



# Dr. Anthony Fauci

Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Vignette  
by National Journal

## Life In Brief

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**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

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**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

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**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