

**A call to action:**

# Striving for racial justice in academic biology



## Race REALLY Matters

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There is a great pandemic raging in our country. The roots of the pandemic have been lurking for a long time, but many of us were not affected by it until a few months ago. The pandemic strikes down innocent persons, often unsuspecting, and its widespread unpredictability makes it unsafe for persons to be in our classrooms, in our laboratories, and on our campuses. For many victims, their last thought is “I can’t breathe.” This is the pandemic of racism. Race is a social construct, defined by the White center to determine who belongs and who does not, who is able to access all of the advantages and who remains an “Other.” Whiteness brings privilege, Othering means exclusion. Science and scientists have played central roles in enabling Othering and racism. Acknowledging the pandemic presents an opportunity for real change in science education. For us to realize that opportunity, it is important that we examine some of the data, critically examine our current approaches to advancing diversity, and find new strategies that will lead to inclusive diversity.

*An initiative sponsored by the Society for the Advancement in Biology Education Research (SABER) focused on promoting awareness, understanding and commitment to change academic biology environments to be more inclusive and strive for racial justice in STEM education. We are excited that speakers will be compensated for their time and this event is co-sponsored by Arizona State University's HHMI Inclusive Excellence Project, SEISMIC Collaboration, and University of California Santa Barbara.*

### Seminar

**Date:** Thursday, Aug. 27

**Time:** 9 - 10 a.m. (PT) //  
10 a.m. (MT) // 11 a.m. (CT) //  
noon (ET)

**Location:** Zoom

[asu.zoom.us/j/94994705381](https://asu.zoom.us/j/94994705381)

**All talks will be posted  
online afterwards at:**

[saberbio.wildapricot.org/  
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