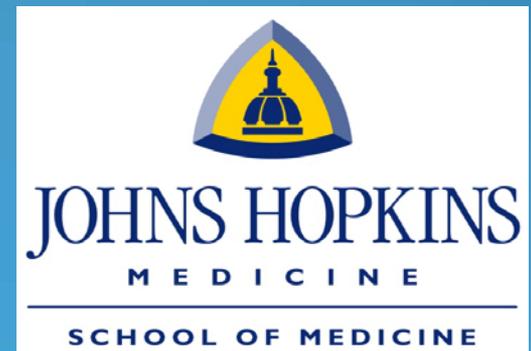


WRITING AND RECITING A PROFESSION OF VALUES

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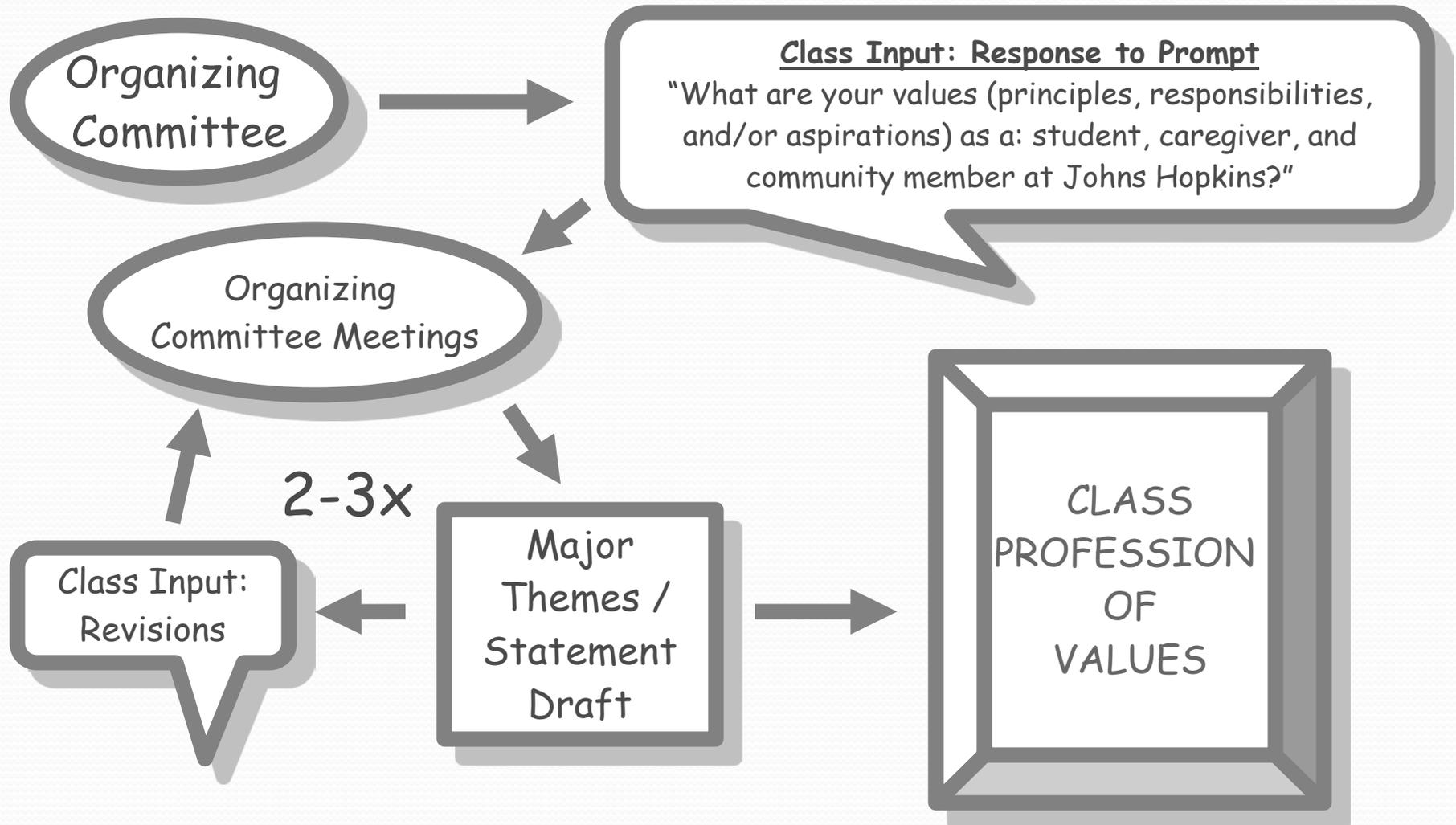
Introduction

