

It reminded me of the opposite outcome, a story I read when Hillary Clinton was a New York Senator and tried to push NIH to fund 9/11 syndrome grants that had been rejected. My memory is that she met with Tony Fauci, who politely (but repeatedly) reminded her that the NIH grant review system is independent and can't be politically interfered with.

David, Jerry – do you know where that was reported – I can't find it online. David – do you remember if it was Tony Fauci or Elias Zerhouni that Hillary met with?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]; Gerald Keusch [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: New White House pandemic center

Typical government approach – ask for something to be done and then give no money to get it done.

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

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
email: [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] David  
Morens [REDACTED]; Gerald Keusch [REDACTED]; Jeffrey Sturchio  
[REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** New White House pandemic center

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

**Texas Children’s Hospital:** [Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics](#) | [Co-Director, Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** [Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine](#) | [Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology](#) | [Health Policy Scholar](#)

**Baylor University,** University Professor

**Rice University,** Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

[E-mail](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | Skype: p.hotez

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

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** [Douglas Soriano](#)

[REDACTED] | Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED]

**Media Inquiries:**

[REDACTED]

iPhone

Message

---

**From:** kuuipo9 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 5/5/2023 10:05:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**CC:** daszak [REDACTED] roberts [REDACTED] hotez [REDACTED] chmura [REDACTED]  
J\_Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Question re. NIH refusing to allow

Thank u all for that, you may be sVing my life as well as your own!

Sent from Proton Mail mobile

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

On May 5, 2023, 14:14, Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] wrote:

You are probably right.

By the way, I switched to Davids proton email for this reply. In fact, I have deleted the gmail from my address book so I don't make a mistake when I am initiating an email.

Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 12:54 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Roberts, Rich <[REDACTED]>; Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Question re. NIH refusing to allow

But HC probably wouldn't have gone around Zerhouni, a political appointee, to go straight to Toby, would she?

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Fri, May 5, 2023, 12:09 Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] wrote:

I don't recall either, but to me it would have been outside of Zerhouni's character to speak truth to power as Peter's comment suggests. He was certainly there for a portion of her term as senator. But so was Tony for all of it. Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 11:32 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]; Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Question re. NIH refusing to allow



I do not remember for sure but think it was Zerhouni. d

From the cell phone of David Morens

On Fri, May 5, 2023, 11:22 Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Rich just shared a 'fruity' quote he gave to the Daily Telegraph re. Francis Collins' particular weakness in terminating NIH funding on direction from Trump. I'll leave it for you to either read it in the press, or hear it from Rich – it's a cracker...

It reminded me of the opposite outcome, a story I read when Hillary Clinton was a New York Senator and tried to push NIH to fund 9/11 syndrome grants that had been rejected. My memory is that she met with Tony Fauci, who politely (but repeatedly) reminded her that the NIH grant review system is independent and can't be politically interfered with.

David, Jerry – do you know where that was reported – I can't find it online. David – do you remember if it was Tony Fauci or Elias Zerhouni that Hillary met with?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

EcoHealth Alliance

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507

USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

**From:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]; Gerald Keusch [REDACTED]; Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: New White House pandemic center

Typical government approach – ask for something to be done and then give no money to get it done.

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

Executive Assistant: Erin Varney  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
email: [REDACTED]

**From:** Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]; Gerald Keusch [REDACTED]; Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** New White House pandemic center

EXTERNAL SENDER

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

**Texas Children's Hospital:** Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics | Co-Director, [Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development](#) | [Donate to our COVID-19 Vaccine Development](#)

**Baylor College of Medicine:** Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine | Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular Virology & Microbiology | Health Policy Scholar

**Baylor University,** University Professor

**Rice University,** Baker Institute Fellow in Disease & Poverty

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

E-mail | Twitter | LinkedIn | Skype: p.hotez

Amazon Author Center | Daily Beast Contributor

**Senior Coordinator & Executive Support:** Douglas Soriano

Phone: [REDACTED] | Fax: [REDACTED]

**Media Inquiries:**

[REDACTED]  
iPhone

Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 7/23/2023 6:01:52 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Hotez, Peter Jay [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** update on David Morens  
**Attachments:** Political and NIH actions against Dr David Morens 7.23.23.docx

**Importance:** High

Hi all,

I want to update you re. the political and agency-level actions against David related to his email messages, use of gmail etc.. I realize this is David's business, but he's agreed that I share, and in any case the emails that have been released already, and those that these committees are aiming for, involve communications among all of us. One point on this – the committees and NIH have asked him to share private communications among some of us, so I hope we don't use this forum to make any critical comments about these actions – this is just informational.

The key update is that **NIH has now placed David on administrative leave, with pay**, and informed him by email that they will not be providing him with legal counsel. He has access to his NIH email/docs only for the purposes of their investigation.

As you can see from the attached timeline, David now has 4 actions going on:

1. The House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) demands for on-the-record interview, and document production (NIH and gmail messages etc.) [https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023.06.29-BRW-Letter-to-DM-Re.-Origins\\_Redacted\\_Final.pdf](https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023.06.29-BRW-Letter-to-DM-Re.-Origins_Redacted_Final.pdf)
2. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has requested HHS to investigate. This follows a request from Rand Paul. <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23872063-nara-nih-morens-letter>
3. NIH have asked David to hand over documents
4. Senators Marshall, Blackburn, Ernst, Lee, Grassley have written to the Surgeon General (David is a retired member of the US Public Health Service commissioned corps) demanding documents and investigation. <https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/Oversight-letter-to-US-Surg.-Gen-re-Capt-David-Morens-07.17.2023.pdf>

All the details of the above are available as public documents via links on the attached document, and they have also been publicized by the Republicans on various committees and the largely right-wing press. The NIH letter to David is not public.

David is currently working on finding a lawyer to represent him.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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



### NIH and political actions against Dr. David Morens: Timeline and links to documents

- Date unknown: the FOIA or other request for documents that first provided David Morens' emails to the SSCP (probably related to their demands for documents from the Proximal Origins paper authors?).
- 
- 
- 6/29/23 House SSCP (Oversight & Accountability Committee Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic) requests docs etc. from Dr. David Morens related to his emails with EcoHealth Alliance staff and others & testimony on August 2nd. Deadline for documents [ HYPERLINK "[https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023.06.29-BRW-Letter-to-DM-Re.-Origins\\_Redacted\\_Final.pdf](https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023.06.29-BRW-Letter-to-DM-Re.-Origins_Redacted_Final.pdf)" ]
- 7/5/23 Sen. Rand Paul writes to NARA requesting investigation of Dr. Morens re. alleged inappropriate disposition of federal records [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.scribd.com/document/658891589/DAILY-CALLER-OBTAINED-2023-07-05-Letter-to-NARA-1-1>" \ | "from\_embed" ] Story in Daily Caller: [ HYPERLINK "<https://dailycaller.com/2023/07/13/rand-paul-information-nih-employee-personal-email-conceal-covid-19-origins/>" ]
- 7/7/23: NIAID counsel emails Dr. Morens and informs him they will not be supporting him and that he needs to hire his own counsel. Dr. Morens responds, acknowledging the email, and requesting information on whether he is accused of criminal or administrative breaches, and what the specifics are.
- 7/10/23 National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) writes to NIH instructing them to investigate the allegation by Republicans on the House SSCP of Dr. David Morens of NIAID conducting 'unauthorized disposition of NIH email records', including conversations with EcoHealth staff. [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23872063-nara-nih-morens-letter>" ]
- 7/13/23: Dr. Morens emails SSCP lead counsel Mitchell Benzine requesting extension to deadline for document production, interviews, and informing that he has not yet secured his own legal representative.
- 7/17/23: Senators Marshall, Blackburn, Ernst, Lee, Grassley write to Surgeon Gen. Vivek Murthy demanding that David Morens is interviewed, investigated and answers questions re. his emails. Alleges he may be in breach of Commissioned Corp misconduct etc. Response by July 31<sup>st</sup>. [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.marshall.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/Oversight-letter-to-US-Surg-Gen-re-Capt-David-Morens-07.17.2023.pdf>" ]
- 7/18/23: NIAID informs Dr. Morens that "NIH will begin conducting an investigation due to allegations of misconduct" and informs him he has been placed on administrative leave, with pay.
- 7/19/23: Press release re. letter from Senators to Surgeon General re. David Morens [ HYPERLINK "<https://www.marshall.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sens-marshall-ernst-grassley-lee-blackburn-lead-letter-to-hhs-surgeon-general-demanding-investigation-into-nih-email-misconduct/>" ]

- 7/19/23: NIAID sends Dr. Morens letter informing him that 1) he should place all documents from his work and gmail account and any other accounts/mobile phones under 'litigation hold', listing out the specific demands of the SSCP letter of 6/29/23, 2) he should provide NIH with list of any deleted communications, 3) acknowledge the SSCP letter, various details for NIH information technology 'general rules of behavior', acknowledge that federal employees must not remove federal records under 36 CFR 1222.24, and 4) agree to transfer all communications related to NIH work or with NIH signature block by 7/26/23.



Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/11/2024 11:57:18 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 2nd chain to release tonight

Please do the same for the section between the XXXXX highlights below (it's only a bit of the chain).

Don't forget to REDACT David's gmail address, Jerry's email address, the sections in green block, and other stuff you think appropriate

Keep the highlighted sections in the released emails

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:23 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>; David Morens <[REDACTED]>; Keusch, Gerald <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Another email in the Washington Examiner article. FW: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

All:

This email exchange shows that Peter and EHA were trying hard to engage with NIH to find a way to salvage their R01 – and keep this out of the press -- and Peter's analysis (below) is an excellent summary of the stressful situation:

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.

Why don't we point this out to inquiring journalists now? And the fact that Lauer's transparent attempt to find a fig leaf for the political decision to throw EHA under the bus by distorting NIH's strategic objectives.

Also, it's interesting that Peter outlines here the strategy for reinstating the grant that was ultimately the way it was reinstated more than three years later.

As ever,

Jeff

**[Peter Daszak:]** XXXX

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:29 PM

**To:** David Morens [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Another email in the Washington Examiner article. FW: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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 4:00 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Peter, thanks for this. I am glad you got a copy of the Strategic plan which does as you say completely contradict the Lauer letter, which was just a careless hatchet job.

Even while remaining silent you should be clearly documenting these things for potential future use, in your own defense, and for history.

Tony is now fully aware I think and is I am told involved in some sort of damage control, but again I am not in the loop. He just called a few minutes ago about another corona matter, and did not bring it up. I thought it best not to say anything at this point either.

I have some reason to hope that this situation can be resolved with minimal damage, but then, I am always accused of being an optimist. Stay safe and order a few cases of Negro Modelos....

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

On Apr 26, 2020, at 15:23, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you so much for your help David & Jerry. This is a brutally stressful issue on just about every level: jobs in our organization, freedom to do science in a country I came to voluntarily for that reason, and the real and present danger that we are being targeted by extremists, supported by the President, who is shockingly ignorant and unconcerned about the damage his actions have to people's lives, and our own US National Security.

David - We'll communicate with you via gmail from now on. I understand exactly what you're saying in your email, I agree, and we'll follow this line exactly. I'll be talking with Emily, Erik and Cristina early this week, then will try to set up a call with Michael Lauer hopefully as a conf. call. We haven't responded to NIH's email yet, and will only do so after talking with Program staff and getting back to you both. We are working on a brief outline of a compromise approach, whereby we change the geography of our work to include countries on the border of China, where the same bats live and the same behavioral risks happen (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam). Even that would be a loss – we have 15,000 samples in freezers in Wuhan and could do the full genomes of 700+ CoVs we've identified if we don't cut this thread.

On the issue of why our grant has been targeted. We read the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research (attached) and noted that Michael Lauer's justification for terminating our grant "At this time, NIH does not believe that the current project outcomes align with the program goals and agency priorities." Is completely countered by ALL 4 of NIAID's COVID-19 strategy (page 2 of the attached pdf):

The *NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research* aligns with the priorities set by U.S. Government-wide task forces for the development of medical countermeasures. NIAID actively participates in COVID-19 task forces to identify opportunities, ensure open communication, encourage resource sharing, and avoid duplication of effort. The plan is structured around four strategic research priorities:

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 UO1 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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

**[Peter Daszak:] XXXXXXXXXXXX**



**From:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; keusch [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] [REDACTED] wrote:

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

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 25, 2020 at 22:03:15 EDT  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[REDACTED]>  
**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 <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:28 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] David Morens [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Casseti.

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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 6:53 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T. [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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:** Friday, April 24, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>; Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED]>; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED]>; Erbeling, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED]>; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[REDACTED]>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED]>; Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] <[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  
[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]

*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

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED],  
"Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED], "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]"  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Michael – Confirming receipt of your email. I'm also cc'ing the following people so they're aware of this request:

1. Our AOR – Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who has access to all our records
2. My Program Officer for this award, Dr. Erik Stemmy & the Division Director (DMID), Dr. Emily Erberding, so they are informed and aware of the request and our response.

That said we need some time to go through the request for information and will provide this as quickly as we can.

However, **I can categorically state that no funds 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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

**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  
[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]

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]>, "olival([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:** olival([REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>, Naomi Schrag <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) <[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

[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>



Message

---

**From:** kuuipo9 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/12/2024 12:56:29 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] feigelson@ [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: We'll release these selected emails tomorrow morning (Friday)

TY. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

On 4/11/24 20:21, Peter Daszak wrote:

All – Apologies, I didn't realize how late it is. We'll plan on releasing these selective emails, with appropriate redactions tomorrow morning.

Jerry, David – they will not include any emails that would be embarrassing to either of you, but rather emails that show the normal process of a grantee trying to make sense of political interference in the NIH grant-making process...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 8:00 PM  
**To:** 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <[REDACTED]>; 'David Morens' <[REDACTED]>; 'Keusch, Gerald' <[REDACTED]>; 'John Feigelson' <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** 3rd email chain to release tonight  
**Importance:** High

Aleksei – please release this thread.

This is the final one – just 3 email chains – all 4 emails from the committee are included.

Jerry, David – I’ve not included some of your responses or earlier emails because there’s no need at this point. This will help dampen down the stories.

We also now have HSGAC asking for these emails, so we can send them the urls to our statement once it’s up online and that should be the end of it.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:17 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; David Morens [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Emails that are cited in the Washington Examiner article about emails between David Morens, Jerry and myself...

There’s nothing controversial about this thread.

JLS

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:25 PM

**To:** David Morens [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Emails that are cited in the Washington Examiner article about emails between David Morens, Jerry and myself...  
**Importance:** High

Here's the second one.

**[Peter Daszak:]** XXXXXX

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
>> Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:18 PM  
>> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Keusch,  
>> Gerald T [REDACTED]  
>> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2  
>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>  
>> From the WHO press conference today: "WHO generally does not announce names of staff who go on mission in the field". Mike Ryan then said one is a leading expert on animal-human interface, other is UK academic epidemiologist who led analytics effort on Ebola N. Kivu DRC.

>>  
>> I wonder if one is Pierre Formenty - he's a veterinarian who worked on Ebola, Lassa fever etc. and is senior. The epidemiologist could be any one of a number of people.

>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> Cheers,

>>  
>> Peter

>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> Peter Daszak

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

>>  
>> Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
>> Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
>> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

>>  
>>  
>> -----Original Message-----

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

>> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:51 PM  
>> To: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak  
>> [REDACTED]  
>> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2  
>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>> Yes, I meant the team members. No word here at NIH....

>> david

>>

>>

>> David M. Morens, M.D.

>> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the  
>> Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and  
>> Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room  
>> 7A-03

>> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520

>> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

>> B 301 496 2263 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ( 301

>> 496 4409

>> 3 [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.

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]

>> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:25 PM

>> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Peter

>> Daszak [REDACTED]

>> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2

>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>

>> If you mean the two members of the team then no, have not heard anything about who they are. I have been wondering about it.

>>

>> Jerry

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

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

>> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 12:17 PM

>> To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

>> [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]

>> Subject: FW: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2

>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>

>> Do you know who these people are? d

>>  
>>  
>>  
>> David M. Morens, M.D.  
>> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the  
>> Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and  
>> Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room  
>> 7A-03  
>> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
>> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

>> B [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.

>>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: [REDACTED]  
>> Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 9:35 PM  
>> To: [REDACTED]

>> [REDACTED]  
>> Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin,  
>> animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>  
>> CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (312): CHINA, SARS-COV-2 ORIGIN,  
>> ANIMAL RESERVOIR, WHO MISSION

>> \*\*\*\*\*  
>> \*  
>> \*\*\*\*\*

>> A ProMED-mail post  
>> [REDACTED]  
>> ProMED-mail is a program of the  
>> International Society for Infectious Diseases <<http://www.isid.org>>

>>  
>> Date: Fri 10 Jul 2020  
>> Source: Science Magazine - News [edited]  
>> <<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/07/who-led-mission-may-investig>

>> a  
>> te-pandemic-s-origin-here-are-key-questions-ask>

>>  
>> The 2-person team from the World Health Organization (WHO) traveling to China today [10 Jul 2020] to address the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to come home with answers. Rather, the duo -- an epidemiologist and an

animal health expert whose names have not been released -- will discuss with Chinese officials the scope of a larger international mission later, according to a WHO statement.

>>

>> But this initial trip offers real hope that the mystery of the virus'

>> origins, which has become a political powder keg and the subject of countless conspiracy theories, will finally be investigated more thoroughly and transparently. (A similar WHO-led mission to examine how China was handling its fight against the virus, launched after weeks of diplomatic wrangling, returned in February [2020] with a surprising wealth of information) [comment 1].

>>

>> "Science must stay open to all possibilities" about the pandemic's origins, Mike Ryan, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said at a press conference on 7 Jul [2020]. "We need to lay out a series of investigations that will get the answers that I'm sure the Chinese government, governments around the world, and ourselves really need in order to manage the risk going forward into the future."

>>

>> Questions range from hunting for animals that might harbor the virus to examining the possibility that it came from a laboratory. There are plenty of details to investigate, and it could be a long road. Origin riddles for other new infectious diseases often took years to solve, and the route to answers has involved wrong turns, surprising twists, technological advances, lawsuits, allegations of cover-ups, and high-level politics. Determining how a pathogen suddenly emerges in people requires a lot of sleuthing, but past successes offer clues of where to look for new insights, as do the few data points that now exist for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

>>

>> The initial, tidy origin story told by health officials in Wuhan during the 1st few weeks of January [2020] was that a cluster of people connected to a seafood market developed an unusual pneumonia, and that the outbreak stopped after the market was closed and disinfected. But confusion about the origin of the novel coronavirus identified in Wuhan patients arose when researchers published the 1st epidemiologic studies of the city's outbreak: 4 of the 1st 5 cases confirmed to have SARS-CoV-2 infections had no link to the market.

>>

>> Soon, other theories emerged. Some believe it's no coincidence that the city is host to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), home to leading bat coronavirus researcher Shi Zheng-Li. Her group, one of the 1st to isolate and sequence SARS-CoV-2, has trapped bats in the wild for 15 years, hunting for coronaviruses to help identify pandemic threats. In their 1st report about the new virus, the scientists described a bat coronavirus in their collection that was 96.2% similar to SARS-CoV-2 [comment 2].

>>

>> U.S. President Donald Trump early on endorsed speculation that the virus entered humans because of an accident at WIV. A more contentious theory is that the lab created the virus. (Researchers at the lab insist neither scenario has any merit, and evolutionary biologists elsewhere have argued the virus shows no evidence of having been engineered.)

>>

>> The most popular hypothesis is that SARS-CoV-2 spread into humans from an intermediate host, an animal species susceptible to the virus that acted as a bridge between bats and humans. In the case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), civets turned out to play that role for the responsible coronavirus. For Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), also a coronavirus disease, it quickly became clear camels were the culprit because highly similar viruses were found in the animals and people caring for them.

>>

>> Chinese officials have reported conducting tests for SARS-CoV-2 at the Wuhan seafood market, but what they found remains sketchy. China's state-run news agency, Xinhua, said "environmental samples" tested positive for the virus in a zone of the market that sold wildlife, but the report had no details about the results or even a list of the species for sale. Other studies have discovered

>> similarities between

>> SARS-CoV-2 and a coronavirus found in pangolins, an endangered species that eats ants, but the pangolin virus is more divergent genetically from SARS-CoV-2 than the closest bat virus, and there's no evidence pangolins or their scales -- used in traditional Chinese medicine -- were sold at the market.

>>

>> So, assuming WHO's team and the Chinese government work out a deal for an international mission to study the pandemic's origins, where would it start? Here are some key questions that need answers.

>>

>> - What, exactly, did the studies of the Wuhan seafood market sample, and what did the researchers find? With SARS, which emerged in a person in China's Guangdong province in November 2002 -- but was not reported to WHO for 3 months -- extensive sampling of animals at marketplaces in the province found its virus in palm civets by October 2003.

>>

>> - Does more epidemiological data exist about the earliest cases than have been made public so far here and here? Where had they traveled?

>> Were they in contact with any animals? What interactions did they have with each other? Have antibody tests been done on any of their contacts? Do stored blood or tissue samples for any of their contacts exist that could show earlier infections?

>>

>> For SARS, by June 2004, 14 months after the discovery of that virus, researchers had reported detailed epidemiological analyses of humans and animals: 39% of the earliest cases were food handlers, traders of live animals were 13 times more likely to have antibodies to the virus, and in that group, 72% handled civets. New interviews with the earliest COVID-19 cases could reveal surprising links between them.

>> COVID-19 clusters, for example, have occurred among people who were dining and drinking together, gathering at religious services, and even playing mahjong.

>>

>> - How aggressively have Chinese researchers looked for SARS-CoV-2 in samples collected before the 1st known cases in Wuhan? Have they looked outside of Wuhan? How far back in time have they probed?

>>

>> Hospitals and diagnostic labs sometimes store blood, nasal swabs, and tissue samples from patients, especially if they die from unexplained illnesses. Just such samples led to the realization that MERS, 1st recognized in Saudi Arabia in June 2012, had killed 2 people in Jordan in April of that year [2012]. Analyses of stored samples from those 2 people and blood sampling of others who became ill but survived that outbreak confirmed that they all had MERS. Scientists realized camels were the source of Middle East respiratory syndrome when highly similar viruses were found in the animals and people caring for them.

>>

>> - Can widespread screens be done of bats and other wild animal species thought to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and common in China, including primates, deer, and rodents? Animal feces or urine often contain genetic evidence of viruses. Shi's group at WIV has routinely found coronaviruses in fecal samples and nasal swabs of bats. The sampling of feces from chimpanzees in sub-Saharan Africa has greatly contributed to understandings of the origins of the HIV-1 epidemic, and the Nipah virus, which surfaced in Malaysian pig farmers in 1998, was found in flying bats 2 years later by sampling their urine and fruit that they had partially eaten.

>>

>> - Can widespread screening of susceptible domesticated animals

>> provide clues to COVID-19's origin? AIDS researchers discovered that

>> pet monkeys harbored a simian immunodeficiency virus that is closely

>> linked to HIV-2, a less common variant that also infects people.

>> Shi's group did a study of domesticated and feral cats in Wuhan and

>> found

>> SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in 15% of the 141 samples tested. No antibodies were found in samples taken before the Wuhan outbreak surfaced, but do veterinarians possibly have additional stored samples? Can more feral cats be tested? Cats, notably, have a thing for seafood, and the Wuhan market at least played a role in amplifying early spread.

>>



>> - Do stored samples from farmed animals exist? The genetic signature of the influenza virus that caused a pandemic in 2009 showed it clearly had a pig origin, but it wasn't until 2016 that researchers reported the likely location of farms in Mexico that raised the infected pigs. Their study found 58 influenza viruses in respiratory samples stored by a central lab that diagnosed sick pigs. In all, the samples came from 22 farms in 6 Mexican states taken between 2010 and 2014. Phylogenetic analyses allowed the researchers to work backward from the genetic sequences of the viruses they found and pinpoint 2 states that likely were the origin of the pandemic. The data further suggest the virus initially came to Mexico from pigs imported from Europe.

>>

>> - Can widespread screening take place of people in China who might come in contact with bats or other wildlife that harbor SARS-CoV-2?

>> Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance and Shi -- who had their funding from the National Institutes of Health cut in April [2020] after pressure from the White House -- published a study last year [2019] of blood taken from nearly 1500 people in Chinese provinces where bats carry SARS-related coronaviruses. They also interviewed people about their histories of illnesses and contact with animals. Only 9 people had evidence of being infected with a bat coronavirus, but as they noted, antibodies quickly wane. The team showed that spillovers from bats to humans occur routinely.

>>

>> - Do government health reports contain any information about possible

>> COVID-19 cases that predate 1 Dec 2019, the 1st confirmed case of

>> SARS-CoV-2 in the scientific literature? The South China Morning Post reported having seen "government data" that a 55-year-old person from Hubei province had COVID-19 on 17 Nov [2019]. The article says 8 other cases of the disease occurred that month [November 2019]. Wuhan is Hubei's capital, but the government records did not specify where these people lived, the newspaper noted. It's possible the virus was first isolated from patients in Wuhan but emerged outside the city.

>> The influenza virus that caused the pandemic in 2009 first was isolated in San Diego, California, not in Mexico, where it originated.

>>

>> - Are there stored samples from sewage plants in China that can be

>> probed? Studies of stored sewage samples in Italy described in a

>> press release from that country's National Institute of Health

>> suggest

>> SARS-CoV-2 was circulating there in December 2019, even before doctors noticed the 1st case in Wuhan. A study from Barcelona, Spain, posted on medRxiv and not peer reviewed, claims to have found SARS-CoV-2 in sewage samples from March 2019. These reports have not been independently confirmed and have been subject to much criticism, but that does not undermine the potential value of studying archival sewage samples for SARS-CoV-2.

>>

>> - What experiments with bat coronaviruses took place at WIV? This is the mother of all questions for those who suspect SARS-CoV-2 came out of the facility. Accidental lab releases do happen, and one even triggered a pandemic: An influenza strain that surfaced in 1977 was linked to strains in Russian labs collected 2 decades earlier.

>>

>> - Is it possible that somebody at WIV became infected with the virus

>> and then passed it on to others outside the lab? It's unknown which

>> bat viruses WIV has in its collection of samples and whether any of

>> them infect humans. And a controversy surrounds the closest bat virus

>> to SARS-CoV-2, which is called RaTG13. As Shi and co-workers

>> reported, they only fully sequenced this virus after SARS-CoV-2

>> surfaced, and they looked through their database for potential

>> relatives. (The group often sequences only one small region of bat

>> coronaviruses genomes that mutates infrequently, so changes indicate

>> distinct viruses.) A great deal of speculation has circled around the

>> naming of the partial

>> sequence: Shi's group earlier had reported a virus named BtCoV/4991

>> that exactly matches RaTG13 in that small region, but are they one

>> and the same? Or could it be, as some assert, that BtCoV/4991 is

>> SARS-CoV-2 itself? What other bat coronaviruses has the lab yet to fully sequence? Could any of them offer clues?

>>

>> Another outstanding question is whether Shi's team or other researchers in Wuhan manipulated bat viruses in "gain-of-function"

>> experiments that can make a virus more transmissible between humans.

>> In 2015, Shi co-authored a paper that made a chimeric SARS virus by combining one from bats with a strain that had been adapted to mice.

>> But that work was done at the University of North Carolina, not in Wuhan, and in collaboration with Ralph Baric. Did Shi's group later carry out other gain-of-function studies in Wuhan, and if so, what did they find?

>>

>> Finally, diplomatic cables from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing in 2018 warned that a new, ultra-high-security lab at WIV had "a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators." Did Shi's team ever work with coronaviruses in that lab, and, if so, why?

>>

>> If history repeats itself, it might take years -- or even decades -- to crack this case. Scientists haven't unequivocally identified Ebola's source 45 years after its discovery. But the key, time and again, to clarifying the origins of emerging infectious diseases is unearthing new data. WHO's push to organize the probe promises to, at the very least, accelerate what has been a plodding pursuit for answers.

>>

>> [Byline: Jon Cohen]

>>

>> --

>> Communicated by

>> Mary Marshall

>> [REDACTED]

>>

>> [1. The report of the 1st WHO-China Joint Experts Mission on

>> Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), 16-24 Feb 2020, was published on

>> 28 Feb 2020. It included (p 8) the following segment, titled

>> "Zoonotic

>> origins": "COVID-19 is a zoonotic virus. From phylogenetics analyses

>> undertaken with available full genome sequences, bats appear to be

>> the reservoir of COVID-19 virus, but the intermediate host(s) has not

>> yet been identified. However, 3 important areas of work are already

>> underway in China to inform our understanding of the zoonotic origin

>> of this outbreak. These include early investigations of cases with

>> symptom onset in Wuhan throughout December 2019, environmental

>> sampling from the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market and other area

>> markets, and the collection of detailed records on the source and

>> type of wildlife species sold at the Huanan market and the

>> destination of those animals after the market was closed." A link to

>> the report and the said text were reproduced in posting

>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200312.7081842>, with the following

>> commentary: "Wishfully, animal-health specialists were included among the members of the WHO Joint Mission." It is relieving to note this comment may have been acknowledged.

>>

>> 2. Zheng-Li Shi team's pre-print paper, "Discovery of a novel coronavirus associated with the recent pneumonia outbreak in humans and its potential bat origin," in which the virus strain RaTG13 was addressed publicly for the 1st time, was published on 23 Jan 2020 at <<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.22.914952>> and reviewed in the commentary of <http://promedmail.org/post/20200201.6943858>. The paper's final version was published later in Nature (doi: >> 10.1038/s41586-020-2012-7).

>>

>> Hopefully, the current visit of the 2 experts will pave the road to a

>> thorough, science-based, fully transparent investigation into the  
>> origin of the pandemic, in the spirit of One Health and One World. In  
>> view of the Dutch experience, China's mink farms should be included  
>> in the investigation. Industries of other farmed animal species  
>> deserve consideration as well (e.g., rabbits, boars). - Mod.AS  
>>  
>> HealthMap/ProMED-mail map:  
>> China: <<http://healthmap.org/promed/p/155>>  
>>  
>> [See Also:  
>> COVID -19 update (308): USA (TX) animal, dog conf.  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200708.7554832>  
>> COVID-19 update (299): USA (GA) animal, dog conf  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200703.7535112>  
>> COVID-19 update (284): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, spread, dog  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200624.7506728>  
>> COVID-19 update (281): Netherlands (NB, LI) farmed mink, spread,  
>> animal, global <http://promedmail.org/post/20200623.7502849>  
>> COVID-19 update (280): animal, pangolin, research  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200623.7502805>  
>> COVID-19 update (267): animal, domestic, wild, cat, research  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200617.7480013>  
>> COVID-19 update (266): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, 1st rep  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200617.7479510>  
>> COVID-19 update (251): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,  
>> spread, culling <http://promedmail.org/post/20200610.7453845>  
>> COVID-19 update (248): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, mink, spread,  
>> culling, cat <http://promedmail.org/post/20200609.7446478>  
>> COVID-19 update (238): USA (MN) animal, cat  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200605.7429133>  
>> COVID-19 update (236): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,  
>> spread, culling <http://promedmail.org/post/20200604.7427849>  
>> COVID-19 update (231): USA (NY) animal, dog conf.  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200602.7420541>  
>> COVID-19 update (230): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,  
>> spread, control <http://promedmail.org/post/20200602.7420433>  
>> COVID-19 update (227): animal, cat, dog, research, experimental  
>> infection <http://promedmail.org/post/20200601.7416648>  
>> COVID-19 update (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human,  
>> epidem., control <http://promedmail.org/post/20200527.7385049>  
>> COVID-19 update (212): Russia (Moskva) animal, cat, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200526.7379578>  
>> COVID-19 update (209): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human,  
>> cat, epid <http://promedmail.org/post/20200525.7375359>  
>> COVID-19 update (198): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human  
>> infect susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200520.7359976>  
>> COVID-19 update (189): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink,  
>> research, cat, dog <http://promedmail.org/post/20200517.7344274>  
>> COVID-19 update (183): Japan/USA, animal, research, cat, experimental  
>> infection <http://promedmail.org/post/20200514.7337185>  
>> COVID-19 update (181): Germany (BY), France (AC), cat, OIE animal  
>> case definition <http://promedmail.org/post/20200513.7332909>  
>> COVID-19 update (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain

>> (CT) cat susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200512.732858>  
>> COVID-19 update (174): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, comment  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200511.7323845>  
>> COVID-19 update (169): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread,  
>> rabbit susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200509.7316646>  
>> COVID-19 update (154): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200503.7294846>  
>> COVID-19 update (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink,  
>> epidemiology <http://promedmail.org/post/20200501.7286113>  
>> COVID-19 update (143): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, tests  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200430.7284183>  
>> COVID-19 update (141): India, animal, wild tiger, susp,  
>> clarification, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200430.7281768>  
>> COVID-19 update (138): India, animal, wild tiger, fatal  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200428.7275765>  
>> COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200427.7272289>  
>> COVID-19 update (130): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, new cases  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200425.7266556>  
>> COVID-19 update (124): USA (NY) animal, cat, lion, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200423.7259119>  
>> COVID-19 update (123): USA (NY) animal, cat, conf  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200422.7256272>  
>> COVID-19 update (113): USA (NY) cat, animal, susp, RFI  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200418.7240811>  
>> COVID-19 update (88): Germany, animal, research, pig, chicken, bat,  
>> ferret <http://promedmail.org/post/20200407.7196506>  
>> COVID-19 update (85): USA (NY) animal, tiger, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200406.7191480>  
>> COVID-19 update (84): USA animal, tiger  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200406.7191352>  
>> COVID-19 update (76): China (HU) animal, cat, owned, stray,  
>> seropositive <http://promedmail.org/post/20200403.7179946>  
>> COVID-19 update (75): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200403.7179945>  
>> COVID-19 update (70): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, pets & stock  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200402.7173286>  
>> COVID-19 update (58): Belgium, animal, cat, clinical case, RFI  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200327.7151215>  
>> COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology  
>> positive <http://promedmail.org/post/20200326.7146438>  
>> COVID-19 update (50): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR  
>> positive, OIE <http://promedmail.org/post/20200323.7129951>  
>> COVID-19 update (45): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR  
>> positive <http://promedmail.org/post/20200319.7112693>  
>> COVID-19 update (37): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, prelim. serology  
>> negative <http://promedmail.org/post/20200312.7081842>  
>> COVID-19 update (30): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, serology  
>> pending <http://promedmail.org/post/20200306.7057595>  
>> COVID-19 update (25): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200302.7040373>  
>> COVID-19 update (22): companion animal, dog susp, RFI  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200229.7036661>



- >> COVID-19 update (17): China, animal reservoir, wildlife trade & consumption <http://promedmail.org/post/20200225.7024245>
- >> COVID-19 update (11): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts, pangolin susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200220.7009213>
- >> COVID-19 update (08): companion animal, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200218.7002276>
- >> COVID-19 update (06): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts <http://promedmail.org/post/20200217.6997782>
- >> Novel coronavirus (40): animal reservoir, pangolin poss intermediate host, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200210.6972104>
- >> Novel coronavirus (28): China (HU) animal reservoir <http://promedmail.org/post/20200201.6943858>
- >> Novel coronavirus (22): reservoir suggested, bats <http://promedmail.org/post/20200129.6930718>
- >> Novel coronavirus (20): China, wildlife trade ban <http://promedmail.org/post/20200127.6922060>
- >> Novel coronavirus (18): China (HU) animal reservoir <http://promedmail.org/post/20200125.6915411>
- >> Novel coronavirus (15): China (HU) wild animal sources <http://promedmail.org/post/20200123.6909913>
- >> Novel coronavirus (03): China (HU) animal reservoir suggested, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200114.6887480>
- >> Novel coronavirus (01): China (HU) WHO, phylogenetic tree <http://promedmail.org/post/20200112.6885385>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (HU) (07): official confirmation of novel coronavirus <http://promedmail.org/post/20200108.6878869>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (05): (HU) novel coronavirus identified <http://promedmail.org/post/20200108.6877694>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (03): (HU) updates, SARS, MERS ruled out, WHO, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200105.6872267>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (01): (HU) wildlife sales, market closed, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200102.6866757>
- >> .....arn/tw/jh
- >> \*#####\*
- >> \*\*\*\*\*

>> ProMED makes every effort to verify the reports that are posted, but the accuracy and completeness of the information, and of any statements or opinions based thereon, are not guaranteed. The reader assumes all risks in using information posted or archived by ProMED. ISID and its associated service providers shall not be held responsible for errors or omissions or held liable for any damages incurred as a result of use or reliance upon posted or archived material.

>> \*\*\*\*\*

>> Donate to ProMED-mail. Details available at:

>> <<https://isid.org/donate/>>

>> \*\*\*\*\*

>> Visit ProMED's web site at <<https://www.promedmail.org>>.

>> Send all items for posting to: [promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org).

>> Please include your name and email in order for your contribution to be posted.

>> You may subscribe/unsubscribe at

>> <<https://isid.org/promedmail-subscribe/>>

>> #####

>> #####

**[Peter Daszak:] XXXXXX**



Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:22 PM  
**To:** David Morens [REDACTED]; 'Keusch, Gerald' [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Emails that are cited in the Washington Examiner article about emails between David Morens, Jerry and myself...  
**Importance:** High

Dear David, Jerry, and Jeff

Below is the first of the emails cited in the Washington Examiner article from today:  
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2962374/house-republicans-probe-secret-covid-emails-fauci-aide-boston-university-professor/>

I'll forward the others as I pull them up in the next few minutes...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: PLEASE READ -- Re: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Jerry and Peter,

This is sent from my gmail account. Please send all replies here To gmail

I have let Tony know but have not spoken to him directly. There are things I can't say except Tony is aware and I have learned that there are ongoing efforts within NIH to steer through this with minimal damage to you, Peter, and colleagues, and to nih and niaid. No guarantees, but let us hope. I imagine this will be handled at the level of Francis and Tony, within nih, and I don't expect to be in the loop.

I don't have any insight into what happened or how it happened, but the fact that your termination letter came from "Building 1", that is, the NIH directors office, and not from NIAID, is telling

Whatever is going on, I very much doubt that Tony or any of our niaid leadership would willfully throw you under the bus, or any grantee, for that matter. Indeed, I expect we would do everything possible to protect you. I have reason to believe that there are already efforts going on to protect you

What I said on the phone last night stands. I urge you to meet asap with this guy Lauer and with Eric and Emily. Lauer may well decline to meet with you, but I think you should press him. You have a right to demand a face to face explanation for such an unprecedented action. If your grant is from DMID Virology you may also want to meet with Virology Branch Chief Mark Challberg, and of course with Cristina, who is Emily's deputy and a respiratory virologist. These DMID folks will be your advocates. If any part of the grant goes through Columbia, or UNC (isn't that where Ralph is?), or any University, they may be able to apply pressure too.

If you can get down here, these meetings should be in person, although of course many nih folks are working from home, so that may not be possible.

In the meantime I would NOT go to the press. The first step is to find out in detail what happened and what your rights are. But I would line up advocates, as I suggested and Jerry as well. The press may find out about this in any case, but I think if so it is better to let friends defend you than for you to fight on your own. At least for now. Of course, however this plays out in the short term, it will end up in the public domain and the truth will come out. So hold on to that certainty, small comfort now, I know

Finally, I am so sorry you and your colleagues are going through this. You don't deserve it; if anything you deserve a medal. Please hang in there and press ahead firmly but collegiality

As a coda, Tony knows about your work. Sometime around 1 Feb I sent him an email outlining your work over recent years, and why it was so important to science. This was mostly because I anticipated new money, but also in the back of my mind was the possibility that something really dark like this could happen

Again, whatever role NIH might be playing in these events, I truly expect that we will be doing what is possible to protect you and your research over the long haul

I think I need another Scotch, and it's only 1145 am  
David

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

On Apr 26, 2020, at 06:43, Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] wrote:

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

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 25, 2020 at 22:03:15 EDT  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED], "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**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 our 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 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:28 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] David Morens [REDACTED]  
**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Casseti.

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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 6:53 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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:** Friday, April 24, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Erbeling, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED]; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]; Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [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

---

**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]  
)  
[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] Chmura [REDACTED]  
"Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" [REDACTED], "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]"  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Actions needed regarding 2R01AI110964-06

Dear Michael – Confirming receipt of your email. I'm also cc'ing the following people so they're aware of this request:

1. Our AOR – Dr. Aleksei Chmura, who has access to all our records
2. My Program Officer for this award, Dr. Erik Stemmy & the Division Director (DMID), Dr. Emily Erberding, so they are informed and aware of the request and our response.

That said we need some time to go through the request for information and will provide this as quickly as we can.

However, I can categorically state that no funds 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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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  
[REDACTED]  
[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]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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], 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] 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



<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>

Message

---

**From:** kuuipo9 [kuuipo9@proton.me]  
**Sent:** 4/12/2024 12:56:29 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [daszak@ecohealthalliance.org]; Jeff Sturchio [J\_Sturchio@msn.com]; Keusch, Gerald T [keusch@bu.edu]; feigelson@ecohealthalliance.org  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [chmura@ecohealthalliance.org]  
**Subject:** Re: We'll release these selected emails tomorrow morning (Friday)

my. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

On 4/11/24 20:21, Peter Daszak wrote:

All – Apologies, I didn't realize how late it is. We'll plan on releasing these selective emails, with appropriate redactions tomorrow morning.

Jerry, David – they will not include any emails that would be embarrassing to either of you, but rather emails that show the normal process of a grantee trying to make sense of political interference in the NIH grant-making process...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

**From:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 8:00 PM

**To:** 'Jeffrey Sturchio' <[J\\_Sturchio@msn.com](mailto:J_Sturchio@msn.com)>; 'David Morens' <[kuuipo9@proton.me](mailto:kuuipo9@proton.me)>; 'Keusch, Gerald' <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>; 'John Feigelson' <[feigelson@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:feigelson@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>



**Subject:** 3rd email chain to release tonight

**Importance:** High

Aleksei – please release this thread.

This is the final one – just 3 email chains – all 4 emails from the committee are included.

Jerry, David – I’ve not included some of your responses or earlier emails because there’s no need at this point. This will help dampen down the stories.

We also now have HSGAC asking for these emails, so we can send them the urls to our statement once it’s up online and that should be the end of it.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio <[J\\_Sturchio@msn.com](mailto:J_Sturchio@msn.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:17 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>; David Morens <[kuiipo9@proton.me](mailto:kuiipo9@proton.me)>; Keusch, Gerald <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Emails that are cited in the Washington Examiner article about emails between David Morens, Jerry and myself...

There’s nothing controversial about this thread.

JLS

**From:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:25 PM

**To:** David Morens <kuuipo9@proton.me>; Keusch, Gerald <keusch@bu.edu>; Jeff Sturchio <j\_sturchio@msn.com>  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Emails that are cited in the Washington Examiner article about emails between David Morens, Jerry and myself...  
**Importance:** High

Here's the second one.

**[Peter Daszak:]** XXXXXX

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>

>> Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:18 PM

>> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <dmorens@niaid.nih.gov>; Keusch,

>> Gerald T <keusch@bu.edu>

>> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2

>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>

>> From the WHO press conference today: "WHO generally does not announce names of staff who go on mission in the field". Mike Ryan then said one is a leading expert on animal-human interface, other is UK academic epidemiologist who led analytics effort on Ebola N. Kivu DRC.

>>

>> I wonder if one is Pierre Formenty - he's a veterinarian who worked on Ebola, Lassa fever etc. and is senior. The epidemiologist could be any one of a number of people.

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <dmorens@niaid.nih.gov>

>> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:51 PM  
>> To: Keusch, Gerald T <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>; Peter Daszak  
>> <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
>> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2  
>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>  
>> Yes, I meant the team members. No word here at NIH....

>> david

>>

>>

>> David M. Morens, M.D.

>> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the  
>> Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and  
>> Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room  
>> 7A-03

>> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520

>> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

>> B 301 496 2263 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ( 301

>> 496 4409

>> 3 [dm270q@nih.gov](mailto:dm270q@nih.gov)

>>

>> 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.

>>

>>

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Keusch, Gerald T <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>

>> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:25 PM

>> To: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[dmorens@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:dmorens@niaid.nih.gov)>; Peter

>> Daszak ([daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)) <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>

>> Subject: RE: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2

>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>

>> If you mean the two members of the team then no, have not heard anything about who they are. I have been wondering about it.

>>

>> Jerry

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[dmorens@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:dmorens@niaid.nih.gov)>

>> Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 12:17 PM

>> To: Peter Daszak ([daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org))

>> <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>; Keusch, Gerald T <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>

>> Subject: FW: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2

>> origin, animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>

>> Do you know who these people are? d



>>  
>>  
>>

>> David M. Morens, M.D.  
>> CAPT, United States Public Health Service Senior Advisor to the  
>> Director Office of the Director National Institute of Allergy and  
>> Infectious Diseases National Institutes of Health Building 31, Room  
>> 7A-03  
>> 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520  
>> Bethesda, MD 20892-2520  
>> B 301 496 2263 (assistants: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson) ( 301  
>> 496 4409  
>> [3 dm270q@nih.gov](mailto:3dm270q@nih.gov)

>> 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.

>>  
>>  
>>  
>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: [promed-edr@promedmail.org](mailto:promed-edr@promedmail.org) <[promed-edr@promedmail.org](mailto:promed-edr@promedmail.org)>  
>> Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 9:35 PM  
>> To: [promed-post@promedmail.org](mailto:promed-post@promedmail.org); [promed-edr-post@promedmail.org](mailto:promed-edr-post@promedmail.org);  
>> [promed-ahead-post@promedmail.org](mailto:promed-ahead-post@promedmail.org)  
>> Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (312): China, SARS-CoV2 origin,  
>> animal reservoir, WHO mission

>>  
>>

>> CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (312): CHINA, SARS-COV-2 ORIGIN,  
>> ANIMAL RESERVOIR, WHO MISSION

>> \*\*\*\*\*

>> \*

>> \*\*\*\*\*

>> A ProMED-mail post  
>> <<http://www.promedmail.org>>  
>> ProMED-mail is a program of the  
>> International Society for Infectious Diseases <<http://www.isid.org>>

>>

>> Date: Fri 10 Jul 2020  
>> Source: Science Magazine - News [edited]  
>> <<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/07/who-led-mission-may-investig>

>> a

>> te-pandemic-s-origin-here-are-key-questions-ask>

>>  
>>

>> The 2-person team from the World Health Organization (WHO) traveling to China today [10 Jul 2020] to address the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to come home with answers. Rather, the duo -- an epidemiologist and an



animal health expert whose names have not been released -- will discuss with Chinese officials the scope of a larger international mission later, according to a WHO statement.

>>

>> But this initial trip offers real hope that the mystery of the virus'

>> origins, which has become a political powder keg and the subject of countless conspiracy theories, will finally be investigated more thoroughly and transparently. (A similar WHO-led mission to examine how China was handling its fight against the virus, launched after weeks of diplomatic wrangling, returned in February [2020] with a surprising wealth of information) [comment 1].

>>

>> "Science must stay open to all possibilities" about the pandemic's origins, Mike Ryan, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said at a press conference on 7 Jul [2020]. "We need to lay out a series of investigations that will get the answers that I'm sure the Chinese government, governments around the world, and ourselves really need in order to manage the risk going forward into the future."

>>

>> Questions range from hunting for animals that might harbor the virus to examining the possibility that it came from a laboratory. There are plenty of details to investigate, and it could be a long road. Origin riddles for other new infectious diseases often took years to solve, and the route to answers has involved wrong turns, surprising twists, technological advances, lawsuits, allegations of cover-ups, and high-level politics. Determining how a pathogen suddenly emerges in people requires a lot of sleuthing, but past successes offer clues of where to look for new insights, as do the few data points that now exist for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

>>

>> The initial, tidy origin story told by health officials in Wuhan during the 1st few weeks of January [2020] was that a cluster of people connected to a seafood market developed an unusual pneumonia, and that the outbreak stopped after the market was closed and disinfected. But confusion about the origin of the novel coronavirus identified in Wuhan patients arose when researchers published the 1st epidemiologic studies of the city's outbreak: 4 of the 1st 5 cases confirmed to have SARS-CoV-2 infections had no link to the market.

>>

>> Soon, other theories emerged. Some believe it's no coincidence that the city is host to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), home to leading bat coronavirus researcher Shi Zheng-Li. Her group, one of the 1st to isolate and sequence SARS-CoV-2, has trapped bats in the wild for 15 years, hunting for coronaviruses to help identify pandemic threats. In their 1st report about the new virus, the scientists described a bat coronavirus in their collection that was 96.2% similar to SARS-CoV-2 [comment 2].

>>

>> U.S. President Donald Trump early on endorsed speculation that the virus entered humans because of an accident at WIV. A more contentious theory is that the lab created the virus. (Researchers at the lab insist neither scenario has any merit, and evolutionary biologists elsewhere have argued the virus shows no evidence of having been engineered.)

>>

>> The most popular hypothesis is that SARS-CoV-2 spread into humans from an intermediate host, an animal species susceptible to the virus that acted as a bridge between bats and humans. In the case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), civets turned out to play that role for the responsible coronavirus. For Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), also a coronavirus disease, it quickly became clear camels were the culprit because highly similar viruses were found in the animals and people caring for them.

>>

>> Chinese officials have reported conducting tests for SARS-CoV-2 at the Wuhan seafood market, but what they found remains sketchy. China's state-run news agency, Xinhua, said "environmental samples" tested positive for the virus in a zone of the market that sold wildlife, but the report had no details about the results or even a list of the species for sale. Other studies have discovered



>> similarities between

>> SARS-CoV-2 and a coronavirus found in pangolins, an endangered species that eats ants, but the pangolin virus is more divergent genetically from SARS-CoV-2 than the closest bat virus, and there's no evidence pangolins or their scales -- used in traditional Chinese medicine -- were sold at the market.

>>

>> So, assuming WHO's team and the Chinese government work out a deal for an international mission to study the pandemic's origins, where would it start? Here are some key questions that need answers.

>>

>> - What, exactly, did the studies of the Wuhan seafood market sample, and what did the researchers find? With SARS, which emerged in a person in China's Guangdong province in November 2002 -- but was not reported to WHO for 3 months -- extensive sampling of animals at marketplaces in the province found its virus in palm civets by October 2003.

>>

>> - Does more epidemiological data exist about the earliest cases than have been made public so far here and here? Where had they traveled?

>> Were they in contact with any animals? What interactions did they have with each other? Have antibody tests been done on any of their contacts? Do stored blood or tissue samples for any of their contacts exist that could show earlier infections?

>>

>> For SARS, by June 2004, 14 months after the discovery of that virus, researchers had reported detailed epidemiological analyses of humans and animals: 39% of the earliest cases were food handlers, traders of live animals were 13 times more likely to have antibodies to the virus, and in that group, 72% handled civets. New interviews with the earliest COVID-19 cases could reveal surprising links between them.

>> COVID-19 clusters, for example, have occurred among people who were dining and drinking together, gathering at religious services, and even playing mahjong.

>>

>> - How aggressively have Chinese researchers looked for SARS-CoV-2 in samples collected before the 1st known cases in Wuhan? Have they looked outside of Wuhan? How far back in time have they probed?

>>

>> Hospitals and diagnostic labs sometimes store blood, nasal swabs, and tissue samples from patients, especially if they die from unexplained illnesses. Just such samples led to the realization that MERS, 1st recognized in Saudi Arabia in June 2012, had killed 2 people in Jordan in April of that year [2012]. Analyses of stored samples from those 2 people and blood sampling of others who became ill but survived that outbreak confirmed that they all had MERS. Scientists realized camels were the source of Middle East respiratory syndrome when highly similar viruses were found in the animals and people caring for them.

>>

>> - Can widespread screens be done of bats and other wild animal species thought to be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and common in China, including primates, deer, and rodents? Animal feces or urine often contain genetic evidence of viruses. Shi's group at WIV has routinely found coronaviruses in fecal samples and nasal swabs of bats. The sampling of feces from chimpanzees in sub-Saharan Africa has greatly contributed to understandings of the origins of the HIV-1 epidemic, and the Nipah virus, which surfaced in Malaysian pig farmers in 1998, was found in flying bats 2 years later by sampling their urine and fruit that they had partially eaten.

>>

>> - Can widespread screening of susceptible domesticated animals

>> provide clues to COVID-19's origin? AIDS researchers discovered that

>> pet monkeys harbored a simian immunodeficiency virus that is closely

>> linked to HIV-2, a less common variant that also infects people.

>> Shi's group did a study of domesticated and feral cats in Wuhan and

>> found

>> SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in 15% of the 141 samples tested. No antibodies were found in samples taken before the Wuhan outbreak surfaced, but do veterinarians possibly have additional stored samples? Can more feral cats be tested? Cats, notably, have a thing for seafood, and the Wuhan market at least played a role in amplifying early spread.

>>



>> - Do stored samples from farmed animals exist? The genetic signature of the influenza virus that caused a pandemic in 2009 showed it clearly had a pig origin, but it wasn't until 2016 that researchers reported the likely location of farms in Mexico that raised the infected pigs. Their study found 58 influenza viruses in respiratory samples stored by a central lab that diagnosed sick pigs. In all, the samples came from 22 farms in 6 Mexican states taken between 2010 and 2014. Phylogenetic analyses allowed the researchers to work backward from the genetic sequences of the viruses they found and pinpoint 2 states that likely were the origin of the pandemic. The data further suggest the virus initially came to Mexico from pigs imported from Europe.

>>

>> - Can widespread screening take place of people in China who might come in contact with bats or other wildlife that harbor SARS-CoV-2?

>> Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance and Shi -- who had their funding from the National Institutes of Health cut in April [2020] after pressure from the White House -- published a study last year [2019] of blood taken from nearly 1500 people in Chinese provinces where bats carry SARS-related coronaviruses. They also interviewed people about their histories of illnesses and contact with animals. Only 9 people had evidence of being infected with a bat coronavirus, but as they noted, antibodies quickly wane. The team showed that spillovers from bats to humans occur routinely.

>>

>> - Do government health reports contain any information about possible

>> COVID-19 cases that predate 1 Dec 2019, the 1st confirmed case of

>> SARS-CoV-2 in the scientific literature? The South China Morning Post reported having seen "government data" that a 55-year-old person from Hubei province had COVID-19 on 17 Nov [2019]. The article says 8 other cases of the disease occurred that month [November 2019]. Wuhan is Hubei's capital, but the government records did not specify where these people lived, the newspaper noted. It's possible the virus was first isolated from patients in Wuhan but emerged outside the city.

>> The influenza virus that caused the pandemic in 2009 first was isolated in San Diego, California, not in Mexico, where it originated.

>>

>> - Are there stored samples from sewage plants in China that can be

>> probed? Studies of stored sewage samples in Italy described in a

>> press release from that country's National Institute of Health

>> suggest

>> SARS-CoV-2 was circulating there in December 2019, even before doctors noticed the 1st case in Wuhan. A study from Barcelona, Spain, posted on medRxiv and not peer reviewed, claims to have found SARS-CoV-2 in sewage samples from March 2019. These reports have not been independently confirmed and have been subject to much criticism, but that does not undermine the potential value of studying archival sewage samples for SARS-CoV-2.

>>

>> - What experiments with bat coronaviruses took place at WIV? This is the mother of all questions for those who suspect SARS-CoV-2 came out of the facility. Accidental lab releases do happen, and one even triggered a pandemic: An influenza strain that surfaced in 1977 was linked to strains in Russian labs collected 2 decades earlier.

