

Dear Colleagues,

Friday, June 19, is Juneteenth, which is celebrated nationally to mark the end of slavery in the United States. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, it was not until June 19, 1865, that Union Soldiers carried the order to Texas, freeing those who were enslaved. Juneteenth marks an important day for us to recognize the significant amount of work that remains to achieve equity for African-Americans in the United States. This year, with the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks, and the protests and demonstrations that have followed, the reality of structural racism in this country has become more widely acknowledged.

We urge you to mark 6/19/2020 by learning through dialogue, reading, or watching programs on anti-racism. Here are just a few selected resources from DGSOM's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Human Resources for the UCLA Hospital System:

- Folasade May, MD, PhD, shares her thoughts in this recently published article: [From words to actions to change: How medicine, academia can respond to racial injustice in America.](#)
- Review the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture material, titled: [The Coming of Freedom: Celebrating Juneteenth](#) or [Talking about Race: Whiteness.](#)
- Read the article: "[Who Gets to Be Afraid in America?](#)" by Ibram X. Kendi.
- Learn about UCLA Staff efforts to combat racism: [UCLA Staff Assembly urges people to get involved in support of antiracism.](#)
- Stream a dance performance: [Step Afrika! Juneteenth Virtual Celebration.](#)

This Juneteenth, let us unite with each other and with the communities we serve to move forward together toward a more compassionate and caring society of inclusivity and justice. We look forward to providing you with updates on the commitments we will be making at UCLA Health towards these efforts.

Sincerely,

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