr 2020 2:48:24 AM -0400
 Subject: RE: Newsweek: Dr. Fauci Backed Controversial Wuhan Lab with Millions of U.S. Dollars for Risky Coronavirus Research
 From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
 To: David Morens [b6] >; Gerald T Keusch [b6]
 Attachments: image001.jpg

Don't worry about the GoF stuff. I'm on it and am first checking with Ralph that I've got the details correct, then will send you information.

Essentially, most of the work WIV did with Ralph on NIH funding was on bat viruses, inserting other bat virus spikes into a bat virus backbone. This is NOT GoF because these viruses are not known human pathogens.

There is a paper that Ralph and Zhengli did that was before the GoF pause, using SARS backbone with bat spikes. That resulted in *Loss of Function*, but in any case was completely compliant with the NIH rules and the pause. I'll send more information tomorrow that explains why.

Finally, it's possible that WIV continued to do their own work on GoF during the NIH pause on GoF. I doubt it— they didn't really have great capacity to do that during NIH's pause. If they did, I don't know about it, and it didn't use NIH funds, and because of that, I'm assuming that this is something that China would regulate, not the 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](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, April 28, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Gerald T Keusch [b6] >; Peter Daszak [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: Newsweek: Dr. Fauci Backed Controversial Wuhan Lab with Millions of U.S. Dollars for Risky Coronavirus Research

This article contains inaccuracies about gain of function research and relies heavily on the opinions of controversial critics, to use as kind a term as I can think of, such as Lipsitch and Enright. Nothing described in The article is gain of function research. In any case nature is conducting gain of function research all day every day, which is why we need to understand how it works.

I am sure both of you remember the GOF attacks of a decade ago. tony, me, Jeff Taubenberger, and many others here had to do

battle with a lot of craziness. The thought that it might come back is horrifying. It was much less about science than it was about Ludditism.

Peter, I think you need to minutely document everything that was done in the WIV that could be even remotely called GOF research by critics. If ten years ago is any indication, the attacks can become intense and highly biased. David

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[REDACTED]>
Date: April 28, 2020 at 17:13:47 EDT
To: NIAID COG CORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>, NIAID OCGR Leg <NIAIDOCGRLeg@mail.nih.gov>, NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Newsweek: Dr. Fauci Backed Controversial Wuhan Lab with Millions of U.S. Dollars for Risky Coronavirus Research

Dr. Fauci Backed Controversial Wuhan Lab with Millions of U.S. Dollars for Risky Coronavirus Research

By Fred Gutel On 4/28/20 at 2:57 PM EDT



Biomedical research ultimately protects public health, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, in explaining his support for controversial research. Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

Dr. Anthony Fauci is an adviser to President Donald Trump and something of an American folk hero for his steady, calm leadership during the pandemic crisis. At least one poll shows that Americans trust Fauci more than Trump on the coronavirus pandemic—and few scientists are portrayed on TV by Brad Pitt.

But just last year, the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the organization led by Dr. Fauci, funded scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and other institutions for work on gain-of-function research on bat coronaviruses.

In 2019, with the backing of NIAID, the National Institutes of Health committed \$3.7 million over six years for research that included some gain-of-function work. The program followed another \$3.7 million, 5-year project for collecting and studying bat coronaviruses, which ended in 2019, bringing the total to \$7.4 million.

Many scientists have criticized gain of function research, which involves manipulating viruses in the lab to explore their potential for infecting humans, because it creates a risk of starting a pandemic from accidental release.

SARS-CoV-2, the virus now causing a global pandemic, is believed to have originated in bats. U.S. intelligence, after originally asserting that the coronavirus had occurred naturally, conceded last month that the pandemic may have originated in a leak from the Wuhan lab. (At this point most scientists say it's possible—but not likely—that the pandemic virus was engineered or manipulated.)

Dr. Fauci did not respond to *Newsweek's* requests for comment. NIH responded with a statement that said in part: "Most emerging human viruses come from wildlife, and these represent a significant threat to public health and biosecurity in the US and globally, as demonstrated by the SARS epidemic of 2002-03, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.... scientific research indicates that there is no evidence that suggests the virus was created in a laboratory."

The NIH research consisted of two parts. The first part began in 2014 and involved surveillance of bat coronaviruses, and had a budget of \$3.7 million. The program funded Shi Zheng-Li, a virologist at the Wuhan lab, and other researchers to investigate and catalogue bat coronaviruses in the wild. This part of the project was completed in 2019.

A second phase of the project, beginning that year, included additional surveillance work but also gain-of-function research for the purpose of understanding how bat coronaviruses could mutate to attack humans. The project was run by EcoHealth Alliance, a non-profit research group, under the direction of President Peter Daszak, an expert on disease ecology. NIH canceled the project just this past Friday, April 24th, *Politico* reported. Daszak did not immediately respond to *Newsweek* requests for comment.

The project proposal states: "We will use S protein sequence data, infectious clone technology, in vitro and in vivo infection experiments and analysis of receptor binding to test the hypothesis that % divergence thresholds in S protein sequences predict spillover potential."

In layman's terms, "spillover potential" refers to the ability of a virus to jump from animals to humans, which requires that the virus be able to receptors in the cells of humans. SARS-CoV-2, for instance, is adept at binding to the ACE2 receptor in human lungs and other organs.

According to Richard Ebright, an infectious disease expert at Rutgers University, the project description refers to experiments that would enhance the ability of bat coronavirus to infect human cells and laboratory animals using techniques of genetic engineering. In the wake of the pandemic, that is a noteworthy detail.

Ebright, along with many other scientists, has been a vocal opponent of gain-of-function research because of the risk it presents of creating a pandemic through accidental release from a lab.

Dr. Fauci is renowned for his work on the HIV/AIDS crisis in the 1990s. Born in Brooklyn, he graduated first in his class from Cornell University Medical College in 1966. As head of NIAID since 1984, he has served as an adviser to every U.S. president since Ronald Reagan.

A decade ago, during a controversy over gain-of-function research on bird-flu viruses, Dr. Fauci played an important role in promoting the work. He argued that the research was worth the risk it entailed because it enables scientists to make preparations, such as investigating possible anti-viral medications, that could be useful if and when a pandemic occurred. The work in question was a type of gain-of-function research that involved taking wild viruses and passing them through live animals until they mutate into a form that could pose a pandemic threat. Scientists used it to take a virus that was poorly transmitted among humans and make it into one that was highly transmissible—a hallmark of a pandemic virus. This work was done by infecting a series of ferrets, allowing the virus to mutate until a ferret that hadn't been deliberately infected contracted the disease.

The work entailed risks that worried even seasoned researchers. More than 200 scientists called for the work to be halted. The problem, they said, is that it increased the likelihood that a pandemic would occur through a laboratory accident.

Dr. Fauci defended the work. "[D]etermining the molecular Achilles' heel of these viruses can allow scientists to identify novel antiviral drug targets that could be used to prevent infection in those at risk or to better treat those who become infected," wrote Fauci and two co-authors in the *Washington Post* on December 30, 2011. "Decades of experience tells us that disseminating information gained through biomedical research to legitimate scientists and health officials provides a critical foundation for generating appropriate countermeasures and, ultimately, protecting the public health."

Nevertheless, in 2014, under pressure from the Obama administration, the National Institutes of Health instituted a moratorium on the work, suspending 21 studies.

Three years later, though—in December 2017—the NIH ended the moratorium and the second phase of the NIAID project, which included the gain-of-function research, began. The NIH established a framework for determining how the research would go forward: scientists have to get approval from a panel of experts, who would decide whether the risks were justified.

The reviews were indeed conducted—but in secret, for which the NIH has drawn criticism. In early 2019, after a reporter for *Science* magazine discovered that the NIH had approved two influenza research projects that used gain of function methods, scientists who oppose this kind of research excoriated the NIH in an editorial in the *Washington Post*.

"We have serious doubts about whether these experiments should be conducted at all," wrote Tom Inglesby of Johns Hopkins University and Marc Lipsitch of Harvard. "[W]ith deliberations kept behind closed doors, none of us will have the opportunity to understand how the government arrived at these decisions or to judge the rigor and integrity of that process."

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 12 May 2020 6:41:36 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 12 May 2020 6:41:35 PM -0400
Subject: Re: NIH termination of research grant
From: David Morens [REDACTED] b6
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 Gerald Keusch [REDACTED] b6

I doubt Rick would know anything, but as he is all lawyered up now, it wouldn't hurt to contact him. I bet his counsel would find Peter's story to be part of a pattern. David

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

On May 12, 2020, at 18:38, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 > wrote:

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

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [REDACTED] b6
Date: May 12, 2020 at 18:34:55 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] b6 >
Subject: RE: NIH termination of research grant

I did and urged her to go to Lauer and up the chain. I guess reporters have sources, but maybe that's hard to come by these days. Do you think Rick Bright would have any knowledge? This would not be related to his whistleblower suit, and so maybe he won't be interested in diverting his attention or attracting any other adverse attention beyond the load he currently has to deal with.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:30 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] 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 <[REDACTED] 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 <[REDACTED] b6 >
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] 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 <[REDACTED] b6 >
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Sarah Owormohle <[REDACTED] b6 >
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: [REDACTED] b6
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: Fri, 29 May 2020 4:00:55 PM -0400
Sent: Fri, 29 May 2020 4:00:43 PM -0400
Subject: Re: paper coming out next week on bioRxiv reporting 780+ partial sequences of bat-CoVs in China
From: Dennis Carroll [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6];
 David Morens [b6] Dr. Ralph Baric [b6] [b6] Gerald
CC: Keusch [b6] Robert Kessler [b6] Saif, Linda [b6]
 Toni C Baric [b6] [b6] [b6]

Great to hear about the pandemic ET. Please refer any journalists as you deem appropriate

d

On Fri, May 29, 2020 at 3:29 PM Peter Daszak <[b6]> wrote:

Hello all,

Just emailing to give you advance info on a paper that we're uploading onto bioRxiv this weekend. I've attached the draft here and some talking points I've written out for journalists. We've spoken with one NY Times reporter, and depending on what happens next week, it might get some pick up in the news. Is it OK for me to suggest your names to journalists as people who are knowledgeable on COVID-19, CoVs, pandemics, high impact viral diseases etc.? I think this paper helps a little bit to show that there's nothing unusual about COVID-19 being a bat virus that got into people naturally. There's also the fact that the other close virus (RmYN02) is in the same clade as SARS-2 and RaTG13, and that virus has an insertion in the Spike protein, disproving one of the conspiracy theories, but that won't stop them.