>>

>> - Is it possible that somebody at WIV became infected with the virus

>> and then passed it on to others outside the lab? It's unknown which

>> bat viruses WIV has in its collection of samples and whether any of

>> them infect humans. And a controversy surrounds the closest bat virus

>> to SARS-CoV-2, which is called RaTG13. As Shi and co-workers

>> reported, they only fully sequenced this virus after SARS-CoV-2

>> surfaced, and they looked through their database for potential

>> relatives. (The group often sequences only one small region of bat

>> coronaviruses genomes that mutates infrequently, so changes indicate

>> distinct viruses.) A great deal of speculation has circled around the

>> naming of the partial

>> sequence: Shi's group earlier had reported a virus named BtCoV/4991

>> that exactly matches RaTG13 in that small region, but are they one

>> and the same? Or could it be, as some assert, that BtCoV/4991 is



>> SARS-CoV-2 itself? What other bat coronaviruses has the lab yet to fully sequence? Could any of them offer clues?  
>>  
>> Another outstanding question is whether Shi's team or other researchers in Wuhan manipulated bat viruses in "gain-of-function"  
>> experiments that can make a virus more transmissible between humans.  
>> In 2015, Shi co-authored a paper that made a chimeric SARS virus by combining one from bats with a strain that had been adapted to mice.  
>> But that work was done at the University of North Carolina, not in Wuhan, and in collaboration with Ralph Baric. Did Shi's group later carry out other gain-of-function studies in Wuhan, and if so, what did they find?  
>>  
>> Finally, diplomatic cables from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing in 2018 warned that a new, ultra-high-security lab at WIV had "a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators." Did Shi's team ever work with coronaviruses in that lab, and, if so, why?  
>>  
>> If history repeats itself, it might take years -- or even decades -- to crack this case. Scientists haven't unequivocally identified Ebola's source 45 years after its discovery. But the key, time and again, to clarifying the origins of emerging infectious diseases is unearthing new data. WHO's push to organize the probe promises to, at the very least, accelerate what has been a plodding pursuit for answers.  
>>  
>> [Byline: Jon Cohen]  
>>  
>> --  
>> Communicated by  
>> Mary Marshall  
>> <[mjm2020@googlemail.com](mailto:mjm2020@googlemail.com)>  
>>  
>> [1. The report of the 1st WHO-China Joint Experts Mission on  
>> Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), 16-24 Feb 2020, was published on  
>> 28 Feb 2020. It included (p 8) the following segment, titled  
>> "Zoonotic  
>> origins": "COVID-19 is a zoonotic virus. From phylogenetics analyses  
>> undertaken with available full genome sequences, bats appear to be  
>> the reservoir of COVID-19 virus, but the intermediate host(s) has not  
>> yet been identified. However, 3 important areas of work are already  
>> underway in China to inform our understanding of the zoonotic origin  
>> of this outbreak. These include early investigations of cases with  
>> symptom onset in Wuhan throughout December 2019, environmental  
>> sampling from the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market and other area  
>> markets, and the collection of detailed records on the source and  
>> type of wildlife species sold at the Huanan market and the  
>> destination of those animals after the market was closed." A link to  
>> the report and the said text were reproduced in posting  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200312.7081842>, with the following  
>> commentary: "Wishfully, animal-health specialists were included among the members of the WHO Joint Mission." It  
>> is relieving to note this comment may have been acknowledged.  
>>  
>> 2. Zheng-Li Shi team's pre-print paper, "Discovery of a novel coronavirus associated with the recent pneumonia outbreak in humans and its potential bat origin," in which the virus strain RaTG13 was addressed publicly for the 1st time, was published on 23 Jan 2020 at <<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.22.914952>> and reviewed in the commentary of <http://promedmail.org/post/20200201.6943858>. The paper's final version was published later in Nature (doi:  
>> 10.1038/s41586-020-2012-7).  
>>  
>> Hopefully, the current visit of the 2 experts will pave the road to a



>> thorough, science-based, fully transparent investigation into the  
>> origin of the pandemic, in the spirit of One Health and One World. In  
>> view of the Dutch experience, China's mink farms should be included  
>> in the investigation. Industries of other farmed animal species  
>> deserve consideration as well (e.g., rabbits, boars). - Mod.AS  
>>  
>> HealthMap/ProMED-mail map:  
>> China: <<http://healthmap.org/promed/p/155>>  
>>  
>> [See Also:  
>> COVID-19 update (308): USA (TX) animal, dog conf.  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200708.7554832>  
>> COVID-19 update (299): USA (GA) animal, dog conf  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200703.7535112>  
>> COVID-19 update (284): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, spread, dog  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200624.7506728>  
>> COVID-19 update (281): Netherlands (NB, LI) farmed mink, spread,  
>> animal, global <http://promedmail.org/post/20200623.7502849>  
>> COVID-19 update (280): animal, pangolin, research  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200623.7502805>  
>> COVID-19 update (267): animal, domestic, wild, cat, research  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200617.7480013>  
>> COVID-19 update (266): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, 1st rep  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200617.7479510>  
>> COVID-19 update (251): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,  
>> spread, culling <http://promedmail.org/post/20200610.7453845>  
>> COVID-19 update (248): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, mink, spread,  
>> culling, cat <http://promedmail.org/post/20200609.7446478>  
>> COVID-19 update (238): USA (MN) animal, cat  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200605.7429133>  
>> COVID-19 update (236): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,  
>> spread, culling <http://promedmail.org/post/20200604.7427849>  
>> COVID-19 update (231): USA (NY) animal, dog conf.  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200602.7420541>  
>> COVID-19 update (230): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink,  
>> spread, control <http://promedmail.org/post/20200602.7420433>  
>> COVID-19 update (227): animal, cat, dog, research, experimental  
>> infection <http://promedmail.org/post/20200601.7416648>  
>> COVID-19 update (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human,  
>> epidem., control <http://promedmail.org/post/20200527.7385049>  
>> COVID-19 update (212): Russia (Moskva) animal, cat, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200526.7379578>  
>> COVID-19 update (209): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human,  
>> cat, epid <http://promedmail.org/post/20200525.7375359>  
>> COVID-19 update (198): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human  
>> infect susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200520.7359976>  
>> COVID-19 update (189): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink,  
>> research, cat, dog <http://promedmail.org/post/20200517.7344274>  
>> COVID-19 update (183): Japan/USA, animal, research, cat, experimental  
>> infection <http://promedmail.org/post/20200514.7337185>  
>> COVID-19 update (181): Germany (BY), France (AC), cat, OIE animal  
>> case definition <http://promedmail.org/post/20200513.7332909>  
>> COVID-19 update (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain



>> (CT) cat susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200512.732858>  
>> COVID-19 update (174): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, comment  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200511.7323845>  
>> COVID-19 update (169): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread,  
>> rabbit susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200509.7316646>  
>> COVID-19 update (154): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200503.7294846>  
>> COVID-19 update (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink,  
>> epidemiology <http://promedmail.org/post/20200501.7286113>  
>> COVID-19 update (143): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, tests  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200430.7284183>  
>> COVID-19 update (141): India, animal, wild tiger, susp,  
>> clarification, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200430.7281768>  
>> COVID-19 update (138): India, animal, wild tiger, fatal  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200428.7275765>  
>> COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200427.7272289>  
>> COVID-19 update (130): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, new cases  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200425.7266556>  
>> COVID-19 update (124): USA (NY) animal, cat, lion, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200423.7259119>  
>> COVID-19 update (123): USA (NY) animal, cat, conf  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200422.7256272>  
>> COVID-19 update (113): USA (NY) cat, animal, susp, RFI  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200418.7240811>  
>> COVID-19 update (88): Germany, animal, research, pig, chicken, bat,  
>> ferret <http://promedmail.org/post/20200407.7196506>  
>> COVID-19 update (85): USA (NY) animal, tiger, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200406.7191480>  
>> COVID-19 update (84): USA animal, tiger  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200406.7191352>  
>> COVID-19 update (76): China (HU) animal, cat, owned, stray,  
>> seropositive <http://promedmail.org/post/20200403.7179946>  
>> COVID-19 update (75): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200403.7179945>  
>> COVID-19 update (70): China (Hong Kong) animal, cat, pets & stock  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200402.7173286>  
>> COVID-19 update (58): Belgium, animal, cat, clinical case, RFI  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200327.7151215>  
>> COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology  
>> positive <http://promedmail.org/post/20200326.7146438>  
>> COVID-19 update (50): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR  
>> positive, OIE <http://promedmail.org/post/20200323.7129951>  
>> COVID-19 update (45): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR  
>> positive <http://promedmail.org/post/20200319.7112693>  
>> COVID-19 update (37): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, prelim. serology  
>> negative <http://promedmail.org/post/20200312.7081842>  
>> COVID-19 update (30): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, serology  
>> pending <http://promedmail.org/post/20200306.7057595>  
>> COVID-19 update (25): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, susp, OIE  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200302.7040373>  
>> COVID-19 update (22): companion animal, dog susp, RFI  
>> <http://promedmail.org/post/20200229.7036661>



- >> COVID-19 update (17): China, animal reservoir, wildlife trade & consumption <http://promedmail.org/post/20200225.7024245>
- >> COVID-19 update (11): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts, pangolin susp <http://promedmail.org/post/20200220.7009213>
- >> COVID-19 update (08): companion animal, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200218.7002276>
- >> COVID-19 update (06): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts <http://promedmail.org/post/20200217.6997782>
- >> Novel coronavirus (40): animal reservoir, pangolin poss intermediate host, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200210.6972104>
- >> Novel coronavirus (28): China (HU) animal reservoir <http://promedmail.org/post/20200201.6943858>
- >> Novel coronavirus (22): reservoir suggested, bats <http://promedmail.org/post/20200129.6930718>
- >> Novel coronavirus (20): China, wildlife trade ban <http://promedmail.org/post/20200127.6922060>
- >> Novel coronavirus (18): China (HU) animal reservoir <http://promedmail.org/post/20200125.6915411>
- >> Novel coronavirus (15): China (HU) wild animal sources <http://promedmail.org/post/20200123.6909913>
- >> Novel coronavirus (03): China (HU) animal reservoir suggested, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200114.6887480>
- >> Novel coronavirus (01): China (HU) WHO, phylogenetic tree <http://promedmail.org/post/20200112.6885385>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (HU) (07): official confirmation of novel coronavirus <http://promedmail.org/post/20200108.6878869>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (05): (HU) novel coronavirus identified <http://promedmail.org/post/20200108.6877694>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (03): (HU) updates, SARS, MERS ruled out, WHO, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200105.6872267>
- >> Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (01): (HU) wildlife sales, market closed, RFI <http://promedmail.org/post/20200102.6866757>

>> .....arn/tw/jh  
 >> \*#####\*  
 >> \*\*\*\*\*

>> ProMED makes every effort to verify the reports that are posted, but the accuracy and completeness of the information, and of any statements or opinions based thereon, are not guaranteed. The reader assumes all risks in using information posted or archived by ProMED. ISID and its associated service providers shall not be held responsible for errors or omissions or held liable for any damages incurred as a result of use or reliance upon posted or archived material.

>> \*\*\*\*\*

>> Donate to ProMED-mail. Details available at:  
 >> <<https://isid.org/donate/>>  
 >> \*\*\*\*\*

>> Visit ProMED's web site at <<https://www.promedmail.org>>.  
 >> Send all items for posting to: [promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org).  
 >> Please include your name and email in order for your contribution to be posted.  
 >> You may subscribe/unsubscribe at  
 >> <<https://isid.org/promedmail-subscribe/>>  
 >> #####  
 >> #####

[Peter Daszak:] XXXXXX



Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

**From:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:22 PM  
**To:** David Morens ([kuuipo9@proton.me](mailto:kuuipo9@proton.me)) <[kuuipo9@proton.me](mailto:kuuipo9@proton.me)>; 'Keusch, Gerald' <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>; Jeff Sturchio ([j\\_sturchio@msn.com](mailto:j_sturchio@msn.com)) <[j\\_sturchio@msn.com](mailto:j_sturchio@msn.com)>  
**Cc:** 'Aleksi Chmura' ([chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)) <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Subject:** Emails that are cited in the Washington Examiner article about emails between David Morens, Jerry and myself...  
**Importance:** High

Dear David, Jerry, and Jeff

Below is the first of the emails cited in the Washington Examiner article from today:  
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/healthcare/2962374/house-republicans-probe-secret-covid-emails-fauci-aide-boston-university-professor/>

I'll forward the others as I pull them up in the next few minutes...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

**From:** David Morens <[dmmorens@gmail.com](mailto:dmmorens@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:47 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>; [keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)

**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] <[dmorens@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:dmorens@niaid.nih.gov)> wrote:

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

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Keusch, Gerald T" <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>  
**Date:** April 25, 2020 at 22:03:15 EDT  
**To:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>, "Morens, David (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[dmorens@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:dmorens@niaid.nih.gov)>  
**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 our 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 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (the rationale would be if H<sub>2</sub>O is good for us wouldn't H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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 <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:28 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>; David Morens ([dmorens@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:dmorens@niaid.nih.gov)) <[dmorens@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:dmorens@niaid.nih.gov)>

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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 <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 10:30 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**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 <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 6:53 PM

**To:** Keusch, Gerald T <[keusch@bu.edu](mailto:keusch@bu.edu)>

**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 4:48 PM

**To:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>; Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>

**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[jodi.black@nih.gov](mailto:jodi.black@nih.gov)>; Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[erik.stemmy@nih.gov](mailto:erik.stemmy@nih.gov)>; Erbeling, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[emily.erbeling@nih.gov](mailto:emily.erbeling@nih.gov)>; Linde, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E] <[lindee@mail.nih.gov](mailto:lindee@mail.nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>; Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] <[michelle.bulls@nih.gov](mailto:michelle.bulls@nih.gov)>

**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: 301-496-1096  
Email: [Michael.Lauer@nih.gov](mailto:Michael.Lauer@nih.gov)

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 1:50 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>, "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[jodi.black@nih.gov](mailto:jodi.black@nih.gov)>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[erik.stemmy@nih.gov](mailto:erik.stemmy@nih.gov)>, "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[emily.erbelding@nih.gov](mailto:emily.erbelding@nih.gov)>  
**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

+1.212.380.4473 (office)  
+1.917.385.5267 (mobile)  
[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)> 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: 301-496-1096  
Email: [Michael.Lauer@nih.gov](mailto:Michael.Lauer@nih.gov)

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:07 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[jodi.black@nih.gov](mailto:jodi.black@nih.gov)>, Aleksei Chmura <[chmura@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:chmura@ecohealthalliance.org)>, "Stemmy, Erik (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[erik.stemmy@nih.gov](mailto:erik.stemmy@nih.gov)>, "Erbelding, Emily (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[emily.erbelding@nih.gov](mailto:emily.erbelding@nih.gov)>  
**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 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 4:31 PM  
**To:** Kevin Olival <[olival@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:olival@ecohealthalliance.org)>; Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Cc:** Naomi Schrag <[ns2333@columbia.edu](mailto:ns2333@columbia.edu)>; Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[jodi.black@nih.gov](mailto:jodi.black@nih.gov)>; Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>  
**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: 301-496-1096  
Email: [Michael.Lauer@nih.gov](mailto:Michael.Lauer@nih.gov)

---

**From:** Kevin Olival <[olival@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:olival@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:14 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>  
**Cc:** Naomi Schrag <[ns2333@columbia.edu](mailto:ns2333@columbia.edu)>, "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[jodi.black@nih.gov](mailto:jodi.black@nih.gov)>  
**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 ([daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)) 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

1.212.380.4478 (direct)  
1.917.856.3900 (mobile)  
1.212.380.4465 (fax)

[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)> 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 <[ns2333@columbia.edu](mailto:ns2333@columbia.edu)>  
**Date:** Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 11:59 AM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>, "[olival@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:olival@ecohealthalliance.org)" <[olival@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:olival@ecohealthalliance.org)>, Naomi Schrag <[ns2333@columbia.edu](mailto:ns2333@columbia.edu)>  
**Cc:** "Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E]" <[jodi.black@nih.gov](mailto:jodi.black@nih.gov)>  
**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] <[michael.lauer@nih.gov](mailto:michael.lauer@nih.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2020 11:00 AM  
**To:** [olival@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:olival@ecohealthalliance.org); Naomi Schrag <[ns2333@columbia.edu](mailto:ns2333@columbia.edu)>  
**Cc:** Black, Jodi (NIH/OD) [E] <[jodi.black@nih.gov](mailto:jodi.black@nih.gov)>  
**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: 301-496-1096  
Email: [Michael.Lauer@nih.gov](mailto:Michael.Lauer@nih.gov)

<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>



Message

---

**From:** kuuipo9 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 5/23/2024 2:28:50 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: RE: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing

Jerry, thank you again for the kind words and your support. There is much more I want to say but will save it for when I am less depressed and less overwhelmed with lawyer meetings and whopping bills. d

Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

On 5/23/24 10:13, Keusch, Gerald wrote:

Dear David and Peter,

You are both exemplars of what science is all about, the search for knowledge in an objective and self-correcting manner, by asking questions, getting information, analyzing it, forming conclusions subject to new questions and new investigation in a never ending process.

You are both extremely brave in facing the attacks you are enduring. You both, as we all do, have rights to your own opinions and decisions and I do not think the US Constitution bans humor, whether dark, cynical, or biting, or even goofy. It does not even ban obscenities.

Your obligation as a federal employee was to keep government business out of private conversation and you cannot be faulted for keeping private conversations out of government business. All of this was in the midst of a deadly pandemic when the US endured the greatest death rate per capita than any other advanced wealthy nation in my opinion primarily because of wrong decisions made by its leadership at the time. Humor of any shade is a way to deal with such terrible events unfolding in front of you and out of your control. It was worse to me than the other pandemic I faced in my professional career, the early days of AIDS, because then we had nothing available to address the underlying problem but only band-aids for its consequences. For COVID we quickly learned what public health measures would reduce the impact of infection and it was possible to quickly create vaccines based on decades of prior basic research and field surveillance. The game changer vaccines worked for those who were accepting. Those who didn't, in large part due to the strange twist of privacy over public good in the media and social media and the lasting influence of the anti-vaccine movement, suffered from greater complications and more death in every age group assessed.

Stay strong and ever cognizant that the only issues I believe were behind all of these conversations were to protect the American people (and so people everywhere in the world) from this deadly virus at the same time protecting the integrity of science itself from politically and ideologically driven attacks. Those are not illegal motivations underlying frank conversations among long time friends and colleagues.

Jerry

---

**From:** kuuipo9 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:12 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>; Keusch, Gerald <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Fact check re. emails of ours that were cited in today's public hearing

Peter, thanks for looking into this, as it was one of the most indefensible charges against me, and when told I had helped you write this letter I told them I don't remember doing so and if I did it i was wrong, as you saw if you watched the show yesterday.

Uncovering this item won't have any impact on clearing my name, but as I am really depressed this morning, it cheers me up a bit. Thank you for being a true friend and for taking the time to cheer me up in the midst of your far worse troubles

Whatever mistakes I made, and however poor my judgment and understanding of nih do's and don'ts, I was trying to do the right thing to help you. One of the reasons i made what turned to be a very bad choice to not take the 5th, was so that i could push back against accusations based on incorrect interpretations. i am sure there are many other items like this. I know you know that on many occasions I explained to you all of the many things I couldn't do to help you directly, and also the things that I could do. But I will never get a chance to correct or explain them.

My worst mistake was writing jokey emails that will be used against Tony. I wish there was something I could do to help him at this point, but there isn't. Hopefully the harm to him will be minimal. My foolishness has harmed at least two people I consider innocent, which is actually worse than losing my job and facing prosecution.

But once I become retired, I will be able to do whatever I can to help friends such as you and to defend and speak up for science. And, being a historian myself, I fully expect we all will eventually be substantially if not completely vindicated

In the meantime, Hang in there and look for light at the end of the tunnel. Also, please give my best to the many fine and honorable people who work with you at EHA, and particularly Billy, Jon, and Kevin

d  
Sent from Proton Mail Android

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

On 5/22/24 23:25, Peter Daszak wrote:

Jerry and David,

Today in David Morens' hearing, the SSCP asked questions about an email wherein David allegedly assisted me with the reinstatement of my R01. They refer to an email on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 2021 in their report here:

<https://oversight.house.gov/release/new-covid-select-memo-details-allegations-of-wrongdoing-and-illegal-activity-by-dr-faucis-senior-scientific-advisor/>

It didn't sound correct to me, so I went through my email records and have located a chain that I began on 10/24/2021, that was me drafting a response to Michael Lauer's questions about the late year 5 report for the grant. This was NOT related to reinstating the grant – at that point, the grant was suspended and we were getting repeated questions about it, and there was not the slightest hint that it would be reinstated.

As you'll see by looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> email attached above – I send an email to both of you asking for advice on how to word the response to Michael Lauer, because you both are knowledgeable on issues of virology and both have experience with the type of bureaucratic questions I was being asked by NIH Office of the Director. I didn't consider this a conflict for David, because he's not part of the official decision making on this grant – by that time all decisions since 2020 had been overseen by O/D NOT NIAID, and I was under clear instructions to communicate with NIH O/D. I don't think that even Dr. Fauci had any capacity to decide on this.

Despite what's said in the SSCP report, and in David's hearing, I remembered, and it's shown in the email chains above, that David said he would suggest some 'wordsmithing', but in fact DID NOT. The emails clearly show that you spoke with others at NIAID, and that they suggested you should not be involved in this, and in fact you did not edit the letter, or even suggest edits. It's all there in the emails above.

I don't know what value this has now, considering that the public hearing has been and gone, but I felt it was important to share these, in case any of us are asked about them – from what I see, you checked with your superiors and then diplomatically cut yourself out of the editing chain.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

Message

---

**From:** Carlota Vollhardt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 3/15/2024 12:30:26 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Nancy Griffin [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Confidential - Public hearing date on May 1st for the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP)

Hi Peter:

Thanks for the update. Well, we hoped this would happen but we knew it could. Yes, we absolutely should think about how to prepare the board. Looking forward to our discussion.  
Best, Carlota

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Mar 14, 2024 at 2:31 PM Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

> Carlota, Nancy and Nancye,  
>  
>  
> I know Alison has reached out to you to set a date for our Public Affairs group to meet. The main reason is that we now know that the SSCP is moving forwards with a public hearing on our coronavirus work and they've "requested my presence" on May 1st at 10am. We have already met with Jeff and our legal team and will notify them now that I can appear on that date. While this isn't great news, we do have the wind behind us at the moment, with very little negative press about EcoHealth over the last few weeks, continued good news regarding the lawsuits, and diminishing online 'chatter' about this issue. Additionally, we know from the last four years that all possible questions and allegations have already been litigated in the press and online, and that questions I was asked during the nine-and-a-half hours of on-the-record testimony in November were repeats of those. That means we are already well-versed in how to respond in a way that minimizes damage to EHA as much as possible.  
>  
>  
> We've not yet got the date and time confirmed, but expect it will be by early next week. We also are trying to find out who else might appear. We'll know a lot more by the time we speak and we'll be able to give you a breakdown of what we can do to work with allies to defend EHA's reputation as we get closer to the date. After the date is set, the Republican staffers on the SSCP will probably make it public, and then we'll see an uptick in negative stories. From past hearings, the media attacks will be strongest for the 2-4 weeks following the hearing. We can perhaps talk in our meeting about how to get the Board ready for that.  
>  
>  
> Look forward to talking.  
>  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
>  
> Peter  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>



>  
> Peter Daszak  
>  
> President  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance  
>  
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
>  
> New York, NY 10018-6507  
>  
> USA  
>  
> Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
>  
> Website:  
> <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C29176279733c46cfdc3008dc44872455%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638460594464029798%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhbnwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C&sdata=Ia2Mc3B1%2F0vir%2BqyAJp41yp6cUfrple0UG1fJDo6Gjo%3D&reserved=0>  
>  
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation  
>  
>

Message

---

**From:** Ellen Shedlarz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 5/17/2024 11:45:17 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Board [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: An update from the Public Affairs team

To the Public Affairs Team.

Thank you this. It is not a good time for anyone but your note brought a excellent perspective.

Ellen

Sent from my iPad

On May 17, 2024, at 5:31 PM, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Board

It's been a very unsettling and busy week for EHA staff, and all of us on the Board, as we try to understand the impact and likely outcomes of the political and agency actions over the past two weeks.

Firstly, some of you may have seen coverage of the testimony before the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic by Lawrence Tabak, the Principal Deputy Director of the NIH, on May 16. Reading the Republic "wrap-up" from this session provides a one-sided interpretation of the proceedings. Despite the insistence that Dr. Tabak provided "substantial evidence" of Ecohealth Alliance's alleged transgressions, what his testimony amounts to is a series of unsupported assertions. He says that the NIH did fund gain-of-function research - yet, EHA has a statement from the NIH attesting that their research was not gain-of-function, and this directly contradicts Dr. Fauci's testimony under oath where he stated categorically the opposite to Rand Paul's repeated questioning. Also, much has been made of the NIH's so-called forensic examination of their grant reporting system, yet it came out in the hearing that the SSCP has not actually seen this analysis, nor (as far as we know) has anyone outside of the NIH. And EHA has a detailed analysis of all the actions it took to report to the NIH, which shows clearly that they did try to submit the report, were locked out, and then the NIH never inquired further until 2 years later. As for discrepancies in testimony, Dr. Tabak's assertions about a number of matters raised about EHA's grants is directly contradicted by sworn statements made to the SSCP by NIH grant officers who were much closer to the actual oversight of EHA grants. So this is a very one-sided account of what allegedly happened - and the same goes for the other claims against EHA in this document. In each case, review of the complete record shows that there were no efforts to mislead NIH or the SSCP and that, far from trying to "avoid oversight," EHA has been made every effort over the past three years to comply with NIH oversight requests.

Despite some of the reporting and what seems like a very negative situation, we've already learned a lot and have a clearer idea of the path forward and what the outcomes may be.

We now know that the suspension by HHS does not necessarily mean that all federal funding is cut off immediately. That's true for NIH funding, but we're working with DoD DTRA, NSF and USAID program officers to get their sign off, if they're willing, to continue funding some of their programs. Just today we heard from USAID that our big "Conservation Works" project will continue while we're suspended. We also now have a deeper understanding of how we can fight the threat of debarment. We plan to contest the proposed debarment aggressively and will file our rebuttal, with evidence to refute the allegations before the 30 day

deadline. The HHS Debarment Official will then have 45 days to decide, but may take time to ask for further information. If they decide to debar anyway, we can then appeal, and this would go to an administrative law court, where we'd then get a full opportunity to present our case, which our lawyers believe is strong. The downside is that this would take months rather than weeks, and the moment a debarment decision is made, we would likely lose access to any and all federal funds (usually for 3 years, but could be less, or more). There are deciding factors for each step of this, and we will continue making careful assessments as we go through the process, taking into account funds on hand, ability to fight back, legal costs etc.

On a side note, everyone we've spoken with who is an objective outside voice, recognizes that this suspension is a political decision, not one based on the facts, on science, or on commonsense. Most debarments occur for fraud or tax evasion, or criminal activities that happen with a grant (e.g. bribery, fraud) where there is a conviction. None of that applies to us. In fact, all of the allegations (e.g. our late report) are minor, have been dealt with already, and we have a huge volume of new evidence from our records that show they are also untrue. Add to that the long history of excellent work we've done, of our work being championed by Federal agencies, and of our recent diligence in complying with any and all NIH or congressional demands – all this indicates debarment would be inappropriate.

The other part of our effort will be to do everything we can to mobilize the scientific community – the Nobel Laureates, the Academic Societies, the many champions of our work – to stand up and speak out. We're already receiving a lot of quiet support directly from allies out there. We're now working hard to mobilize these, and rest assured that as soon as we've filed our motion to contest debarment (roughly within 3 weeks of now), we'll be sharing some of the evidence that refutes the allegations, which may help reassure allies that this is purely political, and that they should speak out.

All of the staff know that the Board supports them, and holds their work in high esteem. There will be tough times ahead, and we will be relying on you to help provide balance, thoughtfulness, and patient guidance in how we fight carefully and resolutely to survive this attack, and then bounce back to prosper and do what we're supposed to be doing – protecting our planet, its health, and ourselves from the impacts of unsustainable demands that human activity is imposing on our global commons.

#### **The Public Affairs team**

Carlota Vollhardt

Nancy Griffin

Nancye Greene

Peter Daszak

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



Message

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12/22/2023 2:30:19 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Re. conversation about your chat with the SSCP

Peter: Wenstrup's comments are over the top - we need to resist taking the bait. Our statement is correct - and his claiming that you lied to the Pentagon does not make it so.

We should be fully prepared to respond to this attack along the lines below should you be asked to testify before the committee - but only if asked directly.

The only statements you made to the Pentagon were in the final proposal. The statements that were allegedly morally wrong or lies or misleading were never shared with the agency - so how could they be any of the things claimed? The proposal's intent was exactly as stated in the proposal! That's what you'll want to make clear amid all the obfuscation and posturing by Wenstrup and USRTK and the right-wing press.

As ever,  
Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 12/22/23 9:02 AM (GMT+09:00)  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED], Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** "Michael J. Grudberg" [REDACTED], Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re. conversation about your chat with the SSCP

I can't do tomorrow - I've got a ski day with my daughters. During the past 4 years, just about every family event, vacation, holiday, or celebration has been marred by one attack or another, so I'm consciously trying to avoid ruining tomorrow's day out and the Christmas weekend this year. We can set up a time on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> or Wed 27<sup>th</sup> next week - I'll be available between 11am and 2pm.

I see that Chairman of SSCP Wenstrup is now talking to the right wing press and laying out what he has planned as a new line of attack: <https://dailycaller.com/2023/12/21/brad-wenstrup-house-covid-select-subcommittee-chair-damning-report-investigation/>

I've pulled out some of his quotes, and responded to them, to indicate how easily refuted they are. None of them hold water and the newly foia'd docs, and any others I sent to the Committees, do not provide any evidence of any illegal or immoral behavior (his words!):

“This can't help but be part of our investigation,” Wenstrup told the DCNF.



Actually, it already is – they asked me a series of questions about it during my on-the-record testimony. They've demanded DARPA docs already and we've sent them a bunch, including evidence that:  
DARPA did not reject our proposal because of alleged concerns over safety  
DARPA found the work interesting and important, and came back to us repeatedly at the start of the pandemic to try to fund different portions of it  
In the end EcoHealth Alliance did not submit a further proposal to DARPA and neither the originally proposed work, nor portions of it that DARPA showed an interest in during 2020, were funded, or took place

“My gosh, that to me is lying to the government, you know, flat out about what your intentions are,” said Wenstrup. “Now the action didn't take place, and DARPA did not give them the grant, thank goodness. Now, the next question is did they find a way around doing that type of research through [the National Institutes of Health], and what exactly that was? But that type of research they wanted to do was a process of creating very infectious viruses. So that was clear.”

It's extremely straightforward to refute this:

We did not lie to DARPA in our proposal. In earlier drafts and communications with colleagues, we discussed who will do which part of the work, then put it into the proposal. My comments that “If we win this contract, I do not propose that all of this work will necessarily be conducted by Ralph, but I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team,” is easily rebutted by the fact that we did not propose in the final document sent to DARPA that all work will be conducted by Ralph. Secondly I stated that “Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan as well” There is nothing wrong with that, and it's perfectly normal for grant proposals to make minor modifications once the grant is selected for funding. These are reviewed and agreed upon by the agency. Also, I said that “A lot of these assays” can be done at WIV. That's correct – they were in fact allocated to do a lot of the testing of samples, which is a type of assay.

Re. his comment about us ‘finding a way around doing that type of research through the NIH’ – that's pure conjecture. We didn't do that, as is made clear in our reports to NIH and all the other published documents

We proposal clearly does not show that we “wanted to [create]... very infectious viruses”. It's all laid out in the proposal, which has a clear preventive goal, was responsive to the agency's request, and follows research already published by others. It also wasn't funded.

Wenstrup, a Republican from Ohio, questioned what sort of consequences Daszak could face in the aftermath of the report's findings.

“I don't know, because a lot of that was what they talked about doing which was clearly morally wrong. And I don't think anyone can argue with that because what they were hoping to do was mislead DARPA,” Wenstrup said. “So again, legal ramifications against that? Certainly if you lie about it to Congress.”

We've seen this playbook before with committees and threats about lying to Congress. To refute the above:

It's not clearly morally wrong to write a proposal to help US warfighters avoid illness and to pre-empt a pandemic by ‘defusing’ coronaviruses that might have the power to infect people. In fact, it was directly in response to a request for proposals from the DoD!

We weren't trying to, and we did not, mislead DARPA, as above

He is correct that lying to Congress has legal ramifications. I haven't, I didn't, and I won't, so that's not a problem.

Hope this helps. Both the comments from Chairman Wenstrup, and your email below suggest they'll be digging into this further. The good news is that they will find nothing actionable in any documents about this proposal that we supply – it's just scientists writing a proposal that didn't get funded. The bad news is, of course, that this will lead to more bad press, more harrassment, and a royal waste of our time, and public funds being used by this committee.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 2:53 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Peter and Aleksei,

Please let us know your availability for a call tomorrow to discuss our meeting with the SSCP. As suspected a follow-up document request is forthcoming.

Further, the interface hasn't been identified, but we will be given access to a portal for 24 hours where we will provide an errata page itemizing line changes to the transcript. Marie said that only Peter and counsel will be given access.



**Juan Olivo | Associate**

[REDACTED] | Bio

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
[www.tarterkrinsky.com](http://www.tarterkrinsky.com) | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 7:03 PM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]

Cc: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Juan,

The 10th and the 11th of January would work for Peter for reviewing the testimony.

Just to clarify:

- what is the interface?
  - may multiple EHA team view/access the transcription?
  - what is the process, i.e. viewing of the transcript and then how long to provide comments or corrections?
- Given this narrow window of access, it seems the goal is to minimize (much) opportunity for comments and corrections - especially as this will then, afterwards, be made public.

I have cc'ed Jeff and Alison here as well.

Cheers,

-Aleksi

On Dec 8, 2023, at 14:22, Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

Peter and Aleksi,

Understood. We can follow up with Mitchell and Jay on the article. Do you happen to have a link to the article, or has it not been published yet?

Further, perhaps one of the ways to address Jay's inquiry is to clear up any discrepancies and illusions of double billing between the attached PREDICT invoices and 10964 invoices from similar dates. Would it be possible to find the invoice reports for similar dates that were allocated to the NIH award?

Separately, the SSCP has asked to confirm a date for Peter to review his testimony. The file will only be available for a 24 hour period through an online portal, so it may make sense to review in person either at EHA or TKD offices (scheduling permitting).

Happy to hop on a call to discuss. Thanks.

Juan



anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named (addressee(s)). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

Message

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 2/6/2024 4:38:42 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Release of Transcript

Peter: I'd also ask Juan and Mike to try to negotiate with Committee staff that -- if they do release all or part of your transcript -- they provide you with a final copy of what will be released in advance of it being made public.

As ever,  
Jeff

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

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 11:34 AM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Juan Olivo [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Release of Transcript

Juan and Mike - please make sure the agreement covers us for them releasing quotes or parts of the transcribed interview. They've done this with others, and it's extremely damaging to us from a PR perspective.

cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
President

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

website:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cec2a8dc1b37b4cf3254e08dc2731bc69%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638428341795332044%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhbnwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BhEXte0%2FcGr9%2F0Z3jwH98ahb1mVbr1G0TNj1x06pwmQ%3D&reserved=0>

Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 10:43 AM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Andre, Alison [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Release of Transcript

Juan and Michael,

Apologies if you already responded about this, but, if not already done, please communicate with the SSCP to get assurance that either they:

(a) will not release the transcript publically or;

(b) will give us a week advance notice that they will release the transcript (wholly or in part - and if in part, which part(s))

Thank you!

-Aleksei

Aleksei Chmura, PhD, MBA  
Chief of Staff &  
Authorized Organizational Representative

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

+1.917.385.5267

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cec2a8dc1b37b4cf3254e08dc2731bc69%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638428341795339053%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhYWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q26%2FSY26eG5Lg3t330fk98AT1ldvNKFb2WzWWQAnZqQ%3D&reserved=0>

Visit our blog:

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2Fblog&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cec2a8dc1b37b4cf3254e08dc2731bc69%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638428341795342048%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhYWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Mn987WQQL0vGn3rvnh1Kq%2FI1%2FtAPTWEBeNagFeMyURk%3D&reserved=0>

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



Message

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/11/2024 6:17:10 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Porter DeLaney [REDACTED] John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: quick assessment of the SSCP Letter  
**Attachments:** Response to 2024 04 04 SSCP Oversight EC Letter 6c867682d6 v03 JLS 20230411.docx

**Importance:** High

All:

Here are my (relatively minor) edits on the letter.

As ever,  
Jeff

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

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] Porter DeLaney [REDACTED] John Feigelson [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: quick assessment of the SSCP Letter

Peter,

Jeff will review this later today, but a draft is attached here so you may work on it sooner.

Some comments from me are highlighted in yellow and in brackets in the draft document.

- Per our responses no documents are due today (since we direct the committee to the NIH FOIA library) until the 18th, next week, and then the 25th.

- Also, you had some details, (1-3 in your email from 5th April), that we are not including. I agree that these are for verbal responses on 1st May, but just reconfirming, since these are not in our draft response.

We will respond to the committee before the end of today and I will chase up with Michael and Juan to make sure we have the right folks addressed and/or CC'ed on the email.

cheers,

-Aleksei

On Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 1:06AM Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

>  
> Just getting through reading the letter now. It's basically a nothing-burger but with substantial work that we don't have time to do. Here are some topline thoughts on what we can do, or say:

>  
>  
>  
> At the top of the letter, they lay out some allegations of 'discrepancies in testimony' and offer a chance for us to correct the record. All are extremely easily addressed and based on false assumptions, or misinterpretations of my comments:

>  
>  
>  
> 1) Pseudotype vs live virus. They give us a quote from my on-the-record testimony with no context, but I say "I think it involves pseudovirus, no live virus". I didn't say definitively that viruses were not going to be used in the work if it was funded. I believe that the proposal called for pseudoviruses to be used at the WIV for binding assays (I will check). Of course, any infection experiments had to use live virus, by definition. In any case, there is no need to correct the record because at the time I said "I think it involves pseudovirus" I did think so.

>  
>  
>

> 2) Re. comment on identifying where work would be done once the grant was funded. Firstly, it's not correct to say that I stated work would be done 'exclusively' at UNC - it runs completely counter to the fact that this proposal is a joint proposal with different partners, including the National wildlife Health Center in Wisconsin, EcoHealth Alliance, UNC, a for-profit company PARC, and WIV, and each partner had lines of work and corresponding budget indicated clearly in the proposal. Secondly, the note in the draft said "Assays". These are things like PCR and serology tests, genome sequencing. It is clearly not talking about recombinant virus experiments, which are not assays. Thirdly, it is normal to discuss shifting lines of work between partners once an agency selects a proposal for funding - however, the agency would have oversight on whether it would be appropriate, and would have the final say on what work would be done where. Finally, none of this is relevant, because the proposal wasn't funded, and the work wasn't done

>

>

>

> 3) Re. biosafety levels, the whole point of my explanation to the committee in my on-the-record testimony is that lab work with bat-CoVs was in fact designated as BSL-2 by the BMBL 6th edition (i.e. in the USA), and by the Chinese authorities, contrary to the suggestions by many experts that doing this work at BSL-2 is incorrect. This negates the point they make in the letter re. an inconsistency - it's not, it's consistent. Furthermore, the implication that we were trying to dodge rules on biosafety is also undermined by the fact that, in the submitted proposal, we did not propose to do live CoV work at BSL-2, we indicated clearly that this would be done at BSL-3 - one level above that required. In other words - this BSL2 section was proposed by Zhengli Shi, criticized in the draft by Ralph Baric, and then deleted by me, with an indication we'd work at a higher safety level.

>

>

>

> None of the above require the record to be corrected, so we should decline to do that.

>

>

>

> Skimming through some of their document requests - here are the ones

> they consider not yet closed, with my view on whether we can do this

>

>

>

> . #2 Phone records of me calling federal agencies or China. We can do this, but it will take some time - it's a few years of phone calls.

>

> . #6 FBI communications. The FBI were dealing with threats to me and my family, as well as other intelligence requests. All of the emails I can find are related to death threats etc. so we should not turn them over for security reasons and because some of these are active investigations.

>

> . #10 WIV communications. I thought we sent some of these? In any case, they're clearly listing all this out to give the impression we were up to no good, e.g. communications re. WIV's debarment. I think most of these are already shared in various ways, and there aren't many things of interest for them in the files we have. That said, it will take some time

>

> . #13 WIV data sharing and contracts - I believe the only data sharing agreements are in the contracts in any case. I'm sure we can share these - they're already public I think via FOIA.

>

> . #16 not sure where this appendix 1 is, but this looks like a lot of work since I've been ingrained in COVID origins stuff for the last 4 years...

>

>

>

> Re. their 7 new requests for documents:

>

> 1) Cyber attacks. I believe this is work that the FBI did by checking out my home IP address. It was reported to me verbally, so no records

>

> 2) Spread sheet - this is a PREDICT sequence list for CoVs. We can get this and share it, once I've checked it for veracity. Aleksei - I bet it doesn't even have sequences, just numbers..

>

> 3) List of sampling trips for OIG. No problem we can do that rapidly

>

> 4) List of science communicators etc.: "EcoHealth has not retained or otherwise used science communicators, social media influencers, or crisis management consultants since January 2020. In the summer of 2021, we engaged the services of Dr. Jeffrey Sturchio to advise us on how to address the continuing barrage of false allegations and misinformation in the press about our work."

>

> 5) Drafts of a paper from 2015 or so. No problem.

>

> 6) National Science Foundation Notice of Funding Opportunity 2011162. Aleksei - this is the SADS proposal we put into NSF in 2019. Jeff - another unfunded proposal, this one on pig coronaviruses, but involves collaboration with Tong YiGang, who was trained in the China equivalent of Uniformed Services University, so they'll use that to allege we're working with Commies and members of the PLA etc. It also has Ralph Baric doing some recombinant virus work that will get a Daily Mail story (pig human hybrid etc.), but we clearly say BSL3.

> 7) All communications between EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. and United States Agency for International Development regarding the Global Virome Project or the WIV from January 2018 to the present. Pretty sure they've already got this via our dump of WIV communications and USAID communications.

> Cheers,

> Peter

> Peter Daszak

> President

> EcoHealth Alliance

> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

> New York, NY 10018-6507

> USA

> Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

> website:

> <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecohealthalliance.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C3b9f37da2b384d236e4508dc5a2bf782%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638484392556279507%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhYWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u%2FKhjWtkMjMzyK2AzBi2X1PC37e5Cqt86%2F1m40tzP2c%3D&reserved=0>

> Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

> From: Aleksei Chmura <[aleksei@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:aleksei@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
> Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 2:55 PM  
> To: Porter DeLaney <[porter@sscp.gov](mailto:porter@sscp.gov)>  
> Cc: Peter Daszak <[peter@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:peter@ecohealthalliance.org)>; Jeff Sturchio <[jeff@sscp.gov](mailto:jeff@sscp.gov)>  
> Subject: SSCP Letter

> Dear Porter,

> Just forwarding the letter from SSCP released today.

>  
>  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
>  
>  
> -Aleksi  
>  
>  
>  
>





11 April 2024

Hon. Brad Wenstrup  
Chairman, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

Hon. James Comer  
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Accountability

Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Morgan Griffith  
Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Hon. Brett Guthrie  
Chair, Subcommittee on Health

U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Wenstrup, Comer, McMorris Rodgers, Griffith, and Guthrie:

I am writing in response to your letter of 4 April 2024, regarding your invitation to appear voluntarily before the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) on 1 May 2024 to provide public testimony. I look forward to appearing before the SSCP to answer the Committee's questions. In this letter, I address several of the allegations made in your letter, as well as your requests for additional documents.

**Allegations about discrepancies in testimony**

Your letter claims that I made statements in a transcribed interview before the SSCP that are inconsistent or divergent with statements in documents that the Committee has obtained. I categorically reject this mischaracterization of my previous statements to the SSCP. The examples you gave in your letter are not inconsistent or divergent with my earlier testimony – your interpretations are based on false assumptions and misinterpretations of the record. I look forward to clarifying these misunderstandings in

my testimony next month on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1. [Peter—you had text in your email from 05 April 2024 with 3

**Responses to SSCP Requests for further information (enumeration from SSCP 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 letter)**

2. All phone records from November 1, 2019, through present [September 29, 2023] for Dr. Peter Daszak.

Please produce or notify the Committees you are unable to access the following records by **April 11, 2024**:

- a. Pursuant to conversations with counsel, all phone records from November 1, 2019 through January 13, 2021. Consistent with the September 29 Letter, the Committees request you prioritize documents sufficient to show any meetings, phone calls, or other interactions between Dr. Daszak and the federal government or any entity in China.

**Response to 2:** Per our previous communications from our counsel, the carrier does not have phone records with the requested details pre-dating 14 January 2021. Therefore, EcoHealth Alliance is unable to provide these records for the details requested, therefore, EcoHealth Alliance will be unable to provide these.

4. All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., including any of its subsidiaries, affiliated institutions, or affiliated individuals, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including but not limited to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, between January 1, 2014, and present.

Please produce the following records by **April 11, 2024**:

- a. Documents and communications regarding the reinstatement of the grant entitled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence;"

**Response to 4a:** These documents have already been made publicly available by NIH via FOIA requests and are available here: [HYPERLINK "https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/freedom-information-act-office/nih-foia-library"].

- b. *Documents and communications regarding the suspension or debarment of the Wuhan Institute of Virology; and*

**Response to 4b:** EcoHealth Alliance ~~had nothing to do with~~ was not involved with the suspension or debarment of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and has no documents and communications regarding this matter.

- c. *Documents and communications regarding the competitive renewal of the grant entitled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence."*

**Response to 4c:** These documents have already been made publicly available by NIH via FOIA requests and are available here: [HYPERLINK "<https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/freedom-information-act-office/nih-foia-library>"].

6. *All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc, including any of its subsidiaries, affiliated institutions, or affiliated individuals, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation between January 1, 2014, and present. Please produce the following records by **April 11, 2024**:*

- a. *Pursuant to conversations with counsel, all documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc, including any of its subsidiaries, affiliated institutions, or affiliated individuals, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation between January 1, 2014, and present.*

**Response to 6:** The Federal Bureau of Investigation were dealing with threats to EcoHealth Alliance and to Dr. Daszak and his family, as well as other intelligence requests. Any Federal Bureau of Investigation emails relate to death threats and similar security issues. For this reason, and because some likely relate to active investigations, EcoHealth Alliance cannot provide these records to the SSCP. If you have further questions, please contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

10. *All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc, including any of its subsidiaries or affiliated individuals, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including any of its subsidiaries, affiliated institutions, or affiliated individuals, between January 1, 2014, and present. Please produce the following records by **April 18, 2024**:*



- a. *All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc, including any of its subsidiaries or affiliated individuals, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including any of its subsidiaries, affiliated institutions, or affiliated individuals, between December 15, 2019 and present, including but not limited to:*

**Response to 10:** EcoHealth Alliance has already provided the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC) with its communications with the Wuhan Institute of Virology including any of its subsidiaries, affiliated institutions, or affiliated individuals between January 1, 2014 and present. These will also be provided to your committee by the deadline above.

- i. *Documents and communications regarding the origins of COVID-19, or SARS-CoV-2, or any iteration thereof;*

**Response to 10i:** These have already been provided to HSGAC and will also be provided to your committee by the deadline above.

- ii. *Documents and communications regarding the suspension or debarment of the Wuhan Institute of Virology;*

**Response to 10ii:** EcoHealth Alliance ~~had nothing to do with~~ not involved with the suspension or debarment of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and has no documents and communications regarding this matter.

- iii. *Documents and communications regarding EcoHealth's efforts to obtain WIV laboratory notebooks pursuant to NIH oversight and compliance efforts;*

**Response to 10iii:** EcoHealth Alliance will review records for any documents and communications regarding its efforts to obtain WIV laboratory notebooks pursuant to NIH oversight and compliance efforts and will share any records responsive to the SSCP's request by the deadline above.

- iv. *Documents and communications regarding all humanized or transgenic mice experiments conducted at the WIV;*

**Response to 10iv:** These documents have already been made publicly available by NIH via FOIA requests and are available here: [HYPERLINK



"<https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/freedom-information-act-office/nih-foia-library>"].

- v. *Documents and communications, including drafts with the underlying metadata, regarding EcoHealth's Year 4 and Year 5 progress reports produced to the NIH pursuant to the grant entitled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence";*

**Response to 10v:** These documents have already been made publicly available by NIH via FOIA requests and are available here: [HYPERLINK "<https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/freedom-information-act-office/nih-foia-library>"].

- vi. *Documents and communications regarding the biosafety standards employed by the WIV, including if the WIV follows the applicable Biosafety and Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories standards; and*

**Response to 10vi:** EcoHealth Alliance will review records for any documents and communications regarding the biosafety standards employed by the WIV including if the WIV follows the applicable Biosafety and Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories standards and will share any records responsive to the SSCP's request by the deadline above.

- vii. *Documents and communications regarding the reinstatement of the grant entitled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," including but not limited to any efforts to access or retain sequences or samples.*

**Response to 10vii:** These documents have already been made publicly available by NIH via FOIA requests and are available here: [HYPERLINK "<https://www.nih.gov/institutes-nih/nih-office-director/office-communications-public-liaison/freedom-information-act-office/nih-foia-library>"].

- 13. *Copies of all grants, contracts, memorandums, and/or other documents executed between January 1, 2014, and present that involve the following, any iterations thereof, or affiliated individuals as parties:*

- a. *University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill;*
- b. *New York Blood Center; NIA*

- c. Georgia State University; N/A
- d. Wuhan Institute of Virology;
- e. Wuhan Center for Disease Control; N/A
- f. Wuhan University;
- g. Chinese Academy of Sciences; N/A
- h. People's Liberation Army; or N/A
- i. Academy of Military Medical Sciences. N/A

Please produce the following records by April 18, 2024:

- a. All data sharing contracts, memorandums, or agreements between EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology; and
- b. All subgrant documents between EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology

**Response for 13a-b:** We have ~~per-indicated~~ ~~Not applicable ("N/A")~~ for all institutions listed (a-i) above with which EcoHealth Alliance did not have any grants, contracts, memorandums, and/or other documents executed between January 1, 2014 and present. We will review our records for any ~~sharing~~ contracts, memorandums, subgrant documents or agreements between January 1, 2014 and present with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We will endeavor to do this by the requested deadline above, but ~~this it~~ may take ~~additional some~~ time to review 10-years of records.

16. All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc, including any of its subsidiaries or affiliated individuals and any of the individuals listed in Appendix I regarding or referencing the origins of COVID-19.

Please produce the following records by April 18, 2024:

- a. All documents and communications between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc, including any of its subsidiaries or affiliated individuals and any of the individuals listed in Appendix I regarding or referencing the origins of

**Response for 16a:** We will check our records for documents relating to these 31 individuals and the origins of COVID-19. Because this will requires a significant amount of research, it will take some time to complete this review, but we will make our best effort to do all possible to provide these by the deadline above. In our Zoom meeting the other day, we had included "... that have not already been provided to the Committee or made public through FOIA requests." We should not state that as if

Commented [J51]: I agree with Aleksei's comment here.



wrongly implies that we did not supply all items to the Committee or FOIA requests. Our plan is to provide the HSGAC items, so will be within deadline of the 18th.]

You have also made 7 new requests with a deadline of 25 April 2024. Responses are below:

1. *All documents and communications sufficient to corroborate claims of cyber-attacks against EcoHealth Alliance, Inc that occurred from December 2019 through present.*

**Response to new request 1:** The information we have received has come directly from conversations with the FBI, who have told us on multiple occasions that they have scanned our IP addresses and found that foreign states and other nefarious cyber attackers have targeted our systems. This information was reported to EcoHealth Alliance verbally, so there are no records to share. ~~Any. Please direct~~ further questions on this issue should be directed to the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

2. *A copy of the spreadsheet attached to the April 24, 2020 email sent by Metabiota Senior Management Developer to an EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. Research Scientist.*

**Response to new request 2:** We ~~may not~~ share this spreadsheet because the data have not yet been published. We would be willing to submit these data to the Committee as soon as the peer-reviewed publication containing ~~with~~ these data is accepted for publication.

3. *All documents and communications regarding sampling expeditions conducted with the Wuhan Institute of Virology that were provided to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General.*

**Response to new request 3:** To our knowledge there were no such documents provided to the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General. All sampling trips were organized by on-the-ground field coordinator and were usually reported in annual reports, which may be viewed in the NIH FOIA Library or other FOIA'd and publicly available documents. [Please include the URL for the appropriate FOIA libraries.] [In our meeting the other day, we stated, "in annual reports that we supply here." I recommend we let them return to specifically request these. Our NIH annual reports are all FOIA'd and on the NIH FOIA Library. The USAID quarterly reports for China should be out there, but we would have to check and that would take some time to pull and review these. Either way, the USAID reports would be

Commented [JS2]: OK - agree with Aleksei on this.



~~with JCD and USAID—so we could direct the Committee to JCD and/or USAID—  
recommend leaving it as in the text above and they may request further.]~~

4. *A list of all science communicators, public relations experts, social media influencers, and crisis management consultants retained or otherwise used by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. since January 2020.*

**Response to new request 4:** EcoHealth has not retained or otherwise used science communicators, public relations experts, social media influencers, or crisis management consultants since January 2020. As stated to this committee previously, in the summer of 2021 EcoHealth Alliance engaged the services of Dr. Jeffrey Sturchio as a strategic communications consultant to advise ~~us on how to address~~ing the increasing volume of false allegations and misinformation in the press and social media about EcoHealth Alliance's work.

5. *All drafts of the 2017 paper "Discovery of a Rich Gene Pool of Bat SARS-related Coronaviruses Provides New Insights into the Origins of SARS Coronaviruses;"*

**Response to new request 5:** EcoHealth Alliance has reviewed its records and ~~to the best of its ability within the requested timeline~~ found only finds the final version of the paper ~~in its records. It added the " to the best of its ability within the requested timeline."~~

6. *All drafts of the EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. grant application submitted in 2019 in response to the National Science Foundation Notice of Funding Opportunity 2011162;*

**Response to new request 6:** EcoHealth Alliance will provide the Committee with its grant application submitted in 2019 in response to the National Science Foundation Notice of Funding Opportunity 2011162 by 25 April 2024. ~~[Note that the SSCP request here is for drafts.]~~

**Commented [J53]:** This answer is sufficient.

7. *All communications between EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. and United States Agency for International Development regarding the Global Virome Project or the WIV from January 2018 to present.*

**Formatted:** No bullets or numbering

**Response to new request 7:** EcoHealth Alliance will provide all communications between itself and the United States Agency for International Development regarding the Global Virome Project or the Wuhan Institute of Virology from January 2018 to

present by 25 April 2024. ~~[Per our discussion, these are HSGAC reports already redacted.]~~

**Commented [JS4]:** In that case, should we use the standard line about HSGAC production here?

EcoHealth Alliance continues to ~~do all reasonably possible~~ make its best efforts to respond to all Committee requests within ~~Committee timelines~~ the state deadlines and thanks the Committee in advance for understanding the level of staffing effort required ~~in to recover and producing~~ documents from a period of 10 years covering more than a decade.

In accordance with ~~our~~ its responses above, EcoHealth Alliance will convey ~~these~~ additional documents to the SSCP as soon as possible. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Peter Daszak, PhD  
President, EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018, USA  
+1.212.380.4460  
daszak@ecohealthalliance.org  
www.ecohealthalliance.org

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

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

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

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

The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Health

[Other Congressional Members?]

EcoHealth Alliance Counsel - Tarter, Krinsky & Drogin



Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10/24/2021 4:50:28 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED] Robert Kessler [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

I'll use that or similar language and have a draft for review by tonight.

Should we now push back more strongly to reporters who contact us about this? Perhaps making a statement along the lines: "NIH is not correct in asserting that EcoHealth failed to comply with reporting requirements. In fact, we reported this experiment on 13th April 2018, over 3 years and 6 months ago as soon as we received the information from WIV, and the experiment had already been ended by that time. At no time did NIH request further information, clarification or secondary review. We will be writing this week to Drs. Tabak and Lauer to inform them of this mistake".

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 23, 2021 2:33 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

Peter: In writing back to NIH, I think you may want to begin with the last point you make below: "We were surprised to learn from Deputy Director Tabak's letter to Congressman Comer that the NIH is contending that we did not report this experiment in a timely way, when we did in fact include it in our Year 4 report, submitted in 2018....."

JLS

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 23, 2021 11:11 AM  
**To:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] Matthew R.Torsiello [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

I'm working on a draft letter to Michael Lauer ccd to Lawrence Tabak that first responds to the allegations that we failed to comply with reporting requirements. It's carefully worded but will clearly and directly refute the accusations by showing 1) we reported on time, & 2) the exptl details have been misinterpreted. It will put the ball back into NIH's court by pointing out that, at no point, we're we informed that this work needed secondary review or clarification.

I'll include some new data to show willing but will point out that we are not funded, have been told not to continue work with WIV, & therefore 5 days is insufficient to do a full inventory.

I'll make sure you all get a chance to review this - from NIH compliance, virology, PR & legal points of view.

Appreciate your help during the last two days.

Jerry - I'll send you a rough draft first so you can be fully informed for your letter/email to Tabak telling him to stop harassing us for his own political convenience. You could also let him know that, had he bothered to contact us before responding to congress, he might not have made a mistake in the fact that this expt was already reported to NIH in 2018!

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
(Sent from my iPhone)

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

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

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On Oct 23, 2021, at 7:43 AM, David Morens [REDACTED] wrote:

Great news! This what I suspected and hoped would be true. I still think that tactfully pushing back at NIH being willful participants in your harassment, privately or otherwise, should be considered. NIH is supposed to be YOUR ally, not the ally of shameless witch hunters. d

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

On Oct 23, 2021, at 00:56, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Just wanted to give you some very good news from China just now.

We've checked with Wuhan and they only did the one experiment on humanized mice. It was done during year 4 of our grant and we reported initial results from this as soon as we received them back in 2019. They didn't do viral titers, just genome copies, and we reported lung tissue data and weight loss data. The figure in the year 5 report (filed in 2021 due to grant termination etc) is from the same experiment – it's simply the follow-up histopath and survival data from that same group of mice – all done under BSL3, and all permitted by NIH. I suspected as much today because the pattern is the same for all outcomes: Genome copies per gram in lung and brain, weight loss and survival all increase more rapidly in the chimera SHC014, but level off to insignificant differences by the end of the experiment.

This is good news because it means NIH's assumption that we failed to comply with timely reporting is dead wrong, and we can push back directly to Michael Lauer in our letter about both the timing of our reporting, and about the substance of it on that issue of titers vs. genome copies, and the fact that all variables had equalized by Day 6-8 of the expt.

Breathing a slight sigh of relief here. We'll still be pilloried in the press until this new information comes out, but it gives us a chance for strong but diplomatic pushback that can then be shared with reporters at some point next week...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 8:58 AM  
**To:** 'Keusch, Gerald T' [REDACTED]; 'David Morens' [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [REDACTED]; 'Robert Kessler'



[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding R01AI110964

Jerry and David.

Michael Lauer is now demanding more from us, and has focused on another experiment that WIV did with similar chimeras in mice. He wants to know the date so he can try to claim that we didn't act appropriately and report it rapidly enough.

This experiment is Fig 13 in the progress report. It's genome copies per gram again but we do say in the text that the viral titer was increased. I'll get confirmation about this from Zhengli.

The interim progress report was submitted 2 years late. We started uploading it in July 2019 (on time), but never submitted it because our grant was renewed and there was no way to submit a normal annual report at that point – the system didn't allow it and we didn't realize what we were supposed to do. No one at NIH asked for this report and the fact that the new award was made suggested to us that all was well. We were in constant discussion with NIH staff at the time setting up our new grant details, but again no one clarified that they needed anything more from us. The only notice we got to submit this was a few weeks ago from Michael Lauer, at which point we had to work hard with NIH staff to get the system to accept our report.

Can we set up a zoom call this afternoon to look at these figures so you can advise me what I should say to Michael Lauer?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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:** Friday, October 22, 2021 6:12 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding R01AI110964

Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak

Please:

- Confirm receipt of this letter, sent to you on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.
- Provide the dates of work for the experiments described in Figure 13 of the August 3, 2021, RPPR.
- Ensure that all sequences from all the work conducted under this grant are posted immediately to NCBI.

We continue to look forward to receiving all materials by close-of-business Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

Sincerely,  
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
One Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144  
Bethesda, MD 20892

---

**From:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 1:05 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Regarding R01AI110964

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

#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or

taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.



Message

---

**From:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10/25/2021 1:22:34 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]; Matthew R.Torsiello [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

Peter, Tony just replied that he is going to check on this. d

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

On Oct 24, 2021, at 21:20, David Morens [REDACTED] wrote:

Peter, i just texted Tony about this and raised the alarm that he and Francis and Larry could be inadvertently miscommunicating about this.

