Twitter Thread by Billy Bostickson ■■&■ ■

Billy Bostickson ■■&■ ■
@BillyBostickson

1. Some useful, albeit not fully developed, critiques of:

“The Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Critical Review"

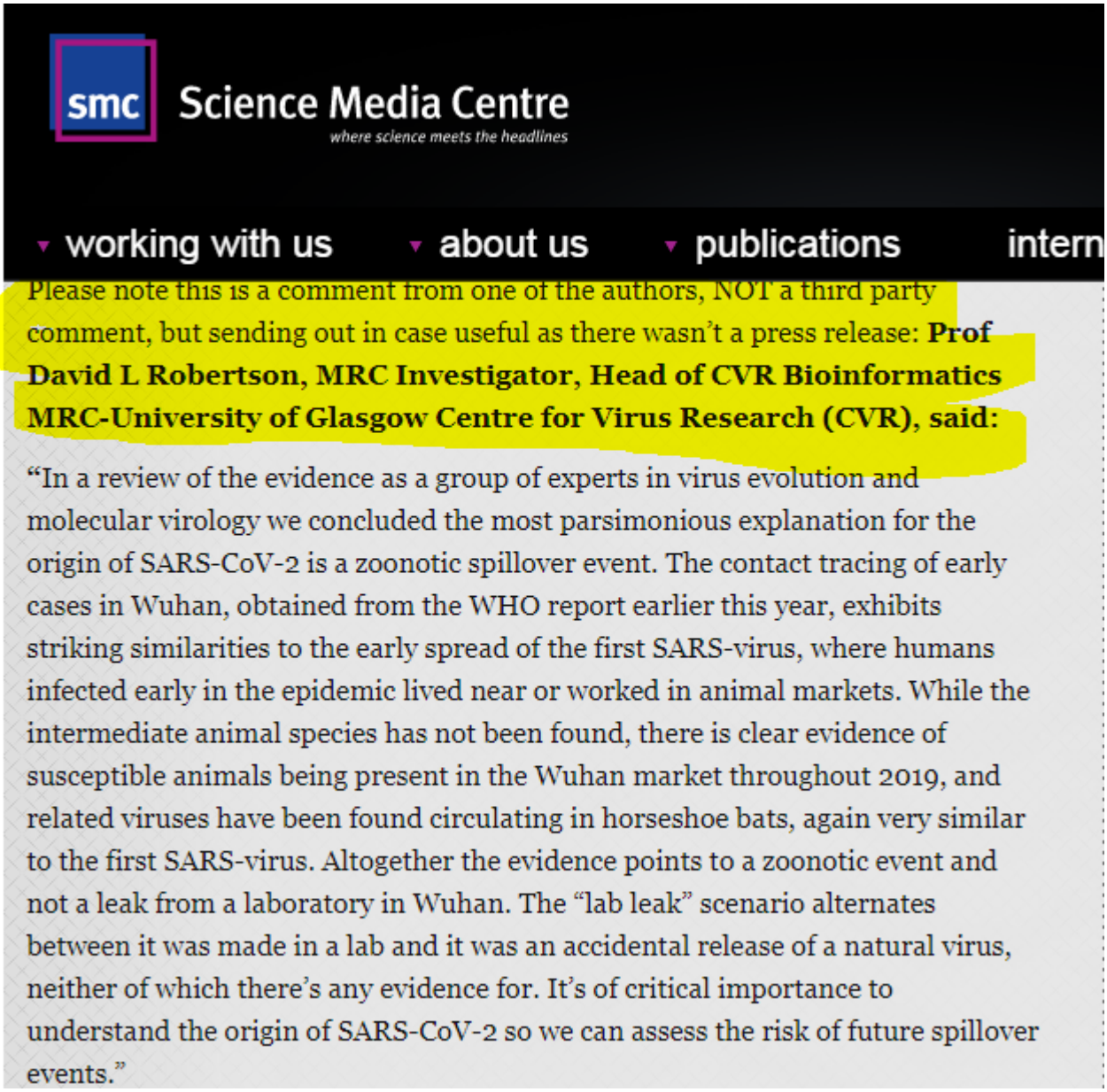
https://t.co/C9TyRyqHUr

have just been published here:
https://t.co/qCmzGCzRxn
by members of DRASTIC & others
@angoffinet @BahulikarRahul @MonaRahalkar @gdemaneuf

2. A refreshing contrast to the so-called "expert reactions" found here, including from one of the authors of the review (Prof David Robertson)!

