

May 31, 2020

PRESS RELEASE: OMSA Statement on Commitment to Fighting Anti-Black Racism

We acknowledge and apologize for the delay in the issuing of this statement.

Recent tragedies, both locally and internationally, have again exposed the deep-rooted anti-Black racism that remains pervasive in our communities. This racism is systemic, entrenched in the fabric of our societies, and requires collective dismantling.

As a community of future physicians, OMSA recognizes that racism and discrimination have direct consequences on health and contribute to creating and perpetuating health inequities. As an organization, OMSA is committed to engaging in advocacy that promotes diversity, inclusion, justice and equity in all its forms, and today, we commit more specifically to addressing anti-Black racism and white supremacy within our advocacy work.

In these difficult times, OMSA shares in the collective grief reverberating across many Black communities. We stand in solidarity with Black medical trainees across the province and voice our support for the anti-racism advocacy of the Black Medical Students' Association of Canada. We further implore non-Black POC and white medical trainees to take up their responsibilities as allies in the fight against anti-Black racism. Finally, we call upon medical schools in Ontario to prioritize incorporation of policies and curricula within their institutions that specifically opposes anti-Black racism, and to support the enrolment of Black students in their institutions; the need for these are imminent now, more than ever.

We additionally wish to express our solidarity with medical trainees who identify as Indigenous or as people of colour in the broader fight against racism in our country.

We recommend the following resource as a starting point for learning more about racism and its intersection with healthcare: bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES, as shared by the Black Medical Students' Association, and compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein. Over the next few days, we will also be compiling a list of anti-racism in medicine resources, which will be added to the OMSA website.

Sincerely,



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Ushma Purohit
President-Elect, OMSA



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