

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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MEMORANDUM

July 6, 2023

To: Members, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

From: Select Subcommittee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Investigating the Proximal Origin of a Cover Up”

On **Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 10:00 AM ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled “Investigating the Proximal Origin of a Cover Up.”

I. BACKGROUND:

On February 1, 2020, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Francis Collins, and at least eleven other scientists convened a conference call to discuss COVID-19. It was on this conference call that Drs. Fauci and Collins were warned that COVID-19 may have been the result of a laboratory or research related incident and possibly genetically engineered.

Within days, four members of that conference call authored “The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2” (Proximal Origin). This paper came to two conclusions: (1) that COVID-19 was “not a laboratory construct or purposefully manipulated virus” and (2) that no “type of laboratory-based scenario is plausible.”

The evidence presented in the paper does not support either conclusion and Proximal Origin has been used by many, including Drs. Fauci and Collins, as definitive proof COVID-19 was not the result of a laboratory or research related incident.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine the origins, drafting, publication, and critical reception of Proximal Origin directly from its authors. It will also examine what roles Drs. Fauci and Collins had in the making of Proximal Origin.

III. WITNESSES:

Dr. Kristian Andersen

Professor
Scripps Research

Dr. Robert Garry

Professor
Tulane University School of Medicine