



**FEB. 14** 

**OCT. 26** 

Fauci's NIAID representative

allowed to visit the Wuhan

in China, Chen, is finally

lab. While there, Chen is

photos inside the lab's

facilities.

forbidden from taking any

MARCH 2

Shi, Daszak, and others write

Chinese journal noting that

"results indicate that some

SARSr-CoVs may have high

cells, without the necessity

transmission of SARSr-CoVs

reported." Their paper does

Wuhan Institute of Virology

experiments to determine whether one of the viruses could "infect human cells in

the lab."

had already been conducting

**NOVEMBER** 

The Wuhan Institute of

Virology biosafety level 4

lab officially opens under

**OCTOBER** 

An increase in traffic at

Harvard Medical School

that this may have been

because the coronavirus

than reported.

outbreak happened earlier

study would later suggest

occurs at this time. A

hospitals throughout Wuhan

**GETTY IMAGES** 

director Yuan Zhiming.

HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

not acknowledge that the

from bats to people has been

potential to infect human

for an intermediate host.

However, to date, no

evidence of direct

an article published in a

-/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

officially open in November

The French government had

**APRIL** 

A Wuhan Institute of

Virology thesis supervised by

Shi details how the institute

WIV1, apparently shorthand

Virology, was first publicly

disclosed on Oct. 30, 2013,

published a NIAID-funded

successful isolation of a live

horseshoe bat fecal samples.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing

warning of Wuhan Institute

of Virology's management

interactions with scientists

at the WIV laboratory, they

noted the new lab has a

and safety. "During

serious shortage of

technicians and

appropriately trained

investigators needed to

safely operate this high-

containment laboratory,"

MARCH 27

EcoHealth Alliance

An EcoHealth Alliance

borne Coronaviruses,"

coronaviruses.

2019

**A Chinese couple** are

removed from Canada's only

biosafety level 4 lab after it

becomes known that they

made unauthorized trips to

Wuhan to train scientists

Virology's newly opened

MID-OCTOBER

The U.S. Consul General in

Wuhan, Russell Westergard,

states that "By mid-October

2019, the dedicated team at

the U.S. Consulate General in

had been struck by what was

thought to be an unusually

vicious flu season."

Wuhan knew that the city

ZHENGZHOU/CC BY-SA 4.0

and technicians at the

Wuhan Institute of

biosafety level 4 lab.

proposes to genetically

For COVID-19, the furin

shown to be key for the

virus's pathogenicity.

"Defusing the Threat of Bat-

engineer a "human-specific"

furin cleavage site into bat

cleavage site would later be

**JULY** 

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

funding application,

Please accept the following proposal to the PREventing EMerging Pa HR001118S0017) program. The PI for this project is:

SCREENSHOT/DRASTICRESEARCH

one of the cables read.

sends two diplomatic cables

**JAN. 19** 

TEH ENG KOON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

study claiming the first

coronavirus (WIV1) from

2018

when Shi, Daszak, and others

performed experiments,

without traces" on their

for Wuhan Institute of

replacing "the S gene

WIV1 coronavirus.

CDC/ DR. ERSKINE PALMER

refused to certify the lab in

2015 citing bioweapons

2018.

concerns.

**BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES** 

MAY 3

A Chinese newspaper article

details Tian's work, including

collecting 10,000 bats from remote locations in China for

further study at the Wuhan

collected the bats without

JANUARY-MARCH

**U.S. Embassy officials** visit

Virology level 4 lab in the

Two official warnings are

sent back to Washington

the lab, which was

about "inadequate safety at

conducting risky studies on coronaviruses from bats."

The warnings contend that

support the Wuhan Institute

coronaviruses was important

**APRIL 4** 

A NIAID-funded study by

of animal facilities at the

Daszak would later deny

the institute.

that live bats were kept at

**SEP. 12** 

The Wuhan Institute of

the middle of the night.

**Virology's database** of viral

sequences is taken offline in

Later that day, the institute

announcement for "security

"registration and reception

OCT. 7-24

No cellphone activity could

Wuhan Institute of Virology,

be detected in the high-

according to a May 2020

security portion of the

NBC report.

PAIKONG/SHUTTERSTOCK

publishes a procurement

services" to handle the

of foreign personnel."

SILVABOM/SHUTTERSTOCK

acknowledges the existence

Wuhan Institute of Virology.

