



# David Geffen School of Medicine

October 23, 2023

Dean Dubinett,

For centuries, physicians and medical schools have served as beacons of hope, justice, and compassion. Many physicians have braved adversity and risked their lives to “do what’s right” for anyone in need regardless of religion, color, or beliefs. In disturbing contrast, UCLA students and faculty who justify or express support for Hamas’ mass murder and kidnapping of innocent Israeli civilians, sadly highlight the growing anti-Semitism that now afflicts the university, including the School of Medicine.

While the David Geffen School of Medicine has established an anti-racism curriculum and advocated the principles of the “Cultural North Star”, the experience of Jewish faculty and students has been vastly different. Under the guise of defending free speech, School and University leadership— by its silence -- has condoned hateful speech, social media posts and flyers by registered student groups that advocate for the “elimination of Jews” and “intifada”, a violent campaign against Jewish civilians and Israel’s existence.

With no appreciation of historical anti-Semitism or the targeting of Jews by White supremacists, parts of the anti-racism curriculum apportion blame to the Jewish people for racism. Jewish students within DGSOM do not feel safe while at school or university housing. They are mandated to attend classes on the holiest Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur. Such conditions are compounded by the dwindling Jewish student body at DGSOM.

We, the faculty, celebrate the diversity of our student body and respect free speech. But hate speech should have no place within any academic institution, particularly the DGSOM. Thus, we write to you today to ask for your expeditious action against any type of hate speech. We ask that you provide our students and faculty a safe space to learn and practice medicine. We ask that you reevaluate the contents of the “Systemic Racism and Health Equality Course” to ensure accurate representation of our shared values. We ask that you revoke the university-sanctioned status of organizations that spread anti-Semitism and hatred. And we finally ask for the critical appraisal of the DGSOM admission process to investigate whether Jewish students are appropriately represented.

We realize this work is challenging in the face of the current war between Israel and Hamas. However, we are optimistic that you will examine the issue at hand carefully and help mold our school into an institution that fosters genuine tolerance, equity, and respect for all members of the UCLA community. Our future physicians should be nurtured in an environment that is open, free of bias, and safe.

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