



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
IMMUNOLOGISTS

June 5, 2020

Dear AAI Members:

Frightened. Anguished. Saddened. Horrified. Hopeful.

We could use these words to describe our mental state during the past three months as we were experiencing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, or now, after the murder of George Floyd as we witness public outrage to systemic racism.

This year, like none before, has left us reeling from major blows that we have all found difficult to comprehend—and for which finding solutions is even more challenging. Recent events have directed a spotlight onto the racial imbalances, disparities, and inequalities that exist within our communities on a national and personal level.

AAI has endeavored to be a society of inclusion and equality. It is for this reason we created the Minority Affairs Committee in the 1970s to spearhead this endeavor and to ensure we are always held accountable to these values. We were founded on the principle that the advancement of science is not based on race, gender, religion, boundary of nation, or any other difference. Though not always perfect, we will strive to be better and honor that principle at our core—because every single one of you is a valued and appreciated member, and all voices need to be heard. An inclusive organization is a stronger organization.

There are no easy solutions for eliminating the challenges of systemic racism and bias on a national level. Yet organizationally and personally, together we have the power and platform to effect positive change as we continue working to advance

the goals of inclusive diversity and equitable access within our association and communities.

We hope that you find solace in your science. No matter the focus of your work or the stage of your career, you are part of an amazing community making discoveries for a better world and humankind.

Please know that AAI understands the stress and anxiety our members may be experiencing during these extremely trying times and that we are continuing to work for you.

You are appreciated. You are respected. You matter to us.

Wishing you health, safety, and peace,

Jeremy M. Boss, President

Jenny P. Ting, President-elect

Gary A. Koretzky, Vice President-elect

Robert J. Binder, Chair, Minority Affairs Committee

M. Michele Hogan, Executive Director