



TOURO UNIVERSITY
CALIFORNIA

Dear TUCOM students,

We are deeply saddened by the unjust and cruel murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and before that, the deaths of Sean Monterrosa, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, among so many others due to racial violence. We are outraged with the police brutality and the lack of police accountability that has led to the countless loss of black lives without justice. We are frustrated with the institutionalized racism within our country that has divided our nation and stained our history for centuries. We also acknowledge the long history of racism within the medical establishment and the negative impacts from these health disparities.

The Student Executive Council and New Horizons Committee stand by our fellow black students, staff, faculty, and community members. We are here to support you through the struggles you may be experiencing. With what seems like catastrophe after catastrophe this year, it is more important than ever to come together to hold each other up in these troubling times.

Racism is a public health crisis. Many of us are familiar with the statistics, including that Black American women die at more than twice the rate of other women during pregnancy and birth, that life expectancy of Black Americans is 3.5 years shorter than white Americans, and that Black Americans are twice as likely to die from SARS-CoV-2. Now, adding another dimension to this, law enforcement violence in the United States is the sixth leading cause of death in African Americans, resulting in more deaths than diabetes, chronic lung disease and influenza/pneumonia. Racial disparities in incarceration are staggering, as Black Americans are incarcerated at more than 5 times the rate of White Americans. This not only significantly impedes their ability to secure a job upon release, but also disenfranchises a significant portion of the population. Furthermore, these statistics do not account for the toxic impacts such violence has on the physical and mental health of the communities that experience the consequences of a prejudiced system and culture.

As a cohort of student physicians, we have the ability to positively affect our future patients' lives through our profession. But as members of a larger, diverse community, we have the ability NOW to actively advocate for change by speaking up, voting, donating, etc., working together to dismantle structural racism and improve the health of all our patients. We urge you to do your own part: educate yourselves and challenge your implicit biases as well as those around you.

Your voice matters. Here are some ways you can do your part:

1. **Share your ideas** on changes we can implement at TUCOM: [Student Actionable Items](#)
2. **Stay informed:** bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES
3. **Attend Town Halls** on Tuesdays at 3pm and Fridays at 2pm.
4. **Reach out** to student leadership with your questions/concerns/ideas:
 - a. New Horizons Committee: tuc.nhc@tu.edu
 - b. COMSEC: tucom.president@tu.edu



We also call for increased representation of black students, faculty and staff at our medical school, to more accurately represent our Vallejo community. As physicians who will face an increasingly diversified patient population, we believe it to be of critical importance to implement curricular requirements in regards to structural competency and racial bias in our medical education, preferably taught by experts in the field. Likewise, we believe that all faculty should receive training in implicit bias, structural competency and safe space in order to facilitate a culture of belonging on our campus driven by education.

We stand for a future in medicine that recognizes structural racism and state-sponsored violence as health issues. We stand in solidarity with our black brothers and sisters. We stand against inequality and racism and are committed to dismantling structural racism in medicine and beyond.

In solidarity,

**Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine
Student Executive Council 2020-2021:**

Samaneh Bolourchi – COMSEC President and NHC Student Board Member
Isabella Hamilton – VP of Academic Affairs
Jeff Nguyen – VP of Admissions
Kevin Tran – VP of Community Outreach
Hannah Zipfel – VP of Alumni Affairs
Nicholas Sordello – VP of Finance
Gilbert Kwong – VP of Student Affairs

Student Board of New Horizons Committee:

S/Ds Nicholas Crouch, Areeba Qazi, Kayla Jaime – Class Presidents
S/Ds Katherine Farley, Yasmin Bains, Jessica Mitter Pardo, Roman Dmitriyev – PCD Fellows
S/Ds Ryan McHenry, Simone Easterbrook, Mary Hyland, Danielle Tucker – OMM Fellows

Supported by the New Horizons Committee Faculty Board Members:

Dr. Michael Clearfield – Dean of COM
Dr. Richard Riemer – Senior Associate Dean
Dr. Tami Hendriksz – Associate Dean of Clinical Education
Dr. Walter Hartwig – Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Dr. Devon Lee – Director, Student Diversity & Inclusion
Dr. Andrea Taylor – Professor, Basic Science Department
Dr. Jordan Keys – Chair, OMM Department
Dr. Jay Shubrook – Professor, Primary Care Department

Supported by the College of Osteopathic Medicine Staff

