

Lab Leak Not Disproved

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A Wuhan wet market is ground zero of the pandemic; COVID-19 could not have originated in a Wuhan laboratory.

At least, so say many “science reporters” commenting on recent research about the origin of the virus. Former *New York Times* science editor Nicholas Wade begs to differ.

Wade (whom we’ve cited before) says it’s possible that the virus jumped from an animal host or that it

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originated in a Wuhan lab. Although both can’t be true, “so far, no direct evidence exists for either.”*

He expounds:

1. The cited research papers, still un-peer-reviewed, do not contradict circumstantial evidence of a lab origin.
2. Nor do they show that the virus originated in the wet market. Even if the earliest known case were



of a person attending the market, one can’t know whether he got infected there or brought the infection with him from a lab.

3. One paper looks only at data from December 2019 and later. Yet the epidemic had been underway for weeks.
4. The same paper claims that the distribution of cases with no overt connection to the wet market is so similar to that of the market-related cases that the former cases must also be connected to the market.
5. But the outside-the-market cases selected for study by Chinese authorities — by Xi Jinping himself for all we know — were not randomly selected. One criterion was *proximity to the wet market*.

So: massive selection bias.

And a pandemic of unscientific reporting.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.

* Wade does not consider some of the smoking-gun type evidence for gain-of-function we’ve mentioned in the past, like the Moderna patent.