

DATE	SCIENTIST	PUBLIC STATEMENT	PRIVATE STATEMENTS	PUBLIC SOURCE	PRIVATE SOURCE
Weird: September 8, 2011	Ian Lipkin	Twitter: "Lipkin: bat habitat destruction scene @ the end of film is a powerful reminder of the zoonotic origin of many emerging infectious disease"		Tweet	
January 31 2020	Kristian Andersen		SARS-CoV-2 genome "inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory,"		Email to Fauci
February 1, 2020	Edward Holmes		The virus' characteristics were "exactly what was expected by engineering" and "'Bob [Garry] said the insertion was the 1st thing he would add."		Slack
February 1, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Yeah, the furin site would be the first thing to add for sure,"		Slack
February 1, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"I think the main thing still in my mind is that the lab escape version of this is so friggin' likely to have happened because they were already doing this type of work and the molecular data is fully consistent with that scenario."		Slack
February 2, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Question is — evolution or engineering. My problem is that both really rather plausible."		Slack
February 2, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"(t)he main issue is that accidental escape is in fact highly likely — it's not some fringe theory."		Slack
February 2, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Natural selection and accidental release are both plausible scenarios explaining the data — and a priori should be equally weighed as possible explanations." Furin site, he says, "moves me slightly more towards accidental release."		Slack
February 2, 2020	Bob Garry		"I still don't know if the nCov was the results (sic) of a deliberate manipulation or not."		Slack
February 2, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"If nothing else — the fact that we are discussing this shows how plausible it is."		
February 2, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"Given the shitshow that would happen if anyone serious accused the Chinese of even accidental release," he favors saying they cannot determine which, "so we are content to ascribing it to natural processes. There is nothing scientific about this assessment; it's entirely political."		
February 3, 2020	Bob Garry		"Transmitting a bat virus like RatG13 in HeLa cells and then asking your graduate student to insert a furin site..." The says "It's not crackpot to suggest this could have happened given the GoF research we know is happening."		Slack
February 3, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Bottom line is that we can't prove whether this is natural or escape,"		Slack
February 3, 2020	Bob Garry		"For this to have occurred in nature you have to posit the existence (sic) of a Bat virus that is exactly like RatG13 and nCov in all of S2 except that it has some variant of the polybasic cleavage domain."		Slack
February 3, 2020	Kristian Andersen		describes how perfectly well-suited the virus was for human transmission: "Of course the hypothetical virus with the optimal furin-like site also had to evolve a near perfect RBD that was as K put it was "lock and loaded" to bind to human ACE."		Slack
February 3, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"I think we can't prove either way"		
February 3, 2020	Kristian Andersen		says in email that Fauci convened a Feb 3 call, and that the National Academy of Sciences would be putting out a statement about this "not being engineering." Says he's ignoring journalists' queries.		

February 4, 2020	Kristian Andersen		Andersen says Fauci called the NAS meeting and that "a statement about this not being engineering should be coming out" from it.		email
February 4, 2020	Bob Garry		Garry says he believes the furin site was the result of cell culture: "I think that if you put selection pressure on a Cov without a furin cleavage site in cell culture you could well generate a furin cleavage site after a number of passages."		email
February 4, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"I also re-jigged it so the engineering is not one of the scenarios but is ruled out explicitly."		Slack
February 5, 2020	Bob Garry		Lab leak theory would be "irresponsible to dismiss."		email
February 8, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Never before has a zoonotic virus jumped into humans and spread through the population like wildfire with this kind of speed. This in itself would require further inquiry as the virus is obviously highly capable of 'living' in the human population."		Slack
February 8, 2020	Kristian Andersen		passaging is being done in Wuhan and "(t)hat in itself means we can't just dismiss a lab theory off hand by saying 'not possible.' That would be very foolhardy."		
February 8, 2020	Bob Garry		"I think you did the right thing to make it completely neutral scientifically. Good idea not to mention all the other anomalies as this will make us look like loons."		
February 6, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"I just wish there was a way to conclusively say one way or the other, but without that intermediate host or very early cases, there's just no telling, IMO."		
February 5, 2020	Bob Garry		"I hope Fazan and Fouchier have this data. It would render the already dead bioengineered scenario totally and completely dead....It would also make a strong case for the cell culture/accidental escape model."		Slack
February 6, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"I am quite convinced it has been put there by evolution (whether natural selection or artificial)" — again, leaving door open for passaging.	Slack	
February 6, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"I am thinking of just replying and saying that 'I see nothing in the genome that would make me believe it has been genetically manipulated in a lab.' Seem reasonable? I don't want to say I won't say anything."		Slack
February 6, 2020	Bob Garry		"NYT serious — McNeil very credible by (sic) like every other reporter can be mislead (sic)" and "It would be prudent to continue to pre-think responses"		
February 6, 2020	Edward Holmes		Holmes quotes Farrar asking if it's "possible to dampen down further the 'conspiracy' idea and make it totally neutral?" Says WHO wants paper out sooner.		
February 8 2020	Kristian Andersen	"National security? White House? Spooks? I wish my life was that exciting, but I unfortunately don't have anything to add here - my existence isn't really in Technicolor, so I'm just focused on the science ;-)."	Andersen writes that the smiley face was "very deliberate" and that his reply "includes humor to deflect from the fact that I'm dismissing him.... I really fucking wished my life wasn't this exciting... "	email to NYT reporter McNeil	Slack
February 8, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Our main work over the last couple weeks has been focused on trying to disprove any type of lab theory."		email
February 8, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"We should all just stay on Slack, that's what we should do — and not use email."		Slack

February 9, 2020	Bob Garry		Notes that SARS had several accidental releases and not addressing it would create "blowback...We know two groups were doing metagenomics and growing CoV from pangolins perhaps for years. Escape via a custodian or researchers could happen from a lab and you would PROBABLY never know it."		
February 9, 2020	Marion Koopmans		emails Andersen and others — including Fauci and Collins — on Feb 9, urging them not to publish "something specific on the lab escape hypothesis," because "this will generate its own conspiracy theories."		emails
February 10, 2020	Edward Holmes		Emails Lipkin and says, "the furin cleavage site is an issue."		email
February 11, 2020	Ian Lipkin		Emails that while the paper makes a strong case against engineering, "(i)t does not eliminate the possibility of inadvertent release following adaptation through selection in culture at the institute in Wuhan."		
TK	Kristian Andersen		"The main concern coming up reading through all these papers is the kind of stuff that is being done - getting MERS-like viruses to infect humans, getting SARS-like viruses to cause disease in mice and infect humans, etc. There's a very strong focus on the spike protein for all of that work."		
February 12, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"For all I know, people could have infected the pangolin, not the other way."		
February 16, 2020	Edward Holmes		Quotes an email sent to him from Francisc Collins: "This is really well done, and I would argue ought to be made public ASAP (Jeremy sent it this morning)."		
February 16, 2020	Jeremy Farrar		Emails Holmes to say he wants it public asap; by 6:48 pm the same day Sunday he has already submitted saying "pressure from on high."		
February 16 2020	Edward Holmes		"Jeremy Farrar and Francis Collins are very happy. Works for me."		
February 16, 2020	Authors of "Proximal Origin"	"Our analyses clearly show that SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus. We do not believe that any type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible."		"The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2," Nature Medicine on February 16, 2020	
February 16, 2020	Edward Holmes		Farrar and Collins email Holmes asking him to make the paper public. Holmes writes that he has submitted the paper after "pressure from on high" and that "Jeremy Farrar and Francis Collins are very happy."		Email
February 17, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"People are picking up on the fact that we don't rule out animal passaging. (which we don't because it's still plausible)"		
February 17, 2020	Kristian Andersen		Notes his past concern about their paper "backfiring" because "the conclusions were too open-ended," and that "at this stage we unfortunately just can't rule out an accidental infection from the lab."		
February 17, 2020	Kristian Andersen		Tom Cotton "isn't totally wrong."		Slack
February 17, 2020			Andersen proposes a reply to Don McNeil: "we are unable to further comment on our study at this point in time."		Slack
February 18, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Clearly none of these pangolin sequences was the source though,"		
February 18, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"Unfortunately the pangolins don't help clarify the story,"		
February 18, 2020	Bob Garry		"Pangolin seq give no def answer,"		
February 19, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"One main problem I have too is that my name is on e.g., the NASEM [National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine] letter and other 'official' things looking at this - so I need to be able to deflect potential future enquiries that could directly involve/name me."		
February 20, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"we unfortunately can't refute the lab leak hypothesis."		Slack

February 20, 2020	Clare Thomas		Clare Thomas emails Andersen on Feb 20, saying that the journal is concerned their paper will stoke "conspiracy theories" of lab engineering, despite the fact that the science has not been done to rule such theories out.		
February 20, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"I literally swivel day by day thinking it is a lab escape or natural."		Slack
February 20, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"none of this helps refute a lab origin" and calls the hypothesis "a serious scientific theory" which is not "another 'conspiracy' theory."		email
February 25, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"I don't think this data necessarily argues against accidental infection/release," but indicates that it all could be accounted for through natural evolution		Slack
February 25, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		asks if they're going to "re-nuance" the paper "to explicitly lower our bet on the lab passaging scenario on the basis that both the cleavage insertions and the full RBD exist in nature."		Slack
February 27		The virus "does have natural origin"		Email to Nature magazine editor	
February 28, 2020	Andrew Rambaut		"lab origin conspiracy loons"		Slack
March 5, 2020	Edward Holmes	"No surprise that a zoonotic coronavirus has emerged in humans. But I am genuinely taken aback by the rapidity of its spread. I can only hope that there is a fundamental shift in infectious disease preparedness after this. We cannot err again."		Twitter	
March 7, 2020	Edward Holmes	"I think we know the drivers - more or less. The shift should be to reducing our exposure to zoonotic pathogens. Simplest and most impactful strategy."		Twitter	
March 13, 2020	Edward Holmes	"NO convincing evidence the virus came out of a lab. Wet markets and the wildlife trade are the problem, not bat virus researchers."		Twitter	
April 15, 2020	Edward Holmes	"If you look, my comments were in response to what @normanswan tweeted saying that the lab escape theory 'had legs'."		Twitter	
April 15, 2020	Edward Holmes	"Michael, we all agree on openness, but there is no evidence for lab escape. Although the bat virus from the Wuhan lab is the closest relative of SARS-CoV-2, this represents at least *20 years* of evolutionary divergence. A lot can happen in that time: https://biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.30.015008v1 "		Twitter	
April 16, 2020	Kristian Andersen		Andersen shared cell culturing papers from Shi's lab and said her work was "the main reason I have been so concerned about the 'culture' scenario." "I'm still not fully convinced that no culture was involved," Andersen wrote on April 16. "We also can't fully rule out engineering (for basic research)."		
April 16, 2020	Kristian Andersen		"I'm still not fully convinced that no culture was involved. We also can't fully rule out engineering (for basic research)."		
April 17, 2020	Anthony Fauci			White House press conference	

April 17, 2020	Edward Holmes		Holmes says that unless there's a WIV whistleblower "we are NEVER going to know what happened in that lab. Never."		Slack
April 17, 2020	Kristian Andersen		Says on Slack that Shi "didn't do any GOF work" but "did A LOT of work that involved isolating and culturing SARS-like viruses from bats," which is "the main reason I have been so concerned about the 'culture' scenario." He later provides links to such culturing studies.		Slack
April 21, 2020	Edward Holmes	Tweet: "As a wise man once told me "conspiracy theories come and go, taxonomy is forever."		Tweet	
April 22, 2020	Edward Holmes	"Inevitable as you say. And it happened in exactly the sort of place we suspected it could happen, which is why I visited that wet market in 2014: https://cell.com/cell/pdf/S0092-8674(20)30328-7.pdf Again, no evidence for lab escape but plenty of prior info on these jumps in nature."		Tweet	
April 23, 2020	Edward Holmes	Tweet: "Edward, if you're getting trolled about lab escape conspiracy theories or being asked about whether SARS-CoV-2 will mutate, you have my humblest apologies. Best, Edward."		Tweet	
April 30, 2020	Edward Holmes	"I cannot speak for the Wuhan Institute of Virology, but *no* lab work on bat viruses was performed at the Wuhan CDC. All this work was done at the China CDC in Beijing. There is *no* strain collection at the Wuhan CDC. Dr. Tian 'only' collected samples."		Tweet	
June 3, 2020	Edward Holmes	"Notable that two of the most recent lab escape 'papers' are by people with their own vaccine companies"		Tweet	
June 7, 2020	Edward Holmes	Tweet: "There are also idiotic claims that the bat virus RaTG13 has been engineered to look like SARS-CoV-2. What those conspiracy theorists forget is that the closest relative to SARS-CoV-2 for much the genome is actually a different bat virus called RmYN02."		Tweet	
June 26, 2020	Edward Holmes	Tweet: "For Contagion II they're going to have to include a decent conspiracy theory over its origins or it just won't be realistic."		Tweet	
October 9, 2020	Edward Holmes	Tweet: "We have to move away from this completely unrealistic 'prediction' narrative. We can and should definitely improve surveillance, but suggesting that we can predict emergence paints a dangerously false picture of what science can achieve."		Tweet	