I feel like I should add a disclaimer to emails along the lines of "if you do speak to journalists about this work you may end up being targeted by nutjobs and potentially have one or two of your grants terminated by El Guru-in-Chief!"

BTW – please use Ralph's gmail address so I don't get FoIA'd

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

--

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: Wed, 1 Jul 2020 3:00:38 PM -0400
Sent: Wed, 1 Jul 2020 3:00:37 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Permission to Nominate you for AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility
From: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]
 [b6]

I hadn't heard the Biden statement, but good for him, and hooray for Tony. I was appalled at the harangue from Rand Paul (maybe I should say appalled) against Tony and how easily he brushed it aside. It made Paul look like an idiot as he seemed to promote uninformed decision making over informed decision making, which is never ever perfect but approaches it whereas the other is a crap shoot fool of crap.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Subject: Re: Permission to Nominate you for AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

Probably yes, he will accept. It would be really interesting to know how much he knows about what really happened with the EHA grant. My guess is: alot. Some day it will probably all come out

You undoubtedly also heard that yesterday VP Biden said that if elected he would have Tony in his administration. Since everyone knows he has turned down nih director, that probably means Sec of HHS. If so, he just might do it..... d

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

On Jul 1, 2020, at 11:47, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

Agree. David, I wonder what advice he has received from senior NIAID staff? I hope he is being encouraged to accept the nomination.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:15 AM
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Subject: RE: Permission to Nominate you for AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

If I had a vote – he'd get 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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 7:59 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Gerald Keusch [b6]; Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: Permission to Nominate you for AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

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

From: "Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: July 1, 2020 at 06:45:45 EDT
To: NIAID OD AM <NIAIDODAM@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: FW: Permission to Nominate you for AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

What do you think?

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

From: Susan Poulter [b6] >
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:10 PM
To: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[b6]>
Cc: Deborah Runkle [b6] >
Subject: Permission to Nominate you for AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

Dear Dr. Fauci-

As a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, I recently received notice of the Association's request for nominations for its 2021 Award for Scientific Freedom and

Responsibility. I can't think of anyone more deserving than yourself and I would like to nominate you for the award. Before proceeding, however, I need to have your consent to be nominated, and that is the reason for this email.

My interest in your recent tenure at NIH, and particularly on the Coronavirus Task Force, arises from my work on various controversies about the use of scientific evidence in legal proceedings, which I pursued on the faculty at the University of Utah S. J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. My professional pursuits were based on having obtained a PHD in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley and later a JD at Utah. Before I retired, I was a member of several committees of the AAAS, including the Advisory Board of its project on Court Appointed Scientific Experts (<https://law.utah.edu/profile/susan-poulter/>).

I expect to get most of the information I need for the nomination from public sources, and would not expect to burden you with extensive information requests at a time when you are undoubtedly very busy! In any case, an expeditious response would be appreciated, if possible, as I am getting into this rather belatedly.

Very truly yours,

Susan Poulter
Professor Emerita
S. J. Quinney College of Law
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

Date: Tue, 18 Aug 2020 7:27:25 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 18 Aug 2020 7:27:13 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Monday morning news from Wuhan & elsewhere...
From: Dennis Carroll [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

Come by at 7:00 or so. The CYC bar is closed to outsiders (you are well informed) but it's only open Th-Sat. No restrictions on boat guests. The Yacht Club is at [b6] Some parking on the street, otherwise in the garage. Call when you've arrived and I'll meet you at the CYC gate. It'll be good to see you. My number is [b6] [b6]

d

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 6:45 PM David Morens [b6] wrote:
 Dennis, sounds good! No significant other, i am divorced and pretty much on my own, not a great place to be at my age but it is what it is. Let me know time and details. As i recall the new Yacht Club is sirt of closed to non members, is that right? D

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

On Aug 18, 2020, at 18:23, Dennis Carroll [b6] wrote:

Next Wednesday forecast looks great. Does that work for you? If you have a significant other. Bring them along.

d

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 5:34 PM David Morens [b6] wrote:
 Dennis, wow, this is the best news i have heard in years. Three and a half years to be precise. I hope you are telling them to "go big". I have opined on this subject to several reporters, mostly off the record or not for attribution, and also in a few articles. I have said, among other things, that pandemic prevention should be given the same priority as nuclear and chemical weapons prevention, and that it should be an organized international cooperative effort.

Yes, i can be free almost any time next week except Monday, and would love to watch the sun set over the yardarm with a toast or two. David

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

On Aug 18, 2020, at 16:31, Dennis Carroll [b6] wrote:

Good to hear from you. Appreciate all your behind the scenes efforts. Expect a Biden administration will be far more in synch with what is needed. The campaign asked me to talk with the NYTs last week about an embargoed policy statement on what they will do to make America safer from future pandemics - reestablishing support for viral discovery (Predict/GVP) was one of the key policy points

If you're free one evening next week let me know - sundowners on [b6] (our boat) is always a

pleasure

d

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 4:23 PM Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]
wrote:

b6

Dennis, it is great to hear your are back and , better yet,
living on a boat in the harbor. How good does it get?!?!

I have spent alot of time over the last few months working with
Jerry Keusch and many others to try to undo the harm that was done
to Peter's grant, PREDICT, and related things. Lots is happening
behind the scenes and I believe that the tides will turn
eventually, and especially after January 20. Given that I work
for NIAID, and that Tony Fauci is my boss, I have to be careful
and generally talk to reporters off the record, but I think I can
say that NIAID, at least, is a friend in these efforts, just not
able at this time to be too out front. But the time will come....

Would love to come down some time to chat or chat plus libation,
let me know. I am working part time at my NIH office and part
time at home but can be free most times.

Yes, times ARE crazy in more ways than one, but I am an

optimist....

David

On 8/17/2020 7:41 PM, Dennis Carroll

wrote:

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] [b6]

To:

Peter Daszak [b6]

Gerald Keusch [b6]

CC:

Aleksei Chmura [b6]

Robert Kessler [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 on vacation in **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 [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

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.

--

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: [REDACTED] b6
email [REDACTED] b6

Date: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 11:30:35 AM -0400
 Sent: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 11:30:33 AM -0400
 Subject: RE: Slight harrassment on my current NIAID contract
 From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
 To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Peter Daszak
 Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg

Let's get Bill Foege on it. Another letter to resign, this time to Collins, so he might preserve some modicum of integrity.

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: Slight harrassment on my current NIAID contract

I don't know what that means, but if it goes back to DMID and JP, then they will be in a position to run interference for you. With only 24 days until the election, I wouldn't start worrying yet. d

On 10/9/2020 11:06 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

By the way – I'm currently in the process of dealing with unexpected changes to my Notice of Award for my new contract with NIAID. We had a para inserted that means we have to send copies of subcontracts to NIAID, and explain our 'Biosafety monitoring' plans. I spoke with Jean Patterson who's running these CREID contracts, and she had no idea what they were after. Clearly the director's office interfering.

I'm going to try to deal with it quietly right now and push back. But if they fuck me around, I'll be talking with the press.

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, October 2, 2020 7:54 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6]

Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Subject: Re: NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic

Indeed! I hope that when you get enough air you will also push NIAID for the full hearing on grant termination you deserve. If not for the money, Then for the sake of justice

D

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens

OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 2, 2020, at 00:07, Peter Daszak [b6] wrote:

Just coming up for air after 2 weeks solid grant/report writing. I'm submitting a new R01 on Monday for a project called: Analyzing the potential for future bat coronavirus emergence in Southeast Asia...in other words to do what the China grant should be doing, but now in Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

Amused to see the response below from our polite and careful presidents of NAS and NAM, just days before the whole world got alarmed at just how much of a corrupt malicious ogre we've got inhabiting the center of our Govt's power.

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: Thursday, September 24, 2020 1:37 PM

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

Subject: FW: NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic

David

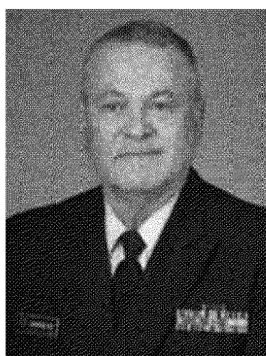
David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520
[REDACTED] (assistants: Kimberly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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



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

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 11:55 AM

Subject: NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic

Share

NAS and NAM Presidents Alarmed By Political Interference in Science Amid Pandemic

Statement | September 24, 2020

As advisers to the nation on all matters of science, medicine, and public health, we are compelled to underscore the value of science-based decision-making at all levels of government. Our nation is at a critical time in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic with important decisions ahead of us, especially concerning the efficacy and safety of vaccines. Policymaking must be informed by the best available evidence without it being distorted, concealed, or otherwise deliberately miscommunicated. We find ongoing reports and incidents of the politicization of science, particularly the overriding of evidence and advice from public health officials and derision of government

scientists, to be alarming. It undermines the credibility of public health agencies and the public's confidence in them when we need it most. Ending the pandemic will require decision-making that is not only based on science but also sufficiently transparent to ensure public trust in, and adherence to, sound public-health instructions. Any efforts to discredit the best science and scientists threaten the health and welfare of us all.

