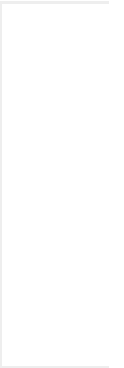


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Is this the smoking gun for the Cov lab leak? Blueprint for creating a 'SARS-CoV' virus with an altered spike protein in Wuhan was published in 2018, bombshell new records show

- American and Chinese scientists proposed experimenting with spike protein
- Ultimately, it was not selected for a grant and the project did not move forward

- **READ MORE: [Sen Rand Paul goes nuclear over 'Covid cover-up'](#)**

By [ALEXA LARDIERI](#) U.S. DEPUTY HEALTH EDITOR [DAILYMAIL.COM](#)

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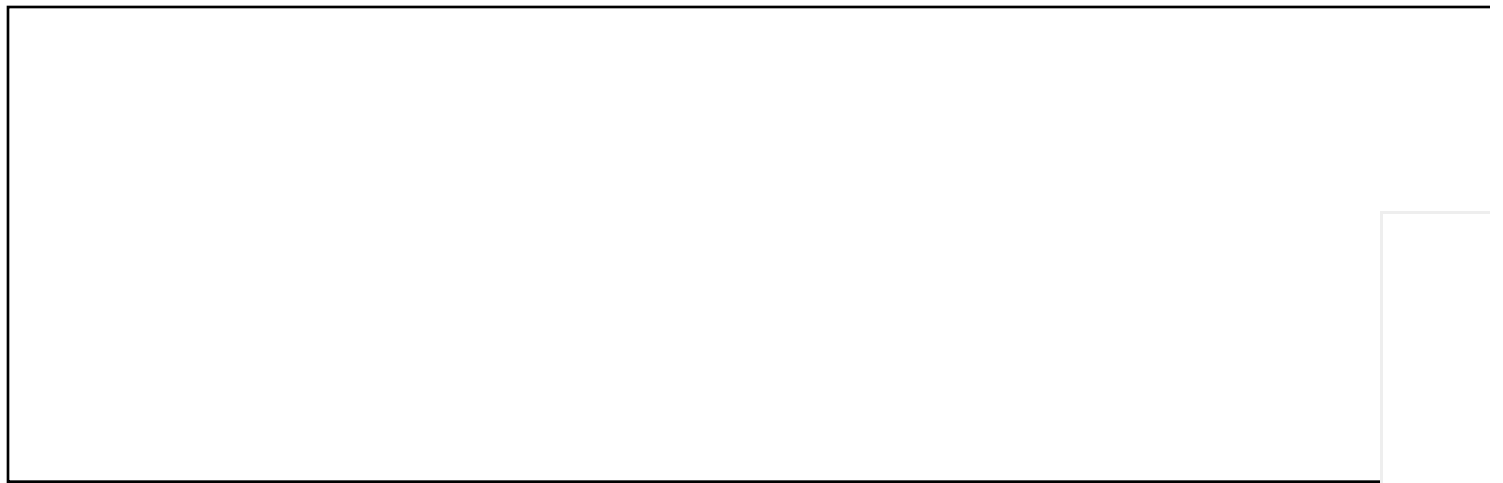
A newly-uncovered trove of documents detailing plans to create a Covid-like **China** months before the pandemic make the 'lab leak almost certain', exp

The records - obtained now by FOIA requests - lay out a plan to 'engineer s proteins' to infect human cells that would then be 'inserted into SARS-Covi backbones' at the infamous **Wuhan** virology lab from December 2018

Just a year later, in late 2019, the **Covid-19** virus emerged with a unique ability to infect humans, going on to cause a global pandemic.

