Ferguson, Missouri—Riots break out after a St. Louis County grand jury declines to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. Cleveland, Ohio—Ricky Jackson and Wiley Bridgeman exonerated of murder and leave prison after more than 39 years behind bars. New York, NY—Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. pledges $35 million for testing of up to 70,000 rape kits nationally—will identify some, exonerate others.

These were headlines seen in news media cross the country in the last week, and at a time when many of us have reunited with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving, the news has been tough.

It has been seven months since the SGIM national meeting. I met Elizabeth (Elissa) Poorman at that meeting and through her poster presentation learned of the (Medicare) Inmate Exception. Shortly thereafter, Tanu Pandey submitted her article on unjust imprisonment (page __). I knew that we were onto something and that the story had to be told. I did not know how timely this issue of Forum would be in those early days of planning.

This is a week when each of us is compelled to face his/her implicit bias and ask what kind of nation we have become and what kind of nation we want to be. This is something we should be openly discussing with our children, our patients, and our trainees.

As primary care physicians, we may encounter justice-affected persons at different points in the criminal justice system. Our care of these patients is influenced by our prior experience, education, and personal biases, yet we have taken an oath to serve the individual patient, regardless of circumstance.

As you read this issue in the new year, it is my hope that you will speak out in some way. May this issue on correctional health care be a starting point for collaboration, education, and reform. May we find courage this year to advocate for the weak, forgive the penitent, and change what is unjust in the communities we serve.

I wish to thank Associate Editor Tanu Pandey for the dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership that brought this issue of Forum to fruition.

References
2. https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/