"expert reaction to a preprint reviewing the evidence on the origins of SARS-CoV-2"

https://t.co/6kG6rstweP



3. Peter Gutierrez points out in his response that 4 of the authors of "The Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Critical Review", also wrote "Proximal Origin of SARS-COV-2".

His critique focuses on:

1. RaTG13

2. Enhanced adaptation to the human host

https://t.co/eW8b2iK5xe

"This demonstrates beyond reasonable doubt that RaTG13 is not the progenitor of SARS-CoV-2, with or without laboratory manipulation or experimental mutagenesis."

This conclusion is spurious at best. They base their conclusion on their analysis of the 1AB gene, disregarding the rest of the genome. But, RaTG13 1AB gene is 96% identity similar to Covid-19 1AB gene, according to Zhou below. Slightly less than RmYN02, RpYN06 and PrC31's, but pretty close. More importantly, RaTG13 S gene is 96% identity amino acid similar with Covid-19. RmYN02, RpYN06 and PrC31 S genes are only 76% and 63% similar to Covid-19, and their RBDs even less. Making them less likely Covid-19 immediate progenitor. The better science is represented by the articles,

"A Novel Bat Coronavirus Closely Related to SARS-CoV-2 Contains Natural Insertions at the S1/S2 Cleavage Site of the Spike Protein", Hong Zhou, Xing Chen, and others

"Evidence for SARS-CoV-2 related coronaviruses circulating in bats and pangolins in Southeast Asia", by Supaporn Wacharapluesadee, Chee Wah Tan, and others

"Identification of novel bat coronaviruses sheds light on the evolutionary origins of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses", by Hong Zhou, Jingkai Ji, and others

4. As to be expected, Sydney University and its iconic virologist, Eddie Holmes, who is "not available for interview", are crowing over this biased review
https://t.co/xrjpN1NxpO

— **Focus on lab-leak distracting from work to prevent next pandemic**

Professor Edward Holmes.

This review contains elementary errors as exposed here:
1. https://t.co/YJ50huifly
one of the authors (Stuart Neil) then claimed

"Didn’t N501Y come up in ACE2 TG mice too?
https://t.co/HscNSEKdrZ

> All your natural origin friends in one place ;)
> Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Critical Reviewhttps://t.co/j4A4rtmi8S
> via @Topo_Ligio
> Fallacy of the "straw mouse", denying evolution in wild type mice, when the claim is actually that it may have "evolved" in hACE2 mice, NOT wild mice. pic.twitter.com/7LCnSAhw6g
>
> — Billy Bostickson \U0001f3f4\U0001f441&\U0001f441 \U0001f193 (@BillyBostickson) July 7, 2021

Professor Neil failed to respond
https://t.co/ldzuAMDiF9

> Human lung xenograft & adenovirus hACE2 mice need to be immunosuppressed/deficient e.g. SCID or Rag1-2 KO2 mice, so as not to reject the allograft cells & transgenic ACE2.
> So, why do you think N501Y would emerge in TG hACE2 mice without a functional immune system or mouse ACE2?
>
> — Billy Bostickson \U0001f3f4\U0001f441&\U0001f441 \U0001f193 (@BillyBostickson) July 8, 2021

You will have to dig into the answers here
https://t.co/OaLzUfIPuA
A thread with papers to educate Stuart here:
https://t.co/BFVxXlVKj4

