

Evidence-based investigation of SARS-CoV-2 proximal origin

18 Jan 2024 – 27th session

Commitment of the Participants

Do not divulge video/sound/picture recordings
to others outside of the workshop
(without explicit consent of the persons involved).

Do not record the talks without agreement of the speaker.

Do not record the discussions without agreement of all participants.

Do not divulge without agreement of the participants.

Do not take a public position involving the group of participants.



Scientific Committee

Guillaume Achaz, population geneticist, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle and Collège de France; Paris, France

Bruno Canard, molecular virologist, AFMB CNRS, Université Aix-Marseille, France

Etienne Decroly, molecular virologist, AFMB CNRS, Université Aix-Marseille, France

Jacques van Helden, bioinformatics, biostatistics, genome analysis, Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille, France

Organising Committee

Virginie Courtier-Orgogozo, evolutionary geneticist, Institut Jacques Monod, Université de Paris, France

François Graner, biophysicist, MSC CNRS, Université de Paris, France

José Halloy, biophysicist, LIED CNRS, Université de Paris, France

Participants

Specialists of diverse fields, all trying to elucidate the origins of SARS-CoV-2.

Goals of the Workshop

- (1) Elucidate the origins of SARS-CoV-2
- (2) Foster discussions and collaborations between researchers from various relevant fields (virology, modelling, bioinformatics, ecology, social sciences, etc.) working on the origin of SARS-CoV-2.
- (3) Have a general overview of the different types of evidence and approaches currently undertaken to investigate the origin of the virus.
- (4) Apply an evidence-based analysis to evaluate the different hypotheses about the origin of the virus.

Commitment of the Participants

Adopt an open attitude to alternative hypotheses.

Distinguish clearly facts from interpretations and opinions.

Focus on facts and scientific debate.

Avoid personal attacks (during and after the workshop).

Avoid self-interest biasing the participation.

*All my introduction slides are available online
<https://courtier.ijm.fr/news-covid-origin/>*



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NEWS RELATED TO SARS-COV-2 ORIGIN

Here are the introduction slides presented at our international workshop entitled “***Evidence-based investigation of SARS-CoV-2 proximal origin***” . They present key newspaper articles & scientific papers related to SARS-CoV-2 origin published over the years.

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21 Oct-17 Nov 2022

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26 Oct 2023

Backstage story: The Oct 2023 Correction to Pekar et al

When formal peer-review fails



Gilles Demaneuf · [Follow](#)

15 min read · Oct 25, 2023



36



1



<https://gillesdemaneuf.medium.com/backstage-story-the-oct-2023-correction-to-pekar-et-al-e167080e957d>

Implications of Pekar et al (2022) Correction



Gilles Demaneuf
[@gdemaneuf](#)

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Here I will review more in detail the implications of Pekar et al (2022) correction .

<https://typefully.com/gdemaneuf/implications-of-pekar-et-al-2022-correction-Q3ml7XX>

21 Nov 2023

VANITY FAIR

SPECIAL REPORT

Secret Warnings About Wuhan Research Predated the Pandemic

A series of previously unreported alarms and clashes over US-funded research in China reveal long-standing friction between two groups of government scientists: those who prioritize international collaboration, and those who are kept up at night by the idea that cutting-edge technologies could end up in the wrong hands.

BY KATHERINE EBAN

27 Nov 2023

Covid-19 conspirator Robert Kadlec warns lab leak could spark another pandemic



The former assistant secretary for preparedness and response at the US Department of Health, Robert Kadlec, says he lies awake at night agonising at the chain of events he and Anthony Fauci had set in motion. Picture: Reuters

EXCLUSIVE

By **SHARRI MARKSON**

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/world/covid19-conspirator-robert-kadlec-warns-lab-leak-could-spark-another-pandemic/news-story/0d2fb9fd560f963f2852dc9faeac1770?amp&nk=186d5b446e197aea7bfea9ac70634984-1701077121>

<https://archive.is/UjKgB>

28 Nov 2023



NEW YORK POST

“Dr. Robert Kadlec, a former Trump administration official who served as an official in the biodefense and epidemic response departments during the pandemic, said Chinese military scientist Dr. Zhou Yusen was conducting research on live animals at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in 2019, and filed a patent for a COVID vaccine in February 2020

NEWS

Ex-White House official sheds more light on fate of researcher who may have caused COVID pandemic

By **Melissa Koenig**



30 Nov 2023

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

World Business U.S. **Politics** Economy Tech Finance Opinion Arts & Culture Lifestyle

Anthony Fauci to Testify in House on Covid-19 Pandemic's Origins, U.S. Response

Former White House medical adviser is expected to be grilled in private and public sessions

By [Warren P. Strobel](#) [Follow](#) and [Michael R. Gordon](#) [Follow](#)

Nov. 30, 2023 7:00 am ET



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181

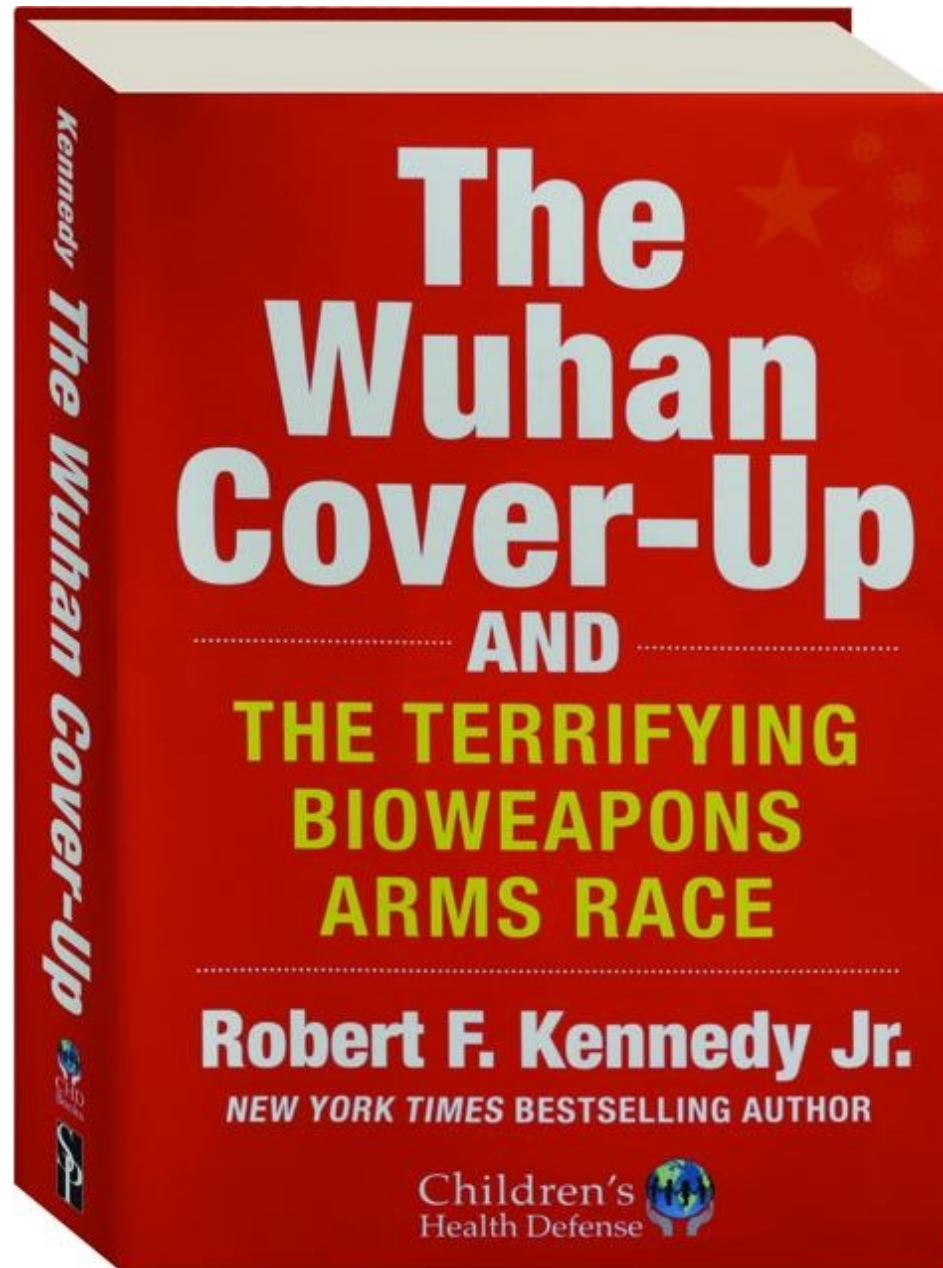


Listen (2 min)



<https://www.wsj.com/politics/anthony-fauci-to-testify-in-house-on-covid-19-pandemics-origins-u-s-response-297bbf41>

5 Dec 2023



4,9 ★★★★★ ∨

92 évaluations

14 Dec 2023

Publishers | December 14, 2023 | updated 05 Jan 2024 4:13pm

Covid-19 origins: A media conspiracy of silence

Why did so many journalists dismiss as a conspiracy the idea Covid-19 leaked from a lab in Wuhan?

By Jim Edwards

In May 2021, Nicholas Wade offered his story to almost every publication he could think of that had a broad circulation or had a science interest. It was turned down three times by his former employer, The New York Times. It was turned down by The Wall Street Journal, turned down by The Economist. Turned down by just about everyone.

<https://pressgazette.co.uk/publishers/wuhan-lab-leak-journalists-media/>

INTERVIEW

