



Université d'Ottawa ■ University of Ottawa

Faculté de médecine      Faculty of Medicine  
Études médicales postdoctorales      Postgraduate Medical Education

**Faculty of Medicine  
Standards of Ethical and  
Professional Behaviour**

Members of the Faculty of Medicine have a commitment to uphold the highest standards of ethical and professional behaviour consistent with the values of the University of Ottawa and with the values of the medical profession as exemplified in the Code of Ethics of the Canadian Medical Association.

The following serves as a statement for all students, trainees, support staff and Faculty of their ethical and professional obligations. Such commitments extend to their relations with patients, and professional responsibilities for education, research, clinical care and administration. Members have a responsibility for their own individual behaviour as well as a responsibility to promote adherence to these standards by other members of the student body, support staff and Faculty.

Alleged or admitted violations of such professional and ethical standards will lead to investigation according to university policy, in addition to compliance with any other obligations that may be imposed by professional bodies such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO), and may lead to disciplinary action provided for under University policies and procedures or those of other related agencies. Such disciplinary action may include reprimand, suspension, expulsion or other appropriate measures. Such violations if established will be taken into account in decisions regarding promotion for students and Faculty members, and in decisions regarding appointment, contract renewal and tenure for Faculty members.

The following list though not exclusive, outlines the ethical commitments expected of students, support staff and Faculty.

- To personal honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness.
- To respect others including refraining from harassment or discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, illness or age.
- To abstain from use of illicit drugs and to avoid inappropriate use of medication, mood altering drugs or alcohol.
- To work in partnership with other colleagues and members of the health care team.

- To assist other colleagues in need of help in meeting their professional and ethical obligations.
- To avoid taking advantage of real or perceived inequality in relationships in dealing with students, fellows or employees.
- To uphold standards and rules of any sponsoring agencies and of the journals in which the results of research studies are published.
- To avoid all forms of scientific misconduct, misrepresentation or falsifications of data; to refrain from assisting or colluding with any other colleagues in committing scientific misconduct either tacitly or overtly and to report to the appropriate authorities any knowledge of such behaviour.
- To adhere to the highest standards of integrity and to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest in the conduct of clinical trials and the evaluation of drugs, medical devices or other diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, and avoid taking undue financial or other advantage from information gained from or by reporting on such studies.

To uphold the highest standards of ethical and professional behaviour in regard to industry. This includes the following:

- To avoid whenever possible any real or potential conflict of interest or commitment and to seek to resolve such conflicts that may exist while ensuring that the physician's primary objective is patient welfare.
- To ensure that participation in CME activities, surveillance studies etc. are consistent with the CMA guidelines relating to physicians and the pharmaceutical industry.

To the highest standards of ethical and professional behaviour in regards to education recognizing the potential for real or perceived inequality in the relationship between teachers and students. This includes the following:

- To respect the confidentiality of student records.
- To treat all students fairly and equitably.
- To promote the student-teacher relationship and not to abuse this trust for personal gain.
- To promote and uphold high educational standards of the Faculty and to ensure competence of trainees being promoted.