

JACOBS SCHOOL of MEDICINE STUDENT BODY SUMMER TERM TWO THOUSAND TWENTY

RESOLUTION NO. Res-2020-0001

AUTHORED BY: Adetayo Oladele-Ajose
SUPPORTED BY: Student National Medical
Association (SNMA)

A RESOLUTION TO: ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPOND TO THE RECENT ACTS OF RACE-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE NATIONALLY.

THE STUDENT BODY OF JACOBS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ENACTS:

WHEREAS, the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Abery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade have sparked national conversation surrounding unchecked violent acts against black members of our community;

WHEREAS, a recent study¹ indicated that black men have the highest lifetime risk of being killed by police;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned fact and perpetual issues of racial injustice have a significant and long-term impact on the mental and physical wellbeing of our faculty, staff, fellow students and community members;

WHEREAS, we took an oath at the beginning of our medical journey's stating "(...)I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure. Most especially, I will tread with care in matters of life and death. If it be merely within my abilities to help ease suffering at the end of a life, may I face this awesome responsibility with humility and awareness of my own frailty(...)";

WHEREAS, we as a community of medical professionals have committed to advocating on behalf of our patient population and not being silent or evasive in the face of wrongdoing;

WHEREAS, the Jacobs School of Medicine strives² to create a culture where actions and words support diversity, foster learning and adhere to professional standards;

WHEREAS, the Jacobs School of Medicine endorsed³ the Sullivan Commission recommendation that public and private funding agencies increase funding for research not only about racial disparities in health status and health care, but also about culturally competent care, ways to measure and eliminate racial bias, and stereotyping and strategies for increasing positive health behaviors among racial and ethnic groups;

WHEREAS, the Jacob School of Medicine acknowledges³ the need for a physician workforce that is more culturally aware and competent and better prepared to improve access to healthcare and address current and future healthcare disparities;

- 1.) Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race-ethnicity, and sex <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>
- 2.) Jacobs School of Medicine Diversity Strategic Plan <http://medicine.buffalo.edu/strategic-plan/diversity.html>
- 3.) Diversity Policy of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences <http://medicine.buffalo.edu/faculty-council/policies/diversity.html>
- 4.) AAMC Statement on Police Brutality and Racism in America and their impact on Health: https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-statement-police-brutality-and-racism-america-and-their-impact-health?utm_medium=email&utm_source=aamc&utm_content=2+-+full+statement&utm_campaign=20200601_presidents_letter_racism&source=20200601_presidents_letter_racism
- 5.) Polity Constitution Article III; Section I and VII https://ubpolity.com/wp-content/uploads/PolityConstitution_Amendment_January2020.pdf

WHEREAS, our responsibility as students learning and working in a primarily underserved community is to² advance health and wellness across the life span for the people of New York and the world;

WHEREAS, as future medical professionals, we will work all over the world serving communities of diverse needs, experiences, opportunities, and disparities-- not only in healthcare, but also in other facets of life; therefore the unfair treatment of black people by law enforcement is relevant to us, affects our community as a whole, and needs to be addressed;

WHEREAS, The AAMC⁴ recently released a statement on police brutality and racism in America and their impact on health, stating “Racism is antithetical to the oaths and moral responsibilities we accepted as health professionals who have dedicated our lives to advance the health of all, especially those who live in vulnerable communities.”;

WHEREAS, a lack of awareness of racial bias in the police force is endemic across the US as well as in our own communities, as represented by a statement made by a police officer on February 18th 2020, during the JSMBS-UB Police joint “ Community Policing Townhall,” where he stated he was unaware of the history of tension between Black Americans and the police in this nation;

WHEREAS, a lack of acknowledgement of the aforementioned example would be a major disservice to our community and speaks volumes to the need for reform and institutional changes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Polity formally acknowledges and condemns the acts of violence against black and brown people in this nation and excessive uses of force by law enforcement officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Polity shows support for and stands in solidarity with the community members who are affected by both the recent and long-standing history of violence against black people in America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Polity formally endorses the [Statement](#) put out by SNMA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Polity affirms support for urgent reforms to the criminal justice system and law enforcement agencies in order to address the issues of police violence and racial disparities in policing, and to hold officers accountable for unreasonable acts of violence

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in collaboration with SNMA, Polity will provide a list of recommendations,⁵ geared towards the School and the contracted police department, in accordance with Article III, Sections I and VII of our Constitution. This will be presented in a future document as an addendum to this resolution.

- 1.) Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race-ethnicity, and sex <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>
- 2.) Jacobs School of Medicine Diversity Strategic Plan <http://medicine.buffalo.edu/strategic-plan/diversity.html>
- 3.) Diversity Policy of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences <http://medicine.buffalo.edu/faculty-council/policies/diversity.html>
- 4.) AAMC Statement on Police Brutality and Racism in America and their impact on Health: https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-statement-police-brutality-and-racism-america-and-their-impact-health?utm_medium=email&utm_source=aamc&utm_content=2+-+full+statement&utm_campaign=20200601_presidents_letter_racism&source=20200601_presidents_letter_racism
- 5.) Polity Constitution Article III; Section I and VII https://ubpolity.com/wp-content/uploads/PolityConstitution_Amendment_January2020.pdf

SENT FOR CONSIDERATION: 06/01/2020

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: Yes, 06/02/2020

VOTE TOTALS:

15 YES

0 NO

0 ABSTAIN

- 1.) Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race-ethnicity, and sex <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>
- 2.) Jacobs School of Medicine Diversity Strategic Plan <http://medicine.buffalo.edu/strategic-plan/diversity.html>
- 3.) Diversity Policy of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences <http://medicine.buffalo.edu/faculty-council/policies/diversity.html>
- 4.) AAMC Statement on Police Brutality and Racism in America and their impact on Health:
https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-statement-police-brutality-and-racism-america-and-their-impact-health?utm_medium=email&utm_source=aamc&utm_content=2+-+full+statement&utm_campaign=20200601_presidents_letter_racism&source=20200601_presidents_letter_racism
- 5.) Polity Constitution Article III; Section I and VII https://ubpolity.com/wp-content/uploads/PolityConstitution_Amendment_January2020.pdf