

'Gain-of-Function' Hall of Shame

October 1, 2020 Organic Consumers Association

[COVID-19](#), [COVID-19 Nature and Virulence](#), [COVID-19 Origins](#), [OCA on COVID-19](#)

The biological weapons industrial complex, the bureaucrats who fund it, the corporations that shape it and the existential risk that genetic engineering and synthetic biology pose to us all

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is an ongoing project. Check back frequently as we add new profiles to our Gain-of-Function Hall of Shame.*

Our search for the [origins](#) of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 has [led us](#) and others—including some of the world's top independent scientists and investigators—to the [Wuhan Institute of Virology \(WIV\)](#).

Below the surface of the various COVID-19 origin narratives being circulated—by the [Chinese government](#), the Trump Administration, Big Pharma and the corporate-owned mass media—there is a secretive and dangerous labyrinth of money, politics and militarism that connects Wuhan and its sister biowar/biodefense/gain-of-function laboratories across the U.S. and the world.

There are [hundreds of labs](#)—in the U.S., China and around the world—that collect and manipulate viruses, including coronaviruses, and bacteria, fungi, and other toxins that cause disease and death. COVID-19 could have come from any number of them—so could the next pandemic.

In these labs, scientists use genetic engineering and [synthetic biology](#) to give pathogens new functions, making them more lethal, contagious, infectious or resistant to treatment.

This research is euphemistically called [gain-of-function](#) research.

But we should call it what it is: biological weapons—or “gain-of-threat”—research.

If the [Biological Weapons Convention \(BWC\)](#) were strengthened, labs whose work on coronaviruses could be used to make biological weapons, would be required to disclose their research and BWC investigators would have the power to search them.

With BWC enforcement, there could be a full investigation into the origins of the novel coronavirus. Without this scrutiny, if SARS-CoV-2 did come from a lab, it would be nearly impossible to prove.

As we follow the evidence—and follow the money—we come face to face with a cast of out-of-control Mad Scientists, militarists and biotech/bio-pharmaceutical entrepreneurs.

Which of these self-serving characters brought us SARS-CoV-2, which we believe was an accidental, rather than a deliberate release? And who will be responsible for unleashing the next, possibly deadlier, weaponized viruses, bacteria and gene-altered microorganisms in the future?

PROFILE #1: Dr. Christian 'Chris' Hassell

Any scientific lab work that involves making pathogens more lethal, contagious, infectious, or resistant to treatment, even when done, ostensibly, for defensive purposes or medical countermeasures development, is really [too risky](#) to do at all—especially when you consider that 30 years' worth of gain-of-function research has produced no vaccine, and no cure for a pandemic.

But perhaps an even better reason to stop experiments that could be used to create biological weapons, or the next pandemic, is the large number of high-profile—some accidental, some nefarious—releases of deadly pathogens from U.S. labs.

One U.S. government scientist who's been linked, at least indirectly, with one gain-of-function research lab failure is Dr. Christian Hassell. Yet somehow, Hassell still holds the power to secretly exert major control over the so-called "biodefense" industry—by deciding which research gets approved and which corporations receive government contracts.

[Read "Christian 'Risks-Be-Damned' Hassell: Pushing Dangerous, Taxpayer-Funded Genetic Engineering and Gain-of-Function Research"](#)

PROFILE #2: Dr. Robert Kadlec

Dr. Robert Kadlec's [title](#) is Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. In that role, Kadlec oversees a multi-billion-dollar stockpile of medical countermeasures to "defend" the American people against any biological threat, whether military, criminal, natural or accidental.

The stockpile overseen by Kadlec used to be housed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. But Kadlec [fought](#) to put it under his control.

In a normal year, this would mean Kadlec managing a budget of more than [\\$2 billion](#). But with [COVID-19](#) this year, Kadlec is spending [\\$11.5 billion](#) just on companies' efforts to develop, manufacture, store and deliver new vaccines.

Kadlec's responsibilities don't end with his role at HHS. He also plays a big role in overseeing all federal biodefense activities and budgets. And he has a long track record of doling out big contracts to his buddies in the vaccine industry.