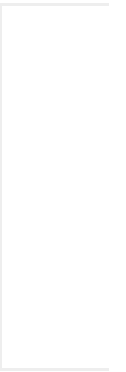
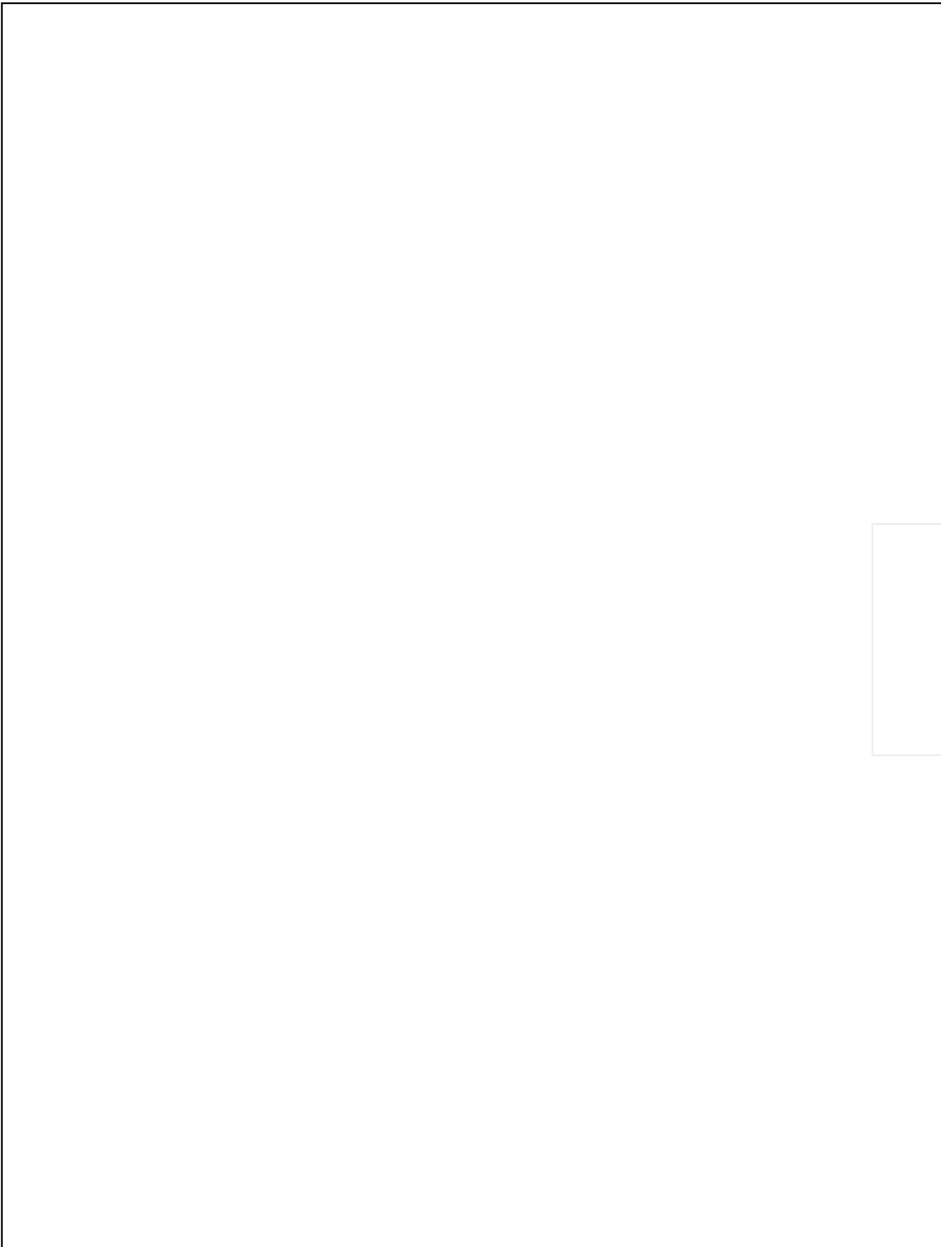
The proposal was made by the now-notorious EcoHealth Alliance, a New York nonprofit that channels US government grants abroad to fund these types of experiments.

Ultimately, the application was denied by the US Department of Defense, because the plans laid out in the proposal serve as a 'blueprint' for how to create



The above is an excerpt of an email from the March 2018 DEFUSE proposal shared from PD - Peter Daszak.

**Shi Zhengli - dubbed the 'Bat Lady' or 'Bat Woman' for her work on bat corona
investigated the possibility Covid could have emerged from her lab back in 20
colleagues**



Dr Peter Daszak (pictured left alongside Dr Anthony Fauci) oversees EcoHealth Allia

The documents also show how EcoHealth tried to deliberately mislead on how risky the experiments were to secure funding.

In a **statement** Tuesday addressing the documents, EHA called them 'incoherent' and said the 'allegations are false based on misunderstanding of edits and comments on the document, and based on misleading out-of-context quotations and a lack of understanding the process by which federal grants are awarded'.

Sen **Rand Paul** - who has been a vocal supporter of the lab leak theory - added the documents further support of the 'deception' used by players tied to the W

Matt Ridley, a biologist and science writer who has written extensively about the potential lab leak in the past, said: 'This latest [document] leak makes the case for a lab leak almost certain.'

'A reckless experiment, known at the time to be reckless, probably caused of millions of people.