- Instilling the ideals and values of the medical profession is an important goal of medical school training.
- White Coat Ceremony marks a symbolic entrance into the medical profession.
- How do students define professional values?

The Profession of Values

- Colleges Advisory Program at Johns Hopkins
 - Classes of 2011, 2012, 2013
- White Coat Ceremony occurs in Spring of first year
 - Students have an opportunity to bond as a class
 - Ceremony marks an achievement in (nearly) completing first year of medical school
 - Students have already been involved in clinical skills
- In fall of first year, students were invited to write a statement of professional values to be recited at the White Coat Ceremony

Program Description



The White Coat Ceremony

Cloaking of White Coat
by faculty advisors



Reciting the
Profession of Values



2011 Class Profession of Values

We, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Class of 2011, profess to our peers, educators, families, friends, and the community of Baltimore our aspiration to uphold the values we attribute to this white coat.

As students of medicine, we will embrace honesty and integrity. In our roles as scholars, caregivers, and community members, we will passionately pursue excellence, continually inspired to contribute to the expanding knowledge of medicine. We will strive to know ourselves, our abilities and limits, allowing this insight to guide our actions. As we face challenges, we will draw on our strength, optimism, and patience. In our successes, we will hold humility before pride.

We recognize that skill without empathy is inadequate. We will approach every patient with open-mindedness and without judgment, respecting cultural and personal differences. We will honor the dignity and humanity of each patient. As time passes and novelties wane, we will not forget compassion and caring, but will remain dedicated to the ultimate goal of helping others. We will learn from every person, with new understanding gained from each interaction.

We accept our responsibility, one which extends beyond the walls of our institution, to lead and serve with dedication. We will be diligent and responsible, not complacent or timid, and always respectful of the trust placed in us. As members of the community, we will not exploit or neglect those around us, but rather will embrace our social responsibility to advocate for positive change. As physicians, we will commit to advancing knowledge and improving practice. As individuals, we will be mindful of the impact of our decisions and our duty to serve selflessly.

This profession of values declared on the 27th of May, 2008 is an acknowledgment of our commitment to the tradition of excellence in clinical care and scholarship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

2012 Class Profession of Values

We, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Class of 2012, profess our aspiration to preserve, protect, and defend the values that we attribute to this white coat.

Since the physician's relationship with the patient is the core of the medical art, we will treat our patients to the utmost of our ability, with compassion and respect. We will strive to craft a healthy and open relationship with each patient, keeping in mind each patient's unique background and remembering that while the good physician treats the disease, the great one treats the patient who has the disease. We pledge to pursue lives of learning and discovery within the medical science, aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients.

We pledge to our colleagues in medicine an equally high level of dedication as we pursue our common goals. Our relationships with fellow physicians and allied health care providers alike will be based on mutual respect and open communication. We will recognize our limitations and will accordingly seek advice and counsel from our colleagues. Similarly, we will aim to provide that same guidance as mentors and teachers.

Our responsibilities as physicians also extend further to include our respective communities – local, national and global. We recognize the universal right to the pursuit of health and pledge to act as stewards of that principle, pursuing our moral obligation to ameliorate health care disparities and to promote attitudes, behaviors and values beneficial to the public's health. Moreover, we intend to remain active participants in the discourse shaping health care policy, acknowledging that medicine is a public service, undertaken in the service of our nations and the world.

