

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am truly humbled and honored to serve as your third elected President of the [Society of Black Pathologists](#) (SBP). I stand on the shoulders of past presidents, Dr. Nicole R. Jackson and Dr. Carla L. Ellis as well as our esteemed [founding members](#). I want to extend a warm thank you to Dr. Jackson, the 2023 Executive Board & Committee Chairs for their dedication and service.

As I draft this letter on the day commemorating the 95th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I cannot help but reflect on Dr. King's legacy and mission in the advancement of equity. I wish I was writing this letter at a time of jubilation and celebration; however, I would be remised to not acknowledge recent occurrences that many of us are carrying with us including the resignation of Dr. Claudine Gay from Harvard University and the tragic loss of Dr. Antoinette "Bonnie" Candia-Bailey. Their stories and lived experiences have touched so many of us because we see ourselves in their professional journeys. I was fortunate to have met Dr. Bailey a few months ago on the campus of Lincoln University (MO). She was a remarkable woman with a beautiful soul – her loss is utterly heartbreaking and has sent shockwaves throughout our community.

I know the message "I hope this finds you well" has been overused over the past few years since the pandemic. Nevertheless, I truly hope this message finds each of you doing well and if not, please know this society intends to serve as a resource as well as a brave space for you. We recognize that workplace mistreatment and trauma are top of mind for many as we continue to be underrepresented across industries such as medicine and education. In alignment with the mission of SBP and the needs of our members, we need to address the matters that impact the personal well-being of those underrepresented in pathology.

I would like to invite you to join us for the launch of [#SBPReads](#) during the month of February. In this initiation of our book club, we have selected **LEGACY: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine by Dr. Uché Blackstock, MD** as our book of the month. We plan to host a virtual book club event in March where we will have a conversation about her experience as a Black physician navigating deep inequities in healthcare and how it resonates with your respective journeys. You can [pre-order your copy now](#) and we will give away a few copies of her book during Black History Month. Stay tuned for more details.

As a reminder, below are those serving as the newly elected Executive Board and Committee Chairs:

Executive Board

President: *Dana Powell Baker*

Vice President: *Lois E. Rockson*

Secretary: *Nicole Aqui*

Treasurer: *Carla L. Ellis*

Committee Chairs

Membership: *open*

Program: *Oluwole Fadare*

Outreach: *Olufemi Sofola-James*

Website and Social Media: *Casem Ballouk*

In closing, you are encouraged to grow with us by [joining or renewing your SBP membership](#) today. We want our members to stay connected to ensure your access to all that SBP has to offer. Please welcome your colleagues to join, too! As always, you are welcome to reach out with any questions, comments, concerns, and suggestions at info@societyofblackpathologists.org.

Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to an impactful year ahead! Together, we will thrive.

In unity,

Dana Powell Baker

Dana Powell Baker, Ed.D., MBA, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

President, Society of Black Pathologists

Email: danapowellbaker@gmail.com