



VCU Medical Center

To: All School of Medicine Faculty, Housestaff, Medical Students, Graduate Students

From: Jerome F. Strauss, III, MD, PhD *Jerry* Ron Clark, MD *Ron Clark*
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Subject: Professionalism

The School of Medicine (SOM) and VCU Health System are committed to a culture of professionalism essential for the highest standards of patient care and safety, medical education, research and research training. To remind us of that commitment, enclosed are:

- **Pocket card** containing our SOM "Standards of Professional Behavior." We suggest you keep the card in your pocket and refer to the "Standards" at appropriate opportunities as we teach, learn, deliver safe patient care, and conduct research. Pocket cards are given to students, housestaff, and faculty, and the standards are incorporated into courses, clerkships, training programs and evaluations. The standards were recently revised to include expectations for communications via electronic/social networking technology.
- **Commitment form:** Confirm your commitment to the "Standards" by completing the online commitment form at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/professionalism/commitment/>

When you perceive instances of personal abuse or some other form of what you view as unprofessional behavior by students, faculty, or housestaff, and if you are reluctant to use standard channels, we encourage you to report such incidents to a professionalism committee member for counsel and possible correction. This process is meant to be informal and confidential, with consultation provided by members of the SOM Professionalism Committee, as an alternative to other routes for reporting concerns.

Web resources at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/professionalism> include:

- Full description of the informal process to report professional concerns
- SOM Professionalism Committee members (persons to whom you report professionalism concerns)
- Medical student mistreatment policies
- VCU Health System Medical Staff Standards of Conduct Policy
- Cases, resources and links for professionalism instruction
- Link to VCU Honor Code, for which our "Standards" are complementary

Telephone hotlines (anonymous) have been established to report professionalism concerns:

- For medical students, provided by SOM Student Affairs
 - o MCV Campus: 804-827-TALK (8255)
 - o Inova Campus: 703-776-TALK (8255)
- For residents: provided by GME, VCUHS
 - o 804-827-LIFE (5433)
- For VCUHS employees: The Compliance Helpline
 - o 1-800-620-1438, toll free

Thank you for serving as role models of professionalism and for helping the School of Medicine to maintain its commitment to excellence in higher education, academic medicine, and safe patient care.

Enclosures