AOA Statement Denouncing Racism & Inequality

Statement attributable to AOA President Ronald R. Burns, DO, and AOA CEO Kevin Klauer, DO, EJD:

The American Osteopathic Association wishes to publicly express our profound sadness in response to the tragic death of George Floyd, and we firmly stand with all who are impacted by systemic racism and inequality. In addition to recognizing the personal loss for Mr. Floyd’s family and loved ones, we mourn the stark reality that overt racism, unfortunately, still exists within our nation.

The osteopathic profession has always proudly embraced diversity and inclusion and the unqualified value placed on human life. Our profession has a long-standing commitment to addressing health disparities and supporting programs aimed at reducing violence of all kinds, including those that have a disproportionate impact on minority communities.

We embrace the belief that all aspects of an individual, including but not limited to race, contribute to the whole person and should never result in disadvantage or infliction of harm.

We are hopeful that through this tragedy, meaningful and necessary social reform can and will occur, and we are uplifted by the peaceful protests uniting all races and ethnicities in support of equality and justice. At the same time, we are deeply disappointed that the criminal actions of the few have, in part, overshadowed the lawful and righteous efforts of peaceful protestors across our nation.

Our hearts are heavy, but our will is strong. The osteopathic community will continue working on the front lines to help heal the nation and look to a brighter future.

Ronald R. Burns, DO
President, American Osteopathic Association

Kevin Klauer, DO, EJD
CEO, American Osteopathic Association