

## McKay DEI November '20 Newsletter:

Good afternoon! The McKay DEI committee hopes you are well during this eventful month in our city and country.

We were heartbroken to learn of another fatal police shooting of a Black man in Philadelphia two weeks ago. If you are unaware of the situation with Walter Wallace, we encourage you to learn more about the story behind what is causing so much pain in our city as well as about the national context of disproportionate police violence against members of the Black and disabled communities below.

[Here's what we know about the shooting.](#) This incident has again brought to attention the [insufficiency of de-escalation training](#) in most police departments. As summarized by the mental health-focused organization [Fountain House](#), "One in four deaths at the hands of police are people having a mental health emergency. They are disproportionately Black and other people of color [...]." While [some](#) have called for police reform, [many advocates and organizations](#) argue that better, preventative healthcare in combination with non-police first responders who are trained to deal with mental health crises will help to reduce police killings of Black and disabled people like Wallace.

Lastly, here are some DEI-related events that may be of interest to you:

- November 19 12-1pm: IRM Science & Bias Series - Dr. Gutarra Cordero will be presenting a talk entitled, "**STEM and Institutional Anti-Blackness: Curricular Reform in Light of the History of Scientific Racism.**" Join here: <https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/94046652728>.
- November 19 at 5-6:15pm: Racism and Anti-Racism in Contemporary America Series - **Fair Housing Policies and Practices.** Register here: [https://upenn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ljF983oaSSifTd8p0QgViv](https://upenn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ljF983oaSSifTd8p0QgViv).
- ***New Volunteer Opportunity!!!*** The Carver Science Fair is seeking medical and mental health professionals and biomedical scientists to serve on the SRC/IRB for the Carver Science Fair for 4th-12th graders in Philadelphia. We are looking for volunteers who are either (1) Medical or Mental Health Professionals (a psychologist, medical doctor, licensed social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, physician's assistant, doctor of pharmacy, or registered nurse) or (2) biomedical scientists with an earned graduate degree or who are current graduate students who have passed their qualifying exams. Volunteers must be willing to spend 4-8 hours in December and 4-8 hours in January reviewing virtual science fair applications. An hour of synchronous training will be required; the rest of the work can be scheduled at the volunteer's convenience. No clearances are needed, so this is a great way to support our local students even if you don't have them. If you are interested, please sign up by emailing [carverfair@gmail.com](mailto:carverfair@gmail.com). On behalf of the IRM and the Carver Science Fair, we thank you for playing an important role in our local science fair!

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**McKay DEI Committee**

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<https://www.med.upenn.edu/orl/mckay-dei-committee/>