

ASTCT Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action

The American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy® (ASTCT) is deeply concerned about the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which could diminish decades of important progress made in promoting diversity and addressing health inequities. This opinion restricts undergraduate schools from considering race as a factor in their admissions decisions. ASTCT's ultimate concern is the decision's potential application to medical school admissions and the risk that it could lead to a less diverse physician workforce, reduced medical career opportunities for historically marginalized and minoritized individuals, and a decreased likelihood of positive medical outcomes, particularly for minority patients.

An international association of more than 3,600 physicians, investigators and other health care professionals from more than 45 countries, ASTCT's mission is dedicated to improving the application and success of blood and marrow transplantation and related cellular therapies. ASTCT firmly believes that a diverse and inclusive workforce is critical to research excellence, innovation, and elimination of health care disparities. ASTCT has joined with other organizations to make a joint statement against racism, and it has driven forward various programs and initiatives to provide greater diversity and access to education and patient care.

Research has consistently shown that racially diverse care teams have a positive impact on health outcomes, particularly for patients in historically marginalized populations. The goal of a more diverse healthcare provider population is the recognition, based on research, that we achieve better patient outcomes when there is racial and ethnic representation and connection between a patient and their team of healthcare providers.

As such, it is vital that our healthcare workforce reflects greater diversity among the growing diversity of our population. It is a foundational element of eliminating inequity in patient care. As we move forward, ASTCT remains committed to advocating, providing programs, and collaborating with other organizations on policies and initiatives that prioritize equity in our healthcare system for all communities within the constraints of current federal and state law.