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From: Chanbishop [mailto:Chanbishop@chanoff.ucsf.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2001 4:48 PM
To: UCSFSTAFF@ITSSRV1.UCSF.EDU
Subject: "Tragedy and Tolerance"

Dear Colleagues:

The tragic events of September 11 have left us all a legacy of grief and anxiety. But we of the UCSF community should be resolved that the legacy will not extend to include intolerance and bigotry. In the aftermath of September 11, we have all read or heard of uncivil and even violent acts committed against innocent individuals because of their apparent ethnicity, nationality or religion. A few members of the UCSF community have reported being the target of abuse, although it is gratifying that, to date, virtually none of these episodes have occurred on campus. We must guard against such acts among us: they are the antithesis of our ethos and mission.

One of the lessons taught to us by the human genome project is that all of humanity is an intimate biological kindred. We now know that the genes of any two people on the planet are likely to be virtually identical. Thus, science has provided a powerful biological argument against the fictions of bigotry. We cannot judge others by color of skin, ethnicity, nationality, or creed. We must judge them by the content of their character.

The leadership of UCSF is eager to take appropriate action to avoid or mitigate acts of intolerance. If you know of or have been the victim of such acts -- whether on campus or off, we encourage you to contact the Office of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity & Diversity (AA/EO/D) at 476-4752. If you wish to participate in a discussion of coping with the aftermath of September 11, jointly sponsored by the Office of AA/EO/Diversity, the Faculty/ Staff Assistance Program, and the UCSF Police Department, come to Cole Hall on Tuesday, October 16, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. We must work together in these difficult times to maintain a civil and caring community.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Bishop, M.D.
Chancellor