**Shi, Daszak,** and others

the United States should

of Virology "because its

but also dangerous."

research on bat

city of Wuhan several times.

the Wuhan Institute of

CDC. Tian admits that he

taking any safety

precautions.

**NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES** 

**OCT.** 1

**Daszak emails Fauci** about

being carried out at the

find out if it can infect

human cells in the lab."

bat coronavirus experiments

Wuhan Institute of Virology:

"We're also doing assays to

FEB. 18

**NIAID's China representative** 

developing a new type of flu

vaccine. The information on

the new vaccine is deleted

**JULY 16** 

The Wuhan Institute of

statement connecting the

institute to funding from the

Wellcome Trust headed by

Jeremy Farrar, who would

later play a crucial role in

natural origins narrative.

**SEP. 18** 

**OGPMB** 

THE GLOBAL

MONITORING BOARD

**The Global Preparedness** 

Monitoring Board, a WHO-

related organization of 15

politicians and scientists,

possibility for a global

fast-moving, virulent

respiratory pathogen

pandemic."

Farrar, and Gao.

The U.S. Agency for

**International Development** 

abruptly shuts down the

PREDICT program, which

monitoring dangerous animal viruses that could transfer to

collaborated with the Wuhan

focused on tracking and

humans. PREDICT had

Institute of Virology.

issues a warning about the

pandemic, stating that "the

world is not prepared for a

The report is based on a Sept.

10, 2019, study prepared by

Johns Hopkins for the GPM

Board, which includes Fauci,

OCT. 25

**USAID | PREDICT** 

USAID.GOV

**GPMB.ORG** 

Fauci's creation of the

Virology publishes a

POSTMODERN STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

online later that month.

discovers that the Wuhan

Institute of Virology is

in China, Chen Ping,

CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

die. Researchers later

determine that swine acute

diarrhea syndrome (SADS)

comes from a virus whose

percent identical to that of a

FEB. 23

An article published in the

journal Nature warns about

possible lab leaks from the

Virology's P4 laboratory and

will be possible to maintain

**NOV. 30** 

Shi, Daszak, and others

publish NIAID-funded

**research** claiming that

horseshoe bats they had

collected from the Shitou

cave in Yunnan Province

were very likely from the

same bat population that

coronavirus in 2003. Shi

makes no mention of the

Mojiang mine where three

miners died and where she

MARCH 27

Final visit conducted by U.S.

Wuhan Institute of Virology,

where researchers and staff

**Embassy officials** to the

gave U.S. officials an

overview of the new

biosafety level 4 lab. U.S.

lack of trained staff at the

Wuhan Institute of Virology.

**DEC. 10** 

GRANDBROTHERS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Infectious Diseases

Allergy and

Vaccine Research Center

**A NIAID-funded study** by Shi

and others notes that both

SARS and MERS "likely

originated in bats." The

report warns that future

evolution of bat coronavirus

strains "may allow them to

cross the species barriers

between bats, civets and

humans, posing potential

OCT. 6-11

A report obtained by NBC in

may have been a "hazardous

May 2020 suggests there

event" at the Wuhan

Institute of Virology.

MICHAEL NAGLE/GETTY IMAGES

health threats."

Dale and Betty Bumpers

officials would later report a

subsequently collected

thousands of bat fecal

samples.

spawned the SARS

STEEVE JORDAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

also questions whether it

the required openness of

information in China.

Wuhan Institute of

LOIC VENANCE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

nature.com

genomic sequence is 98

coronavirus found

nearby cave.

