



UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION · HEALTHCARE · RESEARCH
Office of the President & Health System CEO

Oct. 29, 2018

To the Upstate Community:

Once again our country is in mourning as we are witness to yet another mass shooting. These events have in common utter intolerance, divisiveness, and unimaginable acts of violence. The synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh has now claimed 11 lives, injured 6 and set a community and nation in turmoil.

Strong support for policies that would curb gun violence and engage a civil society in healing conversations is much needed. In our own backyard in Syracuse we struggle with the senseless loss of young lives to the public health crisis of gun violence. We must find the courage to speak out, unify our efforts and as a university lend our research and full efforts in partnership with others to ameliorate the conditions that plague our communities.

And, at all times in our relationships with others, we most show kindness and compassion, respect, and acceptance, never enabling hate to mark our interactions with each other.

Upstate has support programs available to help us all deal with tragic events, such as the Student Affairs Dean's Office, [Student Counseling Center](#) and the [Offices of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Please take care of each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danielle Laraque-Arena".

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP
President & Health System CEO
SUNY Upstate Medical University