



March 27, 2020

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH
President
Milwaukee, WI

Allan Tsung, MD
President-Elect
Pittsburgh, PA

Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH
Immediate Past-President
Boston, MA

Eugene Kim, MD
Secretary-Treasurer
Los Angeles, CA

Ankush Gosain, MD, PhD
Recorder
Memphis, Tennessee

Kasper Wang, MD
Councilor-at-Large
Los Angeles, CA

Jennifer Kuo, MD
Chair, Program Committee
New York, NY

Vikas Dudeja, MD
Chair, Scholarships Committee
Miami, FL

Kenric Murayama, MD
SAAS Representative,
American College of Surgeons
Board of Governors

Daniel Chu, MD
SAAS Representative,
Association for Academic
Surgery
Birmingham, AL

Susan Tsai, MD, MHS
SAAS Representative,
Association of Women Surgeons
Milwaukee, WI

Anai Kothari, MD
Associate Councilor-at-Large
Houston, TX

SAAS FOUNDATION

Herb Chen, MD
Foundation President
Birmingham, AL

Heidi Brittnacher
Executive Director
heidi@asiansurgeon.org

Dear Dr. Karpeh:

Over the past several weeks, there has been an increase in anti-Asian harassment and hate-crimes, due to coronavirus-related racism. Below is a statement, published today, by the Executive Council of the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS), addressing this alarming issue:

First, as the current pandemic continues to affect our communities and families, we want to express our profound gratitude to our surgical colleagues and to all healthcare professionals who are the frontlines of caring for patients with the SARS-CoV2 virus / COVID-19.

We have also been acutely aware of the societal ramifications of the SARS-CoV2 virus being labeled with a distinct geographic distinction (which will not be repeated here) in recent press conferences and comments on social media. As a result of the highly visible use of this terminology, there has been an increase in verbal and physical assaults against Asian-Americans, both in the community and in the workplace.

The SARS-CoV2 virus does not discriminate. It affects all, irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, age, or sexual orientation. Bigotry of any kind is unacceptable. We support all Asian-Americans who are providing essential services in our communities at this time and hope that they – and we – can continue to do so without the spectre of hatred and violence due to xenophobia, racism, and bigotry.

We hope that you will join us in protesting use of this term to describe SARS-CoV2/COVID-19 and increasing awareness of the dangers of using this term.

Thank you again for all you are doing during this time. Please stay safe.

We ask if the Society of Black Academic Surgeons will support this important message by sending it to the general membership.

Thank you,

Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH, FACS
President

Eugene Kim, MD, FACS
Secretary-Treasurer

Herb Chen, MD, FACS
President, SAAS Foundation

Allan Tsung, MD, FACS
President-Elect

Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH, FACS
Past-President