



## **VCU School of Medicine Standards of Professional Behavior**

*These standards describe behaviors expected from faculty, housestaff and students in the School of Medicine:*

- Recognize their positions as role models for other members of the health care team.
- Carry out academic, clinical and research responsibilities in a conscientious manner, make every effort to exceed expectations and make a commitment to life-long learning.
- Treat patients, faculty, housestaff and students with humanism and sensitivity to diversity in characteristics such as culture, age, gender, disability, social and economic status, sexual orientation, etc. without discrimination, bias or harrassment.
- Maintain patient confidentiality.
- Be respectful of the privacy of all members of the medical campus community and avoid promoting gossip and rumor.
- Interact with all other members of the health care team in a helpful and supportive fashion without arrogance and with respect and recognition of the roles played by each individual.

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## **Standards of Professional Behavior**

- Provide help or seek assistance for any member of the health care team who is recognized as impaired in his/her ability to perform his/her professional obligations.
- Be mindful of the limits of one's knowledge and abilities and seek help from others whenever appropriate.
- Abide by accepted ethical standards in the scholarship, research and standards of patient care.
- Abide by the guidelines of the VCU Honor System.

## **Informal Process for Addressing School of Medicine Concerns Regarding Professionalism**

If you perceive or experience instances of personal abuse or some other form of what you view as unprofessional behavior on the part of your teachers or colleagues, you are encouraged to report such incidents through normal channels for counsel and possible rectification. If this route is awkward for you, an alternative approach is consultation with a member of the SOM Professionalism Committee.

For a full description of the latter process and the persons to contact (current members of the SOM Professionalism Committee), go to the SOM Professional website:

**[www.medschool.vcu.edu/professionalism/](http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/professionalism/)**

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**Medical College of Virginia Campus**

A print copy of this pocket card may be requested from the SOM Office of Faculty and Instructional Development; contact Debbie Stewart at 804/828-6591 or [dstewart@vcu.edu](mailto:dstewart@vcu.edu). The cards were designed by Jeanne Schlesinger and Mike Kilday-Pares, Instructional Development, OFID, SOM, VCU, July 2003.