

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine, like the rest of the United States, has taken pause over the last several days to reflect upon the horrific acts of racial injustice and violence that resulted in the deaths of several Black and Brown Americans at the hands of racial discrimination and intolerance. The deaths of these individuals along with the history of mistreatment and sometimes brutality against Black and Brown Americans have called upon us to attempt to bring an end to centuries of racism, hatred and bigotry. The AOASM leaders and members stand together to speak against societal and institutional racism which has resulted in disparities in the treatment of people of color and the delivery of health care. As a professional society promoting public health and injury prevention, we must confront discriminatory actions which jeopardize the safety and wellness in sport and in the community at large.

Osteopathic sports medicine physicians are dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles and providing safety within athletics by providing comprehensive, holistic, preventative and diagnostic management of sports and exercise related injury, supporting safe training environments, and promoting proper nutrition to maintain active lifestyle. We provide compassionate care to all athletes regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation or country of origin. AOASM will work to identify and eliminate forms of racial discrimination that occur at all levels of sport from the professional or national level to school and university settings, and finally, to private training facilities and community programs. By denouncing all forms of racism in sport and in the healthcare system, we will ensure equality to all physicians, interns, residents, medical students, certified athletic trainers, athletes, coaches, parents / guardians, and spectators to promote equal access to safe training environments and equal treatment on and off the field.

AOASM will take meaningful and sustained action to stand against racism and oppression by encouraging current and future osteopathic sports medicine physicians to promote positive change through teaching, serving and caring for athletes, coaches and patients of all backgrounds. As an organization, AOASM will revisit its strategic plan in order to identify opportunities for education, professional development, and advocacy with a focus on preventing institutional racism, unconscious bias, and disparities in medical care and in sport. We will mitigate racial stereotypes by focusing on diversity and inclusivity. We will engage Black and Brown physicians to identify societal barriers so as an organization we can drive change and address long-standing issues of discrimination.

Our strength lies in our community and diversity. Together we will work to create and sustain solidarity, justice and equality for all.