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Medical Education

Dear students,

In light of the horrifying killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Stephon Clark, and countless other Black men and women across this country, we acknowledge the pain, anger, and sadness these events have caused. Although distress of these events has reverberated throughout our community, the highest cognitive, emotional and advocacy burden rests on the shoulders of our Black students, faculty and staff, who live with this racism and the threat of brutality on a regular basis, not just at times of national unrest.

We also acknowledge that these killings represent a systemic trend: Studies show that Black men in the US are about three times more likely than whites to be killed by police, and one in every 1,000 Black men will die at the hands of police.

It is clear that structural racism and its manifestations in the form of police brutality, systemic economic and educational disadvantage, and health and health care disparities is a public health crisis. It intersects with and is as much of a pandemic as COVID-19.

Therefore, as we prepare to welcome a new class and continue to support our current extraordinary students, we are redesigning our educational programs to address these two epidemics, both of which are responsible for intolerable amounts of suffering and loss of life in our communities. Like all important change work, this will require a continuous improvement mindset and the concerted work of all of us. Within the coming month, we will announce curriculum changes to incorporate anti-Black racism into the four-year medical school curriculum.

In the meantime, we hope all of our students will take advantage of the resources available to you during these difficult times.

Student Well-Being Resources

- **Medical Student Well-Being Program:** Provides support for our students focusing on mental and physical health, as well as spiritual, financial, environmental, and social well-being. (415) 476-0468
- **Free Psychotherapy:** The staff for this program is especially trained in working with medical students. This service is free to all medical students and will always be confidential. Please schedule an appointment either [Dr. Howard Rubin](#) or [Vittorio Comelli](#) via email or by calling 415-476-0468.
- **MedPeers Program:** Connects medical students with peers who have completed at least three years of medical school. Email medpeer@ucsf.edu and the MedPeer on call will respond within 12-24 hours.

- **School of Medicine 24-Hour Urgent Line:** (415) 476-1216, option 1
- **UCSF Student Health & Counseling:** (415) 476-1281, option 2
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- **National Crisis Text Line:** 741-741

Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources

- [School of Medicine Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programs](#)
- [Office of Diversity and Outreach](#)
- [Multicultural Resource Center](#)
- [LGBTQIA Resources Center](#)
- [Student Success Center](#)
- [Differences Matter](#)

Thank you for everything you do to support equality and justice.

Sincerely,

Medical Education Deans
UCSF School of Medicine

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