January 21, 2021	Kristian Andersen	"I would be insulted if somebody called me a "conspiracy theorist" too. But here's the problem, if somebody says "Kristian conspired with Tony and other experts to silence the Lab Leak", then, by definition, that's a conspiracy theory (which I know to be false)."		Tweet	
March 17, 2021	Kristian Andersen	"In the absence of any *actual* data for a lab leak, which is firmly where we find ourselves currently, I'd happily consider a properly formulated, testable hypothesis - i.e., the scientific method. It's worked well since the 17th century. Not"		Tweet	
March 17, 2021	Kristian Andersen	Tweet: "While extraordinary claims do indeed require extraordinary evidence, when it comes to lab leak 'theories' it's more "claims require evidence - any evidence, really, but *some* evidence at a minimum". After one year of political bluster and pure speculation, still nothing."		Tweet	
March 19, 2021	Kristian Andersen	Tweet: "Jesse, I hope you know you're one of my biggest scientific heroes, but let me try to unpack a few of these. While I find it problematic that you're referencing tweets as evidence from non-scientists that are known conspiracy theorist, I'd like to focus on the scientific points."		Tweet	
May 4, 2021	Kristian Andersen	Tweet: " ".... with ties to @NIH @NIAIDNews Collins, Fauci, & leading US virologists". ".... hard to dismiss lab escape as a conspiracy". Think about it."		Tweet	
May 9, 2021	Kristian Andersen	Tweet: "Does this disprove a lab leak? No. However, it disproves there being a "smoking gun" in the FCS and lends further evidence to natural emergence - but it also does not *prove* that scenario. To this day, we have yet to see any scientific evidence supporting a lab leak."		Twitter Account	
May 9, 2021	Kristian Andersen	Tweet: "The SARS-CoV-2 furin cleavage site is yet again in the news - this time because of a quote by Nobel laureate David Baltimore. The site is not a "smoking gun", nor does it "make a powerful challenge to the idea of a natural origin". Quite the opposite, so a little science"		Twitter Account	

June 1, 2021	Kristian Andersen	<p>Tweet: "As I have said many times, we seriously considered a lab leak a possibility.</p> <p>However, significant new data, extensive analyses, and many discussions led to the conclusions in our paper.</p> <p>What the email shows, is a clear example of the scientific process."</p>		Twitter Account	
June 1, 2021	Kristian Andersen	<p>"Just FYI .</p> <p>And yes - you're invoking a conspiracy to explain the data. In fact, you're doing that right now. Most hypotheses around a potential lab leak are conspiracy theories - given current knowledge, using a strict definition, all are by now."</p>		Tweet	
January 20, 2022	Kristian Andersen	<p>"The conspiracy theory that there is a conspiracy to label something as a conspiracy theory is a perfect example of a conspiracy theory amplified by self-proclaimed non-conspiracy theory conspiracy theorists</p>		Twitter Account	
January 21, 2022	Kristian Andersen	<p>"Yeah, well, but here's the thing - there is no coverup and as I said, the grant was ranked for funding in 2019. You might think "it looks awful" but that's because you have bought into the disinformation - you need to evoke time travel for this conspiracy theory to work."</p>		Tweet	