

# **NO to the U.S. Call for the Bogus “Lab Leak” Investigation against China!**

**Activist around the World calling for building international  
solidarity and cooperation to fight against the COVID!**

## **POLICY PAPER**

**China-U.S. Solidarity Network**

**中美民间交流协会**

**August 19, 2021**

**(Updated: August 22, 2021)**

## About Us

- **Founded in 2016, a non-profit organization based in Los Angeles, CA.**
- **Mission: Building bridge between China and US, to invite diverse scholars, journalists, youths, professional & progressive organizations, former officials and community activists from both countries for exchange networks. Aim to address core issues concern for both countries, using online tools, face-to-face conferences, international study tours, academic think tanks building, and joint-university research projects. With establishing a network of spokespersons, public opinion leaders, to promote and help building network for bi-national dialogue and understanding.**
- **Since the network founded, we had over 40 events for the past 5 years between China and US with hundreds of people had attended.**

## Areas of Interest

**China-US relations (Trade War, One Belt One Road)**

**Internet (media, online communications)**

**Public health policy (policy exchange, COVID-19)**

**Community activism (conference, policy paper publication)**

**Culture, society (delegation, culture tour)**

## CHAPTER ONE

### **How the Atlantic Council and other neocon think tanks are helping the U.S. to push the fake “Virus Origin” campaign using small groups of scientists and pseudo scientists as a cover**

**Lee Siu Hin**

**7/31/2021**

The 2020 Ig Nobel Prize (a satiric prize awarded annually to celebrate unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research) for Management was awarded to five professional hitmen in Guangxi province of China, who managed a contract for a hit job (a murder performed for money) in the following way: After accepting payment to perform the murder, Xi Guang-An then in turn subcontracted the task to Mo Tian-Xiang, who then in turn subcontracted the task to Yang Kang-Sheng, who then in turn subcontracted the task to Yang Guang-Sheng, who then in turn subcontracted the task to Ling Xian-Si. Each subcontracted hitman received a smaller percentage of the fee, and nobody actually performed a murder. Ling was not happy to get such a small cut, so he went to the person planning the hit, begged him to pretend to be dead so Ling could get the money; the person in turn would call the police and all the hitmen would be arrested; interesting.

That's exactly what is happening right now when President Biden and the right-wing neocon Republicans are resurrecting and viciously spreading the baseless “Wuhan Institute of Virology man-made virus lab-leak” conspiracy theory, started by far-right Republicans and former President Trump last year. This scenario accuses China of causing the global COVID-19 pandemic disaster that already has led to 197 million infections and 4.2 million deaths. (Democrat and Republican visions of the conspiracy are different, which will be explained later).

Instead of working together in cooperation with China and the World Health Organization (WHO) to focus on the fight against COVID-19 which will resurge later this year, the U.S. instead is wasting more time calling for an international investigation of China and discrediting the earlier WHO conclusion that the theory of a China lab leak virus is “highly unlikely”. On May 26th Biden called for his intelligence agency to issue a report within 90 days, that is sometime in August. If successful, it'll be a road map for

the U.S. to launch a COVID responsibility movement against China for the coming years.

According to our investigation, unlike the failed Trump “lab-leak” propaganda campaign last year, the Biden administration's fake scientific campaign is a well-organized top-down by anti-China neocons. It is a push by far-right politicians such as Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), and others, and is being executed by Neocon anti-communist think tanks such as the Atlantic Council, the Hudson Institute, the Center for the New American Security, and others. They are coordinated by elite DC neocon warmonger think tankers like Yu “Miles” Maochun, David Feith, and so on. They will bring small groups of biological and medical scientists from Broad Institute of MIT, Harvard among others, as well as non-medically trained “experts” like Nicholas Wade, the racist pseudoscientists, neocon Wall Street Journal reporter Michael Gordon and others, to build an ad hoc working group to launch a fake grassroots “scientific” campaign. Their intent is to silence majority and legitimate scientific community voices who believe COVID-19 virus came from natural origins. They want to call for a U.S. investigation and push for second WHO mission that’ll be supporting the baseless U.S. conspiracy theory.

It’s a textbook-U.S. military intelligence style step-by-step “self-directed and self-acted” covert operation scam. Chinaphobia DC neocons fantasize that they can control the world by fabricating “evidence” during their own investigation to prove China leaked the virus. Then they will call for international sanctions against China, demand massive financial compensation, direct political pressure to undermine the Chinese government and its influence around the world.

Between March and June, they coordinated dozen of “reports” to spread baseless conspiracy theories in the media and academic and neocon think-tank circles under the guise of “science,” calling for a redo of WHO’s recent investigation of how the virus originated in China earlier this year. Not surprisingly, the timing coincides with Biden’s May 26th call for an intelligence report within 90 days about China’s responsibility for lab leaks and the virus' origin; most likely the report will quote much “evidence” from these think-tank “sources”.

### **The Open Letters from the “Scientists”**

Early this year when WHO sent a scientific investigative team to Wuhan, China, it concluded that there was no evidence to support the lab leak theory, concluding that the virus originated somewhere else. They recommended further investigation in different countries. Realizing that baseless political rhetoric against scientists wouldn’t work; U.S. politicians changed tactics and began recruiting “scientist” against scientist.

In order to push their hidden agendas they recruited biologists and medical professionals as spokespersons who would use scientific trappings to bolster their misleading claims that China had lied about the virus lab leak. Then they coordinated with right-wing media interviews to amplify their demands for a second stage investigation into China, giving the impression that there is a large sector of the scientific community (including scientists from Harvard University) calling for the U.S.-led WHO investigation.

The first WHO investigation had “too many” Chinese scientists and no “independent” western/U.S. (CIA-backed) scientists on the team. They want to exclude all Chinese scientists and only allow western (CIA-backed) scientists on the team for a second WHO investigation so U.S. can manipulate the results for their own political goals.

However, since the overwhelming majority of the professional medical community, scientists and doctors around the world don’t support the conspiracy theory, no respectable or prominent medical/biological scientists or professors will risk their reputations or careers to support a theory that is not supported by hard data or peer reviews.

In the science community, it’s a common understanding that for scientists to offer a scientific claim (or discovery), they need to spend at least a minimum of half to a few years to research the topic, collect enough data to analyze and publish a “Science Citation Index” (SCI) level academic paper, with peer reviews to approve its accuracy. This is a basic requirement for scientific work in order to separate speculation from hard science.

Obviously an academic paper to conclude that the hypothesis that COVID started in WIV as a man-made virus leak can’t be ready within 90 days; without being able to present a SCI paper or hard data to prove their claim, in the professional world it will just count as a wild unproven theory – no major professional medical associations, universities, or international health officials will endorse such a non-peer reviewed, unproven theory and will not join their call to launch any wild actions.

Therefore so far only a few dozen mid- or low-level, current or former, biomedical professors or researchers are openly involved in this scheme; not surprisingly, most are white males from the U.S., with a few other international “partners” from U.K., Australia and France.

On March 14th just after the WHO investigative team concluded their China tour and issued their finding, an open letter from a few dozen scientists (and non-scientists) was published in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times and other publications, viciously discrediting the WHO finding, spreading rumors, racially attacking China, and calling for another WHO investigation targeting China.

Most notably there are two such open letters: the March 14th and May 14th letters.

The March 14th letter with 25 co-signers included several bio-scientists from around the world, but strangely the letter also included signers from several non-medical professions: non-biology related engineering (ECP) areas and even Masters of Business Administration (MBA) business-degree backgrounds.

The May 14th letter with 18 co-signers, published in the prestigious Science Magazine, are almost all bio-medical professionals.

Strangely, the March 14th letter got more publicity. It was mentioned in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times; the May 14th letter from more “professional” signers got less attention from the corporate media.

Most co-signers of these two letters who have a bio-medical background are mid-ranking college university professors or researchers, not key decision makers for their university departments or research institutes – they only signed the letters as individuals.

With a deeper look, we found the most important co-signers of these two letters are not bio scientists, but people from the think tanks (not accidentally, they are researchers or professors who do not have bio-medical degrees).

For the March 14th letter it was Jamie Metzl, a senior fellow from the Atlantic Council, a neocon think tank with a long history of having anti-communist/anti-China/anti-Russia agendas, serving the Council's pro-U.S. client states' global hegemony agenda with manufactured deceptions supporting the U.S. and their allies' covert actions, military coups and invasions. The Council's leadership includes many former top U.S. military and intelligence officials who receive substantial overseas funds and conduct activities that "typically align with foreign governments' agendas." Their leading donors in 2018 were Facebook and the British government, according to Wikipedia.

Before joining the Atlantic Council, Metzl, a celebrity-type politician and writer, was the executive vice president of the Asia Society (a neocon think tank for voicing U.S. interests in Asia, notably promoting their anti-China/anti-North Korea positions). He developed and led the Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative, a Pan-Asia-Pacific leadership development program. He had served the Clinton administration as director for multilateral and humanitarian affairs on the National Security Council and at the U.S. Department of State as senior advisor to the undersecretary for public diplomacy, public affairs and information technology, as well as being senior coordinator for international public information. He has also served as deputy staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under then Senator Joe Biden, according to the Wikipedia.

As for the May 14<sup>th</sup> letter the “mover-and-shaker” co-signer was Benjamin E. Deverman from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard in Cambridge, MA. While he is a respected high-ranking scientist and the Broad Institute is a highly recognized medical research institution globally, one of his colleagues and co-signers from the Institute, Yujia Alina Chan (who also co-signed the March 14th letter), clearly is a hard-core anti-China pro-“Wuhan lab leak” conspiracy theorist. She’s repeatedly used her Institute credentials to better spread her message to the academic world and the corporate media. Her action promoting a nonacademic wild fringe theory with Chinaphobic messaging (she is ethnic Chinese living in the U.S.) had already been widely discredited by the bio-medical community. It’s clear that someone from higher-up at the organization – this could be Deverman – gave approval for her to do this.