Marcia McNutt

President, National Academy of Sciences

Victor J. Dzau

President, National Academy of Medicine

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 2:59:46 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 2:59:45 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]

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: April 26, 2020 at 06:44:03 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Date: April 25, 2020 at 21:27:40 EDT
To: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]@gov >
Subject: RE: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

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 Erbelding. 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.: [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: Friday, April 24, 2020 10:30 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
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
 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: 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]>; Erbeling, 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: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED] **b6**

From: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] **b6** >
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 1:50 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED] **b6**>
Cc: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] **b6**, "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED] **b6**>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] **b6**, "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] **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

[REDACTED] **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] <[REDACTED] **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] b6

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 >
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] b6 >
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] b6, Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED] b6>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] b6 >, "Erberding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] 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 from 2R01AI110964-06 have been sent to Wuhan Institute of Virology, nor has any contract been signed.** Furthermore, we will comply with NIAID requirements, of course.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 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] g >
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)
[REDACTED] (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] [REDACTED] 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] >
Date: Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], "
 [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: (301) 435-1111
Email: [REDACTED] 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: Fri, 22 May 2020 1:18:41 PM -0400
 Sent: Fri, 22 May 2020 1:18:39 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: WOW! FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant
 From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
 To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]>;
 Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg; Termination of an NIH research grant for "convenience".pdf
 Hi David,

I have timed a letter to the Presidents of NASEM to add the voice of the National Academies to the growing demand for accountability to follow the 77 Nobel Laureates (I didn't want to upstage them). The attached just went out with an explanatory cover letter to McNutt, Anderson and Dzau. Please keep this confidential as I have promised I would not make a public release, the goal being to nudge NASEM to action but not to shame them. This is going to be interesting in the coming week or two.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6] >
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] >; Aleksei Chmura [b6] >; Bryan Morens [b6]
Subject: Fwd: WOW! FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

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

Subject: FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant
Date: Fri, 22 May 2020 17:12:09 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

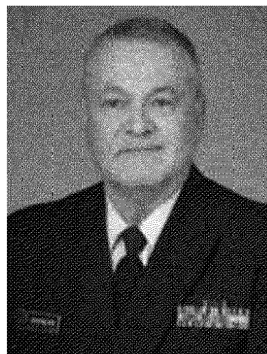
David

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]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email.

If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



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

b6

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:37 PM

Subject: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

By Science News Staff May. 21, 2020 , 6:40 PM

Seventy-seven U.S. scientists who have won a Nobel Prize today asked Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, and Alex Azar, secretary of Health and Human Services, to “act urgently” to review a controversial NIH decision to terminate a grant that supported research into bat coronaviruses in China. NIH’s explanation for killing the grant was “preposterous,” the laureates write.

Thirty-one scientific societies have also written to Collins, calling on NIH “to be transparent about their decision-making process on this matter. ... The action taken by the NIH must be immediately reconsidered.”

On 24 April, NIH informed the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, led by wildlife disease specialist Peter Daszak, that it was ending a grant, first awarded in 2014 and renewed in 2019 because it no longer aligned with the agency’s priorities. The move came after Conservative U.S. politicians and media suggested—without evidence—that the coronavirus causing the pandemic escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, that employs a Chinese virologist who had received funding from the grant. The termination also came 1 week after President Donald Trump, when asked about the project at a press conference, said: “We will end that grant very quickly.”

In their letter, the Nobel laureates say they “are gravely concerned” about that decision. “We believe that this action sets a dangerous precedent by interfering in the conduct of science and jeopardizes public trust in the process of awarding federal funds for research. ... Now is precisely the time when we need to support this kind of research if we aim to control the pandemic and prevent subsequent ones.”

They write that “despite the high relevance of the studies to the current pandemic, and despite the very high priority score that his application for renewal had received during peer review, the NIH informed Dr. Daszak and his colleagues that the grant was being terminated because ‘NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities.’ Such explanations are preposterous under the circumstances.”

Azar and Collins should, they write, “act urgently to conduct and release a thorough review of the actions that led to the decision to terminate the grant, and that, following this review ... take appropriate steps to rectify the injustices that may have been committed in revoking it.”

The signers of the letter include researchers who won a Nobel Prize as recently as 2019, and as long ago as 1975.

The letter from the scientific societies was organized by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). “Our aim with this effort is to stand up for a scientific enterprise that should be free of political influence on sound scientific research,” said Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for ASBMB, in a statement. “The continued politicization of science during this pandemic crisis is an alarming trend that is risking not only the integrity of science, but also the lives of citizens.”

Posted in:

- Science and Policy
- Coronavirus

doi:10.1126/science.abc9393

Science News Staff

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 7:04:35 PM -0400
Subject: Re: brief statement for reporter tonight
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak <[b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]>;

Thank you for all these important efforts! David

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

On Apr 27, 2020, at 18:59, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I'm a fan of and believer in PT. In addition, I have a conference call from 10-noon, so maybe we pick up some time in the afternoon. I will be talking to Nicki Lurie soon as we plan what to do with Victor and the National Academies.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:56 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]>; Aleksei Chmura [b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: Re: brief statement for reporter tonight

Just fyi, I will be in PT at Walter Reed tomorrow from about 1030 to 1230 or so. Painful disc issue in neck at C6 level. D

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

On Apr 27, 2020, at 18:48, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I think that strategy works. I hope you did send it to the reporter at 6. Let's regroup some time tomorrow morning when you can see what has come out and who picked it up to disseminate it.

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: David Morens [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Robert Kessler [b6]
Subject: RE: brief statement for reporter tonight

OK – David – what do you think?

If you're good with this, we'll send it out and maybe work on a broader statement, but my instinct is to lie low for

tonight and tomorrow and let the news agencies have at it, wait for good powerful people to come to our defense, and hope our organization is not targeted by Trump.

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: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
Cc: David Morens [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: brief statement for reporter tonight

Succinct, essential information only, clear next step to understand what this means, it is measured, there is no hyperbole. Good job.

Jerry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 27, 2020, at 5:49 PM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

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

<statement to politico.docx>

Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 7:47:49 PM -0400
 Sent: Mon, 1 Jun 2020 7:47:47 PM -0400
 Subject: Re: WOW! FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant
 From: David Morens [b6] >
 To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >;
 Attachments: image001.gif; image002.jpg
 Jerry, Thanks for all you are doing. It is truly amazing. Wonderful news!

I wonder at what point Francis will feel the need to respond? I don't see reporters holding his feet to the fire..

I haven't heard from Peter in s few days but i hope he will push forward the timetable for his appeal and not let it be stalled indefinitely. D

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

On Jun 1, 2020, at 18:54, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] > wrote:

Hi Dave,

Just an update on this effort. Wound up with 91 signatures, after a few reminders were sent out. Then Jerry Groopman came to interview Ron Corley, so I got him to respond to my letters to him so now I have 92 signatures. Victor Dzau responded by phone and email that he was pursuing this and following the updated letter from Friday he said that he and Marcia were drafting a NASEM response and that John Anderson would also sign. Now I'm bugging ASCI to get on board, and I will follow up with AAMC. We just need to keep the noise level high enough so Francis is sweating in his shorts and maybe ultimately he will stand with us and not against us.
 I saw Tony's interview with Helen Branswell. Bravo.
 Jerry

From: David Morens [b6] >
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: Re: WOW! FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

WOW, PART 2. You are working miracles, and believe me it is appreciated, not just by me but by many others!!! All is not lost, and decency still lives..... Thank you, david

David M. Morens, MD
 Stonehall, No. 800
 8302 Woodmont Avenue
 Bethesda, Maryland 20814

[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

On Fri, May 22, 2020 at 1:18 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

Hi David,

I have timed a letter to the Presidents of NASEM to add the voice of the National Academies to the growing demand for accountability to follow the 77 Nobel Laureates (I didn't want to upstage them). The attached just went out with an explanatory cover letter to McNutt, Anderson and Dzau. Please keep this confidential as I have promised I would not make a public release, the goal being to nudge NASEM to action but not to shame them. This is going to be interesting in the coming week or two.

Jerry

From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura <[b6]>; Bryan Morens [b6]
Subject: Fwd: WOW! FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

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

Subject: FW: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant
Date: Fri, 22 May 2020 17:12:09 +0000
From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
To: David Morens [b6]

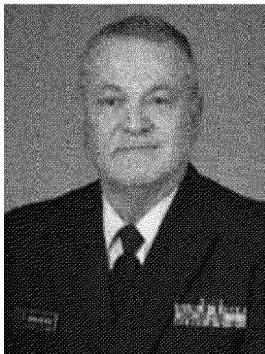
David

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
 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson)

[b6]
 [b6]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the exclusive use of the recipient(s) named above. It may contain information that is PROTECTED, PRIVILEGED, and/or CONFIDENTIAL, and it should not be disseminated, distributed, or copied to persons not authorized to receive such information. All sensitive documents must be properly labeled before dissemination via email. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying is strictly prohibited. If you have received this

communication in error; please erase all copies of the message and its attachments and notify us immediately.



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

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:37 PM

Subject: Science: Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

Nobel laureates and science groups demand NIH review decision to kill coronavirus grant

By [Science News Staff](#) May. 21, 2020 , 6:40 PM

Seventy-seven U.S. scientists who have won a Nobel Prize today asked Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, and Alex Azar, secretary of Health and Human Services, to “act urgently” to review [a controversial NIH decision to terminate a grant](#) that supported research into bat coronaviruses in China. NIH’s explanation for killing the grant was “preposterous,” [the laureates write](#).

[Thirty-one scientific societies](#) have also written to [Collins](#), calling on NIH “to be transparent about their decision-making process on this matter. ... The action taken by the NIH must be immediately reconsidered.”

On 24 April, NIH informed the nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance, led by wildlife disease specialist Peter Daszak, that it was ending a grant, first awarded in 2014 and renewed in 2019 because it no longer aligned with the agency’s priorities. The move came after Conservative U.S. [politicians](#) and media suggested—without evidence—that the coronavirus causing the pandemic escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, that employs a Chinese virologist who had received funding from the grant. The termination also came 1 week after President Donald Trump, when asked about the project at a press conference, said: “We will end that grant very quickly.”

