

# Jan 31: Looks Engineered

*From: Kristian G. Andersen*

*Sent : Friday, January 31, 2020 10:32 PM*

*To: **Fauci**, Anthony (NIH/NIAID)*

*Cc: Jeremy **Farrar***

*Subject : Re: FW: Science: Mining coronavirus genomes for clues to the outbreak 's origins (Jon Cohen article - conspiracy theorist template)*

*Hi Tony,*

*Thanks for sharing. Yes, I saw this earlier today and both Eddie and myself are actually quoted in it . It's a great article, **but** the problem is that our phylogenetic analyses aren't able to answer whether the sequences are unusual at individual residues, except if they are completely off. On a phylogenetic tree the virus looks totally normal and the close clustering with bats suggest that bats serve as the reservoir .*

*The **unusual features of the virus make up a really small part of the genome** (<0.1%) so one has to look really closely at all the sequences to see that **some of the features (potentially) look engineered**. (Andersen's brackets)*

*We have a good team lined up to look very critically at this, so we should know much more at the end of the weekend . I should mention that after discussions earlier today, **Eddie** (Holmes), **Bob** (Garry), **Mike** (Ferguson) ([Wellcome Trust Governor](#)), **and myself all find the genome inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory**.*

*But we have to look at this much more closely and there are still further analyses to be done, so those opinions could still change.*

*Best,*

**Kristian**

Not sure the opinions changed privately but they changed 180 degrees publicly - literally overnight  
- when Kristian and Eddie delivered Prox O's alternative truth option at the following day's  
Teleconference - arguing a natural origin from bats via pangolin.

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