

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2021

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci
Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
5601 Fishes Lane
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Fauci:

A recent report from the media regarding the origins of Covid-19 has come to our attention. This report presents compelling scientific evidence that Covid-19 resulted from a laboratory leak. As the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) we would like for you to answer the questions below.

In a recent Wall Street Journal commentary, titled *The Science Suggests a Wuhan Lab Leak*, Steven Quay, MD, PhD and Richard Muller point out two strong arguments for COVID-19 being the result of gain-of-function research. First, CoV-2, which is the novel coronavirus that leads to the COVID-19 disease contains a special genome sequence which is not only the least likely to be found in nature but also the most likely to be created through gain-of-function experiments. This genome sequence which Dr. Quay and Mr. Muller refer to as “double CGG” has never been found in nature.

The authors also suggest that the double CGG sequence was omitted in an early analyst of the genome sequence of CoV-2 conducted by the Wuhan lab’s leading coronavirus researcher, Dr. Shi Zhengli.

Do you agree with the authors’ assertion, that the double CGG sequence is strong evidence that this virus originated in a lab? If not, what are the counter arguments to their conclusions?

Dr. Quay and Mr. Muller make a second argument: When MERS and SARS arose “they evolved rapidly as they spread through the human population, until the most contagious forms dominated. COVID-19 didn’t work that way. It appeared in humans already adapted into an extremely contagious version. No serious viral ‘improvement’ took place until a minor variation occurred many months later in England.”

They conclude: “Such early optimization is unprecedented, and it suggests a long period of adaption that predated its public spread. Science knows of only one way that could be achieved: simulated natural evolution, growing viruses on human cells until the optimum is achieved. That is precisely what is done in gain of function research.”

Do you agree with Dr. Quay and Mr. Muller that the unprecedented optimization of CoV-2, which lead to the disease's extreme spread suggest a laboratory origin?

Finding the true origins of Covid-19 are of the utmost importance. Over 3.7 million people have died across the globe from this virus. We must find the truth to ensure this never happens again. Furthermore, if this virus was engineered in a lab and released into the world, we must hold those responsible to account.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator