



American
Board of
Psychiatry and
Neurology, Inc.

For Immediate Release

American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology Statement on Racism and Health Disparities

The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) is very disturbed by the disproportionately severe effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Americans of color and the reports of Black Americans being killed by the very people who are sworn to protect them. These and other events have drawn attention to longstanding health disparities in our country and the many ways in which our society and its institutions have failed to uphold the highest ideals of equity, justice, and inclusion. Now is the time for tangible action at an individual, organizational, and societal level.

As students of the mind and the brain, we at the ABPN are in a unique position to understand the devastating effects of racism on individuals and on society as a whole. With this understanding, the ABPN believes it is time to move beyond mere words that acknowledge what has occurred in the past and to take specific actions that may help ameliorate the problems that exist. To that end, in the last few years the ABPN has been reexamining its strategies for recruiting Directors and committee members so that every effort might be made to ensure that our volunteer psychiatrists and neurologists were truly representative of our workforce and the patients they serve. Those efforts will continue and be increased. We will also continue to do everything we can to ensure that racism as well as conscious and unconscious bias do not make their way into our examinations and programs. Ensuring inclusiveness and upholding the highest standards of fairness are not only our responsibility. These directives are the just and right things for us to do for our colleagues, our patients, and our profession.

Signed by the ABPN Board of Directors:

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June 22, 2020