

Kathryn Zoon

PhD, BS
Advisor to the Board
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Kathryn Zoon is an internationally recognized American immunologist whose career has significantly shaped both biomedical research and the regulation of vaccines and biologic products. Renowned for her pioneering work on human interferons, she was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) in 2002 in recognition of her scientific contributions.

Dr. Zoon earned a B.S. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Johns Hopkins University. She began her research career at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she worked in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Christian Anfinsen. She later joined the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), serving as Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) from 1992 to 2002. In this role, she oversaw the regulation and approval of vaccines, blood products, and biotechnology-derived therapies, and played an important role in strengthening blood safety and advancing innovative biologic medicines.

After her tenure at the FDA, Dr. Zoon held senior leadership positions at the NIH, including Scientific Director of the Division of Intramural Research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Throughout her career, she has authored more than 100 scientific publications and has been an influential voice in immunology, biotechnology policy, and global public health.