

JUNE 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR ADAG ED MARTIN, JR.

FROM: MICHAEL CAPUTO

SUBJECT: HHS WEAPONIZATION

The purpose of this memo is to outline an effective and impactful investigation by United States Attorney General Pam Bondi's Weaponization Working Group (WWG) into manipulation of federal government power, data and funding to illegally misdirect the COVID pandemic response and misinform the public to hide the American government's role in and responsibility for the true origin of the coronavirus. While the inquiry may lead to sufficient evidence of misconduct and a likelihood of prosecution, the effort can also identify U.S. companies and citizens whose reputations and careers were damaged and should be made whole.

NIH Director Jay Bhattacharaya has a team assembling a briefing on the topic. He is eager to engage on this and standing by.

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On March 17, 2020, the monthly peer-reviewed medical journal Nature Medicine published the now-notorious paper "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2" by Kristian G. Andersen and others which concluded that "SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus." "Proximal Origin," accessed almost six million times and cited in more than 2,800 additional scientific papers, is one of the most influential scientific papers of all time.

Today this work is widely considered inaccurate and contrived and is further criticized for the role played by Dr. Anthony Fauci and the National Institutes of Health in its development. Still, Nature Medicine refuses to retract the paper.

Reporting and expert analysis after the coronavirus pandemic subsided indicated that, despite claims made in Nature Medicine to the contrary, the 2019 coronavirus outbreak originally leaked from a Wuhan, China laboratory doing gain-of-function virus research funded by American taxpayers - and COVID was a massive blunder of the National Institutes of Health and other U.S. Department of Health and Human Services officials.

Actions taken by federal officials that led up to the false paper's publication and subsequent official activity furthering the authors' false natural origin narrative clearly violated President Donald Trump Administration's Executive Orders against the weaponization of government (Executive Order No. 14,147). Many now believe senior federal public health officials illegally and unethically influenced expert opinion to distract the American public and the world from the truth.

Importantly, careers and reputations were destroyed along the way.

Efforts to publish the “Proximal Origin” paper were the first steps of a curated misinformation effort, and its authors appear to have remained at the center of this activity for months.

Emails made public through freedom of information act requests and by congressional investigators in 2022 showed that the papers’ authors had taken the unusual step of enlisting the extensive input of NIH Director Francis Collins, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, and others. Worse, some allege there are unnamed authors on the paper – a violation of common medical journal standards.

With their narrative published in Nature Medicine, Collins promoted the “Proximal Origin” paper on his March 2020 NIH Director's Blog, and Fauci pushed the paper during a televised White House briefing a month later.

Two months after they published “Proximal Origin” dismissing the possibility of a lab accident, Fauci awarded Andersen and his co-author Dr. Robert Garry \$8.9 million to investigate infectious disease transmission from wildlife to humans. Allegations have dogged Andersen that this grant was a reward for misinformation, accusations he dismissed under oath in July 2023.

Andersen then may have moved on to play a leading role in misleading US intelligence agencies. A week after Nature Medicine published “Proximal Origin,” the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) published a report documenting a briefing that non-government scientists gave to State Department officials, downplaying the possibility of a Chinese lab accident and citing the “Proximal Origin” paper. Later, emails proved that one of those scientists was Kristian Andersen. Other authors of the false Nature Medicine report are thought to also have participated in what appears to be an orchestrated team of scientists who briefed multiple national security agencies.

The authors all had reservations before, during, and soon after their report was published. In a message Andersen sent to his “Proximal Origin” co-authors on April 16, 2020, a month after Nature Medicine published their paper, he said “I’m still not fully convinced that no culture was involved.”

It appears federal officials secretly steered millions in taxpayer dollars to scientists who falsely distracted the public from government misconduct that lead to massive illness and deaths worldwide. While investigating this historic weaponization of our government may lead to evidence of other related misconduct, exposing the longstanding corruption in our public health arena will help Americans regain trust in government, science and medicine.

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