June 4, 2020

Subject: Reflections and Plans from the UC San Diego DISC to Our DISC Community

Dear UC San Diego DISC Community,

We write to you today to reaffirm the commitment of the UC San Diego Dissemination and Implementation Science Center (UC San Diego DISC) to equity and justice. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery compounded by the tragedies experienced during the global pandemic have highlighted the systemic racism and inequities that persist in our nation. We recognize that these impacts have been particularly difficult for friends, family and colleagues from the Black and other historically marginalized communities. Addressing and reducing inequities in our community is a critical area within dissemination and implementation science. We also accept a position of humility, acknowledging that this is a time for us to learn, listen, and elevate the voices of our DISC members and community partners whose perspectives deserve amplification.

As we continue to grow our DISC community, we plan to thoughtfully and intentionally infuse our programming and outreach to pursue our commitment to racial equity and justice. We will be meeting as a leadership team to discuss how we can better understand and address the impact on racism in the scholarship and practice of implementation science.

We strongly encourage your collaboration, ideas, knowledge, and dialogue to ensure that we uphold our commitment to equity and justice in our training, research, and community engagement. Our initial plans include:

- Highlighting the work of our DISC members and investigators that address issues of equity and justice through our digital platform and events
- Planning dedicated sessions in our educational programming and activities that address the issue of health equity and disparities (please see our recent D&I Journal Club and WIP session on this topic)
- Continuing to explore how our D&I models, methods, strategies, and measures can address and alleviate instead of exacerbate health inequities
- Encouraging and prioritizing our UC San Diego DISC pilot funding to proposals that address health equity and justice
- Strengthening our partnerships with research groups and community partners whose mission is to care for underserved communities (e.g., FQHC partners around San Diego, San Diego Center for AIDS Research)

As individuals and a community, there is significant work to be done. In the words of our UC San Diego Chancellor, Pradeep Khosla, “collectively, let us continue to work together for a more just, equitable and humane society in our service, activism, pedagogy, and community and collaborative efforts."

With compassion and gratitude,

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