Twitter Thread by The Seeker



The Seeker
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A thread on the origins of COVID-19, and a possible bio-containment failure at one of the Wuhan labs.

I feel there are facts not enough people know about, so I decided to summarise the important & interesting ones in this post.

Like every stellar suspence thriller, it starts with mysterious deaths that needs to be solved.

To solve this puzzle, we must go back to April 2012, in Mojiang county, where six miners contracted a SARS-like pneumonia, and three of them died.

https://t.co/zcb4DLg9Ec

> 1/ I'll try... A week ago I pointed out Shi Zhengli's 2013 discovery of SARS-2's nearest relative appeared to be linked to a cluster of mystery deaths from SARS-like disease, and that Shi has been coy about her role in that find & the link to those deaths.https://t.co/0Q3TuUFLlu
>
> — Luigi Warren \U0001f60a (@luigi_warren) May 19, 2020

In the same month & year of the outbreak, there was an USAID/PREDICT bat sampling project in Mojiang. (I strongly suspect they were the one's who hired the miners to clean the mineshaft for one of their project.)

https://t.co/2Ds9QjHi96

> They miners were probably hired to clean the mineshaft for a PREDICT sampling project. https://t.co/M45PyP4XaZ
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) August 17, 2020

In July 2012, a few months after the mineshaft pneumonia outbreak, their was a 6-month disease control work in Mojiang county.
https://t.co/npkyi9sWqO
More high profile visits to Mojiang by China CDC officials were made later on:
https://t.co/c1mNtLZWGc

https://t.co/aoCIojYwYH

(Was there a bigger outbreak that they were trying to control?)

Oddly enough, the atypical pneumonia cases among the miners didn't make it to the official CDC statistics for 2012, which definitely suggests a cover-up to me.

https://t.co/rBy4dic7BI

> Despite the two dissertations mentioning the miners pneumonias, the cases didn't make it to the official CCDC statistics. https://t.co/39Xc7fMUGv pic.twitter.com/JvaUn6XLur
>
> — Ant\xf3nio Duarte (@AntGDuarte) July 6, 2020

In another case, a Thai tourist in Yunnan died of multiple organ failure caused by "unexplained pneumonia" in 2013. The symptoms were similar, and he was admitted to the same hospital for treatment as the miners.

https://t.co/uEbcZRGGPE

> Interesting: On April, 2013, a Thai tourist in Yunnan Province died of multiple organ failure caused by "unexplained pneumonia". The symptoms were fever, lung infection, & shock. Also, admitted in the same hospital where the miner patients were admitted.https://t.co/q4sgK0xWPF
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) June 6, 2020

Even this case wasn't included in the official China CDC statistics.

https://t.co/pGWhIAeqw2

Around the same time, China's Ministry of Science & Technology initiated a project (2013FY113500) to identify and investigate viral pathogens and its relation with major infectious diseases.

https://t.co/ruGi3q97F6

> I think we know the answer to that one:
>
> A Chinese MoST project was initiated to identify and investigate viral pathogens and it's relation with major infectious diseases in May' 13, just 2 months before Shi Zhengli sampled BatCoV4991/RaTG13https://t.co/a8oV1ZTFFJ
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) July 6, 2020

A multi-year bat surveillance project was carried out in that exact mine by multiple labs across China (including WIV & China CDC).

You can read this in significant more detail, here:

The medical thesis (2013): https://t.co/5g5cdtFSLr
PhD thesis (2016):
https://t.co/mort5jT2ki

> The Analysis of 6 Patients with Severe Pneumonia Caused by Unknown Viruses (2013)https://t.co/1vYtLClbjA
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) May 18, 2020

The 2013 medical thesis, from a Kunming Medical University doctor who treated the miners, concluded that the pneumonia was caused by SARS-like coronavirus from Rhinolophus sinicus.

https://t.co/dTqLjLvEQA

> Just re-translated and re-read the summary of Li Xu's MSc thesis (Pg 56)
>
> They were pretty sure that the unknown pneumonia was caused by SL-CoV. @luigi_warren @BahulikarRahul @AntGDuarte pic.twitter.com/oe253mJ4sd
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) June 10, 2020

The miners' pneumonia cases were clinically virtually identical to COVID-19.

https://t.co/oayroSSblI

> A mine in Mojiang. 2012: Lethal pneumonia cases in six miners, three die..Retrospective analysis indicates stark similarities to COVID. 2012-2013 WIV collects bat fecal samples. Nearest relative 4991 from the same mine..https://t.co/ktyMMqokg2
>
> — Mona (@MonaRahalkar) October 3, 2020

Other essential parts of the mystery, like when was the last trip to the mineshaft, how many samples were collected, and how many were cultured/isolated, remain elusive.

