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AJTMH July 2020 Updates

Your advance look at two new articles publishing online on July 22, 2020, in [*The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*](#).

- **The Origin of COVID-19 - and Why It Matters**
- **Keep Politics out of Funding Decisions for Medical Research and Public Health**

Study: The Origin of COVID-19 - and Why It Matters

This new perspective offers credible, scientific authority to the narrative and ongoing exploration of how COVID-19 began. The exploration of the origins argues that available data establishes that our current pandemic virus emerged directly or indirectly from bats prevalent in Asia.

The authors point out that scientists have warned since at least 2007 about the emergence and re-emergence of SARS-like viruses, yet few preventive actions have been taken. They call for "vigorous scientific, public health, and societal actions, including significantly increased funding for basic and applied research addressing disease emergence, to prevent this tragic history from repeating itself."

>> [Abstract](#)

Editorial: Keep Politics out of Funding Decisions for Medical Research and Public Health

Members of American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's Executive Committee wrote an editorial on the value of science and the ways that the current administration is undermining efforts to protect and improve human health. Recent decisions by the White House are detrimental to human health, especially during the pandemic. The authors urge the President to reinstate essential funding to research coronaviruses and to continue the United States' relationship with the World Health Organization.

>> [Abstract](#)

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About the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, founded in 1903, is the largest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health. It accomplishes this through generating and sharing scientific evidence, informing health policies and practices, fostering career development, recognizing excellence, and advocating for investment in tropical medicine/global health research. For more information, visit astmh.org.

About the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*

Continuously published since 1921, *AJTMH* is the peer-reviewed journal of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the world's leading voice in the fields of tropical medicine and global health. *AJTMH* disseminates new knowledge in fundamental, translational, clinical and public health sciences focusing on improving global health.