



# NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Office of the President

April 23, 2020

Dear Colleague:

The vision of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is simple—a nation and world in which people understand science to be foundational in their lives, and recognize our advice as the gold standard for evidence-based decision-making that benefits society. Especially in times of crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, the nation must have somewhere to turn for reliable and trusted advice. We depend on the committed support from you—our members, friends, and staff—to improve public understanding and appreciation of science, address critical societal and global issues, and improve the culture and practice of science. Help us to ensure that there is always a voice of reason by making a gift to the NAS Annual Fund today.

It is during times like these that the National Academies' unparalleled ability to convene experts can provide guidance when it is needed most, and private support enables us to respond rapidly to critical science and policy issues. After receiving a request from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Academies immediately convened a standing committee—chaired by Dr. Harvey V. Fineberg—to help inform the federal government on the COVID-19 pandemic and future 21st-century health threats. This committee is responding on a near-daily basis to federal government requests in the form of Rapid Expert Consultations that provide vital advice to inform our country's response to the pandemic. You can learn more about the standing committee's work, read their consultations, and access other news and resources from the Academies on COVID-19 at [www.nam.edu/coronavirus](http://www.nam.edu/coronavirus).

In times of crisis like this, the National Academies must act quickly, without the formality of having a contract in place, or often of even knowing whether reimbursement will be forthcoming. The help that you and other members and friends provide through your generous philanthropic support ensures that we can remain nimble in our response, and I am thankful for it. Because of your support, we have been able to deliver science on a time scale that matters to decision-makers, and it is making an impact. Please join me in making a gift to the Annual Fund this spring.

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



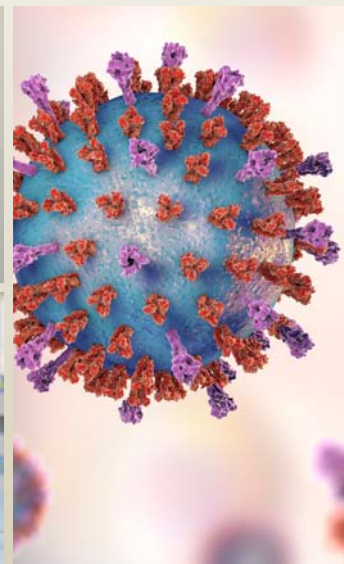
## Your support makes an impact

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.

### Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats

The Standing Committee is providing rapid expert consultations (REC) to a number of urgent questions, such as the available research on the surface stability and incubation period of the virus. Other recent REC's include topics such as:

- Social Distancing;
- Data Elements and Systems Design for Modeling and Decision Making;
- Crisis Standards of Care; and
- Possibility of Bioaerosol Spread of SARS-CoV-2.



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## Applying Our Evidence Base

Much of our past work offers timely insights to confront the pandemic, including guidance on streamlining regulatory approval of new treatments, adjusting standards of health care in crises, and countering misinformation, and we are making sure that they are readily accessible.



## Providing Real-time Insights and Resources

We are sharing insights and emerging evidence with professionals and the public through webinars on topics such as protecting public transportation and supply chains, the science of social distancing measures, and how the nation's 4,000+ college and universities—and researchers who work there—are supporting the COVID-19 response.

## Encouraging Promising Approaches

The Academies issued a joint presidential statement strongly supporting the efforts of scientists and physicians to develop an effective vaccine, monoclonal antibodies, and new drugs or to repurpose existing drugs and therapies. This includes work to determine whether the production of passive immunity via the provision of convalescent plasma from recovered patients has a role in the management of COVID-19.



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