in horseshoe bats in a

NOVEMBER  HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	NOVEMBER  STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	NOVEMBER  In November, "U.S. intelligence officials were	NOV. 17  STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	DEC. 1  STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES
The disease worsens this month, U.S. Consul General Westergard would later write.	Three lab workers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology are hospitalized with COVID-type symptoms, according to unconfirmed reports published on May 23, 2021. Huang Yanling, a researcher at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, is rumored to be patient zero. Her profile is scrubbed from the institute's website.	warning that a contagion was sweeping through China's Wuhan region," according to an April 8, 2020, report by ABC News. An intelligence report by the military's National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI) states that "it could be a cataclysmic event."  It would later be reported that NCMI concluded that the virus most likely leaked out of a Wuhan lab. NCMI's conclusion would be included without attribution in the 2021 intelligence community assessment on the virus's origins.	The first case of COVID-19 is detected, according to a March 13, 2020 report by South China Morning Post.	A report in The Lancet would later claim that the first known case of COVID- 19 occurred on this date, in a patient with no known ties to the Huanan Seafood Market.  A March 2021 WHO report would state that the first known case occurred on Dec. 8, 2019.
STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	SHANGHAI MEDIA GROUP/YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT	STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES
The Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention Bio-Safety Level 2 Lab moves to a new location, just 900 feet from the Huanan Seafood Market. The new location is also adjacent to the hospital where the first group of doctors were infected during the epidemic. The lab is reported to have "kept disease-ridden animals in its labs, including some 605 bats."	The WHO would later claim that this date saw the emergence of the first known case of COVID-19. This claim would be contradicted by a Lancet study citing Dec. 1, 2019, as the date of the first known case.  DEC. 30	In an interview at the Nipah Virus International Conference, Daszak confirms that the Wuhan Institute of Virology is experimenting with coronaviruses, some of which "get into human cells in the lab."	A video shows Wuhan CDC workers, including Tian, collecting virus samples in bat caves in Hubei Province. The date of the original footage is unknown.  Tian has not spoken publicly for more than a year.	Wuhan city officials begin to close public schools to control the spread of the disease, Westergard would later note. Westergard's team passes this information to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing while continuing to monitor the situation.
The full genome of COVID-19 is sequenced. The CCP does not share this data with the outside world.	Shi is reportedly informed of a new coronavirus outbreak. Shi claims that "such viruses were most likely to originate in South China" and that she "never expected this kind of thing to happen in Wuhan, in Central China."	Patient samples arrive at the Wuhan Institute of Virology after the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention detects a novel coronavirus in two hospital patients with atypical pneumonia.	Fifty-nine suspected cases with fever and dry cough begin to be transferred to a designated hospital.	NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  An epidemiological alert is released by the Wuhan local health authority.
Taiwan warns the International Health Regulations (Taiwan is not a member of the World Health Organization [WHO]) that the new disease is transmitted from human to human. Its warning is not shared with other countries. Taiwan also starts monitoring all incoming travelers from Wuhan.	Daszak sends a 19-tweet thread culminating with the claim that human-wildlife-livestock interface is the likely source of the outbreak in Wuhan.	The Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan is shut down.	STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Chinese officials provide information to the WHO "on the cluster of cases of 'viral pneumonia of unknown cause' identified in Wuhan."	WHO sends a tweet that "China has reported to WHO a cluster of pneumonia cases—with no deaths— in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Investigations are underway to identify the cause of this illness."
Chinese authorities reportedly form "an expert team of physicians, epidemiologists, virologists, and government officials" shortly after the Dec. 31, 2019, alert.	Holmes obtains the full genomic sequence of COVID-19. He does not share it publicly due to pressure from Chinese authorities.  THE ROYAL SOCIETY/CC BY-SA 3.0	The Wuhan Institute of Virology obtains the genomic sequence of COVID-19.	The Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center's Zhang Yongzhen and his team publish the COVID-19 genomic sequence on open platforms. According to Holmes, a collaborator of Zhang's, Chinese and Western scientists obtained the full sequence a week prior, but were pressured by Chinese authorities not to publish it.  Holmes would be listed as a co-author of Kristian Andersen's Feb. 16, 2020, "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2" paper, which promoted the natural origins theory.	The laboratory at the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center is ordered to close for "rectification," one day after professor Zhang Yongzhen's team published the genomic sequence of COVID-19 on open platforms. The closure order was issued by the Shanghai Health Commission.
