



FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## STUDENT PLEDGE OF CONDUCT

Upon my honor and integrity, I vow to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will recognize the invaluable and unique educational opportunity of being a student intern. As such, I pledge to take ownership for my clinical education. Whether medical or ethical, I swear that for every mistake made, I will provide an apology; for every question asked, I will seek an answer; for every constructive criticism offered, I will accept it freely and humbly, with the understanding that it is given to further my education and improve patient care. I will acknowledge my limitations, and I will not be afraid to ask for help or say “I don’t know.”

I will never forget that my patients are at the heart of the practice of medicine, and that I am their partner and advocate in all matters of their health. I will put myself in their shoes when listening to their stories, while remembering to protect their privacy at all times. I will not forget that my patient may be someone’s father, mother, son, or daughter, and that my actions or inactions will affect not only my patients, but also their families and friends. I will respect my patients, fight for their dignity, and accept them for who they are, regardless of their race, religion, lifestyle or orientation. While value conflicts will undoubtedly arise, I will not permit them to compromise the quality of care that my patients receive.

I will never forget that the practice of medicine is a team effort. As such, I will accord nurses and other health care professionals the respect they deserve and humbly strive to earn theirs. I will respect my classmates and perpetuate an environment of learning instead of one of competition. I will show up every day remembering that it is a joy to learn and a privilege to practice medicine. I will be punctual, prepared, professional, and enthusiastic, out of respect for my preceptors, my patients, myself, and all those who have walked these halls before me.

I will never forget that my ability to care for others depends on how well I care for myself. I will adopt and practice a healthy lifestyle, in spite of the demands of the professional cultures in which I train. I will discern which expectations are reasonable and which ones are not. When required, I will be an advocate for my own rights and needs as a student intern and an individual. I will make time to nurture my relationships and my life beyond medicine.

Finally, I will recognize and revere my role as a witness of the miracles and tragedies of life. I will live by the motto “to cure sometimes, to relieve often, and to comfort always.” And when my knowledge of surgery or my understanding of medications can no longer achieve these means, may I never abandon my most powerful tools of all: compassion, honesty, and understanding.

### Contributors:

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