

Corona Hysteria and Our Cosmic Connection

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Abstract: The Scientific, Economic and Political issues surrounding the origin and global spread of COVID-19 are discussed.

Australia is in a government-induced economic and social lock down. This draconian action is projected to end in October 2020. The hysteria is high and all reason has flown out the window. I feel a responsibility to inform a wider readership of our specialist scientific knowledge of how COVID-19 may have arisen from a life-bearing and viral-laden carbonaceous meteorite from space, which fragmented in the stratosphere then burst north of Wuhan city on 11 October 2019. In our view, this provides scientific insight into its further global spread¹. Knowing the most plausible scientific story should, under normal circumstances, provide rational insight into how this pandemic - a dose of mild cosmic common cold – is rationally managed.

My colleagues and I are experts in the origins of sudden emerging diseases just like COVID-19 - and how they decline and fade away. I am a fairly well known Australian biomedical scientist (71yr), an immunologist and microbiologist, of 50 years standing- widely published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. My principle collaborator since 2016 has been Professor N Chandra Wickramasinghe, a renowned astrophysicist and astrobiologist and world expert in suddenly emerging diseases. Chandra, along with Sir Fred Hoyle is the acknowledged founder of the new science of Astrobiology. They developed the foundation analyses that allow us to understand the mechanisms of sudden disease emergence just like COVID-19. I recommend their scientific classic *Diseases from Space* (1979).

Myself and Chandra with a wider team of co-authors have analysed all the genetic, immunologic, epidemiological, geophysical, astrophysical and astrobiological data surrounding the origins and spread of COVID-19. It follows an all too familiar pattern -

¹ See PDFs of all our recent publications at http://vixra.org/author/edward_j_steele.

sudden emergence, then a rapid self-limiting phase, almost certainly involving induced “herd immunity”, then sudden decline. While COVID-19 began in Wuhan, other subsequent explosive outbreaks are now unfolding in Tehran, Italy, Spain and New York City, all lying on the 40° N Latitude band.

It is implausible that COVID-19 came from a Wuhan bio-weapons lab. Why would the Chinese People’s Liberation Army design a low mutation rate, low person-to-person transmitting virus, that only kills older already co-morbid susceptible patients? The phylogenetics also make it highly implausible that it came from wild animals in a two-step wild animal-to-human (unknown) process viz. bats to intermediate animal (perhaps pangolins), which were then caught and eaten on scale by Chinese people in the Hubei province. This is a “just so” story, a real fairy story. But this highly improbable story has been irresponsibly repeated and spewed forth in the pages of *The Australian* and other world media, particularly on *Fox News Channel* in the USA.

In our critical view, COVID-19 did not come from animals, it did not come from the Wuhan research facility. All our scientific analysis indicates that it has most plausibly come from a fragmenting meteorite which subsequently burst over north-central China on the night of 11 October 2019.² Over the following month, the fall-out, much like that from an upper atmospheric nuclear test, settled mainly in the central Chinese city of Wuhan and its surrounds. But this fall-out is an infective replicating virus not radioactivity.

Fall-out of viral-laden dust clouds of variable size appears now to be spreading globally – some small clouds may have headed easterly in February, across the Pacific (to the US West Coast and California, and cruise ships). However, the most prominent spread has been westward towards Europe, via the Middle East, with direct hits on Iran (Tehran/Qom), Italy (Lombardy), Spain and now New York City. The most reliable case data are for the USA, and particularly New York City. Cases here went from about 450 to about 36,000 between 16 and 30 March (*Business Insider* 27 March 2020). This rocket take-off is consistent with the

² <https://www.space.com/china-midnight-meteor-brilliant-fireball-october-2019.html>

in-fall of a viral-laden dust cloud coming from the stratosphere Latitude 40° band as we predicted – beginning, we think, about 10 March.

So like Wuhan, New York City has taken a direct hit from above. And like Wuhan there is massive contamination of surfaces (and vegetation and wild life) throughout NYC area with trillions of viral particles contaminating the city – a layer of viral dust throughout the city surfaces. Social distancing will play a very small role in containing this type of in-fall driven epidemic. It is mass infection virtually simultaneously from above.

