

Settled Science

October 25, 2021

Remember the blow-up last summer between Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Dr. Anthony Fauci over gain-of-function research?

Paul charged that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had supported such research in China. "Senator Paul," Fauci fired back, "you don't know what you are talking about, quite frankly."

"Dr. Anthony Fauci appeared to be channeling the frustration of millions of Americans when he spoke those words during an invective-laden, made-for-Twitter Senate hearing on July 20," imagined Katherine Eban recently in *Vanity Fair*. "You didn't have to be a Democrat to be fed up with all the xenophobic finger-pointing and outright disinformation, coming mainly from the right. . . ."*

Dr. David Relman remarked to Vanity Fair "it's difficult to understand why NIH and EcoHealth have still not explained a number of irregularities with the reporting on this grant."

Nevertheless, Ms. Eban added, "Paul might have been onto something."

Might?

Last week, the NIH sent a letter to Congress admitting that its grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, laundered through the infamous EcoHealth Alliance, resulted in research that even



the NIH acknowledges was gain-of-function.

Sen. Paul knew what he was talking about; Dr. Fauci did not.

NIH was quick to defend Fauci, arguing the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the Chief Medical Advisor to the President was in the dark last summer about the controversial research because EcoHealth Alliance was two years late in reporting. For its part, EcoHealth Alliance "appeared to contradict that claim," telling *Vanity Fair*, "These data were reported . . . in April 2018."

"Given all of the sensitivity about this work," Stanford University microbiologist Dr. David Relman remarked to *Vanity Fair*, "it's difficult to understand why NIH and EcoHealth have still not explained a number of irregularities with the reporting on this grant."

Is it?

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

* Eban concluded her sentence with this clause: "up to and including the claim that COVID-19 was a bioweapon cooked up in a lab." Her assertion that "the right" was calling COVID a "bioweapon" is a canard designed to prematurely halt any inquiry into even the possibility. When Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) simply said there needed to be an investigation of the Wuhan lab, he was fiercely attacked by big media and the lab leak theory was suppressed on Facebook and Google.