



The Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) endorses the [Association of American Medical Colleges statement](#) issued on June 1, 2020 on police brutality and racism in America. AUPO is wholeheartedly committed to the goals of equity, justice and the elimination of systemic racism in ophthalmology, health care, and our society. The AUPO has already taken steps to enhance diversity at both an individual and societal level. Through recent enactment and implementation of our [Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program for students](#) carried jointly with the [American Academy of Ophthalmology](#), we have sought to redress the historical underrepresentation of African American, Latinx, Native American and other marginalized populations in our profession. Through the work of our chairs, program and education directors, departmental administrators, research directors, and program coordinators, we have doubled-down in our efforts to be more inclusive in our training and work environments. Additionally, we have sought to increase the activities of ophthalmology in community health and engagement to address long-standing population health and medical access disparities starkly exposed with the COVID-19 pandemic. The AUPO pledges to work with our member programs in engaging our ophthalmology subspecialty and, indeed, all of academic medicine, in actively partnering with the communities we serve in eliminating racism in all of its manifestations to ensure a healthier and more just nation.

June 20, 2020