



**venous-lymphatic World International Network foundation**  
**STATEMENT ON UNITY IN DIVERSITY**

Throughout human history, time and time again we see the principle of diversity shaping life-changing events. It can either divide us and cause despair and chaos or unite us and lead us to freedom and prosperity. Going back as far as the ancient Egyptian, Chinese and Roman empires, diversity was the driving force that shaped and formed nations and created cultures when it was the basis of unification, while other times the seed of division grounded on the belief of diversity caused destruction of dynasties. Lessons were not learned because history repeated itself over and over including the World Wars of this century. Especially in times like now, the term “diversity” carries a religious connotation.

Global events on race and culture in recent times have become overwhelming. It brought our innate human nature to recognize differences to light. Many world leaders have taken the easy route of division to the extremes for political gains but devastated the fruits of collaboration from prior years by others. Did these extreme maneuvers against diversity brought us peace and prosperity, or merely chaos and confusion? Ultimately acknowledging diversity as our strength to unit or power to destroy is up to each one of us!

As physicians and scientists, we all know once we are relieved of our outer layer, there really is no visual difference between anyone of us. Yet, our genetic makeup vastly differs. Since the Industrial Age, clinical trial whether it be medicinal, surgical or device related, have grossly neglected the principle of diversity and assumed if it’s good for one or few it must be great for all others. This subtle inequality is often ignored or more sadly, accepted to be the norm especially in medicine. Even routine clinical care, do we as healthcare providers recognize these differences in ways we treat patients? We can continue the “presumed” normalcy or take the lessons learned and attempt to rebalance the inequality in facets of clinical care and research.

Recognizing diversity is ingrained in our human nature as a basic survival instinct; it can remain as an instinct to individualize or be processed to become the basis of inclusivity. Whether to embrace it as our advantage or disdain it to our disadvantage will dictate who we are as persons, families, society and human race. To close the gap, communication, collaboration and respect are the keys to understand the true meaning of diversity and grasp it as our strength to provide better future for generations to come. At the end of day, weren’t we are equal at birth?

As we move thru this treacherous time, let us not forget about the lessons learned.



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