[Read 'Dr. Robert Kadlec: How the Czar of Biowarfare Funnels Billions to Friends in Vaccine Industry'](#)

PROFILE #3: Dr. Ralph Baric

Guess what year this ScienceDaily [headline](#) appeared:

"New SARS-Like Virus Can Jump Directly from Bats to Humans, No Treatment Available."

If you guessed 2020, you're wrong. The article was published in 2015. The source was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

That's where scientist Ralph Baric, Ph.D, and a team that included Baric's Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV)

colleague, Shi Zhengli, used genetic engineering and synthetic biology to [create](#) a “new bat SARS-like virus . . . that can jump directly from its bat hosts to humans.”

Baric is known as the [Coronavirus Hunter](#). Zhengli’s nickname is [Bat Woman](#). The two are scientists whose work involves collecting samples of the nearly 5,000 coronaviruses in bat populations and manipulating them for the sole purpose of making them more infectious to humans.

Ostensibly, the research Baric and Zhengli conduct is intended to help scientists get ahead of any coronavirus that might have the potential to emerge as a human pathogen. The reality is this: There is little evidence that this research has prepared us to meet the challenges of the current [COVID-19](#) pandemic. In fact, there are suspicions that the research may have caused the virus.

There’s also ample evidence that Baric has strong ties to Big Pharma—thanks to laws that allow researchers at publicly funded universities to commercialize their research.

[Read ‘Dr. ‘Coronavirus Hunter’ Ralph Baric: Preparing Us for a Pandemic? Or Putting Us in Peril of One?’](#)

PROFILE #4: Peter Daszak

Peter Daszak is president of [EcoHealth Alliance](#), a top [scientific collaborator](#) and a [grantwriter](#) for virus hunters and gain-of-function/dual-use researchers, in labs both military and civilian.

On behalf of the U.S. government, often the military, Daszak and his teams scour the globe for animal pathogens, then bring them back to [high-containment laboratories](#) where they catalog, investigate and use genetic engineering and synthetic biology to make the pathogens more infectious, contagious, lethal or drug-resistant.

Daszak works in labs controlled by the U.S. Department of Defense, in countries in the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, South East Asia and Africa. Many of these labs are staffed by former biological weapons scientists. (See Arms Watch’s [reports](#)).

Daszak and other [gain-of-function](#) researchers justify their experiments this way: If/When an outbreak of a new virus occurs, they can compare it to the ones in their labs, and maybe glean how the novel virus emerged.

Critics of virus hunting [say](#) scientists like Daszak could make a greater contribution to human health by going after the viruses that commonly infect humans, not the ones that never have.

But that logic doesn’t prevent Daszak from pulling in hundreds of millions of dollars to fund his gain-of-function experiments.

Do Daszak and his collaborators do it just for the money? Or do they have a bigger agenda? And why is the Pentagon constructing [new laboratories](#) around the globe, for the “consolidation and securing of pathogens?”

[Read ‘Peter ‘Show Me the Money’ Daszak Pulls in Big Bucks, through EcoHealth Alliance, for Risky Virus ‘Research’](#)

PROFILE #5: Shi Zhengli

She's known as China's "Bat Woman." Shi Zhengli is a [virus hunter and microbiologist](#), and director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

She also plays a central role in a whodunnit that may ultimately prove impossible to solve.

Shi's work involves collecting bat viruses and using techniques of genetic engineering and synthetic biology to enable these viruses to infect human beings.

Since the [Biological Weapons Convention](#) took effect, what scientists like Shi do has been called "[gain-of-function](#)" [research](#) or "[dual-use research of concern](#)" (DURC).

In other words, Shi, and other scientists like her, are in the business of weaponizing viruses by genetically engineering or otherwise altering them to make them more lethal, and more easily transmitted, to humans.

Did Shi have a hand in creating the SARS-CoV-2 virus causing the current [COVID-19](#) pandemic?

[Read 'Shi Zhengli: Weaponizing Coronaviruses, with Pentagon Funding, at a Chinese Military Lab'](#)

PROFILE #6: Anthony Fauci

Dr. Anthony Fauci is a medical doctor who has been the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) since 1984. He's best known in his current role as a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans put their faith in Fauci. His bedside manner—straightforward, modest and unassuming—made it easy to warm up to this grandfatherly nerd. Inspiring trust that he was unbiased, non-partisan and strictly scientific, he quickly became "[America's Favorite Doctor](#)."

