Dear Students,

The AAMC recently commented on the Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping (Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping).

Our School of Medicine shares the very deep concern regarding the effect this order would have on our ability to conduct critical training on diversity, equity and inclusion, and indeed to achieve our mission. We stand firmly with the AAMC in our commitment to being an anti-racist, diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization. We will not waiver in pursuing any training and education that will assist us in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Garfin, MD
Interim Dean, School of Medicine

For Immediate Release

AAMC Statement on Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping

Washington, D.C., September 24, 2020—AAMC President and CEO David J. Skorton, MD, and AAMC Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer David A. Acosta, MD, issued the following statement on the Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping:

“The AAMC is concerned and alarmed by the Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping issued on Sept. 22.

While the executive order contains some elements that are universally agreed upon and with which we agree, it also exhibits a misunderstanding of most diversity and inclusion training programs and therefore will only further divide an already fragmented nation.

The history of our country and academic medicine includes myriad examples of principles and actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion of which we can all be proud. Unfortunately, both the country and the community of academic medicine have not always lived up to the ideal of equal opportunity, and our history includes painful examples of racism, sexism, prejudice, and conscious as well as unconscious biases based on race,
gender, and other identities. This history and these biases have led to inequities in health care and other areas of life that are increasingly evident in our nation. The disparities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing protests related to police brutality have boldly demonstrated the damaging and dehumanizing effects that derive from not respecting and valuing our differences and lived experiences, and have amplified racial biases and exclusionary behaviors.

The central purpose of diversity and inclusion training is, in fact, to bring the country together, not to further divide it. Only through better understanding of our conscious and unconscious biases, learning about other cultures in our pluralistic society, reaffirming our commitment to being anti-racist, and challenging long-held beliefs – that we hold ourselves and that we hold about others – will we heal the divisions now shaking our nation to its core.

The AAMC, and the academic medical institutions that comprise our membership, are committed to being diverse, inclusive, equitable, and anti-racist organizations. We believe this training is needed now more than ever. The AAMC intends to continue our trajectory of pursuing and even increasing such training. We urge our member institutions and other affected organizations to do so as well.”

The Association of American Medical Colleges is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members comprise all 155 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America’s medical schools and teaching hospitals and their 173,000 faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Additional information about the AAMC and its member medical schools and teaching hospitals is available at aamc.org.