

Follow a grant. Stop at the *evidence.*

Where does research money actually go? Two public-record cases show what a funding trail establishes—and what an institutional connection cannot.

THE READING RULE

01–02

A line on a
chart
is a claim.

Make it earn its place.

————→ Documented funding

- - - -> Institutional relationship

An affiliation is not a transfer.
A missing record is not a verdict.

Research cutoff: 12 Sep 2026 · America/New_York

Historical cases · Original sources · No live monitoring

THIS EDITION FINDS

01 A funding bridge exists.

NIH → EcoHealth → WIV. The subaward is documented; its two reported totals differ.

02 A partnership is not that bridge.

NIH → Duke is documented. These records do not link the selected award to Duke Kunshan.

A documented path. A visible stopping point.

Public records connect NIH/NIAID to EcoHealth Alliance, and EcoHealth to Wuhan Institute of Virology under **R01AI110964**. The public financial trail in this edition ends at the named subrecipient.

The research concerned bat-coronavirus emergence: field sampling, characterization, modeling and laboratory tests of cross-species transmission. NIH's FY2014 record and USAspending identify the same EcoHealth recipient, with UEI TKS7NBB4JDN6. **S01** **S02**

THE DOCUMENTED FINANCIAL PATH

Amounts are different measures—not additive.



Trail stops here. These records do not establish an exhaustive onward-recipient or ultimate-use ledger.

Two sources. One unresolved difference.

USAspending

\$598,500

Sum of five reported rows S03

HHS Inspector General

\$598,611

Table 7 subaward amount

S04

\$111 remains unresolved. We preserve both amounts and their definitions. The checked sources do not explain the difference.

OIG’s table covers the **June 1, 2014-May 31, 2019** federal project period. Its footnote selects subawards with expenditures in EcoHealth’s records as of July 2021. The column says **“Subaward Amount”**—not verified cash paid or total WIV expenditure. S04

The \$666,442 NIH FY2014 budget-year award and \$3,537,360.32 current prime obligation describe wider or different slices of funding. Neither is a WIV transfer total. OIG’s earlier prime snapshot is also retained in the amount ledger.

S01 S02 S04

The five WIV-labelled rows

[CSV](#) ↓

USAspending reported subaward actions; dates are not verified payment dates.

Action date	Amount (USD)
29 May 2015	\$133,000
31 May 2016	\$133,000
31 May 2017	\$133,000
31 May 2018	\$133,000
31 May 2019	\$66,500

Five-row total **\$598,500**

Subaward number 1R01AI110964-01. All row IDs and unshortened recipient labels are in the download.

S03

* An institutional match, not a registry-ID match.

The raw label is **WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION**. We retain it in the data. The shared award, OIG’s independent WIV identification and WIV’s own institutional record support the match; the list response supplies no Chinese registration identifier. “Capital construction” does not establish that the grant built a laboratory. S03 S04 S05

There are two other reported rows. They are not WIV—or DKU.

Wuhan University School of Public Health has two rows: \$41,875 on May 31, 2016 and \$159,342.10 on May 31, 2017. Together they total **\$201,217.10**. All seven rows total **\$799,717.10**, consistent with the prime record’s subaward aggregate. OIG Table 7 gives \$201,221 for this unit, a separate unresolved **\$3.90** difference. S03 S04

Wuhan University’s role in Duke Kunshan does not turn these School of Public Health rows into DKU funding. That would require another documented financial bridge.

Two real facts. No established transfer.

Duke received the selected NIH award. Duke also helped establish Duke Kunshan University. **One fact does not financially connect the other.**

NIH's FY2024 award **5R01HL155293-04** is for virtual imaging research to improve CT quantification of COPD. The recipient is Duke University, UEI TP7EK8DZV6N5. [S08](#)

DOCUMENTED AWARD

PUBLIC FUNDER

NIH / NHLBI

\$428,828

FY2024 award-year amount



DIRECT RECIPIENT

Duke University

Budget: July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025. [S08](#)

No award-specific DKU transfer established.

Exact matched-award query: no first-tier subaward rows returned. This is not a zero-dollar measurement.