With two in three Americans (68%) saying they trust him in [a September 2020 poll](#), Fauci is still considered to be a more reliable source information than the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (67%), Dr. Deborah Birx, the Coronavirus Response Coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force (53%), Joe Biden (52%) and President Trump (40%).

For Democrats, especially, Fauci is a sacred cow; their reverence for him has grown to 86 percent, up from 76 percent in April. Among Republicans, though, his support has slipped to 48 percent.

No doubt, this skepticism is due to the brave work of scientist Judy Mikovits ([Plague of Corruption](#)), filmmaker Mikki Willis ([Plandemic](#)) and Dr. [Joseph Mercola](#).

But, the ease with which Fauci manages to make Trump look bad, while seemingly taking pains not to do so, clearly adds to his charm for Democrats while arousing the suspicions of Republicans.

Really, there's no reason why the search for the truth about the origin of COVID-19 should be a political issue.

Here are 6 reasons why we should all question our faith in Fauci.

[Read 'Anthony Fauci: Eerily Predicted the COVID-19 Pandemic While Funding the Experiments that Likely Caused It'](#)

PROFILE #7: Bill Gates

The problem with their natural-origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 is that the scientists peddling it have no explanation for how the pandemic emerged in Wuhan, when they say they found RaTG13 seven years ago in Tongguan, a town in Mojiang County, Yunnan Province, 1000 miles away from Wuhan.

[New information about RaTG13](#) shows that the cave where it was first found in 2013 is where 6 men got pneumonia in 2012.

The significance of this cannot be overstated. GOF Hall of Famers Shi Zhengli and Peter Daszak had previously tried to bury the link between RaTG13 and the sick men, because it is powerful circumstantial evidence that SARS-CoV-2 emerged not from a natural spillover event but from a lab accident (or, in the worst-case scenario, an intentional release) at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

That is the most plausible inference to make from the available facts. (For more information, please consult the [reading list](#) compiled by U.S. Right to Know, "What are the origins of SARS-CoV-2? What are the risks of gain-of-function research?")

What these facts don't explain is why.

Why was (and is) this work funded by the U.S. government through [Anthony Fauci's](#) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency? Why was it allowed by President Trump's regulators at the Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response [Robert Kadlec](#) and his assistant [Christian Hassell](#), when the previous administration under President Obama had placed a moratorium on the funding of this research?

In his [Plandemic](#) series, filmmaker Mikki Willis has tried to answer these questions by following the money to see who stood to benefit from the reckless (or intentional) release of a pandemic virus.

Bill Gates [tops his list](#).

[Read: 'Bill Gates: The Billionaire Who Puts Vaccine Profiteering Above Human Life'](#)

PROFILE #8: Scott Dowell

When Anthony Fauci decided to fund research on the H5N1 bird flu virus that was akin to weaponization, Gates directed grants from his foundation to support Fauci's hand-picked scientists and their gain-of-function experiments. Gates has even funded experiments at the Pentagon's military labs in foreign countries.

Gates now employs the U.S.'s top virus hunter.

This report focuses on [Dr. Scott F. Dowell](#), the Gates Foundation's deputy director for "surveillance and epidemiology."

Dr. Dowell knows all about the U.S. government's investments in the collection and manipulation of deadly viruses, because he's a virus hunter himself, having led global infectious disease surveillance at the CDC for 21 years (1993-2014).

In 2003, Dowell was part of the international team that isolated and identified the novel coronavirus [associated](#) with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, the first SARS-CoV virus.

But, it is his 2005 [discovery](#), "Probable person-to-person transmission of avian influenza A (H5N1)," that connects him to the controversy over so-called "gain-of-function" experiments, also known as "dual-use research of concern."

Dowell's work closely mirrors that of the virus hunters who are likely responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read: 'Scott Dowell, Bill Gates' Virus Hunter'](#)

This material, provided for educational and informational purposes, constitutes a "fair use" of any copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have an interest in using the included information for research and educational purposes. Organic Consumers Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. To support our work, please send a tax-deductible donation to: OCA, 6771 South Silver Hill Dr., Finland, MN 55603
Activist or Media Inquiries (218) 226-4164. Text JoinOCA to 97779 to join our mobile network.