SCREENSHOT/TWITTER  World Health Organization (WHO) WHO  To date, new #coronavirus (2019-nCoV) person-to-person transmission outside of #China has been limited.  WHO Situation Report 30 January 2020 bit.ly/2tU5h5q  NEW CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)  WHO posts a tweet citing Chinese authorities as saying there was no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission.	ALASTAIR PIKE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Social  Kristian Andersen sends a tweet praising China's virus response. Andersen would later take on a prominent role in Fauci's creation of the natural origins narrative.	Fauci donates Remdesivir samples to China for an experimental clinical trial to test its effectiveness against COVID-19. Remdesivir was developed with taxpayer funds by Fort Detrick scientists and the American pharmaceutical company GILEAD.	The world's largest banquet, attended by more than 40,000 families, is held in a populous district of Wuhan to celebrate the Chinese New Year.	JAN. 21  GILEAD SCIENCES VIA REUTERS  The Wuhan Institute of Virology registers the Chinese patent for Remdesivir.
HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Lockdown measures go into effect in Wuhan.	A study is published in The Lancet that shows that three of the first four identified patients – including Patient 1 – had no known exposure to the Huanan seafood market. One-third of all known patients had no exposure to the market, which reportedly also sold butchered animal meat, did not sell bats. Chinese authorities would later rule out the market as the source of the pandemic.	JAN. 30  JESSICA MCGOWAN/GETTY IMAGES  The CDC reports the first case of person-to-person transmission in the United States.	The WHO claims person-to-person transmission outside of China has been limited.	The WHO declares the coronavirus outbreak a global public health emergency. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director of the WHO, says, "The speed with which China detected the outbreak, isolated the virus, sequenced the genome and shared it with WHO and the world are very impressive."
JAN. 31  President Donald Trump halts flights from China.  OLIVIER DOULIERY - POOL/GETTY IMAGES	FEB. 1  WANG ZHAO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Andersen tells Fauci's teleconference group he's "60 to 70 percent" sure the virus came from a laboratory. Holmes tells the teleconference group he's "80 percent sure the virus came out of a lab."  Secret Teleconference Timeline Below.	Biden criticizes Trump's travel ban in a tweet: "We are in the midst of a crisis with the coronavirus. We need to lead the way with science — not Donald Trump's record of hysteria, xenophobia, and fearmongering. He is the worst possible person to lead our country through a global health emergency."	China officials respond to Trump's travel ban by claiming that it is "neither based on facts, nor helpful." "Many countries have offered China help and support through various ways. In contrast, the U.S. comments and actions are neither based on facts, nor helpful at this particular time," foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a statement.	Shi and her collaborators state in a new article that scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology had a close match to the virus that causes COVID-19. It would later be discovered that the virus that Shi referenced was actually RaBtCoV/4991, the virus that was taken from the Mojiang mine back in 2012.
FEB. 3  Fauci, Daszak, Andersen, and other scientists are invited to a meeting organized by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to "help determine the origins" of the COVID-19 virus. The meeting is organized on short notice at the request of White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Kelvin Droegemeier. Fauci gives a 10-minute presentation.  Fauci and the other scientists push the natural origins theory but are ultimately ignored by NASEM in a Feb. 6, 2020, response to the White House.	WHO Director Tedros issues his "Report of the Director-General," which includes a call to "combat the spread of rumours and misinformation." Tedros states that "social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook, Tencent, and TikTok have also taken steps to limit the spread of misinformation."  FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	In an article published in the journal Emerging Microbes & Infections, researchers at Wuhan University (separate from the Wuhan Institute of Virology) write that they found a close relative of COVID-19 in a Chinese database called RaBtCoV/4991. It would later be learned that this is the same virus that Shi renamed as RaTG13 two days earlier on Feb. 3, 2020.	FEB. 6  A paper by Chinese researchers Xiao Botao and Xiao Lei states that the coronavirus probably originated from either the Wuhan Institute of Virology or the Wuhan CDC. The authors reveal that the Wuhan CDC, located a mere 900 feet from the Huanan Seafood Market, kept live animals for research. The paper is quickly removed from ResearchGate  In addition to the labs operated by the Wuhan institute, China's CDC also operates a separate level-2 biosafety lab in Wuhan that was experimenting with bat coronaviruses.	MARK RALSTON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  MARK RALSTON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Dr. Li Wenliang dies of COVID-19. Li had attempted to warn colleagues about a mysterious new respiratory virus over online forums.