'Scientists and the media conspired to conceal the evidence. Let that sink

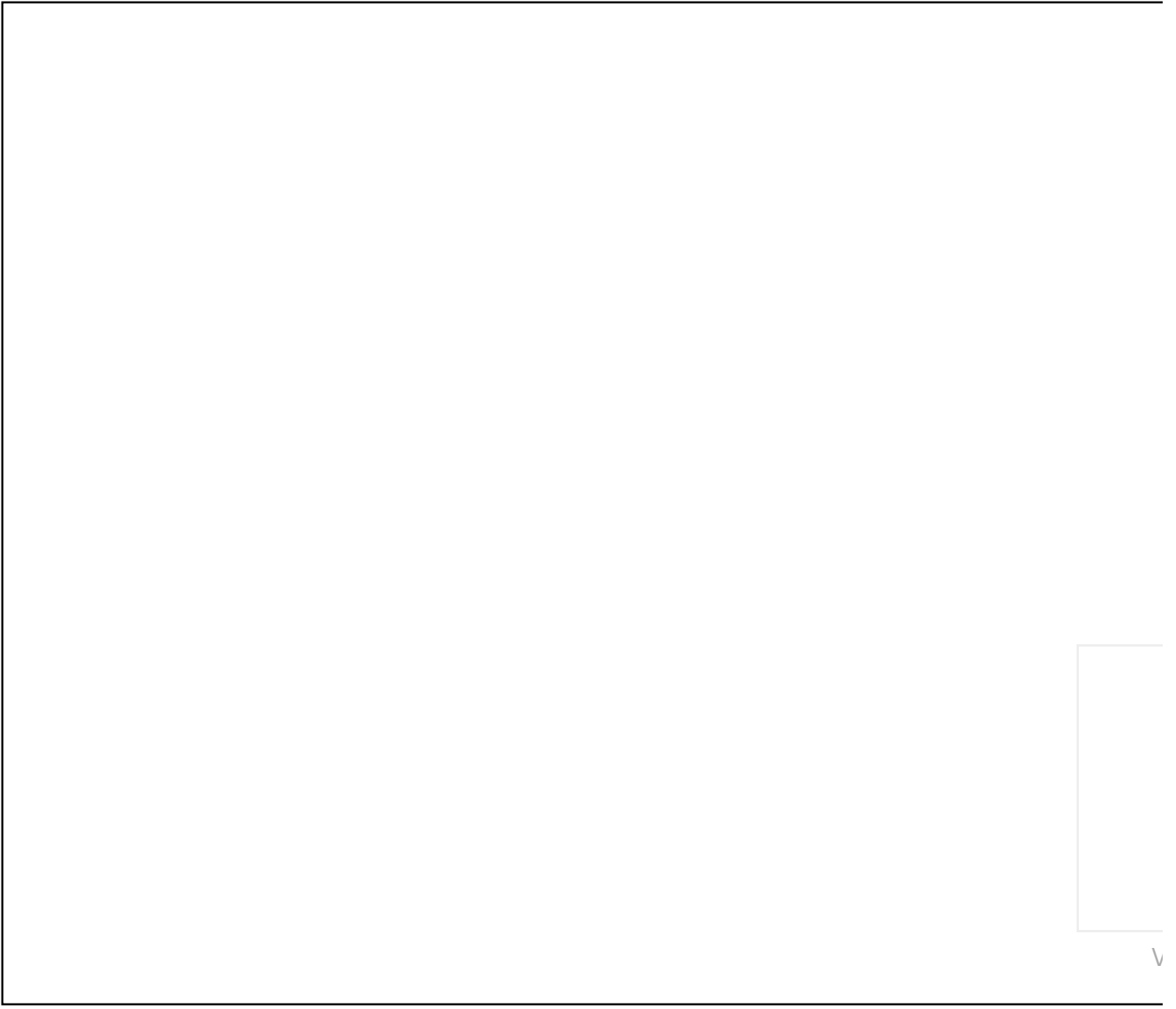
The documents were obtained by nonprofit public health research group U Know, which has previously been accused of fueling anti-vaccine sentiment

The grant proposal was entitled Project DEFUSE: Defusing the Threat of Bacterial Coronaviruses.

It proposed engineering high-risk coronaviruses of the same species as the SARS to preempt a human spillover and develop vaccine technology and s



The National Institutes of Health (NIH), under Dr Anthony Fauci 's leadership, infected Egyptian fruit bats with a 'SARS-like' virus called WIV1 sent from the Wuhan Institute of Virology at a lab in Montana in 2018



Eight novel viruses, including one belonging to the same family as Covid, were received in labs across China

Between 2015 and 2023, at least seven US entities supplied NIH grant money to lab performing animal experiments, totaling \$3,306,061

The team sought to synthesize spike proteins with **furin cleavage sites** that were designed to bind to human receptors more easily.

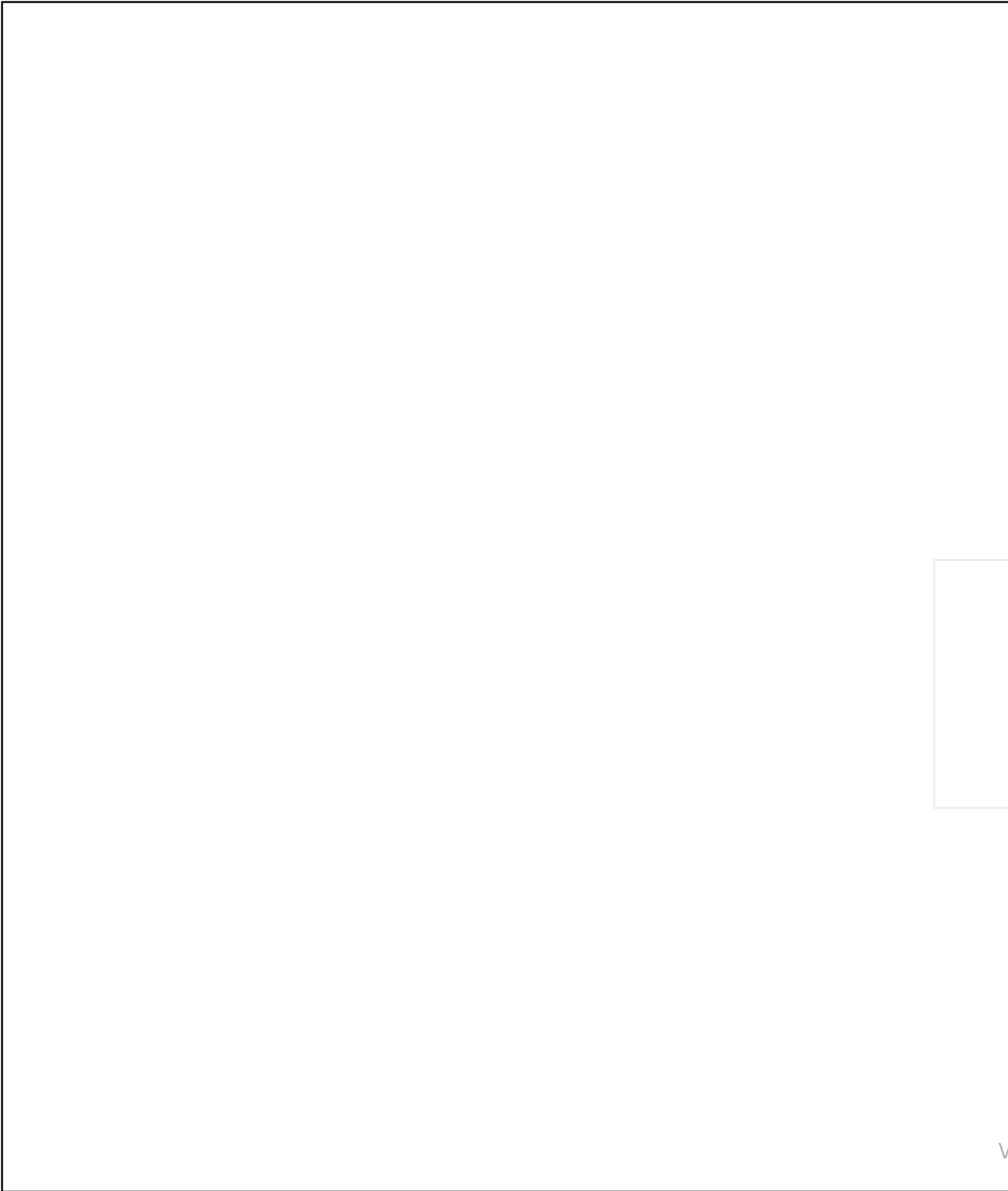
The furin has been one of the focal points of debate about Covid-19's origin, with some experts claiming it could only have been acquired through lab exper

The grant then proposed attaching the furin to coronavirus strains and infecting mice to see how ill it would make them.

The plan was then to use drugs and vaccines to treat the disease.

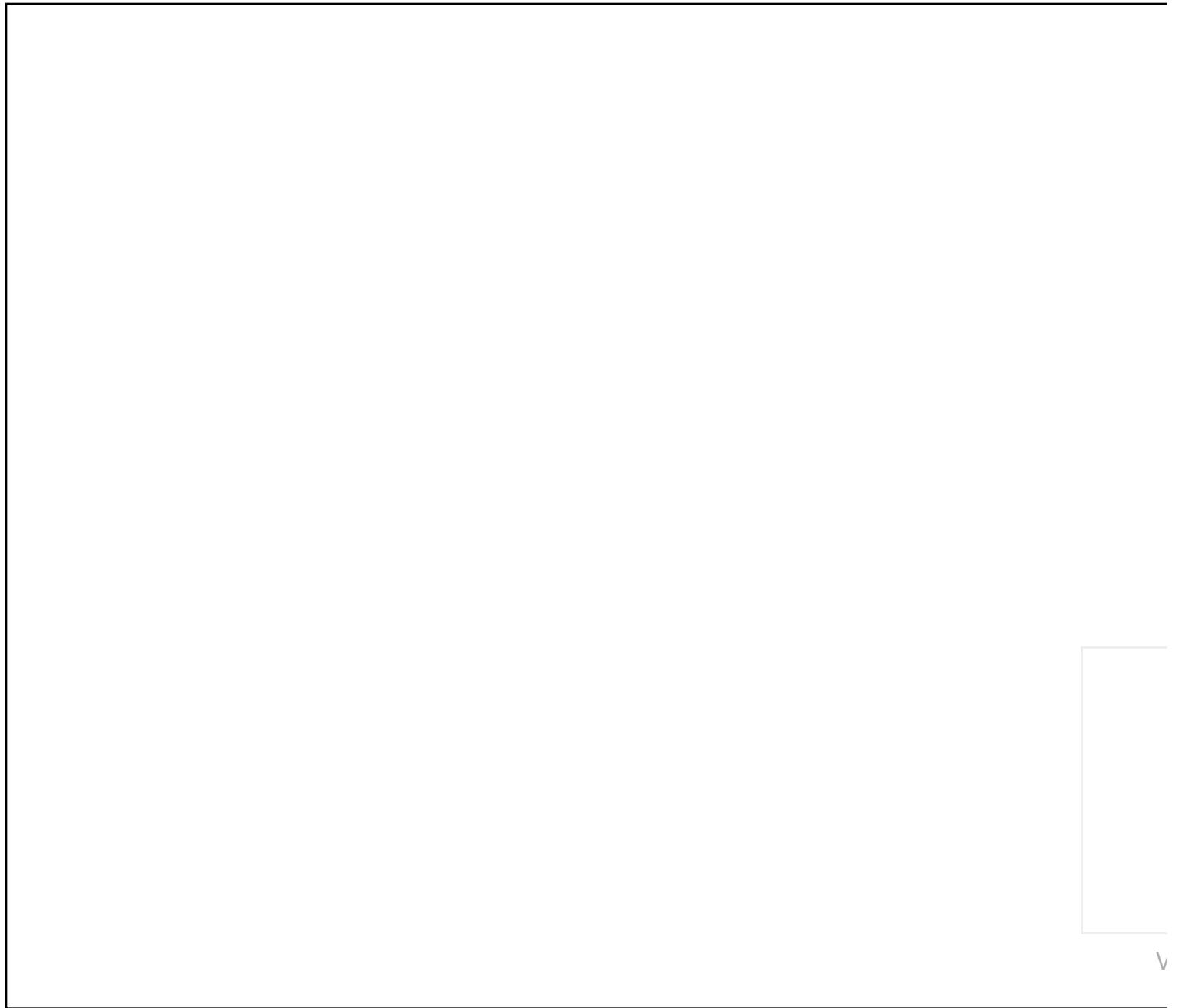
Dr Richard Ebright, a chemical biologist at Rutgers University in **New Jersey**
DailyMail.com: 'These revelations are important because the experiments in
grant proposal likely - indeed highly likely - led to the creation and release of
CoV-2.'





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The above is an email from Peter Daszak to researchers included in the 2018 propos



The above is an email from Peter Daszak to researchers included in the 2018 proposal about work to be done by scientists as part of the project

The grant proposal has raised concerns and some say it serves as further support for the Covid lab leak theory - that the virus was borne out of gain-of-function research bankrolled by the US taxpayer through Dr **Anthony Fauci's** former department. The theory is supported by the **FBI** and other government agencies now subscribe to.

The principal investigator on the project is listed as Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth, a now-notorious health agency that uses US government money

sponsor there's types of experiments abroad.

Other team members listed on the proposal include researchers from Duke Medical School, University of North Carolina, the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, Palo Alto Research Center and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the Covid is believed to have originated from.

The proposal listed Professor Shi Zhengli - been dubbed the 'bat lady' for her extensive work on bat coronaviruses at the WIV - as the lead on the project in Wuhan.

Additionally, Dr Ralph Baric was listed as a subcontractor on the project. Dr Baric is a known expert in making recombinant coronaviruses.

The documents show the experiments were proposed to take place at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which has fewer safety precautions for working with pandemic-potential pathogens than the US, which was advertised to the DoD as cost-saving.

In initial proposals for DEFUSE, the lab work was to be done in a biosafety level 2 lab, which researchers said would appeal to DARPA grant-makers as 'highly effective' despite the fewer safety precautions taken in lower-level labs.

Dr Baric acknowledged in an edited version of the proposal US researchers would 'freak out' if they knew novel coronavirus engineering and testing was being done in a BSL-2 lab.

Similar experiments in the US are conducted in BSL-3 labs.

A later version of the proposal changed BSL-2 to BSL-3.

Biosafety levels range from one to four, with four being the strictest and used for experimenting on the most dangerous pathogens.

Dr Baric wrote: 'In the US, these recombinant SARS-CoV are studied under BSL2, especially important for those that are able to bind and replicate in p

human cells.'

BSL-2 labs feature ventilated safety cabinets and researchers must wear surgical masks and lab coats. Experts say pathogen work with the possibility of being transmitted through the air should be, at a minimum, performed in a BSL-3 lab, which requires researchers in more protective respirators.

Dr Ebricht told DailyMail.com: 'The new documents reveal that EcoHealth Alliance planned to use US Department of Defense funds to perform high-risk virus experiments at WIV at a biosafety level that was inadequate for research with a potential pandemic pathogen.'

He added: 'The new documents also reveal that EcoHealth Alliance deliberately concealed these plans - both the plan to perform high-risk experiments at WIV and the plan to perform them using inadequate biosafety protections - from the US Department of Defense in order to improve the chances of receiving funding.'

Dr Ebricht tweeted: 'At this point, there is sufficient evidence to conclude with a reasonable doubt, that SARS-CoV-2 entered humans through a lab accident.'

While people who believed and promoted the lab-leak origin were initially accused of being xenophobic and pushing a conspiracy theory, the FBI and several other governmental agencies ascribe to this theory.

The formal DEFUSE grant proposal states that the engineering of the coronavirus spike protein would be carried out by Dr Baric at UNC in North Carolina.

However, in an earlier comment on the proposal, Daszak appears to suggest WIV would actually be doing most of the work but should be downplayed in the proposal.

EXCLUSIVE: American scientists are conducting a frightening new bat experiment funded by \$12m taxpayer-funds at a NIH research facility in Colorado. The plan is to import bats from Asia and infect them with deadly viruses.

proposal to make DARPA more 'comfortable' with the details.

Dazsak said in an email: 'If we win this contract, I do not propose that all of this work will necessarily be conducted by Ralph, but I do want to stress the US side of this proposal so that DARPA are comfortable with our team.'

'Once we get the funds, we can then allocate who does what exact work, and I believe that a lot of these assays can be done in Wuhan as well.'

In another comment, however, Daszak reiterates his desire to stress the US-focus of the project.

He wrote: 'I am planning to use my resume and Ralph's [Baric]. Linfa/Zhengli, I realize your resumes are also very impressive, but I'm trying to downplay the non-US focus of this proposal so that DARPA doesn't see this as a negative.'

In a **statement** Tuesday, EHA called the documents 'incomplete' and said the 'allegations are false based on misunderstanding of edits and comments on the document, and based on misleading out-of-context quotations

diseases - in project with China-linked scientists

A new taxpayer-funded lab built in Colorado that will draw scientists from around the world and focus on dangerous diseases, Daily News can reveal.

