

OPINION

The Great COVID Cover-up: Shocking truth about Wuhan and 15 federal agencies

Shame on all the federal employees who covered up these facts about COVID-19



OPINION By **Sen. Rand Paul** · Fox News

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Sen. Rand Paul: Fauci's consequence should be 'jail'

Rand Paul, R-Ky., discusses whether Dr. Fauci will ever face justice for his actions on 'The Ingraham Angle.'

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How vast was the [Great COVID Cover-up](#)? Well, my investigation has recently discovered government officials from 15 federal agencies knew in 2018 that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was trying to create a coronavirus like COVID-19.

These officials knew that the Chinese lab was proposing to [create a COVID 19-like virus](#) and not one of these officials revealed this scheme to the public. In fact, 15 agencies with knowledge of this project have continuously refused to release any information concerning this alarming and dangerous research.

Government officials representing at least 15 federal agencies were briefed on a project proposed by Peter Daszak's EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology.



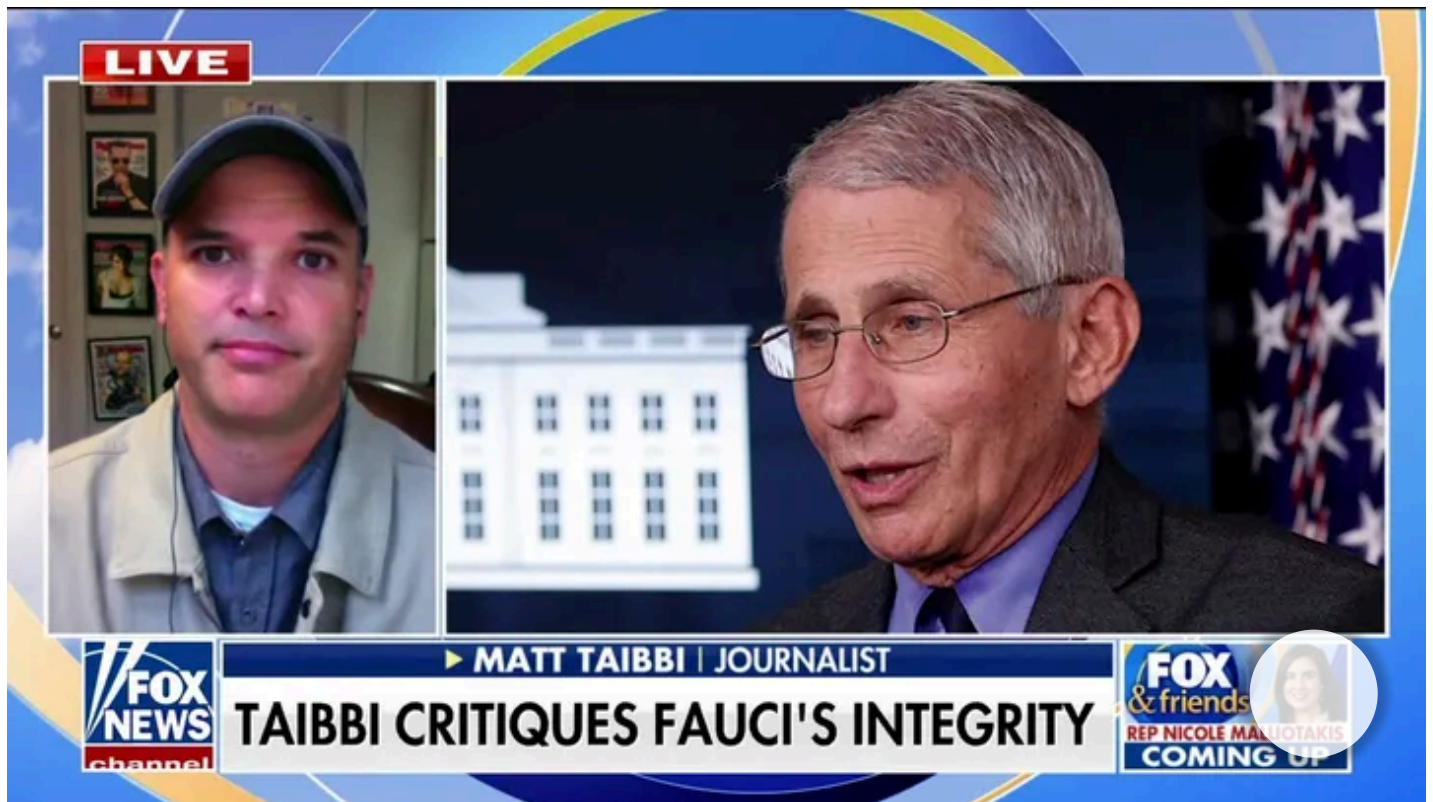
Dr. Anthony Fauci adjusts his face mask during a Senate hearing on the federal response to the coronavirus on Capitol Hill, March 18, 2021. (Susan Walsh-Pool/Getty Images)

