



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

June 5, 2020

Dear Students, Staff, Faculty, and extended family of the UofSC Physician Assistant (PA) Program:

To say that the year 2020 has been difficult thus far would be a huge understatement. We have all been affected and continue to make sacrifices in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak and pandemic. We have been isolated in our homes as our work, social, and recreational lives have been turned upside down. We have watched as a disproportionate number of people of color have contracted and died from this virus. On the heels of this horrible pandemic, we have witnessed the senseless and violent murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. These deaths have brought to the forefront a harsh reminder that racism and hatred continue to exist in our country. As a program, we must acknowledge these issues exist and act decisively and intentionally towards striving for justice and equality.

As members of the UofSC family, we believe in and adhere to the Carolinian Creed. It charges us to *“respect the dignity of all persons; respect the rights and property of others; discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions.”*

As current and future PAs, we are also bound to the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for the PA Profession. In those guidelines, there is a Statement of Values for the PA Profession. Embedded in those values, PAs are expected to *“hold as their primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings; uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice; recognize and promote the value of diversity; treat equally all persons who seek their care; use their knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.”*

As a program, we must unite, allow open and thoughtful dialogue, and initiate difficult, transparent discussions in an effort to support our students, staff, and faculty through this extremely difficult time. Please know that as a PA program, we are coming from a place of caring and love. First and foremost is the well-being of our students. We are readily available at any time via phone, e-mail, text, video conference, or whatever communication platform you are comfortable with. Our goal is to prevent our students from feeling alone, isolated, or suffering without a means of having their voices heard. However, if you are more comfortable seeking help outside the program, several campus resources are listed below:

To report incidents of bias or hate, submit a [Bias and Hate Incident Form](#)

UofSC Counseling & Psychiatry: 803-777-5223

UofSC Police Department: 803-777-4215

Now, we have to begin the difficult process of healing and moving forward from the adversity that we have faced this year. For better or for worse, we will never forget the year 2020. The trauma inflicted by COVID-19, racism, and hate can all be overcome with a united and collective effort beginning with dialogue and education and followed by purposeful action that embraces diversity and inclusion of all people.

Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Stay safe and be well,

Professor Mangione