

The Philosophy of Science: Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks with Loyola Students about the Pandemic and His Personal Ties with Medicine



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Amidst the country's regulations towards in-person contact, Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine hosted a webinar with world-renowned health official Dr. Anthony Fauci on Jan. 28 to discuss about how he views leadership in medicine.

Dr. Fauci has been a prominent figure in the department of Medicine for years, garnering the position of the U.S. president's medical advisor for six years, receiving 45 honorary degrees from universities nationally and abroad, and being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the country's highest civilian award—in 2008.

The 25-minute-long webinar, hosted by Loyola's President Jo Ann Rooney, Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine Dean Dr. Sam Marzo, and Loyola's Vice Dean of Professional Formation Dr. John Hardt, gave the opportunity for Loyola students to engage in a discussion with Fauci by submitting questions about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“It's gonna probably take through the summer or beginning of fall to have a substantial portion of the population vaccinated,” Fauci stated. “We can approach a degree of normality in the fall.”

The interview, conducted by Hardt, then focuses on the connection Loyola University has with Dr. Fauci: a Jesuit institution. Fauci attended both a Jesuit high school and college, an education that he still praises to this day, and explains the importance of his studies in the classics and its connection with the history of civilizations:

“I have an affinity for a liking for and somewhat of an aptitude in pure science so from the very beginning which was when people ask me ‘why did you decide to go into medicine,’ [I wanted to combine being a people person and pursue studies of people].” He states.

To end on a lighthearted note, before concluding the webinar, Hardt presents Fauci with a hypothetical scenario, “If you found yourself as a lecturer in our medical school and you knew it would be your last lecture with our medical students, what would be the message you'd want to offer a soon-to-be-graduating group of young men and women, who'd be joining your profession?”

Fauci replied with a laugh, “You can look at the world as a global laboratory and make global health; what is it you want to do?” He smiled, “They may not realize it now, but they are entering into a profession that has almost unlimited possibilities for people to pursue things that they have passion for.”