I expect he will do something to fix this. d

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

On Oct 24, 2021, at 20:41, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Yes this refers to the year 5 report of our R01 that was terminated then suspended. It was due in 2019 and not officially received until 2021. In his letter to Congress, Dr. Tabak said that the year 5 report contained an experiment that should have been reported immediately to NIH. The issue is that the experiment was already reported in the year 4 report, delivered on time in April 2018 - over 3 years and 6 months ago. The year 5 report was simply follow up analysis from that experiment - no material difference to the findings reported earlier.

I'm going to send a draft letter in a few minutes that I'm getting ready to respond to Lauer with. That will clarify all this, with back up evidence.

My concern is that between now and when the letter is made public, NIH leadership will be repeatedly stating to the press that EcoHealth violated reporting conditions - it's very damaging to us and based on incorrect assumptions.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
President

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: David Morens [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, October 24, 2021 6:41 PM  
To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] Matthew R. Torsiello [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

Peter, before I speak to Tony can you clarify more specifically, re the phrase below:

"...so they're aware that we DID follow reporting requirements, and that this experiment was notified to NIH 3 years and 6 months ago - on time!"

which experiment you are referring to and in which grant, the de-funded one?  
d

Just saw CCN interview in which Collins was crucified for either hiding or being unaware and the lying about GoF research. Collins strongly defended NIH and partially defended EcoHealth but also said EcoHealth violated reporting requirements but didn't do forbidden GoF experiments d

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

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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 Sun, Oct 24, 2021 at 12:29 PM Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

wrote:

>

> David - I saw that tony fauci was interviewed on HBO re Rand Paul's  
> latest attack based on Tabak's letter.

> <https://www.axios.com/fauci-fires-back-at-rand-paul-for-slam-on-tonigh-ts-axios-on-hbo-6450dec1-c977-46ac-bf37-84044ba9d8fd.html>

>

> His responses were great, directly refuting that our work (and NIAID  
> funding) led to covid origins. But he then said this:

>

> "Fauci added that the U.S. "knew what the risk was and what the oversight  
> is" at the Wuhan lab. "Certainly, they should have put their progress  
> report in a timely manner," Fauci said. "No denial of that, and there will  
> be administrative consequences of that."

>

> We'll be responding to Michael Lauer's letter, cc'ing dr Tabak on  
> Wednesday or earlier, but I'll also make sure to send our response to the  
> NIAID program staff incl Tony so they're aware that we DID follow  
> reporting requirements, and that this experiment was notified to NIH 3  
> years and 6 months ago - on time!

>

> David - could you give Tony a heads up about this so that he doesn't say  
> the wrong thing publicly and also so it doesn't disparage ecohealth any  
> further.

>

>

>

> Cheers,

>

> Peter

>

>

>

> Peter Daszak

> (Sent from my iPhone)

>

> President

> EcoHealth Alliance



>  
> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA  
>  
> [www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)  
>  
> On Oct 23, 2021, at 7:43 AM, David Morens [REDACTED] wrote:

>  
> Great news! This what i suspected and hoped would be true. I still  
> think that tactfully pushing back at nih being willful participants in  
> your harassment, privately or otherwise, should be considered. NIH is  
> supposed to be YOUR ally, not the ally of shameless witch hunters. d

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

>  
> On Oct 23, 2021, at 00:56, Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
> wrote:

>  
>  
>  
> Just wanted to give you some very good news from China just now.

>  
>  
>  
> We've checked with Wuhan and they only did the one experiment on humanized  
> mice. It was done during year 4 of our grant and we reported initial  
> results from this as soon as we received them back in 2019. They didn't do  
> viral titers, just genome copies, and we reported lung tissue data and  
> weight loss data. The figure in the year 5 report (filed in 2021 due to  
> grant termination etc) is from the same experiment – it's simply the  
> follow-up histopath and survival data from that same group of mice – all  
> done under BSL3, and all permitted by NIH. I suspected as much today  
> because the pattern is the same for all outcomes: Genome copies per gram  
> in lung and brain, weight loss and survival all increase more rapidly in  
> the chimera SHC014, but level off to insignificant differences by the end  
> of the experiment.

>  
>  
>  
> This is good news because it means NIH's assumption that we failed to  
> comply with timely reporting is dead wrong, and we can push back directly  
> to Michael Lauer in our letter about both the timing of our reporting, and  
> about the substance of it on that issue of titers vs. genome copies, and  
> the fact that all variables had equalized by Day 6-8 of the expt.

>  
>  
>  
> Breathing a slight sigh of relief here. We'll still be pilloried in  
> the press until this new information comes out, but it gives us a  
> chance for strong but diplomatic pushback that can then be shared with  
> reporters at some point next week...



> To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [REDACTED]; 'David Morens'

> [REDACTED]

> Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura'

> [REDACTED]; 'Robert Kessler'

> [REDACTED]

> Subject: FW: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding

> R01AI110964

>

>

>

> Jerry and David.

>

>

>

> Michael Lauer is now demanding more from us, and has focused on another

> experiment that WIV did with similar chimeras in mice. He wants to know

> the date so he can try to claim that we didn't act appropriately and

> report it rapidly enough.

>

>

>

> This experiment is Fig 13 in the progress report. It's genome copies per

> gram again but we do say in the text that the viral titer was increased. I'll

> get confirmation about this from Zhengli.

>

>

>

> The interim progress report was submitted 2 years late. We started

> uploading it in July 2019 (on time), but never submitted it because our

> grant was renewed and there was no way to submit a normal annual report at

> that point – the system didn't allow it and we didn't realize what we were

> supposed to do. No one at NIH asked for this report and the fact that the

> new award was made suggested to us that all was well. We were in constant

> discussion with NIH staff at the time setting up our new grant details,

> but again no one clarified that they needed anything more from us. The

> only notice we got to submit this was a few weeks ago from Michael Lauer,

> at which point we had to work hard with NIH staff to get the system to

> accept our report.

>

>

>

> Can we set up a zoom call this afternoon to look at these figures so you

> can advise me what I should say to Michael Lauer?

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>



> Cheers,  
>  
>  
>  
> Peter  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Peter Daszak  
>  
> President  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance  
>  
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
>  
> New York, NY 10018-6507  
>  
> USA  
>  
> Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
>  
> Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
>  
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent  
> pandemics and promote conservation  
>  
>  
>  
> From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 6:12 AM  
> To: Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura  
> [REDACTED]  
> Cc: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
> Subject: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding R01AI110964  
>  
>  
>  
> Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak  
>



> Cc: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]

> Subject: Regarding R01A1110964

>

>

>

> 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]

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> Disclaimer

> The information contained in this communication from the sender is  
> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others  
> authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby  
> notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in  
> relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and  
> may be unlawful.

> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been  
> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber  
> resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection,  
> security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential

> capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from  
> malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the  
> movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit  
> our website.

>  
>  
>

> **Disclaimer**

>

> The information contained in this communication from the sender is  
> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others  
> authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby  
> notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in  
> relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and  
> may be unlawful.

>

> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been  
> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber  
> resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection,  
> security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential  
> capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from  
> malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the  
> movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit  
> our website.

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.



Message

---

**From:** Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11/5/2021 5:03:27 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Matthew R.Torsiello  
**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT - NIH is harrassing us again!

Good move!

Rich

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Matthew R.Torsiello  
**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT - NIH is harrassing us again!

EXTERNAL SENDER

As a sign of goodwill, on our request a couple of weeks ago WIV uploaded some bat-CoV sequences to Genbank – nothing related to COVID origins, but nonetheless new information. I'll send those in with a response to NIH early next week.

I'm planning to try to keep sending bits of data through to them, as they come through from China, so there can be no question of our willingness to comply as far as is possible.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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, November 5, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Matthew R.Torsiello [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT - NIH is harrassing us again!

What is most interesting to me is that in this letter Lauer admits the experimental results are in the year 4 report submitted soon after the experiment (the only one) was reported to EHA and before the deadline for the report. This belies what Tabak and Collins have said in the public, and while they write it to you I have not seen them admit it to anybody else, including Rep Comer. This letter will be part of the documentation behind what I will put together as an Opinion for the Washington Post, as Glenn Kessler has recommended.

I think what you say is correct. I would be polite, but not apologetic. The red text below is my suggested inserts and in the brackets text to delete.

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Roberts, Rich [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Matthew R.Torsiello [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT - NIH is harrassing us again!  
**Importance:** High

Dear Jerry and Rich, and our pro-bono legal adviser Matthew Torsiello

Please see attached a letter from Michael Lauer today. As expected, NIH is just continuing to ask for more information. I suspect they're trying to continue their march to paint us as negligent in our reporting and access to data, and drive media to attack us, rather than them.

They're asking for 1) IACUC vertebrate animal forms from China for sampling bats in caves, even though we told them in the last response that China doesn't require IACUC coverage for that work – it was the same in the USA until a few years ago.

They're also asking for 2) 'copies of lab notebooks' from China! By November 19<sup>th</sup>. They know we can't do this.

Any advice is welcome! One possible response could be:

"Given the political issues and heightened media focus on the WIV and other constraints, not the least of which is that we are not now contracted to work with WIV, [we believe it may] it will be extremely difficult to get the level of information you've asked for. We will do our best to obtain more information on this experiment, but you should understand that we cannot determine when, or whether, WIV will be responsive to your demands. [at the very least, would expect this would take a number of weeks.]"

"Re. the IACUC request – as we have repeatedly stated previously, [it is our understanding that] China does not require IACUC for field sampling of wildlife. [Indeed, it was exactly the same in the USA until about 10 years ago, with IACUC generally being focused on work with laboratory animals.]"

*Note: I think its correct to say you have repeatedly responded to this.*

Matthew – Is Dr. Lauer correct that NIH can demand the sort of documents that he's asking for from subcontractees in foreign countries? It sounds like a stretch to me. Can Aleksei and I have a call with you later on today to discuss

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:03 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Re: Response to your request from last Friday

Dear Drs. Chmura and Daszak

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 1:34 PM  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], "Tabak, Lawrence (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED], "Aklin, Courtney (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], "Hayes, Darla (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], "Burrus-Shaw, Cyndi (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED], "Mazerik, Jessica (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Response to your request from last Friday

Dear Michael,

Please see attached a response to your request, as well as 9 PDF attachments detailing the rationale for our response, and supplying data you requested.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email



security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

## **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

## **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 2/14/2023 12:26:26 AM  
**To:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Chairmen Wenstrup, Comer, and Members of the SSCP to Dr. Daszak  
**Attachments:** Response to SSCP letter to EHA 2.2.23.pdf  
**Importance:** High

Just sent the email below and the letter (attached).

Please do what you can to slowly extend the timeline and significantly reduce the scope...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 7:13 PM  
**To:** 'Benzine, Mitchell' [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Chairmen Wenstrup, Comer, and Members of the SSCP to Dr. Daszak  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mitchell,

Please see the attached letter in response to the request from Chairmen Wenstrup, Comber, and members of the SSCP.

Sincerely,

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Benzine, Mitchell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 1:59 PM  
**To:** daszak@[REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Vinyard, Ashlee <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Letter from Chairmen Wenstrup, Comer, and Members of the SSCP to Dr. Daszak

Dr. Daszak, Dr. Chmura, and Michael –

Attached is a letter to you, as the representatives for EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., from Chairmen Wenstrup, Comer, and the other Members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Please acknowledge receipt.

Thank you,  
Mitch

MITCHELL BENZINE  
Staff Director | Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic  
Committee on Oversight & Accountability  
Chairman James Comer (R-KY)  
[REDACTED]

Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 3/20/2023 11:51:43 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Urgent - need to check re. last weeks documents for the 2 House Committees

OK no problem. Once you send them let me know – I also want to see how quickly they respond.

We'll send you the next batch tomorrow (very reduced in scope), and aim for a third batch over to you on the 29<sup>th</sup> with some more detailed stuff.

I think that once they start looking through the first lot they might come back with questions, e.g. why we aren't sending every record, and why we aren't doing this for all staff. If we get that sort of pushback, we'll need to brainstorm next steps.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 7:22 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] Urgent - need to check re. last weeks documents for the 2 House Committees



No we have not. We are still reviewing the documents.



*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[redacted]>

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 7:14:30 PM

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** Alison Andre <[redacted]>; Aleksei Chmura <[redacted]>; Jeff Sturchio <[redacted]>

**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Urgent - need to check re. last weeks documents for the 2 House Committees

Just to confirm – did you send the first lot to these two committees?

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 6:57 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak <[redacted]>; [redacted]

**Cc:** Alison Andre <[redacted]>; Aleksei Chmura <[redacted]>; Jeff Sturchio <[redacted]>

**Subject:** Re: [EXT] Urgent - need to check re. last weeks documents for the 2 House Committees

Yes Peter. We will keep you posted.



*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 6:27:49 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Alison Andre [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio

**Subject:** [EXT] Urgent - need to check re. last weeks documents for the 2 House Committees

Michael, Juan,

Can you let me know when you sent the respective sets of documents to the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (staffer's name Benzine) and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (Strom) and when they acknowledged receipt please. We're working on the next set, but don't want to rush if these folks are not in a hurry.

We also now need to send the same sets of documents to the Democrat staffer on each Committee, as requested by the Democrat lead staff member on the Select Subcommittee. Aleksei will do that.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-3000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesy.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-3000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesy.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 1/26/2024 10:38:02 PM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]; Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** final version of errata sheet  
**Attachments:** Errata Sheet Peter Daszak v3.docx

**Importance:** High

Attached is v3 of the errata sheet.

Additionally, we have two Redaction requests:

- 1) Page 30, line 8
- 2) The Comment from Mr. Grudberg about Wisconsin

Jeff – to your point about sending the committee the receipts from the uploading of our Yr 5 report to NIH, I don't think it's worth the palaver of introducing it into the record – it's not conclusive (it shows we didn't actually submit the report – it just says we opened a file onto the system), and we can always produce this if this is picked up as a story following the likely release of the transcript.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** 'Juan Olivo' [REDACTED]; 'Alison Andre' [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'Aleksei Chmura' [REDACTED]; 'Michael J. Grudberg' [REDACTED]; 'Jeff Sturchio' [REDACTED]



**Subject:** RE: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling  
**Importance:** High

I added one more re. page 169 the bat colony.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 7:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] 'Jeff Sturchio' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling  
**Importance:** High

Finished just now. Attached are the corrections.

It was a joyful read – a bit like a Colombo detective novel – where the committee are Colombo, and I'm the witless criminal...

Jeff – I'm going to send Aleksei all the screenshots of each of the issues that I think people will try to make news out of, and a note of what they represent. You can see the page numbers in the screenshots – not directly on the page, but on the DocSend frame. You might have to magnify each image, which is annoying, but at least you will see them

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
President

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

**From:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 4:31 PM  
**To:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Peter,

Just checking in to see how the review is going. Thanks.

Juan



**Juan Olivo | Associate**

T [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 312  
Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
[www.tarterkrinsky.com](http://www.tarterkrinsky.com) | [LinkedIn](#)

*Cran's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

**From:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:41 AM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Invite sent.

Best,  
Alison

On Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 9:37 AM Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks, Alison. Can we schedule a zoom for 10 AM on Thursday?

Juan



Juan Olivo | Associate

[REDACTED] | Bio

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

---

**From:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 5:12:07 PM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Hi Juan,

Peter is out on Wednesday but could have a call tomorrow, Tuesday the 23rd, before 1:00pm or at 5:00pm. If not tomorrow, anytime on Thursday would work.

Best,  
Alison

On Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 4:47 PM Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

All,

Given the transcript review on Thursday and Friday, can we please schedule a call (preferably Wednesday or Thursday morning) to discuss procedures for the review? thanks.

Juan



Juan Olivo | Associate

[REDACTED] | Bio

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

---

**From:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:50 AM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Dear Juan,

Thank you. Confirming that Peter is available on the 25th and 26th. He does have one call on Friday the 26th from 1:00-2:00 but can be available all day aside from that.

Best,  
Alison

On Wed, Jan 17, 2024 at 9:31 AM Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

Alison,

The committee confirmed the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> for the transcript review. Can you please make sure Peter is available then to review. We will be in touch later this week to discuss logistics. Thanks.

Juan



Juan Olivo | Associate

[REDACTED] Bio

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

---

**From:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 8:47 PM  
**To:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Alison,

I'm going to confirm those dates with congress. Just wanted to forward some information from the committee regarding the transcript review:

- We will receive a password protected Dropbox link to retrieve the transcript
- They have extended the viewing window to 48 hours
- The link will be sent to Peter, Michael and myself, and we can review the transcript from different locations.

Will follow up once I confirm the dates. Thanks.

Juan

---

Juan Olivo | Associate  
T: 212-574-0329 | F: 315-512-4512  
[REDACTED] Bio





Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

**From:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 2:41:02 PM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Hi Juan,

Thanks for your patience on this. Could the transcript review be on Thursday January 25th into Friday January 26th, if needed?

Best,  
Alison

On Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 4:01 PM Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

Alison,

Understood. I'll wait to hear from you before reaching back out to the committee. Have a nice weekend.

Juan



Juan Olivo | Associate  
[REDACTED] | bio  
Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

**From:** Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 1:32 PM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Dear Juan,

The second half of January will be best since Peter will only be available on the 10th next week. I'll be in touch to let you know a couple of options that Peter will be available for two consecutive days before the end of the month.

Best,  
Alison

On Fri, Jan 5, 2024 at 12:45 PM Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

Understood. We can also look into the the second half of January. Please also try to secure two consecutive dates. I want to push the committee for more than 24 hours, and they are likely to be more receptive to that request if we can keep the portal open for 48 hours.

Juan



Juan Olivo | Associate

[REDACTED] | Bio

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 12:31 PM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Juan,

Peter is out today, but Alison will confirm ASAP and help coordinate. If this cannot wait until Monday morning, please let me know and we'll get back to you today.

Cheers,

-Aleksei

On Jan 2, 2024, at 16:26, Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

Aleksei,

I'm just checking to make sure that the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> still work for Peter. Thanks.

Juan

Juan Olivo | Associate

[REDACTED] | Bio

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP  
1350 Broadway | New York | NY | 10018  
www.tarterkrinsky.com | LinkedIn

*Crain's 2022 best places to work in NYC*

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 7:03 PM  
**To:** Juan Olivo [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]; Alison Andre [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] EcoHealth Alliance - Interview Scheduling

Juan,

The 10th and the 11th of January would work for Peter for reviewing the testimony.

Just to clarify:

- what is the interface?
  - may multiple EHA team view/access the transcription?
  - what is the process, i.e. viewing of the transcript and then how long to provide comments or corrections?
- Given this narrow window of access, it seems the goal is to minimize (much) opportunity for comments and corrections - especially as this will then, afterwards, be made public.

I have cc'ed Jeff and Alison here as well.

Cheers,

-Aleksei

On Dec 8, 2023, at 14:22, Juan Olivo [REDACTED] wrote:

Peter and Aleksei,

Understood. We can follow up with Mitchell and Jay on the article. Do you happen to have a link to the article, or has it not been published yet?

Further, perhaps one of the ways to address Jay's inquiry is to clear up any discrepancies and illusions of double billing between the attached PREDICT invoices and 10964 invoices from similar dates. Would it be possible to find the invoice reports for similar dates that were allocated to the NIH award?

Separately, the SSCP has asked to confirm a date for Peter to review his testimony. The file will only be available for a 24 hour period through an online portal, so it may make sense to review in person either at EHA or TKD offices (scheduling permitting).

Happy to hop on a call to discuss. Thanks.

Juan

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

--  
**Alison Andre**  
*Executive Assistant to the President*

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





[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

--

**Alison Andre**  
*Executive Assistant to the President*

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

  
[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

Message

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/22/2024 5:16:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**CC:** [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio  
Alison Andre [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] Re: IMPORTANT - Initial response re. new letter from SSCP & their threat of a subpoena. NOTE I can only do a call on Saturday, or Tuesday morning onwards

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jJY9rsuWoCm7m4L0HktRy8bpHuNHHsyZ?usp=sharing>

Let me know if this works.

Cheers,






































-Aleksei

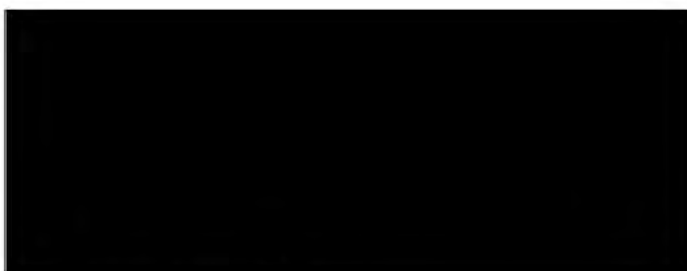
On Mon, Apr 22, 2024 at 12:22 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Aleksei,

Can you resend the google drive link? I don't see the folder you're describing in the shared folder. Thanks.

[REDACTED]

Name 	Owner	Last mo... 	File size
 01 Calendar Events	 Owner hidden	Oct 3, 2023	—  Download
 02 Phone Records	 Owner hidden	Oct 3, 2023	—
 03 List of Visitors to WIV	 Owner hidden	Oct 3, 2023	—
 04 Communications with HHS	 Owner hidden	Oct 6, 2023	—
 05 Communications DoS	 Owner hidden	Oct 13, 2023	—
 06 Communications FBI	 Owner hidden	Oct 13, 2023	—
 07 Communications DoE	 Owner hidden	Oct 13, 2023	—
 08 Communications CIA	 Owner hidden	Oct 13, 2023	—
 09 White House	 Owner hidden	Oct 10, 2023	—
 11 CoV Proposals	 Owner hidden	Nov 11, 2023	—
 13 Contracts	 Owner hidden	Oct 17, 2023	—
 14 Genetic Material Shipping	 Owner hidden	Oct 13, 2023	—
 15 Lancel	 Owner hidden	Nov 2, 2023	—
 17-19 DARPA DEFUSE PREEMPT	 Owner hidden	Oct 10, 2023	—
 29 September 2023 Letter from O&A/...	 Owner hidden	Oct 6, 2023	18 KB
 2023.09.29-SSCP-EC-Letter-to-EHA-...	 Owner hidden	Sep 29, 2023	242 KB
 O&A/E&C-SSCP Requests 29 Septem...	 Owner hidden	Nov 12, 2023	6 KB



**From:** Aleksei Chmura <[redacted]>

**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 9:26 AM

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** Peter Daszak [redacted] Jeff Sturchio [redacted] Alison Andre [redacted]

**Subject:** [EXT] Re: IMPORTANT - Initial response re. new letter from SSCP & their threat of a subpoena. NOTE I can only do a call on Saturday, or Tuesday morning onwards

**Importance:** High

Good Morning, [redacted]



For SSCP, we now have items to share with SSCP in the Google Drive folder labeled "READY TO SHARE WITH SSCP - on 22 April 2024" within a folder labeled "NEW ITEMS SINCE 20 APRIL 2024".

Please send these today. These include:

1. NIH FOIA Library items responsive to 4a, 4c, and 10 iv, v, and vii
2. The Metabiota table from extra item/request #2

We will provide additional items for 25th per our letter from 11th April.

Call me anytime to discuss any of this.

Cheers,

-Aleksi

**Aleksi Chmura, PhD, MBA**

*Chief of Staff &*

*Authorized Organizational Representative*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-4182

+1.917.385.5267

[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

On Apr 19, 2024, at 21:05, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks for letting us know about this [REDACTED] I'm cc'ing Jeff so he's aware.

I completely agree with your approach of avoiding a subpoena right now if possible, albeit they're clearly using faux-anger and subpoenas to paint a picture to the press that David Morens 'abruptly' ceased cooperation with them. Therefore, I suspect we'll be getting a subpoena sometime soon.

As for the current issues – most of these are do-able and fairly rapidly. However, there are some that I really want to avoid.

1) #6, FBI email exchanges. Most emails are about threats and attacks and that is personal and sensitive. Some are mixed in with responses to them about covid origins and there are a few where I give them information on the situation in China, on people we've worked with etc. It's massively damaging to our reputation to reveal the discussions I had with them about this and we need to avoid this at all costs in my opinion. While it might be good for the American public to find out I was informing the IC about covid origins, the details in these emails are not for public consumption, will be used by the SSCP to politically attack us, and will completely undermine our ability as an organization to do work around the world – we'll be seen as spies, not scientists. I should not be punished for doing the right thing as an American citizen and helping the government when asked (as per the oath you swear when you become a citizen!).

2) #16: Some of the people listed in the ~20 people that they want 'all communications with' are unrelated to COVID origins (e.g. Victor Dzau) and/or are conversations that are personal in nature, or with people who are foreigners, or with people who aren't funded on any of our federal grants (e.g. Eddie Holmes). Some of these are discussions that would be damaging to us and I don't understand why Congress would have the authority to demand such private information that's unrelated to COVID origins. Should I send them my bank account details as well?

I've responded to each of their requests below (as "Replies" in the body of their email) with an indication of if we can do, and how rapidly...

Can we have a call tomorrow (Saturday) any time between 12 and 4pm. I'm out of action Sunday and Monday.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 8:21 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

Sorry, I had tried to forward the below 6:58 from Benzine on my phone and must've screwed it up.

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)



---

**From:** Benzine, Mitchell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 6:58 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Policastro,  
Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXT] RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

[REDACTED] – Thank you for the call today. This email serves as a record of our objections to certain assertions made by Dr. Daszak. As discussed, you will work towards providing answers/a path forward by COB Monday.

\*\*\*\*

Response to 4(a) and (c):           The Select Subcommittee categorically rejects Dr. Daszak's assertion that providing a link to the NIH FOIA library satisfies these requests.

**[Peter Daszak:] We can supply the FOIAs from the NIH website by 5pm Monday April 22nd**

Response to 4(b):                   We request EcoHealth go back and search its records for documents responsive to the request – particularly the request was for documents and communications regarding the suspension or debarment of the WIV, not if



EcoHealth was involved in that determination. If EcoHealth finds no such records exist, including records of meetings or phone calls, the Select Subcommittee is willing to entertain a proffer under penalty of 18 USC 1001 to that effect.

***[Peter Daszak:] no problem – we’ll check again and are ready to make a statement***

Response to 6: We request EcoHealth go back and search for records from the FBI pertaining to the origins of COVID-19 or the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including records establishing meetings or phone calls. If EcoHealth finds no such records exist, the Select Subcommittee is willing to entertain a proffer under penalty of 18 USC 1001 to that effect. In addition to the proffer, we would then request the names and office locations of the FBI agents that were in contact with EcoHealth.

***[Peter Daszak:] see my response above – Please can we have a call on Saturday about this.***

Response to 10(i), (iii), (vi): Some responsive records appear to be in the production dated April 18, 2024. However, as discussed, it appears EcoHealth is producing documents that the Select Subcommittee never requested – including documents pursuant to other grants (that also don’t fall under WIV contracts, etc.). We request a list of search terms used to conduct these searches.

***[Peter Daszak:] We can supply the search terms that were used.***

Response to 10(ii): We request EcoHealth go back and search its records for documents responsive to the request – particularly the request was for documents and communications regarding the suspension or debarment of the WIV, not if EcoHealth was involved in that determination. If EcoHealth finds no such records exist, including records of meetings or phone calls, the Select Subcommittee is willing to entertain a proffer under penalty of 18 USC 1001 to that effect.

***[Peter Daszak:] We can do that and supply either records, or a statement by Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Note that WIV was not suspended to my knowledge, but our grant was. We should only therefore search for ‘debarment’***

Response to 10(iv), (v), (vii): The Select Subcommittee categorically rejects Dr. Daszak’s assertion that providing a link to the NIH FOIA library satisfies these requests. Further, the requested documents are not subject to FOIA – these requests were specifically for documents between or among EcoHealth and Wuhan Institute of Virology, neither of whom are subject to FOIA.

***[Peter Daszak:] We can send them the documents by Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.***

Response to 13: The Select Subcommittee is willing to limit this request to just those responsive documents pertaining to the grant entitled “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence.”

***[Peter Daszak:] we can do that by April 25<sup>th</sup> – the deadline in the letter for other productions***

Response to 16: Some responsive records appear to be in the production dated April 18, 2024 – but only regarding Dr. David Morens. EcoHealth should continue to produce documents with the requested individuals.

***[Peter Daszak:] Let’s discuss – there are over 20 people in that list!!! About 5 or so of them, we have not communicated with. Many of them (e.g. Victor Dzau) are unrelated to COVID origins, and communications are personal in nature.***



Response to New Request (2): The Select Subcommittee categorically rejects Dr. Daszak's assertion that Congress is not entitled to information before publication. Therefore, we request the aforementioned spreadsheet be produced.

***[Peter Daszak:] OK – no problem, we'll do this by April 25<sup>th</sup> – the deadline for these requests.***

Finally, we are willing to table new requests (1) and (3) through (7).

***[Peter Daszak:] We thank the committee for their understanding of the workload we are under!***

Best,  
Mitch

**Mitch Benzine**

Staff Director | Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

---

**From:** Benzine, Mitchell  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 9:08 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Policastro, Marie  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

That works. Thank you

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 8:55 AM  
**To:** Benzine, Mitchell [REDACTED]  
Policastro, Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

Mitchell,

We can send a dial in for 2:30, if that works for you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



---

**From:** Benzine, Mitchell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 7:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Policastro, Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXT] RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

Thanks, Juan. I have some questions about this and the previous letter. Are you guys available for a call today?

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 5:42 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Policastro, Marie <[REDACTED]>  
Benzine, Mitchell <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

I'm using Mimecast to share large files with you. Please see the attached instructions.

Mitchell,

Attached this email please find materials labeled ECOHEALTHALLIANCE\_000007943-ECOHEALTHALLIANCE\_000009411. Please let me know if you have any issues with retrieving the file. Further, please note that additional materials are forthcoming, as set forth in EcoHealth Alliance's letter dated April 11, 2024.



---

**From:** Benzine, Mitchell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 5:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Policastro, Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Re: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

Any update?

On Apr 18, 2024, at 11:34 AM, Benzine, Mitchell <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks, [REDACTED]

Any update on if we will receive a production today?

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 1:47 PM  
**To:** Benzine, Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Policastro, Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

Thanks, Mitch. We will respond as promptly as we can to any follow-up when received.

Apologies for not focusing on footnote 9. I believe we already provided that information to staff, in our call October 20 last year when [REDACTED] and I were out in Kansas City. Be that as it may, the carrier is **AT&T**.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



---

**From:** Benzine, Mitchell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 9:43 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; Policastro, Marie <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Osterhues, Eric <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXT] RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

[REDACTED]

We will be sending a follow up outlining some concerns with this letter and highlighting some apparent discrepancies, especially considering EHA was able to rapidly and publicly produce responsive records on Friday that had yet to be produce to the Committees.

One of the concerns is regarding the answer to Request (2); however, we think this can be solved between us. Pursuant to FN 9 in the April 4 letter, can you share the relevant telecom carrier?

Thank you,  
Mitch

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:31 PM  
**To:** Benzine, Mitchell [REDACTED] Policastro, Marie [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Osterhues, Eric [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

To me and Juan. Thanks for clarifying.

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Benzine, Mitchell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 8:54:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Policastro, Marie [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Osterhues, Eric [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXT] RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

[REDACTED]



I am dropping the Member emails, and I will forward this response to the respective committees' staff. When we transmit a follow-up should we send it to you or directly to Dr. Daszak?

Best,  
Mitch

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:51 PM  
**To:** Policastro, Marie [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] Benzine, Mitchell [Redacted]; [Redacted]  
<[Redacted]> Osterhues, Eric  
[Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

Ms. Policastro and colleagues:

As I mentioned in my call with Mitch Benzine today, attached is a letter from Dr. Daszak and EcoHealth Alliance responding to the Select Subcommittee letter of April 4, including *inter alia* responses on the various requests for documents. (I am adding as cc's the Ranking Members copied in the text.)

You can and should continue to reach out to Juan and me regarding any matters relating to the upcoming testimony, and I expect we will be coordinating delivery of the additional materials to be produced this month. Thanks, and let us know if you have any questions.

Best, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

---

**From:** Policastro, Marie [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] Benzine, Mitchell [Redacted]

[REDACTED] Osterhues, Eric

**Subject:** [EXT] SSCP, Oversight and E&C Letter to Dr. Daszak

Good Morning –

Please see the attached letter from the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Please acknowledge receipt and we look forward to your cooperation.

Best,

Marie Policastro

Director of Member Services & Operations | Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

Chairman Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)

Committee on Oversight & Accountability

Chairman James Comer (R-KY)

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@arterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@arterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@arterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@arterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are

not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law



---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law



Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2024 5:42:57 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Likely SSCP subpoena today?

Completely agree with everything you're saying.

Once they write to us with issues on our production, we'll rapidly produce more and try to head this off at the pass.

Re. Jon Epstein communicating with David Morens, I believe he would likely be one of 4 or 5 max at ecohealth who would have reason to speak with David. I think his emails will be a total nothing burger, and it may be that they didn't show because they weren't related to COVID origins. All that said, happy to hand them over in due course, along with other demands...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 1:21 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Likely SSCP subpoena today?

Update for all. Spoke to Benzine. We will not be getting their "report" until Monday. He acknowledged that he had recently told me Friday, but he had originally said 48 hours, and it looks like that's what it's going to be. He also said that a subpoena if it comes will likely NOT be before the testimony. I can't say that I talked him out of it, but I did reiterate that we wanted to work with them. He's driving now and will email me and Juan later with a list of issues on the production.

One specific thing he mentioned is that there's been another FOIA dump this week of Morens emails, including backs and forths with a Jonathan Epstein, who B said was a EcoHealth person. He is concerned inter alia that the scope of our review is not catching all potential correspondents.

Anyway, I know their overall project here is just to give us the shiv, publicly and unfairly, but I do think it's worth trying to avoid a subpoena process that could involve dictated search terms, tight time frames, penalty-of-perjury attestations, etc. Just a thought. Will advise when we hear more.



---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 11:16:12 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXT] RE: Likely SSCP subpoena today?

Michael: The SSCP is not behaving in good faith. We've cooperated at every stage – and are in the midst of producing additional documents they've requested. What basis do they have now for moving to a subpoena – other than, as Peter suggests, for the PR value?

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:42 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Likely SSCP subpoena today?

I guess they just can't resist the news a subpoena and angry letter will generate. What a sham!

Cc'ing Jeff so he's aware.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:34 AM

**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

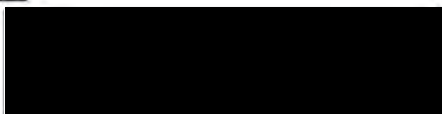
**Subject:** SSCP

Benzine emailed this morning to say they are "seriously evaluating" whether to go the subpoena route, and to ask whether we are "authorized" to accept electronic service on EHA's behalf if they do.

I am trying to get him on the phone to learn more, but on the latter question we should definitely agree to accept whatever might be coming. Technically they can't make us agree to accept but it would be extremely counterproductive to make them do formal service.

I will be in touch if and when I connect with him.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)







---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law



Message

---

**From:** Nels T. Lippert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2024 6:55:00 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH

Aleksei,

Well received.

Nels

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 2:32 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXT] Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH  
**Importance:** High

Dear All,

Resending with attachments, since we received a bounce from Michael's email address.

Cheers,

-Aleksei

On Apr 26, 2024, at 14:20, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Nels, Juan, Michael,

Please read the emails below from our old Friend Michael Lauer at NIH, and our responses to him and earlier letters attached. We won't attempt to respond to this before 1<sup>st</sup> May, but we will need legal advice on this. From a legal point of view, you can see from the pdf that Lauer attached above "Jan 2022 to EcoHealth..." that this was a request from NIH, and that we complied with the request. This was while the grant was 'suspended with conditions'. At that time we were

under direct orders not to conduct work with WIV from the grant. In 2023, NIH made it a requirement for all grantees that they have access to subrecipient lab notebooks, but that was not a requirement at the time he made his request.

As you can see from our responses, we did what we were supposed to have done – we forwarded the letter, did not receive a response, and reported that back to NIH.

Now that the SSCP are digging in on this issue, Lauer seems to want to double check what we did, and I believe he is getting ready to cover himself from the SSCP criticizing their oversight. Note also that HHS wrote to WIV about their debarment later on, in a UPS letter, that never made it past the WIV front gate and was 'returned to sender'. Thus, it's not unexpected that we would not receive a response.

I believe we now have 3 options:

- 1) Thank him for his letter and his efforts to do this oversight, reported back to him and, given that our official relationship with WIV was ended by NIH in April 2020, and when it was reinstated and instantly suspended, they clearly said that "all activities have been suspended". Given that, and the fact WIV are now debarred, we are unable to provide any further information. We can explain that the letter we forward to WIV was absolutely explicit about NIH requiring lab notebooks and it is clear from the publicity around this that WIV understood this.
- 2) Respond as above and answer the questions he asks, albeit it's pretty much "no" for each of his questions. That said, some of their questions we don't want to answer fully, e.g. have we communicated with WIV since then? The answer is yes, because we're trying to publish work from the prior work under NIH grants.
- 3) Simply explain to Lauer that we've done all we can, and that considering our relationship was ended earlier, and WIV is now debarred, we consider the matter closed.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 1:49 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Time sensitive document request from NIH

Peter,

This from 5am this morning from Michael Lauer in response to his request for our notification to Wuhan for the Lab Notebook Request.

I think this can wait until Monday or Tuesday morning to discuss a response. I believe we already responded at length to Lauer about our inability to get lab notebooks and other information from Wuhan after our grant was canceled and US/China relations during the pandemic worsened.

I realize we have a public audience for this, but recommend that we avoid several rounds of detailed emails or letters about what we stated to Lauer and when.

Cheers,

-Aleksei

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH  
**Date:** April 26, 2024 at 05:00:00 EDT  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] "Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] "Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Chmura,

Thank you for your response. We have some follow-up questions:

- When you (EHA) received no response from WIV, did you follow-up with WIV to confirm receipt of the email, or did you otherwise follow-up with them after not hearing back?
- Did you communicate with or attempt to communicate with WIV after NIH sent a follow-up letter in January 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> attachment)?
- Did you ever explicitly request that WIV send the lab notebooks and electronic files to you? All we see is that you forwarded the NIH email to WIV and stated, "I will write to NIH and explain that I've forwarded it to WIV, because I don't have that information."
- Were there any other EHA communications with WIV during the period of November 15, 2021, and February 1, 2022?

Sincerely,  
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD



**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 1:45 PM  
**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Bulls,  
Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] Alison  
Andre [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH

Dear Dr. Lauer,

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) and the Committee on Energy and Commerce requested item on page 6, a.iii referenced in your letter from the 12th of April, asked for "Documents and communications regarding EcoHealth's efforts to obtain WIV laboratory notebooks pursuant to NIH oversight and compliance efforts". On the SSCP deadline of the 18th, EcoHealth Alliance provided the following file:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1dcp5jkv0mvvola6mpakb/EHA-to-WIV-Lab-Notebook-Email.pdf?rlkey=lyizyigddayu7syidgedjv1lc&dl=0>

This file is an email in which EcoHealth Alliance conveyed NIH's request for the Wuhan Institute of Virology laboratory notebooks. EcoHealth Alliance received no response from Wuhan Institute of Virology at the time, nor has it ever received any response, nor ever seen the requested laboratory notebooks.

Sincerely,

-Dr. Chmura

**Aleksei Chmura, PhD, MBA**  
*Chief of Staff &  
Authorized Organizational Representative*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-4182

[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

On Apr 12, 2024, at 16:00, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Dr. Chmura,

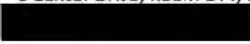
Please see attached.

Many thanks, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD



NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
Director, NIH Office of Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Room 144, Bethesda MD 20892



---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@arterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@arterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

Message

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/30/2024 2:03:26 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]; Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Re: Vanity Fair: seeking comment for upcoming story

Do we know who's representing him in his dealings with these people? That would be a good point of contact, even though I do hope the "season" is drawing to a close.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:35 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]; John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [EXT] Re: Vanity Fair: seeking comment for upcoming story

I'm hearing that Ralph's transcribed interview transcript will be released tomorrow.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10018-6507, USA

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On Apr 29, 2024, at 11:22 PM, Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED] wrote:

Too true!

JLS

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 10:58 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] John Feigelson  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Vanity Fair: seeking comment for upcoming story

One thing that's clear from this, and previous SSCP actions – the committee staff are working closely with Right wing reporters, as evidenced by selective leaks of other testimony, and reporting by US right to know that they met with SSCP staff when they obtained a FOIA of the DEFUSE draft.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 10:56 PM  
**To:** 'Jeffrey Sturchio' [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] John Feigelson  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Vanity Fair: seeking comment for upcoming story

Great responses Jeff. I'll draft the email and send it tomorrow from the train – I don't want to give her time to go to Richard Ebright and get him to undermine our BSL fact sheet.

Re. the Debarment – agree with the strategy – let's see what the wording of the report is, and who signs on to it. We can then talk with Porter.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 10:34 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] John Feigelson [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Vanity Fair: seeking comment for upcoming story  
**Importance:** High

Peter:

The timing of this is annoying and a distraction. But given Eban's usual sensationalist approach, it's probably worth crafting a quick response.

See my comments in red below.

If the SSCP report (which will likely be only from the Rs!) does call for your debarment, keep in mind that they are not a committee of jurisdiction and cannot take any action unilaterally. If that is what they propose, we should huddle with Porter on strategy. I think the approach will be similar to what we've done with other proposed legislative



measures that would have been troublesome. The basic argument will be: (1) the rationale for taking such an action is not based on facts, but rather a tissue of misrepresentations, misunderstandings, speculation, and unfounded assertions about actions that EHA was supposed to have taken; (2) the NIH has instituted additional oversight measures and DFAS has given you a clean bill of health; and (3) such a Congressional action is actually counterproductive when one considers the continuing need to address emerging pathogens in the environments where they occur, before they can do harm to humans in the US.

As ever,  
Jeff

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 10:17 PM  
**To:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] John Feigelson  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Vanity Fair: seeking comment for upcoming story  
**Importance:** High

I've made some comments in her email below

Cc'ing Juan and Michael because this suggests the SSCP report may be out tomorrow (her deadline is 4pm tomorrow).

Not sure if we can comment on this story – but your suggestions are welcome

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

**From:** Katherine Eban [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 9:55 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Vanity Fair: seeking comment for upcoming story

Good evening, Peter.

I hope this email finds you well.

Vanity Fair will be running a story this week that will be characterizing some of the testimony and information that Dr. Ralph Baric provided to a U.S. congressional committee. We wanted to give you an opportunity to comment on some things that will be in the story.

1. In an email exchange you had with Dr. Baric on May 27, 2021, you told him that Shi Zhengli was following appropriate safety protocols at the WIV and that she told you she was doing virus culturing at "BSL-2 with negative pressure and appropriate PPE." Baric responded to you, "You believe this was appropriate containment if you want but don't expect me to believe it. Moreover, don't insult my intelligence by trying to feed me this load of BS."

*[Peter Daszak:] This is from an email exchange with Ralph Baric just after the press ran stories about BSL-2 work on chimeric viruses at WIV, and following his being an author on that letter in Science calling for further examination of the lab leak hypothesis. I remember Ralph being annoyed about all this at the time. His email may say this, but the facts are that*

Proposed response:

Dr. Baric is entitled to his own opinions, but the facts are these: 1) Dr. Shi confirmed that they used BSL2+ with negative pressure; 2) BSL-2 was appropriate for China, and was also the level mandated in the USA for the experiments that were then being done at the WIV. 3) At the same time, BSL-3 was used in China for animal work with these viruses. I've attached for your information the fact sheet on Biosafety Levels that EcoHealth Alliance produced [at the time?] spelling out these issues.

1. He also told congressional investigators that when he wrote in the margins of the DEFUSE grant proposal that "US researchers will likely freak out" about Chinese scientists studying recombinant SARS CoV in BSL-2 labs, he wanted to make sure you paid attention and understood the difference in biosafety protocols between the US and China.

*[Peter Daszak:] Well the facts are that in the submitted proposal we did not include their proposal for BSL-2 work and did not even propose to do any of the chimeric work in WIV*

Proposed response: Please remember that the DEFUSE proposal was rejected by DARPA and the research was never done. But there was no disagreement between us on this issue – in the submitted proposal, we stated our plan to do all recombinant research in BSL-3 facilities at Dr. Baric's laboratory at UNC. The only work proposed for the BSL-2 facilities at the WIV were assays that did not involve any potentially infectious materials.

1. Vanity Fair's further understanding is that in an upcoming report by the Oversight and Accountability's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, they will be calling to have EcoHealth Alliance debarred from receiving federal grant money.

*[Peter Daszak:] No surprise there. This will be (I hope!) a report just from the Republicans, and is no doubt designed to get maximum press attention.*

Proposed response: We have not seen the report from the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, so I cannot comment on what recommendations it may contain until the report has been made public. I can say, however, that EHA has

cooperated fully expeditiously with the NIH on additional oversight measures introduced since 2020 and we have been informed by the NIH DFAS that they now consider EHA to be in compliance with all NIH oversight requirements. [I have attached a copy of this letter for your information.]

I would be happy to speak with you by phone for this story, or to include comment from you on these matters. To include your input in this story, I would need to hear from you by 4PM tomorrow, Tuesday.

All best, Katherine

--

Katherine Eban

Special Correspondent, Vanity Fair

Author, Bottle of Lies: the Inside Story of the Generic Drug Boom

[www.katherineeban.com](http://www.katherineeban.com)

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, Attorneys-at-Law

Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 5/1/2024 1:34:48 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED], Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED], John Feigelson [REDACTED], Porter DeLaney [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Politico piece on USRTK today - with some good comments by Goldstein on how dishonest and destructive their "investigative journalism" has been

I like both of those

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:46 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED], Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED], John Feigelson [REDACTED], Porter DeLaney [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Politico piece on USRTK today - with some good comments by Goldstein on how dishonest and destructive their "investigative journalism" has been

Peter: At some point, you should make that clear – not necessarily tomorrow, but in follow-up interviews and statements.

One of my long-time colleagues in strategic communications (☺) offered another approach you can use tomorrow, which he calls the "Finnish response." Imagine



you're a Finnish scientist asked to respond to a complex technical question. (This works best if you use a Finnish accent, or a reasonable facsimile.) Your response, in a slow, deliberate cadence is to say: "Thank you, Congressman, for that very important and interesting question. We have published at least 96 papers on this topic. To answer your question adequately, I really need to start at the beginning. In the first paper, we found X...." [Then repeat, with agonizingly slow delivery, through as many of the 96 papers as you can before the questioner begins to snore – or gets so agitated he cuts you off....] At that point, you say, "But Congressman, I am trying to answer your question – to do so appropriately requires me to provide this background...." You can keep this one in your back pocket as well!

As ever,  
Jeff

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:36 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] John Feigelson  
[REDACTED] Porter DeLaney [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Politico piece on USRTK today - with some good comments by Goldstein on how dishonest and destructive their "investigative journalism" has been

Saw that – it's a bit of a puff piece for US right to know, but ends quite well.

Of course, the fact that not a single one of their allegations is factually correct, should eventually put this all in the right place.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:13 PM

**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]

John Feigelson [REDACTED]

Porter DeLaney [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Politico piece on USRTK today - with some good comments by Goldstein on how dishonest and destructive their "investigative journalism" has been

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/04/30/us-right-to-know-covid-lab-leak-00155011>

\*\*\*\*\*

Jeffrey L. Sturchio



Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 5/10/2024 1:15:44 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio  
[REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** What we sent to NIH re. contacting WIV for their lab notebooks  
**Attachments:** EcoHealth Alliance - Letter to NIH re Grant Suspension 8-13-2020 (with Exhibits).pdf; To EcoHealth R01AI110964 11 5 21 clean.pdf; January 2022 To EcoHealth R01AI110964 final.pdf; Response to NIH April 2021 re. reactivation and suspension of 2R01AI110964.pdf; EHA to WIV Lab Notebook Email (1).pdf; To EHA document request 4 12 24[94].pdf  
**Importance:** High

[REDACTED]

Re. Jeff's earlier email. In early April, after the SSCP made public the letter of them asking us for further information we got an email from Michael Lauer of NIH asking us to share with them everything we were going to send to the SSCP re. questions about our handing over of the lab notebooks from WIV. There was just one email – me forwarding the letter to WIV with NIH's demand for us to acquire their lab notebooks and hand them over. We did contact them ahead of that and let them know that the email would be coming and what it was about.

Of course, as usual, Lauer came back with more questions, which we carefully answered below, with Jeff's help. I can't remember if we ran this by you – there was a lot on and he upped the ante yesterday by emailing again, demanding a faster response.

Please read what we sent so you're aware. It's all true, and I'm fairly certain does not provide anyone any evidence of any willful negligence, violation of CFRs etc. but of course, it's all about public show and Lauer's email is written in a 'breathless' way designed to imply we're stonewalling.

Final point is that we might get another letter by COB today from Michael Lauer requesting us to provide detailed information to all the points that the SSCP has asked Tabak. That would put us in a difficult position – tipping our hand to the people who are willing to throw us under the bus. I'll let you know if one emerges.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2024 12:03 PM  
**To:** Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: REPLY REQUESTED -- Re: Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** REPLY REQUESTED -- Re: Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH  
**Date:** May 9, 2024 at 11:51:07 EDT  
**To:** "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** "Liza (NIH/OD) [E] Bundesen" [REDACTED] "Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] "Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E]" [REDACTED] Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Alison Andre [REDACTED]

Dr. Lauer,

Thank you for your email of April 26th. We have answered your questions below.

However, first we would like to remind you that in April 2020, you wrote to EcoHealth Alliance with questions about WIV's current status on R01 AI110964. We informed you that we did not have an active contract with the WIV and would not execute one until further instructions from NIH. You then terminated our grant at the behest of President Trump. You then reinstated and instantly suspended in July 2020 with a number of conditions that were impossible to address in the middle of a pandemic, and with COVID-19 origins allegations causing a political storm between the USA and China, specifically around issues related to the WIV. In your 'reactivation and suspension' letter of July 2020, you instructed us that "Additionally, during the period of suspension, EcoHealth Alliance may not allow research under this project to be conducted." The communication from NIH to EcoHealth Alliance in November 2021 requesting the WIV lab notebooks was therefore sent during a time when we had no contractual obligation with the WIV, and when the WIV had been non-responsive to multiple journalist requests on similar issues, and did not comply with direct requests for their audits made by Dr. Daszak as part of the WHO mission to Wuhan in January and February 2021 (see attached 11 April 2021 letter that Dr. Daszak sent to you detailing the requests that he made to the WIV during the WHO mission). It's also important to remember that public reporting prior to our request to WIV included NIH Director Dr. Collins' comments about NIH wanting to see the lab notebooks (<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/08/23/covid-origin-nih-director-doesnt-rule-out-that-virus-could-have-leaked-from-lab.html>) and there were already stories in the press (e.g. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/14/state-department-cables-warned-safety-issues-wuhan-lab-studying-bat-coronaviruses/>) clearly indicating that the US intelligence agencies were investigating allegations that WIV was the source of a lab leak that led to COVID-19. Therefore it is not unreasonable to conclude that any request for WIV's lab notebooks, whether from a non-profit, or a US agency, would be dealt with at the highest political levels within China, and given the pattern of prior responses, ignored.

Despite these difficulties, and our lack of a formal business relationship with the WIV, EcoHealth Alliance made a good faith effort to obtain the lab notebooks. We were, not surprisingly, unsuccessful. This was part of a



pattern of non-responsiveness from Chinese institutions on issues of political tension, and in particular on COVID origins, which culminated in the debarment letters sent by HHS to Wuhan via UPS being 'returned to sender'. It is unreasonable, therefore to expect a US-based non-profit to get a response on this issue where a US government agency was unable to.

Your request then, and your questions now, put our staff in an unfortunate position. We owe a duty to the American people to get the best value for the taxpayer funding that we used to collect thousands of samples in China, and for the scientific research we did in collaboration with the WIV. We have therefore continued to keep the scientific channels with collaborators in China open to the best of our ability, allowing us to analyze data, finish scientific manuscripts, and upload sequences into the US NIH Genbank database – without any further expenditure of US taxpayer funds. While communication is difficult, we have been able to do that successfully and we hope that you agree that securing the data and publishing them in the peer-reviewed literature is a worthy goal consistent with the objectives of our R01 grant from the NIH.

We have responded to your questions below, to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

- Dr. Chmura

**Aleksei Chmura, PhD, MBA**  
*Chief of Staff &  
Authorized Organizational Representative*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-4182

+1.917.385.5267  
[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

**1. When you (EHA) received no response from WIV, did you follow-up with WIV to confirm receipt of the email, or did you otherwise follow-up with them after not hearing back?**

We were informed that they had received our email. This was communicated to us by phone.

**2. Did you communicate with or attempt to communicate with WIV after NIH sent a follow-up letter in January 2022 (3rd attachment)?**

Your letter of January 2022 stated that “We [NIH] are following up to confirm whether you received a response from WIV and whether the materials are forthcoming.” It also asked that “Upon receipt of this letter, please confirm whether you have received a response from WIV and whether the materials are forthcoming. If the materials are forthcoming, we request that they be provided to us no later than close-of-business on January 14, 2022.” We had received no response from the WIV at that time (nor have we since) regarding the lab notebooks, and informed you of that rapidly. We did not send further communications to the WIV to request the laboratory notebooks, since it seemed to us that their lack of a response was a clear indication that our efforts would have been futile, and because it was also in keeping with their prior lack of response to media, WHO or US agency requests, and also that NIH or HHS would have been able to take this up directly with the WIV or the Chinese Government at a higher level.

**3. Did you ever explicitly request that WIV send the lab notebooks and electronic files to you? All we see is that you forwarded the NIH email to WIV and stated, "I will write to NIH and explain that I've forwarded it to WIV, because I don't have that information."**

Yes, we informed WIV by phone ahead of our email request to make sure they understood the nature of the letter and what was required of them by NIH. We then sent the letter by email, as we shared with you and the SSCP. The letter is crystal clear in its request from NIH that WIV supply the lab notebooks (your letter is attached). Additionally, it is commonsense that WIV were fully aware of the contents of that request – it was international news at the time.

**4. Were there any other EHA communications with WIV during the period of November 15, 2021, and February 1, 2022?**

Communications were extremely strained at that time. Our search of emails reveals none directly related to this issue – in keeping with our understanding that the WIV were not willing to hand over lab notebooks. The only other communications represented our staff trying to obtain information to finalize research papers related to earlier work from R01 AI110964 and other publication issues.

---

**From:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Friday, April 26, 2024 at 5:00 AM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] <[REDACTED]>, Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E]  
[REDACTED] Bulls, Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED], Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD)  
[E] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH

Dear Dr. Chmura,

Thank you for your response. We have some follow-up questions:

1. When you (EHA) received no response from WIV, did you follow-up with WIV to confirm receipt of the email, or did you otherwise follow-up with them after not hearing back?
2. Did you communicate with or attempt to communicate with WIV after NIH sent a follow-up letter in January 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> attachment)?
3. Did you ever explicitly request that WIV send the lab notebooks and electronic files to you? All we see is that you forwarded the NIH email to WIV and stated, "I will write to NIH and explain that I've forwarded it to WIV, because I don't have that information."
4. Were there any other EHA communications with WIV during the period of November 15, 2021, and February 1, 2022?

Sincerely,  
Michael S Lauer, MD

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
Director, NIH Office of Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Room 144, Bethesda MD 20892  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 1:45 PM  
**To:** Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Bundesen, Liza (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED], Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Bulls,  
Michelle G. (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED], Ta, Kristin (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED], Alison  
Andre [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Time sensitive document request from NIH

Dear Dr. Lauer,

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (SSCP) and the Committee on Energy and Commerce requested item on page 6, a.iii referenced in your letter from the 12th of April, asked for "Documents and communications regarding EcoHealth's efforts to obtain WIV laboratory notebooks pursuant to NIH oversight and compliance efforts". On the SSCP deadline of the 18th, EcoHealth Alliance provided the following file:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/1dcp5jkkv0mrvola6mpakb/EHA-to-WIV-Lab-Notebook-Email.pdf?rlkey=lyizyigddayu7syidgedjvllc&dl=0>

This file is an email in which EcoHealth Alliance conveyed NIH's request for the Wuhan Institute of Virology laboratory notebooks. EcoHealth Alliance received no response from Wuhan Institute of Virology at the time, nor has it ever received any response, nor ever seen the requested laboratory notebooks.

Sincerely,

-Dr. Chmura

**Aleksei Chmura, PhD, MBA**  
Chief of Staff &  
Authorized Organizational Representative

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-4182

[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

On Apr 12, 2024, at 16:00, Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Dr. Chmura,

Please see attached.

Many thanks, Mike

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
Director, NIH Office of Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Room 144, Bethesda MD 20892  
[Michael.Lauer@nih.gov](mailto:Michael.Lauer@nih.gov)



April 12, 2024

Dr. Aleksei Chmura  
EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018  
[REDACTED]

Re: R01AI110964

Dear Dr. Chmura:

We read the April 4, 2024, letter addressed to Dr. Peter Daszak of the EcoHealth Alliance from the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic and from the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Committees issued document requests, including “Documents and communications regarding EcoHealth’s efforts to obtain WIV laboratory notebooks pursuant to NIH oversight and compliance efforts” (page 6, item a.iii., due to the Committees on April 18, 2024).

Given our ongoing concerns about EcoHealth Alliance’s compliance with subaward monitoring and oversight, NIH is requesting that you send us a copy of these documents (page 6, item a.iii.), pursuant to our authorities under 45 CFR 46.364, Access to Records. Please send us the documents by no later than COB Friday, April 19, 2024.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Lauer [REDACTED]

Michael S Lauer, MD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
[REDACTED]

cc: Ms. Michelle Bulls



Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 5/13/2024 2:43:18 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Draft of 'word searches' for the SSCP document production that we're now going to do  
**Attachments:** 2024.05.10 Requests to EHA v05.docx

**Importance:** High

Here's the final version - there are lots of notes, but that's to help me get the short narrative for each of these ready.

Also, note that I've got a proposed order of production there.

[REDACTED] - you can start doing the email searches if you think the search terms are good enough - or you can suggest changes..

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2024 8:02 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Draft of 'word searches' for the SSCP document production that we're now going to do

Peter:

See attached for my comments in comment boxes.