These two open letters, along with the “investigations” from the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, have helped U.S. politicians hype the issue since March. By May, based on the “hype,” Biden decided to call for the intelligence report within 90 days, a well-coordinated step-by-step political show. By comparison, in early July over 1,200 scientists globally issued a statement in The Lancet, the world's most respected medical journal from the U.K., criticizing U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s decision to lift most COVID restrictions on July 19th, the so-called “Freedom Day,” while infections surged, there were warnings of supermarket shortages, and he himself was forced to self-isolate due to COVID among his close contacts. The statement in the Lancet got almost no major corporate media attention.

Because these are bogus letters, it is not surprising that some co-signers of the letters later backed-off and publicly clarified that they are not supporting the man-made virus lab leak theory.

Pamela Bjorkman, professor of Biology and Biological Engineering at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, CA, is one of the May 14th letter co-signers. In a recent letter to TWiV, or This Week in Virology, a weekly podcast about viruses, she claimed she was “naïve” in signing it and that she had done so because she had hoped to receive more funding for her research. “I thought the letter would have the effect of prompting more funding for searching for natural viruses in animal reservoirs, which I personally have always assumed represent the origin of SARS-CoV-2 infections in humans,” she said. “Perhaps naïvely, I did not anticipate that the letter would be used to promote the lab origin hypothesis,” she explained about having signed the letter.

Another co-signer of the May 14th letter, Professor Michael Worobey, head of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona at Tucson, AZ, also spoke out recently against the “misinterpretation” of his viewpoints on the lab leak scenario, according to Xinhua News Agency.

On July 23rd, he retweeted a post from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health which voiced support for “an animal origin of SARS-CoV-2,” saying that by reposting the post he was to trying to “explain why I (continue to) think that a zoonotic origin of SARS-CoV-2 is more likely than a lab leak scenario – even though I signed ‘The Science Letter.’”

However, they’re not mentioning who had been asking them to sign the letter without making their own serious review, and who could be the person to promise funding if they’re going to sign a petition they didn’t draft. It doesn’t seem like a major academic research foundation would be asking them, more likely a nonacademic think tank or lobbyist-type organization with DC political connections, or that would be promising Federal funding (SARS-CoV-2 origin research is a very sensitive topic, most likely only the government will fund such research projects.)

### **The Think Tanks**

So, who’s helping politicians manufacture conspiracy and who’s directing the media hype? It’s the far-right neocon think tanks, mostly inside the Beltway, who are directing the task. According to Mint Press, the lab leak theory bears a striking resemblance to the WMD hoax of 2002, not only because one of its key players is literally the same journalist using potentially the same anonymous sources, but also because of the bipartisan political and media support it enjoys.

David Asher, a former U.S. government official who served in the U.S. State Department last year, was responsible for fabricating the rumors smearing China’s WIV (the lab that the U.S. originally accused of leaking the COVID virus). Asher recently mentioned in an interview with U.S. media that the U.S. government should offer a “bounty of US\$10 to US\$15 million” to “seduce” those Chinese “senior officials” who know the “truth” of the COVID outbreak to defect to the United States and tell the United States what it wants to hear.

This “senior researcher” who is currently working for the Hudson Institute, a conservative American think tank, even said that the US government should send CIA agents to help such people “flee” from China to America, as it did with the Soviet Union, according to the Chinese media investigation.

A conspiracy theory that is out of thin-air and being advanced by journalists without a medical background or pseudoscientists must be packaged like “hard” science. It needs major politically linked think tanks to give credible endorsements – just like Wall Street repackaging of toxic debt into AAA-rated bonds that led to the 2008 financial crisis.



Nicholas Wade's "Wuhan lab-leak" conspiracy story is an example of a science reporter without any credible academic bio-medical research background. In order to repackage his conspiracy theory and give it a scientific appearance, he was invited to legitimize his work by speaking at different think tanks. One such opportunity was giving a talk at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), a right-wing anti-communist think tank, where he spoke on their June 8th podcast with host James M. Lindsay. Lindsay is CFR's senior vice president and an elite establishment hawk who has written a book praising former President George W. Bush as "a strong and decisive leader with a coherent worldview" to lead a "revolution in foreign policy."

It's important to note that in this "lab-leak" conspiracy popularity contest not every anti-communist/anti-China conspiracy think tank is created equal. It's necessary to separate those who're movers-and-shakers from the top neocon decision makers, such as the CFR, the Hudson Institute and the Atlantic Council, and the others who're just small outsiders.

There are clearly some seemingly very small groups of organizations/individuals who are "appointed" to speak and are highlighted by the media and endorsed by major neocon think tanks; there are others who do not have their blessing and who aren't in this circle.

One such example is Bioscience Resource Project, a think tank based in Ithaca, NY, which runs the Independent Science News. The watchdog [mediabiasfactcheck.com](http://mediabiasfactcheck.com), labels this as a conspiracy-pseudoscience organization which spreads conspiracy-pseudoscience theory about GMOs. They also go full-steam ahead in publishing many COVID-19 lab-leak conspiracy theories; however, except in a few conspiracy circles, their reports are never highlighted by major think tanks, politicians or major corporate media.

David Relman, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Stanford University, said at an online meeting that it is troubling that investigating the origin of the virus has become deeply politicized. It has gotten to a point where it is "unwise and unhelpful" to share an opinion on the origin as many people have strong views on which scenario is more likely, he said, according to the Chinese media reports.

The neocon think tanks have successfully intimidated scientists from speaking openly about how the virus might not be manmade and leaked from WIV. By redbaiting them, they have labeled them greedy individuals with financial ties to China. It is completely misleading because scientists who work with Chinese universities are not necessarily spokespersons-for-hire to China. At the same time they are praising racist neocon pseudo scientists for spreading their conspiracy theory.

## The Pseudo Scientists

Because only a few dozen scientists around the world will choose to risk their academic reputation to join the conspiracy campaign, and they're often too soft-spoken for spreading rhetoric publicly, there's a need to find another group of out spoken propagandists who have some kind of tech-celebrity background to do the job, and here is where the pseudo scientists come in. They're usually science writers for the popular-science magazines or newspaper science sections, they're not bio-scientists nor have they done any related bio-medical research or published any peer-reviewed SCI scientific papers. They write "investigative" reports on the "lab-leak" theory pretending to know what they're talking about. However, since they're not actually bio-scientists, no international research institute or universities will endorse their writings. The think tanks come into the picture by blessing them.

Based on the open records, much evidence shows they work side-by-side – pseudo science (media) talk shows and think tanks will give them academic legitimacy for cover.

In early May, The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS, a highly respected magazine run by scientists) republished a Medium blog post by controversial science writer Nicholas Wade, a discredited, racist pseudoscientist. His 2014 book, "A Troublesome Inheritance: Genes, Race and Human History," contends that humanity could be broken down genetically into three distinct groups — Africans, Caucasians and East Asians — and that each are sufficiently genetically distinct from each other as to qualify as subspecies, according to the Mint Press.

In the article that appeared in BAS he recycled the unfounded claim that COVID had escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

His evidence was thin, just a theory resting on shaky ground, but because he was published by the BAS, it immediately got a lot of attention, especially from liberal/progressive anti-war media. More troublesome is that a neocon force behind Wade, the Council on Foreign Relations, may have helped get his article accepted by BAS.

Despite the fact that Wade has no new (or any) credible evidence for a lab leak, and he is not a trained scientist, he has been getting a lot of attention from seemingly very "smart" scientists and critical progressive journalists. According to the Mint Press, BAS refused to explain why they'd accepted a conspiracy article from a known racist pseudo scientist. Many believe the forces (and money) behind him had invested heavily in promoting him.

## The “Evidence”

Last year, U.S. media claimed that a "female scientist" who was engaged in research on the coronavirus at the Hong Kong University (HKU) in China had "defected" to the United States. But the woman Yan Limeng was actually an ordinary employee from HKU who is not an expert from the area and did not know anything about the WIV. But in order to meet the needs of the anti-China forces who brought her to the U.S. to prove the “lab-leak theory, she chose to fabricate her credentials and the story of WIV. Initially she was the “star” of the U.S. media but as soon as she wasn’t able to back up her claim, the liberal media dropped her but Rupert Murdoch’s Fox TV still endorses her stories.

On May 24th another of Rupert Murdoch’s publications, the Wall Street Journal, published an “exclusive revelation,” the so-called “Report on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Covid-19 Debate.” The “evidence” was based on nothing – it came from a U.S. intelligence report citing unnamed “current and former officials” who claimed that researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology “went to hospital in November 2019, shortly before a confirmed outbreak” of COVID-19.

A day later, on May 25, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, speaking at the United Nations World Health Assembly, demanded a “transparent” investigation into the origins of COVID-19.

Then on May 26, U.S. President Joe Biden called on the “Intelligence Community” to investigate whether COVID-19 arose “from a laboratory accident” and “report back to me in 90 days” according to the WSWS.

Writer of the WSJ article is Michael R. Gordon, the same reporter who in 2002 claimed he had the so-called “evidence” of “Iraqi weapons of mass destruction” that led to the U.S. invasion of Iraq resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, the destruction of the country, and then to the Syrian civil war, the rise of ISIS that killed hundreds of thousands of Syrians, and the destruction of that country as well.

When this person worked for the New York Times 19 years ago, he hyped an article about Iraq "trying to acquire nuclear weapons" and "purchasing aluminum tubes used to enrich uranium centrifuges." This article was widely quoted by high-level U.S. government officials and became an important basis for the Bush administration to launch the Iraq war. Does such a person who has a history of falsifying major news and causing extremely bad consequences have any credibility to speak of the “lab-leak theory”?