WIV was asked to provide the samples for RaTG13, but they declared that they no longer have it.

To add to this mystery, the viral database for Project 2013FY113500 has been taken down, exactly what I would hope if they had something to hide.

https://t.co/7xGsLlgGBA

(Archived version of the database: https://t.co/wy35NjmAK0)

> "We have also preliminarily established shareable information databases of these viruses, the metagenomic sequencing reads, contigs database, & shareable virus resources.. (https://t.co/Amyn6PBGwg)"

> Worth noting that the virus database mentioned in the study has been taken down.
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) June 12, 2020

Next clue in the mystery, Project 2013FY113500 was under review by China's MoST before a 30 September deadline, last year. Part of it was *state secret*

https://t.co/tpOxYVwfnr

> An Update: Just unearthed this document which corroborates - and adds new details - to the evaluation work that was being carried out on 91 special projects of China's MoS&T (Including Project 2013FY113500) #Threadhttps://t.co/UgYgCht0Bs
>
> Archive link: https://t.co/9GBTiukhbI https://t.co/1tWNjhKnOP
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) August 30, 2020

A detailed summary of a proposed spillover event during this review of samples, can be read here:

https://t.co/grqgKf8NVz

> For those who missed it earlier, you need to read this:
>
> Proposed SARS-CoV-2 Spillover During 2019 Review of Samples from a Mineshaft in Mojiang, Yunnan Province, Chinahttps://t.co/MtSAbEtQlO
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) October 3, 2020

As per another MoST tender over 11 July-13 Sept 2019, winners were required to identify 5 major novel viral pathogens from wild animals and carry out a biosecurity risk assessment by testing them on small animals.

https://t.co/raXjrnpe7q

> MoS&T program recently started a tendering process over 11 July-13 Sept 2019. Winners were required to identify 5 major novel viral pathogens from wild animals including bats, and carry out a biosecurity risk assessment by testing them on small animals. https://t.co/C2n7nXCvZ3 https://t.co/uA7NEQsgts
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) June 21, 2020

Access to WIV pathogen database was restricted on Sep 12, coinciding with the last day of the tender.

https://t.co/4BPs3bBmNV

> #OTD last year, Wuhan Institute of Virology deleted their "Special database of pathogens carrying viruses in wild animals"https://t.co/4xeRA5bMjGhttps://t.co/dzBa3rQEYNhttps://t.co/ODPWWFrH1Dhttps://t.co/qD1vUgFB4nhttps://t.co/3DNStN
> pic.twitter.com/gtqUgzuVa7

— The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) September 11, 2020

WIV still hasn't explained why did they restrict access to their pathogen databases.

All of these leads me to suspect that there was a possible bio-containment failure at one of their labs around Sept-Oct 2019. Factor these:

Mysterious blips in Google search for the terms Coronavirus and SARS, in Hubei province in September 2019

https://t.co/UGD6tulYb1

There was a tender for an "Emergency" purchase of virus detection kits in September last year. It contains orders for 40,500 PCR kits (including for Coronaviruses).

https://t.co/yF1cpOWVgf

> 3/3 Sep 2019: "Wuhan City Center for Disease Control and Prevention plans to purchase a batch of emergency reagents and consumables, with a budget of 220,000"https://t.co/BY8cwUlOGV
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) May 13, 2020

Two tenders by Wuhan CDC for disposing 2.5 Tons (2 + 0.5) of hazardous bio-chemical waste from their labs (it's a lot!!)

https://t.co/OuxONqa5hf

https://t.co/IWvfOJxpRh

They mention that the warehouses of the two companies which had relevant disposal qualifications had a fire in 2019, and had their license suspended.

