



The Maryland State Medical Society

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**MEDCHI CALLS FOR ACTION TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS
OF RACISM**

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is calling for action to address the tragic and ongoing public health crisis of racism in Maryland and across America.

The COVID-19 pandemic has tragically demonstrated the health disparities experienced by communities of color. Ongoing acts of police brutality are a disturbing symptom of a systemic disease. These tragedies are converging in a historical storm of injustice against entire communities, but they are not new nor unique to this era.

Disparities in health care, workforce development, housing, education, law enforcement, criminal justice, and other institutions are deeply rooted in both explicit racism and unconscious biases. These disparities are directly correlated with poor health outcomes and greater risk of premature death. Action must be taken to address the root causes of systemic racism so that all facets of society can be enhanced by racial equity.

MedChi President Michele Manahan, MD, has established an Inclusion, Diversity, Empowerment, and Advocacy Task Force to examine and address the physician's role in promoting equity within organized medicine and health care institutions on behalf of all patients.

Beyond organized medicine, MedChi will leverage the organization's strength as the foremost advocate for physicians, patients, and the public health of Maryland by calling on state government leaders to:

- Assert that racism is a public health crisis that affects all communities while disproportionately and tragically impacting communities of color;
- Apply a racial equity lens to a thorough review of all state and local ordinances, grant management activities, vendor selections, and government contracts.
- Adequately fund and develop educational resources to expand understanding of racism and its effects on individual and population health;
- Adequately fund and develop community engagement activities, resources, and alliances to address health disparities;

- Adequately fund and develop new and/or enhance existing training programs with completion requirements for law enforcement, elected officials, staff, funders, and grantees on implicit biases.

MedChi is committed to leading the health care community and working closely with state officials to ensure that the public health crisis of racism is actively addressed.

About MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.