Gordon mentioned other people in his article: former U.S. official and Hoover Institution visiting fellow Yu Maochun, and Hudson Institute researcher David Asher.

Yu “Miles” Maochun is a famous neocon anti-communist/anti-China scholar, born and educated in socialist China but who has chosen to act against his motherland and move to the U.S. He currently teaches East Asia and Military History at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He has written books such as “The Dragon's War” to viciously attack China and suggest the U.S. should launch a military campaign in the region. He was principal China policy and planning adviser to former United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during the Trump era.

David Asher, is the Hudson Institute researcher focusing on U.S. foreign policy in Asia, economic and financial policy toward the U.S., and a former Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). He has been working at the U.S. Department of State for the past 25 years where he “played a senior role in numerous economic and financial pressure campaigns involving defiant states, terrorist organizations, drug cartels, and weapons proliferation networks,” including North Korea, Iran and ISIS, according to his bio at the CNAS website.

On June 6th David Asher and Yu Maochun published a so-called “report” under the Hudson Institute’s banner, entitled “A Just Response to Beijing’s COVID-19 Abuses.” Besides spreading the baseless “WIV lab leak” conspiracy theory, they offer the Biden administration “advice” how to sanction China for “war crimes” for manufacturing biological and chemical weapons. They call for civil claims against China “if that government does not provide substantive cooperation, including direct access to physical evidence, within a specified time frame.”

The report’s other co-authors, according to their bios, have very close past and current connections to the U.S. Department of State, Pentagon and the intelligence community. These DC-bureaucratic elite war monger neocons with long histories of interests against North Korea, Iran, Syria and China are:

David Feith, Adjunct Senior Fellow of the Center for a New American Security, was a former Trump State Department official, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Before that he was an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal in Hong Kong.

Matthew Zweig, former Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), “produces accurate and timely analyses, identifies illicit activities, and provides policy options – all with the aim of strengthening U.S. national security and reducing or eliminating threats posed by adversaries and enemies of the United States and other free nations,” according to the FDD website. Zweig “served as the Senior Sanctions Advisor in the Office of the Special Representative for Syria Engagement” at the State Department, also worked interagency partners, multinational counterparts, and others to help implement the “anti-Assad economic pressure elements of the administration’s

Syria strategy.” From 2001 to 2018, Zweig served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, according to his FDD bio.

Thomas DiNanno is an Adjunct Fellow at the Hudson Institute. He served as a professional staff member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Assistant Secretary of State of the Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Bureau from 2018-2021. He was also assistant administrator at the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency “where he oversaw nearly \$5 billion in counter-terrorism programs and national preparedness initiatives that focused on resilient public safety communications systems, national continuity planning, and cyber-security initiatives,” according to his bio.

They’re not just a circle of “friends” connected together out of political convenience; further investigation found that they have all been well connected for a while. Michael Gordon also has very close connections with the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) where David Feith from CNAS is spearheading calls for “transparency” with COVID origins following “his” WSJ “revelations” and Fox TV; and they are connected to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) where they recently invited Nicholas Wade to speak.

They have such close and closed neocon, political media, think tank, pseudo scientist inner-circle connections, no wonder it sounds like just one big happy family.

## **The Politicians**

There’s no doubt that at the top of the “WIV virus leak” deception-making food-chain there will always be the politicians and the think tank alliance who take the lead and where it is Joe Biden/Nancy Pelosi on the Democratic side, Donald Trump/Tom Cotton/Ted Cruz/Mike Gallagher on the Republican side, with their common goal to politically undermine China; only the rhetoric is slightly different.

U.S. politicians mostly come from a lawyer background – they certainly don’t know anything about molecular biology – and they need scientists, think tanks and journalists to help them achieve their political goals.

Picture the politicians as the “boss” at the top-of-the chain-of-command, the think tanks as the “fixers,” the media as the “stereo-amplifiers,” and the scientists (who are supposed to be the most important part of this scientific investigation) are merely at the bottom of the chain of command, the “foot-soldiers” of all of those above.

“Scientists” and pseudoscientists who’re calling for an investigation into the “lab-origin” represent only a small fringe number of the scientific community. Therefore it is

necessary for think tanks and media to hype their significance to make them look “big.” Meanwhile, they will use any means to discredit – even bring dirty-war type toxic and violent threats into the scientific community against any scientists who oppose the “lab-leak” theory, in order to shut them down. For the past several months, several bio-scientists who are against the “lab-leak” theory have been harassed by the media and the politicians.

Historically, most neocon think tanks are Republican-based, and academia/research institute “scientists” on the other hand, are more liberal/Democratic Party oriented, while both sides are accusing China of having “leaked the virus.” Neocon think tanks are accusing China of making manmade bio weapons that they deliberately leaked to the world; while academia/research institutes “suspect” WIV was working on a non-military project and accidentally leaked the virus.

Why is there a difference? The possible explanation is based on their track record: neocon think tanks are mostly non-biomedical science related warmongers, they shamelessly lie for a living; while academia/research institutes are scientists who pride themselves in being able to say “I am the expert.” They worry that if their deceptions go too far, they could backfire on them later and they would be facing academic condemnation and even lose their comfortable ivy tower jobs.

Their difference also leads to the open air stupid dog fights between think tanks/ Republican politicians vs. academia/research institutes/Democratic politicians over who the real “experts” are. While Republicans accuse Democrats/Biden of being “too soft” on the “virus origin” probe, liberal media like Politico fight back, accusing “Republicans dive into the politically fraught push for Covid's origin story” (6/4/2021). Even the name calling in the May 27th CNN interview, where Marc Lipsitch from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (a co-signer of the May 14th open letter), insisted China “lied” and there is the possibility of a “lab leak.” But when he ask by CNN host to comment Dr. Robert Redfield, Trump’s former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), when Redfield offered his “lab leak” conspiracy theory at the earlier interview, Lipsitch accused saying that Redfield did not “know what he is talking about.”

Besides the usual “anti-China” suspect Arkansas Republican Senator Tom Cotton (who had been leading the “Wuhan virus lab leak” conspiracy campaign early last year even before former President Trump start saying it, U.S. politicians like Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Rep. Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and so on, also took this opportunity to call for their own congressional investigation political theater in recent months.

U.S. senators including Marco Rubio and Bob Menendez on the other hand sent a letter to President Joe Biden on July 28<sup>th</sup> asking the administration to take three steps on

COVID-19 origins - directing the intelligence community to continue investigating, working with allies and partners to "use all available resources and tools" to pressure Beijing into permitting an investigation in China.

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas on the other hand, is a good example how a politician acts when their political future is at the stake: they need to find a political hype. After his failure on COVID spreading and the disastrous Texas storm response early this year, he began hyping the "lab-leak" theory for his personal political future. Cruz's allegations are similar to wild claims made by other US politicians. Texas is one of the worst states in the U.S. in terms of confirmed COVID-19 cases but obviously he has not focused on effectively responding to the epidemic.

Former President Trump and his far-right anti-communist Republicans began spreading "China virus" fringe conspiracy theories last summer but other than a lot of loud propaganda they never offered any concrete evidence to prove their claim; their actions went nowhere, only becoming material for TV jokes for the liberal media.

Now Biden and the Democrats want to distract the public from his own failures in handling the pandemic as well as vaccine racism at home and vaccine imperialism abroad. They are recycling last year's far-right neocon racist anti-China conspiracy campaign. But they understand that political rhetoric won't be enough; they will need a "systematic" political PR approach. Neocon think tankers with past expertise on fabricated Iraq WMDs, Iran nuclear capacities or Syrian chemical weapons can certainly offer their "services" to the Democratic White House in this latest "WIV virus lab leak" hoax.

### **Why Now?**

Why is the U.S. desperately doing this? And why now? Because the U.S. is facing a desperate COVID resurgence with the Delta variant. Biden has clearly lost the fight against the pandemic. The worst case scenario is that the U.S. could see another peak in the coming winter, with hundreds of thousands of infections and thousands of deaths daily by mid-October. With the possibility of hyper-inflation, even an economic crash, caused by the massive printing of money (the pandemic "stimulus"), it will lead to massive Democratic losses in the 2022 mid-term election. The "Wuhan virus" hoax invented by right-wing Republicans and former President Trump for their election 2020 could still be a great tool for Biden and the Democrats to recycle to distract the public from focusing on the real American issues.

The “man-made Wuhan lab-leak” conspiracy not only would embarrass China, but also could supply a long-term racist political and military strategy for the U.S. to launch a zero-sum cold war against China:

1) Use the virus origin probe to control the World Health Organization (WHO): after Trump took office in 2017, U.S. relations with WHO and other international bodies (such as the World Trade Organization, the United Nations and the Paris Climate Accord) have been growing increasingly sour. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, WHO has praised China for their anti-pandemic efforts refusing to side with the U.S. against China, which enraged Trump. In April 2020, he announced that the U.S. would halt funding for WHO, and in May 2020 he declared that the United States would “terminate” its relationship with the organization. When Biden took office early this year, he took a “softer” approach by rejoining WHO while behind the scene, he has tried to use political muscle and think tanks as pressure groups to coordinate the massive “virus leak” conspiracy campaign against WHO credibility on dealing with China, in order to oust the top WHO leadership whom the U.S. doesn’t like, and replace it with U.S. puppets. As China Daily says: “It is clear that the US returned to the WHO only to try to take control of it, as the country is by no means content with its status as a member equal to others. Compared with its predecessor, the Biden administration has only intensified the efforts to press the WHO to do the US’ bidding, and so make the world health body its puppet.”

