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2016-2017

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AChemS Executive Office

2111 Chestnut Avenue
Suite 145
Chicago, IL 60025
Phone: (866) 775-6338
Fax: (312) 896-5614
www.achems.org
info@achems.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A statement from Association for Chemoreception Sciences (AChemS) President Steven D. Munger and the AChemS Executive Committee regarding the recent executive order on immigration issued by President Donald J. Trump.

Science is a collective endeavor that only advances with the contributions of numerous scientists and educators who can provide diverse expertise and experiences. The robust scientific enterprise found in our academic institutions, private industry and government laboratories has directly contributed to the economic vitality of the United States and has led to crucial new technologies, therapies and other advances that impact our citizens' lives everyday.

The Association for Chemoreception Sciences (AChemS), the largest scientific society dedicated to the study of the chemical senses (smell, taste, chemesthesis and internal chemoreception), opposes the executive order restricting immigration that was issued by President Donald J. Trump on Friday, January 27, 2017. This order contradicts the very essence of America's promise as a beacon of hope and opportunity for people of different national origins, ethnicities and religious faiths; imperils our national security and economic interests; and undermines a key strategy that has made U.S. science the envy of the world.

Immigrants and children of immigrants have a long history and strong presence in the scientific leadership of major U.S. universities and corporations. The number of important scientific advances produced by these newest of Americans are too many to count. Visiting scientists, including students and postdoctoral trainees, make innumerable and critical contributions daily to the advancement of science and technology. While many of these trainees remain in the U.S. where they continue as leading members of our scientific workforce, others return to their home countries and thus extend our collaborative connections around the world.

This ill-conceived executive order also imperils the free exchange of information and ideas that is essential for scientific progress. Already we see foreign scientists hesitating to visit the U.S. to present their research at scientific conferences and other forums. Scientific knowledge will be significantly impoverished and scientific advancement needlessly hampered if a rational visa process is not reinstated.

We, as the elected leadership of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences, oppose this executive order. Rather than achieving their espoused security goals, these policies will cause irreparable harm to our national reputation, our economic competitiveness, and our leadership role in science.