

Russian Disinformation Targeting Los Alamos National Laboratory

CLAIM

A Russian military official recently presented blatantly false information attempting to tie NNSA's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to Russia's false accusations of U.S.-funded bioweapons research in Ukraine.

RATING



FALSE

TRUTH

Los Alamos researchers are engaged in work to protect the global community – including Russia – from bird-borne infectious diseases.

FACTS

- The Russian military official claimed that “scientific supervision” of the alleged bioweapons effort “is carried out by leading research organizations, including the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which develops nuclear weapons.”
- In fact, the only research effort in Ukraine with Los Alamos National Lab involvement is an effort to protect European and African nations – including Russia – from bird-borne diseases.
- Los Alamos participates in an international effort aimed at detecting dangerous infectious diseases such as bird-borne influenza.
- Other partners include researchers from Georgia, Jordan and Ukraine. The international team was working along the Mediterranean and Black Sea Flyway, a migration route for birds that hundreds of migratory bird species follow every year as they move back and forth between locations in Africa, across the Mediterranean and Black seas, and into Europe and Western Russia.
- The research is funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the Department of Defense. It is aimed at investigating the presence of pathogens in migratory birds and boosting biosurveillance capabilities in partner countries to help protect their people.
- The research is hardly secret – LANL and other participants have all publicized their involvement. The DTRA Cooperative Threat Reduction Program is a transparent program.
- Bird-borne infectious diseases are a recognized global health threat, including to Russia.



Studying wing feathers is an important part of disease biosurveillance in birds to assess their health, condition, and age. This is valuable for building population models for species and for assessing the impacts of mass mortality events and the relative risk of new spillover diseases. *Jeanne Fair/LANL*

<https://www.lanl.gov/discover/publications/1663/2021-february/one-planet-one-health.shtml>