



## **The American Society for Matrix Biology (ASMB) Statement on Inclusivity and Racial Justice**

The ASMB is dedicated to advancing knowledge in the field of matrix biology and its application to the betterment of human health, while supporting the career development of young scientists in matrix biology. At ASMB, we are privileged and enriched by membership from a diverse community and we are proud of the racial, gender, sexual orientation, religious, and international composition of our community. Our strength is built upon this breadth of experiences and perspectives.

The killing of Mr. George Floyd and countless others by an unequal system of justice highlights the urgent need for concrete and effective changes in our society and governing bodies. Moreover, our collective heightened consciousness of these killings comes at a time when the pandemic has revealed racial vulnerabilities to disease. As a scientific society that promotes inclusion and diversity, we need to state unequivocally the imperative for thoughtful and constructive changes to our institutions. Everyone has a right to feel safe while engaging in daily activities. Effective change must occur in the near term as well as continue into the future. The scientific evidence clearly indicates that economic and social inequalities adversely affect human health, which is counter to the goals of our society. ASMB expresses its support for constructive change and importantly, for free expression of opinions and ideas.

As each of us knows from our scientific background, we all learn from listening especially to opinions from differing perspectives. As scientists, we are trained to critically evaluate data, but we are also required to examine the rigor and implicit biases of these data. As individuals, we can start to effect change by quietly examining our own implicit biases and working to correct the “experimental design.” ASMB specifically supports projects and programs to meet the needs of ASMB members, especially trainees, newly independent scientists, and scientists from underrepresented populations in the biomedical research enterprise. You are encouraged to bring your critiques of current ASMB governance as well as ideas for how to increase diversity and inclusion to the ASMB Council. This is the time for making change.