Hypothetical Laboratory Origin of SARS-CoV-2

WIV conducted a longitudinal studies to isolate a large number of bat Coronaviruses from multiple locations in China (2011-2015)WIV Developed Reverse Genetic System, assembled WIV1 full-length infectious clone, and created chimeric viruses exchanging the WIV1 spike gene with the spike gene from other bat Coronaviruses (2015-2017)WIV and other Chinese scientists conduct gain of function studies on SARS, MERS, IBV, and PEDV to insert furin cleavage sites demonstrating increased virulence of the chimeric virusesWIV conducted in vivo and in vitro studies to characterize the bank of bat CoronavirusesWIV conducted the live bat Coronavirus studies under BSL2 conditionsHypothesis: Between 2017 and 2019, WIV created a full-length infectious clone in pBAC-CMV using an unpublished bat Coronavirus genome as template (BatCoVX)Hypothesis: Between 2017 and 2019, WIV created chimeric Bat-CoV-X viruses using the pBAC-CMV-BCoVX backbone and swapping out key cassettes with other bat Coronaviruses (RBD, RBM, etc.) and adding additional features such as a furin cleavage siteHypothesis: In 2018-2019, WIV conducted in vitro and in vivo studies to characterize the BatCoVX chimeric viruses under BSL2 conditionsHypothesis: In mid-2019, one of the not fully characterized Bat-CoV-X chimeric viruses escaped from the WIV facilities and begins infecting civilians in the city of WuhanHypothesis: Starting in mid-2019 through present, WIV and other Chinese laboratories conduct studies to characterize the Chimerc BCoVX virus that escaped (now called SARS-CoV-2)WIV (Zhou et al., 2020) publishes the 2019-nCoV genome sequence showing relatedness to RaTG13 (a previously unpublished genome)BatCoVX likely highly related to RaTG13Hypothesis: Beginning in early 2020, WIV and other government controlled agencies begin to publish obfuscation information to drive the narrative that SARS-CoV-2 is of natural origin and resulted from natural recombinationRaTG13RMYN02Pangolin CoV's