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and a lack of understanding the process by which federal grants are awarded.'

Justin Goodman, president of The White Coat Waste Project, a watchdog group fighting to stop sending American tax dollars overseas to fund dangerous virus research, told DailyMail.com the documents prove US tax dollars have 'footed the bill for the shady EcoHeal Alliance and their comrades at the reckless Wuhan lab to supercharge corc in dangerous gain-of-function experiments.'



[Pentagon](#)

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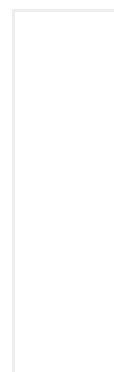
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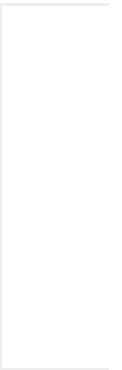
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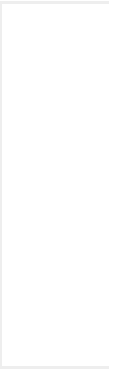
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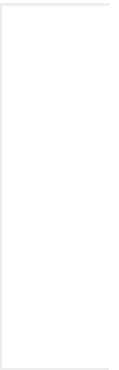
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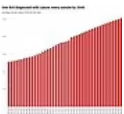
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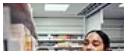


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▶ **Kelly Clarkson excitedly helps marry a couple in the middle of her Las Vegas show on New Year's Eve: 'That was so wonderful!'**

▶ **Emmerdale viewers are left in tears by a shock death twist as car crash horror kills off a major character**

▶ **Valerie Bertinelli, 63, shares sweet snaps from son Wolfgang Van Halen's wedding and Taylor Swift's Eras Tour as she reflects on 'pure joy' of 2023 in New Year's Eve video**

▶ **Ryan Seacrest gets quite the shock when North Carolina woman KISSES him on live TV after winning a \$1M Powerball drawing**



▶ Sami Sheen, 19, poses in a bikini as she places shot glasses over her chest then sips a beer... after breast enhancement surgery

▶ Alex Scott shows off her incredible abs in a tiny white two-piece while girlfriend Jess Glynne soaks up the sun as they ring in the New Year in Mexico

▶ Kourtney Kardashian cheers on husband Travis Barker as he runs half-marathon in Santa Monica

▶ Donna D'Errico, 55, posts lingerie photo to reveal she will be on 'new adventures' in 2024... after blasting haters for shaming her sexy images

▶ Vera Wang, 74, looks incredibly youthful as she flaunts svelte frame in sparkly BIKINI dress while posing with daughter Josephine, 30, at New Year's bash

▶ Bethenny Frankel, 53, flashes her 'side boob' as she sports stylish swimsuits while 'rolling into 2024' during tropical vacation: 'Off to a good start'



▶ **Mr Bates vs The Post Office review: A first-class exposé of the human pain behind this scandal, writes CHRISTOPHER STEVENS**

▶ **Blac Chyna details 'painful' complications from her breast implant reduction surgery: 'One of the worst things that could happen happened'**

▶ **Green Day is slammed for changing lyrics of American Idiot to 'I'm not a part of the MAGA agenda' on ABC's New Year's Rockin' Eve**

▶ **Candice Swanepoel flaunts her VERY toned tummy in a skimpy black bikini as she enjoys a sunny vacation**

▶ **Gogglebox star Pete Sandiford shares a rare snap with his stunning wife Paige as they celebrate the New Year**

▶ **The Tourist review: I've no idea what's going on but who cares... it's a thrilling ride! writes CHRISTOPHER STEVENS**



▶ **Jennifer Love Hewitt**
'went through a lot no
one knew about' in 2023
as she reflects on the
year: 'Grateful for that
privacy'

▶ **Love Island's Molly**
Smith shows off her
ample cleavage in a
plunging black mini
dress as she enjoys a
girls' night out in
Manchester

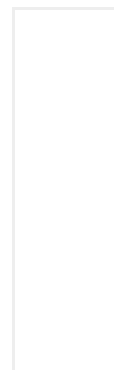
▶ **Big Brother lovebirds**
Jordan Sangha and
Henry Southan
celebrate the New Year
on a romantic break in
Mallorca

▶ **Shannen Doherty**
steps out for New Year's
Day brunch with her
mom in Malibu amid
stage four cancer battle

▶ **Stuart Hogg goes**
Instagram official with
'world's sexiest jockey'
Leonna Mayor in a
loved-up snap - after
splitting from his wife
Gillian

▶ **Halle Berry, 57, wears**
nothing but black lace
lingerie under a gold
blazer to wish her fans a
happy New Year's
Day: 'Heellllllloooooo
2024!'

