

Presidential Statement on Our Commitment to Equality and Justice

My Dear NCME Colleagues,

As I sat down to write this message to the membership, I found myself struggling to find the right words, words that can offer some comfort, some hope, and some optimism. The past few months have been extremely difficult and exhausting. COVID-19 has claimed more than 100,000 lives in our country. Our frustration and worries about our health and that of our loved ones, unfortunately, has been further infused with anger, pain, and desperation due to a series of recent tragedies of racial injustice. The recent horrific deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor have painfully reminded us, once again, of the divisions and inequalities that persist within our communities.

One of my colleagues recently wrote in a company blog: “Being Black in America is exhausting. Being Black in America is traumatizing.” She was brave and open in sharing her anger and her fears as she described her experiences of being Black in America. I won’t pretend that I fully understand the raw feelings my colleague expressed—that I have experienced those feelings myself in the same way—but that is no excuse for me to stay silent. As my five-year-old daughter has been taught in preschool, people come in different shapes and sizes. We have different origins. We have different colors of skin. We have different cultures. These shouldn’t be the factors by which we are judged or treated. There is no excuse for any of our fellow Americans to have to watch over their shoulder when they go out for a jog. We cannot deny humanity and dignity to any person because of skin color.

Silence will not move us forward. I was encouraged by my colleague’s openness and bravery. I, in turn, encourage our membership to listen to one another and engage in open and inclusive dialogues. This is a time to draw deeply on the values that underlie our measurement community. This is a time to be reminded of the mission that guides us in our collective commitment to service, social justice, diversity, and inclusion.

For those who are hurting, I send you comfort and support. For those who want to voice their concerns and passion, I stand with you. NCME as an organization is committed to doing our part to advance meaningful change. This starts with fostering diversity and inclusion across all that we do. We will continue to work toward listening, creating awareness, and having an impact, in who we are, and in what we do.

As we find ways to define the post-COVID new normal, I hope we will also move forward to a place where we focus on equality, unity, and justice. We must work toward a better future, together.

Ye Tong, Ph.D.

NCME President