In their letter, the Nobel laureates say they “are gravely concerned” about that decision. “We believe that this action sets a dangerous precedent by interfering in the conduct of science and jeopardizes public trust in the process of awarding federal funds for research. ... Now is precisely the time when we need to support this kind of research if we aim to control the pandemic and prevent subsequent ones.”

They write that “despite the high relevance of the studies to the current pandemic, and despite the very high priority score that his application for renewal had received during peer review, the NIH informed Dr. Daszak and his colleagues that the grant was being terminated because ‘NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities.’ Such explanations are preposterous under the circumstances.”

Azar and Collins should, they write, “act urgently to conduct and release a thorough review of the actions that led to the decision to terminate the grant, and that, following this review ... take appropriate steps to rectify the injustices that may have been committed in revoking it.”

The signers of the letter include researchers who won a Nobel Prize as recently as 2019, and as long ago as 1975.

The letter from the scientific societies was organized by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). “Our aim with this effort is to stand up for a scientific enterprise that should be free of political influence on sound scientific research,” said Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for ASBMB, in a statement. “The continued politicization of science during this pandemic crisis is an alarming trend that is risking not only the integrity of science, but also the lives of citizens.”

Posted in:

- [Science and Policy](#)
- [Coronavirus](#)

doi:10.1126/science.abc9393

Science News Staff

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 6:29:20 AM -0400
Subject: Re: Broader statement
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

Guys, for some reason this Word doc won't allow me to save edits, so here are my comments. I like Jerry's edits, they add to the richness. Two minor things, in para 2, line 2 might say "ecologic niches" and in para 3, line 10, "Academies".. david

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

On Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:40 PM Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I have made a number of suggestions to both avoid pejoratives and at the same time indicate why it is foolish to sever the ties with the Chinese you have. Maybe this is too much. Don't send it with my edits until others have a chance to reflect and see if it is measured enough. I think it is very important to note why this is so counterproductive to our needs as a country to truly understand how this happened.

Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] g >
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:16 PM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Broader statement
Importance: High

Any chance you could look over this statement and suggest whether there is anything we should change?

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: Thu, 14 May 2020 1:45:57 PM -0400
 Sent: Thu, 14 May 2020 1:45:53 PM -0400
 Subject: RE: Wpost: Trump-fueled suspicion of Wuhan lab ensnares New York nonprofit researching bat coronaviruses
 From: Peter Daszak [b6]
 To: David Morens [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6] >; Bryan Morens [b6] >;
 CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >;
 Attachments: image001.jpg

Yes – saw that this morning. WaPo have been a problem in the way they report this – they’re coming down on the side of suspicion of China, but this is much more balanced than their previous reports. You’ll be amused by the tweet chain I put out:

First this one: <https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak/status/1260909941080182784?s=20>

Then this one: <https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak/status/1260918031636729856?s=20>

Then this one: <https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak/status/1260915012891222022?s=20>

Finally this one: <https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak/status/1260918031636729856?s=20>

I’m trying not to be political, and I know I shouldn’t do it, but Francis Collins’ is the first target of my ire right now. His actions are unethical at best.

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: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:38 AM

To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Gerald Keusch [b6] >; Bryan Morens <bsm[b6]>

Subject: Fwd: Wpost: Trump-fueled suspicion of Wuhan lab ensnares New York nonprofit researching bat coronaviruses

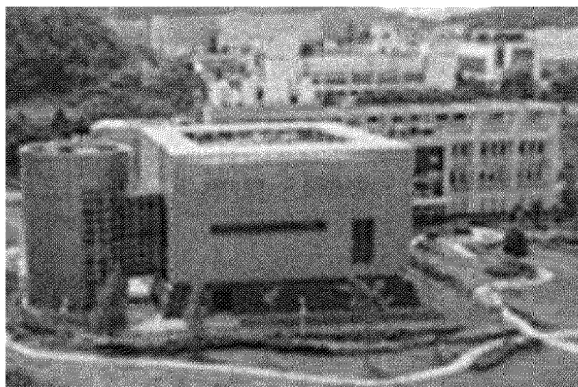
Sent from my iPhone
 David M Morens
 OD, NIAID, NIH
 Begin forwarded message:

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: May 12, 2020 at 10:37:16 EDT
To: David Morens [b6]
Subject: Fwd: Wpost: Trump-fueled suspicion of Wuhan lab ensnares New York nonprofit researching bat coronaviruses

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

From: "Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Date: May 12, 2020 at 10:23:05 EDT
Subject: Wpost: Trump-fueled suspicion of Wuhan lab ensnares New York nonprofit researching bat coronaviruses

Trump-fueled suspicion of Wuhan lab ensnares New York nonprofit researching bat coronaviruses



The Wuhan Institute of Virology partnered with the New York City-based EcoHealth Alliance to research unknown viruses in bats that could cause a global pandemic. (Hector Retamal/AFP/Getty Images)

By

[Paul Sonne](#) and

[Shane Harris](#)

May 12, 2020 at 9:59 a.m. EDT

An American nonprofit received millions of dollars from the U.S. government during the Obama and Trump administrations to identify unknown viruses in bats that could infect humans and cause a global pandemic. Now, as the world faces one such pandemic, the New York City-based EcoHealth Alliance has found itself at the center of a political maelstrom, with one of its major federal grants suddenly axed.

The reason: Its longtime Chinese partner in identifying unknown bat viruses, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is fending off allegations from President Trump and some of his top aides that the pathogen causing covid-19 escaped from its lab.

The story of how EcoHealth became a target in the Trump administration's effort to deflect [criticism](#) and [focus blame on China](#) illustrates the promise and perils of international cooperation on public health research between two superpowers that are increasingly at odds.

Beijing has led an [authoritarian crackdown on information](#) about the initial coronavirus outbreak, while Washington has [demonstrated](#) a cavalier willingness to fuel theories about a Chinese lab accident without

presenting any evidence. Caught in the middle are scientists from both countries, facing questions about their research and doubts about whether their years-long collaboration can continue amid escalating geopolitical tension.

After a CBS News “60 Minutes” [segment](#) detailed EcoHealth’s research and defunding on Sunday, Trump accused the show of defending China. Anthony S. Fauci, who runs the part of the National Institutes of Health that awarded EcoHealth’s grant and later terminated it, could face questions about the matter during testimony Tuesday in front of a Senate committee.

EcoHealth’s work in China first gained national attention during the pandemic when Trump, at a news conference in mid-April, pledged to pull its grant from NIH. Days later, the president’s personal attorney, Rudolph W. Giuliani, assailed the grant in a tweet. Neither Trump nor Giuliani mentioned the nonprofit organization by name, instead focusing on its partners in Wuhan.

Late last month, NIH followed through on Trump’s promise and abruptly pulled more than \$3 million in funding over five years that was awarded in 2019. NIH gave the nonprofit organization little reason for doing so, writing in a letter that the project didn’t align with “program goals and agency priorities.”

“This idea that it doesn’t fit the goals and objectives — there must be more to it,” EcoHealth Alliance President Peter Daszak said in a May 1 interview. “You can’t apply for money from the NIH unless it’s within the goals and objectives of the organization. They review that when you submit a proposal.”

NIH confirmed in a statement that EcoHealth’s grant was terminated and acknowledged that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was a “sub-awardee.” Asked why the funding was pulled, NIH said it does not discuss “the details of the decision-making process regarding specific grant awards.”

Daszak, who said the grant’s termination will force EcoHealth to lay off employees, says cooperation with Chinese scientists is important because the next bat-derived virus threatening humans is likely to emerge from the region. Already, two appear to have caused pandemics in less than 20 years.

“Viruses emerge from places where wildlife carry them and people interact with the wildlife,” Daszak said. “If you have a place with a high diversity of bats and lots of people hunting and eating bats like in Southeast Asia and China, that’s where you need to go.”

Some of the bat [coronaviruses](#) EcoHealth identified with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Daszak said, were used at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to test the effectiveness of [remdesivir](#), the antiviral medication the United States recently approved as a therapy for covid-19 patients.

“Covid-19 is [the result of] a bat-origin coronavirus from China,” Daszak said. “Our grant is called understanding the risk of the emergence of bat-origin coronaviruses. The place we were doing it is China. We were right to be doing that.”

Of science and suspicion

EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s cooperation took their researchers to the front lines of infectious disease.

Scouring China, the scientists hunted the rare bat virus that would infect humans and cause the next severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. The hope: find the virus and develop a vaccine in advance.

The quest led them to a [remote bat cave](#) in China’s Yunnan province. There and elsewhere, over many years, the researchers took blood and fecal samples from bats, used those samples to identify the genetic sequence of unknown viruses and experimented with the material in the Wuhan lab.

Over the years, the collaboration yielded considerable results.

In the aftermath of SARS, Daszak and Wuhan Institute of Virology scientist Shi Zhengli, now referred to in some Chinese media as “bat woman,” were among a group of scientists who in 2005 [demonstrated](#) that the virus most likely originated in horseshoe bats. Later, their researchers [found](#) evidence that bat coronaviruses could infect humans directly and don’t need other animals as intermediary hosts.

The joint research involved risks. Researchers in protective equipment interacted with potentially infectious wildlife. Back in the lab, they cultured a live coronavirus from a bat [on at least one occasion](#) and tested its potential to infect human cells. Using what are known as “reverse genetics,” they [took](#) the spike proteins of new viruses that they identified and inserted them into a uniform SARS-like virus to understand which was most infectious to humans. Some experiments involved humanized mice.

Theoretically, an accident during such activities could prompt an outbreak. If researchers, for example, had found SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes covid-19, and cultured the virus in the lab, it could have infected humans as the result of a mishap.

No evidence of that nature has emerged. Shi has said SARS-CoV-2 wasn’t among the bat coronaviruses that her institute identified or possessed. Daszak dismissed such theories outright.

“We have worked with this lab for 15 years,” Daszak said. “They didn’t have the virus. I have never heard anything suspicious from this lab. It’s a preposterous idea.”

