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Fauci Was 'Untruthful' to Congress About Wuhan Lab Research, New Documents Appear To Show

BY **ED BROWNE** ON 9/9/21 AT 8:51 AM EDT

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The National Institute of Health (NIH) has denied funding studies that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans after it was accused of doing so following the release of research proposals.

The documents were obtained and released by The Intercept on Tuesday after it launched an FOIA lawsuit.

Richard Ebright, board of governors professor of chemistry and chemical biology at Rutgers University and laboratory director at the Waksman Institute of Microbiology, told *Newsweek* these documents show "unequivocally" that NIH

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Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which is part of the NIH, [told Congress in May](#) that the NIH "has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology."

Ebright said: "The documents make it clear that assertions by the NIH director, Francis Collins, and the NIAID director, [Anthony Fauci](#), that the NIH did not support gain-of-function research or potential pandemic pathogen enhancement in Wuhan are untruthful."

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GOF research involves modifying a biological agent, like a virus, so that it becomes more active. For obvious reasons, GOF research on influenza or coronavirus viruses has been "the subject of substantial scrutiny," by the NIH's own admission, as it potentially makes the virus more dangerous to humans.

Not all GOF research is equally dangerous. Some types, for example, modify bacteria to produce insulin to treat people with diabetes.

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What the NIH has denied is funding GOF research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous, such as by improving its lethality or transmissibility.

In 2014, the NIH said it paused funding for GOF research that was "reasonably anticipated to confer attributes to influenza, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), or SARS viruses" that would make them more transmissible to humans.

Speaking to *Newsweek*, Ebright said this appeared to be false by his interpretation of the documents released by *The Intercept*.

"Multiple sections of the grant proposals and grant progress reports make it clear that the grants funded gain-of-function research of concern in Wuhan," he said.

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Ebright said these sections of the documents show that NIH grants supported the construction of mutant SARS-related coronaviruses that involved blending different types together. The result was a lab-generated virus that could infect human cells, he said, adding that at least three of the lab-generated viruses "exhibited >10x to >100x higher viral loads in humanized mice."

A humanized mouse is a mouse that has been bio-engineered to mimic certain biological characteristics similar to humans, such as the immune system, so that they can be tested on in labs as a human surrogate. They are commonly used in research.

Figure 35 of the year-four progress report, as referred to by Ebright, is shown below, as well as the associated caption.

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A section of the documents which Ebright said indicates GOF research to make coronaviruses more pathogenic occurred.

DHHS / THE INTERCEPT

A section of the documents which Ebright said indicates GOF research to make coronaviruses more pathogenic occurred.

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The two documents released by The Intercept can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

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The question is whether this work on humanized mice constitutes GOF research on a coronavirus that would make it more dangerous to humans. Ebright says it does.

Newsweek contacted the NIH for comment from Fauci and received this statement: "NIH has never approved any research that would make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans.

"The research we supported in China, where coronaviruses are prevalent, sought to understand the behavior of coronaviruses circulating in bats that have the potential to cause widespread disease. The body of science produced by this research demonstrates that the bat coronavirus sequences published from that work NIH supported were not SARS-CoV-2.

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The health agency issued a statement in May explicitly denying having "ever approved any grant" that would have supported GOF research to make coronaviruses more dangerous to humans.

The NIH did not immediately respond to a request to confirm it denies funding GOF research in light of the newly released documents

Rand Paul, the U.S. senator for Kentucky, saw an interpretation Ebright made of the documents on Twitter as vindication of his criticisms against Fauci.

He tweeted: "I was right about his agency funding novel Coronavirus research at Wuhan."

Surprise surprise - Fauci lied again

*And I was right about his agency funding novel Coronavirus
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— Senator Rand Paul (@RandPaul) [September 7, 2021](#)

Paul has repeatedly asserted that the U.S. funded gain of function research. The two had a public spat at a Senate Health Committee in July, with Paul suggesting Fauci lied to Congress about whether the NIH funded GOF research.

Fauci said he "never lied before the congress" and stood by his assertion that the NIH did not fund GOF research at the Wuhan Insitute of Virology. He said: "Sen. Paul, you do not know what you're talking about, quite frankly."

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Dr Anthony Fauci, seen here speaking at a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee hearing in Washington, D.C., in June 2020. The virus expert has denied that the NIH funded gain of function research to make a coronavirus more dangerous to humans.

KEVIN DIETSCH/POOL / AFP / GETTY

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