U.S. Officials, Scientists and Funding Supported Gain of Function Research That Created the COVID-19 Virus

The facts listed below are from documents, such as the August 2021 report "Origins of COVID-19: An Investigation of the Wuhan Institute of Virology" by the House Foreign Affairs Committee Minority Staff, timetable "U.S. Bioweapon Development and COVID-19," and many other well-sourced documents on covidorigins.org, a website sponsored by ***Citizens' Covid Origin Inquiry****, members of which prepared this summary.*

Beginning in 2012 American scientist Dr. Peter Daszak, CEO of the EcoHealth Alliance, oversaw the development of the biological agent known as SARS-CoV-2 that resulted in the disease COVID-19.

This development occurred through Gain-of-Function (GoF) research funded by several U.S. agencies, including the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID/NIH), directed by Dr. Anthony Fauci. The purpose of GoF research is to enhance the pathogenicity, infectivity, virulence, survivability or transmissibility of an infectious agent; in other words, to make a pathogen more dangerous.

As early as 2005 Dr. Ralph Baric, a virologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, assisted in creating GoF techniques which leave no trace of genetic modification. And as early as 2016, scientists working at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) did the same, under Dr. Baric's guidance.

EcoHealth Alliance used Dr. Baric's work for testing experimental vaccines, treatments and therapeutics against the SARS-CoV-2 strain years before COVID-19 emerged.

A former EcoHealth Alliance employee said he observed heavy micromanagement of a 2014 EcoHealth Alliance proposal by USAID personnel, U.S. Embassy staff, and other employees of the State Department and discovered that a leading subcontractor in the proposal was Metabiota, which was partially owned by Rosemont Seneca, a venture capital firm partially owned by Hunter Biden and the CIA's venture capital firm In-Q-Tel, which invests in companies that make technology of national security interest.

EcoHealth Alliance Executive Vice President William Karesh was linked to the top of the U.S. biodefense establishment as a member of an Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) blue-ribbon panel on biodefense.

The U.S. has a long history of weaponizing germs for use as bioweapons at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

In 2014, the Obama administration declared a moratorium on GoF research on Influenza, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) after an accident at the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Fauci subsequently outsourced the GoF research to China's Wuhan lab and licensed the lab to continue receiving U.S. government funding. The moratorium on GoF research was lifted by the Trump administration in December 2017, and Dr. Fauci sent $3.7 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) to restart a coronavirus bat project.

Sampling by Chinese authorities of animals in Wuhan wet markets and in the wild significantly found not a single wild animal harboring the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with Wuhan being 1,000 miles away from the nearest wild bats that carry the type of SARS-related coronaviruses that caused the pandemic.

A preponderance of the evidence shows that the virus most likely came from the WIV and that it did so sometime before September 12, 2019 when the WIV's public database of samples and virus gene sequences was taken offline between 2AM and 3AM local time. The database contained more than 22,000 entries consisting of sample and pathogen data collected from bats and mice. Later, the NIH deleted early COVID-19 genetic sequences found in China.

Top scientists at the WIV and Dr. Daszak furthered the Chinese government's cover-up of a WIV leak. Their actions included bullying other scientists who questioned whether the virus could have leaked from a lab; misleading the world about how a virus can be modified without leaving a trace; and, in many instances, directly lying about the nature of the research they were conducting, as well as the low-level safety protocols they were using for that research.

High-level U.S. government and pharmaceutical officials also lied and suppressed information on COVID's GoF origin, and Englishman Jeremy Farrar, head of Wellcome Trust, helped formulate and signed early 2020 misleading articles in the *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*. (In December 2020 the World Health Organization announced that Farrar was slated to become its chief scientist in the second quarter of 2023.)

A small group of virologists queried by the NIH in February 2020 told the NIH leadership that SARS-CoV-2 might have arisen from laboratory research, noting that the virus has unusual features that virologists in the U.S. have been using in experiments for years–often with support from the NIH.

These unusual features include: a furin cleavage site that no other coronavirus has ever naturally evolved and which makes the virus much more infectious to human cells; and, according to Columbia University Professors Jeffrey Sachs and Neil Harrison, a sequence of eight amino acids identical to those found in cells that line human airways, indicating that the virus could have been genetically manufactured by humans in a laboratory.

Dr. Jeffrey Sachs served as the chair of the COVID-19 commission for leading medical journal the *Lancet.* In that capacity, he came to the conclusion that there is extremely dangerous biotechnology research being kept from public view, that the United States was supporting much of this research, and that it is very possible that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, originated through dangerous virus research gone awry.

The infectious agent SARS-CoV-2 and the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine—which is characterized as gene therapy—were co-developed under the same research program.

Sasha Latypova, a former pharmaceutical executive, revealed that the Pentagon, which controlled the COVID-19 program from the beginning, adopted shady contracting practices while shielding pharmaceutical companies from liability, including changes in informed consent rules permitting unethical human experimentation and introducing dangerous vaccines that were never properly tested or regulated.