

STATE OF MISSOURI, et. al. vs. JOSEPH R.  
BIDEN, JR., et. al.



Case Number: 3:22-cv-01213-TAD-KDM

Date: November 23, 2022

Deponent: DR. ANTHONY FAUCI

10:1 Page-Line Deposition Summary

## Abstract

The deposition of Dr. Anthony Fauci took place on November 23, 2022, at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The deposition, part of the case State of Missouri, et. al. vs. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., et. al. (Case Number: 3:22-cv-01213-TAD-KDM), began at 8:08 AM and concluded at 1:25 PM. Attorneys for both the plaintiffs (Missouri and Louisiana) and the defendant (Dr. Fauci) were present. The deposition focused on Dr. Fauci's role as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and his knowledge of government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deposition covered various topics, including Dr. Fauci's knowledge of gain-of-function research, NIAID funding decisions related to bat coronavirus research, and his understanding of the origins of SARS-CoV-2. Discussions also touched upon his interactions with other scientists and government officials regarding the pandemic response, particularly concerning the possibility of the virus originating from a lab leak.

Furthermore, the deposition explored Dr. Fauci's awareness of social media activities related to COVID-19, including misinformation and disinformation campaigns, and his involvement in efforts to address them.

The deposition also delved into specific events and communications from the early days of the pandemic, including emails and conference calls discussing the origins of the virus, the potential for a lab leak, and the drafting of key scientific publications. Dr. Fauci's role in advising the White House Coronavirus Task Force and his public statements about the pandemic were also discussed, particularly regarding mask mandates and the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment. His interactions with social media companies like Facebook and Google concerning misinformation policies were also examined.

Dr. Fauci's testimony provided insight into his understanding of the science behind COVID-19, the government's response to the pandemic, and his role in shaping public health policies. The deposition highlighted the challenges of navigating scientific uncertainty, combating misinformation, and communicating complex scientific information to the public during a global health crisis.

Summary for document: Original-FauciDeposition.pdf

PAGE/LINE	SUMMARY	SUBJECT
1:0-3:9 5:17-8:1		Empty section placeholder
7:24-10:8	The deposition starts with the formal proceedings, including the presentation of various exhibits (No. 41 to No. 63), the introduction of the videographer, and the swearing-in of Dr. Anthony Fauci. It includes the parties' legal representatives introducing themselves and confirming the date and location of the deposition. The section ends just before the first question is asked.	Introduction and Formal Proceedings
10:6-12:14	Dr. Anthony Fauci is asked to state his name, current positions, and tenure at NIAID. He confirms he has given a deposition once, around 15-20 years ago. Ground rules for the deposition are established, emphasizing clear verbal answers and minimal interruptions. An exhibit is introduced for identification.	Dr. Fauci's Introduction and Ground Rules
13:1-14:24	Dr. Fauci reviewed a few documents for the deposition, and there was an objection to disclosing their details. He confirmed coauthoring a 2011 Washington Post op-ed with Francis Collins titled "A Flu Virus Risk Worth Taking" but has only a vague memory of it. He acknowledges that generating a potentially dangerous virus in a laboratory can yield important insights if done in the correct context.	Document Review and Related Objection
14:22-17:5	The discussion focuses on the context and implications of conducting research that could	Research on Dangerous Viruses

PAGE/LINE	SUMMARY	SUBJECT
	generate potentially dangerous viruses. The witness explains how strict conditions and guardrails are necessary to conduct such experiments safely. Terminology such as 'gain of function' and the associated risks and benefits of such research are discussed, including the historical context and oversight measures.	
17:12-19:12	The discussion focused on the need for clarity in defining "gain of function" experiments and the role of external groups in providing oversight. It then transitioned to questions about Dr. Fauci's familiarity with and involvement in a specific project titled "Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence," mentioning EcoHealth Alliance as the recipient.	Gain of Function and Oversight
19:14-21:19	EcoHealth Alliance received funding from NIAID, but it's unclear if it was for a specific project. The witness has minimal acquaintance with Peter Daszak, having met him once or twice at a meeting, and exchanged a casual email.	Funding and Projects - EcoHealth Alliance
21:21-24:1	The witness is questioned about the funding and awareness of an NIAID grant related to bat Coronavirus research. They discuss grant dates, awareness, and briefly mention the concept of reverse genetics.	
24:14-25:21	Dr. Fauci clarifies that reverse genetics involves manipulating a virus. He also states he does not recognize the presented document but is aware of the gain-of-function pause for certain viruses.	Reverse Genetics and Gain-of-Function Pause
25:23-28:3	The discussion focuses on the witness's familiarity with the U.S. Government's 2014 policy that paused gain-of-function research on certain viruses. The witness initially expresses some confusion when trying to recall specifics, highlighting the difficulty in	

PAGE/LINE	SUMMARY	SUBJECT
	remembering details from eight years prior. The conversation also touches upon an exception to the policy, which allowed certain critical research to continue under special circumstances.	
28:16-30:10	The witness indicated that while exceptions to a research pause were given during the moratorium period, they were usually handled by staff or a deputy rather than himself. He couldn't recall specific instances of authorizations at his level but acknowledged the possibility. He also mentioned that certain research projects, potentially including those by EcoHealth Alliance, might have been authorized for public health or national security reasons.	Research Authorization during Moratorium
30:14-32:17	Dr. Fauci discusses the authorization process within his agency, identifying potential people who could have authorized actions. He identifies his deputy as Dr. Hugh Auchincloss. The deposition then shifts to a review of a 2015 Nature Medicine article, timelines of his familiarity with the article, and details about one of the authors, Ralph Baric.	Agency's Authorization Process and 2015 Article
32:15-34:2	The witness does not clearly recall meeting scientists Ralph Baric or Shi Zhengli but recognizes their names and affiliations. Baric is identified as a scientist at the University of North Carolina funded by NIAID, and Shi is possibly a scientist at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, though there is uncertainty due to common name variations.	Scientists and Collaborations
35:25-38:4	The witness confirms a working relationship between Shi Zhengli and Peter Daszak through an EcoHealth subaward. The collaboration likely involves data sharing, including viral genomes, given the norms of scientific collaboration. The witness also identifies Greg Folkers as his immediate chief of staff.	