[Along with other scientists](#), Daszak has argued that the covid-19 pandemic almost certainly arose naturally, namely through the “spillover” of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from bats to humans, possibly through an intermediary

species, in a process similar to what caused the SARS outbreak in 2002.

“People hunt bats, eat bats, use bat feces for Chinese medicine and put it on their vegetable gardens, every day,” he said. “We have actual evidence, real evidence, that between one [million] and seven million people a year are getting [exposed to or] infected by bat coronaviruses in Southeast Asia.”

Fauci, who hasn’t commented on why his institute, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, terminated the EcoHealth grant, said in an [interview with National Geographic](#) that the available scientific evidence points to a virus that “evolved in nature and then jumped species.”

Such an outbreak could easily happen in any Chinese city with an animal market selling species that could carry the virus from bats to humans. Many of the initial patients in [Wuhan](#), which has a population of more than 11 million, were connected to one such market.

But questions about exactly how and where the natural spillover took place, coupled with China’s [refusal](#) so far to allow an independent investigation into the origins of the pandemic, have bred suspicion about whether the institute could be to blame. So has the coincidence that both the bat coronavirus research and the outbreak took place in the city of Wuhan.

The Trump administration has amplified the suspicion. Senior administration officials told U.S. intelligence agencies to scour their records and look for new information that might show that the Wuhan lab was the source of the virus, current and former officials familiar with those efforts said. Those agencies have not found evidence to support the theory, according to those people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal intelligence efforts.

The U.S. intelligence community agrees with the scientific consensus that the virus was not man-made or genetically modified, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a statement in late April. It also said U.S. intelligence agencies will continue examining information “to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan.”

Trump and his top aides have been fueling the lab-origin theory for weeks. Asked at an April 30 news conference whether he had seen any evidence that the pathogen causing covid-19 originated at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Trump said he had but then declined to elaborate.

“There is enormous evidence that that’s where this began,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a May 3 [interview](#) with ABC News, when asked whether there was evidence that the outbreak began in the lab. He has not presented that evidence.

Scientists have [analyzed](#) SARS-CoV-2 and asserted that it has the [makings](#) of a naturally derived virus. And they have emphasized that the spillover of coronaviruses from animals to humans is a common occurrence, especially in a place like China.

Kristian G. Andersen, a microbiology professor at the La Jolla, Calif.-based Scripps Research Institute, who co-authored a March [paper](#) in the journal Nature arguing that the virus wasn’t lab-created, said the lab-accident theory was not a plausible explanation, but rather a “possible explanation — with an extremely low likelihood of being true.”

Science alone, however, cannot definitively disprove the lab-accident scenario, said Simon Wain-Hobson, a virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, in part because of the challenge of proving a negative. He said to do so would require full knowledge of the Wuhan institute’s samples and activities leading up to the outbreak.

“The only way to know is we would seek the collaboration of our colleagues at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and this would need the collaboration of the Chinese government — and given the relationship, it seems unlikely that we are going to know,” Wain-Hobson said. Trump’s actions, he said, reduce the chances even further.

“Given available data, I subscribe to the natural-virus-origin thesis,” he said. “There may be a twist.”

An unpredicted outbreak

For years, the *raison d’être* for EcoHealth’s research in China and elsewhere has been “bio-surveillance.”

The aim, Daszak said, is “to find out which of the viruses in the wild even possibly could infect people so we know where they are and we can stop them from emerging.”

“It’s a little bit like if you listen to phone calls from Afghanistan. To find the terrorists, you have to listen to all the phone calls,” Daszak said. “Only when you’ve heard the phone call do you then go in and find out who these people are and disrupt those networks.”

The nonprofit organization partnered for years with a USAID program called Predict. Launched in 2009, the program took tens of thousands of wildlife samples and identified hundreds of new viruses that could pose a threat to humans in order to create an “early-warning system” for the next pandemic. The Trump administration declined to renew the program’s funding late last year. Its work has continued through an [initiative](#) called the Global Virome Project, for which Daszak is the secretary and treasurer.

Critics of the “early-warning system” approach say it would be onerous and costly to identify all of the world’s zoonotic viruses, let alone figure out which ones will enjoy the exact alignment of circumstances to spill over and cause the next pandemic.

Andersen said the scientific research that EcoHealth and its partners in China have been doing is very important to

better understand coronaviruses and how they work — but he takes issue with the panacean rationale. “I feel the claim they are making that you can prevent the next pandemic by doing this type of work is preposterous,” Andersen said. “If you could, given they worked in Wuhan for so long specifically, you would have thought they could have prevented the current pandemic, and they didn’t.”

Daszak, however, points out that one of his colleagues, Ralph Baric, a virologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, worked with Gilead Sciences to develop the antiviral drug remdesivir and used virus strains that EcoHealth and its Chinese partners identified in the process, putting the United States ahead of the curve.

In a statement, Baric said that it is critical to learn what viruses exist in nature so potential drugs can be tested against them in a laboratory setting. His lab already had been working on bat coronaviruses, including at least one discovered by EcoHealth and the Wuhan institute, before testing remdesivir.

“It is because of our early work that the United States was in a position to quickly find the first successful treatment for SARS-CoV-2,” Baric said in a statement. “It is unfortunate that research that could help humans prepare for and fight disease is now viewed as questionable.”

EcoHealth and its partners regularly sounded alarm bells about a bat coronavirus spilling over into humans and becoming the next pandemic. The nonprofit said it found more than 700 novel coronaviruses during its work in China.

Still, it did not identify or prevent the pathogen causing covid-19. Despite seeking to find “spillover-risk hot spots,” the virus emerged in the very city their partners worked.

Shi told Scientific American that when the outbreak of a mysterious illness emerged in Wuhan late last year, she left a conference in Shanghai and returned home. If coronaviruses were indeed the culprit, she wondered, according to the magazine, “could they have come from our lab?”

After scouring her lab’s records for possible evidence of an accident, Shi told Scientific American that she breathed a sigh of relief when the genetic sequences from the new virus came back and didn’t match those her team sampled; the closest shared 96 percent of its genetic material.

“That really took a load off my mind,” she told the magazine. “I had not slept a wink for days.”

Suspicion of her institute grew anyway. Rumors circulated that she had defected, that she had been shut up by China’s Communist Party in a coverup. In a social media post in February, she promised “on her life” that the virus had nothing to do with the lab. She declined to comment for this story.

Shi’s research partners in the United States, including Daszak, have rushed to her defense, describing her as a highly professional scientist and her lab as one of China’s best. Nevertheless, her claims have been treated with suspicion in a Washington where distrust of the Chinese government is at a decades-long high. Her institute is part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Attention soon shifted to her collaboration with U.S. scientists under NIH grants.

Starting in 2008, Daszak received the first of three multiyear grants from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study bat viruses. The second grant, which began in 2014 and, according to EcoHealth, amounted to approximately \$3.1 million over five years, placed the nonprofit in formal collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a sub-recipient.

About \$100,000 a year went to the institute in Wuhan to pay for the genetic sequencing of viruses under that grant, Daszak said.

Daszak received the third grant in 2019, worth about \$3.2 million over five years, according to EcoHealth. The Wuhan Institute of Virology was a sub-awardee, as were East China Normal University in Shanghai, the Institute of Pathogen Biology in Beijing and Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, according to NIH.

Daszak said he received a letter from NIH in late April saying that the agency had decided to suspend the Wuhan Institute of Virology from federal grants pending investigation. NIH asked whether EcoHealth had sent money to the lab under the current grant, and Daszak wrote to say it had not and would not. He said NIH suggested that the rest of the grant’s work would resume.

Shortly thereafter, though, Daszak said he received another letter saying that the grant had been terminated. He wrote to NIH asking to have a conversation about the rationale for the termination. So far, he has not received a reply.

NIH would have screened the Wuhan Institute of Virology with input from the State Department as an acceptable foreign partner before issuing the grant, Daszak said. He said NIH was aware of all the work being done under the grant and never registered an objection.

Recipients are also required to file regular status updates for review by a panel of experts. NIH and EcoHealth declined to release those reports.

Regardless of whether the funding is restored, Daszak said EcoHealth would continue its work, much of which still relies on federal funding from agencies such as the Defense Department.

“We are just going to get on with our mission,” he said. “We just move on. We have to.”

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Fri, 22 May 2020 8:05:17 AM -0400
Sent: Fri, 22 May 2020 8:05:15 AM -0400
Subject: RE: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS
From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; David Morens [b6]
CC: Carroll Dennis [b6]

Don't worry, your locks define you too.

From: Peter Daszak [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:18 AM
To: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Carroll Dennis [b6]
Subject: RE: NIH Director Francis Collins honored for work to bridge science and religion | Science | AAAS

All this talk of hair is making me nervous. Dennis should be too – your locks define you sir.

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 21, 2020 1:58 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

Me neither, but ya never know what the future holds, if we live long enough! d

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

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

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

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#imgrc=rVWGSk4V99CT2M
)

Jerry

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

From: David Morens <[REDACTED] b6 >

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 11:09 AM

To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED] b6 >

Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED] b6 >; Carroll Dennis <[REDACTED] 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] 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, 28 Apr 2020 2:41:54 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 2:41:53 PM -0400
Subject: Re: EMail chain from NIH FW: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06
From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]

Thanks, Peter...

As you know, as a USPHS officer/govt. employee I cannot advocate for govt actions, but as a private citizen there may be much I can do to help, and will do so. I can speak to reporters off the record, for example, and I know quite a few. Also, if reporters contact me, I can request clearance to speak to them on the record, which is likely to be denied, but that's OK, it still sends a message.

Almost the whole of NIH and the scientific community will be behind you in your efforts to continue the very important work you have been doing. david

On 4/28/2020 2:26 PM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Dear colleagues,

I just wanted to let you all know that I spoke with Dennis Carroll (cc'd), who you all know and respect. As reporters ask to talk with me throughout the day, we'll be suggesting they contact Jerry and Dennis for opinions on this. I'm only going to speak with a couple of reporters, and make sure the message is calm and professional. I'm hoping you'll get the bigger picture out to them, about how this is about a White House interfering with science in an unprecedented way, rather than about EHA, Wuhan and China.