2) The use of Chinaphobia rhetoric to blame China for the global health disaster: It has already partially succeeded in the U.S. and the western world, where 60% or more people believe the Trump/Republican “WIV man-made virus lab leak” theory. Although still an unproven fringe racist theory, the U.S. hopes it can hijack the WHO leadership and get it to support the conspiracy. By doing this it will recreate the situation faced by Iraq in 2003 when the U.S. successfully pushed the idea that Iraq had WMDs (weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear and chemical/biological/nuclear weapons that the U.N. prohibited Iraq to have). This conspiracy in the United Nations Security Council gave the U.S. and the western countries license to invade Iraq. With help from neocon think tanks to formulate the strategy, they now want to recycle the same tactic to push for international sanctions and demand compensation to the world for the losses stemming from the pandemic (just like what the U.S. and the western countries had done to Iraq during the UN-imposed sanctions after the first Gulf War of 1990s).

3) Destroy China's global influence: China's Belt and Road Initiative is one of the biggest “fears” of the U.S. Also China’s successful anti-COVID global solidarity diplomacy with Africa, Latin America and South East Asia has certainly made neocons very jealous. They’re dreaming of a simple lab leak hoax that can destroy Chinese credibility around the world, along with facing sanctions to destabilize China.



4) Prevent the growing international call for the WHO to launch a COVID next stage origin investigation from focusing on the U.S., especially on investigating Fort Detrick in Frederick, MD.: Fort Detrick has been the notorious U.S. biological weapons lab where the CIA had their operations. It is well documented that they were using civilians for testing LSD, anthrax and other bio-weapons in communities. Because of their dirty history and many unexplained illnesses that happened in 2019 around the region, many conspiracy theorists suggest Fort Detrick is the “real” site of the COVID virus lab leaks. While there is still no proof, if WHO comes to the U.S. for investigation, it will expose the dark history of Fort Detrick and may find some evidence – it would certainly be a political disaster for the U.S. and a victory for China.

However, China is not Iraq or Syria; Biden will certainly not find any proof, and their actions certainly will fail and backfire on them, dealing them a humiliating political defeat.

### **So what'll happen next?**

In late July China rejected WHO's Phase 2 COVID-19 origins study (the so called second-phase study to audit the first WHO COVID origin report done early this year), calling it a “lack of respect for common sense, arrogant toward science” according to statements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Chinese health authorities and officials from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) had spoken and slammed the “lab-leak” theory, stressing that no staff of WIV have been infected with COVID-19, and WIV has no viruses that can directly infect human beings. Their voices have been increasingly echoed from the global scientific communities.

While calling the World Health Organization (WHO)'s second phase study proposal on COVID-19 origins politically motivated, Chinese health officials and observers said the next stage study should be carried out in more countries and places around the world on the basis of wide consultations among member states, not in places that have already been inspected.

So China had fight back by submitted their proposal to the WHO on July 29<sup>th</sup> on how second phase of the COVID-19 origin study should be “an effort to support and coordinate with the organization in tracing the origins of the virus globally,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said. The plan emphasizes that the investigation should be led by scientists, based on evidence and carried out in multiple places around the world, Zhao said.

Meantime, on July 17<sup>th</sup> an online petition organized by Chinese net citizens calling for WHO Fort Detrick probe draws 20 million signatures by July 31st; China further urges U.S. to open University of North Carolina, and publishing data on U.S. sick soldiers who attended the 2019 Wuhan Military World Games to the WHO investigators, incidents that had been reported unusual illness similar to the COVID at 2019 (before Wuhan had first known case in late 2019).

China's call has been supported by more than 60 countries have appealed to the WHO not to let its origin tracing efforts be politicized.

Since July the U.S. has seeing a COVID resurgence across the country; Biden promised when he took office in January that 70% of Americans would be vaccinated by the 4th of July and that COVID would be under control by summer. However; the U.S. didn't meet its vaccination target in July, and the new Delta variant has caused a new COVID surge in the U.S. this summer. On July 27th daily cases had reached a hundred thousand, the highest since last February, with the deaths slowly increasing to 500 per day.

On July 21st Massachusetts reported more than 5,000 breakthrough COVID infections and 80 deaths, according to the CBSBoston.com; it's also the same alarming situation on the other side of the country in Los Angeles County. There on July 23rd it was officially reported that COVID-19 transmission was rapidly rising with the Delta variant: there were 3,058 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County and 17 new deaths. For the first time since February 13<sup>th</sup> there were more than 3,000 daily cases reported, similar to the peak of the outbreak last summer in Los Angeles. However, medical experts say the situation in California and Massachusetts is still better than what is happening in the mid-west and the deep-south, where states with lower vaccination rates are being harder hit in the latest wave, seeing more infections and deaths.

Many scientists worry that based on the latest trends, the U.S. might see COVID cases peak later this year; by mid-October there could be 240,000 daily infections and 4,000 deaths in the worst case scenario, according to the COVID-19 Scenario Modeling Hub.

Yet the U.S. still doesn't have a national strategy or effective national coordination to combat the virus like China does.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and the western countries are completely ignoring the voice of the more than 60 countries at the WHO, and the Chinese activists' over 20 million petition.

Anti-science hurts the U.S. where COVID-19 cases and deaths are surging again this summer as the highly transmissible Delta variant is taking hold and vaccination efforts are stagnating in the country.

Along with the rapidly surging cases there is the increasingly fierce anti-vaccination campaign and demonization of scientists. The U.S. is wasting a lot of resources hiring neocon think tanks to push their bogus “Wuhan lab-leak” hoax led by the right-wing Republicans and Biden Democrats for their own selfish political goals. Instead they could be using these resources and efforts to design a better strategy to combat the virus and organize the nationwide vaccination efforts.

COVID is resurging again in the U.S. and Europe while China completely enjoys an almost virus-free summer party with a quick economic recovery; a cold winter is already waiting for the pandemic to go in the wrong direction in the U.S. and Europe.

## CHAPTER TWO

### The COVID challenge – cooperation or competition

---

**Sara Flounders**

**8/3/2021**

---

President Joe Biden's May 25 announcement, calling on U.S. intelligence agencies to launch an inquiry into the charge of a lab leak in Wuhan, China, is an aggressive act that disrupts cooperative work to contain the virus.

**Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Fort Detrick, Md is being investigated for dangerous conditions.**

Once again, in confronting the greatest immediate challenge facing humanity, U.S. imperialism has played only a disruptive role. The drive to maximize profits and assert global dominance has pushed Washington to recklessly exacerbate the deadly COVID-19 health crisis.

What does U.S. imperialism hope to gain by blocking the World Health Organization's inquiry into COVID with the demand that the WHO Inquiry focus on blaming China? This intentionally blocks an international initiative which needs full cooperation.

Regarding the 18 intelligence agencies, nine report directly to the U.S. military. The rest cooperate. They provide means to instigate and fight U.S. wars rather than neutral, unbiased scientific information.

Washington's handling of the COVID-19 epidemic has obviously been a failure, with more than 629,000 deaths as of August 2, still the highest official death toll for any single country. China has stayed stable at 4,638 total deaths. U.S. civilians pay an immediate price in a system driven by profits. This failure begs the question:

Is the U.S. refusal to cooperate on a global strategy for COVID based only on the desire to create a diversion from their own failure? Or is the struggle at the World Health Organization part of the many-faceted U.S. strategy using military, economic, diplomatic and cultural weapons to isolate China? Or both?

**Biden blocks global coordination**

Whatever its pretext, Biden's call for a report from U.S. military agencies focused only on China is comparable to throwing a grenade of anti-China hostility into the urgent effort to build future global cooperation — cooperation needed to control the pandemic and mitigate the climate crisis.

China is the one country that has cooperated and shared information with the World Health Organization from the first day.

It is the U.S. that has refused cooperation and determinedly ignored the advice, guidelines and WHO tests from the onset of the crisis.

Competition is in the DNA of capitalism. In a country built on serving capitalist profit, the U.S. ruling class and its government function based on ruthless competition. For them it's the only way forward. Cooperation is life threatening.

Cooperation is a direct threat to the U.S. strategy of maintaining its global dominance. Dominance is only possible by stifling the development of underdeveloped countries. Economic sanctions, military escalation and political threats are all of use. Blocking trade, scientific exchanges, high-tech industries, cutting-edge technology confirm this direction.

While the U.S. government often makes arrogant threats and demands, it is infrequent that they arouse the kind of sharp blowback that they got from China.

### **China's response**

Chinese officials and Chinese media are now publicly asking the following: If Biden is really for transparency, shouldn't some examinations of U.S. labs be in order? For instance, shouldn't an examination of the notorious biological lab at the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Fort Detrick, Md., be part of a global study?

Chinese media has linked to U.S. news articles on the July 2019 sudden shutdown of research at the Fort Detrick Army lab, where the most deadly and infectious viruses in the world are worked on, including Ebola, smallpox, SARS, MERS and the novel coronavirus.

The CDC ordered Fort Detrick closed for dangerous conditions. As the New York Times headlined Aug. 5, 2019, "Deadly Germ Research Is Shut Down at Army Lab Over Safety Concerns." The Times explained, "Problems with disposal of dangerous materials led the government to suspend research at the military's leading biodefense center."

### **Opposition to Fort Detrick**

For decades there has been opposition to the nefarious role of the biological weapons lab at Fort Detrick.

One of the early opponents, Dr. Gregory Dunkel, told Workers World: “I was a Ph.D. student in mathematics at the University of Maryland from 1962 to 1967 and a campus militant against the university’s complicity with the U.S. war effort in Southeast Asia. We researched, published material and held protests on the connection of University of Maryland — its computer facilities and biology department — and the biological weapons program at Fort Detrick. There were continuing campaigns on the dangers posed by Fort Detrick.”

