Dear Adams School of Dentistry Community,

One year ago, on May 25th our nation and the entire world acknowledged and responded to the death of George Floyd. For some, this was the culmination of decades of racial tension and injustice, but the matter was more than police brutality. It caused a collective reflection and acknowledgement that informs our steps today as a society and more importantly as dental professionals. While there is still much to be done, the UNC Adams School of Dentistry (ASoD) recognizes the importance of equity, and its inextricable connection within an academic healthcare institution. Throughout the past year we reflected on the history and impact of racial injustice and have enacted changes to reflect our vigilance and resolve toward equity.

Today, on the eve of this one-year anniversary, the ASoD continues to elevate and promote awareness and efforts that dismantle inequity and supports unity within our ASoD community. We encourage our stakeholders to reflect and acknowledge this day and its more profound call for action to dental professionals who seek to provide care and compassion. We also direct you to the UNC_CH Office for Diversity and Inclusion message (below) as a source for information and inspiration.

We thank the entire ASoD community for its support and continued work to ensure this place is one that not only says we believe in equity but lives it.

Sincerely,

Julie Byerley, MD, MPH
Interim Dean

Sylvia A. Frazier-Bowers, DDS, PhD
Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence and Equity Initiatives