

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-6074
Minority (202) 225-5051

June 5, 2024

Peter Jay Hotez, M.D., Ph.D., FASTMH, FAAP
Professor
Department of Biology, Baylor University
101 Bagby Avenue
Waco, Texas 76706

Dear Dr. Hotez:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (Select Subcommittee) is investigating the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. During this investigation, the Select Subcommittee discovered that Dr. David Morens, former Senior Advisor to Dr. Anthony Fauci at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) used personal e-mail accounts to discuss matters relevant to the origins of COVID-19 and the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) and NIAID's activities pertaining to the pandemic in an effort to avoid transparency and oversight.¹

Documents produced to the Select Subcommittee indicate that you were involved in frequent e-mail discussions with Dr. Morens and Dr. Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance Inc. regarding the origins of the coronavirus pandemic – including on Dr. Morens's personal e-mail accounts. Concerningly, you were involved in Dr. Morens's communications in which he describes destroying federal records to avoid public transparency and scrutiny. Specifically, Dr. Morens wrote, “[t]he best way to avoid FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] hassles is to delete all emails when you learn a subject is getting sensitive...”² To which you reply that you have “sent many emails to Tony over the years,” but that you “don't think anything incriminating.”³

From: [Hotez, Peter Jay](#)
To: [Morens, David \(NIH/NIAID\)](#) [E]
Cc: [Roberts, Rich](#); [Peter Daszak](#); [Keusch, Gerald T](#); [Robert Kessler](#); [Jeffrey Sturshio](#)
Subject: Re: Jeff Sachs.
Date: Monday, June 28, 2021 6:14:49 PM

Such a crazy world, I've all sent many emails to Tony over the years, but I don't think anything incriminating

¹ MAJORITY STAFF OF H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY, SELECT SUBCOMM. ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, 118TH CONG., STAFF MEMORANDUM ON ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BY DR. DAVID MORENS, SENIOR ADVISOR TO NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES FORMER-DIRECTOR, DR. ANTHONY FAUCI (Comm. Print 2024).

² E-Mail from Dr. David Morens, Senior Advisor, to Dir., Nat' Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, to Dr. Peter Hotez, Professor, Baylor Univ., *et al.* (June 28, 2021 4:10 pm) (BU04541-04542 on file with committee staff).

³ E-Mail from Dr. Peter Hotez, Professor, Baylor Univ., to Dr. David Morens, Senior Advisor, to Dir., Nat' Inst. of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, *et al.* (June 28, 2021 6:14 pm) (BU04541 on file with committee staff).

After reviewing the communications of Dr. Morens, Dr. Daszak, and Dr. Gerald Keusch, the Select Subcommittee is deeply troubled by pervasive efforts to avoid transparency and the aggressive machinations to discredit origins theories that did not align with “the science’s” endorsed narrative. Your communications with Dr. Morens, Dr. Daszak, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and other government and nongovernmental officials regarding the origins of COVID-19 are clearly vital to informing the Select Subcommittee’s investigation. Fortunately, you yourself publicly stated that “anyone who wants [your] emails...is more than welcomed to them.”⁴



The Select Subcommittee therefore requests the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than June 20, 2024:

1. All documents and communications between you and any employee of the following entities between December 1, 2019 and present regarding the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., or the Wuhan Institute of Virology:
 - a. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
 - b. National Institutes of Health;
 - c. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases;
 - d. U.S. Department of State;
 - e. U.S. Department of Energy; and
 - f. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2. All documents and communications between you and any of the following individuals between December 1, 2019 and present regarding the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, or the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic:
 - a. Dr. Francis Collins;
 - b. Dr. Anthony Fauci;
 - c. Dr. David Morens;

⁴ Peter Hotez, (@PeterHotez), X, (May 21, 2024, 10:33 PM), *available at* <https://x.com/PeterHotez/status/1793107835917902010>.

- d. Dr. Jeremy Farrar;
- e. Dr. Kristian Andersen;
- f. Dr. Robert Garry;
- g. Dr. W. Ian Lipkin;
- h. Dr. Edward Holmes;
- i. Dr. Michael Farzan;
- j. Dr. Christian Drosten;
- k. Dr. Ron Fouchier;
- l. Dr. Marion Koopmans;
- m. Dr. Ralph Baric;
- n. Dr. James LeDuc;
- o. Dr. Victor Dzau;
- p. Dr. Peter Daszak;
- q. Dr. Aleksei Chmura;
- r. Mr. Jeffrey Sturchio;
- s. Dr. Gerald Keusch;
- t. Dr. Shi Zhengli;
- u. Dr. Ben Hu;
- v. Dr. Yu Ping;
- w. Dr. Lanying Du;
- x. Dr. Yan Zhu; and
- y. Dr. Zhou Yusen.

The Select Subcommittee reserves the right to request your testimony at either a transcribed interview or a public hearing.

The Select Subcommittee is authorized to investigate “the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic including but not limited the Federal Government’s funding of gain-of-function research” under H.R. 5.⁵ Further, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability is authorized to investigate “any matter” at “any time” pursuant to House Rule X. To schedule a date for your interview or to ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Chairman

⁵ H. Res. 5 § 4(a)(2023).

Dr. Peter Jay Hotez
June 5, 2024
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cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D., Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic