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# The American Journal of Surgery

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## EDITORIAL: From the Editors of AJS

The tragic murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many others, again highlight that racism, hatred, and social injustices remain embedded in the fabric of our society. These injustices have been further brought to light by the current COVID-19 pandemic given that black and underrepresented minority Americans have been disproportionately affected. The citizens of this and other nations have gathered in demonstrations against racism and to urge much needed social justice policy changes. The American Journal of Surgery stands in full solidarity against racism and discrimination of all types, and we are committed to raising consciousness and addressing the disproportionate effects of structural violence against people of color who suffer at the hands of hatred and racial inequities. We are committed to learning and educating ourselves and others on how to be antiracists and effective allies. We pledge to publicly address and call for action against injustices on a local, regional and national level, condemning all acts of prejudice, police brutality, and racial inequality.

We are immediately taking action by:

- Ensuring our editorial board has diverse representation to assure all voices are heard and that we are addressing issues

of racism, discrimination and structural violence in an open and inclusive way.

- Creating a space which values and encourages rigorous research and scholarship into the areas of health inequities and will move the field forward. We will put out a call for papers in this domain and make this content free for all to view.
- Using our resources and influence to support charities which address health inequities and racial discrimination.

We will not be silent.

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