Stuart Neil @stuartjdneil · Jul 8

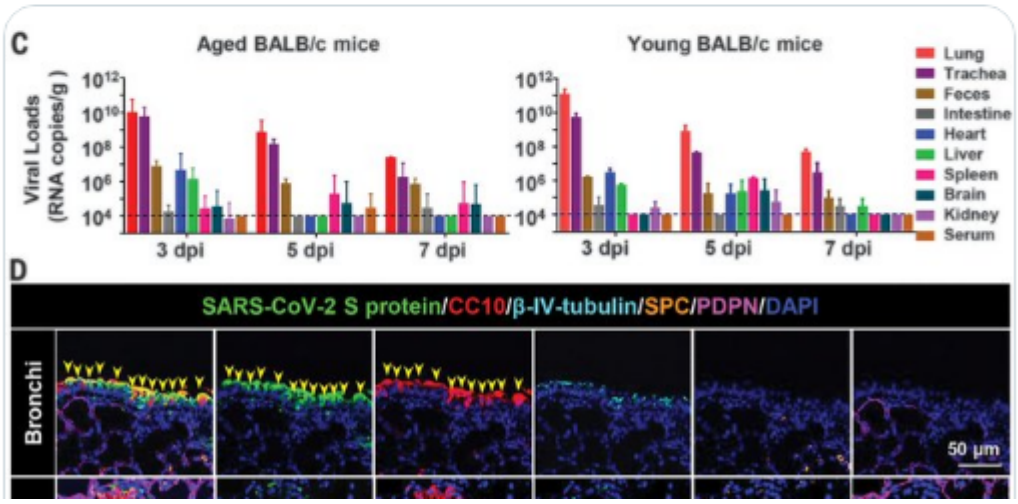
So maybe you can tell me why you get adaptive mutations in mouse passage outside spike? Those should happen in Tg mice too. Where are they?

3 1

Billy Bostickson 🏴👁&👁 FREE @BillyBostickson · Jul 9

science.sciencemag.org/content/369/65...

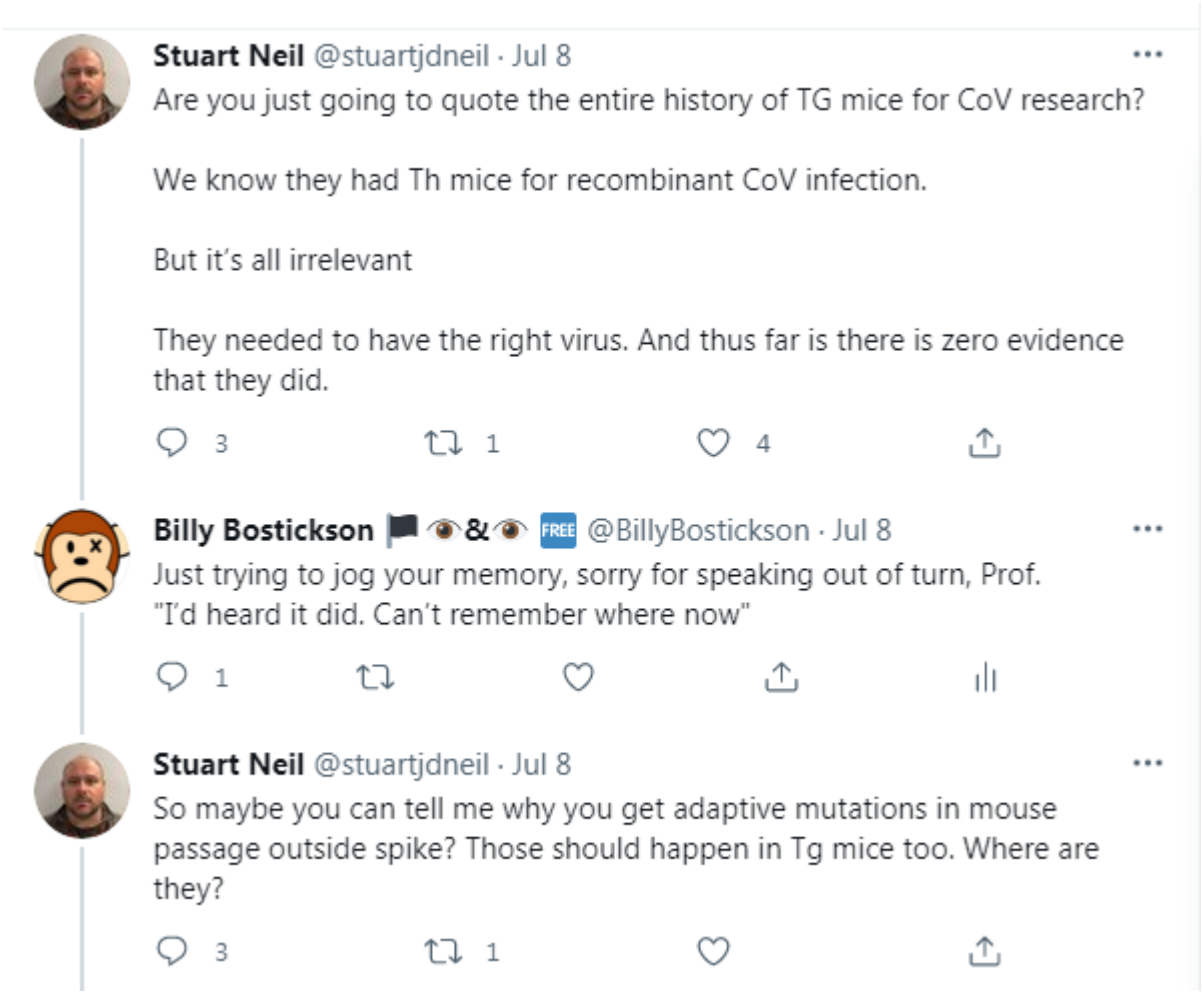
I suspect that the reason for the emergence of N501Y in this specific experiment is that the balb/c mice used in the experiment were non hACE2 mice and immunocompetent mice.



