

Dear ACP Colleagues,

As physicians, and as internists, most of us feel we were called to do this work. We alleviate pain. We minimize suffering. We were trained to listen, diagnose, intervene, and above all - do no harm. It is not at all surprising then that we would feel anger, sadness even despair after witnessing the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week. When we see and hear another human being call out: "I can't breathe," or plead for his mother, how do we respond?

We respond, first, and foremost, by stating ACP Illinois stands in solidarity with our patients, colleagues and communities of color. We recognize that compounding this tragedy we in Illinois are still reeling from the COVID pandemic and it's disproportionate impact our African American and LatinX communities. We are just beginning to tackle the public health crisis and structural inequities that COVID lay bare for us.

We don't have all the answers. We are proud of the diverse leadership team we have assembled upstate and downstate and confident that we are up for this challenge. We are proud of the unequivocal rejection of racism, harassment, and discrimination of any kind by our national organization. We pledge to work with all of you to seek urgent and creative solutions to these crises. We will be organizing virtual town halls and webinars to address the impact of health disparities and trauma on our communities. We ask for and welcome your engagement. We have collated resources below. We will be adding to these over time.

Thank you for your commitment to your patients, to our profession, and to each other.

We will be stronger, and more successful, together.

ACP's positions on these matters can be found here:

Statement about Discrimination and Violence By Public Authorities and Others:

<https://www.acponline.org/acp-newsroom/internists-gravely-concerned-about-discrimination-and-violence-by-public-authorities-and-others>

Position Statement on Recognizing Hate Crimes as a Public Health Issue:

https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/hate_crimes_public_health_issue_2017.pdf

Policy Paper on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care:

https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/racial_ethnic_disparities_2010.pdf

Statement Opposing Harassment and Discrimination:

<https://www.acponline.org/acp-newsroom/internists-say-harassment-based-on-race-or-ethnic-origin-is-never-okay>

Please continue to support each other as we weather tumultuous weeks ahead.

James Graumlich, MD, FACP, ACP Illinois Southern Governor
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