As ever,  
Jeff

---

**From:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2024 5:52 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>; Jeff Sturchio <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Draft of 'word searches' for the SSCP document production that we're now going to do  
**Importance:** High

Hi Jeff – Aleksei had a go at this, then I added to it. Could you look it over and see what you think. Firstly, there are some good ideas we came up with in the zoom call on Friday re. how best to address some of the questions where I have leeway to include other documents/evidence – where it says “information to validate Dr. Daszak’s on-the-record testimony”.. etc. Please add to that, so we can get things ready. Secondly, please narrow the scope if we’ve been too broad.

[REDACTED] – we’ll finalize this and get it back to you, I’m just cc’ing you here because this is official SSCP business with EHA and is considered privileged, I believe.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

Notes from call about SSCP requests

**Proposed order of production**

1. RPPR (Y4 & Y5 reports) – their # IV
2. Renegotiation of R01 AI110964 - their # VII
3. Biosafety – their # II
4. Lab notebooks – their # V
5. Discrepancies between Y4 and Y5 experiments – their #VI
6. Emails – their # VIII
7. Lancet – their # III
8. DEFUSE docs – their # I

**Other information we want to include – this needs to be put into some of the above, or separately**

9. Evidence that EcoHealth Alliance has been working with NIH on improving oversight
10. Explanation of differences in serology analysis between draft and final Y5 reports
11. Evidence that NIH informed EHA that the experiments were not GoF
12. Information that the experiments complied with NIH rules on GoF, on the WIV backbone issue (note that the graph with the WIV 1 backbone was included in the resubmission in Nov. 2018 – *so was in NIH's possession then*).

**I. Requests regarding DEFUSE:**

1. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc regarding the preparation, submission, and denial of the grant proposal to DARPA's PREEMPT program entitled DEFUSE. Including but not limited to:
  - a. All drafts of the proposal with track changes, comments, and metadata included; and
  - b. All documents and communications regarding both DEFUSE and proteolytic cleavage sites.

**Commented [PD1]:** In our conversation, we proposed that this should be one of the searches we do towards the end. There is no valid reason to search drafts of DEFUSE if you're looking for information on either COVID origins (it wasn't funded, therefore irrelevant) or even 'intent' to deceive a US federal agency. I believe they're after these drafts to find more margin notes with snippets they can use to misinterpret and cause trouble.

**Commented [JS2]:** I would add to the search terms the other dimension they asked for - DEFUSE and (public perception or media or publicity) and PREEMPT and (public perception or media or publicity).

We should also be sure to add a preamble to conveying these documents that make clear Peter's consistent position that because DEFUSE was rejected by DARPA and the research never done, this obsessive review of all elements of the preparation of proposal (including back and forth between the proposed principal investigators) is moot - the only document that ever reaches the DARPA reviewers is the final proposal, which proposed to do BSL 3 recombinant research in UNC and BSL 2 assays - which was always the intention of the researchers. Again, even though this is clear from the documentary record, drafts of the DEFUSE proposal and event the rejected proposal itself are a distraction from the search for COVID-19 origins, because the research was never done and therefore could have no connection to the chain of events that led to the emergence of COVID-19.

**Commented [PD3]:** Aleksei can do this search when (if) the time comes.

2. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc regarding public perception, media reporting, social media, or publicity of the grant proposal to DARPA's PREEMPT program entitled DEFUSE. Including but not limited to:
  - a. All documents and communications with the University of North Carolina; and
  - b. All documents and communications with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

**Commented [PD4]:** We discussed starting with this search first when we do this section.

**Response Documents**

- MS Word and/or PDF Drafts
- Emails

**Search Terms**

- WIV (...@wh.iov.cn) or UNC (...@unc.edu)
- DARPA
- DEFUSE and "media" or "publicity" or "public perception"
- PREEMPT and "media" or "publicity" or "public perception"

**Dates:** January – December 2018

**II. Requests Regarding Biosafety**

3. All documents and communications sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony of "The mandated [biosafety] rules in China are the same as in the U.S. I have the paperwork right here." Including but not limited to:
  - a. A copy of the Chinese standards in Mandarin; and
  - b. Copies of any English translations.

**Commented [J55]:** An important qualification to note here is that PD's testimony that "the mandated [biosafety] rules in China are the same as in the U.S." is that he was clearly referring to the specific instance of what biosafety rules would have applied for the recombinant research and standard assays contemplated for the DEFUSE proposal. There is significant confusion over this - and some members of the SSCP believe incorrectly that EHA was proposing to do recombinant research at BSL2 facilities in China, rather than at BSL3 level facilities in North Carolina to circumvent the stricter biosafety rules in the US. But the point to be made - and which the relevant manuals will demonstrate - is two-fold: (1) EHA never proposed to do recombinant research at the WIV, but rather only standard assays that did not use infectious materials; and (2) the biosafety rules for recombinant research at BSL-3 and standard assays at BSL-2 were the same in both the US and China at the time.

**Response Documents**

- EHA BSL level comparison doc, with references.
- China Biosafety Standards from [year]
- English Translation of China Biosafety Standards from [year]

**Search Terms**

- N/A

4. All documents and communications sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony that the U.S. Department of State reviewed the Wuhan Institute of Virology and said "Yes, it's appropriate and allowed" and "The State Department and NIH reviewed it and said that lab was on the lists of labs that it preferred to work with."

**Response Documents**

- Emails from Erik Stemmy and/or NIH with "State Department" in the body
- Emails from EHA requesting foreign site approval for WIV and responses from NIH approving WIV as partner (this may only be via Notice(s) of Award)
- NOA(s)



- Aleksei/Peter will find emails to/from USAID (Dan Schar, Thailand) that show State Dept was informed that we requested expansion of geographic scope in Y4 (check) and that they then reviewed.
- Aleksei/Peter will find emails from various NIH program officers for other grants that indicate State Dept review is a normal procedure for all foreign sites

**Search Terms**

- Erik Stemmy (erik.stemmy@nih.gov) or any "...@nih.gov" emails with "State Department" in the body [these would support assertion that NIH secures approval from State Department for foreign sites]
- Emails from "...@nih.gov" with "Wuhan Institute of Virology" in the body and "State Department"

**Dates:** January 2014 – present

**III. Requests Regarding The Lancet**

5. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. regarding the drafting, preparation, and publication of the correspondence in *The Lancet* entitled "Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19." Including but not limited to:
  - a. All documents and communications regarding whether to submit a competing interest, both at time of publication and surrounding the June 21, 2021 addendum; and
  - b. All documents and communications regarding this publication that mention "HIV" or "snakes."

**Commented [JS6]:** I just don't understand their obsession with HIV and snake DNA with respect to the Lancet letter. Would it also make sense to provide some documents that review the conspiracy theories that had gained currency at the time the Lancet letter was drafted? Also, you will probably want to provide any drafts of the Lancet letter that show there were longer versions that may have gone into more detail on the conspiracy theories than current, but that these sections were edited out by The Lancet? I think in the accompanying note to this document production, it's also important to establish that the relationship between Peter Daszak, EcoHealth Alliance, and the WIV was a matter of public record at the time of *The Lancet* letter.

**Commented [PD7R6]:** Good suggestions from Jeff to include in our narrative.

**Commented [PD8]:** Published information on the Snake DNA and the HIV inserts, press reports etc.

**Response Documents**

- Emails

**Search Terms**

- Emails with "*The Lancet*" and/or "*Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19*" in the subject line or body AND "competing" or "conflict"
- Emails with "*The Lancet*" and/or "*Statement in support...*" and "HIV" or "snakes"

**Dates:** 01 February 2020 to 30 June 2021

**IV. Requests Regarding RPPRs**

6. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., regarding the preparation and submission of the year four research performance progress report (RPPR). Including but not limited to:
  - a. All drafts of the report with track changes, comments, and metadata included; and
  - b. All documents and communications regarding or referencing the one log growth special award condition.

**Response Documents**

- Emails, PDFs, and MS Word documents

**Search Terms**

- Emails with "AI110964" and "Year 4 Report" and "One log growth"

**Dates:** 01 February – 30 April 2018

7. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., regarding the preparation and submission of the year five RPPR. Including but not limited to:
  - a. All drafts of the report with track changes, comments, and metadata included;
  - b. All documents and communications regarding the year five RPPR between EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, including any drafts of the report sent to EcoHealth by the Wuhan Institute of Virology;
  - c. All documents and communications regarding or referencing the one log growth special award condition; and
  - d. All documents and communications regarding the submission of the year five RPPR that mention "lockout" or otherwise corroborate EcoHealth was locked out of the ERA Commons system.

**Response Documents**

- Emails, PDFs, and MS Word documents

**Search Terms**

- Emails with "AI110964" and "Year 5 Report" and "one log growth" (7c) and "eRA Common"

**Dates:** 01 February 2019 – 30 September 2022

8. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. between EcoHealth, including any affiliated individuals or institutions, and the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, regarding the year four RPPR. Including but not limited to:
  - a. All documents and communications regarding or referencing the one log growth special award condition.

**Response Documents**

- Emails

**Search Terms**

- Emails with "log growth" and "Year 4 Report"

**Dates:** 01 February 2018 to present

**Commented [PD9]:** -Aleksi/PD will search for emails from NIH acknowledging receipt of the report, and the follow up emails from that. The lack of response re. the contents of the report adds weight to my public hearing comments that the results were "unremarkable". Additionally, the Y4 report itself reviews the exptl. Results and says that they show evidence of variable response (or similar), not that of 'clear and present danger'

**Commented [JS10R9]:** These points should be made in a chapeau to this document production - also stressing the lack of any communication from NIH between the time the Year 5 report was due in 2019 and Michael Lauer's request in April 2021.

9. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. between EcoHealth, including any affiliated individuals or institutions, and the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, regarding the year five RPPR. Including but not limited to:
  - a. All documents and communications regarding or referencing the one log growth special award condition;
  - b. Documents sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony of "I have a timeline of submission efforts, and there are attempts to submit which are not yet on the record with you;"
  - c. Documents sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony of "there were repeated emails – I've got the list of them here – and she never responded;"
  - d. Documents sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony of a "call to the grants management staff that our admin people made. They did. They received no response;" and
  - e. Documents sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony of "NIH told us two years later to submit that report. It took NIH 11 days to unlock the system – so



any assertion that the system was not locked are demonstrably false – 11 days. And that time we got the email receipts...”

**Response Documents**

- Emails w/ NIH, HHS or NIAID
- Phone records w/ above

**Commented [PD11]:** Include Y4 & 5 reporting timeline doc that lays out all the evidence in a timeline.

**Search Terms**

- Emails to/from “...@nih.gov” “...@niaid...” with “log growth”, “Year 5 Report”, or “A110964”

**Dates:** 01 February 2019 to present

10. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. between EcoHealth, including any affiliated individuals or institutions, and the Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General Office regarding the year five RPPR.

**Response Documents**

- Emails
- PDFs and MS Word documents

**Commented [AC12]:** Check DHHS OIG final report. Check on communications.

**Commented [JS13R12]:** I would recommend also quoting the final text of the DHHS OIG report on this issue - including their comment on your response, along with your response as included in their report.

**Search Terms**

- Emails to/from “...@oig.hhs.gov” and “Year 5 report” or “RPPR”

**Commented [PD14]:** Peter’s and Aleksei’s only

**Dates:** 01 July 2021 to present

**V. Requests Regarding Lab Notebooks**

11. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. regarding the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s lab notebooks between January 1, 2020 and May 1, 2024.

**Commented [JS15]:** You’ve already constructed this timeline in your most recent letter to Michael Lauer. I would include that here, together with all the relevant documents, since it is responsive to the SSCP’s request.

12. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. between EcoHealth, including any affiliated individuals or institutions, and the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, regarding the Wuhan Institute of Virology’s lab notebooks between January 1, 2020 and May 1, 2024.

**Response Documents**

- Emails

**Commented [PD16]:** See jeff’s comments above



**Search Terms**

- Emails to/from "...@wh.iov.cn" or "...@oig.hhs.gov" or "...@nih.gov" and "lab notebooks"

**Dates:** 01 January 2020 to 01 May 2024

**VI. Requests Regarding Discrepancies in Year 4 and Year 5 Experiments**

13. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak’s testimony that the experiment Dr. Lawrence Tabak reported to Congress on October 20, 2021 “was conducted in year 4.” Including but not limited to:
- a. The date that the experiment in question was conducted; and
  - b. Documents and communications sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak’s testimony of “at the time when NIIH suggested that the year five experiment was different to year 4, I checked, and were told by WIV that it was the same experiment...”

**Commented [PD17]:** We did a comparison of the graphs in a document somewhere

**Commented [JS18R17]:** In addition to any relevant emails and documents about this question, it would be important to spell out the analysis of the two graphs to show why you reasonably concluded they were the same experiment. Add in here the points from the analysis provided to GAO that there was no real long-term dramatic log growth here - the values returned to baseline and probably represented transient individual variation, rather than evidence of a virulent new infection.

**Commented [PD19]:** This was by phone so we prob don't have records, maybe notes?

**Response Documents**

- Emails
- PDFs (RPPRs) and/or MS Word documents

**Search Terms**

- Emails to/from "...@wh.iov.cn" or "...@nih.gov" and "experiment" or "figure"

**Dates:** 01 February 2018 to present

**VII. Requests Regarding The Renegotiated Grant**

14. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. between EcoHealth, including any affiliated individuals or institutions, and the Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, regarding the renegotiation of the grant entitled R01AI110964 – Understand the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence. Including but not limited to:
- a. Documents sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak’s testimony of “in fact, it was EcoHealth Alliance, me, who proposed to NIAID in our renegotiation that we would not do any on-the-ground-work in China;” and
  - b. Documents sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak’s testimony of “emails sent to NIH proposing the work be done and the revised specific aims, which clearly state no further samples will be brought out of China and that sequences are already in EcoHealth’s possession.”

**Commented [PD20]:** We have a 'report' that we've produced, with all documentary evidence, for this issue

15. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony of "we were very clear that the samples collected with U.S. taxpayers' money, because of geopolitical issues and our grant being terminated, are now unable to be taken out of the lab. We were told that by the Chinese Authorities."
16. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc between EcoHealth, including any affiliated individuals or institutions, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology regarding the renegotiation of the grant entitled R01AI110964 – Understand the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence. Including but not limited to:
  - a. Documents and communications regarding the Wuhan Institute of Virology no longer being a subgrantee; and
  - b. Documents and communications sufficient to validate Dr. Daszak's testimony of that EcoHealth and the Wuhan Institute of Virology "have an understanding to be able to request and gain access to new data."
17. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc between EcoHealth, including any affiliated individuals or institutions, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology regarding work pursuant to the renegotiated grant entitled R01AI110964 – Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence. Including but not limited to:
  - a. All documents and communications regarding Dr. Daszak's testimony of "we have to send copies of drafts of papers, get them to check and make sure that they've included everything, that we've got everything correct;" and
  - b. All documents and communications regarding requesting and receiving new data from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

**Commented [PD21]:** We need to show them that we were able to continue communicating with WIV on issues around scientific publications, so that we could get the finalized sequences uploaded into Genbank. There are emails back and forth with WIV that will make it clear, including with me cc'd.

**Commented [JS22R21]:** The point to emphasize is that you ceased working with WIV under contract when NIH demanded that you cut off that relationship, and that any further engagement with WIV has been to ensure the accuracy of publications surrounding the data gathered with NIH support - and that you have done this without any further expenditure of U.S. taxpayer money, consistent with the restrictions of WIV's debarment.

**Response Document**

- Emails

**Search Terms**

- Emails to/from "...@wh.iov.cn" or "...@nih.gov" and "renegotiation" or "AI110964"

**Dates:** 01 July 2022 to present

**Commented [JS23]:** Because you also referred to drafts of papers and other documents in both the renegotiation off the grant and subsequent communications with WIV, should we include other documents in addition to emails among the responses to this request?

**Commented [PD24R23]:** Good comments from Jeff above

**VIII. Requests Regarding Communications with Select Individuals – For this request, EcoHealth should search for the time period of December 1, 2019 through May 1, 2024.**

18. All documents and communications in the custody and control of EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. between or among EcoHealth Alliance, Inc, including any of its subsidiaries or affiliated individuals, and any of the following individuals regarding or referencing the origins of COVID-19, EcoHealth's grants or research activities, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic:
  - a. Dr. David Morens.

- b. Dr. Jeremy Farrar;
- c. Dr. Kristian Andersen;
- d. Dr. Robert Garry;
- e. Dr. W. Ian Lipkin;
- f. Dr. Edward Holmes;
- g. Dr. Christian Drosten;
- h. Dr. Ron Fouchier;
- i. Dr. Marion Koopmans;
- j. Dr. Ralph Baric;
- k. Dr. James LeDuc;
- l. Dr. Shi Zhengli; and
- m. Dr. Lily Ren

**Response Documents**

- Emails

**Search Terms**

- "COVID ORIGINS", "COVID-19 Origins", "Origins of COVID", ORIGINS of COVID-19", "SARS-CoV-2 Origins", and "Origins of SARS-CoV-2" and;
- dmorens@ [REDACTED] dmmorens@ [REDACTED] kuui9@ [REDACTED]
- j.farrar@ [REDACTED]
- andersen@ [REDACTED]
- rfgarry@ [REDACTED]
- wil2001@ [REDACTED]
- edward.holmes@ [REDACTED]
- christian.drosten@ [REDACTED]
- r.fouchier@ [REDACTED]
- [ HYPERLINK "mailto:m.koopmans@ [REDACTED]" ] (NOTE – exclude the following:  
 Communications between the following dates: 9/20/2020 – 11/30/2020 because these are the dates of Marion's engagement with the WHO COVID origins mission, which is covered by WHO privacy rules.  
 Communications that include anyone with the email address " [ HYPERLINK "mailto:...@who.int" ] " because Marion is involved in a number of official WHO activities that are also covered by WHO privacy rules.
- rbaric@ [REDACTED] rsbaric@ [REDACTED]
- jwleduc@ [REDACTED]
- zshi@ [REDACTED]
- renlilipb@ [REDACTED] [person in our contacts is "Lili Ren" and not "Lily Ren"]

**Commented [J525]:** Should we also specify that any communications involving Peter Daszak in this period are covered by the WHO rules on diplomatic immunity? That's at least a question worth exploring.

**Commented [PD26R25]:** Any communications between me and "...@who.int" will be covered by this rule

**Dates:** 01 December 2019 to 01 May 2024



**\*\*Questions:**

- Only send to Committee or share with Reporters, public, Dems, other Congress folks?
- Good that EHA is validating PD's statements.

1. Search terms of relevance and Google Drive folders with documents (not from emails)
- 2.

**Commented [JS27]:** For now, we should keep a low profile on public communications to avoid escalating tension with the SSCP while they review additional document production. I would recommend sharing the cover note with the Democratic members of the SSCP and offering to provide the documents as well.

As other hearing take place in the coming weeks (Tabak, Morens, Fauci), we should reassess whether to make public statements to provide a more balanced understanding of the issues raised in the hearings, based on the full documentary record, which shows clearly that EHA did not do the things it is alleged to have done.

**Commented [PD28R27]:** Let's discuss this week and next. I think we have to make it known publicly that we've done this. Maybe a simple statement a few days after we've sent the docs: "EcoHealth Alliance has now provided the SSCP with a substantial set of further documents that validate the comments I made on the record for the following issues, and others (then list out a few). This includes emails, screenshots of EcoHealth Alliance's interactions with the NIH eRA Commons system, phone records and other evidence that has not been previously requested, or to our knowledge available for review. We hope this helps the SSCP with their investigations, and will continue to voluntarily work with Committee staff to address any further questions'.... We can then decide how to get the actual evidence into investigative reporters or other scientists' hands so they can make sure people actually see the quality of the evidence to refute these allegations.



**From:** [Keusch, Gerald T](#)  
**To:** [Peter Daszak](#)  
**Cc:** [Aleksei Chmura](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review  
**Date:** Monday, October 25, 2021 4:25:31 PM

---

I just spent some time on the phone with David. He is concerned about the privacy of text and other messages from his cell phone to you and me because he has been using a government phone which permits personal conversations as well. So even things via gmail sent and received on his cell phone could be FOIA'able. This came from Tony in their conversation this morning.

David has multiple things going on this week, including medical appointments, closing on house, and the need to get himself a personal smart phone, and Tony has told him not to be in touch with you and EHA for the time being. He will stay connected to me and via me to you. He wanted to reiterate a couple of things. First, on the timeline to make it more specific with dates and details. Getting in touch with Stemmy is really important and being sure he is well informed, acknowledges the timeline and the communications you mention, and is on board because he will certainly be questioned. He also suggested that you discuss with him the need for NIH to check the records and to confirm when documents were filed and acknowledged. And that when you were aware that it was necessary to file the 5 year report the system shut you out and you presumed that was normal process as you were then into the new grant year 1.

Jerry

---

**From:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 9:36 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Peter, i will be meeting with Tony about this later on

Does Stemmy know about this new timeline and will he back you up, including the problem with being shut out of the electronic report system? d

Sent from my iPhone

David M Morens  
OD, NIAID, NIH

On Oct 25, 2021, at 06:37, Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Yes – I think you’re right. I’m trying to walk the line in this letter between clearly stating that EcoHealth didn’t breach reporting requirements, and not causing any damage to NIH, but I do have to respond if they’re going to be out there with comments to the press like Francis who is quoted in the Washington Post as saying there’ll be consequences for us for ‘messaging up’:

The grant to EcoHealth has been suspended, Collins said Thursday. “They messed up here. There’s going to be some consequences for EcoHealth,” he said. But he also said that, had the experimental result been reported earlier, “it would not have been a reason to sort of hit the panic button and say my god this is dangerous stuff.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/10/21/nih-ecohealth-alliance-coronavirus/>

I get it that the consequences may not amount to much, but if the public is being told we did risky research and didn’t monitor it well, they’ll not support us if NIH cancels all our funding.

Please tell Francis, Tony, Dr. Tabak and all that my whole family is being affected when they read comments like this in the press. The toll is awful, and the language they are using is just not fair. We’re a \$10 million a year non-profit – they represent NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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:** Monday, October 25, 2021 6:27 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED]> Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Guys, i will try to weigh in later today as i will be fully swamped until then

Peter, from Tony's numerous recent comments to me, and from what Francis has been vocal about over the past 5 days, they are trying to protect you, which also protects their own reputations

I hate to be too optimistic but maybe the tide is turning? d

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

On Oct 24, 2021, at 23:56, Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Jerry and David,

I know it's expecting a lot, but I'm trying to rapidly respond to Michael Lauer's letter demanding IACUCs and all unpublished data, as well as to Tabak's public statement that EcoHealth failed to comply with reporting restrictions.

Please have a look through this letter, and use track changes or comment boxes to suggest where the language needs to be stronger or more wimpy. I'm trying to walk the line between clearly refuting the allegations, and not throwing NIAID program staff under the bus.

I'm hoping to submit this either Monday evening or Tuesday, ahead of the deadline, so we can remove ourselves from the press attacks quickly, and tell people publicly that we complied with reporting requirements.

David – I'll send some bullets for you to pass on to Tony later on.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

**Disclaimer**



The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

**From:** David Morens  
**To:** Keusch, Gerald T  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak; Aleksei Chmura  
**Subject:** Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review  
**Date:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:57:29 PM

---

Jerry, as i emailed earlier, please call me on my cell [REDACTED] d

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

On Oct 25, 2021, at 15:55, Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED] wrote:

A few thoughts as I read this, which I will insert in red below. gtk

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:32 AM  
**To:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Re. the timeline – that’s shown in the system records, and in emails to Erik Stemmy. WIV has confirmed to us that this was the same experiment, so it was absolutely, prove-ably reported to NIH on time in our year 4 report. Erik did nothing wrong – it probably did not rise to the level that any secondary review was necessary – as we explain in the main letter to Michael lauer. The highlighted section is a clear ‘out’ for NIH re. why they should have interpreted the results as non-problematic or not:

*From our upcoming letter to Michael Lauer*

Secondly, the direction in our revised NoA was that we should report experiments in which “the MERS-like or SARS-like chimeras generated under this grant show evidence of enhanced virus growth greater than 1 log over the parental backbone strain”. In virological terms, “virus growth” normally refers to viral titer measuring the concentration of infectious viruses by plaque assay. The experiment we reported to NIH, performed one time using x mice per group, actually shows genome copies per gram not viral titer. We have been advised by (I would say ‘highly experienced,’ not senior) senior virologists that data on genome copies per gram usually do not accurately equate to viral titer, since genomic material from inactivated, incompletely formed, or dead virus are also measured. Viral titers were not conducted in this experiment. We also note that the genome copy data for SHC014 are only enhanced relative to the WIV1 backbone at the earliest part of the experiment, and considerable variability within the groups. with often (I’m not quite large error bars. Importantly, by Day 6-8, there was no discernably significant difference among the genome copy per gram data, suggesting that these differences, if in fact real and reproducible, were

transient and viral genome copy data were statistically equal among viral types by the end of this short experiment. Given the small number of mice, it is also uncertain if the survival and weight loss data were statistically relevant. We believed NIH read the data the same way because we received no feedback at all or any request to provide further clarification or that a secondary review should be undertaken. In any event, as already noted above, this experiment was not repeated. [Delete the following] All this suggests that the rationale NIH appears to have used at the time for *not* highlighting this work as requiring further clarification or secondary review, was appropriate, and may explain the lack of request for further information from NIH to us.

Re. the system shutting us out –(I'm not exactly clear what this means. I would revise this portion. Ignorance of process by a first time renewal grant is no excuse. You have to submit a final report even if your grant isn't renewed. I think you should apologize first and then provide a rationale. Part of that was the fact that you had scored in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> percentile and the work was going forward so you presumed the next report was at the end of year 1 of the renewal grant. You can mention you asked NIH Grants management about it, didn't hear back, and were focused on gearing up for the new set of specific aims. It was my first renewal and we were unclear of what to do, but we asked an NIH Grants management specialist (Tseday Girma) on 7/30/19 what the deadline was on submitting the year 5 report, and if we could now go ahead. We received no response from that person. Erik was cc'd on this but surely it's up to the Grants Management Specialist to get back to us. The next correspondence I received about our grant was then the notice to remove WIV and then a few days later, to terminate.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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:** Monday, October 25, 2021 9:36 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Peter, i will be meeting with Tony about this later on

Does Stemmy know about this new timeline and will he back you up, including the problem with being shut out of the electronic report system? d

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

On Oct 25, 2021, at 06:37, Peter Daszak [REDACTED] wrote:

Yes – I think you’re right. I’m trying to walk the line in this letter between clearly stating that EcoHealth didn’t breach reporting requirements, and not causing any damage to NIH, but I do have to respond if they’re going to be out there with comments to the press like Francis who is quoted in the Washington Post as saying there’ll be consequences for us for ‘messaging up’:

The grant to EcoHealth has been suspended, Collins said Thursday.  
“They messed up here. There’s going to be some consequences for EcoHealth,” he said. But he also said that, had the experimental result been reported earlier, “it would not have been a reason to sort of hit the panic button and say my god this is dangerous stuff.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/10/21/nih-ecohealth-alliance-coronavirus/>

I get it that the consequences may not amount to much, but if the public is being told we did risky research and didn’t monitor it well, they’ll not support us if NIH cancels all our funding.



Please tell Francis, Tony, Dr. Tabak and all that my whole family is being affected when they read comments like this in the press. The toll is awful, and the language they are using is just not fair. We're a \$10 million a year non-profit – they represent NIH.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://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:** Monday, October 25, 2021 6:27 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft response to Michael Lauer - please review

Guys, i will try to weigh in later today as i will be fully swamped until then

Peter, from Tony's numerous recent comments to me, and from what Francis has been vocal about over the past 5 days, they are trying to protect you, which also protects their own reputations

I hate to be too optimistic but maybe the tide is turning? d

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

On Oct 24, 2021, at 23:56, Peter Daszak  
[REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Jerry and David,

I know it's expecting a lot, but I'm trying to rapidly respond to Michael Lauer's letter demanding IACUCs and all unpublished data, as well as to Tabak's public statement that EcoHealth failed to comply with reporting restrictions.

Please have a look through this letter, and use track changes or comment boxes to suggest where the language needs to be stronger or more wimpy. I'm trying to walk the line between clearly refuting the allegations, and not throwing NIAID program staff under the bus.

I'm hoping to submit this either Monday evening or Tuesday, ahead of the deadline, so we can remove ourselves from the press attacks quickly, and tell people publicly that we complied with reporting requirements.

David – I'll send some bullets for you to pass on to Tony later on.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

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

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

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from

malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.



Message

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10/25/2021 1:12:28 AM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

Peter: The NIH's statements about your alleged violation of reporting conditions is not just based on (Tabak's) incorrect assumptions – but they're not true!

JLS

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 8:41 PM  
**To:** David Morens [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Keusch, Gerald T [REDACTED]; Alekseï Chmura [REDACTED]; Robert Kessler [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]; Matthew R.Torsiello [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

Yes this refers to the year 5 report of our R01 that was terminated then suspended. It was due in 2019 and not officially received until 2021. In his letter to Congress, Dr. Tabak said that the year 5 report contained an experiment that should have been reported immediately to NIH. The issue is that the experiment was already reported in the year 4 report, delivered on time in April 2018 - over 3 years and 6 months ago. The year 5 report was simply follow up analysis from that experiment - no material difference to the findings reported earlier.