Didn\u2019t N501Y come up in ACE2 TG mice too? https://t.co/cRR1qlTUtB

— Stuart Neil (@stuartjdneil) July 7, 2021

Which he didn't take kindly to
https://t.co/k93d6gVR8s
I guess it was his way of admitting he was wrong about N501Y?



Are you just going to quote the entire history of TG mice for CoV research?

We know they had Th mice for recombinant CoV infection.

But it\u2019s all irrelevant

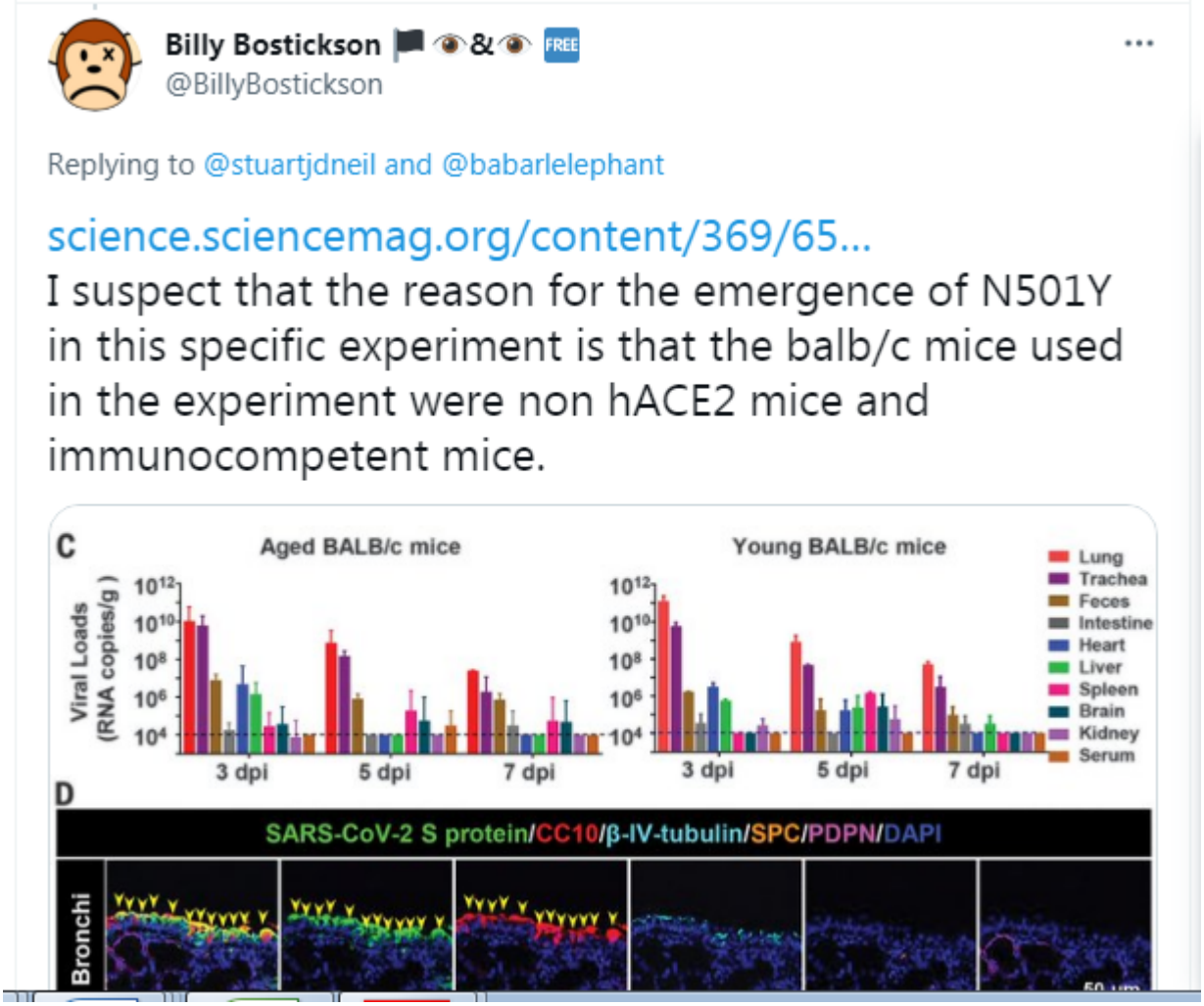
They needed to have the right virus. And thus far is there is zero evidence that they did.

