June 1, 2020

NASS Statement on Tragic Events in Minnesota

The graphic video showing the death of George Floyd as he was pinned down and suffocated by a Minneapolis police officer is a deeply tragic but an all too familiar stain on the fabric of our society. Together with the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky and countless others, we are confronted with the stark differences each of us faces in our American experience. The ensuing protests sparked by these events in the United States and around the world have sharpened our focus on the challenges that our colleagues, patients, family, and friends in the Black community face on a daily basis. The North American Spine Society (NASS) unequivocally condemns racism, violence and intolerance.

NASS is a global multidisciplinary medical organization dedicated to fostering the highest quality, ethical, value-based, and evidence-based spine care through education, research and advocacy. We recognize that, as a society, we are at our best when all voices are heard and all contributions are respected. As a professional society, we are committed to supporting diversity in leadership, research, education and patient care. This is reflected in recent initiatives underway to strengthen the governance of NASS board and volunteer committees to become reflective of the communities that we serve.

Sincerely,

William J. Sullivan, MD, NASS President
Richard L. Skolasky, Jr., Sc.D., NASS Governance Committee Chair