[S09](#) [S10](#)

SEPARATE INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER

Duke University

Founding partnership

Documented by September 2013



JOINT-VENTURE UNIVERSITY

Duke Kunshan University

Duke and Wuhan University partnership, with investment from Kunshan city. The institutional sources give no amount tied to this NIH grant. [S11](#) [S12](#)

A November 2013 board record documents governance, not a transfer from this later award. [S13](#)

THE CONTROL TEST

“Not found” must never become “\$0 to China.”

The exact Duke USAspending award returned results: [] with hasNext: false. This limited check does not cover every Duke grant, vendor purchase or nonpublic agreement. An award-linked subagreement, budget or expenditure record would be needed to establish the missing bridge.

Why the Duke award amounts and project-end dates also stay separate

USAspending's matching FAIN R01HL155293 reports **\$2,198,800** in total obligations, performance July 1, 2021–June 30, 2027, last modified May 21, 2026. The NIH FY2024 record gives overall project end June 30, 2026. We retain those source-specific periods rather than forcing a single date. The \$428,828 budget-year amount is not the full-project aggregate, and neither is a DKU transfer. [S08](#) [S09](#)

Six different questions. Not one “connection” label.

Funding, affiliation and governance cannot be substituted for one another. Dates matter; so does relevance to the particular award.

01 / FINANCIAL Funding The WIV path has reported subawards and an independent audit-table bridge. Duke has a prime award but no DKU bridge in the checked records. Historical award periods; rechecked 12 Sep 2026. S03 S04 S10	02 / LEGAL STRUCTURE Ownership No corporate shareholding percentage is established here. A CAS institute and a university joint venture are not enough to invent one. Institutional sources, not ownership instruments. S05 S07 S12
03 / STATE INSTITUTION PRC affiliation WIV’s 2018 record identifies its CAS relationship. A 2013 State Council notice lists CAS as a directly subordinate public institution. Recipient context, not another grant transfer. S05 S07	04 / MILITARY PLA relationships No PLA funding, control or collaboration edge is established by this edition. It is not a comprehensive military-relationship investigation or a finding of absence. No award-linked military conclusion. <u>See boundary G04.</u>
05 / PARTY GOVERNANCE CCP governance WIV’s January 2018 report documents its Party committee’s 2017 institutional work. A November 2018 notice records CAS Party-group leadership appointments. Neither source establishes direction of this grant. S05 S06	06 / INSTITUTIONAL Collaboration Duke-DKU partnership and historical board representation are documented. They do not establish a transfer from either selected NIH award. 2013 originals; current Duke page observed at cutoff. S11 S12 S13

Institutional context is not a verdict.

This edition does not infer wrongdoing, hidden direction or the origin of COVID-19. It uses OIG’s financial tables; the full report separately contains oversight findings, NIH/EcoHealth comments and OIG responses. S04

Every link has a limit.

These two cases test an evidence method. They do not estimate how much global research funding reaches any country.

- 01

Match the identity.
Join the federal award number and recipient UEI. Preserve raw foreign labels.
- 02

Name the measure.
Keep budget-year amounts, obligations, subawards and spending separate.
- 03

Read the receipt.
Check the original table, date, footnote and institution—not just the number.
- 04

Stop where it stops.
No funding arrow from a partnership alone. No absence claim from a missing row.

Open the record.

13 relied-on primary sources, rechecked September 12, 2026.
Each entry includes its date, exact locator and evidentiary limit.

S01

NIH RePORTER: R01AI110964 award-year records

Snapshot / undated

NIH RePORTER

Supports: NIH/NIAID award to EcoHealth; FY2014 amount, budget period, applicant-described purpose and recipient identifiers.

Locator: results[]: appl_id 8674931; project_num, fiscal_year, award_amount, budget_start/end, organization.org_ueis and org_duns, abstract_text. All seven returned years are preserved in nih-award-years.csv.

Limit: Living database retrieved at cutoff. Use the FY2014 abstract for this historical case; later renewal abstracts are different.

