

August 14, 2017

To members of Upstate Community:

The horrific display of racial hatred, bigotry and intolerance that played out in Charlottesville, Virginia, over this past weekend goes against the very core of our nation's soul. Upstate Medical University is committed to free speech, academic freedom and tolerance that creates spaces for peaceful and thoughtful dialogue among our students, faculty and community.

As leaders of a public academic medical center, we condemn these actions and stand together with those targeted by this hatred.

We take this moment to reflect on our own community. One of Upstate's core values is to respect people by treating all with grace, dignity and embracing diversity and sharing the strength of our differences in a safe, positive and nurturing environment.

As the fall semester gets under way, let us recommit ourselves to these values.

Sincerely,

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP President

Katherine Beissner, PhD Dean, College of Health Professions

Lynn Cleary, MD. Interim Dean, College of Nursing

Julio Licinio, MD, PhD Dean, College of Medicine

Mark Schmitt, PhD Dean, College of Graduate Studies