Dennis – I'm cc'ing you on the email chain below from NIH that has all of our week-long discussion back and forth – they asked for us to not fund Wuhan, we agreed, they thanked us, then they terminated. The original letter and the termination notice is attached.

Most of this has been shared with reporters, although I think email addresses and cc's were not so please be careful about what you share.

I'll hopefully be talking with Jim Hughes and Rita Colwell this week, as well as many other scientists to encourage them to get the word out about the bigger picture, so we can have other voices talking, and so it's not all about EHA. I know you will be effective and really appreciate what you're doing.

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: 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];
 Erbeling, 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] >, "Erbeling, 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]>, "Erberding, 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 from 2R01AI110964-06 have been sent to Wuhan Institute of Virology, nor has any contract been signed. Furthermore, we will comply with NIAID requirements, of course.**

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

We are well aware of the political concerns over the origins of this outbreak. Our collaboration with Wuhan Institute of Virology has been scientific and we have been consistently impressed with the scientific capabilities of that laboratory and its research staff. Our joint work has led to a series of critical papers published in high impact

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

Yours sincerely,

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 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: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Kevin Olival [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]
Cc: Naomi Schrag [REDACTED]; Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]
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: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

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]" <[b6]>, Naomi Schrag <[b6]>
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[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: [b6] Naomi Schrag <[b6]>

Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED]>

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]

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>

--

David M Morens

[REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 9:53:43 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 16 Jun 2020 9:53:39 PM -0400
Subject: RE: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6];

OK – I'm in. I'll go onto the website and sign up for ACAV – sounds like a winner.

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: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [b6]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.

They bare working on it in the background. Don't expect to hear much officially, they work below the radar screen.

Speaking of astmh, I would like to invite you to join the ACAV subgroup. ASTMH is divided into 6 subgroups such as ACAV (American Committee on Arthropod-Borne Viruses), ACME (American Committee on Medical Entomology), and 4 others covering, e.g., global health and clinical medicine. Most people join at least one subgroup, a few join two. I am in ACAV but represent Global Health on the program committee. Those to groups are most relevant to your work. Subgroups have voluntary dues of \$25 per year.

The oldest of the subgroups, ACAV is an independent group (sort of like ICTV) started in 1959 by a who's who of luminaries including Albert Sabin. Since the beginning it has covered not only arboviruses but also the hemorrhagic fevers and high consequence viruses. As chairman this year, I want to set up a 5th subcommittee within ACAV (other subcommittees include lab safety, info exchanges, etc) dealing exclusively with the high consequence/hemorrhagic fever diseases including yellow fever, Ebola and the filoviruses, Lassa and the arenaviruses, the hantaviruses, henipaviruses, coronaviruses, etc. These latter diseases are no longer well represented because younger scientists prefer to sit in front of computer screens rather than get out into the jungle.

d

On 6/16/2020 9:24 AM, Peter Daszak wrote:

Great to hear that this is something ASTMH is concerned about. As a member of good standing (!), I really appreciate anything they can do to nudge...

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 7:41 AM
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]
Subject: Re: Two reporters might contact you in the next couple of weeks.

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.: [b6]
Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

--
David M Morens:

[b6]

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 6:01:07 PM -0400

Sent: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 6:01:05 PM -0400

Subject: RE: Politico story

From: "Keusch, Gerald T" [b6]

To: Peter Daszak [b6]; Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6];

CC: Nancye Green [b6] David Morens [b6]

Can you give me the contact information for the reporter who wrote the Politico article. I would like to contact her to suggest that she should be digging in to whether or not any other grants working with Wuhan and on bat viruses have been terminated or impacted. I would also urge her to investigate when – if ever – NIH has terminated a highly regarded research program for convenience, eliminating any grants suspended or revoked because of scientific or financial fraud.

Jerry

From: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:21 AM

To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

Cc: Robert Kessler [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Nancye Green

[b6]; David Morens [b6] >

Subject: Re: Politico story

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,

-Alekssei

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]

[b6]

[b6] (work)

[b6] (cell)

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

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

On 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: Alekssei 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. Nancye – 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
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

<NIAID COVID-19 Full Weekly Update 4.27.20.docx>

Date: Mon, 27 Apr 2020 5:01:04 PM -0400
Subject: Re: URGENT: Quick Chat at 4pm today?
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
CC: Aleksei Chmura [b6]; Peter Daszak [b6]; Robert Kessler [b6];

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

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

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] g >
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)

(mobile)

www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

Date: Tue, 5 May 2020 6:31:58 PM -0400
 Sent: Tue, 5 May 2020 6:31:57 PM -0400
 Subject: Re: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
 From: David Morens [b6] >
 To: Keusch, Gerald T [b6] >;
 CC: [b6] Peter Daszak [b6] >;

Attachments: image002.jpg; image004.png; image004.png; image004.png; image004.png; image004.png
 Jerry, i doubt Tony is saying go ahead and fire me, but i think he is pushing his balancing act. Probably he hopes to stay one step ahead of eliciting Trump's firing wrath. Lots of others have played that game and lost, and if Tony wins, he'll be the first. But it is probably the right strategy to adopt. D

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

On May 5, 2020, at 18:22, Keusch, Gerald T [b6] wrote:

I'm glad to see this. But I am also concerned. Trump is showing there is no limit to his paranoia. Firing the HHS IG and preventing Tony from talking to the House but allowing him to go to the Senate is just an indicator. Is Tony now saying, in a way, go ahead and fire me because I won't take this shit any more?

A lot of people are hoping and waiting for that. Is this pushback somewhat off the front page the strategy? Anyway, as my wife so often and so correctly tells me I have to read it before I can opine on it – whatever it happens to be.

Thanks, Jerry

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:15 PM
To: David Morens [b6] >; [b6] Keusch, Gerald T [b6]
Subject: RE: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>
Importance: High

Most important of all he stated that he doesn't buy the 'accidental lab release' hypothesis either – for the first time.

He's a hero to me, my wife and to our whole family.

We have our 'Fauci Mug' to prove that (see attached image). Please show that to the great man himself if there's an opportune moment over the next few weeks.

Cc'ing Dennis and Jerry on this.

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

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 6:02 AM

To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

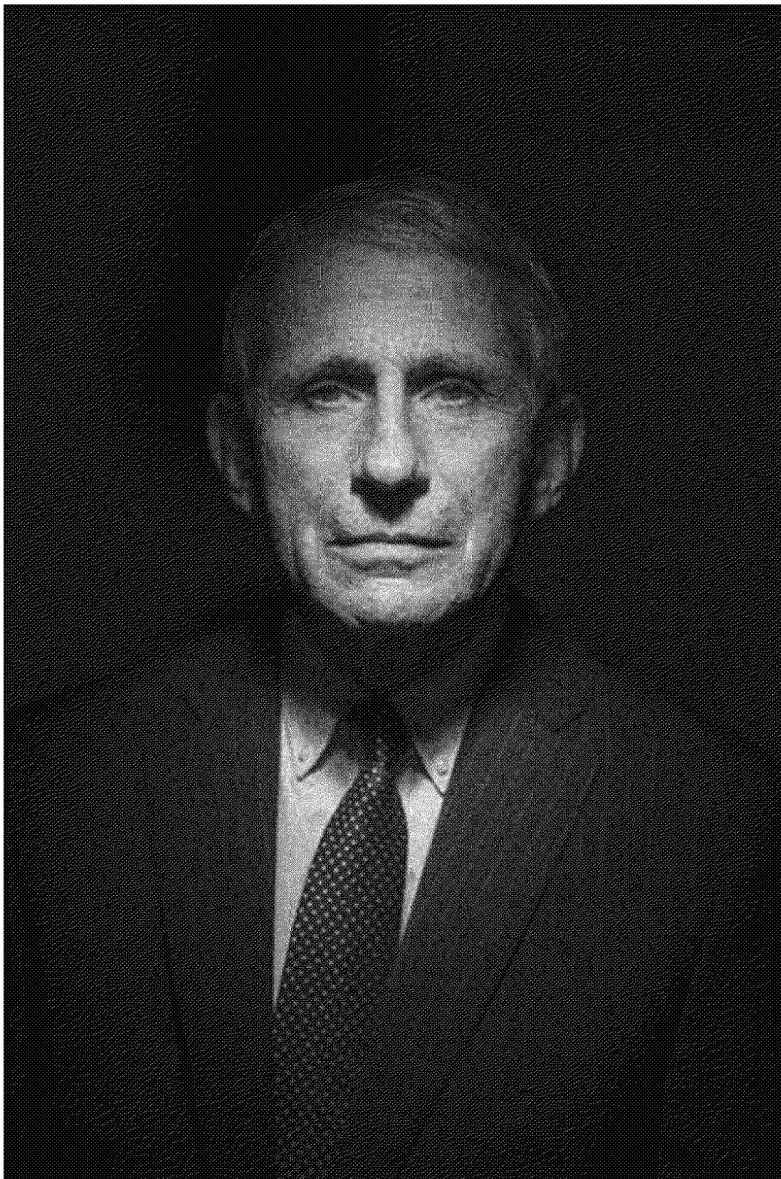
Subject: Fwd: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>

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

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

Date: May 4, 2020 at 20:58:15 EDT

Subject: Nat Geo: Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab
<https://on.natgeo.com/2yvKuY3>



[ScienceCoronavirus Coverage](#)

Fauci: No scientific evidence the coronavirus was made in a Chinese lab

In an exclusive interview, the face of America's COVID-19 response cautions against the rush for states to reopen, and offers his tips for handling the pandemic's information deluge.

Anthony Fauci has been the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for almost 40 years, where he has tackled dozens of outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS. To him, the coronavirus is "extraordinary."

