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EXCLUSIVE: Hunter Biden Bio Firm Partnered With Ukrainian Researchers 'Isolating Deadly Pathogens' Using Funds From Obama's Defense Department.

by *Natalie Winters Raheem J. Kassam*

9-11 minutes

An [investment](#) firm directed by President Joe [Biden](#)'s son [Hunter Biden](#) was a leading financial backer of a [pandemic](#) tracking and response firm that collaborated on identifying and isolating deadly pathogens in Ukrainian laboratories, receiving funds from the [Obama](#) administration's [Department of Defense](#) in the process, The [National Pulse](#) can exclusively reveal.

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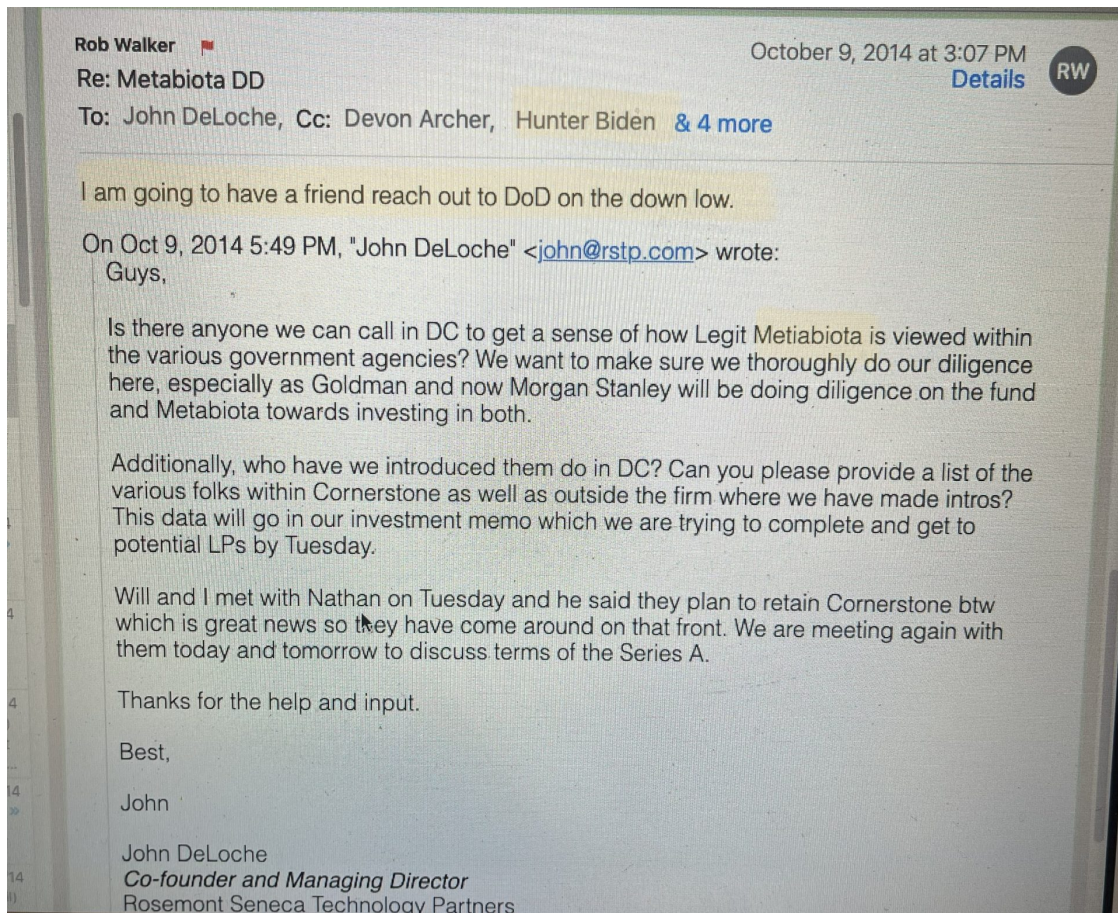
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Rosemont Seneca Technology Partners (RSTP) – a subsidiary of the [Hunter Biden](#) and Christopher Heinz-[founded](#) Rosemont Capital – counted both Biden and Heinz as [managing directors](#). Heinz is the stepson of former U.S. Secretary of State and current Climate czar John Kerry.

