

July 1, 2009

University of Florida College of Medicine --- Class of 2013 Code of Ethics --- First Assignment

Dear Members of the Class of 2013:

Congratulations! Welcome to the University of Florida College of Medicine. Your hard work and dedication has paid off. The University of Florida College of Medicine eagerly awaits your arrival. In particular, we anticipate unveiling the Code of Ethics for the Class of 2013.

Based on the premise that the profession of medicine is founded on firm ethical and professional behavior, members of the Class of 2002 initiated the creation of a Code of Ethics. As a result, each incoming class has come together during Orientation to draft their own class Code of Ethics: the Code will serve as a guide throughout your training. You will wear your Code along with your ID badge each day of your training. At certain events, such as Matriculation and White Coat Ceremony, you, as a class, will recite your Code. As well, your Code will be featured at your graduation.

To accomplish the creation of your class's Code of Ethics, each of you must submit your suggestions for the Code before Orientation. *This is your first assignment of medical school, so please treat it with the seriousness and importance it deserves. We need not remind you that this assignment is mandatory.* Write a few bullet points regarding what you feel are critical values in medicine and those factors that help create the ideal learning environment. *One page or less is sufficient.* Focus on the content of your suggestions and not the number of suggestions or the wording, which may change through the process of creating a unified Code. Please, take a moment to think about what aspects of medicine are important to you and be thoughtful with your comments. This assignment is not meant to be difficult and is not graded, but it is mandatory. Members of previous classes have found this a worthwhile experience, and we hope that you will also.

Your responses must be sent via e-mail to Ms. Barbara Smith (e-mail: basmith@ufl.edu) by **August 3rd, 2009**. Your suggestions and those of your classmates will be posted at the following web address: http://www.med.ufl.edu/oea/opfd/program/code_of_ethics.shtml. This website will be updated on a regular basis and is provided for you to read your classmates' comments before Orientation begins. Your suggestions, and those of your classmates, will be used during orientation to write the Code of Ethics for your class. During orientation week, a formal ceremony will be conducted in which your class Code of Ethics will be presented to Dr. Michael Good, the Interim Dean of the College of Medicine. At this point, your class Code will be unveiled and the Class of 2013 will officially matriculate into the University of Florida College of Medicine.

Again, welcome to the College of Medicine. Have a great summer. We look forward to seeing you in August.

Sincerely,

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