By **Nsikan Akpan** and [Victoria Jaggard](#)

PUBLISHED May 4, 2020

Anthony "Tony" Fauci has become the scientific face of America's COVID-19 response, and he says the best

evidence shows the virus behind the pandemic was not made in a lab in China.

Fauci, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shot down the discussion that has been raging among politicians and pundits, calling it “a circular argument” in a conversation Monday with National Geographic.

“If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated ... Everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that [this virus] evolved in nature and then jumped species,” Fauci says. Based on the scientific evidence, he also doesn't entertain an alternate theory—that someone found the coronavirus in the wild, brought it to a lab, and then it accidentally escaped.

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, listens as President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Thursday, April 9, 2020, in Washington.

Photograph by Andrew Harnik, AP Photo

Fauci is most concerned that the United States will be put to the test this fall and winter by a second wave of COVID-19 if the country does not blunt the infection rate by the summer.

“Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter,” he says, advising that the U.S. needs to make sure we not only have an adequate supply of tests available before a second wave hits, but also a system for getting those tests to the people who most need them.

“I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear,” he says. “It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge.” As such, Fauci says the U.S. should also focus this summer on properly reinforcing the nation's health care system, ensuring the availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment for health care workers.

He also stressed the importance of continuing to social distance everywhere until the case counts start to fall in cities and states. The U.S. witnessed about 20,000 to 30,000 new cases every day in the month of April, suggesting the country is stuck in its peak.

Still, he remains optimistic that a vaccine will be ready within an historically short time frame, citing one promising candidate that he thinks may move into advanced clinical trials by the early summer. Fauci has said that he thinks a final vaccine could be available for general use as early as January, which would break records for the speed at which previous vaccines were developed.

One reason for his confidence is the “impressive” results being seen now in animals tested with a vaccine candidate made by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna Therapeutics, which brought it into human trials in a record 42 days. The candidate is what is known as an mRNA vaccine—a drug that uses snippets of a virus's genetic material—rather than the dead or weakened virus itself—to build the proteins that trigger the body's protective immune response.

To date, no type of mRNA vaccine has been licensed for use in humans, but Fauci believes there is great promise for this technology targeting the coronavirus, based in part on his experience developing treatments for HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and '90s.

“For some reason that we're still struggling with, the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV,” he says. To fight off that virus, a vaccine has to work better than the body's own natural response. By contrast, “it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response” to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the animal trials so far show that modest doses of the mRNA vaccine for coronavirus have also generated a strong immune response.

He adds that NIAID is still developing and supporting multiple vaccine efforts, in case those that go into trials soonest don't ultimately prove safe and effective. “You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time,” he says.

Fauci told National Geographic he's concerned about states rushing to reopen before their infection rates fall. He also shared how he manages the barrage of new scientific information being released about COVID-19, and how his family and faith keep him going despite his increasingly hectic schedule.

(The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.)

Fauci on the vaccine

You've been the NIAID director since 1984, witnessing dozens of disease outbreaks. One of the first was the HIV/AIDS epidemic. How does that experience compare with COVID-19?

One of the important advantages is what we call targeted drug development. Viruses cause disease by binding to receptors on cells in your body, be they in your upper airway or in your lung, in the case of COVID-19. They then replicate at a rapid rate that triggers a variety of pathogenic processes. Targeting drugs to interfere at one or more vulnerable sites within this replication cycle is something that we learned with HIV.

Left:

U.S. President George W. Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom on June 19, 2008 to Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Bethesda, Maryland during ceremonies at the White House. The Presidential Medal of Freedom

... Read More

Photograph by Karen Bleier, AFP via Getty Images (Left) and Photograph by White House Photo / Alamy Stock Photo (Right)

SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] has the same sort of vulnerable points. We need to identify them and develop drugs, either alone or in combination, to block the replication.

Are there also lessons from HIV/AIDS that relate to developing a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are a bit different. We have a better chance of quickly getting, relatively speaking, a vaccine for the novel coronavirus than we did for HIV, because for some reason that's still unknown the body does not make an adequate immune response to HIV.

We don't necessarily have that challenge with this coronavirus because it's obvious that many people make a very adequate immune response. They clear the virus, and they do well. As we know from the natural history of this disease, the majority of people actually either get well without any symptoms—they're called asymptomatic—or they have minimal symptoms, where they get a fever, some aches, and then they recover.

The fact that the majority of people can actually clear the virus is a very good sign for the feasibility of developing a vaccine.

The two most widely discussed vaccine candidates are an mRNA vaccine from Moderna, which reached human trials in a record 42 days, and Oxford University's candidate, based on what's known as a nonreplicating viral vector. Yet no vaccine based on these two technologies has ever been licensed for human use. What makes these two vaccines seem so promising, especially on this expedited timeline?

These vaccines are inducing, at least in animal models, really rather substantial immune responses, particularly the mRNA vaccine. When we look at the immune response that you can induce with a modest dose—one that's feasible to be translated into humans—and the amount of time it takes to get to that level of immunity, it is really quite impressive. It is also really easy to scale up with these two, in the sense of making a lot of doses pretty quickly. So you're right, they have not been approved, as many of the other vaccine platforms have, but the promise is great.

We at NIAID are either developing or supporting the development of multiple candidates. You want a lot of shots on goal. We want four or five candidates that we put out there all within a reasonable time—maybe June, July, or August—to get them into an advanced trial. The mRNA one is already well into phase one of clinical trials, and we're getting ready to go into phase two and three sometime in the early summer.

Fauci on reopening and masks

As states move to reopen businesses and warmer weather lures people outside, how concerned are you about a fresh spike in infections in the U.S.?

Take a look at the guidelines for Opening Up America Again. There are very well delineated checkpoints. There's a gateway where infections must go down for 14 days before you can enter into phase one for reopening. If you fulfill the requirements of phase one, you move to phase two. If you do it there, you go to phase three.

So when you see somebody in an environment in which the infections are not going down, and then you see 30 to 40 people on a beach with no mask ... well that's very nice to have fun in the sun, but you're really putting yourself and everyone at risk for creating an even bigger spike in infections.

Do you fear a second wave?

What's impressed me the most—but clearly in a disturbing way—is the extraordinary efficiency of how the virus spreads. It spreads so much more efficiently than influenza does. You see situations where people at home try and physically separate; they have no contact except they've touched the plate or a doorknob, and they wind up getting infected.

The clusters in families, the outbreaks on the *Teddy Roosevelt* aircraft carrier, the enormous spread on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Yokohama harbor—it's a very, very transmissible virus.

Anthony Fauci hugs Nina Pham, the nurse who was infected with Ebola from treating patient Thomas Eric Duncan in Dallas, as Pham's mother Diana (sixth from left) and sister Cathy

... Read More Photograph by Alex Wong, Getty Images

We're going to be put to the test as we move toward the fall and winter of this year. If we do it correctly, then we could be able to blunt and diminish the daily rate of infections in this country as we get into the summer. I can't guarantee it, but if we do things right, that likely will happen.

But I don't think there's a chance that this virus is just going to disappear. It's going to be around, and if given the opportunity, it will resurge. We now will have a few months—May, June, July, August—to prepare, by making sure our health system is adequately supplied with ventilators, ICU beds, personal protective equipment, etcetera. We need to not only have tests, but to make sure the people who need tests can get tested.

So that by the time we get to September, we don't have the dialogue continually fixating on do you have enough tests? Shame on us if we don't have enough tests by the time this so-called return might occur in the fall and winter.

What's your position on the general public wearing face masks?

I'm glad you asked, because it has evolved over the weeks and months. When there was first discussion, it was at a time when face masks—either surgical masks or N95 respirators—were at high scarcity.

Let's assume that we now have enough masks or that you could easily make a cloth covering, as was suggested appropriately by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I think those are reasonable assumptions. We know that the masks are better in the health-care setting to prevent someone who's infected from coughing and sneezing and infecting people in the environment. When you look at what the mask does for the general population, the data are not 100 percent: It doesn't 100 percent protect you from infecting somebody else, and it certainly doesn't 100 percent prevent somebody else from infecting you.

But if you wear a mask, you are getting some protection for yourself, and if you happen to be infected and don't know it, you're to some extent preventing transmission to someone else. Given that, it just makes sense that first of all, the best way to prevent spread is to maintain the physical distance of six feet.

So, if you're in a situation where you're in contact with no one, then you don't have to be walking around with a mask all day, that's for sure. But if you are in a situation where you are going to be within the realm of six feet—the grocery store or even walking out on the street—then wear it.

Fauci on the information deluge and the “virus made in Chinese lab” claim.

How do you keep up with the barrage of information and filter down to the most important science?

It's like drinking from a fire hydrant. It really is. Fortunately for me, I have a staff of three to four really good people who sift through the papers and when something looks unreasonable or “pie in the sky,” they don't bother me with that. Then when all of these studies come across my desk, I read the title and the abstract. If it looks feasible, I'll put it aside and try and read it. When it's something that they think I should read, they make sure I read it.

Even with that screening process, it's still very difficult to consume everything that's out there, particularly with this relatively recent trend with these non-peer-reviewed, pre-publications [that have not gone through traditional vetting to appear in major journals].

So, what's your advice to the public at-large for sifting through the headlines and making sense of it all?

Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks with members of his laboratory during a meeting Aug. 31, 1990, where he describes a natural growth factor that is necessary for the AIDS virus to multiply.

Photograph by George Tames, The New York Times via Redux

Anybody can claim to be an expert even when they have no idea what they're talking about—and it's very difficult for the general public to distinguish. So, make sure the study is coming from a reputable organization that generally gives you the truth—though even with some reputable organizations, you occasionally get an outlier who's out there talking nonsense. If something is published in places like *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Cell*, or *JAMA*—you know, generally that is quite well peer reviewed because the editors and the editorial staff of those journals really take things very seriously.

One topic in the news lately has been the origins of SAR-CoV-2. Do you believe or is there evidence that the virus was made in the lab in China or accidentally released from a lab in China?