FEB. 7  TOMWSULCER/CC0 1.0  Rutgers University's Ebright, who had warned about the Wuhan Institute of Virology in 2015, tells Caixin that data indicated that either the virus began infecting people naturally or it entered the population due to a lab mishap.	Shi posts on Chinese social media: "The novel 2019 coronavirus is nature punishing the human race for keeping uncivilized living habits. I, Shi Zheng-Li, swear on my life that it has nothing to do with our laboratory I advise those who believe and spread rumors from harmful media sources, as well as those who believe the unreliable so-called academic analysis of Indian scholars, to shut their stinking mouths."	Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping calls for legislation on a new biosecurity law to be accelerated.  NICOLAS ASOURI - POOL/GETTY IMAGES	FEB. 16  Ebright says the lab leak theory cannot and should not be dismissed.  RUTGERS.EDU	Andersen, Holmes, Robert Garry, Andrew Rambaut, and Ian Lipkin's article "The Proximal Origin of SARS- CoV-2," claiming that the virus has natural origins, is published online.  According to Garry, the first draft of this article was finished on Feb. 1, the same day that Andersen told Fauci's teleconference group he was "60 to 70 percent" sure the virus came from a laboratory. Holmes told the group at the time that he was "80 percent sure the virus came out of a lab."  Lipkin, who would later retract his opinion, was the only author who didn't participate in the Fauci teleconference.
THE LANCET	Chinese military scientists file a patent application for a COVID-19 vaccine. China's early work on a vaccine raises concerns that China was aware of the virus earlier than publicly acknowledged.	A participant in Fauci's secret teleconference, Marion Koopmans, admits on Dutch TV that coronaviruses were being "changed," "modified," and "added to" in China.  HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	SCIENTIFIC SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SPECIAL REPORT THE FUTURE OF PHYSICS Will search for anomore.  Shi tells Scientific American that she initially feared the virus might have come from her lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Shi claims she breathed a sigh of relief when the results came back and none of the sequences matched those of the viruses her team had sampled from bat caves. "That really took a load off my mind I had not slept a wink for days." When asked about the Mojiang mine, Shi states that the miners' illnesses and deaths stemmed from an unrelated funcal infection.	MARCH 16  WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES  Trump announces "15 days to slow the spread."
University of Innsbruck bioengineer Rossana Segreto notes that the RaBtCoV/4991 virus, which had been in Shi's possession for seven years, is an exact match for COVID-19's closest relative. Shi had concealed the source of this virus by renaming it RaTG13 in her Feb. 3, 2020, paper.	NARCH 17  LOIC VENANCE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Patternational weekly journal of science  International weekly journal of science  Latest Research  Patternational weekly journal of science  Latest Research  Patternational weekly journal of science  Latest Research  Patternational weekly journal of science  Patternational weekly journal of science  Latest Research  Patternational weekly journal of science  Pa	APRIL 8  KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES  China lifts lockdown on Wuhan.	APRIL 15  President Trump suggests he has seen information suggesting that the pandemic started at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.  SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES	CNBC reports that the intelligence community "is examining whether the virus that caused a global pandemic emerged accidentally from a Chinese research lab studying diseases in bats." Intelligence agencies have reportedly "ruled-out" that the virus was "man-made."
APRIL 17  APRIL 17  Secretary of State Mike Pompeo suggests that the pandemic started at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES  APRIL 30	APRIL 17  CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES  Fauci dismisses the possibility of a lab origin for the virus, citing Andersen's "Proximal Origin" paper (see Feb 16, 2020), and claiming not to remember Andersen's name.  APRIL 30	APRIL 20–24  PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Trump tasks the National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency with looking into the origins of the pandemic. It would later become known that one of the experts consulted by the intelligence community was Daszak.  MAY 1	SHARAF MAKSUMOV/SHUTTERSTOCK  SHARAF MAKSUMOV/SHUTTERSTOCK  Trump terminates Daszak's grant for his research with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.  Despite Trump's cancellation, Fauci would soon award Daszak a much larger grant, on Aug. 27, 2020  MAY 4	APRIL 27  HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  A video is uploaded to YouTube showing dilapidated conditions and waste accumulation on Wuhan Institute of Virology grounds.  MAY 18
