

Dear colleagues,

It is with a heavy heart I am writing to you today. The news of the tragic death of George Floyd, a Minneapolis man who died in police custody, has resulted in a public outcry heard around the world. As we watch the reaction, resulting riots and collective grief over this senseless death, I want to reach out to encourage our entire UCLA Health family to come together.

The times we are currently living in are difficult. We are concerned about the mental health and well-being of our staff and faculty as COVID-19 continues to demonstrate your strength, your compassion and your dedication to serving others. We have offered wellness resources to you each week in an effort to support your health and safety during the pandemic.

Now, the pain we see and hear reflected in the faces and voices across our Los Angeles community, our state and nation, are likely adding to your burden.

Our vision includes healing humankind, alleviating suffering and delivering acts of kindness. These actions are perfectly aligned to what is needed now across our country.

I write to you often about our CICARE values, and share stories of your incredible commitment to each other, our patients and their families. Your strength and your deep compassion can also help heal each other and, more broadly, the members of our community and nation who are hurting.

We will be sharing more information this week on specific ways we can come together during this devastating time – for each other and for our community.

For today, I want to express my sorrow at the tragedy, which has befallen the family of George Floyd, and my appreciation for each of you and the actions you take each day to demonstrate respect across UCLA Health.

Sincerely

**Johnese Spisso, MPA**

President, UCLA Health

CEO, UCLA Hospital System

Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences