

NSP Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

June 3, 2020

To all members of the Illinois Neuroscience Community:

Recent events in Minneapolis and around the country have shaken us all. The killing of George Floyd and the subsequent demonstrations and unrest are a sharp reminder that we are dealing with issues of immediate and vital importance, with a long and often shameful history. As the Society for Neuroscience puts it, “The long history of racism and structural inequity that have a direct impact on generations of Black lives simply cannot be ignored.”

For the NSP, promoting diversity and opportunity are at the core of everything we do: recruiting students from many backgrounds and with a broad range of interests; promoting excellence, creativity and novel approaches; nurturing a collaborative and collegial culture; and maintaining flexibility in graduate study. Our goal is to be open and inclusive without regard to race, nationality, sex or gender identity, or any other limiting categories. We have made great progress, but the work is far from finished and it must continue.

We are grateful to the leadership of our university, and of many of our campus units, for their statements embracing diversity and inclusion and rejecting fear and hate, and we are proud to join them in making our own statement.

We in the Neuroscience Program affirm our recognition of the worth and dignity of every person, the right of everyone to fair and equal treatment, and the fundamental importance of diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity to our mission as scientists, educators, employees of a land grant university and citizens of the United States of America.