COVID lab leak hypothesis gains traction again — Broad Institute molecular biologist cites 5 key arguments

Although how the pandemic started has been hotly debated, a growing volume of evidence suggests that the pandemic most likely occurred because a virus escaped from a research lab in Wuhan, China. If so, it would be the most costly accident in the history of science. Here’s what we now know:

1. The SARS-like virus that caused the pandemic emerged in Wuhan, the city where the world’s foremost research lab for SARS-like viruses is located.

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2. The year before the outbreak, the Wuhan institute, working with U.S. partners, had proposed creating viruses with SARS-CoV-2’s defining feature.

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3. The Wuhan lab pursued this type of work under low biosafety conditions that could not have contained an airborne virus as infectious as SARS-CoV-2.

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4. The hypothesis that Covid-19 came from an animal at the Huanan Seafood Market in Wuhan is not supported by strong evidence.

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5. Key evidence that would be expected if the virus had emerged from the wildlife trade is still missing.

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