

Embracing the Profession of Medicine

**Be Worthy of Your Patient's
Trust**

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“Profession” Is The Root of Professionalism

- **Profession**: an occupation that involves prolonged training and formal qualification
- **Regulates** itself & upholds ethical standards
- **Recognized** by society as possessing special knowledge and skills
- Our profession is the **diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease**



ACGME Definition of Professionalism

According to the ACGME, residents *must*:

“Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.”

You will accomplish this with:

1. Compassion, integrity, & respect for others
2. Attention to patient needs **superseding self-interest**
3. Respect for patient privacy & autonomy
4. Accountability to patients, society & the profession
5. Sensitivity to diverse patient population



What does it mean to be a Professional?

Professionalism is the basis of **Medicine**

- * It demands placing the interests of patients above those of the physician, setting and maintaining standards of competence and integrity, and providing expert advice to society on matters of health





Why Is This Important?

- **Public concerns** that physicians are impersonal, dishonest and self-serving
- **Corporate transformation** of medicine
- Professionalism should form the basis of the **social contract** between medicine and society
- Patients are more likely to adhere to treatment guidelines if they **trust physicians**



Medical Professionalism in 2018

- Physicians are closely scrutinized by society
 - Patients can research a physician's record
 - Any disciplinary action is often public record

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Dr. Manuel Vallejo Jr, MD

Anesthesiology · Male · Age 58



San

Dr. Vallejo Jr's Experience



Dr. Vallejo Jr's experience matches your search based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Based on total number of patients treated over the last 12 months
- ✓ Specializes in Anesthesiology
- ✓ Board certified in Anesthesiology
- ✓ No sanctions found
- ✓ No board actions found

Dr. Manuel Vallejo Jr.
26 years. He gradu



Social Media: You represent your profession at all times

- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- What's appropriate?
 - What do students, residents, faculty post?
 - use of foul language, controversial subjects
 - negative comments about patients, colleagues, & al.
 - you will be **amazed** at the stuff you'll see
 - you can **destroy** your reputation





Core Tenets of Professionalism

- **Adherence** to standards
 - accept responsibility for continuity of care
- **Empathy & Sensitivity** to
 - situation, culture, diversity
- **Accountability**
 - accept responsibility for your behavior and how it impacts patient care
- **Commitment**
 - improvement of personal character
 - integrity, altruism, empathy



Patient Interactions

- Introduce self & role
- Greet patient
- Show interest in patient's thoughts
- Respectful communication
- Involve patient in decisions
- Show care & concern
- Give appropriate expectations



Steps of Clinical Judgment

1. The **Diagnostic** question – what **IS** wrong with the patient? (Hx, physical exam, PMH, lab results &c.)
2. The **Therapeutic** question – what **CAN** be done for the pt? (informed by scientific evidence)
3. The **Prudential** question – what **SHOULD** be done for the pt – involves individual and diverse considerations



**Ten Bits of
Advice That I
Hope Will
Help Make
You a Better
Physician and
Professional**



1. Be a Good Role Model

- Students identify residents & fellows as key role models, *not* faculty
- Be positive
- Hold yourself accountable
- Take time to teach
- Treat others the way you want to be treated



2. It's ALL your job



3. Integrity Counts

- Be Honest
- Be accountable...people remember
- Have the courage to speak up – the patient *always* comes first

INTEGRITY

IS DOING THE
RIGHT THING.

EVEN WHEN
NO ONE IS
WATCHING.

C.S. LEWIS



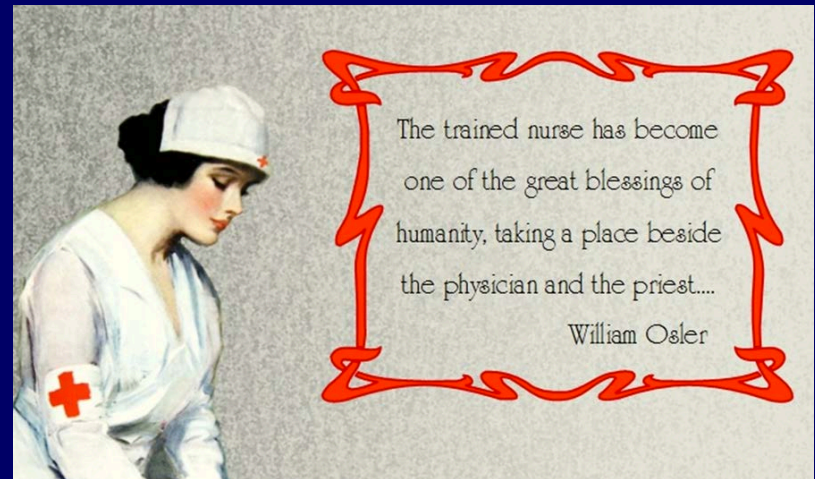
4. Be Humble

- Your first name is *not* “Doctor”
- The **team** comes before any individual member



