

Mail on Sunday

WHO chief 'believes Covid DID leak from Wuhan lab' after a 'catastrophic accident' in 2019 despite publicly maintaining 'all hypotheses remain on the table'

- **Director-general Tedros Adhanom confided to a senior European official: source**
- **The Mail on Sunday first revealed concerns about Wuhan's Institute of Virology**
- **Worldwide death toll of Covid pandemic now estimated to be above 18million**
- **WHO initially branded lab leak fears 'a conspiracy theory', accepting China story**

By **GLEN OWEN POLITICAL EDITOR FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY**

PUBLISHED: 22:01 BST, 18 June 2022 | **UPDATED:** 23:20 BST, 18 June 2022



Gain-of-function research can't deliver pandemic predictions. Are there alternatives?

By Simon Wain-Hobson | June 27, 2022

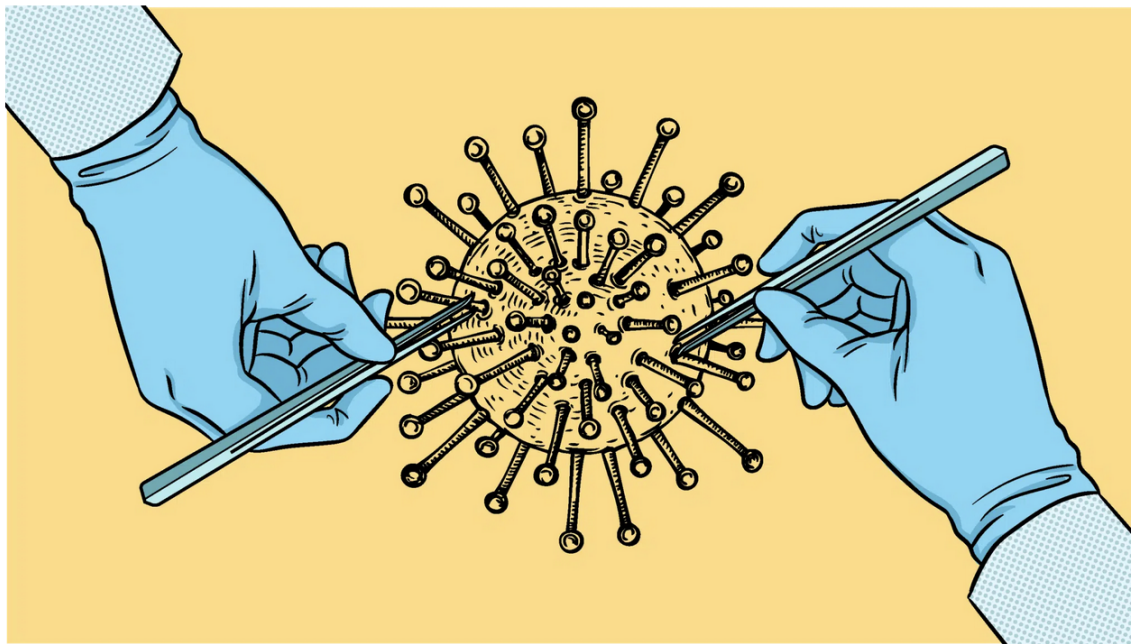


Illustration by Erik English.



Simon Wain-Hobson

Simon Wain-Hobson is an emeritus professor at the Institute Pasteur, Paris, from which he retired in 2021. He and his colleagues were the first to... [Read More](#)

27 June 2022
Matt Ridley

LONG-READ

The case for the lab-leak theory

Why of all the cities in the world did Covid first emerge in Wuhan?

Article

30 June 2022

SARS-CoV-2-Related Bat Virus in Human Relevant Models Sheds Light on the Proximal Origin of COVID-19

Sarah Temmam, Xavier Montagutelli, Cécile Hérate, Flora Donati, and 21 more ▾

This is a preprint; it has not been peer reviewed by a journal.<https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1803095/v1>

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Bat sarbecovirus BANAL-236 is highly related to SARS-CoV-2 and infects human cells, albeit lacking the furin cleavage site in its spike protein. The virus replicates efficiently and pauci-symptomatically in humanized mice and in macaques, where its tropism is enteric, strongly differing from that of SARS-CoV-2. Six passages in mice or in human intestinal cells, mimicking putative early spillover events, selected adaptive mutations without appearance of a furin cleavage site and not change in virulence.

15 July 2022

Carl Zimmer

MATTER

Bat Virus Studies Raise Questions About Laboratory Tinkering

Working in a laboratory in Paris, scientists gave a close relative of the Covid virus the chance to evolve to be more like its cousin.



Peter Daszak ✓
@PeterDaszak



“This is another nail in the coffin of the lab leak theory that by now should be firmly sealed in the crypt”
[@edwardholmes](#). If furin cleavage site didn't evolve in serial passage expts, then it's unlikely it would have done so in the Wuhan lab.



nytimes.com

Bat Virus Studies Raise Questions About Laboratory Tinkering

Working in a laboratory in Paris, scientists gave a close relative of the Covid virus the chance to evolve to be more like its cousin.

3:19 PM · Jul 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App



The Intercept_



BECOME
A MEMBER

A fruit bat captured by CDC scientists in Queen Elizabeth National Park on Aug. 24, 2018 in Uganda. Photo: Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post via Getty Images

INFECTION OF WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST HIGHLIGHTS RISKS OF VIRUS HUNTING

A graduate student fell ill with a novel virus after working with wild bats in Uganda and Sudan.



Sharon Lerner

July 2 2022, 1:42 p.m.

Science

Dangerous incidents at UK laboratories 'potentially exposed staff to Covid'

Official reports describe leaks of virus-laden fluids, a flood and a researcher bitten by an infected ferret

Ian Sample *Science editor*

Twitter @iansample

Tue 5 Jul 2022 07:00 BST



“The [Health](#) and Safety Executive recorded at least 47 “dangerous occurrences” involving coronavirus at UK research facilities, hospitals and Lighthouse labs over the course of the pandemic. Reports from 37 cases were released to the Guardian under the Freedom of Information Act. The rest were withheld because of ongoing investigations.”

HEALTHCARE

The US Is Funding A Massive Virus Hunt That Might Cause Another Pandemic. Great Idea!

Steven Salzberg Contributor ⓘ

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Jul 5, 2022, 07:30am EDT



China links seven COVID-19 outbreaks to food packaging

By [News Desk](#) on July 10, 2022

China has linked seven COVID-19 outbreaks and almost 700 cases to contaminated imported frozen food packaging materials.



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Trailer | Wuhan Wuhan

With unprecedented access in a period of pandemic lockdown, Wuhan Wuhan documents February and March 2020 in Wuhan where the coronavirus was first discovered. Going beyond the statistics and salacious headlines, frontline medical workers, patients, and ordinary citizens put a human face on the early days of the mysterious virus as they grapple with an invisible, deadly killer.



11 July 2022



Research Article

Forensic analysis of novel SARS2r-CoV identified in game animal datasets in China shows evolutionary relationship to Pangolin GX CoV clade and apparent genetic experimentation

Adrian Jones, Steven E Massey, Daoyu Zhang, Yuri Deigin, Steven C. Quay



This is a preprint; it has not been peer reviewed by a journal.



<https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1836803/v1>

Identification of GX_ZC45r-CoV, a novel bat-SL-CoVZC45-related coronavirus in metagenomic data from He et al 2022 metatranscriptomic analysis of 1725 game animals from 16 species across China.

Trump aide claims Covid 'came out of the box ready to infect' - claiming virus was being worked on by scientists in a Chinese lab

- **Dr Deborah Birx said most viruses take months or years to become infectious**
- **But the infectious diseases expert and former presidential Covid adviser said Covid 'was already more infectious than flu when it first arrived'**
- **She said that meant Covid was either an 'abnormal thing of nature' or that Chinese scientists were 'working on coronavirus vaccines' and became infected**

INTERVIEWS

"The experiments we're doing today are riskier than they've ever been"



Biosecurity and bio-risk expert Dr Filippa Lentzos discusses the 'explosion' of high-risk research, genetic surveillance, and science misinformation - and says bioscientists must do more to understand the ways their work could be misused or abused

Book coming up
in December
2022

