

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2022

Mr. Michael Farzan, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Immunology and Microbiology
Scripps Research
130 Scripps Way
Jupiter, FL 33458

Dear Dr. Farzan:

Since April 2, 2020, Committee Republicans have been investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) role in obscuring the truth regarding the initial outbreak, and whether any U.S. taxpayer dollars funded the Wuhan Institute of Virology's (WIV) dangerous gain-of-function research.¹ We have sent numerous letters to the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). To date, these requests have either been ignored or the responses have been insufficient. As an expert and because of your involvement in the drafting of "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2," your future cooperation is vital to our investigation.

During the 118th Congress, this investigation will be a priority for the Committee but also the global community. As stated by 18 experts in *Science* magazine, "[k]nowing how COVID-19 emerged is critical for informing global strategies to mitigate the risk of future outbreaks."² Further, according to the *Lancet* COVID-19 Commission, "[i]dentifying [COVID-19's] origins would provide greater clarity into not only the causes of the current pandemic but also vulnerabilities to future outbreaks and strategies to prevent them."³ The origins of the disease that has taken the lives of more than six million people is still unknown.⁴ Uncovering the truth about the origins of COVID-19 is vital to U.S. national security, critical to the prevention of future pandemics, and will bring some semblance of closure to the families of those who lost loved ones during the pandemic.

Because you have been at the center of the pandemic since its inception, your documents and testimony are essential to informing the Committee about what the U.S. government knew regarding the origins of COVID-19 and when the government knew it.

¹ Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al., Ranking Member, Subcomm. on the Environment, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Hon. Michael R. Pompeo, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of State (Apr. 2, 2020).

² Jesse D. Bloom, et. al., *Investigate the origins of COVID-19*, SCIENCE (May 14, 2021).

³ Jeffrey D. Sachs, et. al., *The Lancet Commission on lessons learned for the future from the COVID-19 pandemic*, THE LANCET (Sept. 14, 2022).

⁴ *Id.* ("Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover remain viable.") ("...hypothesis about both natural and laboratory spillovers are in play and need further investigation.").

Mr. Michael Farzan, Ph.D.

December 13, 2022

Page 2

To assist the Committee with its investigation, including but not limited to areas involving the origins of COVID-19 and the CCP's efforts to cover it up, please produce the following documents and information as soon as possible but no later than December 27, 2022:

1. All drafts of "The Proximal Origins of SARS-CoV-2" including all with track changes, comments, or other mark-ups visible.
2. All documents and communications regarding the February 1, 2020 teleconference or any subsequent telephone call(s) regarding the origins of COVID-19.
3. All documents and communications resulting from the February 1, 2020 teleconference or any subsequent telephone call(s) regarding the origins of COVID-19.
4. All documents and communications regarding the drafting, publication, and critical reception of *Nature Medicine's* "The Proximal Origins of SARS-CoV-2."
5. All documents and communications regarding the Wuhan Institute of Virology, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., and the origins of COVID-19 between November 1, 2019 and present.
6. All documents and communications regarding the origins of COVID-19, gain-of-function research, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Framework, "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2," and the letter in *The Lancet* entitled "Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19" between you and employees or leaders of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc between November 1, 2019 and present.
7. All documents and communications regarding the Committee's February 3, 2022 letter to you.

Further, the Committee requires your testimony about these and related matters. Accordingly, please contact Committee staff to schedule a transcribed interview.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. To ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at 202-225-5074.

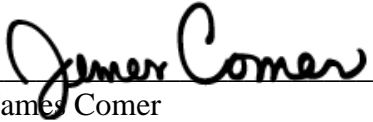
Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Mr. Michael Farzan, Ph.D.

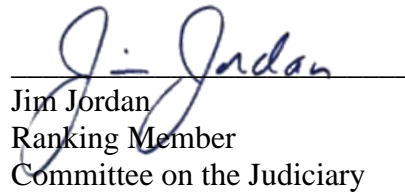
December 13, 2022

Page 3

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary