

In light of recent events across the United States and in our community here in Atlanta, the Brains & Behavior program would like to make our stance clear:

We condemn the systemic racism and police brutality towards Black people, and we will not be silent in the face of this oppression.

Innovations in STEM fields are critical to our survival and start with education. As mentors, scholars and teachers, it is important to recruit and retain a diverse educational body and support individualized goals and pathways while taking race and its unique hardships into account.

We are well aware of the lack of diversity in science. Generations of racism in America have permeated all facets of our society and set up complex systems that require deep unraveling. Science is no exception. Despite efforts to promote diversity in our undergraduate research programs around the nation, black, brown and indigenous people remain underrepresented at the graduate and faculty level, both here and nationally (1).

This problem calls for us as a higher education institution to take a closer examination at the obstinacy of racial inequity in American science. Brains & Behavior pledges to mirror this introspection and root out these injustices within our own program.

It is our priority is to listen to, recruit, retain, feature, uplift, and strengthen Black voices in our community in an effort to dismantle our part in the system.

As a first step to understand and listen to our students and peers, the Neuroscience Institute has set up [a community feedback resource here](#). In addition, the university has created a [Task Force for Racial Equality](#). [Details can be found here](#).

We stand in solidarity with this movement to address racism in our country and demand change and justice.

1. [https://grants.nih.gov/training/minority\\_participation.pdf](https://grants.nih.gov/training/minority_participation.pdf)