



ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

GCEP DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ANTI-RACISM STATEMENT

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As the frontline of healthcare, 2020 has been a year that has tested all of the hard-working physicians who comprise the Georgia College of Emergency Physicians (GCEP). Beginning with an expected, but still challenging influenza season, immediately followed by a once-in-a-century global pandemic, 2020 has stretched our healthcare system to limits never before seen.

Those of us who watched George Floyd beg for medical attention and his life are all too familiar with those cries in the emergency departments (EDs) across our state. However, outside the EDs in America, these violent outcries of racial injustices are not new. From Trayvon Martin to Eric Garner and Tamir Rice and Freddie Gray and Philando Castile and Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, and now Rayshard Brooks. GCEP recognizes that their voices matter and their lives matter.

Racism is a critical public health emergency. As emergency physicians, we see firsthand the disparities in health that result from the effects of racism and discrimination in our society. GCEP understands that many of us chose Emergency Medicine to ameliorate these problems and address the limited access to healthcare experienced by marginalized populations -- we are America's safety-net. As emergency physicians, we also acknowledge the faults in our system and our own implicit biases. GCEP stands as an organization whole-heartedly against racism or discrimination in any fashion. We stand united and dedicated to providing high-quality care for ALL of our patients regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation or anything that may divide our society.

GCEP represents a diverse group of physicians and is committed to working with its members to advance emergency care in Georgia. GCEP will advocate for policies that eliminate disparities in health, including:

1. Uniform reporting of all deaths by law enforcement utilizing the US Standard Death Certificate;
2. Uniform reporting of all legal intervention injuries by law enforcement; and
3. Comprehensive reforms mandating implicit bias and anti-racism training for all law enforcement agencies and for all healthcare workers.

GCEP has been deliberate in diversifying its leadership board through the Nominating Committee and Diversity Committee. All board meetings are open to general membership and any member can suggest issues to address. GCEP is committed to developing and implementing a scholarship to support underrepresented minorities, specifically including Black physicians, in their educational and academic pursuits in becoming emergency physicians.