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Subject: New task force sponsored by Dean Lloyd Minor and Vice Dean Linda Boxer
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Oct. 24, 2023

Dear Stanford School of Medicine community,

With the crisis worsening in Israel and Gaza, we understand that these events and the rhetoric surrounding them have been deeply upsetting. In recent weeks, universities nationwide have witnessed a surge in advocacy related to Israel and Palestine, including at Stanford. Members of our community have and continue to organize events and demonstrations. Please be aware that Stanford Medicine does not sponsor these activities.

We recognize our responsibility to foster an inclusive and respectful culture on our campus while also upholding everyone's protected rights. Considering recent events, School of Medicine Dean Lloyd Minor and Vice Dean Linda Boxer have established a task force that we have been asked to co-lead. This task force will thoroughly review the school's processes and procedures related to events, email lists, and other resources to ensure consistency with Stanford University guidance. We will be sharing an update soon, including any key changes following our review.

As this work gets underway, we want to make clear that, as an institution, we are fundamentally opposed to discriminatory speech, including antisemitic and Islamophobic rhetoric. On these issues, we follow Stanford University's [Fundamental Standard](#) and its [guidance on freedom of speech](#). We encourage our entire community to review and familiarize themselves with this guidance.

We want to reiterate an earlier message to our community from Dean Lloyd Minor, David Entwistle, and Paul King: to continue modeling dialogue rooted in respect and empathy for others. We also want to remind our community of the Stanford Affirmation that all our students recite upon entering the study of medicine and beginning their learning journey here, including a pledge to "cultivate peace in both personal conduct and political expression."

Alongside our dean and CEOs, we share in the grief and pain that our community members are experiencing right now. Your safety and well-being are our foremost concern, and we would like to remind you of the [resources available](#) should you need them. Thank you for your attention and support during these trying times.

Sincerely,

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