**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Reflection 2**

I watched the YouTube video “Reflections on Race and Medicine in the Year of COVID-19 and Nationwide Protests - Damon Tweedy, MD” which addresses many relevant topics that have created diversity gaps in society. I thought it was interesting how one of speakers indicated that it’s important to put ourselves in the “streets” and be connected with everyone. Once we have participated in this action, we can better understand the impact of race, identity, and SES have on mortality. Damon Tweety specifically talks about 2020 and the two major events that consist of COVID and national protests. Dr. Tweety indicates that we have been ignoring racial problems, but in 2020 these became apparent, and people began to speak up more than ever! Additionally, he speaks about how race and COVID overlap because the minor populations have not been properly represented in the COVID clinical trials. I think it was awesome he brought up the misperception that people believe race has behavioral pathologies, for instance black’s naturally have poor health because of their behaviors. This is clearly untrue and it’s the health care system, educational system, and society that creates gaps in equality. Another critical component on race and medicine is the way we, health care providers, word our documentation. It’s important that we stay neutral in how we write the documentation to prevent future clinicians from having preconceived notions before seeing the patient because we choose to word phrases in a discriminative manner. Lastly, Dr. Tweety brings up a strong point about medical doctors specifically, but I think it can be applied to all healthcare providers, which is that we need to increase diversity, so our patients have greater choices. He provided an example, that a black woman may have been mistreated in prior experiences so she would love a female, black doctor to be her PCP. However, since there are so few black doctors and even fewer female, black doctors that this opportunity for choice from the patient’s perspective is taken away.

The most prominent take away from this educational experience is that we need to support our fellow medical providers and educate our patients about this bias. We need to be considerate of people’s opinions and beliefs, but we also need to be more inclusive in the medical realm. When discussing this topic, we need to attempt to take away the political component of it and strictly focus on the health of each individual person.