

Dear SOM Colleagues,

I, like many of you, have many strong feelings about what happened in our nation's capital yesterday. There are some things I know for sure.

1. Violence is unacceptable. A tenet of our democracy is the peaceful transition of power. It was painful to watch the differing responses to the BLM protests and the riots yesterday and reinforced the imperative for continuing action to address racism.
2. Only together will we get through this - While today will go down as a sad day in our democracy, we must and will move forward as a nation. In our community we must continue to listen deeply to one another - especially to those whose voices haven't been heard; learn from one another, and grow from what we hear and learn.
3. I am inspired by those who acted to protect our democracy - pictures have come out of the electoral college of ballots being protected by a keen and quick-acting congressional staffer. Legislators returned to finish the important business at hand following our Constitution. Let us all remind ourselves that no matter our position, we can do our part to protect our values every day.
4. While we are far from Washington in geography, we can be part of the solution. We can do our part to rebuke these actions by continuing to do what we do best - caring for all of our patients, learners and each other; advocating for peaceful protest and peaceful resolution; and reinforcing that violence is unacceptable and is a public health issue. When we double down on our mission to teach, research, and treat all people equitably, we push aside hate, calls for violence, and do what we are called to do to heal bodies and minds.

Please take time to read the message from [EVP Dr. Douglas Ziedonis](#). Please take care of yourselves and each other.



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