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SUS Statement on Diversity, Scientific Development, and International Fellowship

On January 27, 2017, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order suspending the resettlement of Syrian refugees and preventing entry to the country by people from seven predominantly Muslim countries. While this policy was motivated out of concern for national security, it has very real implications for the medical and scientific workforce.

As an organization that is committed to the advancement of the art and science of surgery by mid-career surgeon-scientists—no matter religion or country of origin—the Society of University Surgeons (SUS) feels it is important to express our commitment to diversity and international collaboration. As many others have highlighted in the last few days, the principles of diversity and inclusion are the cornerstone of academic and scientific advancement as well as to the practice and teaching of surgery. We want to assure our membership and partners that we will do everything we can to support continued participation in our organization. International collaboration and the exchange of ideas is critical to our mission.

Next week marks the 79th meeting of our organization in Las Vegas, NV. We note that nearly 2,000 registrants of this year's meeting will be in attendance. However, with surgeons and scientists registered from around the world, we understand that not everyone may be able to attend. We want to ensure that recent policy changes do not threaten free scientific exchange in our community. The SUS is committed to a compassionate policy regarding late cancellations due to difficulty with international travel. For anyone unable to attend our conference due to the recent travel ban, please contact us at info@susweb.org or contact one of us directly as listed below so that alternative arrangements can be made.

The SUS stands committed to diversity and international collaboration and believe these principles are critical to scientific advancement within our field and more broadly in American society.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Minter, MD
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