

In late May 2020, we sent a message to the UCM-BSD community reaffirming our values following the deaths of George Floyd and others at the hands of police. Nearly a year later, knowing that due process was served, there is some comfort in yesterday's guilty verdict against the former officer charged in Mr. Floyd's case. The perpetrator has been held accountable for his actions.

While the verdict will not bring Mr. Floyd back, it does help us to move forward. We must not allow ongoing events and future tragedies to stop our efforts to end systemic racism that persists in the education, law enforcement and healthcare systems. Much like gun violence, racism is also a public health crisis, and we need to redouble our efforts to do what we can as an academic health system to advance racial and health equity.

At UChicago Medicine, we will continue to prioritize and invest in measures to improve health equity, strengthen our partnerships, allocate the resources needed to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve, and address the social determinants of health that affect the quality of life of residents on the South Side. We will continue to increase diversity, inclusion, equity and fairness at our organization as we carry out our research, education and healthcare mission. We will continue to promote equality and equity in our workplace, provide compassionate and high-quality care to all who come to UChicago Medicine, and treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Please join us and the rest of the University community in reaffirming our commitment to an inclusive environment and to fight racism. Thank you for being a part of our UChicago Medicine and Biological Sciences community and for your efforts to support our mission, vision and values.