Peter Daszak wordt bedreigd om zijn vermeende rol in de coviduitbraak: 'Het is voor sommigen een te goed verhaal om terzijde te leggen'

Peter Daszak: "I did not sign up when the WHO was looking for people for this mission. And then when the WHO contacted me, I said no. It seemed to me rather ridiculous, I was ambushed, I would take too much politics with me. But Mission Leader Peter Embarek said: just go along, this mission is politically charged anyway."

18 Dec 2023

U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW

Pursuing truth and transparency for public health

ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS COVID-19 ORIGINS PESTICIDES CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

DEFUSE draft
FOIA to USGS
(incomplete)

American scientists misled Pentagon on research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology

to SARS-CoV) will be carried out (REF). Isolation will be attempted on a subset of samples with novel SARSr-CoVs. Prof. Ralph Baric, UNC, will reverse engineer spike proteins in his lab to conduct binding assays to human ACE2 (the SARS-CoV receptor). Proteins that bind will then be inserted into SARS-CoV backbones, and inoculated into humanized mice to assess their capacity to cause SARS-like disease, and their ability to be blocked by monoclonal therapies, or vaccines against SARS-CoV (REF).

The modeling team will use these data to build models of 1) risk of viral

Commented [PD4]: Ralph, Zhengli. 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. 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...

Ralf Baric: "In the US, these recombinant SARS-CoV are studied under BSL3, not BSL2, especially important for those that are able to bind and replicate in primary human cells. In china, might be growin these virus [sic] under bsl2. US reseachers [sic] will likely freak out."

20 Dec 2023

Matt Ridley

LONG-READ

The shameless cover-up of the lab-leak theory

The political and scientific establishment seems determined to suppress the truth about Covid's origins.