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▶ **Holly Ramsay unveils matching tattoo to boyfriend Adam Peaty... three years after falling in love on Strictly**

▶ **Alec Baldwin and wife Hilaria spotted stepping out with their seven children in New York City**

▶ **Netflix sends fans into a frenzy with 'riveting' new drama series starring award-winning actress: 'I'm hooked'**

▶ **Patrick Mahomes and wife Brittany celebrate New Year's Eve hours after QB led Kansas City Chiefs to comeback win over Bengals**

▶ **Emily Ratajkowski looks smitten as she rests her head on her hunky pal Moses Sumney's chest at a New Year's Eve party**

▶ **Chris Hemsworth reveals his New Year's resolutions for 2024 as he makes 'lifestyle changes'... amid claims he and wife Elsa Pataky have 'drifted apart'**



▶ Demi Lovato and her fiancé Jutes ring in 2024 with plenty of affection at her New Year's Eve concert in Las Vegas

EXCLUSIVE Defiant Jack Grealish 'WON'T let the burglars win' after £1m Boxing Day raid as he 'refuses to be driven from his Cheshire mansion'

▶ Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce share passionate kiss as the clock strikes midnight at a glitzy New Year party in Kansas City

▶ Pretty Little Liars star Brant Daugherty and his wife Kim welcome second son and reveal his adorable name in sweet post

▶ Catherine Zeta-Jones, Alex Scott, Jess Glynne, Molly-Mae Hague, Duncan Bannatyne and Millie Mackintosh lead stars ringing in New Year overseas

▶ Fleur East is pregnant! X Factor star announces she is expecting her first child with husband Marcel Badiane-Robin



▶ Donna Kelce is all smiles after ringing in the New Year with son Travis and his girlfriend Taylor Swift following the Chiefs' comeback win over Bengals

▶ Amy Robach and TJ Holmes share highlights of 'the real us' from 2023: 'Two people who found a way to dance during the storm'

▶ New Year's Day 2024: The Rose Parade is star studded with Michelle Williams, Jordin Sparks, Audra McDonald and Cassadee Pope

▶ Chloe Ferry puts on a very busty display in a skimpy striped bikini as she poses up a storm at the beach during Thailand holiday

▶ Kelly Somers gives birth! Sports presenter, 33, welcomes first child with fiancé Max after fertility struggles

▶ Cardi B reveals she had SEX with estranged husband Offset after spending New Year together at Miami strip club - but he DENIES reconciliation claims



▶ **Royle Family star Sue Johnston, 80, says people should have the right to die as she backs Dame Esther Rantzen's assisted dying campaign**

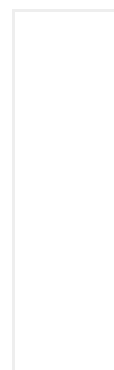
▶ **Victoria Silvstedt has a Marilyn Monroe moment in a sexy semi-sheer white gown as she arrives at a NYE yacht party in St Barts**

▶ **Cher slammed by her son Elijah Blue Allman's estranged wife Marieangela King who claims music legend put him in 'locked cage' at rehab**

EXCLUSIVE **Carol Alt, 62 - who sizzled on Sports Illustrated swimsuit covers - reveals how to shed weight for 2024 (hint: alcohol is OK and naps are a must!)**

▶ **Rick Astley and Rylan Clark's NYE duet divides viewers with fans branding it 'camp genius' while critics claim BBC show proves 'country is on its a**e'**

▶ **Backstreet Boys singer AJ McLean reveals marriage to wife Rochelle is OVER after one year separation: 'With deep love and respect'**



EXCLUSIVE

Denmark's Queen Margrethe is abdicating 'to save her son Crown Prince Frederik's marriage to Princess Mary

▶ **Amy Dowden shares heartbreaking New Year's message as she reveals she feels 'robbed of the year I planned' after cancer diagnosis**

▶ **Too Hot To Handle star Emily Miller debuts baby bump in sweet snaps with Cam Holmes as pair are congratulated by reality show co-stars**

▶ **New Year's Day joy from Tinseltown! Jennifer Lopez, Hailey Bieber, Zoey Deutch and Teresa Giudice ring in 2024**

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▶ **Kate Beckinsale gets a special New Year's Eve visit from 'Eamonn Holmes' in a hilarious clip from her house party**

▶ **Rob McElhenney leaves fans feeling physically ill as he shares grotesque photo of his swollen face after 'allergic reaction'**



▶ **Jermain Defoe's lover posts cryptic New Year message insisting she's done with 'narcissists' as footballer reunites with ex Alisha LeMay**

▶ **Emily Atack's actress mother Kate Robbins breaks her silence on daughter's shock pregnancy announcement**

▶ **BBC Breakfast's Sally Nugent is forced to present on her own with her co-star nowhere to be seen**

▶ **Beckham boys get boozy! Cruz, 18, enjoys first NYE at legal drinking age as he enjoys a slew of beverages**

▶ **Molly-Mae Hague admits she and Tommy Fury struggle to have 'adult intimate time' as she details their relationship difficulties**

▶ **Singer Monica, 43, 'passes out' on the 'side of the stage' at her Houston concert**



▶ **Fury over BBC's adaptation of The Famous Five as viewers say story, scripts, costumes, acting AND music are 'all out of place'**

▶ **Denise Richards and her husband Aaron Phypers make a rare appearance with her daughter Eloise during shopping spree in Malibu**

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▶ **Luann de Lesseps tells former RHONY co-star Bethenny Frankel to 'leave us alone' in reality TV reckoning: 'Why bite the hand that feeds you?'**

▶ **Laura Anderson and Gary Lucy confirm their romance is BACK ON as they share a New Year's Eve kiss after months of speculation**

▶ **EastEnders star Jake Wood celebrates 20 years of sobriety in reflective New Year's Day post**

▶ **Meanwhile down under! Count Nikolai looks back on 2023 with glam photos in Australia where he started a new life after being stripped of his title**



- ▶ **Zara Tindall dons dogtooth coat with fur trim on a trip to Cheltenham Racecourse - and is accompanied by her adorable 5-year-old daughter Lena**
- ▶ **The Body Coach Joe Wicks reveals he had a crush on his former glamour model wife Rosie for eight years before they met: 'She was so hot'**
- ▶ **This Morning star shares photos from their hospital bed as they reveal shocking health update amid social media disappearance**
- ▶ **Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi shares adorable black-and-white snaps with his wife Princess Beatrice to wish royal fans a 'glorious' new year**
- ▶ **Hugh Jackman reflects on his difficult year following split from wife Deborra-Lee Furness - but shares some exciting news**
- ▶ **Mike Tyson sees in the New Year at a swanky yacht party in St Barts as the former world heavyweight champion kicks back with friends**



▶ **Zara Tindall's daughters Mia and Lena put on a VERY animated display at Cheltenham with their cousins Savannah and Isla Phillips**

▶ **Too Hot To Handle's Emily Miller is pregnant! Reality star reveals she is expecting her first child with on-off boyfriend Cam Holmes**

▶ **Nicki Minaj headlines New Year's Eve bash at Miami hotspot E11EVEN attended by Julia Fox**

▶ **Jennifer Aniston looks fabulous in a form-fitting glitzy dress with fluffy white shawl in throwback snap as she says 'see ya 2023' on New Year's Eve**

▶ **Queen Margrethe of Denmark's shock abdication leaves all major European monarchies with male heads of state**

▶ **Blake Shelton slammed by fans over 'embarrassing' New Year's Eve performance**



▶ **Cozy in Colorado!**
Jewel was at Telluride event before boyfriend Kevin Costner was spotted in nearby Aspen suggesting they spent New Year's together

▶ **ITV viewers slam 'woke' messages during the National Lottery's New Year's Eve Big Bash: 'Wealthy celebs lecturing us on climate change'**

▶ **Chloe Madeley sheds light on her dating future and admits she wants MORE children... after announcing split from James Haskell**

▶ **EastEnders star Max Bowden breaks his silence as he is 'axed from the BBC soap' after four years of playing Ben Mitchell**

EXCLUSIVE Jennifer Aniston urged to be 'open' to intimacy coordinators and to help 'educate' those who may need extra support

▶ **Dua Lipa posts a series of tipsy selfies after enjoying 'five negronis' at a boozy New Year's Eve celebration in Jaipur**



▶ **Denmark's Queen Margrethe broke 'invisible pact' between Scandinavian monarchs to never abdicate, royal expert says**

▶ **Millie Mackintosh shows off her incredible figure in a gold bikini as she rings in 2024 on a sun-soaked family holiday to Mauritius**

▶ **The year that upmarket Bea shelved the 'quirky' headgear and became the Princess of Style**

▶ **Elizabeth Hurley reunites with ex-husband Arun Nayar to celebrate New Year's Eve - as her son Damian brands them 'mama and daddy'**

▶ **Stacey Solomon shares family snaps from her NYE beach celebrations in Jamaica after hitting back at trolls who accused her of 'flaunting her wealth'**

▶ **Dance Moms star Abby Lee Miller SLAMS Britney Spears' 'cringe' Instagram dance videos**



▶ **Lewis Capaldi delights fans as he releases five 'beautiful' new songs to wave in 2024 after career break to focus on mental health**

▶ **'We lost you 13 years ago today Maudie. You are still with us': Jason Watkins shares heartbreaking video of his daughter who died from sepsis**

▶ **Lady Victoria Hervey, 47, soaks up the sun in a white bikini as she breaks her silence on explosive feud with her brother-in-law**

▶ **Molly-Mae Hague and her fiancé Tommy Fury ring in the New Year with a very unlikely pal after bumping into them in the Maldives**

▶ **Kimberley Garner showcases her incredible figure in a slew of sizzling swimsuits as she shoots her eponymous swimwear collection**

▶ **Daisy Lowe poses nude for a bathtub snap with baby daughter Ivy as she shares a sweet album of her favourite moments from 2023**



▶ **Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban host glam New Year's Eve party with daughters Sunday and Faith at their penthouse apartment on Sydney Harbour**

▶ **Stars celebrate the New Year in style! Victoria and David dine at The Ritz while Spencer Matthews and Vogue Williams visit lavish estate**

▶ **Naomi Campbell puts on a raucous display as she flashes her abs in a Grecian-style gown at fashion boss Umar Kamani's New Year's Eve bash**

▶ **Carriage cam! King and Queen give rare behind-the-scenes glimpse inside royal carriage as they share 2023 highlights**

▶ **Pregnant Emily Andre shows off her baby bump at glam New Years Eve party as Peter flaunts their jaw-dropping £1,100-a-night hotel suite in UAE**

▶ **Erling Haaland parties with girlfriend Isabel Johansen and Anthony Joshua at a lavish New Year's Eve bash in Dubai**



► **Lizzie Cundy is the ultimate Baywatch babe in a plunging red swimsuit as she goes paddle-boarding on her annual New Year trip to Barbados**

► **Inside the court of Queen Mary: After Danish monarch's abdication, how the life of the Australian-born Crown Princess will be transformed**

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