The U.S. intelligence community issues a statement claiming that the virus likely had "natural origins."  DNI.GOV	During a White House event, Trump again suggests a possible leak at a lab in Wuhan. "When asked whether he had seen evidence that suggested that the virus originated at the Wuhan lab, Trump responded: 'Yes, I have.' When asked about specifics, Trump stated: 'I can't tell you that. I'm not allowed to tell you that."  In addition to the labs operated by the Wuhan Institute of Virology, China's CDC also operates a separate level-2 biosafety lab in Wuhan that was experimenting on bat coronaviruses.	The Lancet's editor-in-chief appears on Chinese staterun media, praising the Chinese government's response to the virus and dismissing lab leak theories.  U.S. MISSION GENEVA/ERIC BRIDIERS	Fauci says there is no scientific evidence that the virus was made "in a Chinese lab." He adds that he sees no difference between the virus being brought to a lab and escaping and the virus spilling over in nature.	DOCUMENTCLOUD.ORG  ***********************************
MAY 25  HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Samples taken from animals at the Huanan Seafood Market all test negative for SARS-CoV-2. Chinese CDC director Gao Fu states: "At first, we assumed the seafood market might have the virus, but now the market is more like a victim. The novel coronavirus had existed long before."	Former MI6 head Richard Dearlove says he believes the virus escaped from a Chinese lab and that evidence of the leak has likely been destroyed by the Chinese regime.  CATE GILLON/GETTY IMAGES	In an apparent reference to the deaths of three miners at the Mojiang mine, Shi collaborator Linfa Wang tells National Geographic: "When we have prevented small outbreaks, people don't care. It doesn't get media attention In Wuhan, if three people died and it was controlled, would we know it? No. This is happening all the time. It's just in remote villages where people die. You bury them and end of the story, right?"	A paper by European scientists presents evidence that SARS-CoV-2 was engineered.	JULY 15  JOHANNES EISELE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Shi gives a lengthy statement to Science in which she denies that the virus came from her lab.
NBC News is the first foreign news organization that is granted access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology since the start of the outbreak. During interviews, officials "strongly [deny] that the virus could have originated at the institute" and claim that "scientists at the institute obtained their first samples of the coronavirus after the disease had begun to spread among the public."	Daszak denies that the virus could have leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. He acknowledges that he worked with the institute for 16 years.	Aug. 27  Andersen and Daszak receive large grants from Fauci's NIAID.  It is unknown why Fauci awarded this new, larger grant to Daszak after his previous grant had been terminated by Trump on April 24, 2020.  Daszak's cumulative grant funds are reported to total \$7.5 million.  ALEX EDELMAN-POOL/GETTY IMAGES	Ralph Baric, who co-wrote the NIAID-funded Nov. 2015 paper that triggered warnings about the pandemic risks of the Wuhan Institute of Virology's experiments, tells Italian TV: "You can engineer a virus without leaving any trace. The answers you are looking for, however, can only be found in the archives of the Wuhan laboratory."	NOV. 7  HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Daszak celebrates Biden's win online and looks forward to hitting the baiju (Chinese liquor) with Shi.
NOV. 17  STEEVE JORDAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Shi publishes an addendum to her Feb. 3, 2020, article admitting that bat samples collected from 2012 to 2015 were actually from the Mojiang mine. Shi also admits that she renamed RaBtCoV/4991, the closest known relative to COVID-19, to RaTG13 in her Feb. 3, 2020, paper.  FEB. 9	DEC. 10  LIONEL BONAVENTURE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Daszak writes in a tweet that no bats were taken to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. He later deletes the tweet.  FEB. 12	DEC. 21  NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  The BBC's China correspondent reports that he was repeatedly thwarted by Chinese authorities from accessing the area of the Mojiang mine.  FEB. 12	During a conference call later aired on Danish TV, the lead origins investigator for the WHO, Peter Ben Embarek says the Wuhan CDC was handling coronaviruses "without potentially having the same level of expertise or safety or who knows."  Embarek would later note that the pandemic "may well have been started by an employee at one of [Wuhan's] laboratories."  None of this information is contained in the formal WHO report.	FEB. 9  HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  Embarek gives a press conference in Wuhan where he makes the claim that the virus had natural origins. He says that the lab leak hypothesis is "extremely unlikely."  MARCH 30
Daszak makes informal comments to reporters following the WHO's Wuhan press conference, stating that the Huanan Seafood Market was the source of the virus.	Tedros says that "all hypotheses are on the table."  FABRICE COFFRINI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES	HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES  A WSJ article states that the Chinese authorities refused to provide raw data on early COVID-19 cases to WHO investigators.	Roland Wiesendanger of the University of Hamburg publishes a study tracking how bat virus experiments at the Wuhan Institute of Virology over the past decade aligned with the emergence of COVID-19 from the institute.  UNI-HAMBURG.DE	The WHO publishes a report titled "WHO-Convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part." A laboratory incident is considered to be "extremely unlikely."  Tedros states that he believes the WHO's assessment was not extensive enough.

