



Dr. Anthony Fauci

Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Vignette
by National Journal

Life In Brief

Current Title: Director

Born: December 24, 1940

Hometown: New York City, NY

Marital Status: Married

Education:

- MD, Cornell University Medical College, 1966
- BS, College of the Holy Cross

Family:

- Wife, Christine Grady, head of the Department of Bioethics at the NIH Clinical Center
- Three children

Work History:

- Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 1984-present
- Chief of the Laboratory of Immunoregulation, NIH, 1980-1984
- Head of the Clinical Physiology Section of the NIH Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, 1974-1980
- Clinical Associate in the NIH Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, 1968-1974

Quick Summary

Esteemed immunologist with a long career of researching communicable diseases; known for his early research on HIV/AIDS and clear and accessible communication style

- Views science from a physician's perspective and bridges the gap between scientific research and individualized medicine

- Became involved in HIV/AIDS research out of interest in a new disease that had yet to be studied; went against the advice of his immunology mentors to do so
- Has spent time in developing countries to apply his research to those in need of treatment
- His credibility and honest demeanor have kept him in his position through six presidents
- Speaks frankly but reassuringly about threats, such as correcting misinformation on disease severity while also reporting what is being done to address the threat
- Has been a notable figure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, frequently testifying before Congress and discussing the outbreak with the media

Approach and Motivations

Credits his Jesuit education for instilling his value of public service; contributes to public service not only through research, but also by including the public in the scientific discourse

- Cares for patients directly, in addition to conducting research
- Speaks about issues in a clear way that average people can understand
- Uses media outlets to keep the public informed during times of uncertainty, such as the COVID-19 pandemic
- Includes concerned members of the public in discussions of how to address crises, such as listening to the concerns of HIV/AIDS activists in the 1980s against the advice of his peers



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Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Fauci has focused on addressing HIV/AIDS, potential bioterrorism, Ebola, and COVID-19

HIV/AIDS: *Spent most of his career researching HIV/AIDS to prevent its spread*

- Invited AIDS activists into the conversation in the 1980s against the advice of his peers
- Worked with activists to expand experimental drug access without compromising clinical trials
- Top goal is to develop an HIV vaccine
- Worked on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries

Bioterrorism Prevention: *Worked on the Bush Administration's Project Bioshield*

- Supported startup drug companies developing bioterrorism countermeasures with NIH grants and contracts following 9/11
- Shifted funding from mostly academic research

Ebola: *Was an informative figure during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa*

- Advised against a travel ban to African countries affected by Ebola, as it could make it harder for aid to get in
- Informed Congress about the efforts NIAID was making to create a cure or vaccine for Ebola
- Defended the CDC against criticism for lack of preparation for American medical professionals returning from treating Ebola patients in Africa

COVID-19: *Has criticized the manner in which the government responded to the outbreak*

- Initiated work on a vaccine shortly after hearing about pneumonia cases in China in January
- Expressed to Congress that lack of government implementation of testing early on was a failing
- Critical of the CDC's narrow criteria for who could receive testing, especially compared to other countries such as South Korea

Core Communities

Fauci's core communities include his research peers, NIAID leadership, and research entities funded by NIAID

Research Co-Authors: *Frequently collaborates with other medical professionals to publish research related to infectious diseases*

- Has published several papers pertaining to HIV/AIDS with Drs. Robert W. Eisinger and Maureen M. Goodenow; has also worked with Eisinger on tuberculosis research
- Has worked with Drs. Catherine I. Paules and Hilary D. Marston on publications related to influenza, tick borne diseases, measles, and recent articles on COVID-19
- Has co-authored articles with CDC Director Robert Redfield discussing COVID-19, Ebola, and HIV from a policy perspective

NIAID-Funded Entities: *NIAID has provided funding to various entities for drug research*

- Biotech company Moderna has reached Phase 1 of developing a COVID-19 vaccine with NIAID funding using the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute
- Dr. Hunein Maassab of the University of Michigan was funded in the 1990s to develop a nasal spray flu vaccine, resulting in FluMist



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- Provided funding to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics in the mid-2000s to develop a new test for tuberculosis, resulting in Xpert MTB/RIF

NIAID Leadership: *Fauci's office contains highly educated NIAID figures*

- Hugh Auchincloss, John J. McGowan, and H. Clifford Lane have been heavily involved with HIV/AIDS research during their careers
- F. Gray Handley was previously a public health diplomat and worked with OMB and DoD

Publications, Media and Speaking

Highly published researcher with numerous media and speaking engagements throughout his career, especially since the COVID-19 virus

Publications: *Has published over 1300 pieces of research, particularly about HIV/AIDS*

- Fauci AS, et al., *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, 17th ed., 2008
- Johnston MI and Fauci AS, "An HIV Vaccine – Challenges and Prospects," *New England Journal of Medicine*, August 2008
- Morens DM, Folkers GK, Fauci AS, "The Challenge of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases," *Nature*, July 2004

Media: *Has made numerous appearances on national outlets since the COVID-19 outbreak*

- Preferred Outlets: National cable news networks like CNN, CBS, Fox News, PBS; social media such as Facebook Live and Instagram Live; engagement with celebrities like Steph Curry and Mark Zuckerberg

- Favorite Subjects: How the virus has spread, how to mitigate the spread of the virus, the development of a vaccine, forecast for the US

Speaking: *Has given speeches to other academics to share his HIV/AIDS research*

- Favorite Subjects: His research in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, disease prevention
- Preferred Audience: Academia, scientific and medical symposiums; Einstein-Rockefeller-CUNY Center for AIDS Research, Keystone Symposia Joint Meetings on HIV, X-STEM Symposium, Harvard School of Public Health

Congressional Testimony: *Has testified before various Congressional committees, most recently to discuss the COVID-19 outbreak*

- Testified before various Congressional committees since the COVID-19 outbreak
- Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, testified before Congress frequently to discuss the NIH budget

Professional Affiliations

- National Academy of Sciences
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- National Academy of Medicine
- American Philosophical Society
- Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters
- American Society for Clinical Investigation
- Infectious Diseases Society of America
- American Association of Immunologists

Family and Personal Background

Grew up in New York City, and gained a health care background from working in his father's pharmacy

- Grew up in Brooklyn, New York



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- Father was a pharmacist at their family-owned pharmacy
- Delivered prescriptions for the pharmacy while growing up
- Played basketball in his youth
- Completed his residency at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York City
- Joined NIH as an alternative to serving in the military during the Vietnam War
- Has received numerous awards and honors, such as the Presidential Medal of Freedom, National Medal of Science, Ernst Young Prize, Lasker Award, and Robert Koch Gold Medal
- Is one of the highest-earning federal employees, making about \$400,000 per year
- Fauci has affirmed that President Trump does listen to him regarding substantive issues, but acknowledges that he has limited ability to correct false statements

Criticisms and Controversies

Fauci has sparked recent controversy within the Administration due to his conflicting statements with President Trump regarding COVID-19

Trump and Fauci's contradictory statements

- President Trump has adopted a positive outlook when publicly discussing the virus, claiming that a vaccine will soon be available and that a treatment is already available
- Fauci has publicly corrected these statements, stating that a vaccine would likely not be ready for another eighteen months and that a possible therapeutic, the anti-malarial drug chloroquine, requires testing
- These disagreements, along with Fauci's visible discomfort during televised press briefings, have prompted members of the public to be concerned for Fauci's position; when he was absent from a press briefing on March 23, the hashtag #WheresFauci became trending on Twitter