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Dear Mayor de Blasio,

As our country struggles to address the racism, antisemitism and bigotry displayed in Charlottesville, attention has turned to the statue of J. Marion Sims in Central Park in our own city. As an Obstetrician-Gynecologist, and a woman, I deplore the “honoring” of this racist, misogynist physician who performed unethical surgical procedures on slaves. This deplorable treatment by Sims and other physicians who have experimented without consent, especially on people of color throughout American history, has contributed to a distrust of the medical profession and to disparities in health today.

I applaud your decision to embark on a 90-day study of Symbols of Hate in New York City. I hope that at its conclusion, the removal of the Sims statue is the first action taken.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Ellen Landsberger, MD, MS  
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