

Dr. Anthony Stephen Fauci, you have served as the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984 and have dealt with viral epidemics on behalf of our nation many times before COVID-19, from bird flu to Zika—and especially HIV/AIDS. In what you have called “the darkest time of my life,” when you were saving no one with that disease, you created a division in your institute to focus on HIV/AIDS and became as much a public health activist as a physician and scientist. You made fundamental discoveries about HIV, you changed the way AIDS was treated in public health, and you were an architect of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which has saved twenty million lives and prevented millions of HIV infections. In 2008, you received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for leading the fight against this terrible plague.

You are one of the best-known public health experts in our country, but it was your role on the Coronavirus Task Force in the Trump Administration that made you a household name with today’s American public and with our students. Taken from what you have termed your “favorite book of philosophy, *The Godfather*,” your mantra of “it’s nothing personal, it’s strictly business” served you well in the face of contradictions and confusion, as you grappled with a pandemic of historic proportions caused by a disease about which almost nothing was known. As a writer for *Scientific American* put it, you were “not just trustworthy but actually trusted.”

But not everyone has seen you that way in this divided country, and you have received personal threats and threats to your family in the course of your work, as you put it, “to get the facts out” about COVID-19.

Born on Christmas Eve in 1940—a proud Brooklyn native who grew up loving sports and delivering prescriptions from your father’s pharmacy on your bike—you led and inspired your high school basketball team, and last year *The Wall Street Journal* called you “America’s point guard.” You earned your undergraduate degree in classics at Holy Cross and graduated first in your class at Cornell University Medical College, a dedicated scientist who is also an enthusiastic champion of the liberal arts. With your expertise and devotion, you have served not just your patients, not just every United States president since Ronald Reagan, but an entire country who needed you.

President Rose, on behalf of the College, I am honored to present Dr. Anthony S. Fauci for the degree of doctor of science, *honoris causa*.