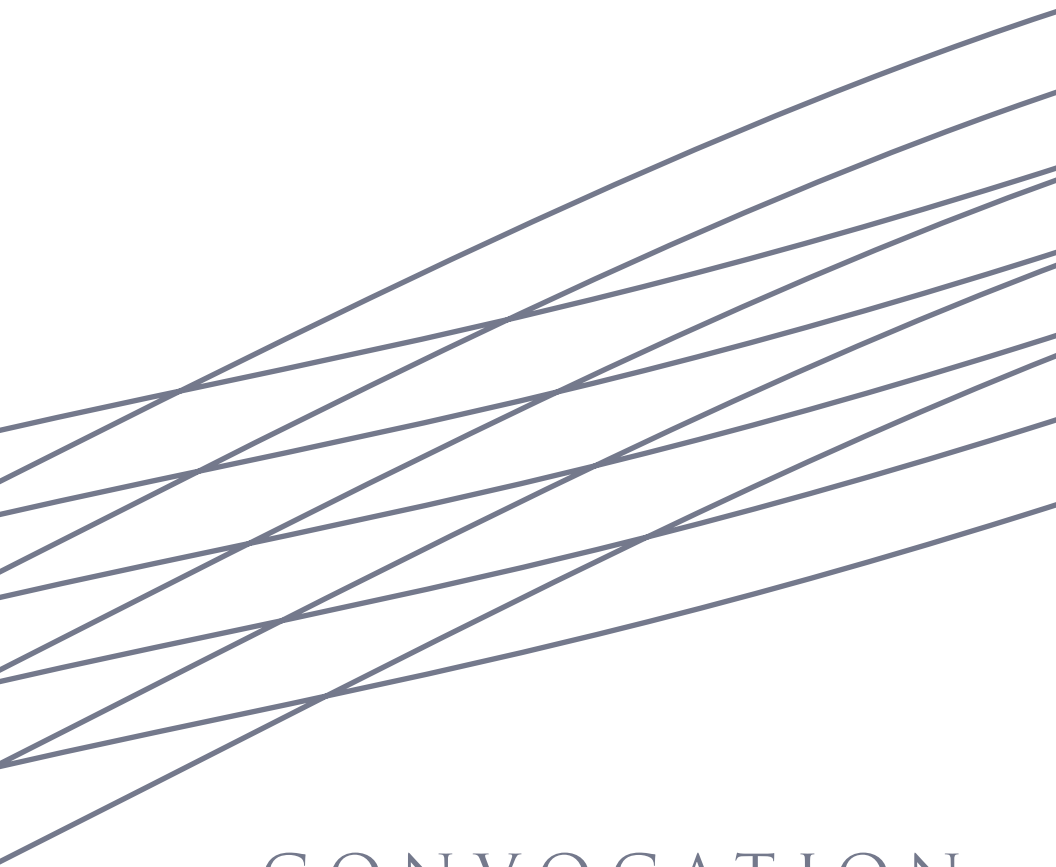
THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



CONVOCATION

FOR CONFERRING DEGREES · 2022

THURSDAY, THE NINTH OF JUNE, 2022

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

NEW CASTLE BRASS QUINTET

WELCOMING REMARKS

RICHARD P. LIFTON, M.D., PH.D.
PRESIDENT AND CARSON FAMILY PROFESSOR

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DEAN OF GRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES
VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

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DR. LIFTON

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*PARTICIPANT IN THE TRI-INSTITUTIONAL M.D.-PH.D. PROGRAM

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PRESENTED BY SIDNEY STRICKLAND

*PARTICIPANT IN THE TRI-INSTITUTIONAL M.D.-PH.D. PROGRAM

ANTHONY S. FAUCI, M.D.

Anthony Fauci has had an extraordinary career in biomedical research and national public health leadership. As director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) since 1984, he has effectively led the institute's fight to prevent, diagnose, and treat many of the greatest challenges to global public health, including infection with the HIV and SARS-CoV-2 viruses.

A native of Brooklyn, Dr. Fauci attended Regis High School (on 84th Street between Madison and Park), and earned his B.A. from Holy Cross and M.D. from Cornell University Medical College. After graduation in 1966, he began his research career at NIAID, where he devised therapies for several rare and formerly fatal inflammatory diseases before becoming the Institute director. He also serves as the chief medical advisor to the President of the United States under President Biden.

Dr. Fauci has been a key figure in the fight against acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), first recognized in 1981, and subsequently found to be caused by HIV. He has made seminal contributions to the understanding of how HIV destroys the body's defenses and has been instrumental in developing highly effective strategies for therapy, as well as in efforts to develop a vaccine to prevent HIV infection. He spearheaded the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which has saved millions of lives in the developing world.

Through seven presidential administrations, Dr. Fauci has provided guidance on public health and medical issues to the U.S. population and its presidents. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NIAID investigators made critical contributions to development of the safe and effective vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Dr. Fauci earned the nation's trust by providing clear, compassionate advice rooted in the available facts through the rapidly evolving pandemic. He is revered for his insistence on the pursuit of truth, and the distinction between what is known and what is not, serving with unwavering dedication despite an extremely challenging political environment. In addition to spearheading NIAID's role in combatting HIV and COVID-19, he ushered the public through numerous other challenges, including the anthrax scare of 2001 and outbreaks of swine flu, Ebola, and Zika.

