



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

February 28, 2022

Anthony Gibson
Agency Records Officer
National Institute of Health
6701 Rockledge Drive
Room 601 H
Rockville MD, 20892
anthony.gibson@nih.gov

Dear Mr. Gibson,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) was recently made aware of allegations of unauthorized disposition of National Institute of Health (NIH) records. On February 16, 2022, the *National Pulse* published an article (see attachment), “*U.S. Govt Advisors SHRED Documents Detailing Fauci Agency’s Obama-Era Work With The Wuhan Lab.*” This article alleges that,

The National Institutes of Health has repeatedly failed to comply with congressional requests for documents related to its involvement with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, instead forcing agency personnel to “shred notes and other documents” referencing the Chinese Communist Party-run lab and its work with the U.S. government during the Obama administration.

Additionally, the article made reference to a letter from the Congressional Committee on Oversight and Reform, dated February 2, 2022 (see attachment). In the congressional letter, the Committee requested documents regarding the NIH 2014 grant awarded to EcoHealth Alliance and indicated that initial requests have gone unanswered and that the agency has policies or practices that destroy potentially pertinent documents related to grant making decisions.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA is requesting that NIH investigate the allegations of unauthorized disposition related to:

1. documents referencing the Chinese Communist Party-run lab and its work with the U.S. government during the Obama administration, and
2. documents related to grant making decisions.

Please ensure that your report addresses whether or not the documents and information requested from the Committee on Oversight and Reform are being managed according to federal recordkeeping requirements in 36 CFR 1222.22 (c).

Your report should also include a complete description of the records allegedly destroyed, including volume and dates of the records, the NARA approved disposition authority that covers these records, details related to the destruction of the records, any efforts made to salvage, recover, or restore the destroyed records and safeguards that will be implemented to prevent future unauthorized disposition of agency records.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence M. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

Enclosures (2)

cc: Acting Department Records Officer, Jacqlyn Smith-Simpson, Jacqlyn.Smith@hhs.gov



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November 2, 2022

Anthony Crawley Gibson
Agency Records Officer
National Institute of Health
6701 Rockledge Drive
Room 601 H
Rockville MD, 20892
anthony.gibson@nih.gov

Dear Anthony Crawley Gibson,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received your report regarding the allegation of unauthorized disposition of National Institute of Health (NIH) records that was published in an article from the *National Pulse*, on February 16, 2022.

NARA acknowledges that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), NIH, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) conducted an agency-wide inventory, by each of its Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs) to evaluate its holdings in all formats of media, as well as an assessment of certificates of destruction for agency records in response to this allegation.

Your report confirms that as of September 9, 2022, NIH's Records Officer (RO) has not received or approved any requests to disposition or destroy any agency records, and each ICO's Executive Officer (EO) has certified that there exists no evidence to corroborate allegations of unauthorized destruction of any federal records related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and its work with the U.S. government during the Obama administration, as well as any records related to grant making decisions. All agency records are being managed in accordance with federal recordkeeping requirements as stipulated in 36 CFR 1222.22 (c).

Additionally, NARA recognizes that NIH anticipates submitting a new permanent records schedule for consideration to ensure permanent retention of records of significant cases that result in national media attention, congressional investigation, or substantive changes in agency policies or procedures.

Based on the information provided, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) have been met. NARA considers this allegation unfounded and this matter is now closed. I appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me at Laurence.Brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence V. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

cc: Jacqlyn Smith-Simpson
Acting Department Records Officer
Jacqlyn.Smith@hhs.gov