

## **Dancing Naked in the Mind Field**

by Kary Mullis, 1998

Published by Pantheon Books

---

Kary Mullis is best known for winning a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1993 for his discovery of PCR (polymerase chain reaction), a technique which allows amplification of specified DNA sequences. I read Mullis's 1998 book twice in preparation for this review, with many months between readings. During the first reading, I was struck by how many outrageous things he said, and by his willingness to subject himself to ridicule from mainstream scientists by mentioning out of body travel, alien abduction, telepathy, astrology and the like. I guess a Nobel Prize gives the prize holder a kind of immunity against such ridicule, or perhaps just the license to speculate. At any rate, Mullis seems to have suffered no ill effects from his supposed abduction by aliens (in the form of a glowing raccoon) nor from taking high doses of psychedelic drugs.

During the second reading, however, I played detective. I tried to find clues to the roots of Mullis' denial regarding two major issues – 1. denial that global warming is real, and 2. denial that HIV causes AIDS. Although the book is short and the history therein thin, I managed to connect a few dots.

The first dot was given in chapter 3 where Mullis is describing his disgust at a safety officer at Cetus, *"I called him the danger officer because all he ever did was put up DANGER signs. A danger officer wants to find dangerous things because it gives him more power. Just like a toxicologist would like to find as many toxins as possible. If you are paid to be a safety officer in a lab, you will find danger whether there is any or not."*

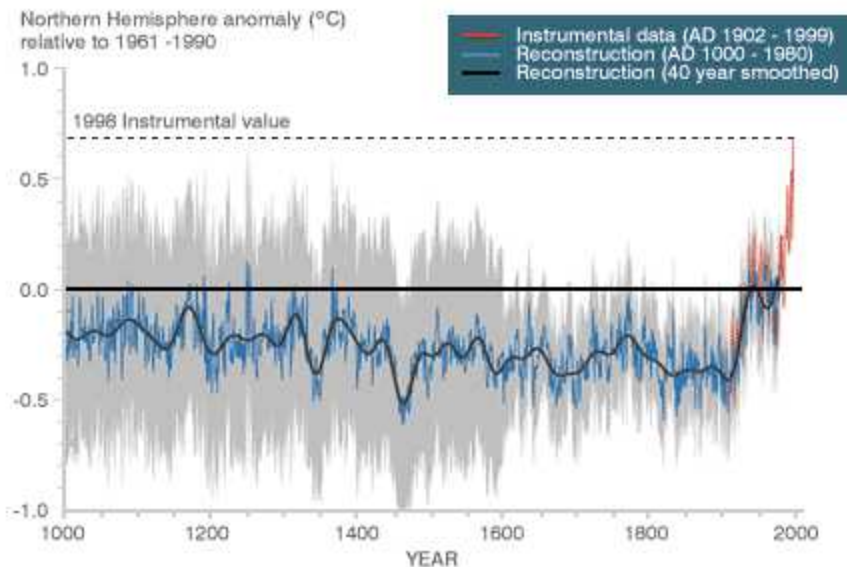
Mullis continues with the theme of self-interest trumping reality in chapter 10, *"—when someone comes on the seven o'clock news with word that the global temperature is going up...More likely they [scientists] are minding their own livelihoods."* Then in the next chapter, the author goes on a rant, *"Who pays these experts? Is it the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the United Nations is supporting with our money? Or is it the Environmental Protection Agency which you were bitching about today because your company was having to close down one of its plants due to some fish that might go extinct, and you might get transferred in the shuffle? Is it the Tropical Oceans and Global Atmosphere Group? Is it the Artic Climate System Study? Is it the Marlowe Walker Eternity Endowment? Is it the World Ocean Circulation Experiment? Is it the World Bank Global Environmental Facility? Is it Greenpeace? The Sierra Club? You are too tired from your day to try to figure it out...But the sun never sets on the British Empire or bureaucrats—environmentalists, as many of them are called today. Sleep soundly. Your planet is in well-fed hands."*

It's surprising Exxon-Mobil hasn't used Mullis' rant in one of their slick propaganda pieces, although it seems that Michael Crichton did take Mullis' views seriously in formulating the novel *"State of Fear,"* where the plot revolves around environmentalists

using fear to generate money in order to perpetuate their organizations and their jobs, while deceiving people about the reality of global warming.

Mullis continues, *“The concept that human beings are capable of causing the planet to overheat is...ridiculous....Even if the temperature were going up, we would be foolish to think we caused it....The trend over the last two centuries is down. Down is not up.”*

Mullis doesn't say where he got his data, but it is counter to the observed temperatures on the surface of the planet. Here is the graph of global temperatures from the 2001 IPCC report:



The last IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report in 2001 said there was "new and stronger evidence" that gases released by burning fossil fuels in power plants, factories and cars were warming the planet. The IPCC, grouping research by about 2,000 scientists, will present its next report to the United Nations in 2007. The report is the mainstay for environmental policy-making. – Reuters, 03-06-2006.

