

Video Tribute to Dr. Francis Collins

Alphabetical by Organization

SPEAKER	FULL STATEMENT
<p>Harry Johns President and CEO Alzheimer's Association</p>	<p>Francis, you make such a difference for people everywhere. In Alzheimer's, the scientific advances will keep coming for millions worldwide, from your leadership. Our constituents still commend your exemplary leadership using your discretionary fund to help change the course when there was so very little for Alzheimer's. Thank you so much for caring, for your leadership, and for your impact on so many lives.</p>
<p>Sudip S. Parikh, PhD CEO and Executive Publisher, Science Family of Journals American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)</p>	<p>When I think of Francis Collins' time at the NIH, I think of All of Us, I think of the BRAIN Initiative, I think of the end of "Manels," and I think of the Human Genome Project. And what brings all of those things together is the connection between basic research and patients - the impact on patients' lives. The legacy of Francis' tenure at the NIH is the impact on patients of basic research to make their lives better. And that is an incredible legacy.</p>
<p>Barbara S. Snyder President Association of American Universities</p>	<p>On behalf of America's leading research universities, I want to express our profound gratitude for you for your decades of service to our nation, to global public health and to the scientific enterprise. NIH has never been stronger and better positioned to lead the world of biomedical research and to help tackle pandemics, cancer and other diseases. We are especially thankful for your deep commitment to developing and retaining young researchers. Under your leadership, NIH expanded training pathways and created mechanisms to help early career scientists flourish. We are all better for your extraordinary leadership of NIH. As you leave NIH for a well-deserved retirement, please know that you go with our best wishes and enduring gratitude.</p>
<p>Peter McPherson President Association of Public and Land- Grant Universities</p>	<p>Congratulations from APLU and the public research community. Congratulations for your outstanding service as a public servant. Rarely has a public official been able to articulate a vision, explain it, provide ideas in such compelling way as you did. It's been very effective. Congratulations for administrating this huge agency, for getting so much done that benefitted the health and saved lives of people all over the world. Thank you again.</p>

<p>John Tobin Vice President and General Manager Corning Life Sciences</p>	<p>Hello. I am John Tobin, Vice President and General Manager for Corning Life Sciences. Dr. Collins, on behalf of Corning, I would like to offer you our sincere gratitude for your incredible contributions to the advancement of science and disease awareness, both at NIH and also through your earlier leadership of the international Human Genome Project. You helped enable researchers from across the globe to tackle some of the most pressing issues in today's health. The impact of which will be felt for generations to come. Corning Life Sciences shares your passion to advance life science research and to support this important lifelong work. Thank you, Dr. Collins. We wish you every happiness in your retirement.</p>
<p>George Q. Daley, MD, PhD Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Harvard University</p>	<p>Francis, your wise leadership has ushered the NIH through both Republican and Democratic administrations and through highly polarized times. You are the consummate physician-scientist, and you are a great friend of both basic science and translational medicine. All of us in the biomedical research community owe you an enormous debt of gratitude for your public service, scientific diplomacy, and your steadfast commitment to the betterment of human health. On behalf of Harvard University and Harvard Medical School, I extend my sincerest thanks for your remarkable tenure as NIH Director.</p>
<p>Paul B. Rothman, MD Dean of the Medical Faculty Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine</p>	<p>Francis, on behalf of all of us here at Johns Hopkins Medicine, I wanted to wish you a very happy retirement. Over the past 12 years, you've captured our imagination and marshalled Congress' with elegant descriptions of the promise of science and medicine. And the results are irrefutable as NIH has seen a 38% increase in its annual budget during your tenure. Shortly after I arrived here, we stood together with Senator Mikulski to spotlight the devastating impact of NIH cuts due to sequestration. You said, "Cuts of consequences," and pointed out that one of the threatened grants might be the next breakthrough in cancer. Congress increased the NIH budget that year and has every year since. Whether fighting for robust federal investment research or responding to a worldwide pandemic, we owe you a great debt. Thank you, Francis and enjoy your retirement.</p>
<p>Eric G. Neilson, MD Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine</p>	<p>Hi Francis. This is Eric Neilson, Dean of the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. I wanted to send you a brief message of thanks for all you have done for medical research in your role as the Director of the National Institutes of Health. Your leadership has been phenomenal in elevating and accelerating biomedical science in this country. You've done this with great charm and elegance, and on behalf of everyone at Northwestern, we cannot thank you enough. It will be hard imagining this great federal ship without you at the helm. But you go with the thanks of a grateful Nation and your many colleagues who claim you as a friend of science. Please accept our very best wishes as the next chapter of your life unfolds. Come to Chicago some time, we'd love to see you again. Take care.</p>

