



Infected by Politics

July 13, 2023

In 2020, [circumstantial evidence](#) suggested that the COVID-19 virus had originated in a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

Let's say that the available data, limited by Chinese uncooperativeness, couldn't exclude the possibility of a natural origin. Nevertheless, the evidence certainly sufficed to prevent the escape-from-lab explanation from being reasonably deemed an implausible "conspiracy theory."

Years later, U.S. officials who probably also knew better three years ago have acknowledged that, yes, escape from the lab is likely how the pandemic began.

We're also [learning](#) from communications that have come to light that the authors of an influential 2020 paper [published in Nature](#) "proving" that "SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct" fudged their reasoning for fear of China.

Co-author Andrew Rambaut, to co-authors: "Given the shitshow that would happen if anyone serious accused the Chinese of even accidental release, my feeling is we should say that given there is no evidence of a specifically engineered virus, we cannot possibly distinguish between natural evolution and escape so we are content with ascribing it to natural process."

Co-author Kristian Andersen: "Yup, I totally agree that that's a very reasonable conclusion. Although I hate when politics is injected into science — but it's impossible not to, especially given the circumstances."

The paper itself asserted that the authors' analyses "clearly show that SARS-CoV-2 is *not* a laboratory construct . . ." (emphases added). And: no "laboratory-based scenario is plausible."

This paper was then used to rationalize censorship of persons proposing the Wuhan lab as the site of origin. It was completely political; the scientists were acting as politicians *and not scientists* when they authored it. Better to blame bats than the [dreaded](#) Chinazis.

[Funded](#) by the U.S. Government.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.