Not only does Mullis not accept the findings and conclusions of the overwhelming majority of experts in the field, he uses his own non-expert assessments as justification to vilify scientists and activists working to slow global warming.

*"Global warmers predict that global warming is coming, and our emissions are to blame. They do that to keep us worried about our role in the whole thing. If we aren't worried and guilty, we might not pay their salaries. It's that simple."*

( [http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Global\\_warming](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Global_warming) )

When it comes to HIV and AIDS, Mullis seems to have swallowed the discredited views of Peter Duesberg hook, line and sinker. First, regarding Gallo's original papers in *Science*, which first associated a virus with AIDS Mullis says, *“all they had said there was that they had found evidence of a past infection by something which was probably HIV in some AIDS patients. They found antibodies. Antibodies to viruses had always*

*been considered evidence of past disease, not present disease. Antibodies signaled that the virus had been defeated.*” The idea that the presence of antibodies means HIV has been cleared by the immune system is patently false. The same would be true of any long-lasting viral infection. To say that the presence of antibodies means the virus has been cleared is like saying that the presence of soldiers means the war is over, and we won. It’s absurd.

Mullis then spends one-fourth of the chapter (Case not Closed) lauding Peter Duesberg while taking shots at Bob Gallo, Luc Montagnier, government agencies, and AIDS science. For example, *“They had been trained to obtain grants from the government, hire people to do research, and write papers that usually ended with the notion that further research should be done along these same lines – preferably by them and paid for by someone else. One of them was Bob Gallo.”* And, *“Margaret [Heckler, Secretary of the department of Health, Education and Welfare] called a press conference and introduced Dr. Robert Gallo, who suavely pulled off his wraparound sunglasses and announced to the world press, ‘Gentlemen, we have found the cause of AIDS!’ And that was it.”* And later, *“HIV didn’t suddenly pop out of the rain forest or Haiti. It just popped into Bob Gallo’s hands at a time when he needed a new career.”*

Mullis’s assessment of AZT and AIDS care in Africa is summed up in a truly bizarre statement, *“From the point of view of spreading medical facilities into the world where poor people live, AIDS has been a boon. We don’t poison them with AZT like we do our own people because it’s too expensive. We supply dressings for the machete cut on their left knee and call it AIDS.”* Does the Nobel laureate really think that doctors and nurses cannot tell the difference between a cut and AIDS, or that they are so lacking in integrity as to lie about people’s health for their own self-interest?

He goes on to condemn the CDC, *“The CDC continues to add new diseases to the grand AIDS definition. The CDC has virtually doctored the books to make it appear as if the disease continues to spread.”* Mullis then takes a swipe at AIDS science with the broad side of a shovel, *“Science as it is practiced today in the world is largely not science at all. What people call science is probably very similar to what was called science in 1634. Galileo was told to recant his beliefs or be excommunicated. People who refuse to accept the commandments of the AIDS establishment are basically told the same thing, ‘if you don’t accept what we say, you’re out.’”*

Then, true to Duesberg’s views, Mullis blames the victims for their problems, *“Think of the immune system as a camel. If the camel is overloaded, it collapses. In the 1970s we had a significant number of highly mobile, promiscuous men sharing bodily fluids and fast life styles and drugs. It was probable that a metropolitan homosexual would be exposed to damn near every infectious organism that has lived on humans...”*

But the immune system is not a camel, and there is no evidence anywhere in the immunology literature that exposure to multiple infections can cause the serious opportunistic diseases seen in AIDS. And this view does not account for non-drug-using, non-promiscuous people who obtained HIV from the medical blood supply

(before it was screened for HIV) or from a sexual partner, then developed AIDS and died. And it doesn't explain the AIDS deaths of children who obtained the virus from their mother.

Mullis concludes the chapter with: *“A segment of our society was experimenting with a life style and it didn't work. They got sick. Another segment of our pluralistic society, call them doctor/scientist refugees from the failed War on Cancer, or just call them professional jackals, discovered that it did work. It worked for them. They are still making payments on their BMWs out of your pocket.”*

I suppose if one really believes HIV does not cause AIDS and it's all been an elaborate, well-executed scam, then you can say such things and think you're shedding light on a shady situation. But HIV/AIDS science is peer-reviewed, not cooked up in some smoke-filled room. And Duesberg's views that drugs are the cause of AIDS have never been proven and in fact have been discredited (see <http://www.aidstruth.org/science-magazine-review.php>). Mullis is guilty, I'm afraid, of mistaking his own projections -- or perhaps those of Peter Duesberg -- for reality. Maybe that glowing raccoon outside his Mendocino cabin, or the diethyltryptamine, did some damage after all.

Bob Funkhouser  
AIDSTruth.org