



### Talking Points on Dr. Moncef Slaoui determination request to HHS IG and Office of Government Ethics:

- Donald Trump chose a Pharma industry insider, Dr. Moncef Slaoui, to run Operation Warp Speed, the new Administration effort to fund the development of COVID-19 treatments and vaccines.
- Like the [dozens of other drug corporation executives](#) who are part of the Trump Administration, Slaoui continues to maintain [close ties to the industry](#) including as an investor and shareholder, that have already presented some conflicts of interest and are likely to surface more.
- We know that Dr. Slaoui has extensive ties to pharmaceutical corporations. Just before taking the job, he divested more than \$12 million in stocks and stepped down from the corporate board of Moderna – a corporation that has already received government funding and is in the hunt for more.
- He has nearly \$10 million in GlaxoSmithKline stock and said he wouldn't take the Operation Warp Speed job if he were required to give it up. He is a partner in Medicxi, a biotech venture capital fund. While he has ties to multiple domestic and foreign pharmaceutical corporations that will likely seek taxpayer dollars, the details are unknown and will remain so unless Dr. Slaoui is required to be a special government employee.
- Yet, rather than appoint Dr. Slaoui as a government employee or special government employee, which would have made him subject to government ethics and disclosure rules President Trump engaged Dr. Slaoui instead as a private contractor – exempt from those disclosures.
- Dr. Slaoui will be in the position of picking winners and losers in the fight against the coronavirus even as he himself may stand to profit from that choice, raising basic ethics concerns and highlighting once again how public health is not the Administration's top priority.
- We believe President Trump should have selected an independent decision-maker without ties to the drug industry for this critical role. At minimum, there should be absolutely transparency and basic measures to ensure rapid resolution of conflicts of interest.
- COVID vaccines developed through Operation Ward Speed are being developed and expedited with billions in taxpayer funding because we need the drugs to beat COVID, save lives and get our economy back on track. The public's investments and health are on the line and taxpayers have a right to know that those running this effort will put the public's health first, not skew decisions for their own financial gain.
- A worldwide pandemic is no time for more business-as-usual corporate cronyism between Trump and Big Pharma executives. Taxpayers deserve accountability, transparency and affordable medicines for the contributions they have made--our nation's health depends on it.