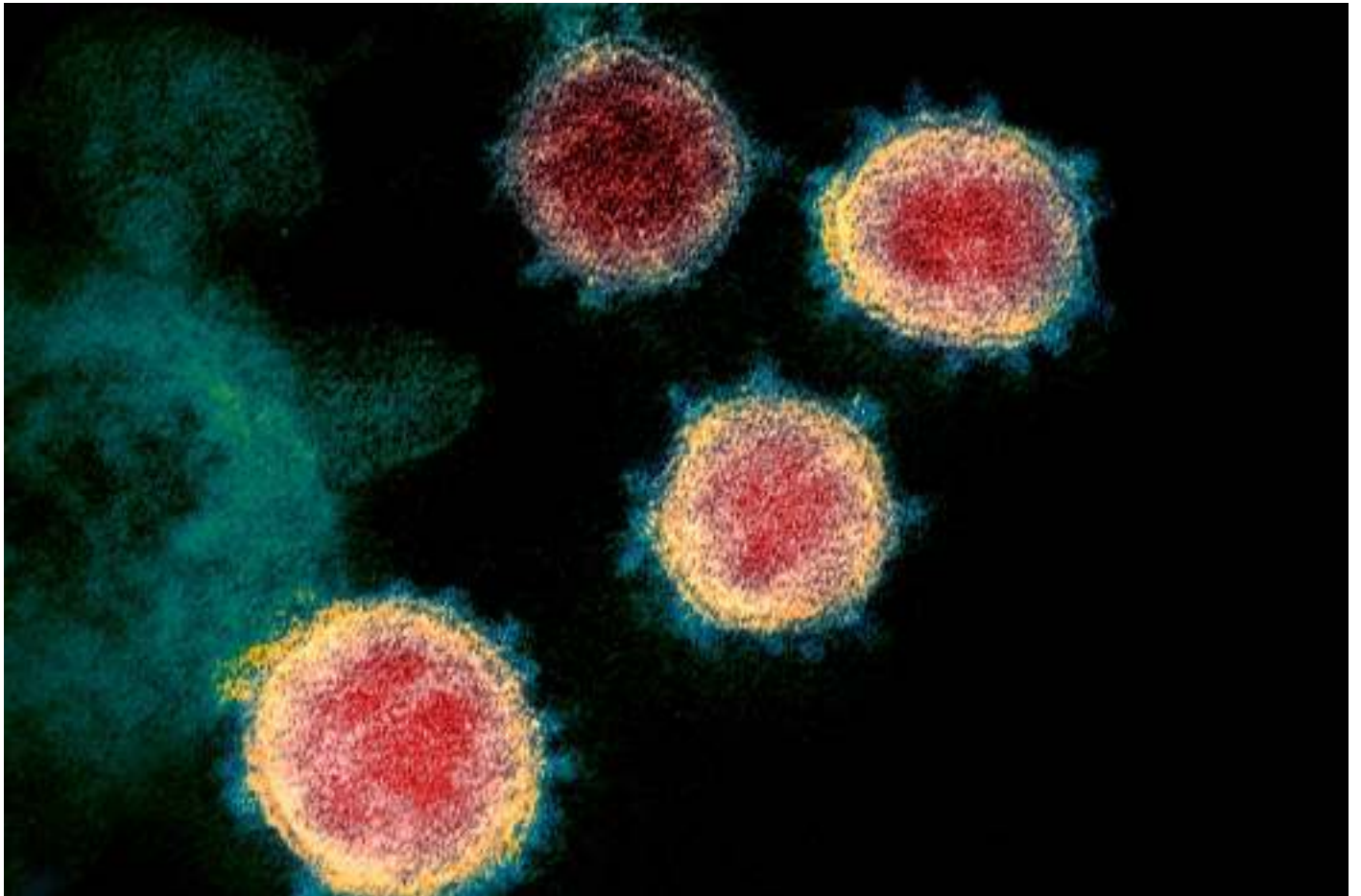


## Wuhan lab head calls virus leak claims 'pure fabrication'

Wang Yani pushed back on suggestions from the U.S.



This undated electron microscope image made available by the National Institutes of Health in February 2020 shows the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. | NIAID-RML via AP

By ASSOCIATED PRESS  
05/24/2020 07:38 AM EDT



NEW YORK — Claims promoted by the Trump administration that the global coronavirus pandemic originated at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in the central Chinese city are a “pure fabrication,” the institute’s director said.

Wang Yanyi was quoted by state media Sunday as saying the institute did not have “any knowledge before that nor had we ever met, researched or kept the virus ... We didn’t even know about the existence of the virus, so how could it be leaked from our lab when we didn’t have it?”

President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have repeatedly said they suspect the virus that was first detected in Wuhan was somehow

Most scientists say the pathogen that has infected 5.3 million and killed more than 342,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University, was passed from bats to humans via an intermediary species likely sold at a wet market in Wuhan late last year.

The virus’ toll continued to ebb in Asia and other parts of the world, with China on Sunday reporting three new confirmed cases and just 79 people remaining in treatment for COVID-19.

The New York Times devoted Sunday’s entire front page to a long list of names of people who have died in the pandemic.

The names and brief descriptions culled from obituaries from around the country fill six columns under the headline “U.S. Deaths Near 100,000, an Incalculable Loss.”

“They Were Not Simply Names on a List. They Were Us,” read the subheadline.

SHOW COMMENTS

SPONSORED CONTENT

By |



**Top Gut Doctor: I Beg All Americans To Throw Out This Vegetable**



**Hourly Rates Of Lawyers In Lasalle Might Surprise You**



**Urologist: Try This If You Have Enlarged Prostate (Watch)**



**Porsche-Designed Superyacht, Royal Falcon One, Hits the Market**

**Reduce Low Back Pain & Sciatica with One Seated Stretch (Watch)**

[About Us](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Breaking News Alerts](#)

[Careers](#)

[Credit Card Payments](#)

[Digital Edition](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Headlines](#)

[Photos](#)

[POWERJobs](#)

[Press](#)

[Print Subscriptions](#)

[Write For Us](#)

[RSS](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Do not sell my info](#)

