

If COVID-19 resulted from a Chinese lab leak, it wouldn't be the country's first biohazard accident. Here's a history

In the aftermath of a small outbreak of the original SARS virus, well after the main outbreak that ended in summer 2003, a WHO investigation concluded that the Beijing Centers for Disease Control made critical errors in handling samples of the virus, [resulting in two cases and one death].

...

"Clearly there was a link to the [Beijing, not Wuhan] Institute of Virology, and our investigations are still ongoing, but we haven't found a single incident that links the two cases of laboratory workers at the institute, so it appears to be two separate breaches of bio-safety, and we can't find any single incident or accident that explains either case," said [Dr. Julie Hall, WHO's coordinator in China of communicable disease surveillance and response](#). "It has raised real concerns about bio-safety in general, how bio-safety guidelines are implemented, and how that is supervised and monitored."

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[Subsequent investigations concluded](#) a "batch of supposedly inactivated SARS virus that was brought from a high-containment facility into a low-safety diarrhea research lab where the two were working . . . In a breach of standard safety procedures, the researcher who carried out the inactivation — identified only by a family name, 'Ren' — had not tested whether the virus was truly inactive, according to the panel."

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