Amongst the companies listed on [archived](#) versions of the RSTP's portfolio is Metabiota – an ostensibly San Francisco-based company that [purports](#) to detect, track, and analyze emerging infectious diseases.

Financial reports reveal that RSTP led the company's first round of funding in 2015, which [amounted](#) to \$30 million. Former managing director and co-founder of RSTP [Neil Callahan](#) – a name that also [appears](#) many times on Hunter Biden's hard drive – sits on Metabiota's Board of Advisors alongside former Clinton official Rob Walker who discussed, in another unearthed Hunter Biden hard drive e-mail, reaching out to the Obama Department

of Defense with regard to Metabiota.



Exclusive: New e-mails confirm the Metabiota/DOD [/Ukraine](#) links.

In July 2021, The National Pulse [exclusively revealed the connection](#) between Metabiota, Hunter Biden, and the pandemic-linked [EcoHealth](#) Alliance which worked closely with [Anthony Fauci](#)'s National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) and the notorious [Wuhan](#) laboratory.

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Today, we can exclusively reveal an official connection between the Biden-linked pandemic firm and biological laboratories based in Ukraine. In early March we revealed how these labs were handling “[especially](#) dangerous pathogens” through programs funded by the U.S. [government](#). The [potential](#) for such entities to fall into the hands of invading Russian forces has come under hotly disputed scrutiny in recent weeks.

‘Zoonotic Diseases’

A [feature](#) in the [Science](#) and Technology Center in Ukraine’s (STCU) 2016 [Annual Report](#) recounts a “Trilateral Meeting with Ukraine, Poland, and the [United States](#) Regional Collaboration on Biological [Security](#), Safety, and Surveillance.”

The article describes in particular an October 2016 meeting involving U.S. [military](#) officials and their Ukrainian counterparts discussing “cooperation in surveillance and prevention of especially dangerous infectious diseases, including zoonotic diseases in Ukraine and neighboring countries.”





2016 meeting.

In attendance were representatives from the Biden-linked Metabiota, roughly one year after Hunter's investment funds put cash into the company.

Attendees also included:

- US Department of Defense [Defense Threat Reduction Agency] (DTRA) (K. Garrett, G. Braunstein, W. Sosnowski, and J. Wintrol);
- [Black](#) & Veatch and Metabiota corporations (D. Mustra, Dr. M. Guttieri, S. Anderson, T. Borth and others);
- Curtis "BJ" Bjelajac, Executive Director, and Vlada Pashynska, Senior Specialist represented the STCU.

"The meeting focused on existing frameworks,

regulatory coordination, and ongoing cooperative projects in research, surveillance and diagnostics of a number of dangerous zoonotic diseases, such as avian [influenza](#), leptospirosis, Crimea Congo hemorrhagic fever, and brucellosis,” explains the summary:

Science & Technology Center in Ukraine

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRILATERAL MEETING WITH UKRAINE, POLAND, AND THE UNITED STATES REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON BIOLOGICAL SECURITY, SAFETY, AND SURVEILLANCE



On October 3-4, 2016 in Lviv, Ukraine, a tri-lateral meeting with representatives of Ukraine, Poland, and the United States of America convened to discuss regional collaboration on biological security, safety, and surveillance. Attendees included government and scientific experts, who discussed regional (Ukraine and Poland) cooperation in surveillance and prevention of especially dangerous infectious diseases, including zoonotic diseases in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Ukraine's delegation included representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (O. Kapustin), Ministry of Health (Dr. N. Vydaiko), Ministry of Defense (M. Usatyi) and State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection (M. Bilous). Scientific experts from the Institute of Laboratory Diagnostics and Veterinary-Sanitary

Expertise in Kyiv and Lviv's Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene also took an active part in the discussions.