Dr. Fauci is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society. His many awards and accolades include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Medal of Science, the George M. Kober Medal of the Association of American Physicians, and the Mary Woodard Lasker Award for Public Service.

KATALIN KARIKÓ, PH.D.

Katalin Karikó has dedicated her career to achieving a dream that the scientific establishment once deemed implausible. For four decades, her research has focused on the use of messenger RNA (mRNA) for therapeutics and vaccines. She discovered how to overcome the potentially lethal inflammatory response caused by synthetic mRNA that had precluded its use in humans. Her foundational discoveries laid the groundwork for the rapid development of mRNA vaccines that have saved millions of lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Karikó was born and raised in Hungary. During her studies at the University of Szeged, where she earned a B.S. in 1978 and Ph.D. in 1982, she began her pursuit of clinical use of mRNA. Dr. Karikó packaged nucleic acid into lipid-based carriers and mastered RNA manipulation.

Research-funding problems in Hungary drove her to the U.S. She held fellowships in two labs before joining the University of Pennsylvania. There, Dr. Karikó collaborated with several clinical investigators as her work progressed, despite lack of grants and institutional support. During the 1990s, she persevered even though, by this time, conventional wisdom held that delivering intact mRNA to cells in the human body was infeasible.

Dr. Karikó joined forces with immunologist Drew Weissman, and together they discovered that synthetic mRNA could be prevented from activating the innate immune system by replacement of uridine with pseudouridine, a modification found in transfer RNAs. The resulting modified mRNAs can be translated without triggering the innate immune response. Drs. Karikó and Weissman went on to demonstrate that such modified mRNA formulated with lipid nanoparticles can be a potent vaccine. This technology ultimately became the basis for the FDA approved COVID-19 mRNA vaccines that are used to combat the current global pandemic. Pioneering work by Dr. Karikó has fueled these advances and opened the door for future therapeutics for a wide range of health conditions.

Today, Dr. Karikó is senior vice president at BioNTech and adjunct professor of neurosurgery at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. In the last two years, the critical importance of her discovery has won a breathtaking number of honors and prizes. Dr. Karikó's awards include the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, the Lasker~DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, the Gairdner Award, the Japan Prize, the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize, and, most recently, Rockefeller University's Pearl Meister Greengard Prize.

LULU C. WANG

Lulu Chow Wang is the living embodiment of the power of hard work, perseverance, and integrity. A pioneer in the financial world, she has used her tremendous intelligence, determination, and resilience to establish an extremely successful career in a male-dominated industry. Widely recognized for changing the landscape of Wall Street, Ms. Wang has similarly forged new paths in philanthropy, urging women to assume leadership positions in the organizations they choose to support. Her mentorship of women in all areas of her life has created a legacy that will endure for generations.

Ms. Wang's father was a senior member of the Chinese Nationalists and though the family's roots were in Shanghai, his work took the Chow family to New Delhi, at the time when Ms. Wang was born. She came to the U.S. with her family when she was four years old. After attending high school in Long Island, Ms. Wang joined the Class of 1966 at Wellesley College, where she gained a deep respect for the transformative power of women's education.

After her marriage to Anthony "Tony" Wang, Ms. Wang initially stayed at home, but missed the intellectual challenge she had experienced at Wellesley. She found a position as a writer in a securities firm, but soon realized how much more she enjoyed investing and began to train to become a securities analyst, subsequently earning her M.B.A. at Columbia Business School.

Ms. Wang went on to hold positions at Bankers Trust and Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, before joining Equitable Capital Management where she oversaw public equities management for ten years. She moved on to become director and executive vice president of Jennison Associates Capital Corporation, a primary platform for asset management at Prudential Financial. In 1998, Ms. Wang founded Tupelo Capital Management to manage assets for institutional and private clients.

Ms. Wang has dedicated a large portion of her time and expertise to public service. She serves as trustee and vice chair of the Asia Society and is a member of the board of Columbia Business School. She is a trustee emerita of The Rockefeller University, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Wellesley College, and director emerita of New York Public Radio.

As a Rockefeller University trustee, Ms. Wang has served on the board's Executive, Hospital, and Investment Committees, as well as the Nominating and Governance Committee, which she chaired from 2013 to 2020. Under her chairmanship, 21 trustees were elected to the University's board. Ms. Wang is also a leader in Rockefeller's Women & Science initiative.

Founded in 1901, The Rockefeller University is a world-renowned center for research and graduate education in the biomedical and physical sciences. The university's some 70 laboratories conduct research on a broad range of biological and biomedical questions with the mission of improving the understanding of life for the benefit of humanity. Over the years, Rockefeller has been the site of many historic breakthroughs, including the landmark discovery that genes are made of DNA. Twenty-six researchers associated with Rockefeller throughout its history have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

The graduate program, with a unique curriculum that emphasizes independent research, began in 1955 and was named in honor of David Rockefeller in 2005. Since the first convocation in 1959, The Rockefeller University has granted doctor of philosophy degrees to 1,395 individuals – including 40 students who will receive their Ph.D. degrees today.

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