This project, the DEFUSE project, proposed to insert a furin cleavage site into a coronavirus to create a novel chimeric virus that would have been shockingly similar to the COVID-19 virus.

THIS WILL BE THE END TO FAUCI'S NIH AS WE KNOW IT

For years, I have been fighting to obtain records from dozens of federal agencies relating to the

What does this mean?



It means that at least 15 federal agencies knew from the beginning of the pandemic that EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology were seeking federal funding in 2018 to create a virus genetically very similar if not identical to COVID-19.

RAND PAUL DEMANDS FAUCI, NIH SCIENTISTS DISCLOSE PHARMACEUTICAL ROYALTIES

already put together plans to create such a virus.

Peter Daszak concealed this proposal. University of North Carolina scientist Ralph Baric, a named collaborator on the DEFUSE project, failed to reveal that the Wuhan Institute of Virology had already proposed to create a virus similar to COVID-19.



And now we know that 15 agencies heard the proposal and when each agency discovered that COVID-19 was strangely similar to DEFUSE's proposed virus creation, not one agency head stepped

THE ARROGANCE OF ANTHONY FAUCI

Not surprising to some of us, [Dr. Anthony Fauci](#)'s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) was not only briefed on Wuhan's desire to create this virus, NIAID was actually listed as a participant in the initial DEFUSE pitch. Fauci's Rocky Mountain Lab was named as a partner alongside the Wuhan Institute of Virology in the proposal.

These documents also reveal that a scientist whose lab has received millions of dollars from EcoHealth was also part of the original plan to create these chimeric coronaviruses. This researcher, Ian Lipkin, also later became one of the authors of "Proximal Origins," a journal paper commissioned by Fauci and National Institutes of Health head Francis Collins to throw shade on anyone arguing that the virus might have come from the lab. Yet, Ian Lipkin never revealed to the public the DEFUSE proposal.



Did NIAID warn us? Did Anthony Fauci warn us? No! All lips remained sealed.

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[Millions of people died from COVID-19](#). We now know that over 15 government agencies, as well as the investigators Peter Daszak, Ralph Baric, Ian Lipkin and scientists at NIAID's Rocky Mountain Lab, all knew of the Wuhan Institute of Virology's desire to create a coronavirus with a furin cleavage site, a virus pre-adapted for human transmission.

And no one spoke up. We only know of this DEFUSE proposal because a whistleblower, one brave Marine, Lt. Col. Joseph Murphy, came forward with the truth.



Likely, hundreds of people in the government knew of this proposal to create a COVID-19-like virus and virtually every one of these people chose to keep quiet, to obscure, and ultimately to conceal information that might have saved lives by letting the world know this was no sleepy animal virus with poor transmission.

No, all evidence suggests COVID-19 was a laboratory-enhanced virus purposefully adapted for human transmission.

Shame on all those who [covered up the DEFUSE project](#)! Of course, they all should be punished but likely won't. At the very least, though, the perpetrators should be made to admit the truth and Congress should finally put in place sufficient oversight to make sure dangerous gain of function experiments are sufficiently vetted and, if necessary, prevented.

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Republican Rand Paul represents Kentucky in the United States Senate. He is the author of "The Case Against Socialism" (Broadside Books, October 15, 2019).

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