Now China is asking several sharp questions that deserve attention. For example, rather than focus on only one lab in China, why not examine conditions at more than 200 labs the U.S. runs around the world engaged in virus research?

By the end of July 2019, two retirement communities near the Fort Detrick base witnessed outbreaks of pneumonia of unknown cause. In September 2019, vaping-related, lung-illness cases with symptoms highly similar to COVID-19 doubled in Maryland where Fort Detrick is located.

### **Pre-December 2019 results**

Why not announce DNA results of samples gathered due to the sharp rise in pneumonia in the U.S. many months before the COVID virus was identified in China?

To date the U.S. has refused to check or announce any domestic results of blood samples before the December 2019 announcement of the virus in Wuhan. In contrast, scientists in Italy, Spain and France have announced that by retesting old blood samples and wastewater samples, they found that COVID was widely circulating as long as nine months before China announced they were suddenly dealing with an unknown virus. BBC reported on May 5, 2020, and again on June 19, 2020, on these early COVID findings in France and Italy. ([tinyurl.com/b7zrhfny](https://tinyurl.com/b7zrhfny)) ([tinyurl.com/w9tup3ts](https://tinyurl.com/w9tup3ts))

Spanish virologists at the University of Barcelona in June 2020 announced they found traces of the novel coronavirus in a sample of Barcelona wastewater collected in March 2019, nine months before the COVID-19 disease was identified in China. (Reuters, June 26, 2020)

Considering all this evidence of the virus’ early spread before COVID was identified as a new virus and its DNA sequenced in China, why is the U.S. demanding a focus of a World Health Inquiry only on China?

The U.S. corporate media has tried to ignore the pointed and detailed questions raised by China. The Chinese people haven’t.

### **24 million in China demand investigation of U.S. lab**

Millions of Chinese people have jumped into the discussion by initiating a global petition calling on the WHO to investigate Fort Detrick. By Aug. 2 more than 24 million people had signed the online petition. ([tinyurl.com/xf9rrfpc](https://tinyurl.com/xf9rrfpc))

More than 60 countries have sent letters to the World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. These letters emphasize that the virus is the common enemy humanity currently faces, and its threat can only be overcome by the joint effort of the global community.

They urge the World Health Organization to act according to the resolution made by the World Health Assembly (WHA) and push forward the global probe to trace the virus. WHO must study the present pandemic, its early spread in several countries, its global impact and what future measures are needed.

Zhao Lijian, spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Twitter on July 26 that if the World Health Organization is investigating labs, its officials should go to Fort Detrick.

Zhao also urged the U.S. to publish data regarding sick soldiers who attended the 2019 Wuhan Military World Games and to disclose data on early cases, including the unexplained respiratory disease in Virginia, the vaping-related lung disease in Wisconsin in July 2019 and flu patients in the winter of 2019.

The U.S. government should also invite WHO experts to probe the University of North Carolina, Zhao said. The U.S. is the biggest funder and doer of coronavirus research, especially Ralph Baric's team at UNC, Zhao said. Baric has studied coronaviruses for more than three decades.

China's vice health minister Zeng Yixin said that he was "extremely surprised" by the U.S.-instigated plan, which he said showed "disrespect for common sense and arrogance towards science."

Yang Zhanqiu, a virologist at Wuhan University, has repeatedly voiced his concern of the U.S. 2019 influenza epidemic and outbreak of vaping-related lung disease since 2020. Yang told the Global Times that he had visited the Fort Detrick laboratory years ago and learned that it stores samples for a long time for scientific research, so he believes that many samples during the influenza epidemic have been preserved by U.S. health departments.

"It's not that the U.S. cannot run those tests due to technical issues, it's just they prefer not to or not to tell the world for their selfish political interests," Yang said. (Global Times, July 30)

There is increasing attention upon the United States, as it is the only country obstructing the establishment of a Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) verification mechanism for the past 20 years.

## **Dubious hacks launch anti-China campaign**

Biden's May 25 announcement was the opening shot to revive a discredited and thoroughly debunked charge the Trump Administration and far-right forces raised earlier. Steve Bannon, Mike Pompeo and Senator Tom Cotton had made the same claim, also without any evidence, except the need to divert attention from the Trump administration's failure to respond to the COVID pandemic.

Even the U.S. corporate media had exposed the charges then as a conspiracy theory. Now the same media, the military establishment and both political parties are in sync in focusing their attack entirely on China.

What is suspicious is that the media assault on China began with articles written by two different journalists, each with his own dubious background and neither with any credentials in viruses or public health. Yet these articles were praised in the corporate media and used to build pressure for the anti-China campaign.

One was former New York Times science writer Alexander Wade, author of a book on genetic theory that hundreds of geneticists denounced as a misuse of their work and some consider barely disguised racism. Pro-Nazi organizations have used this book to support racist and anti-Semitic arguments. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists published his completely speculative article May 5 as an opinion piece, not a vetted scientific article. Despite his background, Wade's opinion was immediately picked up and discussed as "a highly plausible theory," "an incredible piece of journalism," in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and Current Affairs.

The other was Michael Gordon, who with Judith Miller had co-authored for the New York Times the totally unsubstantiated claims in 2002 that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq was secretly building weapons of mass destruction — WMD, the false argument used to justify the 2003 U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq. Gordon's article appeared in the May 23 Wall Street Journal, where he now writes, quoting an undisclosed intelligence organization report implicating China.

Gordon's Wall Street Journal article went viral. It was immediately reprinted in Reuters, CNN, the New York Post, the Guardian, Forbes, NBC News, Business Insider, Yahoo News and The Hill. None of this media mentioned Gordon's role in launching the war on Iraq or the opposition to Wade's book.

Thus, the media manipulated highly suspicious articles to mobilize official action against China. False information repeated endlessly on news cycles becomes accepted as facts. Biden announced his attack on China May 25.

## **China's demands**

China's government responded with three clear demands on the United States. At a July 29 news conference, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian accused the U.S.,



first, of distorting facts and spreading disinformation . . . aimed to deflect attention and cover up early cases in the U.S.; second, of violating science in clamoring for an investigation led by the intelligence community and to conclude within 90 days; and third, of forcing scientists to submit to supporting the “lab leak” theory.

This latest U.S. attack on China blocks cooperation in the face of a global pandemic that is mutating in far more dangerous directions. But it is only one part of the military encirclement of China. It is connected to the sanctions, trade cancellations, sabotage and economic war tactics. It uses the same loyal corporate media to manufacture facts whether on COVID or Hong Kong or Xinjiang.

China’s vaccine aid and exports have exceeded the total of all other countries combined, with more than 350 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccines already sent overseas. China is stepping up domestic production to further increase to more than 1 billion doses the foreign supply, especially to developing countries. In the U.S., despite lots of promises, 99% of its 330 million doses of vaccines produced were used domestically. ([tinyurl.com/a6m39sk](https://tinyurl.com/a6m39sk))

All those who oppose U.S. wars and militarism need to step forward and oppose this new U.S. demand on China. Everyone who fights for health care for all needs to speak out and oppose this sabotage of world health cooperation.

## CHAPTER THREE

### **Scientists and U.S. activists speak out against the U.S. call for a lab leak investigation**

**Lee Siu Hin**

**8/18//2021**

On July 15, 44 countries submitted a joint letter to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in Geneva, Switzerland supporting WHO origin-tracing of the COVID-19 should be based on science, not politics, concluded at the joint WHO-China report, when they visit China for the origin tracing on early this year.

Another four countries later sent their separate letters welcoming the China-WHO joint research report by the WHO. The report emphasized that origin-tracing of the virus is a scientific matter and opposing the politicization of origin-tracing of the virus (the report concluded that COVID-19 is highly unlikely coming from the lab, most likely coming from the nature). By end of July, 60 countries had submitted joint letters supporting WHO conclusion.

China welcomes the move, and believes that this scientific report should be the basis and guide for promoting global origin-tracing, which would require scientists to conduct research on a global scale that would not be politicized.

In addition, on July over 25 million Chinese Net citizens have signed the petition calling for science not politics should be guiding WHO investigate the origin of COVID, and call for WHO for investigate U.S. role, especially at the Fort Detrick, on the virus origin.

For the past several months more international scientists issued reports reject the 'lab-leak' theory, shrugging off the pressure of the right-wing Western media.

Despite some politically motivated Western media and politicians who continue to exert political pressure on scientists and distort the scientific community's views on COVID-19's origins, a growing number of scientists have stepped forward and rejected the US-led "lab-leak" theory. Some scientists believe objective and scientific voices will be heard more widely and thus may prompt more objective reporting on the origins of COVID-19 in Western media.

In the most recent development, on July 8<sup>th</sup> an international team of 21 highly respected biologists led by Professor Edward Holmes from the University of Sydney and Professor Andrew Rambaut from the University of Edinburgh wrote in a pre-print paper concluded that the most likely origin for COVID-19 is zoonotic, a transfer from an animal source to humans, and that there is zero evidence for a lab accident.

The review paper said that there is no evidence that the Wuhan Institute of Virology possessed or worked on a progenitor of SARS-CoV-2 prior to the pandemic, according to the University of Sydney.

David L. Robertson, a professor at MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research and one of the authors of the paper, told the Global Times recently that the topic of COVID-19 origins has become "so politicized," and "it is important to make sure the right investigations are prioritized. "There's been a lot of speculation in the (western) media about the origins of SARS-CoV-2 so we decided to clearly lay out the scientific evidence," Robertson said.

He said that hopefully, by laying out the evidence in a clear and rationale way, everyone can refocus on the science.

