

Viewpoints



Race and Racism in Primary Care

The *Black Lives Matter* campaign has highlighted issues of race and racism which are present in all parts of our communities and organisations. BJGP Open is inviting Viewpoints to document experiences of racism in primary care as a patient, practitioner, trainee, or researcher.

This initiative sits outside the usual BJGP Open framework for research and commentary, and has been created as a rapid access format for sharing information.

What is your full name?

Marina Gonçalves Moreira

What is your role?

Teacher and biologist, medical student.

Please describe the experience of race and/or racism that you would like to share

As a black female studying medicine in Brazil, I experience racism on a daily basis, and it gets harder when I'm on the hospital or wearing a white coat. I get discredited by colleagues, teachers and patients, even being the only one with a previous graduation on the area. I get mistaken as a nurse daily and have to watch my younger colleagues mistaken as doctors. I watch misconducts and disrespect happen to black patients with no real voice to protect or question anything. I've seen white teachers sanctioning black students for no reason and discrediting any student that got here using affirmative action as a worse student than the others. I have been forced to "lay low" and not question the injustices I see because of negative responses from the teachers, students and faculty members. I have been labelled as a "trouble maker" for standing up for myself. Biology and medicine are my passions, but I question every day if this is really my place because it is so hard to keep on going.

Most of the time I am just trying to survive in a place I had expected to prosper.

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