If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats, and what's out there now is very, very strongly leaning toward this [virus] could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated—the way the mutations have naturally evolved. A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.

Sure, but what if scientists found the virus outside the lab, brought it back, and then it escaped?

But that means it was in the wild to begin with. That's why I don't get what they're talking about [and] why I don't spend a lot of time going in on this circular argument.

Fauci's life right now

What's your typical day like?

I get up around five o'clock in the morning, and I usually wind up running downstairs, getting a quick breakfast, and looking at a thousand emails—literally a thousand.

I then head to the NIH [National Institutes of Health] for my day job—trying to develop a vaccine and drugs and running a \$6 billion institution. I stay there until around one o'clock, and then I go down to the White House for multiple meetings. First, I meet with the doctor group—myself, coronavirus response coordinator Debbie Birx, director Bob Redfield from the CDC, commissioner Steve Hahn from FDA, and others. We then go into the task force meeting run by Vice President [Mike Pence], which usually lasts about an hour and a half. We summarize this pre-brief with the vice president and then go brief President [Donald Trump] for the press conference.

Then, the work starts ... I head home or back to the NIH and work until the wee hours of the morning. The whole day is punctuated by everybody needing to talk to you: every governor in the states, every congressional leader, every leader in the White House. It's constant conference calls. It's an almost impossible situation—and that's seven days a week.

Then you superimpose upon that all the press you do—the TV or the radio or the interviews. It's kind of a surrealistic state. I have to wake up in the morning and literally, without being facetious, ask my wife, what day is it?

Wow, how do you unwind?

I power walk with my wife, usually at night or on the weekends. It's dark, but we still do it anyway.

Has it ever been too taxing?

A couple of months ago, I was foolish and just thought I could get away with almost no sleep. I mean, like three hours a night. I did that for a few weeks, and it almost killed me. It really wore me down badly. Thank goodness I have a very intelligent and clinically skilled wife who turned things around and said, You got to remember to eat, and you've got to remember to sleep. The day is still impossible, but I don't think I'm going to drop dead from it. I hope not.

You went to a Jesuit high school, where you learned the importance of doing good for the public. How has that experience informed your professional life?

My whole life was almost served to me on the basis that my mother and father were very much oriented toward service. They were never really interested in money or material things. That's just the way they were, both of them. So I never knew there was anything like going out there and making a lot of money, and that was really cemented when I went both to a Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, where the entire theme was service for others. I almost never had any other inkling of doing anything except something that would have a public service component to it. I'm very much of a people person, but I'm also scientifically inclined. My entire training is steeped in the humanities, and when you combine that with an aptitude for science, you wind up being a physician.

Victoria Jaggard is the senior editor for Science & Innovation at National Geographic.

Disclaimer: Any third-party material in this email has been shared for internal use under fair use provisions of U.S. copyright law, without further verification of its accuracy/veracity. It does not necessarily represent my views nor those of NIAID, NIH, HHS, or the U.S. government.

Date: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 6:52:08 PM -0400
Sent: Tue, 28 Apr 2020 6:52:06 PM -0400
Subject: More FOIAs on their way - this time to NIAID, incl. emails to us
From: Peter Daszak [b6]
To: Aleksei Chmura [b6];
CC: David Morens [b6]; Keusch, Gerald T [b6]

David – you should be aware of this.

This group has a clear agenda. They're targeting Tony Fauci and looking for emails to us and others re. Wuhan.

<https://nlpc.org/2020/04/28/nlpc-seeks-niaid-documents-regarding-wuhan-lab-and-pandemic/>

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

Date: Mon, 4 May 2020 10:05:33 AM -0400

Sent: Mon, 4 May 2020 10:05:31 AM -0400

Subject: Re: Thank You!

From: David Morens [REDACTED] b6

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

CC: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6

No, i dont think there is any good in feaching out. Undoubtedly some munchkin in the ed offoce just automatically sent it hack to reviewers. rturo probably doesn't even know. D

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

On May 4, 2020, at 09:11, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 wrote:

I still hope they will accept it but I don't know what is going on. I just wish editors would be willing to make editorial decisions...Do you want to reach out to Arturo?

As to GoF, we did do this paper long ago which caused a bit of a reaction from the complaining crowd:

Influenza viruses: breaking all the rules.

Taubenberger JK, Morens DM.

mBio. 2013 Jul 16;4(4). pii: e00365-13. doi: 10.1128/mBio.00365-13.

PMID: 23860766

Free PMC Article

We could always do another.

Jeff

From: [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED] b6
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 at 9:05 AM
To: "Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED] b6 >
Cc: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6
Subject: Re: Thank You!

But if they reject it, what next, JID?

also maybe at some point we could dust off the gof piece we were thinking of writing with Malik and Kanta. I think the case needs to be made that all in vitro and in vivo virology is about gain and loss of function. Without it we wouldnt have alot of life saving vaccines and drugs. Think about adapting a virus to mouse passage, for example. That's gof. Did not Landsteiner prove the cause of polio by adapting the virus to NHPs? Gof..... One could go on and on. Standard virology 101 is thus gof and lof, and has nothing to do with mad scientists creating fairy tale Frankenviruses. D

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

On May 4, 2020, at 08:43, Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] b6 > wrote:

Great to hear all your news David. I hope you get lots of traction on this.

The GoF issue and the new rules regarding review of GoF proposals for HHS are becoming much more controversial again after slowing down dramatically. Your issue is indeed unrelated to GoF but now conflated by the same people that want us to never work with high containment viruses but at the same time demand that we understand the molecular basis of host switch events and pathogenicity and develop treatments and vaccines. In their view, mother nature can do all the experiments she wants but no one else I guess.

Hang in there!

P.S. Our mBio paper was sent back to the reviewers I guess so I am less hopeful about its acceptance. Not sure why this is happening.

All the best,

Jeff

From: [b6] [b6]
Date: Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 5:16 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Cc: "Taubenberger, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Subject: Re: Thank You!

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 the daily PT, and then at night if i get a w few minutes before falling asleep, the [b6] [b6] quickly puts me down. I am semi-functioning in chronic exhaustion....

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

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: Taubenberger, Jeffery (NIH/NIAID) [E]: [b6]
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Peter Daszak <[b6]>
Cc: David Morens [b6]
Subject: Re: Thank You!

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

Best regards,

Jeff

From: [b6]
Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 at 5:41 AM
To: Nancye Green [b6]
Cc: Peter Daszak <[b6]>, Gerald T Keusch [b6]
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] b6 [REDACTED]> wrote:

Great article. Thank you for contributing and sharing.

Nancye

Nancye Green

Donovan/Green

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

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

[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]

www.donovangreen.com

EcoHealth Alliance, Chair

From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]

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

To: David Morens [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED], Gerald T Keusch [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]

Cc: Nancye Green [REDACTED] b6 [REDACTED]

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

EcoHealth Alliance

460 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
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

Date: Thu, 7 May 2020 7:53:47 PM -0400
Sent: Thu, 7 May 2020 7:53:45 PM -0400
Subject: Re: Tony's inside NIAID town hall meeting of a few minutes ago
From: David Morens [b6]
To: Peter Daszak [b6];
CC: Keusch, Gerald T [b6]; Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]; [b6]

Peter, you have more friends than you realize. Keep faith. Nothing good may happen in the near term but this is a tortoise and hare race. I believe in the end You, ecohealth, will cross the finish line first. try to have faith.
D

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

On May 7, 2020, at 19:47, Peter Daszak [b6] > wrote:

This is just amazing to hear. It's true leadership when you stand up on principle, under risk of losing your position, in defense of your organization's mission, and in the interests of public health. That's what Tony's done repeatedly throughout his career and particularly regarding this outbreak.

Congressional Medal of Honor, Freedom of the City, Nobel Prize – I'd give him the lot...

It's a very worrying time for us here at EcoHealth, but knowing that you're all out there working in the background and that Tony's speaking truth to power is extremely important – a slight relief in a tough week.

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 7, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Peter Daszak [b6] >; Keusch, Gerald T [b6] Breman, Joel (NIH/FIC) [V]
 [b6]
Subject: Tony's inside NIAID town hall meeting of a few minutes ago

Among other things he was asked about the termination of your grant, Peter.

He mentioned you by name, although pronouncing it "DAY- ZACK".

He said, and I quote, "we were told by the White House"..... "they told Building 1"... then mentioning specifically the NIH OD and the NIH-wide extramural office, within OD, and added that the grant was "terminated centrally", implying he/NIAID were not involved in any way. This was a somewhat bold thing to say because he essentially blamed Francis without saying so explicitly

It is conceivable that this Town Hall was recorded and if so I will get it to you.

david

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

Date: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 3:01:12 PM -0400
Sent: Sun, 26 Apr 2020 3:01:09 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: Daszak letter 4 24 20.pdf; Untitled attachment 00806.htm; EcoHealth Alliance re AI grant 4 19 20.pdf; Untitled attachment 00809.htm

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

From: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6] >
Date: April 26, 2020 at 06:44:41 EDT
To: David Morens [b6] >
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

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

From: Peter Daszak [b6] >
Date: April 25, 2020 at 19:21:48 EDT
To: "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [b6]
Cc: Aleksei Chmura [b6] >
Subject: Fw: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak
President

EcoHealth Alliance
460 West 34th Street – 17th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Tel. [REDACTED]

Website: [REDACTED]

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](#)

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

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

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:47 PM

To: Aleksei Chmura; Peter Daszak

Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]; Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]

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

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: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

From: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] >

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.: [REDACTED]

Website: www.ecohealthalliance.org

Twitter: [@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: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

From: Kevin Olival [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:14 PM
To: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]
Cc: Naomi Schrag [REDACTED], "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED]>
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] 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

[REDACTED] b6 (direct)

[REDACTED] 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] [b6], Naomi Schrag <
 [b6]>
Cc: "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [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: [b6] Naomi Schrag [b6]
Cc: Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [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: b6

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>