

# Letters to the Editor

## From the Editor-in-Chief

### We're Listening and Taking Action on Racism and Health Inequities

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“Race is a sociopolitical construct.”<sup>1</sup>

“[There is a] need for more racially inclusive language and equity-driven content in *American Family Physician (AFP)*.”<sup>2</sup>

“*AFP* is well-positioned to help readers address inequities in our one-on-one patient encounters through improving the quality of care that we provide to marginalized groups.”<sup>2</sup>

These are just some of the words from readers rightly pointing out that *AFP* has much work to do in addressing systemic racism and health inequities. I have been thinking about these words and how to translate them into meaningful actions. This is a profound task that requires a carefully constructed strategy, not just an empty promise or philosophical endorsement. I have been reading about racism; listening to podcasts; attending virtual town halls; and having conversations with colleagues, friends, and family to take a deep dive and understand what transformations will be necessary for the journal going forward. As I mentioned in my editorial reflecting on *AFP* in its 70th year: “Our content is based on a curriculum

of topics we solicit and on proposed topics that authors submit. We welcome comments and discussion on this content, and I believe that it is important to share diverse views.”<sup>3</sup> We are listening to your comments, and we must take a closer look at our curriculum and processes. Many projects and meetings are already underway with opportunities for our entire team to take critical steps in addressing racism and health inequity collaboratively. As each of these projects comes to fruition and objectives are finalized, details and resources will be listed on our website. These steps will take time to get right, and we continue to value your feedback along the way.

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#### References

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3. Sexton S. 70 years of *American Family Physician*. *Am Fam Physician*. 2020;101(7):389-390. Accessed July 23, 2020. <https://www.aafp.org/afp/2020/0401/p389.html> ■

**Send letters** to [afplet@aafp.org](mailto:afplet@aafp.org), or 11400 Tomahawk Creek Pkwy., Leawood, KS 66211-2680. Include your complete address, email address, and telephone number. Letters should be fewer than 400 words and limited to six references, one table or figure, and three authors.

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**This series** is coordinated by Kenny Lin, MD, MPH, deputy editor.