



POLICY TITLE: <i>Principles Guiding Interactions between Teachers &amp; Learners in Medicine</i>	APPROVAL DATE: <i>August 5, 2013</i>
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT: <i>Office of Medical Education</i>	APPLIES TO: <i>All Students</i>

## POLICY STATEMENT

Preparing for a career in medicine demands the acquisition of a large fund of knowledge and a host of special skills. It also demands that the virtues underlying the patient-doctor relationship are imparted to learners so that the profession of medicine as a moral enterprise is sustained. 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.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**DUTY** Medical educators have a duty to convey the knowledge and skills required for delivering the profession's contemporary standard of care and to inculcate the values and attitudes required for preserving the medical profession's social contract across generations.

**INTEGRITY** The learning environment must be suffused with integrity. Students learn enduring lessons of integrity by observing and emulating role models who epitomize authentic professional values and attitudes.

**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.

## COMMITMENTS OF TEACHERS

- We will ensure that all components of the educational program are of the highest possible quality.
- As mentors for our student and resident colleagues, we will demonstrate the highest professional standards in all of our interactions with patients, colleagues, and staff.
- In nurturing both the intellectual and personal development of students and residents, we will strongly encourage professional attitudes and behaviors, as well as academic excellence.
- We will show respect for our learners and all individuals without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.
- We will not tolerate others who abuse, exploit, disrespect, or exhibit biased attitudes towards our students or residents.
- We encourage any student or resident who experiences mistreatment or who witnesses unprofessional behavior to report the incident immediately to appropriate faculty or staff without fear of reprisal.

## **COMMITMENTS OF LEARNERS**

- We will acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors required to fulfill all educational objectives established by the UCCOM.
- We value and will strive to achieve the professional virtues of honesty, compassion, integrity, fidelity, and dependability.
- As physicians in training, we will embrace the highest standards of the medical profession and pledge to conduct ourselves accordingly in all of our interactions with patients, colleagues, and staff.
- We will show respect for our teachers and all individuals without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.
- We pledge to encourage and support each other in meeting our academic goals and professional obligations.