**Academy for Professionalism in Health Care (APHC) Statement on Racism and Racial Violence**

The recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many others killed or harmed are tragic and stark reminders of the historical injustices that many African Americans and other people of color in the United States have experienced and continue to experience daily.

APHC is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching professionalism across the full spectrum of health care. Its mission is to optimize patient care through professionalism education, scholarship, policy, and practice in all health-related fields. Most APHC members provide patient care and teach and lecture on topics of medical professionalism and ethics, including the character and values of being health care professionals. The Board of Directors of the APHC recognize that the suffocating effects of structural racism and injustice stand contrary to health care professionalism and the mission of the APHC. To remain silent on these matters would be a form of moral complicity.

Racism and all other forms of racial, cultural, sexual, and religious discrimination, intolerance, and bigotry have no place in moral societies. Sadly, we know this is not the reality for many of our colleagues, students, patients, and members of our local communities.

The eruption of protests we are witnessing around the country and the world are the result of people calling for accountability and justice for those murdered and harmed. All people have inherent moral value and should be treated equitably, unlike the experiences of those who are treated differently because of their ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender, spiritual beliefs, or the color of their skin.

The APHC stands with those who wish to use their voice and actions to heal the wounds of systematic racial injustice. To quote Dr. Angela Davis, “In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist.” We applaud demonstrations like those in Michigan, in which police and community members marched together in a demonstration of human solidarity.

The APHC values diversity and inclusivity of all who are committed to its mission. We recognize more can and should be done to address historical and systematic racism and all forms of discrimination and bias in the US and throughout the world. As you read this statement, please join the leadership of the APHC as we recommit ourselves to the mission of our organization, and to being an agent of change to address the wrongs of systematic racism, discrimination, and intolerance and their negative impacts on the health individual persons and of our communities. We encourage all health care institutions and academic medical learning environments to make a similar commitment by structing their teaching, patient care, and research programs to end health disparities and the structural elements that contribute to them.

Each of us has much work to do and as an organization committed to excellence in professionalism, we ask for your guidance in helping the APHC support our fellow health care professionals, trainees, patients and the communities we serve. The Board encourages our members to reach out to us with their recommendations on how we can work together in support of one another.

In solidarity,

Board of Directors, Academy for Professionalism in Health Care