— Stuart Neil (@stuartjdneil) July 7, 2021

Again Prof Neil, one of the authors of the review continues to embarrass himself. I am starting to think that the flawed N501 claim was actually written by him.
https://t.co/Syn3CNd5ne

> So maybe you can tell me why you get adaptive mutations in mouse passage outside spike? Those should happen in Tg mice too. Where are they?
>
> — Stuart Neil (@stuartjdneil) July 7, 2021

Wrong again, "Prof"
https://t.co/cH4jY6HOfe



https://t.co/I90OOCJg7o

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— Billy Bostickson \U0001f3f4\U0001f441&\U0001f441 \U0001f193 (@BillyBostickson) July 8, 2021

He just can't admit his error, so I have to remind him
https://t.co/ZIPRFOHDGE

> It's a simple point, that you are wrong about N501Y
>
> "Taken together, these patterns of detectable selection suggest that the adaptive value of signature 501Y lineage RBD mutations may have only manifested after a selective shift that occurred shortly before November 2020"
>
> — Billy Bostickson \U0001f3f4\U0001f441&\U0001f441 \U0001f193 (@BillyBostickson) July 10, 2021

A further elementary error in the review paper

The Straw Lab Fallacy

https://t.co/kS9wCBkgvr

> They haven't even done the basic research.
> They conjured up a straw lab, the bsl4 lab
> Most bat coronavirus work was done at the older complex in xiaohongshan. The labs (plural) and their locations are listed here along with documented biosafety issues:https://t.co/ewo9oZUuqU
>
> — Billy Bostickson \U0001f3f4\U0001f441&\U0001f441 \U0001f193 (@BillyBostickson) July 11, 2021

To be continued....

Another critique (July 8th) - 30 Tweets

A long thread by @Rossana38510044 debunking the claims in "Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Pathetic Review"

https://t.co/Un0h4cm3vi

Saved:

https://t.co/8eDdbKWdqf

Archived:

https://t.co/8bfaU4nWXo

> That was a surprise. So many well-known supporters of SARS2\u2019s natural origin join forces to publish an opinion piece in\u2026Zenodo \U0001f602https://t.co/led9ZcIokp
>
> — Rossana Segreto (@Rossana38510044) July 8, 2021

An excellent and thorough critique by @aychan here (12th July)

A response to “The Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Critical Review”

https://t.co/QrqL9DlBGh

Archived:

https://t.co/UA29u7D3v0