

It is with gratitude to Dr. Horace DeLisser and the entire PDI leadership team for helping us craft this communication that we share this important message to all of you that comes from all of us:

The shocking death this week of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police, compounded with the recent incident with Christian Cooper in New York City, Ahmaud Arbery's death in Georgia, and Breonna Taylor's death in Kentucky, have once again made issues of race the focus of a national conversation. These recent events are superimposed on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color, all poignant reminders of the persistence of individual biases and deeply ingrained structural inequities which have existed for centuries in our country. We know that this has been painful and we are here to support you.

Collectively, we are shocked, frustrated and angered by these manifestations of racism, recognizing unacceptable indicators of a civil and just society. However, for many of our students, especially our students of color, these events hit especially close to home, triggering fear and recall of personal experiences of bias and racism. We want to explicitly acknowledge these experiences, and as your teachers, advisors and mentors, express our support and care for you. You should therefore not hesitate to reach out to any of your Deans, whether in the Program for Diversity and Inclusion, or the Undergraduate Medical Education Leadership Team, to discuss or process your emotions and experiences. In addition, we will work to organize a community conversation about these issues next week.

While distressing, these events provide an opportunity for us to come together to reaffirm our individual and collective commitments to justice, inclusion and equity both in health care and in the broader society.

Respectfully,

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