



## An Open Letter to all USA-based Scientists

We have been rocked by the recent violence against Black people across the country. Unfortunately, we believe that these events are the result of centuries of deeply rooted, anti-Black racism. Arrests of those who are peacefully exercising their [First Amendment](#) right to assembly are only highlighting these systemic issues.

At our core, the [COVID-19 National Scientist Volunteer Database \(NSVD\)](#) is a volunteer organization of scientists who are committed to fighting COVID-19; Immigrant scientists, POC scientists, Black scientists, Women scientists. If you are protesting, please do what you can to [protect yourself against COVID-19](#), as this pandemic is still an urgent and present danger to our communities. The data are clear - COVID-19 has a [far greater impact](#) on the Black community here in the USA, a stark reminder of racism and inequities built into the very fabric of our society.

As Scientists, we are trained for impartial observation, trained to generate and collect and analyze data. While the scientific community wrestles with the topic of [data collection](#) surrounding deadly and/or damaging police encounters, people are dying. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others, are *heinous attacks on the lives and civil rights of Black Americans*.

**We can and must do better.**

**Black Lives Matter!**

Many of us are wondering what we can do to support our Black friends, neighbors and loved ones as well as those hurting in Minneapolis, Louisville, Los

Angeles and all across the country. Below are a few resources our team has compiled. *This is by no means an exhaustive list.*

- Donate to or register with organizations that are working towards a STEM world where our leadership truly reflects our population demographics, including [\*\*NSBE\*\*](#), [\*\*SACNAS\*\*](#), and [\*\*AISES\*\*](#). A comprehensive list was compiled by [\*\*Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai\*\*](#).
- Show support for, engage with, and amplify movements and initiatives celebrating Black scientists and science enthusiasts like [\*\*BlackAFinSTEM\*\*](#).
- Donate to groups/funds which are on the front lines of the ongoing protests, including [\*\*Minnesota Freedom Fund\*\*](#), [\*\*Reclaim the Block\*\*](#) (Minneapolis), [\*\*I Run With Maud\*\*](#), [\*\*Justice for Breonna Taylor Petition and Fund\*\*](#), and [\*\*National Bail Out\*\*](#) or [\*\*state-specific bail funds\*\*](#).
- Read and engage with anti-racism literature and articles. A list of resources has been compiled by [\*\*FightForBreonna.org\*\*](#).

Historically scientists have held themselves above the issues of the day, but we've been lagging in the realities of our systemic issues. It is time, it's *been* time for us to find ways to act and engage with anti-racism.

The fight for diversity, equity, and inclusion within our own STEM communities needs to be brought outside ourselves and outside of our hallowed halls. **It is especially incumbent upon those of us who are not Black to be active, non-violent, [\*\*allies\*\*](#) in this fight to end institutional and systemic racism.**

In solidarity,

**COVID-19 National Scientist Volunteer Database Leadership**

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