The Chief Veterinary Officer of the National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy, Mr. W. Skorupski, led the Polish delegation which included subject matter experts from the same organization.

The United States delegation included representatives of the US Department of Defense DTRA (K. Garrett, G. Braunstein, W. Sosnowski, and J. Wintrol), as well as representatives of the Black & Veatch and Metabiota corporations (D. Mustra, Dr. M. Guttieri, S. Anderson, T. Borth and others). Curtis "BJ" Bjelajac, Executive Director, and Viada Pashynska, Senior Specialist represented the STCU.

The meeting focused on existing frameworks, regulatory coordination, and ongoing cooperative projects in research, surveillance and diagnostics of a number of dangerous zoonotic diseases, such as avian influenza, leptospirosis, Crimea Congo hemorrhagic fever, and brucellosis. A special session was devoted to the current increase in cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) in both Ukraine and Poland. Delegates discussed countermeasures and possible cooperation between the Ukrainian and Polish veterinary services and their specialists, to develop more effective approaches to eradicate and control the spread of ASF in Ukraine, Poland, and other European countries.

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STUC Annual Report (p. 6)

A separate [page](#) from the STCU website details another meeting between Metabiota representatives, Ukrainian scientists, and U.S. Department of Defense officials aimed at increasing collaboration while attending a Swine Fever workshop just months later:

“In the framework of the workshop, special breakout meetings of Ukrainian scientists with their [European](#) and American counterparts were jointly organized by the STCU, DTRA and Metabiota Inc.. During those breakout meetings, specialists from each country worked to establish effective contacts in order to encourage future cooperation, as well as to identify future scientific projects with Ukrainian and western veterinary institutions in the area of ASF control and investigation.”

Government contracts also corroborate the working relationship between Metabiota, Ukrainian laboratories, and the U.S. Defense Department, with the firm receiving an \$18.4 million grant from the U.S. agency in 2014. A total of \$307,091, allocated to Metabiota on September 25th, was [itemized](#) for “Ukraine research projects.”

Several scientific papers – including those isolating strains of deadly pathogens like “virulent African Swine Fever [Virus](#)” – appear to have been published following the grant.

A 2019 [paper](#) titled “Complete Genome Sequence of a Virulent African Swine Fever Virus from a Domestic Pig in Ukraine” was authored by researchers from Metabiota and three Ukraine-based institutes.

The researchers, whose work is described as being “funded by the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) through the Biological Threat Reduction Program in Ukraine,” isolated the strain of the deadly virus using a pig from Ukraine:

“Tissue samples were collected from a domestic pig from ASF outbreak number 131 in Kyiv Oblast, Ukraine, in 2016. The samples were frozen, and total [DNA](#) was extracted in duplicate from spleen tissue using the PowerMicrobiome RNA isolation kit (Mo Bio) following the manufacturer’s protocol.”



Complete Genome Sequence of a Virulent African Swine Fever Virus from a Domestic Pig in Ukraine

Ganna Kovalenko,^a Anne-Lise Ducluzeau,^b Liudmyla Ishchenko,^a Mykola Sushko,^c Maryna Sapachova,^c Nataliia Rudova,^d Oleksii Solodiankin,^d Anton Gerilovych,^d Ralf Dagdag,^e Matthew Redlinger,^e Maksym Bezymennyi,^a Maciej Frant,^f Christian E. Lange,^g Inna Dubchak,^h Andrii A. Mezhenyskiy,^c Serhiy Nychyk,^a Eric Bortz,^{a,e} Devin M. Drown^{b,i}

