



# Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

June 3, 2020

Dear CMSRU students, faculty and staff:

Last night, CMSRU hosted a virtual Town Hall for members of our community on the topic of racism. This forum allowed us to grieve together and share our thoughts and feelings about the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. In addition, we were able to have an important, open and honest conversation about social justice and the roles of power and privilege in our medical school community and beyond.

African Americans have faced racism in this country for generations. This oppression has robbed families of their opportunities; it has robbed them of their health; and it has robbed them of their very lives. As an institution, we recognize the trauma and anguish this has caused our Black colleagues. We also affirm that implicit bias exists in education and in health care, and commit to being purposeful in addressing racism and the trauma that it continues to cause in our community.

CMSRU strives to nurture physician leaders, and the advocacy shown by our students is truly inspiring. Our deans have received several passionate letters from students and CMSRU student organizations affirming their commitment to recognizing the scourge of racism and implicit bias in our community, and offering support and ideas to help address the problems. I value our students' perspective and look forward to working in partnership to improve our culture at CMSRU. Racism and hatred have no place at CMSRU and we are committed to making sure our students have an environment in which all feel safe to learn and develop professionally.

Thank you to each and every member of our compassionate and empathetic CMSRU community who participated in last night's Town Hall, especially our facilitator, Dr. Jocelyn Mitchell-Williams, associate dean for diversity and community affairs, a highly respected and valued member of my administrative leadership team. I appreciated the fellowship during this difficult time, and I'm so grateful to those who shared their experiences, offered insight, and asked questions during our Town Hall. I personally left the meeting with more clarity, greater appreciation and a renewed sense of optimism about our future. I look forward to continuing this important discussion. Please be on the lookout for further communications from Dr. Mitchell-Williams about additional programming her office is planning.

Tomorrow, Rowan University is offering the first in a series of online forums focused on educating, supporting and providing resources and next steps for the Rowan community and beyond. I urge members of CMSRU to participate in these conversations. The first event, *"The Match that Lit the Flame: Unpacking Systemic Racism, Policing, and Resistance"* is **Thursday, June 4 at 3 p.m.** [Click here for more information on this and the Webex link to the join the meeting.](#)

Sincerely,

*Annette C. Reboli, M.D.*

Annette C. Reboli, MD

Dean and Professor of Medicine