

Sadness. Anger. Fear.

These emotions run deep in our community today. And for our friends, family, and colleagues of color, they are not new. We live in a country where racism is prevalent, seated in a profound history of prejudice, oppression and injustice. We are deeply saddened by the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade and countless others who have been killed at the hands of police brutality and white supremacy. The recent and horrific acts of violence have triggered outrage and fear throughout our country. Black people are fearing for their children, their families, their communities, and their lives. We condemn these acts of racism, denounce all acts of violence against persons of color, and are taking action.

We stand in solidarity.

As leadership of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, we stand with our trainees, colleagues, staff and patients in our commitment to anti-racism efforts. We are confronting explicit and implicit biases through inter-professional training in collaborative settings. We are holding forums to openly address racism, establishing an anti-racism curriculum. We are dedicated to scholarly and systems-based work to address structural racism and health disparities contributing to increased rates of Black maternal morbidity and mortality in the US. Together we strive to change, and we are committed to doing the crucial work to build a community where individuals of all races are respected, met with compassion, and provided equal access to opportunities and healthcare.

Hope.

Amidst the range of emotions, we are also hopeful we will see a better tomorrow. We are hopeful we can build a community that recognizes its privileges, identifies its biases, and proactively addresses racial injustice. We are hopeful we will continue to recruit a diverse workforce and achieve a goal of inclusivity with implementation of a Zero-Tolerance policy for racism. As Ob/Gyns, we are hopeful that by identifying racism as a public health crisis, we can work toward the goal of improving Black maternal health. We recognize that this work is long overdue and we will keep learning, growing and improving together.

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