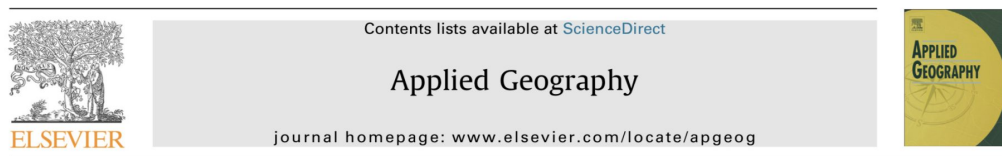
- ^aInstitute of Veterinary Medicine (IVM), National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine
- ^bInstitute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA
- ^cState Scientific Research Institute of Laboratory Diagnostics and Veterinary and Sanitary Expertise (SSRILDVSE), Kiev, Ukraine
- ^dNational Scientific Center Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine (NSC IECVM), Kharkiv, Ukraine
- ^eDepartment of Biological Sciences, University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska, USA
- ^fNational Veterinary Research Institute (NVR), Pulawy, Poland
- ^gMetabiota, San Francisco, California, USA
- ^hJoint Genome Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA
- ⁱDepartment of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

‘Anthrax’

Furthermore, a 2014 [paper](#) “Spatio-Temporal Patterns of Livestock Anthrax in Ukraine During the Past Century (1913-2012)” lists an author, Artem Skrypnyk, then affiliated with a Ukraine-based branch of the pandemic firm.

“Our primary objective was to examine the spatiotemporal dynamics of the disease and identify areas where anthrax may persist in the present day,” posits the paper.

Applied Geography 54 (2014) 129–138



Spatio-temporal patterns of livestock anthrax in Ukraine during the past century (1913–2012)



Maksym Bezymennyi ^{a,1}, Karoun H. Bagamian ^{b, c, 1}, Alassane Barro ^{b, c}, Artem Skrypnyk ^d, Valeriy Skrypnyk ^e, Jason K. Blackburn ^{b, c, 4}

^a Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Academy of Agrarian Sciences, Kyiv, Ukraine

^b Spatial Epidemiology & Ecology Research Laboratory, Department of Geography, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

^c Emerging Pathogens Institute, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

^d Metabiota Inc., Kyiv, Ukraine

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Skrypnyk's Ukraine Anthrax study, funded by the U.S. government.

“Examining the historical epizootiology of a disease can identify the geographic extent of environmental foci, define areas prone to repeat outbreaks, and lead to a better understanding of natural disease cycles.”

Acknowledgments

This work was funded by the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Cooperative Biological Engagement Program through the UP-2 Cooperative Biological Research Project in Ukraine. Comments from G. Glass significantly improved the manuscript.

Page 10 of the Anthrax study reveals the U.S. government funding.

Skrypnyk is also listed as a Metabiota scientist in other papers including “[Dynamics](#) of anthrax cases in Ukraine during 1970-2013,” “[Anthrax](#) in Dogs,” and “[Serological](#) Anthrax Surveillance in Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) in Ukraine.”

One paper aimed “to better understand anthrax epizootiology in Ukraine,” collecting samples from anthrax hotspots with funds from the U.S. DTRA's Cooperative Biological Engagement Program in

Ukraine.

“We tested wild boar serum samples collected across Ukraine for antibodies to *B. anthracis* and determined whether exposed boars were associated with livestock anthrax hotspots,” explains the paper.



УДК 636.09:616.98:636.7

V.G. SKRYPNYK, DVM¹
R.V. KOZIY, postgraduate student¹
A.V. SKRYPNYK, PhD²
I.O. RUBLENKO, PhD¹
K.H. BAGAMIAN, PhD³
J. FARLOW, PhD⁴
M.-J. NICOLICH, PhD⁵
A.O. MEZHENSKIY, PhD⁶
O.M. NEVOLKO, PhD⁶
J.K. BLACKBURN, PhD³

→¹ State Scientific Control Institute of Biotechnology and Strains of Microorganisms, Kyiv, Ukraine
→² Metabiota Inc., Kyiv, Ukraine
→³ Emerging Pathogens Institute & Department of Geography, University of Florida, USA
→⁴ Arizona State University, USA
→⁵ Walter Reed Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD, USA
→⁶ The State Scientific Research Institute of Laboratory Diagnostic and Veterinary Sanitary Expertise, Kyiv, Ukraine

