

August 17, 2017

To the MUSC Family,

We are appalled and outraged by last weekend's demonstrations of bigotry, racism and hatred witnessed in Charlottesville, Virginia and on the University of Virginia's campus. In light of these events, we felt it was important to take a moment to reinforce what we stand for here at MUSC. As we and our communities struggle to make sense of such acts that are rooted in hate, we want to remind the MUSC family that we are committed more than ever to living out our values, which include compassion and respect, and making MUSC a community where everyone feels safe and valued.

We recognize that what happened in Virginia was not a localized gathering; people traveled across the country to attend. The loss of life and injuries are tragic, senseless and saddening. This is racism and bigotry masquerading as free expression. We fully support the First Amendment and recognize our role as a state institution in upholding that right; however, we equally recognize our responsibility to ensure that those rights are upheld in a non-violent, respectful environment. Our most important responsibility is the total well-being -- physical and emotional -- of you, our students, faculty, staff, patients and families. We do not take that lightly.

Embracing diversity and inclusion is a pillar goal of our institution. Intrinsic to this is supporting each other in difficult times. We uphold our pillar goals and values as a community of higher education and stand firmly against intolerance and hate of any kind.

In the coming days, we ask that you keep Charlottesville and all those injured in the attack in your thoughts and prayers. Our country, campuses and the MUSC family are resilient. We are here to support you during this difficult time and ask that you utilize the many resources available to you, including [CAPS](#), [Campus and Public Safety](#), [Office of Gender and Equity](#), [Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#), [BSIT](#), [Human Resources University](#) and [MUSC Health Employee Relations](#) and [Student Affairs in our respective Colleges](#).

Thank you for making MUSC the premier academic health sciences center in South Carolina and helping us reach our vision of leading health innovation for the lives we touch.

Yours in service,



David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, MUSC President

Patrick J. Cawley, M.D., MBA, MUSC Health CEO

Lisa K. Saladin, PT, Ph.D., MUSC Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost