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COVID victims' families sue NYC-based EcoHealth for 'funding, releasing' virus

By **Jacob Geanous**

August 12, 2023 11:25am Updated

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The families of four people who died from COVID-19 are suing the Manhattan-based nonprofit that funded coronavirus research in China for "creating" the bug — and "releasing it, either intentionally or accidentally."

EcoHealth Alliance and its president, Peter Daszak, knew the virus was dangerous and "capable of causing a worldwide pandemic," according to the Aug. 2 Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit.

"If we had known the source or origin of this virus and had not been misled that it was from a pangolin in a wet market, and rather we knew that it was a genetically manipulated virus, and that the scientists involved were concealing that from our clients, the outcome could have been very different," Patricia Finn, the victims' attorney, told The Post.



The families of four people who died of coronavirus sued Peter Daszak and EcoHealth Alliance on Aug. 2 in Manhattan Supreme Court.

AFP via Getty Images

The families of Mary Conroy, of Pennsylvania; Emma D. Holley, of Rochester, NY; Larry Carr, of Crossville, Tennessee; and Raul Osuna, of Bennington, Nebraska, are seeking unspecified damages.

"[The families of the deceased] are definitely in mourning, but moreover they're enraged because the truth of what really happened appears to be coming forward," Finn added.

Paul Rinker, of Pennsylvania, is also suing Midtown-based EcoHealth and Daszak over the "serious injuries" he suffered from his bout with the bug.



Raul Osuna died Sept. 2021.

legacy.com



Emma Holley died in Aug. 2021
Family handout



Larry Carr died in Aug. 2021.
Family handout

Finn has also filed lawsuits against EcoHealth and Daszak in Nassau and Rockland Counties on behalf of the families of four other people killed by the virus, as well as two who survived.

“This particular case is highly offensive because it appears they knew and concealed the origin of the virus,” Finna said. “The treatment or approach taken in dealing with the virus could have been radically different than it was.”

In a June report, the **Government Accountability Office** said that **EcoHealth Alliance** — which doles out money given to them by the National Institutes of Health — gave \$1,413,720 to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, while a **separate investigation** found the government may have paid millions in duplicating grants to the Wuhan-based research institutions through EcoHealth.



The families of four people who died of COVID have sued EcoHealth Alliance, which funding bat coronavirus research in Wuhan, and its president.

AP



The victims' families claim EcoHealth attempted to cover up the origin of the virus.

ECOHEALTHALLIANCE

EcoHealth Alliance and Daszak did not respond to requests for comment.

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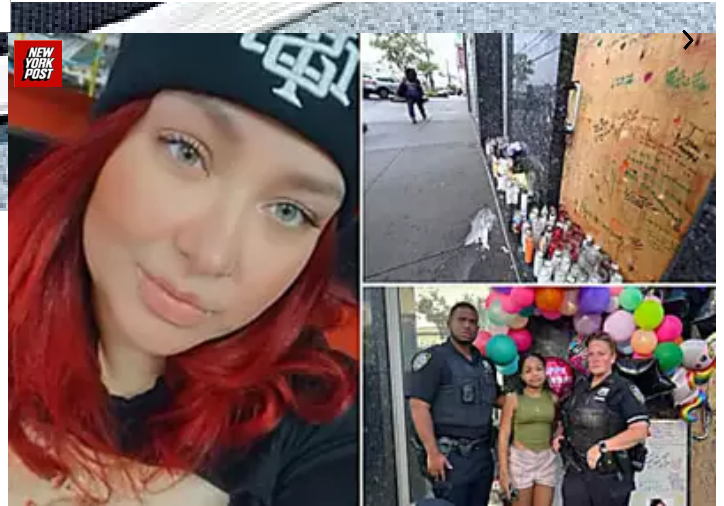
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