29 Dec 2023



Volume 10, Issue 1

JOURNAL ARTICLE

What we can and cannot learn from SARS-CoV-2 and animals in metagenomic samples from the Huanan market

Florence Débarre  [Author Notes](#)

Virus Evolution, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2024, vead077, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ve/vead077>

Published: 29 December 2023 **Article history** ▾

<https://academic.oup.com/ve/article/10/1/vead077/7503693>

30 Dec 2023



JOURNAL ARTICLE

Importance of quantifying the number of viral reads in metagenomic sequencing of environmental samples from the Huanan Seafood Market

Jesse D Bloom  [Author Notes](#)

<https://academic.oup.com/ve/article/10/1/vead089/7504441>

4 Jan 2023



New Results

[Follow this preprint](#)

Lethal Infection of Human ACE2-Transgenic Mice Caused by SARS-CoV-2-related Pangolin Coronavirus GX_P2V(short_3UTR)

Lai Wei, Shuiqing Liu, Shanshan Lu, Shengdong Luo, Xiaoping An, Huahao Fan, Weiwei Chen, Erguang Li, Yigang Tong, Lihua Song

“The GX_P2V(short_3UTR) clone can infect hACE2 mice, with high viral loads detected in both lung and brain tissue.”



Prof Francois Balloux @BallouxFrancois · Jan 10

...

I had a look at the preprint. It's a terrible study, scientifically totally pointless. I can see nothing of vague interest that could be learned from force-infecting a weird breed of humanised mice with a random virus. Conversely, I could see how such stuff might go wrong ...

32

95

218

13K

<https://x.com/BallouxFrancois/status/1744932362704556331?s=20>

12 Jan 2023

ORIGINS OF COVID-19

A Pandemic Caused by Science?

Margret Kopala January 12, 2024

16 Jan 2023

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society

Series A: Statistics in Society

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JOURNAL ARTICLE

Statistics did not prove that the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market was the early epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic

Get access >

Dietrich Stoyan, Sung Nok Chiu ✉

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A: Statistics in Society, qnad139,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jrssa/qnad139>

Published: 16 January 2024 **Article history** ▼

17 Jan 2024

DEFUSE draft FOIA to USGS (complete)



GUMBY

@gumby4christ

...

Last month, @emilyakopp of @USRightToKnow published an article about the infamous DEFUSE proposal based on documents obtained from USGS, a DEFUSE partner. However, USRTK uploaded only a portion of those records.

I have obtained the full FOIA cache: [archive.org/details/2021-0...](https://archive.org/details/2021-006245-combined-records-redacted)

7:09 PM · Jan 17, 2024 · 21.6K Views



<https://x.com/gumby4christ/status/174768268075222579?s=20>

<https://archive.org/details/2021-006245-combined-records-redacted>

- **Re: Jim Gimlett's response about riskiness of our proposal**
 - PD asked Jim if anything about our proposal seemed too risky, or not risky enough
 - Jim didn't have anything to say specifically, so we should be on the right track.
 - He did mention, however, that we should show how we'll validate everything

17 Jan 2023



CathyMcMorrisRodgers

@cathymcmorris

...



Our @HouseCommerce investigation just revealed a key Chinese researcher discovered a SARS-CoV-2 sequence on Dec. 28, 2019.

China did not share this sequence with the @WHO until Jan. 11, 2020.

Why did China hide this information?

d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/Ford_H2_316_20...

4:19 PM · Jan 17, 2024 · 11.1K Views

<https://x.com/cathymcmorris/status/1747639804286599625?s=20>

https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/Ford_H2_316_20240111_152518_05f9837537.pdf

26 Dec: Sequence reads obtained by Vision Medicals

26 Dec after noon: sequence data shared with the Institute of Pathogen Biology

28 Dec: researchers from the Institute of Pathogen Biology submitted to Genbank

Sequence was later deleted from GenBank (reasons not clear yet)

Analysis of a SARS-CoV-2 sequence submitted to Genbank on Dec-28-2019

Jesse D Bloom

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Seattle, WA 98109

jbloom@fredhutch.org

https://github.com/jbloom/SARS2_28Dec2019_Genbank_submission/blob/main/README.md

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<https://courtier.ijm.fr/news-covid-origin/>



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