



# ISHLT

A Society that Includes Basic Science, the  
Failing Heart, & Advanced Lung Disease

## **International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation STATEMENT ON RACISM AND EQUITY**

The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) is an international society committed to improving the care of patients with advanced heart or lung disease worldwide. We are devoted to improving the lives of all patients with advanced heart and lung disease regardless of age, color, creed, disability, gender, gender expression, place of origin or sexual orientation.

Although the tragic and inexcusable deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor are recent examples that have made the United States a focal point for the current outcry, racism is an issue that has no borders. These events have served to catalyze worldwide protests against the injustices of racism that continue to occur throughout the world. Racism affects our members and the patients they serve, independent of country of residence.

On behalf of our members and their patients who have been affected by racism, we add our voices to those who are speaking out in support of meaningful strategies to end racism in the United States and throughout the world.

But adding our voices from afar will not be enough. We recognize that in order to make a difference, change must also be actively supported by those who are not directly affected. Organizations with a substantial white majority, like ISHLT, must become – through their actions and those of their members – agents of change.

To that end, the ISHLT Board will ensure that our principles and policies leave no place for racism in our Society. We will explore ways to increase opportunities for members impacted by racial inequities and ensure a welcoming environment for all individuals interested in membership. ISHLT will also seek partnerships with societies actively advocating for eliminating disparities in access to care for patients with advanced heart and lung disease worldwide.

We affirm the principles of equity, inclusion, diversity, and respect for all people, and that these principles guide the actions of ISHLT's leaders, members, and staff in advancing the goals of the Society.