



Oct. 31, 2018

To the Upstate Community:

As those killed are buried, I want to echo the sentiments that have been shared with me over the past two days. It is that the recent events of the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, as the most egregious violent act against the Jewish community in the history of the United States, leaving 11 dead, 6 injured and a community and nation shaken, is an act of anti-Semitism that underscores our need to recognize and speak out against the rising forces of hatred.

While the means was through a mass-shooting that has become frighteningly commonplace, a most sinister aspect of this tragedy is the deliberate targeting of the Jewish community. The right that we all have is the right to live in peace, to worship as we choose, to celebrate our history and to respect each other.

This university stands with the Jewish community and all peoples who reject anti-Semitism in all its forms. I extend my condolences to the families who lost loved ones in Pittsburgh, who are healing those injured, and decry this act of violence.

Most respectfully,

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