PIN Diversity Memo







Five pointers to educate, promote diversity and inclusion, and combat racism

- While we had a peaceful transfer of power in our country, the recent events at our Capitol have an
 impact on mental health, safety, and wellbeing including in our trainees and colleagues. Mentors
 can provide an outlet of communication and support to their mentees. Angeline Dukes, a PhD
 student at UC Irvine and co-founder of BlackinNeuro highlights actions that mentors can take in
 "How to better support Black trainees in Biomedical Sciences" in Nature Medicine.
- The <u>ALBA Declaration on Equity and Inclusion</u> addresses two goals: 1) Actions to counteract bias and 2) Establishing an inclusive workplace culture as a healthy environment for all. The document from the <u>ALBA Network</u>, encompasses common global themes with points of action to address these goals. The ALBA network invites you to indicate your support by signing the Declaration.
- <u>"Time to look in the mirror"</u> an editorial in *Science* published in June 2020 reflects on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from Birmingham Jail and the failure of society to meet Dr. King's call to action. This editorial addresses the role of the scientific establishment in confronting this reality, admit its role in perpetuating it, and describes the necessary steps of action.
- What is ableism? The discrimination in favor of able-bodied people. This resource on "Dismantling Ableism" addresses definitions of ableism and methods of action to combat this form of discrimination.
- This article by Michael E. Taffe and Nicholas W. Gilpin published in eLife addresses Racial inequity
 in grant funding from the US National Institutes of Health and calls on scientists to advocate for
 equity in federal grant funding.

Featured trainees who contribute to diversity and inclusion



Makeda Turner (she/her/hers), a Masters student in the Program in Health Sciences and a Research Assistant in the Lobo lab, identifies as Trinidadian-American, and the child of immigrants.

Makeda is a member of the PIN Diversity Committee. She serves on the Johns Hopkins Community Advisory Board which encourages healthy equity between the community and research groups doing clinical trials centered around HIV/ AIDS. This is done by providing feedback on the structure of clinical trials from a community perspective to make them more inclusive and practical for members of the public to participate. Makeda is most proud of working as a Research Assistant in the Lobo lab because she has gained a lot of valuable experience that will help her in her future scientific career.



Garret Bunce (he/him/his), a PIN PhD student in the Poulopoulos lab, identifies as a gay man from a small town in Upstate New York.

Garret is a member of the PIN Diversity Committee. He is currently the Vice President of the Neuroscience Outreach Volunteer Association (NOVA), a member of the student organized Anti-Opression Work Group at UMB, as well as an active volunteer at the Maryland science center. During Garret's research career he has expanded his horizons and studied under various disciplines to broaden his perspective in the field of neuroscience.