



## The Hispanic Neuropsychological Society

June 1, 2020

Dear HNS Familia and Psychology Community,

We write today knowing that many of you are not well and are in search of answers, support, action, and hope. The weight of the horrific death of George Floyd and so many more, together with the demonstrations of unrest and exhaustion, as well as the changes and magnification of disparities caused by COVID-19, have left us in a state of pain, desperately trying to make sense of it all. We too feel a deep sense of uncertainty, pain, and frustration. How are these events still occurring? How are we still losing people this way? This cannot continue to be the norm in which we live.

The impact of all of these events is weighing heavily on us. However, as psychologists and neuropsychologists, we see several opportunities for positive change. We know that as a community, we can do better; we must do better. We can use psychology and science to help. While we certainly do not have all of the answers, we believe that we can work together to obtain them. We are hosting a special Zoom meeting this Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 3-4pm PST to connect, listen, and reflect. Information on how to join will follow.

We can come together to advocate for our communities and to provide concrete steps of action. We can engage police and citizens in communication so that everyone feels heard. We can train police in cultural awareness and diffusion techniques. We can conduct exercises within our communities to reduce racial aggression, bias, and misperception. Science informs us on how to improve behavior and social relations; helping address specific behaviors will allow police officers to better protect the communities and diverse individuals they serve. We can also collaborate on policy briefs to create long-term change in legislation.

The HNS Social Justice and Advocacy Committee is currently working on policy briefs to address some of these concerns. If you would like to collaborate, please let us know. Also, if you have any other ideas on steps of action or how to strategize/organize, please reach out. We would love your input on how we can use this momentum to ensure these events do not happen again. Thank you for all you do. Let us rise up together.

In Solidarity,

The Hispanic Neuropsychological Society

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