<p>Lloyd B. Minor, MD Dean Stanford University School of Medicine</p>	<p>Francis, several years ago at a Partnering For Cures event, I remember you sang your own rendition of “Times They Are a-Changin’.” This light moment foretold a coming revolution in biomedicine and the song has only grown more prescient as we live through COVID-19. Through it all, your leadership of the National Genome Project at the NIH profoundly impacted the well-being of people across the nation, and around the world. Though you are stepping down, your legacy will be measured through the generation of scientists you have inspired and the countless lives you have touched. Our nation is greatly indebted to you. Thank you for your decades of leadership.</p>
<p>Marc Casper Chairman, President and CEO Thermo Fisher Scientific</p>	<p>Dr. Collins on behalf of our 90,000 colleagues at Thermo Fisher scientific, I want to congratulate you on an incredible career. What you’ve achieved for science and society is truly amazing, from mapping the human genome to shaping the NIH as a global leader in biomedical research and engine for innovation. As the longest serving NIH Director, you have been a trusted voice bringing together leaders on Capitol Hill to make NIH a bipartisan priority. Your initiatives to tackle so many diseases, and the COVID-19 pandemic, will have an enduring impact. You have helped to the shape the future of science, touch countless lives and provided hope for solving some of humanities most challenging health issues. That’s a remarkable legacy. So, thank you Dr. Collins.</p>
<p>Larry Marnett, PhD Dean Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Basic Sciences</p>	<p>I’m Larry Marnett, the Dean of the School of Medicine Basic Sciences at Vanderbilt, and I’m honored to extend best wishes to Francis Collins on behalf of my colleagues at Vanderbilt. Those of us in the extramural community are so grateful for your support of research across the spectrum of basic, translational, clinical, and population-based science. You’ve faced incredible challenges, but never lost sight of the mission of the NIH: to support fundamental research in order to improve human health. Thank you for your focus, passion, and dedication and good luck as you transition back to your lab. Exciting discoveries are no doubt awaiting.</p>
<p>Jeff Balsler, MD, PhD President and CEO Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p>	<p>Dr. Collins, congratulations and thank you for a remarkable span of service as NIH Director. Your leadership in NIH has fostered decades of progress, not only in remarkably expanded research opportunities, but through an expanded vision of what science can accomplish in health and disease. The impact of your contributions will continue for years to come. Perhaps exemplified most by the Human Genome Project, which opened countless fields of study. From those catalytic moments at the turn of the century, we are now witnessing entirely new avenues of discovery through landmark projects like the All of Us Precision Medicine Initiative. This and many other game-changing NIH sponsored platform initiatives that your leadership has made possible are ushering a new era of personalized care. Dr. Collins, thank you, we, your colleagues, and this nation are forever grateful.</p>

David H. Perlmutter, MD
Executive Vice Chancellor for
Medical Affairs and Dean
Washington University School of
Medicine

Francis Collins is a true champion of science. Thanks to him and to vital NIH funding, together we are changing the face of medicine and what is possible today. His leadership enabled our School of Medicine, Washington University, to make critical contributions to the Human Genome Project. As a part of that massive effort, he worked with us to pioneer sequencing the genomes of patients with cancer, and it ushered in an entirely new era of personalized medicine.