

June 29th, 2020

The University of Pennsylvania Center for AIDS Research Community Advisory Board (Penn CFAR CAB) fully endorses the heartfelt words of the Penn CFAR around the tragedy that has befallen all of us between the COVID-19 pandemic and the death of Mr. George Floyd.

As the community voice, fighting for the best research in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the current climate in our world is so overwhelming that we all find it hard to “breathe”. We, as the Penn CFAR CAB, ask that you take this time to step back and reflect on the opportunities that have been placed before us in history. Opportunities that will allow us to do the following:

1. Breathe new life into tackling racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare through standing with researchers and community members to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard.
2. Breathe creativity in doing more targeted outreach to ensure that we have an honest and all-encompassing dialogue with stakeholders on the issues of injustice that are ingrained.
3. Finally, breathe knowledge and power to everyone we touch. Let them know the stories build lives and together continue to press towards the mark to make HIV/AIDS a disease that we combatted.

In the coming weeks, the Penn CFAR CAB will be developing programming and taking action steps to keep conversations going that will address the voices that we hear in the streets of Philadelphia. We are committed to community and welcome open communication with those we serve.

Warmest Regards,

Daiquiri Y. Robinson
Chair, Penn CFAR CAB

Dr. Andre H. Ford
Co-Chair, Penn CFAR CAB