(Where was the waste disposed off? Did they dispose it safely?)

On September 6, the Zhifang STP in Wuhan was officially shut down, & the sewage from the plant was directly transferred to the Jiangxia STP for advanced treatment. The Jiangxia STP is in very close proximity to the WIV lab complex.

https://t.co/PO8r3WY4w5

> On September 6, the Zhifang Sewage Treatment Plant was officially shut down, & the sewage from the plant was directly transferred to the Jiangxia Sewage Treatment Plant for advanced treatment. The Jiangxia STP is right next to the WIV BSL-4 Lab (in pic)https://t.co/TlW01DJ7gy pic.twitter.com/vMSLg8kmgC
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) July 24, 2020

There were multiple on-site lab safety inspections at Wuhan, during September last year.

https://t.co/YhVSeiPetf

https://t.co/KuwXDMYOlp

https://t.co/8HblfaB6eU

https://t.co/1j4LD5jGvK

On Oct 2019 Hubei Health Commission gave license approval to numerous companies in Wuhan for making/procuring disinfectants, Sodium Hypochlorite, Pipelines, and Pipe fittings

https://t.co/FHoCiSz6Ba

> On Oct 2019 Hubei Health Commission gave license approval to numerous companies in Wuhan for making/procuring disinfectants, Sodium Hypochlorite, pipelines, and pipe fittings. Hmmm..https://t.co/FNw42k2oeH
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) August 5, 2020

They also released a new biosafety law in October last year.

https://t.co/MlRLcIf6gU

On Nov 2019, there was a tender for (among other things) Waste liquid sensing system with high sealing performance and automatic alarm

https://t.co/WF6EtoPssq

> 12/ November 2019: Tender for (among other things) Waste liquid sensing system with high sealing performance and automatic alarm when the waste liquid is fullhttps://t.co/BMHUapnYGS
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) July 6, 2020

In Dec 2019, China's new "vaccine management law" was officially implemented in all BSL-3 & above labs

https://t.co/QmYDl01uHo

> On December 2019, China's first "Vaccine Management Law" was officially implemented in all BSL-3 & above labs, including the ABSL-3 lab at Wuhan Uni.
>
> So far, the ABSL-3 lab has completed AIDS, TB, SARS & other experiments on more than 1,300 monkeys. https://t.co/DW1OD0Kcz9
>
> — The Seeker (@TheSeeker268) May 27, 2020

(Were the new biosafety laws, regulations, and on-site lab inspections a reaction to a probable spillover event?)

Phylogenetic studies also point towards the COVID-19 outbreak starting around Sept-Oct last year.

https://t.co/wgfGVsym5G

https://t.co/z1gDsvJTo0

https://t.co/4G12TFhzEa

There are serious doubts about RaTG13 and Pangolin CoVs, and the shady process by which they suddenly appeared.

https://t.co/OwWVOvSImb

https://t.co/FtRsNDO2BD

https://t.co/jjxAElSfYG

> This is the 2nd preprint @shingheizhan & I put out on SARS2 origins. Under editorial review for ~16 weeks now.
>
> We can't emphasize enough the importance of scientists being skeptical about data, especially those supporting epidemiological investigations.https://t.co/A5eCze8AEp
>
> — Alina Chan (@Ayjchan) September 13, 2020

And we have a virus extremely adapted to humans without any close intermediate version, neither in humans, nor in the animals.

https://t.co/eMBstXprOX

> My colleagues and I do not preclude such a scenario. Please see our preprint! We state that lab-based scenario is one possible route by which SARS-CoV-2 adapted to humans. https://t.co/s4J1aR3q35
>
> — Alina Chan (@Ayjchan) May 8, 2020

Today, we have no plausible hypothesis to explain how the virus could have appeared in Wuhan in a natural way. But the fact that the epicenter was Wuhan, in close proximity to several virology labs specializing in CoVs, it is conceivable that the virus spilled from a laboratory.

There is no proof of a lab spillover, but the hypothesis is supported by robust circumstantial evidences and a long pattern of scientific misconduct by China-based researchers.

Scientific, media and forensic community needs to verify the possibility of a laboratory spillover.

Whichever side of the debate you stand on, I hope it mas more to do with fact-based science than your political beliefs. /End