In October- November 2019 the whole of the central China /Wuhan region and Hubei province, was in our view, physically contaminated with high doses of trillions of COVID-19 virus particles that replicated in susceptible hosts on landing. Indeed, and of course, all wild and domestic animals will also be contaminated and/or infected with COVID-19 in an in-fall zone like this, along with older susceptible human beings (e.g. the Italy Lombardy experience, and now New York City) who will also score COVID-19 positive irrespective of whether COVID-19 is the cause of disease, death or not.

In humans COVID-19 causes a rather mild common cold, and only causes severe pneumonia in older vulnerable, co-morbid, patients : which is still the case even now (April 4 2020) at the height of the NYC epidemic where the death rate for confirmed COVID-19 cases is 0.27% for the 18-44 year group, 1.49% for the 45-65 year group, 4.29% for the 65-74 year group and 11.3 % for the 75+yr group. There may also have been a dose dependence effect in symptom-disease induction in the Wuhan epicentre, as well as now in other similar epicentres including New York City in susceptible subjects.

The actual death rate is low as is the mutation rate. However, if infected person-to-person driven spread really does get going we expect the mutational diversity to increase, particularly in pockets where a viral variant is easily spread person-to-person, such as hospital wards and old age nursing homes. At the moment, all the gene sequencing on isolates indicate a common source. Environmental contaminations from actual in-falls (and smaller aerosol-based surface contamination infection foci) is the key mode of catching this disease globally.

In short, spread by environmental contamination is the key to understanding the spread of this virus. We believe, for instance, that at least two cruise ships in the South China Sea/Sea of Japan may have been heavily contaminated by this drifting virus fall-out dust cloud. As it is drifting in patches the viral-laden dust clouds with millions of viral particles enwrapped in protective dust clusters can stay viable for at least 5-6 months in the “air” or atmosphere.

Panic and hysteria are now rife within the Western democracies, based on what we believe to be a false diagnosis of the nature of the problem. The Chinese authorities, let it be said, acted rationally in trying to disinfect and lock down almost 500-700 million of their citizens, while men in moon suits with disinfectant spray guns hosed down machinery, roadways, and buildings. This indicates that Xi Jinping and his government knew of the widespread physical contamination, no later than early January. Their actions, however, suggest that they were attempting to douse something other than a breakout from wet-markets.

The Xi regime also locked down the entire Central China region - the industrial heartland of China’s now enormous economy and the engine room of the supply chains that import and export immense quantities of raw materials, components and finished manufactures to the outside world. The silence of the regime concerning what had happened, while culpable, may be attributed to its consternation at the scale of the problem. Many contaminated products may have already been locked away in contaminated shipping containers ready for export.

Nonetheless, a myth arose that COVID-19 came from the eating of wild animals in China and that wet markets have been the petri dishes for such viruses. There is, however, abundant evidence consistent with our meteorite burst explanation, and predictions for the future course of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is being published in professional journals and we urge readers of this magazine to look out for it.³

What’s actually required is large scale environmental swab sampling for viral RNA COVID-19 sequences, as well as blood tests for presence of antibodies specific for COVID-19 protein antigens. This would enable us to project the emergence of herd immunity. The

³ See, for instance, our forthcoming paper in the journal *Biophysics and Molecular Biology*: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2019.08.010>.

Diamond Princess cruise ship would be expected to have very high numbers of people that score positive for COVID-19 specific antibodies. One could start there. In turn, we could then estimate of the total 'immunologically' exposed population globally and the proportional COVID-19 antibody positivity in different exposed groups.

We have submitted this essay to *The Australian Rationalist* following what we consider to be censorship by *The Australian*. In conversations with the Editor, he agreed they had an obligation to ventilate alternative biomedical and scientific explanations of the pandemic. However, after consulting other mainstream scientists he and his colleagues canned our submission, as not meeting peer review standards.

We remain of the opinion that ours is the most plausible explanation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our concern is that, with the cyclical 'cold and flu season' approaching this winter, our draconian economic and health policy initiatives have been instituted far in advance of the real danger. That danger is an atmospheric viral in-fall event in Australia some months from now, at a point when our social and economic resilience will already have been strained on the basis of a misunderstanding of what is actually happening. We hope we will not be proven correct in our analysis when it is too late for a course correction to tackle the problem appropriately.