

Get involved!

Dear Colleagues,

Let me start by saying that the events leading to the national and global demonstrations have sickened me and my family to our core. There is no place in our world for the level of disregard that has been shown for human life in our country.

There are common experiences that most black men share. We have all been questioned at some point in our lives about our intellect, our belonging, and our character, because of the color of our skin. Some of us have been persecuted, victimized, and there are many who have been murdered as Mr. George Floyd was recently in Minnesota.

Catholic health has received me, a black Haitian-American male, with open arms. You have treated me for who I am. I am the Chief Clinical Officer & Physician Executive for Catholic Health, because you saw the content of my being, my humanity, not that I am a black man.

I am here today as the highest ranked physician leader in Catholic Health due to some luck, some hard work, and a lot of support from people like Dr. Valenta, Dr. Bieber, Dr. Pierdon, Mrs. Zyry, Dr. Nash, Dr. Fisher, Dr. Bulger, Mrs. Miller, Dr. Bothy, Dr. Weiss, Dr. Dungan, Dr. McCabe, Mr. Dunlop, Mrs. Markiewicz, Mr. Sullivan, just to name a few. All of them are white, all of them chose to look at me for my potential and ability and to provide welcome support because they could.

Like them, you have the power to make positive changes with your daily choices. The routine encounters in daily life, who do you associate with, where you look for interns, where you look for our colleagues, who you offer a job to, who you vote for; all of these simple, yet profound, choices can bring about true and lasting change.

You, as physicians and healers, have the power to change this. Don't stand on the sidelines. Make your voice heard, peacefully. We have to engage and influence our elected colleagues and bring about systematic changes in law enforcement & the judicial system that were designed with decades of racism.

Get involved and don't stand on the sidelines.

Our children's future depends on it. The life of someone like me may depend on it.

Thank you all for your support over the past several weeks, months, and the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Hans', written in a cursive style with a large loop.

Hans