

Dear Partners and Friends,

The Community Engagement Program (CE) within the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHHR) wanted to reach out during these challenging and promising times to connect with you and to reinforce our commitment to our community partners – new and sustained. We been ravaged by a global pandemic – both the COVID-19 virus and the economic devastation that has followed in its wake. We have also had to endure the 400-year-old pandemic of racism and oppression and witness repeated incidents of police brutality and the murder of African-Americans. Every time we turn on the television, we are reminded of the injustice and systematic racism that continues to plague our country. It reminds us that we have failed certain communities for far too long – especially African-Americans and other communities of color. The protests in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd highlight the importance of utilizing our first amendment rights. George Floyd should be alive today. So should Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and so many others whose lives were lost simply because they were Black. They were all lives that mattered.

MICHHR CE is committed to working alongside you to look for ways to make meaningful change to dismantle racism in the various systems with which we engage including research mechanisms, infrastructure, and the policies under which we work in our efforts to improve health through research.

It is important that all of the communities that we touch know where we stand on racism: we simply will not tolerate it. We stand with you in solidarity and we stand with you to look for ways to challenge ourselves, our communities, and our broader society to do whatever it takes to create the just and equitable world that we seek.

Yours in partnership,

Erica and Tricia

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