



Our Commitment to Equity & Equality - A Statement from the Association of Surgical Education

We, at the ASE, believe that as educators, we must speak out against inequality and injustice, not just in medical practice, but for society at large. The murder of George Floyd brings to the surface the structural racism and indignities that Black and African American communities, in particular, have experienced for too long. Sadly, the tragic deaths of Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, and countless more individuals capture national attention only to recede with time. It is in these times that, as a community of educators, we must directly and persistently use our platform to address the issues of social justice, racism, racial violence, and racial injustice. We affirm that Black Lives Matter.

As part of our ongoing mission to make ASE a home for all in the surgical education community, we have made a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Last year, we created a DEI Task Force to closely evaluate who we are, what we can be, and how we can get there. This focus of embracing diversity and championing transparency and equity is essential for our organization.

One of our greatest strengths as surgical educators is our commitment to science, facts, and data. We hope that the ASE will be the forum for future endeavors to identify where we are failing to address inequality and systemic racism as it applies to surgical education, healthcare, and beyond. Our 2021 meeting will highlight work of the DEI Task Force theme "ASE is Me: You Belong Here."

We promise to our membership to consistently focus on our diversity, inclusion, and addressing racial inequality. We must do better. We must be better.