

## **Standards of Behavior in the Learning Environment**

The Faculty of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine fully support the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) compact between teachers and learners of medicine, which states:

### **1. AAMC Compact Between Teachers and Learners of Medicine**

- a. Preparation for a career in medicine demands the acquisition of a large fund of knowledge and a host of special skills. It also demands the strengthening of those virtues that undergird the doctor/patient relationship and that sustain the profession of medicine as a moral enterprise. This compact serves both as a pledge and as a reminder to teachers and learners that their conduct in fulfilling their mutual obligations is the medium through which the profession inculcates its ethical values.

### **2. Guiding Principles**

- a. DUTY: Medical educators have a duty not only to convey the knowledge and skills required for delivering the profession's contemporary standard of care, but also to inculcate the values and attitudes required for preserving the medical profession's social contract across generations.
- b. INTEGRITY: The learning environments conducive to conveying professional values must be suffused with integrity. Students learn enduring lessons of professionalism by observing and emulating role models who epitomize authentic professional values and attitudes.
- c. RESPECT: Fundamental to the ethic of medicine is respect for every individual. Mutual respect between learners, as novice members of the medical profession, and their teachers, as experienced and esteemed professionals, is essential for nurturing that ethic. Given the inherently hierarchical nature of the teacher/learner relationship, teachers have a special obligation to ensure that students and residents are always treated respectfully.

### **3. Commitments of Faculty**

- a. We pledge our utmost effort to ensure that all components of the educational program for students and residents are of high quality.
- b. As mentors for our student and resident colleagues, we maintain high professional standards in all of our interactions with patients, colleagues, and staff.
- c. We respect all students and residents as individuals, without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation; we will not tolerate anyone who manifests disrespect or who expresses biased attitudes toward any student or resident.
- d. We pledge that students and residents will have sufficient time to fulfill personal and family obligations, to enjoy recreational activities, and to obtain adequate rest; we monitor and, when necessary, reduce the time required to fulfill educational objectives, including time required for "call" on clinical rotations, to ensure students' and residents' well-being.
- e. In nurturing both the intellectual and the personal development of students and residents, we celebrate expressions of professional attitudes and behaviors, as well as achievement of academic excellence.
- f. We do not tolerate any abuse or exploitation of students or residents.
- g. We encourage any student or resident who experiences mistreatment or who witnesses unprofessional behavior to report the facts immediately to appropriate faculty or staff; we treat all such reports as confidential and do not tolerate reprisals or retaliations of any kind.

### **4. Commitments of Students and Residents**

- a. We pledge our utmost effort to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors required to fulfill all educational objectives established by the faculty.
- b. We cherish the professional virtues of honesty, compassion, integrity, fidelity, and dependability.
- c. We pledge to respect all faculty members and all students and residents as individuals, without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.

- d. As physicians in training, we embrace the highest standards of the medical profession and pledge to conduct ourselves accordingly in all of our interactions with patients, colleagues, and staff.
- e. In fulfilling our own obligations as professionals, we pledge to assist our fellow students and residents in meeting their professional obligations as well.

5. The occurrence, either intentional or unintentional, of any incident that violates this compact results in a disruption of the spirit of learning and a breach in the integrity and trust between teacher and learner. Further, the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine has a policy of zero tolerance for any type of discrimination or harassment. A student who feels that he/she has been the object of inappropriate behavior on the part of a faculty member, a resident, a staff member, or other student, shall report such behavior in a timely fashion to the associate dean for student affairs.

6. When an incident is reported, the associate dean for student affairs will coordinate with the student as his/her advocate to ensure that the appropriate policies and procedures of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) and the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine are invoked in the student's behalf (see Policies on Student-Faculty and Student-Student Dispute Resolution). The procedures of the Code of Professional and Academic Conduct will also be followed, as necessary, in this process.