A Message from the Neuroscience Graduate Group: Recent Events June 2020

The events of the past several days have reminded us all that racism is ingrained in our society. On a personal level, it is evident in interactions like those caught on video between Amy Cooper and Christian Cooper. On an institutional level, it is evident in the fact that not only was George Floyd killed by a police officer, but the other officers there were not charged with a crime until enormous pressure was provided to do so. It is also evident in science and engineering, which, for example, include a smaller proportion of Blacks than in the full U.S. workforce (5% versus 12%).

We in the NGG are committed to fighting against racism and working towards a more just society. As a first step, we acknowledge that racism exists and declare our opposition to it in all forms. We also stand in full support of our black students and colleagues and will do everything we can to ensure their safety and success.

We also will be pursuing new initiatives in the coming months and years to try to be part of the solution. We will continue to listen to our trainees to learn from them how to make the NGG a more inclusive environment. We will continue to expand our outreach efforts to underserved communities, in particular reaching out to young people who might not otherwise know what neuroscience is and the positive role it can play in society. We will continue to expand our recruitment efforts, including reaching out to students from historically black colleges and universities and insisting that our Departments emphasize diversity in their new faculty hires. We also are working on ways to better support the efforts of our existing students and faculty to be more engaged with society at large.

We know these pursuits are just a start, and real change will take serious and sustained effort. We are committed to maintaining that effort and working towards eliminating racism and injustice in our society.

Sincerely,
Joshua Gold, NGG Chair
Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, PhD, Mitchell J. and Margo Krody Blutt Presidential Assistant Professor
Maria Geffen, Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, Neuroscience, and Neurology Evan Gallagher
Barbara Terzic
Jessica Schwarz
Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, PhD, Director of BGS
Joseph Kable, Baird Term Professor of Psychology
Kara McGaughey
Alice Dallstream, PhD Candidate
Valerie Jill Sydnor
Jamie Galanaugh
Michael Platt, James S. Riepe PIK Professor of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Marketing
Ari Kahn, Ph.D. Candidate
Brian M. Salzberg, Ph.D. Professor of Neuroscience and of Physiology
Yuzhang Chen
Rebecca Rothhaas
Michael P. Nusbaum, PhD, Professor of Neuroscience

Elelbin Ortiz, PhD Candidate
Julia (Kate) Brynildsen, PhD Candidate
Suna Li
Hannah Loo
Emily Feierman Hyatt
Ursula Tooley, Ph.D. Candidate
Sara Taylor
David Lozano
Kim Kridsada, NGG 2019
Yale Cohen, PhD
Heath D. Schmidt, Associate Professor of Nursing and Psychiatry
Katie Copley
Minghong Ma, PhD, Professor of Neuroscience
Emma Janke
Leah Middleton
Ashley Robbins, Ph.D. Candidate
Robert O. Heuckeroth MD PhD, Professor of Pediatrics
Alex T. Wei
Yeri Song
Rebecca Somach, PhD Candidate
Vanessa Fleites, PhD Candidate
Greer Prettyman, PhD Candidate
David A. Wolk, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology
Dale Zhou
Adam Pines
Judith Grinspan, PhD, Professor of Neurology
Ethan Blackwood
Aaron Williams
Lisa Wooldridge
Marissa Maroni
Mara Cowen, PhD Candidate
Julie A. Blendy, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology
Steven Thomas MD, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology
Steven Eliades MD, PhD
Nicole Rust, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology
Brandon Bastien
Marc Fuccillo, MD/PhD, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience
Michael P. Hart, PhD, Assistant Professor of Genetics
Ron W. DiTullio
Gianna Perez
Catrina Hacker
Sydney E. Cason, PhD Candidate
Michael Murphy
Jennifer Hafycz, PhD Candidate
Ruthie Wittenberg
Erin M. Purvis, PhD Candidate

H. Isaac Chen, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery
Keyana Moody, NGG Administrative Assistant
Maeve Coughlan
Delaney Fischer, PhD Candidate
Sierra Foshe
Kelsey M. Nemec, PhD Candidate
Guo-li Ming, Perelman professor of Neuroscience
Franz Weber, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience
Shinjae Chung, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience
Julia Riley
James Shorter, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics
Mary Schreck, PhD Candidate
Akiva S. Cohen., Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine
Julie Merchant
David Brainard, RRL Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean
Sandra Maday, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neuroscience
Joseph Gallegos