Scientists focus on COVID's animal origins

AP Science Writer

Nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the origin of the virus causing the worldwide pandemic remains shrouded in mystery. Most scientists believe it emerged in the wild and jumped to humans, either directly or through an intermediate animal. How it evolved is a matter of debate that has engaged a chorus of scientists trying to keep the focus on what they think is the most plausible “plausible” animal-to-human scenario.

Some believe that bats are the reservoir for the virus, and that the virus evolved naturally and then jumped to humans. Others think the virus emerged in the wild and jumped to humans, either directly or through an intermediate animal. How it evolved is a matter of debate that has engaged a chorus of scientists trying to keep the focus on what they think is the most plausible “plausible” animal-to-human scenario.

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