



Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education

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Minneapolis, MN 55455

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www.MMCGMEServices.org

June 5, 2020

Dear Medical Education Colleagues,

The Board of the Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education (MMCGME) stands with our community as we mourn the loss of George Floyd, a victim of the structural racism built into so many of our institutions. We have no words to ease the horror of the recurring vision of a white police officer kneeling on the neck of a handcuffed and helpless black man as he pleads, "I can't breathe." We have no words to ease the cumulative weight of the recurring micro and macro-aggressions experienced by our learners of color in our houses of healing each day. These are not singular and reprehensible acts by outliers, but the inevitable product of our history and the institutions we have built. We must name structural racism for what it is and we must act to abolish it.

Our organization is a consortium of Medical Education leaders representing all of the major health systems in the Twin Cities Metro area that provide clinical learning sites for students, residents, and fellows. We exist to support the healthcare workforce of the future. Success in this mission includes health equity for all which depends on a workforce that looks like and reflects the lived experiences of all of the communities we serve. The simple question that we are working to answer is "What will WE do with our BREATH?" If you are able, we hope to see you at the Healthcare Worker socially distanced protest on the south lawn of the Capitol tomorrow at 11 am.

Our breath, our hearts and our hands are committed to partnering within and across our systems to help our learners NOW, and to double down on our commitment to the real work of lasting change. If you are struggling in these times, please know you are not alone. Confidential mental health services are available through the Resident/Fellow Assistance Program by calling 651-430-3383 or 1-888-234-5744.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Benson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Brad Benson, MD, FACP, FAAP
MMCGME Board Chair

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

Allina Health Services
Hennepin Healthcare
Regions Hospital/HealthPartners, Inc.
VA Healthcare System Minneapolis

Children's Minnesota
M Health Fairview
University of Minnesota Medical School