

Fauci's "Surprise Outbreak" Was No Surprise.  
DAVID CRANE  
JAN 31, 2024

[The claims made in this column are based, in part, on a June 29, 2021 article by Rowan Jacobsen in the MIT Technology Review titled "Inside the risky bat-virus engineering that links America to Wuhan"]

In 2017 Anthony Fauci addressed the nation regarding pandemic preparedness. With supreme confidence, Fauci predicted there will be a "surprise outbreak" during the Trump administration. This was consistent with over twenty years of warnings from Fauci and the rest of the biosecurity cartel that a pandemic was inevitable. What knowledge was behind this certainty?

Fauci was not specific as to the pathogen in his 2017 address, but he was certainly aware that US scientists were conducting gain-of-function research on coronaviruses. After all, his agency, NIAID, had funded much of that research.

He certainly was aware of the gain-of-function research of Dr. Ralph Baric from UNC at Chapel Hill and his collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). Baric shared technology with WIV and in return received the genomes of coronaviruses obtained from bats. WIV then developed its own reverse-genetics technology and made numerous coronavirus chimeras (new viruses made by splicing part of one virus onto the backbone of another).

He certainly remembered that gain-of-function research was shut down by the NIH during the Obama administration over safety concerns, but Fauci off-shored this dangerous research to WIV anyway, using Eco-Health Alliance as a funding conduit.

Fauci certainly had read the March 2016 paper, co-authored by Baric, which announced that WIV discovered a bat-borne coronavirus (WIV1) which was "poised for human emergence." The potential for emergence was demonstrated by creating a chimera from WIV1 and SARS-CoV which had the ability to infect human lung tissue. He may have been aware that Peter Daszak, head of Eco-Health Alliance and collaborator with WIV, boasted in a 2016 speech that his "colleagues in China" were creating a "killer" coronavirus.

Fauci certainly knew that WIV operated under lesser safety standards than used in the US. That fact was disclosed in a 2017 paper by Daszak and Shi, which reported that work done at WIV was done in a BSL-2 lab. In contrast, Baric's work was done in a BSL-3+ lab. This disclosure led Richard Ebright, a Rutgers University biochemist and a gain-of-function research critic, to observe that the viruses which Daszak portrayed as a clear and present danger to the world were being studied in an environment which equaled "the biosafety level of a US dentist's office."

Fauci may even have remembered his 2012 paper in which he asked us to consider this hypothetical scenario:

"An important gain-of-function experiment involving a virus with serious pandemic potential is performed in a well-regulated, world-class laboratory by experienced

investigators, but the information from the experiment is then used by another scientist who does not have the same training and facilities and is not subject to the same regulations. In an unlikely but conceivable turn of events, what if that scientist becomes infected with the virus, which leads to an outbreak and ultimately triggers a pandemic?”

So, as he delivered his 2017 speech on pandemic preparedness, Fauci surely had a lab-borne coronavirus in mind as the likely cause of the predicted outbreak.

This awareness was embedded in the consciousness of the gain-of-function research community and the biosecurity establishment. In its September 2019 report, the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, with Fauci as a member, stated the chances of a global pandemic are growing and cited the additional risk that a “high-impact respiratory pathogen,” engineered or recreated in laboratories, could be released accidentally or deliberately. In October 2019, while the COVID-19 outbreak was starting, Bill Gates conducted the now infamous Event 201 pandemic simulation (war game) with a coronavirus as the hypothetical pathogen.

What does all this add up to? The US was funding coronavirus gain-of-function research, first in the US and later also at WIV. The end-products of this research were viruses with enhanced pathogenicity and transmissibility. In their mind, the scientists were trying to identify viruses “poised for human emergence” and stay ahead of the threat. But no matter what good they thought they were doing for humanity, the inevitable result of the scientists’ manipulations was the creation of novel, non-natural pathogens.

Fauci and the rest of the biosecurity establishment knew that the very existence of gain-of-function research increased the risk of a pandemic. In addition to the risk posed by natural mutations, there was now the added risk posed by manipulated respiratory pathogens, whether their release from the lab be accidental or intentional.

While safety standards may be high in the US, each country sets its own standard, and there are no uniform rules. And this sets the stage for the “scandal,” as one researcher put it, of the WIV conducting the same research as Ralph Baric’s lab but under subpar conditions.

The WIV was not only creating chimeric coronaviruses, it was also collecting and culturing coronaviruses from bats “by the fistful,” according to one author. Workers routinely handled bat feces, blood, saliva, and tissue and probably live bats as well. This created the risk that a naturally occurring pathogen, taken from its natural environment and capable of jumping the species barrier, could escape the lab. In addition, according to Baric, there is the risk that culturing these bat-borne viruses could accidentally create a recombinant version that could be highly infectious to humans.

And all of this was being done in an environment which equaled the biosafety level of a US dentist’s office.

Viewed in this context, the most likely source of the outbreak, whether the virus was natural or man-made, was the WIV lab, which should come as no surprise to Dr. Fauci.