

May 28, 2020

Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
5601 Fishers Lane
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Fauci,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the more than 47,000 laboratory, translational, and clinical researchers; physicians and other healthcare professionals; population scientists; and patient advocates who constitute our national and international membership, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your remarkable leadership on behalf of the American people during the COVID-19 health crisis.

During the past several months, you have consistently communicated clear, science-based guidance to our elected leaders and have expressed extraordinary and heartfelt support for our nation's health care workers. You have also become the face of America's COVID-19 response, while providing factual information and a calm reassurance to the American public at this time of great concern about the spread and impact of the novel coronavirus. We could not have asked for a more effective representative of the scientific community to be in your important position at this critical time in our nation's history.

Throughout your distinguished career, you have been recognized both for your contributions to basic and clinical research, and for your expert guidance and oversight at one of the largest institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Your research on HIV/AIDS, among many other diseases, has contributed to treatments that have saved and improved the lives of millions of people. We also recognize that during your stellar 36 years as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), you have provided authoritative and sage advice and counsel to six U.S. Presidents, along with strong leadership when our nation has faced a series of infectious disease threats.

The AACR and its tens of thousands of members who reside in 127 countries stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to address and alleviate the COVID-19 public health emergency. As the first and largest organization dedicated to the prevention and cure of all cancers through research and patient care, the AACR has the capacity to marshal its members' expertise and broad experience to aid the national COVID-19 response. The scientific and clinical knowledge of cancer researchers uniquely qualifies them to contribute in a major way to overcome this pandemic. As you know, cancer researchers are at the forefront of all

subdisciplines in biomedical research, the development of molecular diagnostics and therapeutics, and viral epidemiology, and there is a convergence of coronavirus biology with cancer biology that will have scientific importance.

Thank you again for all that you have done and continue to do to ensure that we approach this epidemic with the same scientific rigor that has helped us conquer so many other health threats in the past. We are sincerely grateful for your ongoing leadership to defeat this major new threat to our nation's health.

With admiration and respect,



Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)
Chief Executive Officer