



At its core, pharmacy has always been about community - the communities we serve in various settings as healthcare providers and the community of healthcare professionals of which we are members. This week, we are crying out with our communities - our neighbors, our patients, our friends, and our colleagues - to bring attention to an epidemic that has permeated our country's culture for its entire history: the public health crisis of racism. The conversations will be difficult, but we must listen, we must grow, and we must advocate for substantial change.

Throughout the United States and across our state, crowds continue to gather to demand action and to clearly and explicitly express a common thread – change is needed now. The indefensible killing of George Floyd is not an isolated incident that is settled with an arrest or conviction; it is yet another instance in a tragically long pattern of inequity and injustice that has been directed at the African-American community.

The Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) supports and stands with our fellow pharmacists, friends, neighbors, family members, and patients as we collectively and passionately raise our voices and assert that racism, inequity, and injustice cannot go unnoticed or unchallenged.

Throughout APA's history, our biggest successes have come when we've been able to serve the pharmacists who, in turn, serve the patients of Arkansas. However, we must also reflect on how our organization can evolve to be part of the solution and commit to listening to the voices of the overlooked and underrepresented. Through the collaboration of all voices, we can evolve APA into a stronger and more unified organization that can support pharmacists as they make their communities a better place for all Arkansans.

As pharmacists, we take an oath that begins "*I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.*" This infallible directive commands us to dedicate our lives not only to public health but to actively and purposefully fighting against the destructive forces of racism, inequity, and injustice.