



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
IMMUNOLOGISTS

**Statement of Jenny Ting, Ph.D., President of
The American Association of Immunologists (AAI)***

March 23, 2021

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) is horrified and deeply saddened by the recent killing of eight people in Atlanta, including six women of Asian descent. This is the continuation of an extremely concerning trend of violent and discriminatory acts against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community that has been escalating dangerously since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, aggravated by irresponsible voices that encourage such behaviors.

AAI mourns with all those who lost loved ones, and shares the outrage felt by a community that has too long been the victim of racism. We stand with our Asian American, Asian, and Pacific Islander members, so many of whom have contributed enormously to immunologic advances that have saved millions of lives. Among our U.S. AAI members, almost 18 percent report Asian ethnicity, with six percent reporting as Asian women. We are proud to count them among our members.

As the first woman of color, and first Asian American woman, to serve as AAI president since its founding in 1913, I have found these recent events to be personally painful reminders of the discrimination that confronts Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. I know that words of condemnation and expressions of sympathy are not enough. Action must be taken. Although a congressional resolution [endorsed by AAI](#) and many other organizations last April was approved by the House of Representatives, the Senate took no action. We call on Congress to condemn these cruel acts and take steps to help identify and root out all forms of racism, a scourge on humanity and a powerfully detrimental force in both science and a world that depends on the contributions of us all. And we reaffirm that AAI stands with all who decry racism, misogyny, and discrimination of any kind.

** AAI is the nation's largest professional society of research scientists and physicians who are dedicated to studying the immune system and to developing ways to prevent and treat immune-mediated diseases.*