

MDI statement on Accountability for respectful, equitable environments and actions

The recent tweet by Dr. Lieberman further emphasizes the importance of the ongoing work on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Although Dr. Lieberman's intentions are his alone; the overt objectification of a young black woman is intolerable. It lacks an understanding of both the historical lens in which men and women of color have been stripped of their humanity for years and the present-day racism that continues to exist. Dr. Lieberman's comment was hurtful to many and his apology did not acknowledge a "learning opportunity" for his own personal growth; but rather a dismissive error in judgment. This hurtful public display of ignorance perpetuates systemic practices that continue to educationally, economically, environmentally, emotionally, and physically damage black people. Ultimately this jeopardizes the wellbeing of the oppressed and of all of us. The MDI will not tolerate such behaviors by our medical director members and it has been decided that Dr. Lieberman will be removed as a member of the MDI.

As a medical profession and medical leaders we must hold ourselves accountable for our own individual work towards a respectful, equitable environment for all. To further this work the MDI has intentionally changed its recruiting practices to increase the diversity of our membership and formed the MDI subcommittee for diversity, equity and inclusion. Whether it be our individual journeys; our interpersonal relationships or in the culture of our professions the MDI DEI subcommittee is committed to furthering the conversation and supporting our BIPOC communities.