I'm going to send a draft letter in a few minutes that I'm getting ready to respond to Lauer with. That will clarify all this, with back up evidence.

My concern is that between now and when the letter is made public, NIH leadership will be repeatedly stating to the press that EcoHealth violated reporting conditions - it's very damaging to us and based on incorrect assumptions.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak  
President

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200

New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: @PeterDaszak

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

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

From: David Morens <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Sunday, October 24, 2021 6:41 PM  
To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
Cc: Keusch, Gerald T <[REDACTED]>; Aleksei Chmura <[REDACTED]>; Robert Kessler <[REDACTED]>; Jeff Sturchio <[REDACTED]>; Matthew R.Torsiello <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: Good news from Wuhan re. the experiments that NIH is trying to throw us under the bus with...

Peter, before I speak to Tony can you clarify more specifically, re the phrase below:

"...so they're aware that we DID follow reporting requirements, and that this experiment was notified to NIH 3 years and 6 months ago - on time!"

which experiment you are referring to and in which grant, the de-funded one?  
d

Just saw CCN interview in which Collins was crucified for either hiding or being unaware and the lying about GoF research. Collins strongly defended NIH and partially defended EcoHealth but also said EcoHealth violated reporting requirements but didn't do forbidden GoF experiments d

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 Sun, Oct 24, 2021 at 12:29 PM Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
wrote:

>  
> David - I saw that tony fauci was interviewed on HBO re Rand Paul's  
> latest attack based on Tabak's letter.  
> [https://www.axios.com/fauci-fires-back-at-rand-paul-for-slam-on-tonigh-  
> ts-axios-on-hbo-6450dec1-e977-46ae-bf37-84044ba9d8fd.html](https://www.axios.com/fauci-fires-back-at-rand-paul-for-slam-on-tonigh-<br/>> ts-axios-on-hbo-6450dec1-e977-46ae-bf37-84044ba9d8fd.html)  
>  
> His responses were great, directly refuting that our work (and NIAID  
> funding) led to covid origins. But he then said this:  
>  
> "Fauci added that the U.S. "knew what the risk was and what the oversight  
> is" at the Wuhan lab. "Certainly, they should have put their progress  
> report in a timely manner," Fauci said. "No denial of that, and there will  
> be administrative consequences of that."  
>  
> We'll be responding to Michael Lauer's letter, cc'ing dr Tabak on  
> Wednesday or earlier, but I'll also make sure to send our response to the  
> NIAID program staff incl Tony so they're aware that we DID follow  
> reporting requirements, and that this experiment was notified to NIH 3  
> years and 6 months ago - on time!  
>  
> David - could you give Tony a heads up about this so that he doesn't say  
> the wrong thing publicly and also so it doesn't disparage ecohealth any  
> further.

>  
>  
>  
> Cheers,

>  
> Peter

>  
>  
>  
> Peter Daszak  
> (Sent from my iPhone)

>  
> President  
> EcoHealth Alliance  
>  
> 460 West 34th Street, New York, NY10001, USA  
>  
> [www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

> On Oct 23, 2021, at 7:43 AM, David Morens <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>  
> Great news! This what i suspected and hoped would be true. I still  
> think that tactfully pushing back at nih being willful participants in  
> your harassment, privately or otherwise, should be considered. NIH is  
> supposed to be YOUR ally, not the ally of shameless witch hunters. d  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone





>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Peter Daszak  
>  
> President  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance  
>  
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
>  
> New York, NY 10018-6507  
>  
> USA  
>  
> Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
>  
> Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
>  
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent  
> pandemics and promote conservation  
>  
>  
>  
> From: Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:58 AM  
> To: 'Keusch, Gerald T' [REDACTED]; 'David Morens'  
> [REDACTED]  
> Cc: 'Aleksei Chmura' [REDACTED]  
> [REDACTED]; 'Robert Kessler'  
> [REDACTED]  
> Subject: FW: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding  
> R01A1110964  
>  
>  
>  
> Jerry and David.  
>  
>  
>  
> Michael Lauer is now demanding more from us, and has focused on another

> experiment that WIV did with similar chimeras in mice. He wants to know  
> the date so he can try to claim that we didn't act appropriately and  
> report it rapidly enough.

>  
>  
>

> This experiment is Fig 13 in the progress report. It's genome copies per  
> gram again but we do say in the text that the viral titer was increased. I'll  
> get confirmation about this from Zhengli.

>  
>  
>

> The interim progress report was submitted 2 years late. We started  
> uploading it in July 2019 (on time), but never submitted it because our  
> grant was renewed and there was no way to submit a normal annual report at  
> that point – the system didn't allow it and we didn't realize what we were  
> supposed to do. No one at NIH asked for this report and the fact that the  
> new award was made suggested to us that all was well. We were in constant  
> discussion with NIH staff at the time setting up our new grant details,  
> but again no one clarified that they needed anything more from us. The  
> only notice we got to submit this was a few weeks ago from Michael Lauer,  
> at which point we had to work hard with NIH staff to get the system to  
> accept our report.

>  
>  
>

> Can we set up a zoom call this afternoon to look at these figures so you  
> can advise me what I should say to Michael Lauer?

>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>

> Cheers,

>  
>  
>

> Peter

>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>

> Peter Daszak

>

> President  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance  
>  
> 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
>  
> New York, NY 10018-6507  
>  
> USA  
>  
> Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
>  
> Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
>  
> Twitter: @PeterDaszak  
>  
>  
>  
> EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent  
> pandemics and promote conservation  
>  
>  
>  
> From: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
> Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 6:12 AM  
> To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]> Aleksei Chmura  
> [REDACTED]  
> Cc: Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E] [REDACTED]  
> Subject: Please read and acknowledge receipt -- Regarding R01AI110964  
>  
>  
>  
> Dear Dr. Chmura and Dr. Daszak  
>  
>  
>  
> Please:  
>  
>  
>  
> Confirm receipt of this letter, sent to you on Wednesday, October 20,  
> 2021.  
> Provide the dates of work for the experiments described in Figure 13 of  
> the August 3, 2021, RPPR.  
> Ensure that all sequences from all the work conducted under this grant are  
> posted immediately to NCBI.  
>  
>  
>  
> We continue to look forward to receiving all materials by  
> close-of-business Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

>  
>  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Michael S Lauer, MD  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Michael S Lauer, MD  
>  
> NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research  
>  
> One Center Drive, Building 1, Room 144  
>  
> Bethesda, MD 20892

>  
> [REDACTED]

>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> From: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED]>  
> Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 1:05 PM  
> To: Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>, Aleksei Chmura  
> [REDACTED]  
> Cc: "Lauer, Michael (NIH/OD) [E]" <[REDACTED]>  
> Subject: Regarding R01AI110964 [REDACTED]

>  
>  
>  
> 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



>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Disclaimer

>  
> The information contained in this communication from the sender is  
> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others  
> authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby  
> notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in  
> relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and  
> may be unlawful.

>  
> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been  
> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber  
> resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection,  
> security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential  
> capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from  
> malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the  
> movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit  
> our website.

>  
>  
>  
> Disclaimer

>  
> The information contained in this communication from the sender is  
> confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others  
> authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby  
> notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in  
> relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and  
> may be unlawful.

>  
> This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been  
> automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber  
> resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection,

> security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential  
> capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from  
> malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the  
> movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit  
> our website.

#### **Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12/29/2022 11:09:58 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**CC:** [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** White House response to Jim Jordan & James Comer re the letters they sent out (incl re covid origins)

Interesting pushback from the White House re same letters from congressional republicans that we received. I know it's only arguing over a few days but I thought you should be aware...



White House to Jim Jordan, James Comer: Sorry, but you have to restart your oversight requests  
politico.com

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President  
EcoHealth Alliance

520 8th Avenue, New York, NY10018-6507, USA

[www.EcoHealthAlliance.org](http://www.EcoHealthAlliance.org)

On Dec 27, 2022, at 4:01 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

It might make sense, once the [REDACTED] items are confidently segregated, just to overproduce the items that include those addresses in the interest of efficiency/cost. I assume that would work but interested whether there's any potential sensitivity to the approach.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2022 12:29:52 PM  
**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Peter Daszak  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Updated Tracker USAO 2021 R0 1333

Aleksei,

Thank you for the clarification and insight. Much appreciated. I agree that isolating the emails not coming from Dr. Shi or not directed to Dr. Shi would delay our response/take weeks. I will keep this in mind when it is time to review Peter's emails and will circle back, if we have any further questions. Thanks again.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 27, 2022 3:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Peter Daszak  
**Subject:** Re: [EXT] Updated Tracker USAO 2021 R0 1333

Dear [REDACTED]

Google Vault permits search by a text string (in this case the specific email addresses), so if the specific email [REDACTED]@wh.iov.cn" shows up anywhere in the email, it is caught in the search results. There is no direct way to refine the search beyond this.

I see there are two emails in the batch of 29 emails responsive to "zshi [REDACTED]@hotmail.com" that do not have that address in the TO, CC, or BCC fields, but these both contain documents already FOIA'd and released on the NIH website, so that is OK.

For the "[REDACTED]@wh.iov.cn" email batch of 22,364 emails, 8,439 do not have either "zshi [REDACTED]@hotmail.com" or "[REDACTED]@wh.iov.cn" in the TO, CC, or BCC fields, but these (38%) do have either or both email addresses in the text of the email or in the attachments.



I have indicated which emails in the two metadata files are strictly non-responsive to the request - in column S in each xlsx file with rows highlighted and marked with an "o" for non-responsive. "x" indicates responsive.

It will take weeks to manually review these 8,439 emails and remove them from the zip files, unless you know of some software, coding that may be applied to a Google Vault export, or we might search for a 3rd party to do this. Any of these options would delay our response by another three or more weeks.

Unless there is any objection, I recommend that we proceed with sharing all these emails under the assumption that they will be kept confidential and destroyed after the request and review is completed.

Also, of course, this issue will not apply to the email records responsive to items 2 and 3 in our Google Sheet Tracker, since these are for search terms and not email addresses. Therefore, the search terms show up anywhere in the email. For Peter's emails (still "TBD" on release date), the same issue you highlight here will mean that some percentage of the 269,391 emails do not have Peter's email address in the TO, CC, or BCC field. If we assume a similar percentage, that could be ~100,000 emails to review and sort!

Please call me anytime, if you have questions,

-Aleksi

**Aleksei Chmura, PhD, MBA**  
Chief of Staff &  
Authorized Organizational Representative

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

+1.917.385.5267  
[www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Visit our blog: [www.ecohealthalliance.org/blog](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org/blog)

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

On Fri, Dec 23, 2022 at 1:25 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Aleksei,

Can you confirm what methods you used to pull Dr. Shi's emails? Some of the emails collected do not appear to have made contact with either of the Shi inboxes the DOJ is concerned with.

For example, the attached email is from you to Matt and does not seem to have been directed at Dr. Shi in any form. The proposal attached to the email does contain Shi's email and name throughout, so perhaps the email came up responsive to a search for "[REDACTED]@wh.iov.cn".

Please let me know when you have the chance. Thanks.



**From:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 2:05 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Peter Daszak <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Updated Tracker USAO 2021 R0 1333

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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

Message

---

**From:** Michael J. Grudberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 2/13/2023 10:56:59 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**CC:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Letter to Energy & Commerce Staff [IMAN-DOCUMENTS.FID794944]

Hi Peter. In response to your Oversight/Coronavirus Subcommittee draft letter, received just now, I'm forwarding as my only comment the highlighted thoughts below from the Energy draft from last week. (It pertains to the second paragraph of the current draft letter.) Other than that, I would just cc me in the text or the transmittal e-mail. Let us know if you have q's or want to talk. Thanks again, MG

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 12:01 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED] Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED] Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Draft Letter to Energy & Commerce Staff [IMAN-DOCUMENTS.FID794944]


Hi Peter. I've reviewed the draft and discussed it briefly with [REDACTED]. Looks good subject to the one typo and suggestion in the attached markup.

The only thought is whether to skip for the time being reference to our other government inquiries. I suppose we can always recite those if we get any pushback on a reasonable extension, but I don't expect that, given the non-compulsory nature of the current request. Especially on the Executive Branch front, where the DOJ grand jury investigation seems so far to remain nonpublic, I think it would be better just to say we're acting as promptly as possible under the circumstances without inviting inquiry into other demands for info.

Just a thought, but subject to that it's good to go from our perspective. Thanks.

p.s. Just a reminder, there's a communication from Ravi Batra we wanted to discuss with you. Don't really need me for that, but I know [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would like to catch up when you can.

[REDACTED]



---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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



Message

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/25/2023 5:41:07 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]; Peter Daszak; [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura; [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] RE: URGENT - Possible USAID OIG investigation - Request for Documents

Hi Peter. Just spoke to [REDACTED] and am catching up on the below. I do think that I, or at least somebody from the [REDACTED] team, should be point on this. His e-mail on its face is in the criminal realm, so the organization should only be dealing with OIG through counsel, among other reasons so it's not an evidentiary communication. It is hopefully, and maybe likely, just the latest pain in the neck, but we should learn a little more about what he's up to before considering how to respond. I also want to find out (not from him) whether there is any connection between this and Ohio. I'm free up to 2:00 if you want to discuss. Thanks.

p.s. I dropped a couple of unfamiliar names from this chain. Forgive the caution, but I don't know who's in the DOJ loop.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:14 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak; [REDACTED]; Aleksei Chmura; [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio; [REDACTED]; Juan.Lubroth; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Armine Arustamyan; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] RE: URGENT - Possible USAID OIG investigation - Request for Documents

Hi Peter,

I believe that [REDACTED] should respond particularly if there is any criminal elements in this communication. I'll have [REDACTED] reach out to you as soon as possible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:52 PM

**To:** Aleksei Chmura [REDACTED], Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [Juan.Lubroth](#) [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Armine Arustamyan <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** [EXT] RE: URGENT - Possible USAID OIG investigation - Request for Documents

Sorry – here are links to the public statement EcoHealth Alliance made re. the allegations of ‘double-billing’.

<https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/2023/03/ecohealth-alliance-statement-correcting-inaccuracies-in-cbs-news-reporting>

Also, FYI, we’re very confident there is no evidence of this, and that a detailed analysis of costs, contracts, billing and accounting will show that no mistakes of any significance were made.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**

*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474

Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)

Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](#)

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

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:43 PM  
**To:** 'Aleksi Chmura' [REDACTED]; Jeff Sturchio [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [Juan.Lubroth](#) [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'Armine Arustamyan' [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** URGENT - Possible USAID OIG investigation - Request for Documents  
**Importance:** High

Dear all,

I got the email below today. It looks legit, and is from this person: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jetwine/>

This looks to us like an OIG investigation, not an audit, because the sender is a 'criminal investigator' with 'fraud' expertise, and the person cc'd is a lawyer.

This is probably related to allegations that we "double-billed" the Govt re. funding from NIAID and USAID (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-government-agencies-may-have-been-double-billed-projects-wuhan-china-records-indicate-probe/>). We put out a public statement on this here:

There's also a possibility this relates to allegations that work on the Global Virome Project used funds from PREDICT inappropriately (<https://usrtk.org/covid-19-origins/celebrated-virus-hunter-siphoned-taxpayer-funds-for-his-private-global-virome-project/>). However, that would be more focused on Dennis Carroll (USAID retired) and UC Davis who managed those funds directly, and less on EHA.

I would like to respond to this today by email, cc'ing all of you, and set up a call next week (we're v. busy this week) to find out what information they want, and what the goal of their work is.

Please advise..

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Twine, Jamoral (Bangkok/OIG) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6:56 AM  
**To:** [daszak@](mailto:daszak@) [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Coates, Nicholas (IG/FO) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Request for Documents

Good morning Dr. Daszak,

I am a criminal investigator with U.S Agency for International Development, Office of Inspector General. My office is preparing to request documents related to the PREDICT award under which EcoHealth was a sub-implementer.

The records request will primarily focus on financial transactions, personnel, and contracts that EcoHealth funded with USAID money. To whom should I address the request? It would also be helpful to understand what format the information can be provided. If a call would be better to discuss, my schedule is flexible this week.

Best regards,

Jamoral "Jay" Twine  
Special Agent  
Asia Regional Office - Bangkok  
Office of Investigations  
USAID Office of Inspector General  
[REDACTED]

---

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin is fully operational in-person. However, because of anticipated delays in receiving regular mail and other deliveries, please e-mail copies of anything you send by regular mail or delivery, including issuing remittances electronically. Please contact our receptionist at [reception@tarterkrinsky.com](mailto:reception@tarterkrinsky.com) or by phone at 212-216-8000 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your courtesies.

NOTE: If regular mailing or other specific transmission type is required by terms of a contract, order or statute, please comply with those obligations and transmit the materials by the means set forth in the agreement, order or statute as well as by email.

Confidentiality Disclosure: This information in this email and in attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named (addressee(s)). This information may be subject to attorney/client privilege or may otherwise be protected by work product privilege or other legal rules. It must not be disclosed to any person without our authority. If you are not the intended recipient, or a person responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, and must not disclose, copy, distribute, or retain this message or any part of it.

This email is an informal communication that is not meant to be legally binding upon the sender unless expressly noted to the contrary.

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



Message

---

**From:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 5/16/2024 7:19:00 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Lawyers!

OK – but this is how the SSCP win, to be honest...

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

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

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

---

**From:** Jeffrey Sturchio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 3:13 PM  
**To:** Peter Daszak [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Lawyers!

Peter:

I just spent the afternoon with my lawyers.

Until the matter of my summons from the SSCP is settled, their advice is that [REDACTED]

**REDACTED - DENTONS COMMON INTEREST PRIVILEGE**

Accordingly, I won't

but will join you and Aleksei at 1800.

As ever,  
Jeff

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

---

**From:** Farrah Kennedy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tue 6/23/2020 2:42:02 PM (UTC-04:00)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 06.23.20 Nursing Homes 230PM.docx  
**Attachment:** 06.23.20 Nursing Homes 230PM.docx

Hi [REDACTED]

Governor's edits are attached for your review. The smaller text in the beginning is from your original document. He replaced your paragraph on page 3 beginning with "But, like in all fifty states, there were COVID-positive cases..." The larger text is what he added.

[REDACTED]

DRAFT  
PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

**Factors Correlating with Nursing Home Fatalities in New York State  
During the COVID-19 Global Health Crisis**

New York State Department of Health  
June 22, 2020





## Executive Summary

ADD HERE

### Background<sup>1</sup>

Nations all across the globe have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. The situation rapidly and dramatically altered everyday life—requiring social distancing, closing of schools and businesses, and restricting access to hospitals and other congregate facilities.

New York State was one of the earliest states affected by COVID-19, in large part, from inbound travel from Europe.<sup>2</sup> On March 1, 2020, NYS identified its first case of COVID-19 in an international traveler. On March 3, 2020, the first COVID-19 case with no travel-related risk factors was identified in Westchester, NY; contact tracing revealed additional ill contacts.

Congregate settings, like nursing home, are particularly susceptible to infectious diseases like COVID-19 and many states in the nation had to grapple with this difficult situation. The first known positive COVID-19 nursing home resident was in Washington State, in Kirkland, who was transferred to a hospital on February 24, 2020 and later tested positive. In New York, the first exposure of the virus to nursing home residents followed on March 7, 2020, with the first known transmission of COVID-19 to a nursing home resident occurring on March 11, 2020, after a staff member first tested positive for COVID-19.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) undertook took aggressive steps to prepare healthcare facilities for COVID-19 in order to prevent control the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes. Prior to, and early in the outbreak, NYS issued orders, directives and guidance to nursing homes on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to, anticipating

---

<sup>1</sup> The New York State Department of Health staff was supported by analysis provided by McKinsey & Company.

<sup>2</sup> *Introduction and Early Spread of SARS-CoV-2 in New York City*, Gonzalez-Reiche, et. Al. Pre-print <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.08.20056929> (Finding majority of 87 samples taken from Mount Sinai Hospital in March from diverse origins within New York City were genotypes to European variants of SARS-CoV-2.

personal protective equipment shortages (February 2, 2020), infection control in healthcare facilities (February 26, 2020) (give an example), specific nursing home infection control and health & safety guidance (give an example) (March 6, 2020, March 11, 2020, & March 13, 2020), and discharge and admissions guidance (March 25, 2020). In addition, on March 7, 2020, Governor Cuomo banned visitors from nursing homes in New Rochelle, NY, and visitors were banned statewide on March 13, 2020—a dramatic step to protect residents. Enhanced infection prevention measures were directed to be implemented such as symptom and temperature checks for staff, facemasks for staff, and cancellation of congregate activities (March 13, 2020). NYSDOH surveyors and epidemiologists conducted thousands of calls, video assessments, and in-person assessments to support nursing homes and assess deficiencies.

But, like in all 50 states, there were COVID-positive cases in nursing homes in New York State. Below is an analysis of possible factors to determine whether they were the cause of increasing the infection rate or mortality rate in nursing homes.

We analyzed:

- I. New York State’s rate of mortality in nursing homes compared to the rate of mortality in other states.
- II. The geographic location of the nursing home facility and community spread in that geographic location.
- III. Staff illness infection rate in the community of the nursing home’s location as a possible cause of exposure.

- IV. Transmission from residents with COVID-19 who were admitted or readmitted to the nursing homes.
- V. Nursing home quality of care contributing to COVID-19 resident exposures.
- VI. The age of the nursing home residents as a factor for mortality.

INSERT B      Analysis of COVID-19 Nursing Home Fatalities

I.      Analysis of the New York State Nursing Home Rate of Mortality vs. Other State’s Nursing Home Rate of Mortality

Through June 10, 2020, New York State is one of the lowest rates of nursing home fatalities among states with at least 1000 confirmed statewide fatalities. As of May 24, 2020, 38% of COVID-19 fatalities in New York State were among nursing home residents. In a rank ordering of COVID-19 related nursing home deaths in states with more than 1000 confirmed statewide fatalities, New York State placed 21 out of 23 states, meaning that New York State had fewer nursing home deaths than all but 2 of the states analyzed. See chart below.

(CHART)

An examination by the *New York Times* found that New York State ranked 35th in the nation – meaning 34 states had greater number of fatalities (even with some states being ranked only for confirmed fatalities and some being ranked for confirmed and presumed fatalities) FN5

(CHART)





## II. The Geographic Location of the Nursing Home Facility and Community Spread in that Location.

Within New York State there has been significant geographic variation in overall positive tests within the community (Figure 1) and nursing home cases and fatalities. Regions most highly affected by COVID-19 also had the highest nursing home fatality rates. There is a correlation between the overall community spread in a geographic location and the number of nursing home cases in that geographic location. We explore these issues below.

(Figure 1)

## III. Staff Illness Contributing to Nursing Home Infection Exposures

New York State had its first case of coronavirus on March 1, 2020. The date of the first known suspected or confirmed employee illness in nursing homes was March 16, 2020. This is approximately three weeks before the peak of nursing home residents' deaths, about April 1, 2020. This was also before the March 25th CDC provision and state alignment concerning non-discrimination against a COVID-positive resident. In March there was a general acceptance by the national healthcare professionals that asymptomatic people

were not likely to spread the infection. Therefore, asymptomatic nursing home employees may not have been detected. In early March the nation's testing capacity was still being developed and was not widely available for nursing home employees.

The peak of nursing home fatalities was at the beginning of April. Given the incubation period for COVID-19 as a median time of 4-5 days from exposure to symptoms onset, and can extend to 14 days, it is likely that employees infected in mid-March could have appeared in the nursing home for work, transmitted the virus which then manifested in the residents approximately 7-14 days later. It should be noted that once national testing capacity increased the CDC on May 3, 2020 changed its guidance to require people such as nursing home employees to utilize a test-based strategy and a 10-day isolation period before employees could return to work in a nursing home. Prior to May 3rd CDC was recommending that a positive but asymptomatic healthcare worker could return to work immediately with precautions such as a mask.

As figure 5 illustrates, nursing home fatalities were increasing in mid-March. New York State banned family

and friends' visitation on March 13, 2020. Given this timing, and given the COVID incubation period, it is possible that visitation by family and friends up to March 13th was a contributing factor. The only other possible factor to explain the mid-March increase was employee transmission. There is no data on the infection rate of family and friends. However, data does show that beginning mid-March the number of nursing homes with staff testing positive for COVID-19 more than doubled from 106-257. All of this activity well pre-dated the March 25th readmission policy for COVID-positive residents (see point 5.)

IV. Transmission from Residents with COVID-19 Who Were Admitted or Readmitted to the Nursing Homes

One of the factors that has been suggested to contribute to nursing home fatalities is the admission or readmission of COVID-positive residents.

Initially, there is no data to suggest that New York nursing home fatalities were disproportionate to any other state's nursing home fatalities. In fact, data shows the opposite to be true as New York was 35th by percentage in the number of nursing home deaths. (see Factor 1.)

Second, New York State followed CDC guidance which stated that a nursing home should not DISCRIMINATE against a COVID-positive person. However, neither CDC guidance nor the state directive mandated that a nursing home accept a COVID-positive person. In fact, the opposite is true. By state law a nursing home could not accept a COVID-positive person unless the nursing home could provide “proper isolation and protective procedures.” Therefore, a nursing home could not accept a COVID-positive person unless they could isolate that person in a way that did not affect the other residents. The State Department of Health and Attorney General’s office are doing an investigation to determine, among other things if nursing homes violated this law.

Statewide nursing home admission and readmission data from March 1 through May 8, 2020 show that 9,690 residents with confirmed or presumed COVID-19 were admitted or re-admitted from a hospital to a total of 371 unique nursing homes. This is one total nursing home population of 600,000. The data does not demonstrate a subsequent intra-facility transmission or increased mortality. For example, as Figure 4 illustrates, many nursing homes that did not admit any COVID-positive patients still had a high number of



COVID related deaths. In fact, 57 nursing homes that had 0 readmissions, had significant COVID-19 fatalities.

Following the timeline, data invalidates a cause and effect between a March 25th timeline and rate of mortality.

Nursing home resident fatalities peaked on April 7, 2020.

The peak of nursing home admissions or readmissions was not until April 14, 2020.

As the nursing home death peak occurred 7 days before the peak of readmissions of COVID-positive residents, it suggests no causation. Also a directive issued March 25th is highly unlikely, given the incubation period, to cause death by April 7, 2020.

Further, admissions and readmissions of residents with COVID-19 were still increasing when the number of nursing home deaths was already declining. If the March 25, 2020 guidance was a major causative factor in nursing home deaths, the peak in deaths should have occurred after the peak in admissions, not before.

The data suggests that people readmitted to nursing homes were most likely not contagious. Per CDC data, COVID-positive individuals are likely not capable of transmitting the

virus after 9 days from the onset of the illness. The CDC stated “the statistically estimated likelihood of recovering replication competent virus approaches 0 by 10 days.” This comports with the CDC policies related to return to work and removal from isolation precautions after a positive COVID test. Viral shedding after this date, it is widely noted, is unlikely to transmit the virus. Length of stay data showed that for nursing home admissions and readmissions average length of stay for hospital visits were about 8-10 days. This is beyond the period of viral transmission. According to the CDC people are most infectious in the pre-symptomatic stage or 1-4 days after symptom onset. Therefore, patients admitted or readmitted to nursing homes were likely not infectious.

An additional complication is that health experts will opine that keeping a senior citizen in a hospital bed for multiple days longer than necessary poses a serious risk to the patient of being subject to a secondary infection such as sepsis or staph infection. What policy would justify posing a high risk to the patient.

V. Nursing Home Quality Contributing to COVID-19 Resident Exposure

We analyzed whether nursing homes that had a prior performance record of lower quality over the past several years had a higher death rate than nursing homes with a record of higher quality performance. In fact, the data shows the opposite is true. Using the Quality rating system developed by CMS, 5-Star Quality Rating System, nursing homes with higher CMS quality ratings were found to have higher mortality rates than those with lower quality ratings.

(See CHART)

From the data, the apparent explanation for this phenomenon is that the location of the nursing home facility had a greater causal connection than the performance of the nursing home facility.

Data shows the predominance of nursing home deaths were in downstate New York and unrelated to the performance of the particular nursing home. This supports the theory that community spread among employees or possibly visitation by family and friends were relevant factors rather than readmissions or facility quality.

## VI. Age of the Nursing Home Resident as a Factor for Mortality

Another factor was reviewed on impact of mortality – age of the resident. As data show, older individuals are more susceptible to death from COVID-19 infection. The analysis between resident age and mortality suggests a relationship between a higher median resident age and an increase in the mortality rate. This is more pronounced in geographic areas where there were more nursing homes deaths. Downstate New York, which had a higher mortality rate, demonstrates this point. Upstate New York, with few nursing home residents, has less of a causal connection.

## CONCLUSION

Several factors are clear from our analysis and research. Older people are more susceptible to the risk of mortality by COVID-19 in congregate settings pose a risk.

New York State has a lower percentage of deaths in nursing homes than most states, ranking 35th in comparison to other states.

Data shows a greater risk for older residents.

Data shows nursing home quality is not a factor in mortality from COVID.

Data shows community spread is the greatest causal factor.