

“Dr. Fauci, CDC Director Testify Before Senate on COVID-19 Guidelines Transcript.” Rev, 11 May 2021. <https://www.rev.com/transcripts/dr-fauci-cdc-director-testify-before-senate-on-covid-19-guidelines-transcript>

Sen. Rand Paul (57:58):

Dr. Fauci, We don't know **whether the pandemic started in a lab in Wuhan or evolved naturally**, but we should want to know. Three million people have died from this pandemic, and that should cause us to explore all possibilities. Instead, government authorities, self-interested in continuing gain-of-function research say there's nothing to see here. gain-of-function research, as you know, is juicing up naturally occurring animal viruses to infect humans. To arrive at the truth, the **US government should admit that the Wuhan Virology Institute was experimenting to enhance the coronavirus' ability to infect humans.**

Commented [JH1]: False binary

Commented [JH2]: This “admission” doesn’t necessarily led to the truth.

Juicing up super-viruses is not new. Scientists in the US have long known **how to mutate animal viruses to infect humans.** For years, Dr. Ralph Baric, a virologist in the US, has been collaborating with Dr. Shi Zhengli of the Wuhan Virology Institute, sharing his **discoveries about how to create super-viruses.** This gain-of-function research has been funded by the NIH. The collaboration between the US and the Wuhan Virology Institute continues. Doctors Baric and Shi worked together to insert bat virus spike protein into the backbone **of the deadly SARS virus** and then use this man-made super-virus to infect human airway cells.

Commented [JH3]: Infect them how? Via what mechanism?

Commented [JH4]: What is a super-virus? Did Baric ever achieve this in reality, or is this a product of imagination?

Commented [JH5]: ...which, even if we take that virus at face value, killed almost no one in the world.

Think about that for a moment. **The SARS virus had a 15% mortality.** We're fighting a pandemic that has about a 1% mortality. Can you imagine if a SARS virus that's been juiced up and had viral proteins added to it, to the spike protein, if that were released accidentally? Dr. Fauci, do you still support funding of the NIH funding of the lab in Wuhan?

Commented [JH6]: Estimate based on flawed calculations from a proof-of-concept exercise.

Dr. Anthony Fauci (59:49):

Senator Paul, with all due respect, **you are entirely and completely incorrect that the NIH has not ever and does not now fund gain-of-function research in the Wuhan Institute of Virology.**

Commented [JH7]: Triple negative. “You are wrong that we haven’t ever and don’t currently fund research in WIV”. In other words, we have in the past

Sen. Rand Paul (01:00:06):

Do they fund Dr. Baric?

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:00:09):

We do not fund gain-

Sen. Rand Paul (01:00:11):

Do you fund Dr. Baric's gain-of-function research?

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:00:13):

Dr. Baric does not do gain-of-function research, and if it is, it's according to the guidelines and it is being conducted in North Carolina, not in China.

Commented [JH8]: Defining terms but does not answer about funding. Emphasizes that Baric's research isn't GoF, if it is, it's conducted safely, and it's not conducted in China no matter what.

Sen. Rand Paul (01:00:24):

You don't think concerning a bat virus spike protein that he got from the Wuhan Institute into the SARS virus is gain of function?

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:00:30):

That is not-

Sen. Rand Paul (01:00:31):

You would be in the minority because at least 200 scientists have signed a statement from the Cambridge Working Group saying that it is gain of function.

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:00:39):

Well, it is not. If you look at the grant and you look at the progress reports, it is not gain of function, despite the fact that people tweet that, they write about it-

Commented [JH9]: Debating what GoF is.

Sen. Rand Paul (01:00:50):

Do you support sending money to the Wuhan Virology Institute?

Commented [JH10]: Off subject

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:00:53):

We do not send money now to the Wuhan Virology Institute.

Commented [JH11]: Claim: We aren't sending money to them now, in May 2021.

Sen. Rand Paul (01:00:55):

Do you support sending money? We did under your tutelage. We were sending it through EcoHealth. It was a sub-agency and a sub-grant. Do you support that the money from NIH that was going to the Wuhan Institute?

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:01:08):

Let me explain to you why that was done. The SARS-CoV-1 originated in bats in China. It would have been irresponsible of us if we did not investigate the bat viruses and the serology to see who might have been infected in China.

Commented [JH12]: Direct and reasonable response, under the assumptions of SARS-CoV-1.

Sen. Rand Paul (01:01:29):

Or perhaps it would be irresponsible to send it to the Chinese government that we may not be able to trust with this knowledge and with this incredibly dangerous viruses. Government scientists like yourself who favor gain-of-function research **maintain the disease arose naturally**.

Commented [JH13]: That's what is maintained about SARS-CoV-1 as well.

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:01:43):

I don't favor gain-of-function research **in China**. You are saying things that are not correct.

Commented [JH14]: Saying he may favor it here but not there.

