



SDBP STANDS AGAINST RACISM

We have spent a lot of time dealing with the impact of COVID on our lives – whether on colleagues, our trainees, or the families we serve. However, other aspects of our lives here in America have not changed – and can be overwhelmingly and painfully negative. The events of the past few months, ranging from the disproportionate impact of COVID on communities of color to the increasing violence and murder related to pervasive racism in our country, are simply unacceptable. To quote one SDBP colleague, “I’m writing from a place of sadness, shame and hopefulness. Sadness about the overt racism and loss of dignity and life these past few months have escalated into. Shame about how much I’m learning day by day the Black students, staff and faculty at my medical school are suffering in silence and how little (nothing) our institution (my job) has done to support them. Hopefulness about the ability to make a difference through no-cost, human acts of kindness.”

To make it clear, SDBP stands strongly with our communities of color, and reject all aspects of racism, intolerance and hatred. While each of us is impacted in different ways, those of us coming from a position of white privilege cannot know the true impact and daily discrimination experienced by our black or brown colleagues. However, it is our responsibility to be a voice for all, and to stay silent is unacceptable.

Many of us walked/ran 2.23 miles to remember Ahmaud Arbery, mourned Breonna Taylor, were outraged at George Floyd’s senseless death. But what are we doing in our day to day lives, professionally and personally, to fight this insidious pandemic?

SDBP’s mission is to be the leading voice for improving the health and well being of **ALL** children and families. What can we do to help decrease racism? What is our responsibility to speak up on behalf of EVERYONE, not just the majority? I am hopeful that we can teach each other, our families and our children about diversity in a way that truly impacts the way we treat others.

This Tuesday we will have a Zoom call open to the entire SDBP membership to discuss more ways that we can address the needs of our members, our families and our children. Our Board will continue to pursue diversity among our membership and look to ways to support our diverse members. I look forward to speaking with you & sharing ideas for moving forward.

I am also including two links that one member shared with me, as well as an article a colleague at Mason shared. I hope these are helpful as we restart these talks.

[Your Black Colleagues May Look Like They're Okay — Chances Are They're Not](#)

[How White People Can Be Better Allies to the Black Community](#)

[Black Psychology Graduate Students' Lives Matter](#)

SDBP CONNECT – Tuesday, June 2 at 4:00pm EST - SPEAK UP!

On Tuesday, we have switched our topic to provide a platform to talk about how SDBP can support our diverse colleagues, staff, children and families. We cannot be silent, or we will be complicit.

Join us on Tuesday at 4pm EST and share your voice. Speak up. And let's make this discussion a critical step in moving forward to put the respect our organization has for diversity into action.

RESOURCES TO RAISE ANTI-RACIST CHILDREN

Finally, below is a list of anti-racism organizations to follow on social media and books, podcasts, and movies to recommend to your friends, neighbors, and clients.

[RESOURCES TO RAISE ANTI-RACIST CHILDREN](#)

Warmly,

Robyn Mehlenbeck

President, SDBP

