



# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF IMMUNOLOGISTS

Statement of AAI Committee on Public Affairs Chair Ross M. Kedl, Ph.D.  
June 9, 2020

## AAI Opposes U.S. Withdrawal from WHO and Visa Changes Affecting Some Chinese Scientists/Students

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) strongly opposes two recent actions by President Donald Trump that will impede scientific advancement and harm public health: the withdrawal of the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), and the May 29, 2020 [Proclamation](#) disallowing visas for certain Chinese students and researchers.

As the nation's largest professional association of research scientists and physicians who study the immune system, AAI represents many scientists who are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. Whether researching immune system reaction to the virus (SARS-CoV-2) or developing treatments or vaccines, these scientists depend on transparent communication and robust collaboration with colleagues from around the world.

- x While sharing concerns about the loss of intellectual property, AAI opposes the President's actions that restrict scientific colleagues from China, leaving our country and the world at a disadvantage.