

To our Microscopy Community,

We add our voices in solidarity with the Black community and communities of color, who are so terribly affected by the racism and inequality that still exists.

In Science, progress requires all levels of diversity - diversity of thought, of viewpoint, of background, of experience, of talent. Success requires interdisciplinary teams, with each member listening to the others and working in a closely coordinated way. We therefore celebrate diversity, and work to increase the voices and safety of those who have been marginalized.

How can we help combat racism and injustice? Education, compassion, empathy, opening our eyes to the reality of our world, and working for change.

The MSA Student Council helps define the future of our society. This is a responsibility that requires we do not take the issues of racism and injustice lightly. We see our society as a place for individuals, no matter their race, to discuss important scientific questions. We aim to be as active in cultivating a welcoming community as we are in pursuing scientific knowledge. In fact, we know that without a diverse community we will not be able to answer the most critical questions. This is not a feeling, this is a fact that has been proven many times over.

While we are proud of what we have achieved in the few years of our existence, we must do better and reflect on our own practices and culture to ensure that we are actively promoting equality and rejecting hate. This is not a goal that can be achieved passively, nor can this be achieved by just a few members. This ideal must be continually and actively pursued by our community.

We hope that all MSA members will join us in making a commitment to working towards not only a scientific community, but a world that is more just, equitable, and safe for everyone. Without the commitment of the whole, we leave our colleagues vulnerable to the heavy and dangerous burden of discrimination. Silence is not the answer to acts of social injustice, we can only change through great acts of love and standing in support of those who are working towards a better future.

Change is a multi-lane road, and we implore you to commit to a path that suits you—stand up against injustice, amplify the voices of change makers, educate yourself, or donate to civil rights organizations.

Sincerely,

MSA Student Council

https://www.microscopy.org/students/student_council.cfm