

July 16, 2020

## THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO REINSTATE A LONG TERM MORATORIUM ON GAIN OF FUNCTION/GAIN OF THREAT RESEARCH ON POTENTIAL PANDEMIC VIRUSES AND OTHER PATHOGENS

The International Center for Technology Assessment has long been concerned about US Government funding of research in this area. We call again for a renewed moratorium. Here are some key resources.

### RESOURCE MATERIALS:

#### [Why Do Exceptionally Dangerous Gain-of-Function Experiments in Influenza?](#)

Marc Lipsitch

Influenza Virus: 2018: 1836:599-608

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7119956/>

This book chapter makes a compelling case against performing gain-of-function/gain of threat research on potentially pandemic viruses. Extensive footnotes for those who wish to research further.

#### [The Global Health Security Index](#)

October 24, 2019

The first of its kind index reviews the biosecurity in 195 countries. The conclusion is that “no country is prepared for epidemics or pandemics.” It shows that the international biosecurity system is badly broken as the average country scores only 40.2 percent out of 100, with even high income countries scoring only 51.9 percent. The Index make important recommendations to address this crisis. Allowing gain of function/gain of threat research on potentially pandemic pathogens in this weak and ineffective biosecurity environment is a recipe for disaster.

<https://www.ghsindex.org/>

#### [Controversial Experiments to Make Bird Flu More Risky Poised to Resume](#)

Jocelyn Kaiser

Science Magazine, February 8, 2019

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/02/exclusive-controversial-experiments-make-bird-flu-more-risky-poised-resume>

## Biologists are Trying to Make Bird Flu Easier to Spread, Can We Not

Kelssy Piper

Vox, February 17, 2019

<https://www.vox.com/2019/2/17/18225938/biologists-are-trying-to-make-bird-flu-easier-to-spread-can-we-not>

## The U.S is Funding Dangerous Experiments it Does Not Want You to Know About

Washington Post February 27. 2019 Opinion Editorial

Marc Lipsitch, Thomas Inglesby

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-is-funding-dangerous-experiments-it-doesnt-want-you-to-know-about/2019/02/27/5f60e934-38ae-11e9-a2cd-307b06d0257b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-is-funding-dangerous-experiments-it-doesnt-want-you-to-know-about/2019/02/27/5f60e934-38ae-11e9-a2cd-307b06d0257b_story.html)

This editorial reveals how the US government reinstated funding for gain of function/gain of threat research that created a bird flu that could cause a mass pandemic killing more than half of the world's population.

## Why Some Labs are Work on Making Viruses Deadlier and Why They Should Stop

Kelsey Piper

Vox, May 1, 2020

A helpful recent article on gain of function/gain of threat research in connection with revelations about research being done at the Wuhan Institute for Virology. .

<https://www.vox.com/2020/5/1/21243148/why-some-labs-work-on-making-viruses-deadlier-and-why-they-should-stop>

## Website of the Cambridge Working Group

<http://www.cambridgeworkinggroup.org/>

This website lists the hundreds of scientists who supported a moratorium on gain of function/gain of threat research on potentially pandemic viruses. It includes their mission statement a list of their publications.

## Doing Due Diligence to Assess the Risk and benefits of Life Sciences gain of function research

The Obama White House announcement of the moratorium on gain of function/gain of threat research on potential pandemic viruses.

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2014/10/17/doing-diligence-assess-risks-and-benefits-life-sciences-gain-function-research>

Study Finds Huge Gap in International Biosafety Regulations-Threatens Security

August 8, 2016

Tracy Rozens

Homeland Preparedness News

<https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/19466-study-finds-huge-gap-in-international-biosafety-regulations-threatens-security/>