The mission of JAMA Surgery is “to promote the art and science of surgery by publishing relevant peer-reviewed research to assist the surgeon in optimizing patient care. JAMA Surgery will also serve as a forum for the discussion of issues pertinent to surgery, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion; the education and training of the surgical workforce; quality improvement; and the ethics and economics of health care delivery.”

On June 29, 2023, the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, Students For Fair Admissions, Inc, in their suits brought against the President and Fellows of Harvard College and against the University of North Carolina. These rulings determined that the race-conscious aspects of the 2 universities’ application processes are unconstitutional. In the context of these rulings being interpreted as essentially representing a ban on affirmative action in institutions of higher education in the United States, the JAMA Surgery Editorial Board herein confirms its commitment to serving as a forum for discussing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as surgical workforce education and training as iterated in our Mission Statement.

Achieving this mission mandates that our journal represent diversity of thought across all domains of authorship, peer review, and content. This diversity of perspectives is valuable when it reflects the lived experiences of people from different racial and ethnic groups and other areas underrepresented in medicine, including their exposures to racism, systematic bias, and various cultures or socioeconomic backgrounds. JAMA Surgery acknowledges the fact that intentional and strategic efforts must be implemented to optimize the inclusion of broad-ranging perspectives in the continuum of our publication process.

The US Supreme Court ruling in favor of Students For Fair Admissions does not absolve institutions of higher education nor medical journals such as JAMA Surgery from the responsibility of investing time and energy into achieving a robustly diverse academic community. Restrictions on race-conscious applications and admissions processes may well have a negative impact on the demographics of the student and trainee health care pathways. While the ruling has its most immediate effects on the health care workforce and care delivery in the US, there is also potential for a negative impact on our global surgical community. As such, it is imperative that we accept the challenge of being intentionally more creative and energetic in reaching out to population subsets that have been systematically excluded from careers in medicine and science so that we tap into their previously overlooked pool of talent and brilliance. These efforts will be rewarded by the productivity of a diverse health care delivery workforce that contributes to more innovative and inclusive research and a stronger editorial review process to improve the health and well-being of all.

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REFERENCES