In addition, on July 5<sup>th</sup> 24 international scientists published an open letter in The Lancet (the World most prestigious medical journal from U.K.) reiterating the natural origins hypothesis and giving their firm support to health professionals and scientists in China and the world – these are the same views they have been holding since they published their first joint letter in February 2020 in The Lancet, when the Trump administration attempted to smear, attack and stigmatize China on COVID-19.

The 24 scientists including Peter Daszak, a member of the WHO-led team studying the coronavirus' origins, said in the letter that besides reaffirming solidarity with those in China who confronted the outbreak, they wanted to express their view on the most likely scenario that the SARS-CoV-2 originated in nature, not in a laboratory.

Not surprisingly, these open letters from the scientists, 60 countries to the WHO statements, and the 25 million Chinese Net citizens petitions received very little publicity in the U.S. and other Western press, which have been pushing the bogus lab-leak theory.

Also, not surprisingly, Australian virologist Dr. Danielle Anderson, who's the last—and only—foreign scientist in the Wuhan lab at the end of the 2019 (Where the first COVID-19 case was found in Wuhan, China), is also speaking out. She witnessed the entire situation and did not see any evidence of lab leaks. "If people were sick, I assume that I would have been sick—and I wasn't," she said. "I was tested for coronavirus in Singapore before I was vaccinated, and had never had it."

“If presented with evidence that such an accident spawned Covid-19”, Anderson argues “could foresee how things could maybe happen,” she said, according to the recent Bloomberg interview, yet her story was not widely reported in the western media.

Beside 25 million Chinese Netizens who signed the petition calling for a Fort Detrick probe, many U.S. and Chinese civic organizations and activists also drafted their own petitions.

Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges, one of the leading Chinese NGO organizations, has circulated their petition, to “support medical experts and scientific researchers” not politics “in carrying out thorough origin-tracing in a professional spirit covering multiple countries and multiple locations, so as to provide necessary reference experience for the prevention of the next possible pandemic.”

China-US Solidarity Network, International Action Center and hundreds of other organizations across the world have signed the petition. The joint statement reads as follows:

“As COVID-19 continues to wreck havoc across the globe, the current situation is still grave. We, political parties and organisations from around the world bearing the heavy responsibility of improving the people’s well being, promoting national development and safeguarding world peace and stability, have noted with deep concern the recent noises to politicise virus origin-tracing in international anti-epidemic cooperation. With a view to further promoting international anti-epidemic cooperation, we hereby agree to issue a joint statement as follows:

I. We are of the view that COVID-19 has been the most widespread global pandemic inflicted upon humanity for the past century or so and entails a war that all mankind declares on the virus. We as humans live in a community in which we rise and fall together with a shared future. In the face of major crises, no single country can remain insulated and intact. Viruses know no borders or races. The only way to defeat them is for the international community to work together.

II. We are of the view that science is the force that can be relied upon to defeat viruses and wipe out diseases. As the coronavirus is a new virus still unknown to humanity and its origin-tracing a serious scientific issue that must be studied by scientists and medical experts around the world through cooperation before any scientific conclusion is drawn on the basis of facts and evidences.

III. We are of the view that origin-tracing is the shared obligation of all countries. The outline of the next step work plan proposed unilaterally by the WHO Secretariat has neither complied with what is stipulated in the relevant Resolution of the World Health Assembly, nor been consulted adequately with Member States, still less fully reflected

the latest research achievements of the global origin-tracing. Hence it is not conducive to offering due guidance for future cooperation thereof. Many countries have expressed their concerns about this. We call on the Secretariat of the World Health Organisation to act on relevant resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly to advance global origin-tracing study in cooperation with all Member States, while giving full consideration to the emerging new scientific evidences and faithfully following the recommendations of the Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019. We support medical experts and scientific researchers in carrying out thorough origin-tracing in a professional spirit covering multiple countries and multiple locations, so as to provide necessary reference experience for the prevention of the next possible pandemic.

IV. We are of the view that in the face of the grave threat COVID-19 poses to life, safety and health of all mankind, what the international community needs the most is to defeat the virus with greater solidarity and cooperation. Allowing the politicisation of the tracing issue to run its own course will seriously poison the atmosphere for cooperation on global origin-tracing and undermine the achievements of the joint international fight against COVID-19, which does not serve the interest of any party. We resolutely oppose any attempt of politicisation, geographical labeling and stigmatisation as well the obstruction by any political factor and political manipulation to the research process and the international anti-epidemic cooperation.

V. We are of the view that while advancing origin-tracing study, we should continue to redouble our epidemic prevention and control efforts. We need to ensure the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries and see to it that vaccines become a global public good. We appreciate the fact that China and other countries have taken positive moves in providing vaccines to the rest of the world, in particular to developing countries, making important contribution to the global anti-epidemic cooperation. We call on vaccine-capable countries to refrain from imposing export restrictions or resorting to excessive hoarding and to resolutely oppose vaccine nationalism so that the global immunization gap can be narrowed, and a stronger international fence against the virus can take shape.

VI. We are of the view that political parties and organisations of all countries must shoulder their responsibility to enhance cooperation, work hard to facilitate global anti-pandemic cooperation, policy coordination and complementary actions, so as to inject inexhaustible driving force for the global fight against COVID-19 and the building of a global community of health for all.

VII. We believe that so long as members of the international community look out for each other in the most trying times, humanity will surely prevail over the pandemic,

emerge stronger from this dark hour in history and embrace an even brighter future of human development.”

From the scientific community and community activists around the world, millions of people say: NO to the U.S. call for the bogus lab leak investigation! Focus on building international solidarity and cooperation to fight against the COVID!

## SUPPLEMENT

### **EXCLUSIVE: US ramps up pressure to coerce intl scientists, rope in allies, WHO members to smear China over virus origins to beat 90-day deadline: source**

**Global Times**  
**8/18/2021**

While the US administration is speeding up to process a report on their so-called 90-day investigation to trace origins of the coronavirus that targets China, the Global Times learned from a source that they are enticing or threatening international scientists to cooperate with them on suppressing China by hyping unfounded topics like "China refuses to join in the virus origins tracing work" and "China refuses to cooperate with the World Health Organization (WHO)."

This is despite the fact that most of these scientists are dissatisfied with and oppose the US in politicizing the issue. But the US has exhausted all means to lure and coerce some scientists to serve its agenda, the source close to the matter said.

In May, US President Joe Biden ordered intelligence officials to "redouble" efforts to investigate the origins of COVID-19, including the theory that it came from a laboratory in China. He said the US intelligence community was split on whether it came from a lab accident or emerged from human contact with an infected animal, and he asked the groups to report back to him within 90 days.

The Global Times learned recently that the US intelligence agencies are incapable of producing any concrete "proof" or scientific support for the "lab leak" theory. The so-called evidence that has been fabricated so far is mostly circumstantial evidence that is completely unreliable and US allies also believe that the virus was almost certainly not created artificially.

The US administration knows clearly that the Chinese government insists on scientific principles in the virus origins tracing issue, and opposes the politicization or disregarding the conclusions reached in the joint report on the China-WHO research, a stance that is also supported by many other governments, according to the source.

China's refusal to participate in the US-led second stage of the WHO virus origins tracing work and the joint statement China made with some developing countries that was sent to the WHO, have seriously hurdled the US' plan to promote their "virus origins investigation" that targets China. In desperation, the US administration has to win support from the international community by perpetuating lies like "China refuses to join

in the virus origins investigation" and "China refuses to cooperate with the WHO." These lies, although groundless, are helpful to the US administration in smearing China and shifting responsibility of their own failure in fighting against the virus, the source said.

The latest move by the US administration is to arrange the director of the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy and presidential science adviser to collide with governmental science advisers from the EU, Australia and Japan to issue a statement on the second phase of investigation to urge the Chinese government to reflect on its decision on the rejection, expressing disappointment on China and requiring China to "shoulder responsibility" and "take action," according to the source.

The US administration will also try to win support from science advisers from more WHO member countries especially those in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The latter may release joint announcement with the US or make independent announcements, claiming that WHO's second phase origins tracing investigation is scientific, rather than politically driven. It may also condemn China's absence as "going against the stance of international science community," "preventing global fight against the virus" and "damaging global safety and health."

Many international scientists loathed US' politicization of the issue, they oppose US' stance and refuse to support the US administration. However, the US government is going all out to threaten and entice them, including doxing these scientists and their families, censoring their papers and forcing their employers to put pressure on them, according to the source.

It is not the first time that the US administration has played such dirty plots to threaten international scientists and force them to smear China over the virus origins investigation issue.

The Global Times learned previously that prominent US scientists focused on the tracing of COVID-19 origins have been facing tremendous political pressure, and some have been sidelined for not yielding to politicians-driven conspiracy theories on the matter and many have received anonymous threats.

Meanwhile, despite mounting political pressure, dozens of scientists recently published an open letter on international media journal The Lancet. In the letter they urged that science, not speculation, is essential to determine how the virus that triggered the COVID-19 pandemic reached humans, reiterating that the virus most likely originated in nature and not in a laboratory and they refuted the US-led "lab-leak" theory that put some prominent epidemiologists into a difficult situation.



## **Unlike centi-billionaire Gates, China shares vaccines, technology with world**

**Sara Flounders**

**8/10/2021**

In a stunning announcement Aug. 5, China's President Xi Jinping informed the First International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation of the country's donation of 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to developing and poor countries within the next four months. This urgent step builds solidarity and makes vaccines accessible in the developing world.

Most significant was China's message that, through cooperation and sharing of resources, skills and technology, many countries could develop overseas production of China-developed vaccines. Increasing local production capacity will save time, lives and costs of international transportation.

The decision to share technology and help countries produce their own vaccines puts China on a collision course with the World Health Organization. WHO is dominated and significantly funded by the one of the world's wealthiest individuals through the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation. Gates is committed to protecting patents, even in lifesaving essential medicines. Developing global production capacity is deeply threatening to U.S. corporations.

### **Teaching to fish**

CGTN, a Chinese media source, explained the significance of the Forum transferring technology to developing countries and helping these countries establish domestic production lines. It is the difference between giving a supply of fish and teaching countries to fish. This is the best protection now and in the future, as other possible pandemics develop.

Meeting the challenge is much more complicated than delivering palettes of vaccines on the tarmac. Complex logistical problems of storage, transport and need for skilled medical technicians and administrative personnel must be quickly solved. Raw materials and industrial technology are essential. Beginning concrete planning was the purpose of the Aug. 5 international forum, hosted by China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and attended via videoconference by 30 countries.

The U.S. corporate media, only capable of viewing the world from a capitalist perspective of competition, immediately took aim at China's announcement of 2 billion vaccine doses and questioned its motives. They did not, however, question the capacity of China to accomplish these goals.

U.S. news reports claimed that China's announcement on global cooperation at the international forum was upstaging President Biden's announcement of U.S. donations. President Biden had announced Aug. 3 that the U.S. had delivered 110 million COVID-19 vaccine doses around the world.

That is a mere 5% of the 2 billion doses from China. Nevertheless, the Aug. 3 White House press release bragged that the donation "cements the United States as the global leader in COVID-19 vaccine donations," and that this amount is "more than the donations of all other countries combined and reflects the generosity of the American spirit."

Biden's announcement was uncritically reported by U.S. corporate media, without bothering to fact-check this wildly exaggerated declaration on the significance of 110 million doses to 65 countries. China has already distributed 750 million doses to 104 countries and has publicized this widely. The 2 billion doses announced Aug. 5 is in addition to the huge amount already delivered. (Global Times, Aug. 5)

The White House statement, misleading and fraudulent, reflects the U.S. ruling class' determined refusal to acknowledge China's accomplishments in battling COVID within China and in helping the world deal with the pandemic.

It is seldom mentioned in the U.S. media that the U.S. still has the largest number of COVID deaths of any country — 631,000 at this writing. A comparison to China's 4,638 deaths is not included. Now the same numbers game is being played around sharing vaccines with the world.

### **Protecting patents at all costs**

The corporate media distorts and hides facts and figures, because enormous pharmaceutical profits are at stake.

Washington is feeling the global pressure to share resources and vaccines and suspend "intellectual property" (IP) rights on COVID vaccine patents. But the pharmaceutical companies remain determined to protect private patents, a fabulous source of guaranteed profits far into the future. They are threatened by even a temporary interruption of IP protections.

A capitalist government exists to protect the “rights” of corporations to maximum profits. This is considered more sacred than the human right to live. Pfizer and Moderna raised the cost of their vaccines — Pfizer by more than 25%.

With the U.S. government buying tens of millions of doses, there are vast profits to be made. Pfizer spent \$3 billion on vaccine research but stands to make \$26 billion in vaccine sales in 2021. Pfizer’s research investment was more than covered by \$12 billion in government subsidies. (Reuters, May 4)

Big Pharma has used its enormous power to block countries in the Global South from developing alternative vaccines. In October 2020, as the full impact of the global pandemic was being felt, India and South Africa put forth a radical proposal to the World Trade Organization: Everyone should be allowed to manufacture the vaccine without penalty.

The proposal for a patent waiver was rejected at the WTO by Bill Gates and all the wealthier capitalist countries including the United States, the European Union, Britain and Switzerland, countries that are home to major pharmaceutical companies. All these countries enjoyed early access to the vaccine.

### **Vaccine apartheid**

Pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. and in other imperialist countries made billions in profits during the AIDS scourge, which took an especially heavy toll in Africa. The Gates and other foundations established by multibillionaires were used to defend monopoly medicine while masquerading as saviors.

Because Gates’ own fortune is built on IP, specifically copyrights and patents associated with Windows and Microsoft, Gates has used a portion of his vast corporate wealth to ensure protection of all patents.

The Gates Foundation is the second largest donor, after the U.S., to the World Health Organization. Gates’ views have an outsized influence. Of course, the U.S., Britain, Germany and the other largest funders are all committed to keeping medical technology in private corporate hands.

They prioritize capitalist ownership first and health care in the formerly colonized world a distant second. Less than 2% of Africa’s 1.3 billion people are fully vaccinated.

This is the dual role of all corporate foundations. Foundations such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation keep prices high by purchasing medications and donating them, while protecting patents or IP, along with their reputation. With a great deal of publicity

and hype, the Gates Foundation claims to combat polio, malaria and AIDS in Africa, but their handouts do not develop essential health infrastructure.

Increasingly health advocates are focusing on the role of Bill Gates and Big Pharma in entrenching deadly vaccine apartheid. “Gates pushed through a plan that would permit companies to hold exclusive rights to lifesaving medicines. . . . Given the enormous influence Gates has in the global public health world, his vision ultimately won out in the COVAX program — which enshrines monopoly patent rights and relies on the charitable whims of rich countries and pharmaceutical giants to provide vaccines to most of the world.” COVAX deceptively describes its goal as “working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.” (Wired, May 19)

The early hopes of a cooperative collaboration and information sharing in a united effort against the virus crashed against the capitalist rocks of IP rights and proprietary science.

China’s determination to share vaccine technology is a fundamental challenge to corporate domination of technology.

The differences between two global choices are sharpening. Cooperation and sharing scientific information and technology are the only way forward.

## **Don't Fall into the Trap of the “Enemy of my Enemy Is my friend” Scam**

**Former U.S. intelligence official Christopher Ashley Ford's recent accusation against the administration of Trump and his sidekicks about the bogus COVID origin tracing against China are no more than a dog-eat-dog fight between far-right neocons vs. Democrat neocons on who owns the China-bashing movement.**

**Lee Siu Hin**

**8/22/2021**

Recently, a former Trump administration intelligence official in charge of the COVID-19 origin investigation, Christopher Ashley Ford, the former assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation, came forward to speak out against the U.S. government's baseless COVID-19 origin tracing against China. He did it in order to prevent the U.S. government from “embarrassing and discrediting” itself with “Chinese bioweapon leak” claims that lacked strong scientific evidence, according to his BuzzFeed interview on June 12th.

### **DiNanno's Neocon Hudson Institute-Michael Gordon Connections**

Ford became a “whistle blower” to set the record straight, in response to the June 3rd VanityFair report where Thomas DiNanno in an interview accused Ford and his team of obstructing his efforts to investigate the lab leak theory in a Trump administration State Department memo from January 9, 2021. He warn him not to investigate the origins of COVID-19 for fear of opening a “can of worms.” DiNanno, also was a former U.S. intelligence official now working for the Hudson Institute, a far-right neocon anti-China/anti-communist think tank and one of the main forces pushing the “Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) man-made military bio-weapons lab leak” conspiracy in Washington D.C.

DiNanno served as a professional staff member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and an Assistant Secretary of State of the Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Bureau from 2018-2021. He was also assistant administrator of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency “where he oversaw nearly \$5 billion in counter-terrorism programs and national preparedness initiatives that focused on resilient public safety

communications systems, national continuity planning, and cyber-security initiatives,” according to his bio.

DiNanno represents a small group of elite former U.S. intelligence officials and now works for neocon think tanks pushing the bogus Chinaphobia “lab leak” agenda.

Just three days after the VanityFair report on June 6th, the Hudson Institute released a “report” co-authored by DiNanno, David Asher, Yu Maochun and others, entitled “A Just Response to Beijing’s COVID-19 Abuses.” Besides spreading the baseless “WIV lab leak” conspiracy theory, they offered the Biden administration “advice” about how to sanction China for “war crimes” for manufacturing biological and chemical weapons. They called for civil claims against China “if that government does not provide substantive cooperation, including direct access to physical evidence, within a specified time frame.”

The report’s other co-authors, according to their bios, have very close past and current connections to the U.S. Department of State, the Pentagon and the intelligence community. These are DC bureaucratic elite war monger neocons with long histories of interests against North Korea, Iran, Syria, and China.

Yu “Miles” Maochun is a well-known neocon anti-communist/anti-China scholar, born and educated in socialist China, but who has chosen to act against his motherland and moved to the U.S. He currently teaches East Asia and Military History at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He has written books such as “The Dragon’s War” viciously attacking China and suggesting the U.S. should launch a military campaign in the region. He was a principal China policy and planning adviser to former United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during the Trump era.

David Asher is the Hudson Institute researcher focusing on U.S. foreign policy in Asia, economic and financial policy toward the U.S., and a former Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). He has been working at the U.S. Department of State for the past 25 years where he “played a senior role in numerous economic and financial pressure campaigns involving defiant states, terrorist organizations, drug cartels, and weapons proliferation networks” including North Korea, Iran and ISIS, according to his bio at the CNAS website.

David Feith, Adjunct Senior Fellow of the Center for a New American Security, was also a former Trump State Department official, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Before that he was an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal in Hong Kong.

Matthew Zweig, former Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), “produces accurate and timely analyses, identifies illicit activities, and provides

policy options – all with the aim of strengthening U.S. national security and reducing or eliminating threats posed by adversaries and enemies of the United States and other free nations,” according to the FDD website. Zweig “served as the Senior Sanctions Advisor in the Office of the Special Representative for Syria Engagement” at the State Department, also worked with interagency partners, multinational counterparts, and others to help implement the “anti-Assad economic pressure elements of the administration’s Syria strategy.” From 2001 to 2018, Zweig served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, according to his FDD bio.

