



MMI ALERT

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: A Spectrum of Racism

**From the Munroe-Meyer Institute | June 2, 2020**

Dear MMI Community,

We watched, and we were all sickened and horrified by the recent events in Minneapolis that took the life of Mr. George Floyd. Similarly, the tragic loss of the life of Mr. James Scurlock shook our community to the core. We could not comprehend that this was happening today. We all participate in the national outrage.

But ... is it enough? This is not something that happened for the first time. Just in the recent years, we've witnessed dozens of similar events across the country. I remember the beating of Rodney King, the death of Trayvon Martin, and the many others who have senselessly lost their lives because of the color of their skin. All these events did not lead to a real change in our society, as these events are merely a reflection of a much broader issue. We must recognize that racism is not only part of the history of this country, but it is still part of our nation today. Racism takes many forms – we witnessed in Minneapolis its most brutal form, but it extends throughout a spectrum, all the way to unconscious biases toward racial and ethnic groups.

Racism, disproportional poverty levels, underserved communities, discrimination, differential treatment – they are part of the lives of our fellow citizens with different colors of skin, and change is not happening at a pace that is satisfactory. But there is hope. Perhaps for the first time, we are witnessing a broad coalition of people with different racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds – united in demanding a fundamental change. I hope that this outrage and coalition focuses energy in a positive direction – and drives the changes that we all need.

As UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold said, we must increase awareness of racism, privilege and inequity in our communities and promote diversity, inclusion and equity. So I am asking you, as members of a community that also have experienced inequities, to help. Ask yourself how can you become an ambassador and advocate for change. Do your part in this important transformation.

Enough is enough.

The best, and stay healthy, stay safe.

**Karoly Mirnics, M.D., Ph.D.**

Director

The Munroe-Meyer Institute