Recorded API request: {"criteria":{"project_nums":["R01AI110964"]},"offset":0,"limit":20}

Open original source ↗ — <https://reporter.nih.gov/project-details/8674931>
Request metadata and SHA-256: [source register](#)
POST · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:18.652488+00:00

S02	USAspending: EcoHealth prime award 2025-04-21 U.S. Department of the Treasury / USAspending Supports: FAIN R01AI110964, matching EcoHealth UEI, \$3,537,360.32 obligation, performance dates and seven reported first-tier rows. Locator: fain; id; recipient.recipient_name and recipient_uei; total_obligation; date_signed; period_of_performance; subaward_count. Limit: Document date here is the response's last_modified_date, not the research cutoff. Obligations are not cash paid or WIV expenditures. Open original source ↗ — https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01AI110964_075 Request metadata and SHA-256: source register GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:20.143349+00:00	
S03	USAspending: seven EcoHealth subaward rows Snapshot / undated U.S. Department of the Treasury / USAspending Supports: Five WIV-labelled amounts sum to \$598,500; two Wuhan University School of Public Health rows sum to \$201,217.10. Locator: POST /api/v2/subawards/ for award_id 270144311. WIV row IDs: 4275874, 4275875, 4308789, 4308790, 4308788. Wuhan University row IDs: 4296600, 4318113. page_metadata.hasNext=false. Limit: Dates are reported action dates, not proven bank-transfer dates. The list response provides no Chinese registration identifier. Recorded API request: {"award_id":270144311,"page":1,"limit":100,"sort":"amount","order":"desc"} Open original source ↗ — https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01AI110964_075 Request metadata and SHA-256: source register POST · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:20.563493+00:00	
S04	HHS OIG A-05-21-00025: award and subaward tables 2023-01 HHS Office of Inspector General Supports: WIV subaward amount \$598,611 and Wuhan University amount \$201,221 under R01AI110964; project period 2014-06-01 to 2019-05-31; historical prime award/expenditure snapshot. Locator: Appendix E, Table 7: printed p.47 / PDF p.55, WIV and Wuhan University rows and asterisk footnote. Table 5: printed p.45 / PDF p.53. Table 6: printed p.46 / PDF p.54. Institutional comments: Appendices I-J, printed pp.52-64. Limit: January 2023 report. Table 7 covers subawards with expenditures in EcoHealth records as of July 2021; its column is Subaward Amount, not a bank-payment total. Open original source ↗ — https://oig.hhs.gov/documents/audit/7905/A-05-21-00025-Complete%20Report.pdf#page=55 Request metadata and SHA-256: source register GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:21.006067+00:00	

Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Supports: Contemporaneous WIV-CAS institutional identity and a CAS Party group appointment decision involving institute leadership and a Party committee office.

Locator: Article heading and first two body paragraphs; event held October 30, 2018. Chinese title: 武汉病毒所召开新一届领导班子任命宣布大会.

Limit: Analyst paraphrase/translation. The 2019 URL migration date is not the article date. No grant number or funding instruction is identified in this article.

Open original source ↗ — https://whiov.cas.cn/xwdt_160278/zhxw2019/201911/t20191111_5429832.html
 Request metadata and SHA-256: [source register](#)
 GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:18:13.365345+00:00

Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Supports: A WIV Party committee and its institutional governance role are documented during the historical grant period.

Locator: First and second body paragraphs, event January 29, 2018; institute Party committee and report on its 2017 work. Chinese title: 武汉病毒所举行2017年领导班子与领导人员年度考核大会.

Limit: Analyst paraphrase/translation. This is not evidence that the committee directed R01AI110964 or received its funds.

Open original source ↗ — https://whiov.cas.cn/xwdt_160278/zhxw2019/201911/t20191111_5429752.html
 Request metadata and SHA-256: [source register](#)
 GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:18:11.611218+00:00

PRC State Council; official reproduction by Ministry of Ecology and Environment

Supports: CAS was listed as a public institution directly under the State Council in this dated official structure.

Locator: Section VI (六、国务院直属事业单位), entry 中国科学院; signature date 2013-03-19. Page publication date 2013-04-03.

Limit: Translation of institutional category, not a corporate ownership percentage. The 2018 URL path is not the document date. Historical evidence; not asserted as the current full government structure.

