



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION  
CAMPUS BOX 7461  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7461  
<http://www.sph.unc.edu/nutr>

June 1, 2020

To the Nutrition Department community,

As leaders of our Nutrition Department, we write today in recognition of the magnitude of distress in response to the killing of George Floyd and of other men and women of color in recent weeks through racist violence. These acts demand action and change as we are again faced with the deep societal inequities that persist in our world. As Dean Rimer so well describes, this past week has been filled with pain, despair and exhaustion for many. We want all to know first that your well-being is of utmost concern to us, and we are here to support you despite our circumstance of the physical distances between us.

Please see messages from [university leadership](#), the Faculty Executive Committee of which I am a member at <https://facultygov.unc.edu/2020/06/faculty-executive-committee-statement-condemning-racist-violence/> and especially the [message](#) sent by leaders in the University Office of Diversity and Inclusion, both to see the support of the entire UNC-Chapel Hill campus, and the resources available to you. Second, please know that as a department, and as reflected so eloquently by the Dean in her Monday morning blog at <https://mondaymorning.web.unc.edu/>, we see racism as a public health emergency. As we work in our chosen field of nutrition, we encourage and challenge ourselves individually as your department leaders, and all those within our department, to carry out our work with a social justice lens, to be anti-racist, and to redouble efforts towards a more equitable world, with compassion and respect as we work together.

Beth Mayer-Davis PhD, Chair  
Melinda Beck PhD, Associate Chair for Academics  
Raz Shaikh PhD, Associate Chair for Research