



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Office of the President

October 23, 2020

Dear Colleague:

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. At a time of such uncertainty, the work of the National Academy of Sciences has never been more essential. In a matter of months, the coronavirus pandemic triggered global health, economic, and societal crises of staggering proportions. In the United States, the virus proliferates, and our most vulnerable communities are bearing a disproportionate share of the burden and suffering. Science, engineering, and medicine are at the heart of finding solutions to these crises, and the financial support of donors like you enables us to provide the evidence-based answers and guidance needed at every step of the response to, and recovery from the pandemic. Help us continue to take action by making a gift to the Annual Fund today.

The need for an informed scientific voice is imperative as decision-makers at the national, state, and local levels face difficult choices to balance public health and safety with the restoration of critical economic and societal functions. In response, we have developed a framework to address many of the immediate and long-term challenges posed by COVID-19. Within days we organized a rapid response team to provide the government with quick answers to a series of critical questions, and we recently released a report on fair and equitable vaccine allocation. We are also examining the parallel effects of the pandemic on communities of color and related social justice issues, and convening multidisciplinary teams to conduct rapid, scenario-based analyses that enable a robust long-term recovery. Read about this work and more at nationalacademies.org/topics/covid-19-resources. Your support allows us to provide the gold standard of evidence-based advice that has come to define our work.

Ending the pandemic will require decision-making that is not only based on the best available science, but is also sufficiently transparent to ensure public trust in, and adherence to, sound public-health instructions. I am confident that —with your support—we can help deliver society from this pandemic and secure a brighter future. I am grateful for the resources that you and other members and friends contribute through your generous philanthropy, which ensure that we can remain nimble in our response, not only to this pandemic but to future crises as well. Because of you, we are making a difference. **Please join me in making a gift to the Annual Fund this fall.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia McNutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line above the name.

Marcia McNutt
President



Your support makes an impact

Our work is made possible through the dedication of our esteemed volunteer experts and members, sponsors, and philanthropic partners. As the COVID-19 pandemic grips the nation and the world, policymakers and the public are counting on science, engineering, and medicine to discover how the virus infects humans, slow its spread, treat those infected, and provide solutions that lay the groundwork for recovery. The National Academies are stepping up in several ways to respond to this crisis, and your continued support and commitment to our mission are invaluable.

A Framework to Guide Society at Every Step of Response and Recovery

Science, engineering, and medicine are at the heart of finding solutions to this crisis. Our framework will enable us to provide the evidence-based answers and guidance that society needs at every step of response and recovery - from solving the immediate challenges to rebuilding a more robust and resilient nation and world. Framework elements include:

- **Responding to the Pandemic**
- **Expanding Our Reach**
- **Preparing for Long-Term Recovery**





Connecting with the Public

Given the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pursuing innovative ways to communicate with a wide range of audiences. Our Science & Entertainment Exchange program, Based on Science website, and LabX program are all engaging with the public in a variety of ways to address the coronavirus and encourage people to use the sciences to make decisions.

The **Science & Entertainment Exchange** program has held numerous public webinars that have explored different aspects of the pandemic to include:

- ▶ **How vaccines are developed and approved.**
- ▶ **Providing parents with at-home science projects to keep kids engaged.**



BASED ON SCIENCE

Our **Based on Science** website, has drawn hundreds of thousands of visitors searching for clear, evidence-based information on the coronavirus and other topics.



COVID-19



CLIMATE CHANGE



VACCINES



One of the greatest challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic is convincing people to take the necessary action to protect their own and others' safety. **LabX** recently launched a global effort that brings together scientists and gamers to harness games to promote prosocial pandemic behavior in an effort to flatten the curve.

Teams are encouraged to address the following through their creations:



Infection



Inequity



Misinformation



Vaccine



Policy

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