Yu Maochun, and David Asher were quoted by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reporter Michael R. Gordon in his May 24th “exclusive revelation,” the so-called “Report on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Covid-19 Debate.” The “evidence” was based on nothing – it came from a U.S. intelligence report citing unnamed “current and former officials” who claimed that researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology “went to hospital in November 2019, shortly before a confirmed outbreak” of COVID-19.

A day later, on May 25, President Joe Biden’s Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, speaking at the United Nations World Health Assembly, demanded a “transparent” investigation into the origins of COVID-19.

Then on May 26, Biden called on the “Intelligence Community” to investigate whether COVID-19 arose “from a laboratory accident” and “report back to me in 90 days” according to the WSWS.

Gordon, the same reporter who in 2002 claimed he had the so-called “evidence” of “Iraqi weapons of mass destruction” that led to the U.S. invasion of Iraq a year later, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. His article was widely quoted by high-level U.S. government officials and became an important basis for the Bush administration to launch the Iraq war. He has recycled the same old trick again, this time against China, to raise the “lab-leak theory.”

They’re not just a circle of “friends” connected together out of neocon political convenience. DiNanno’s colleagues Asher and Yu’s interview with WSJ war-propagandist Gordon and their “leaking” proof that the WIV had a “lab-leak,” and his interview with VanityFair toxically attacking Ford for stalling his conspiracy investigation at almost the same time is not by accident, but a carefully designed anti-China propaganda campaign to push for their cynical “lab-leak theory.”

## **Case Closed?**

So, can we conclude: Ford is a “good guy” who wants to stop government’s baseless “WIV lab-leak” investigation, and DiNanno, Asher and Yu are “bad guys” who want to push for the bogus conspiracy theory?

The answer: No.

As the neocon anti-China/anti-communist/Islamophobia DC strategists, they all agree China had “done” something wrong and want to push the World Health Organization (WHO) and China for another international investigation on origin tracing, based on U.S. and western rules, in order to rewrite the earlier WHO investigation that concluded that the theory of a China lab leak virus is “highly unlikely.”

The only difference is how they do it, liberal vs. far right, where: Joe Biden/Nancy Pelosi on the Democratic side, Donald Trump/Tom Cotton/Ted Cruz/Mike Gallagher on the Republican side, with their common goal to politically undermine China; it is only the rhetoric that is slightly different.

Unlike the failed Trump “lab-leak” propaganda campaign last year, the Biden administration's fake scientific campaign is a well-organized top-down effort by anti-China neocons. It is a push by far-right politicians such as Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), and others, and is being executed by Neocon anti-communist think tanks such as the Atlantic Council, the Hudson Institute, the Center for a New American Security, and others. They are coordinated by elite DC neocon warmonger think tankers like DiNanno, Yu, Feith, and so on, bring in small groups of biological and medical scientists from Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, among others. They also bring in non-medically trained “experts” like Nicholas Wade, the racist pseudoscientists, neocon Wall Street Journal reporter Michael Gordon, and others, to build an ad hoc working group to launch a fake grassroots “scientific” campaign.

Their intent is to silence the legitimate and majority voices of the scientific community who believe that the COVID-19 virus came from natural origins. They want to call for a U.S. investigation and push for second WHO mission that will support the baseless U.S. conspiracy theory.

It’s a textbook-U.S. military intelligence style step-by-step “self-directed and self-acted” covert operation scam. Chinaphobia DC neocons fantasize that they can control the world by fabricating “evidence” during their own second investigation to prove China leaked the virus. Then they will call for international sanctions against China, demand massive financial compensation, and direct political pressure on the Chinese government and to undermine its influence around the world.

However, Ford shouldn’t be count as one of the innocent Chelsea Manning-type whistleblower/truth speakers who had been bullied by the neocons. Based on the



BuzzFeed interview, he is also supporting a different type of “lab-leak” conspiracy closer to the Biden/liberal view.

Historically, most neocon think tanks are far-right Republican-based; on the other hand, the academia/research institute “scientists” are more liberal/Democratic Party oriented, but both sides are accusing China of having “leaked the virus.”

The difference: Right-wing neocons are accusing China of making man-made bio weapons that they deliberately leaked to the world, while liberal academia/research institutes “suspect” WIV was working on a non-military project and accidentally leaked the virus.

The bottom line: The political forces who can dictate the narratives of the “lab-leak” conspiracy will be able to take ownership of the Chinaphobic movement with “enormous” long-term political and financial rewards.

Their difference ultimately leads to the open, stupid, dog fights between think tanks/ Republican politicians vs. academia/research institutes/Democratic politicians over who the real “experts” are. While Republicans accuse Democrats/Biden of being “too soft” on the “virus origin” probe, liberal media like Politico fight back with accusations like “Republicans dive into the politically fraught push for Covid's origin story” (6/4/2021). Even the name calling in the May 27th CNN interview, where Marc Lipsitch from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (a co-signer of the May 14th open letter supporting the “lab-leak” theory), insisted China “lied” and there is the possibility of a “lab leak.” But when asked by the CNN host to comment Dr. Robert Redfield, Trump’s former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after Redfield had offered his “man-made virus lab leak” conspiracy theory earlier on the same CNN program, Lipsitch accused Redfield of not “know what he is talking about,” arguing the virus must be “natural” and “accidentally” leaked by the WIV lab.

### **So, what’s the deal?**

The U.S. man-made “virus leak” conspiracy is an example of typical toxic and racist cancel culture, completely irrational. It is a strategy that changes its tactics every day when Plan A, B, C, D, and so on don’t work. U.S. wants to “cancel” China, liberals and far-rightists are cancelling each other on who has the ultimate power to “cancel” China.

That’s where Christopher Ashley Ford comes into the picture: he is argue against DiNanno’s far-right conspiracy, but seemingly supports the Biden/liberal conspiracy.

It's a safer bet for Biden to accuse China of hiding something in order to "conveniently" suggest there is the possibility of a "lab leak," rather than going all-the-way by accusing China of a "man-made virus leak" (far-right conspiracy) with no way to prove it.

Why? When former President Trump and his far-right anti-communist Republicans began spreading the "China virus" fringe conspiracy theories last summer, they had only a lot of loud propaganda to prove their claim and never offered any concrete evidence; their actions went nowhere and only became material for TV jokes by the liberal media.

Now Biden and the Democrats want to distract the public from Biden's own failures in handling the pandemic as well as vaccine racism at home and vaccine imperialism abroad. They are recycling last year's far-right neocon racist anti-China conspiracy campaign. But they understand that political rhetoric won't be enough; they will need a systematic political PR approach with a "scientific" touch to push WHO and other countries to submit to the U.S. direction.

According to the Global Times August 19th investigation, the U.S. is using vaccine aid, talent training and industrial investment as bait, even politically threatening other countries, "stepping up its efforts to coerce China's neighboring countries to participate in its campaign to smear China as the 'source of the coronavirus.'"

Meanwhile, U.S. senior officials were also ordered to keep the virus origin probe away from Europe and Latin America, "considering that Europe is a close ally of the US, and Latin America is geographically close to the U.S. and virus origins tracing work in the region may expose U.S. early COVID-19 cases and anti-epidemic loopholes," according to the Global Times.

The U.S., EU, Australia, Japan, and other western countries have been pressuring the WHO to launch the "second-phase origins tracing" on China as soon as possible; instead of working with China for global anti-virus and vaccine solidarity. There is no doubt that it is a deadly "political virus" that they're spreading at any cost.

As the wise old saying goes: Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me! Ford's revelation is a good reminder for peace activists of what's going on in the toxic chaos of the U.S. intelligence community. Never believe a neocon official who has been spreading lies while making a handsome living – while he's seemingly doing something for a good reason, he can be "born-again" and his actions could have a hidden agenda.

## About the Authors

### Lee Siu Hin

He's a Chinese-American immigrant activist from Los Angeles CA, is the founder and national coordinator of China-U.S. Solidarity Network (CUSN), National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN), a long-time community, labor, antiwar and immigrant rights activists for grassroots struggle. He's also a long-time Pacifica Radio KPFK Los Angeles unpaid reporter and producer, war correspondent went to middle-east, Europe, and Africa.

NISN, a grassroots-based national grassroots immigrant activist network; and CUSN, a network of academia and community activists in both countries committed to build a China-U.S. grassroots activist dialogue.

Lee holds Masters of Public Administration (MPA) and Masters of Engineering (Aerospace) from California State Polytechnic University Pomona, Pomona, CA.

Currently working on community medical big data technology and COVID-19 AI medial analytic platform for the inner-city community and the global south.

His latest book "Capitalism on a Ventilator" co-published by Sara Flounders at September, 2020; Chinese edition will be coming soon at later 2021.

### Sara Flounders

An American political writer<sup>[1]</sup> who has been active in progressive and anti-war organizing since the 1960s. She is a member of the Secretariat of Workers World Party, as well as a principal leader of the International Action Center. She also frequently writes for Workers World newspaper.

Flounders organized delegations to Iraq during the years when international sanctions were in place, following the 1991 Gulf War. She participated in demonstrations against U.S. presence in the Philippines and South Korea. She traveled to Sudan after Operation Infinite Reach, and to Yugoslavia during the war. She has visited Syria and Iran and organized delegations to Lebanon. She has traveled on several occasions to Gaza.

Flounders sits on the board of directors for the International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee, is founder and an organizer with United National Antiwar Coalition, and is Secretary of the National Board of the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms. She works on legal defense efforts for Aafia Siddiqui, Lynne Stewart, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and other alleged political prisoners.

## **China-US Solidarity Network**

**中美民间交流协会**

**PO Box 751 South Pasadena, CA 91031**

**URL: <https://www.ChinaSolidarity.org>**

**e-mail: [ActivistWeb@gmail.com](mailto:ActivistWeb@gmail.com)**

**Tel: (626)394-0710**