Sen. Rand Paul (01:01:50):

Government defenders of gain of function, such as yourself, say that **COVID-19 mutations** were random and not designed by man. But interestingly, the technique that Dr. Baric developed forces mutations by serial passage through cell culture that the mutations appear to be natural. In fact, Dr. Baric named the technique the "No See 'em" technique, because the mutations appear naturally. Nicholas Baker in the New York Magazine said, "Nobody would know if the virus had been fabricated in a laboratory or grown in nature." Government authorities in the US, including yourself, **unequivocally deny that COVID-19 could have escaped a lab**, but even Dr. Shi in Wuhan wasn't so sure. According to Nicholas Baker, Dr. Shi wondered could this new virus have come from her own laboratory. She checked her records frantically and found no matches. "That really took a load off my mind," she said. "I had not slept for **days**."

Per Sunetra Gupta's comments in October 2024 at the Stanford Next Pandemic conference, Anthony Fauci was worried about GoF. Gupta was not and does not think GoF can yield pandemic pathogens.
<https://woodhouse76.com/2024/11/17/sunetra-guptas-view-on-the-origins-of-sars-cov-2-and-the-threat-posed-by-gain-of-function-research/>

Commented [JH15]: What is a "COVID-19 mutation"? COVID-19 is the WHO name for a disease. SARS-CoV-2 is the ICTV-CSG name for a coronavirus.

Commented [JH16]: That denial is correct. COVID-19 isn't a virus.

Commented [JH17]: So what? Part of the theatre OR an aspect of a scientist thinking she could create a pandemic involving an escaped virus.

The director of the gain-of-function research in Wuhan couldn't sleep because she was terrified that it might be in her lab. Dr. Baric, an advocate of gain-of-function research admits the main problem that the **Institute of Virology has is the outbreak occurred in close proximity**. What are the odds? Baric responded, "Could you rule out a laboratory escape? The answer in this case is probably not."

Commented [JH18]: As pointed out VERY early in the WSJ on 8 January 2020.
<https://woodhouse76.com/2026/04/10/the-earliest-seed/>

Will you in front of this group, categorically say that the **COVID-19 could not have occurred through serial passage in a laboratory**.

Commented [JH19]: If COVID-19 is, in truth, the name of a "disease" resulting from vaccination/repeated vaccination — and serial passage (attempts) in a lab are connected to vaccines — this MIGHT might some sense. But this is Sen Paul again conflating (purposely?) the virus and the "disease".

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:03:20):

I do not have any accounting of what the Chinese may have done, and I'm fully in favor of any further investigation of what went on in China. However, I will repeat again, **the NIH and NIAID categorically has not funded gain-of-function research to be conducted in the Wuhan Institute of Virology**.

Commented [JH20]: Unclear time reference with "has not" and "to be"

Sen. Rand Paul (01:03:44):

But you do support it in the US. **We have 11 labs doing it, and you have allowed it here. We have a committee to do it, but the committee is granted every exemption. You're fooling with Mother Nature here. You're allowing super-viruses to be created with a 15% mortality. It's very dangerous.** I think it was a **huge mistake to share this with China**. It's a huge mistake

Commented [JH21]: So it has been done legally.

Commented [JH22]: But SARS-CoV-1 was said to come from nature. Wouldn't "super" be more than the [alleged] 15% fatality rate?

Commented [JH23]: To whom? How so?

Commented [JH24]: Share what with China?

to allow this to continue in the United States. We should be very careful to investigate where this virus came from.

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:04:10):

I fully agree that you should investigate where the virus came from. But again, we have not funded gain-of-function research **on this virus** in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. No matter how many times you say it, it didn't happen.

Commented [JH25]: On which virus? (Implied: SARS-CoV-2)

Sen. Rand Paul (01:04:23):

You're parsing words. You're parsing words. There was research done with Dr. Shi and Dr. Baric. They have **collaborated** on gain-of-function research **where they enhance the SARS virus to infect human airway cells. They did it by merging a new spike protein on it. That is gain of function.** That was joint research between the Wuhan Institute and Dr. Baric. You can't deny it.

Commented [JH26]: They can do that on of their own accord. It needn't be a directly-funded partnership, or involve US funding to WIV for that project.

Commented [JH27]: No proof they enhanced anything.

Commented [JH28]: No, it's not.

Patty Murray (01:04:48):

Senator Paul, your time has expired.
Dr. Fauci, I will let you respond to that. We need to move on.

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:04:54):

Excuse me?

Patty Murray (01:04:56):

I will allow you to respond to that, and then we'll move on.

Dr. Anthony Fauci (01:05:00):

Yeah. I mean, I just wanted to say, I don't know how many times I can say it, Madam Chair, we **did not** fund gain-of-function research to be conducted **in** the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Commented [JH29]: Past tense

Commented [JH30]: Conducted IN the WIV (versus "with")

Patty Murray (01:05:10):

Thank you. Senator Smith.