



# Washington University in St. Louis

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dear Faculty, Staff, Fellows, Residents and Students,

I feel compelled to write to you today following the Supreme Court ruling on race-based admissions. I want to echo the Chancellor's message that diversity efforts are a critical component of the learning experience at WashU, that diversity drives excellence and benefits everyone on campus. And I also want you to know where we stand regarding the importance of the diversity of our student body and the healing professions more broadly.

We believe that diversity at the School of Medicine is not just a best practice but essential to all of our core missions. This includes education but it is not limited to it because diversity also supports our commitments to patient care and to scientific research that together improve human health. When we actively work to recruit students, residents, and fellows from a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives, we are ensuring a new generation of doctors and health professionals who are better equipped to confront harmful inequities in medical care. We are ensuring a new generation of scientists who are motivated by the calling to improve treatments for all people and communities. A diverse and inclusive environment helps support the healthcare needs of our community through trauma informed and culturally sensitive care. We see the incredible importance of this commitment, for example, in the role that provider bias, societal racism, and structural barriers play in our country's shameful rates of black maternal and infant mortality and we will continue to work tirelessly to understand and address this and similar inequities.

Increasing diversity in medicine and medical science has incredibly high stakes. It saves lives and changes the way we understand human health and disease. We want you to know that we remain as committed as ever to accomplishing this goal.

Sincerely,

David H. Perlmutter, MD  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs  
Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Distinguished Professor  
George and Carol Bauer Dean