



Written by [Rebecca Terrell](#) on August 22, 2023

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Chinese Bio Lab in California

U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is vowing to shine a congressional spotlight on a Chinese-linked bio lab in California. Local code enforcement officials discovered it operating illegally, and court documents reveal that lab mice found within were “genetically engineered to catch and carry the COVID-19 virus.”

Located in Reedley, it was operated by a company called Prestige BioTech, which is registered in Nevada but not licensed for business in California.



[AP Images](#)

Spreading Covid? In March, code enforcement officers in Reedley, California, stumbled upon an unlicensed biolab.

The city fire department called the lab a “hazard to the community” and a possible source of explosions and other health threats. The Fresno County Department of Health reported finding thousands of gallons of biological fluids and samples of at least 20 pathogens such as HIV, malaria, SARS, and E. coli.

The lab was in McCarthy’s home district, and on a visit there in August he announced, “If it wasn’t for code enforcement or a fire, we would have never known about it.... They were doing research that wasn’t allowed. My concern is to get to the bottom of what happened here, but also look at where it is happening in other parts of the country.”

Health Department Director David Luchini told local news outlet Mid-Valley Times that in his 30 years’ experience, he had never seen anything like the medical violations his department uncovered. He said that among countless blood, tissue, and bodily-fluid samples, investigators “also found thousands of vials that contained unlabeled fluids.”

A particularly gruesome find was more than 900 lab mice housed in what court documents describe as atrocious conditions. Prestige BioTech representative Wang Zhaolin told investigators that the mice were genetically engineered to spread Covid-19.

Furthermore, investigators found that from October of last year until this March when inspectors shut it down, Prestige BioTech illegally disposed of the medical waste it generated.

Chinese Connection

The man identified in court documents as Prestige’s president, Xiuquin Yao, says that the company was developing diagnostic test kits. That’s disturbing because Prestige is successor to the now-bankrupt Universal Meditech, Inc., which in February issued a recall on more than 56,000 of its Covid rapid test kits because they lacked U.S. Food and Drug Administration evaluation and approval.

Operating in Fresno, Universal had received \$360,000 in California tax credits in April of 2019. In August of the following year, its facility was damaged by a fire caused by numerous code violations. Post-bankruptcy, Prestige moved Universal’s assets from Fresno to Reedley.

However, NBC News reports that officials have been unable to obtain “any California-based address for



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either company,” and, court documents confirmed, “The other addresses provided for identified authorized agents were either empty offices or addresses in China that could not be verified.”

Additionally, none of the company representatives would confirm ownership of the biologics contained in the Reedley facility.

Where There’s Smoke...

Is this lab just the tip of the iceberg?

Brandon Weichert, author of the book *Biohacked: China’s Race to Control Life*, told the Daily Caller, “I suspect there could be dozens — maybe even hundreds — of these labs that we don’t even know about.”

Indeed, YourCentralValley.com reported in early August that Prestige applied earlier this year for office and warehouse space in Fresno. This location “would put the Chinese-linked bio-lab ... right next to Fresno Yosemite International Airport, which is also home to the Fresno Air National Guard Base,” notes Zachary Faria of the *Washington Examiner*.

“Incredibly troubling” is Wisconsin Republican Representative Mike Gallagher’s description of the situation. Gallagher serves as chair of the U.S. House Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and told the *Daily Mail* that his committee is investigating whether the facility “could be another example of CCP united front work where they set up all these organizations in order to cover hostile activity that’s happening on American soil.”

Under investigation: Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden meet at last year’s G20 summit. The U.S. House Oversight and Accountability Committee is probing Biden’s business connections with Xi’s communist government and whether they compromise national security. (AP Images)



Iowa Republican Senator Joni Ernst seems already convinced. “China is not just in our backyard, they are in our house, illegally conducting risky research that poses a serious public health concern,” she wrote in a statement to the *Daily Mail*. “The world has already witnessed the impact of the Chinese state-run Wuhan Lab’s experiments on coronaviruses in bats.... We cannot allow what happened at Wuhan on our shores.”

Gallagher complained about the silence of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of



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early August, even though that agency tested the substances removed from the Reedley lab and confirmed the presence of dangerous pathogens.

With no further comment from CDC, Gallagher is looking elsewhere for guidance. “We’re hoping to get more information from the FBI,” he said, “and we’re doing some work to untangle some of the relationships between this lab and ... the tangled web of institutions to which it was tied.”

The Tangled Web

That tangled web includes strong links to China. Business filings reveal that both Universal and Prestige company executives “appear to share the same names and addresses with one of the lab’s Chinese pharmaceutical suppliers,” according to the Daily Caller.

Should we be surprised? This year, media is teeming with news of Sino-espionage.

A Chinese spy balloon floated across the United States in late January. Its trajectory was “deliberate. [It] went right over our missile fields collecting intelligence,” recounted Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.) on the Senate GOP podcast *The Elephant in the Room*.

In February, a city council in North Dakota put the skids on a Beijing-linked agricultural project near a key U.S. military drone base. The story highlighted Chinese-investor control of more than 380,000 acres of American land, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Additionally, the Chinese company COSCO operates the port of Los Angeles — the busiest in the country — through long-term lease agreements.

In April, authorities arrested two New York residents for operating an illegal overseas police station for the Chinese government in Lower Manhattan’s Chinatown. The human-rights advocacy group Safeguard Defender says China runs at least 110 of these undeclared police outfits around the world, and some are in the United States. Moreover, the Biden administration admitted in June that China has been operating a spy base in Cuba since at least 2019.

Federal officials charged two U.S. Navy sailors in August with providing sensitive military information to China. The Associated Press reported that “they were separate cases, and it wasn’t clear if the two were courted or paid by the same Chinese intelligence officer as part of a larger scheme.”

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s *2023 Annual Threat Assessment* warns that the communist nation is our top threat to cybersecurity. “China almost certainly is capable of launching cyber attacks that could disrupt critical infrastructure services within the United States, including against oil and gas pipelines, and rail systems.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability is now investigating the first family’s ties to China and whether they compromise national security.

So, is the Reedley lab just another example of China’s infiltration? “Across the board, the CCP is testing us. They’re exploiting the loopholes in our system, and we’re not doing enough to defend ourselves,” warned Gallagher on Newsmax. “This should teach us one thing above all else: that the China threat is not just a distant, over-there threat. It’s a right-here-at-home threat.”



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