Open original source ↗ — https://www.mee.gov.cn/zcwj/gwywj/201811/t20181129_676547.shtml
 Request metadata and SHA-256: [source register](#)
 GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:19:09.728182+00:00

S08	NIH RePORTER: Duke FY2024 control award	Snapshot / undated
NIH RePORTER		
Supports: NIH/NHLBI award to Duke for virtual CT imaging research; \$428,828 award-year amount and 2024-07-01 to 2025-06-30 budget period.		
Locator: results[0]: appl_id 10879148, project_num 5R01HL155293-04, fiscal_year 2024, award_amount, budget_start/end, project_start/end, organization.org_ueis, abstract_text.		
Limit: Living database. This record's project end differs from the broader USAspending record; neither implies a DKU transfer.		
Recorded API request: {"criteria":{"appl_ids":[10879148]},"offset":0,"limit":1}		
Open original source ↗ — https://reporter.nih.gov/project-details/10879148 Request metadata and SHA-256: source register POST · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:20.061089+00:00		
S09	USAspending: Duke matched prime award	2026-05-21
U.S. Department of the Treasury / USAspending		
Supports: Duke UEI matches NIH; aggregate obligation \$2,198,800 and performance dates 2021-07-01 to 2027-06-30; zero reported subaward count.		
Locator: id 270232143; fain R01HL155293; recipient.recipient_uei; total_obligation; period_of_performance; subaward_count.		
Limit: Document date is last_modified_date. Aggregate is not an FY2024 amount. Different period from the NIH award-year record is retained, not forced into agreement.		
Open original source ↗ — https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01HL155293_075 Request metadata and SHA-256: source register GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:20.658434+00:00		
S10	USAspending: Duke first-tier subaward query	Snapshot / undated
U.S. Department of the Treasury / USAspending		
Supports: This exact award query returned no first-tier rows at the retrieval time.		
Locator: POST /api/v2/subawards/ for award_id 270232143; results=[]; page_metadata.hasNext=false.		
Limit: A bounded not-found result, not a zero-dollar measurement or proof of no foreign funding.		
Recorded API request: {"award_id":270232143,"page":1,"limit":100,"sort":"amount","order":"desc"}		
Open original source ↗ — https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01HL155293_075 Request metadata and SHA-256: source register POST · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:20.906147+00:00		
S11	Duke and Duke Kunshan University	Snapshot / undated
Duke Office of DKU Relations		
Supports: Duke and Wuhan University partnership establishing DKU, with investment from the city of Kunshan; broader educational/research collaboration.		
Locator: Opening description and paragraph beginning Formed through a partnership.		
Limit: Undated institutional page observed at cutoff. It provides no R01HL155293 award link, transfer amount, or ownership percentage.		
Open original source ↗ — https://dkurelations.duke.edu/ Request metadata and SHA-256: source register GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:24.161301+00:00		

S12

DKU Gets Final Approval, Begins Student Recruitment

2013-09-16

Duke Today

Supports: Dated evidence of the Duke/Wuhan University joint venture and Chinese Ministry of Education approval in September 2013.

Locator: First paragraph and paragraphs on Kunshan’s campus construction and support.

Limit: Institution-level relationship and regulatory approval; not evidence of use of the selected 2024 NIH award.

Open original source ↗ — <https://www.today.duke.edu/2013/09/dkuapproval>
Request metadata and SHA-256: [source register](#)
GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:26.138773+00:00

S13

DKU Board Meeting Held at Wuhan University

2013-11-28

Duke Kunshan University

Supports: The inaugural DKU board approved Articles of Association and bylaws; its membership included Duke, Wuhan University and Kunshan-linked representatives.

Locator: First and second body paragraphs; November 11–12, 2013 board meeting and institutional affiliations of trustees.

Limit: Historical governance evidence only. This edition does not claim those individuals or board composition remain current.

Open original source ↗ — <https://news.dukekunshan.edu.cn/campus-news/https-dukekunshan-edu-cn-en-dku-board-meeting-held-wuhan-university/>
Request metadata and SHA-256: [source register](#)
GET · HTTP 200 · retrieved 2026-09-12T15:17:26.520169+00:00

Source access, translations and research limits

The former WIV English profile failed certificate validation; an older DKU welcome URL returned HTTP 503. We used dated, reachable WIV Chinese and Duke/DKU institutional originals instead. No security checks were disabled, and no failed access was treated as evidence against an institution.

Chinese terms are paraphrased: 事业单位 means public institution here; 党委, Party committee; 党组, Party group. Article dates, not later URL migration paths, date the claims. Exact retrieval times and request bodies are in the [source register](#).

This is an analyst-reviewed edition. No external peer review or global coverage is claimed. The [full report](#) records the scope and edition history; the [review notes](#) document verification.

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