

Juneteenth

June 19, 2020 Friday

We want to thank you all for participating today in remembering the history and celebrating the meaning of Juneteenth.

This is a seminal moment in our history, requiring more than pausing to reflect on racism and bias in our country, society, and health care system. It requires us to challenge our attitudes and beliefs. This may make us feel uncomfortable. That is good, that is progress. And it demands that we take action. That is what is required if we are collectively to break the vicious cycle of racism and level the playing field for good. In order to gain a fuller understanding of racism and start down a more inclusive, anti-racist path, we must see ourselves and the world we live in through a new prism. We must educate ourselves, and we must listen to each other. We do this for all of us—our colleagues, friends, and families. And we do this for our patients and communities. We must all do better to be better.

While today we remember from where we have come, we encourage everyone to also focus on where we must go. As a quote beloved by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. says, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” The path we are on continues to challenge us, and the goal of social justice is still in the distance. The momentum of change has arrived, and we must continue to push forward.

On this auspicious day, we wanted leave you with the powerful words of Gary Butts, MD, Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Mount Sinai Health System, and Dean for Diversity Programs, Policy and Community Affairs for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Butts has prepared the following [video](#). It can be found on a new website, [United in Solidarity](#), that was launched today by the Office for Diversity and Inclusion. We hope you take the time to listen, to reflect and to help us put his and our words into defining action.



Thank you for all you do and for making Mount Sinai what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.

Kenneth L. Davis, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mount Sinai Health System

Dennis S. Charney, MD
Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
President for Academic Affairs
Mount Sinai Health System