

Southern Surgical Association Statement

The events set off by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have generated long overdue introspection and conversations around racial injustice in communities across America. As we stand on the precipice of another potential turning point in our country's long march toward true justice and equality, the Southern Surgical Association (SSA) is committed to doing its part to heal the underlying condition that has plagued the U.S. since before its founding—systemic racism.

As one of the oldest surgical societies in the nation, and one whose origins are in the American South but National in membership, the SSA has a unique duty to be leaders in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, not only in our profession but across all aspects of society. The SSA leadership stands with all our current members, surgeons in training, fellow health care workers, and anyone whose conscience has been seared by recent tragedies in condemning all forms of oppression and discrimination in our society. The difficult work ahead begins with each of us continually examining our own attitudes and biases, reaching out, listening to those who live under the shadow of systemic racism, offering mentorship, promoting appointment to senior and leadership positions, taking advantage of the SSA collaboration with Society of Black Academic Surgeons and the Claude Organ M.D. visiting lectureship, and consistently pushing for change in whatever ways we can.