ANTHRAX IN DOGS

Dynamics of anthrax cases in Ukraine during 1970-2013

V. Skrypnyk^{1,*}, A. Golovko¹, A. Skrypnyk², I. Rublenko¹

¹ State Scientific-Control Institute of Biotechnology and Microorganisms, Kiev, Ukraine
² Metabiota Inc., Kiev, Ukraine

Background: Over 9000 anthrax foci are registered in Ukraine with more than 4000 burials of animals died from anthrax. They are located national wide and have potential threat of animal anthrax outbreaks.
Methods & Materials: Data of State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine and State Statistical Committee have been used.

Studying Anthrax in dogs.

Skrypnyk, the Metabiota-affiliated researcher, worked as VTechnical Officer for Laboratories for the World [Health](#) Organization (WHO).

Additionally, two researchers – Nataliya Mykhaylovska and Bradford Raymond Brooks – are

listed as Ukraine-based Metabiota researchers in a paper titled “[Implementation](#) of a Regional Training Program on African Swine Fever As Part of the Cooperative Biological Engagement Program across the Caucasus Region.”

The aforementioned paper even references a Metabiota office in Ukraine’s capital city of Kiev, whose existence appears to be corroborated by a summary of the company’s operational structure.



“The company’s international footprint includes operations in 20 countries and offices in San Francisco, Washington, Ukraine, [China](#), [Canada](#), and Sierra Leone,” [explains](#) the summary.

Additionally, LinkedIn profiles of former Metabiota [employees](#) detail the work conducted by the

company's Kyiv outpost.

Former Country Science Manager for Eastern Europe David Mustra explains how he “manga[ed] Metabiota’s team of twelve Ukrainian-National personnel” and served as “the Biosurveillance and Research Manager for Metabiota’s work as a subcontractor, under the direction of prime contractor Black & Veatch (B&V), on the Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s (DTRA) Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) Biological Threat Reduction Integrating Contract (BTRIC) – Ukraine.”

He also explains how the company liaised with “Government of Ukraine officials” from agencies including the Ministry of Defense.



David Mustra

Executive Director, Science Policy and Strategy at Labyrinth Global Health, Inc.



Country Science Manager, Eastern Europe

Metabiota · Full-time

Jul 2015 - Apr 2020 · 4 yrs 10 mos

Kyiv, Ukraine

As an OCONUS Country Science Manager based in Kyiv, Ukraine I managed Metabiota's science-based operations in Eastern Europe and contributed as needed to meeting company goals and objectives, both domestic and international. In addition to managing Metabiota's team of twelve Ukrainian-National personnel, my primary job function in Ukraine included serving as the Biosurveillance and Research Manager for Metabiota's work as a subcontractor, under the direction of prime contractor Black & Veatch (B&V), on the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) Biological Threat Reduction Integrating Contract (BTRIC) - Ukraine. As part of my role I served as a primary point of contact for technical matters to Government of Ukraine officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ministry of Education and Science, as well as to other international organizations and donor agencies operating within Ukraine.

Another Metabiota employee – Dr. Petro Mutovkin – who served as a Human Biosurveillance Specialist

and Project Manager from 2015 to 2016 reveals his role in “facilitating activities within US Department of Defence Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) in Ukraine” on his LinkedIn [profile](#).

“Laboratory facility assessment, laboratory diagnostic and BS&S training, [and] biological risk assessment and mitigation” are among the other tasks he engaged in.

The revelation surrounding President [Joe Biden](#)’s son’s financial involvement with Ukrainian biological laboratories experimenting with pathogens, animals, and anthrax follows The National Pulse [unearthing Metabiota’s ties to EcoHealth Alliance](#), a key entity in the origins of [COVID](#)-19 and cover-up efforts.