5. Treat Nurses (& All Staff) with RESPECT!

- They are your *colleagues* in all aspects of patient care
- Not your minions
- If you wish to be treated with respect...
- They will teach you – learn from them



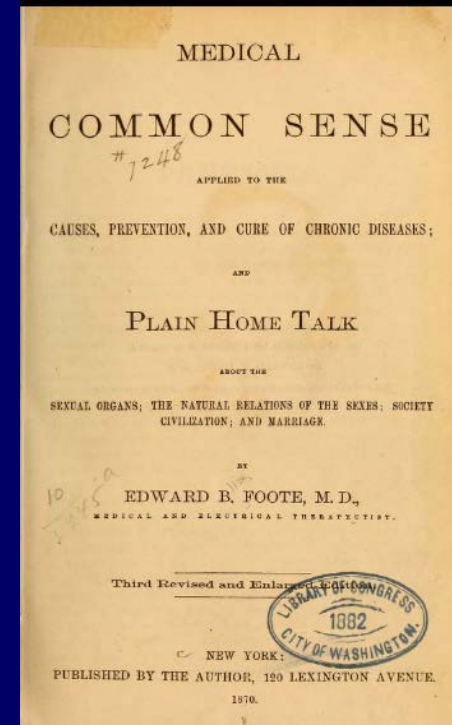
6. STUDY

- No matter how great your bedside manner may be... your eye won't see what your mind doesn't know
- Read
- Go to your department & interdepartmental conferences
- Look for learning opportunities
- Milestones and standards must be met



7. Use Your Common Sense

- Cultivate the habit of regarding every case from the patient's point of view
- Treat patients and not their diseases
- Don't neglect your own ailments

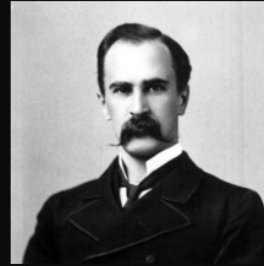


“There can be no greater folly in a physician than to attempt, within the brief period of his mundane existence, to acquire skill in *all* diseases to which mankind is subject.” -- p. 319



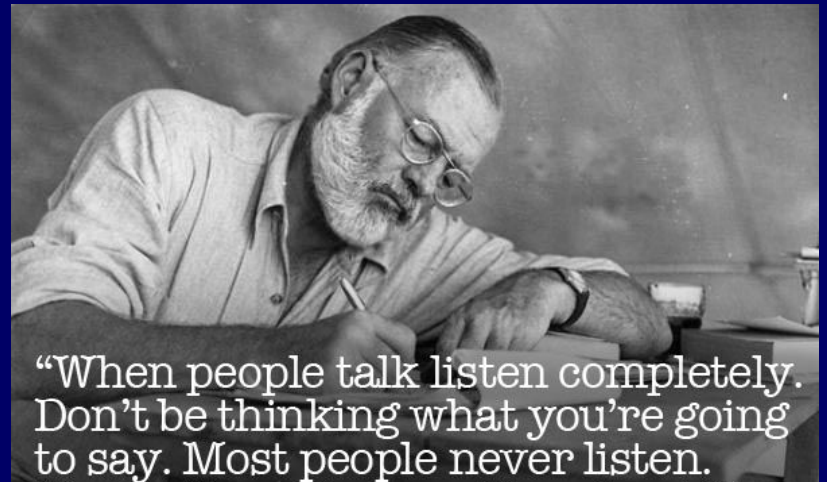
8. Listen When Others Talk

- Patients
- Family members
 - theirs, and *yours*
- Consultants
- Colleagues



Listen to your patient, he is
telling you the diagnosis,

~ William Osler



“When people talk listen completely.
Don’t be thinking what you’re going
to say. Most people never listen.”



9. Admit your mistakes and learn from them



- For physicians, being involved in an **error evokes**
 - Shame
 - Humiliation
 - Fear
 - Panic
 - Self-doubt
- Coping mechanisms include
 - Denial
 - Distancing

...**ask for help** if you need it or if you see that one of your colleagues does



10. Have High Expectations of Yourself

- What do you **expect** of yourself ?
- **Remember** why you entered the medical profession
- **You have the choice** of being the kind of physician you wish to be
- **Reflect, make changes, evolve**



Final Thoughts

- Use our Resources:
- Chief Residents
- Program Manager
- Program Director
- Dr. Vallejo (DIO)
- Dr. Ferrari (Chair of Medical Education)
- Don't hesitate to contact us if we can help you
- Whatever the question, you aren't the first to ask it





Thank You