Finally, though we pledge to serve selflessly, we also acknowledge the need to maintain balance amongst the various professional and personal responsibilities of our lives. We pledge to approach this challenge with humility, introspection, and a constant awareness of our limitations and capabilities.

We declare this statement on the 23rd of March, 2009, to our peers, educators, families, friends, the community of Baltimore, and the nation at large. It is an acknowledgment of our commitment to the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and its tradition of excellence.

2013 Class Profession of Values

We, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Class of two thousand thirteen, pledge to lead our personal and professional lives with respect, integrity, and compassion and to preserve the values symbolized by the white coat.

As individuals and future physicians, we will strive each day for excellence in our lives and in the practice of medicine. We recognize that medicine is both a science and an art, in which knowledge is sought and applied with empathy, altruism, and patience. In caring for the individuals around us, we hope to maintain a balance between our personal and professional lives. We will act with confidence tempered always with humility. We will be thankful for our successes but also take responsibility for and learn from our errors. As we continue our education and training, we remember the support of our family and friends and the guidance of mentors with gratitude. We take an oath to be mindful of ourselves, know our abilities, recognize our limitations, and remain understanding and perceptive toward others.

As stewards of our patients' health, we will uphold these values and treat each patient as a human being rather than a collection of diseases. We promise to listen to our patients, to earn their trust with honesty, and to partner with them in treatment. By educating patients about their health, we respect and seek to preserve their autonomy. Moreover, we will use our skills as physicians to redress the healthcare needs and disparities of our nation and our global community. We will advocate for the individual patient as well as all patients, and do our utmost to reconcile the needs of both.

Patient advocacy begins with the mastery of knowledge. We vow to remain curious about knowledge yet undiscovered and to learn throughout our lifetime – from our peers, our patients, and ourselves. We will respect the expertise of our colleagues from all fields and work as a team to provide the best care possible. Together we will search the canvas of life and contribute to the collective knowledge of our profession.

During our time together as a class, we promise to support and care for each other. As we reach towards our aspirations, we will continue to live by the values professed in this statement. We look with optimism to our future roles as physicians, and we pledge to honor the field of medicine.

Common Themes

| Theme | Class of 2011 | Class of 2012 | Class of 2013 |
|--|---|--|---|
| Sharing statement with community | We... profess to our peers, educators, families, friends, and the community of Baltimore our aspiration to uphold the values we attribute to this white coat. | We... profess our aspiration to preserve, protect, and defend the values that we attribute to this white coat | We... pledge to lead our personal and professional lives with respect, integrity, and compassion and to preserve the values symbolized by the white coat. |
| Treating patients with respect, compassion, honesty | We will approach every patient with open-mindedness and without judgment, respecting cultural and personal differences. We will honor the dignity and humanity of each patient. | Since the physician's relationship with the patient is the core of the medical art, we will treat our patients to the utmost of our ability, with compassion and respect. We will strive to craft a healthy and open relationship with each patient, keeping in mind each patient's unique background... | As stewards of our patients' health, we will ... treat each patient as a human being rather than a collection of diseases. We promise to listen to our patients, to earn their trust with honesty, and to partner with them in treatment. By educating patients about their health, we respect and seek to preserve their autonomy. |

Common Themes

| Theme | Class of 2011 | Class of 2012 | Class of 2013 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Contributing to advancement of knowledge | In our roles as scholars, caregivers, and community members, we will passionately pursue excellence, continually inspired to contribute to the expanding knowledge of medicine... As physicians, we will commit to advancing knowledge and improving practice. | We pledge to pursue lives of learning and discovery within the medical science, aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients. | Patient advocacy begins with the mastery of knowledge. We vow to remain curious about knowledge yet undiscovered and to learn throughout our lifetime – from our peers, our patients, and ourselves... Together we will search the canvas of life and contribute to the collective knowledge of our profession. |
| Recognizing personal limitations and acting with humility | We will strive to know ourselves, our abilities and limits, allowing this insight to guide our actions. As we face challenges, we will draw on our strength, optimism, and patience. In our successes, we will hold humility before pride. | We will recognize our limitations and will accordingly seek advice and counsel from our colleagues... We pledge to approach this challenge [of balancing responsibilities] with humility, introspection, and a constant awareness of our limitations and capabilities. | We will act with confidence tempered always with humility. We will be thankful for our successes but also take responsibility for and learn from our errors... We take an oath to be mindful of ourselves, know our abilities, recognize our limitations, and remain understanding and perceptive toward others. |

