

Statement by the ATS Executive Committee supporting Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

The COVID-19 pandemic is truly an event of historic proportions with global medical and socioeconomic ramifications. Since its emergence late last year, our understanding of this viral disease – including how it spreads throughout a population, how to treat those suffering with it, and how to prevent its transmission – have rapidly evolved. This evolution in knowledge has led to refined prevention, treatment, and containment strategies.

The successes achieved to date, and those that will be needed moving forward, have relied upon facts and science. Public health experts at all levels – local, state, federal and international – have key roles to play in helping government officials and business and community leaders to combat COVID-19. Developing fact-based public policies provides the best opportunity to minimize the economic, societal, and health impact of this serious and potentially fatal disease. Nowhere has that public health leadership been on greater display than with Dr. Anthony Fauci.

In his role as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Dr. Fauci has fostered a longstanding and productive collaboration with the ATS. He has faithfully served the American people through six presidential administrations, always providing sound, science-based guidance to threats large and small. As we move forward to combat COVID-19, his scientific knowledge, expertise, and counsel will continue to be of critical importance.

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