Common Themes

| Theme | Class of 2011 | Class of 2012 | Class of 2013 |
|--|---|---|---|
| Acknowledging the expertise of other health care professionals | We will learn from every person, with new understanding gained from each interaction. | We pledge to our colleagues in medicine an equally high level of dedication as we pursue our common goals. Our relationships with fellow physicians and allied health care providers alike will be based on mutual respect and open communication. | We will respect the expertise of our colleagues from all fields and work as a team to provide the best care possible. Together we will search the canvas of life and contribute to the collective knowledge of our profession. |
| Advocating for the needs of the community | We accept our responsibility, one which extends beyond the walls of our institution, to lead and serve with dedication... As members of the community, we will not exploit or neglect those around us, but rather will embrace our social responsibility to advocate for positive change. | Our responsibilities as physicians also extend further to include our respective communities – local, national and global. We recognize the universal right to the pursuit of health and pledge to act as stewards of that principle, pursuing our moral obligation to ameliorate health care disparities and to promote attitudes, behaviors and values beneficial to the public's health. | Moreover, we will use our skills as physicians to redress the healthcare needs and disparities of our nation and our global community. We will advocate for the individual patient as well as all patients, and do our utmost to reconcile the needs of both. |

Common Themes

| Theme | Class of 2011 | Class of 2012 | Class of 2013 |
|--|---|--|--|
| Balancing professional and personal responsibilities | As individuals, we will be mindful of the impact of our decisions and our duty to serve selflessly. | Finally, though we pledge to serve selflessly, we also acknowledge the need to maintain balance amongst the various professional and personal responsibilities of our lives. | In caring for the individuals around us, we hope to maintain a balance between our personal and professional lives. |
| Striving for excellence | In our roles as scholars, caregivers, and community members, we will passionately pursue excellence... This profession of values... is an acknowledgment of our commitment to the tradition of excellence in clinical care and scholarship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine | ... remembering that while the good physician treats the disease, the great one treats the patient who has the disease... aiming to achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients... [This statement] is an acknowledgment of our commitment to the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and its tradition of excellence. | As individuals and future physicians, we will strive each day for excellence in our lives and in the practice of medicine... As we reach towards our aspirations, we will continue to live by the values professed in this statement. We look with optimism to our future roles as physicians, and we pledge to honor the field of medicine. |

Additional interesting phrases

- **2011** - In our successes, we will hold humility before pride.
- **2011** - As time passes and novelties wane, we will not forget compassion and caring...
- **2012** - Moreover, we intend to remain active participants in the discourse shaping health care policy, acknowledging that medicine is a public service, undertaken in the service of our nations and the world.
- **2013** - We recognize that medicine is both a science and an art, in which knowledge is sought and applied with empathy, altruism, and patience.
- **2013** - As we continue our education and training, we remember the support of our family and friends and the guidance of mentors with gratitude.
- **2013** - During our time together as a class, we promise to support and care for each other.

Discussion

- This iterative, student-run process is an example of a community-based approach to learning about professionalism.
- The POV statements were meaningful proclamations that were well-received by students and the medical community.
- By contributing to the themes highlighted in the statements and reciting them publicly, students committed themselves to the espoused values.

Next steps

- Over time, we hope to learn what role this statement has played for students during their clinical training.
 - Was the student's commitment to values challenged by clinical or personal experiences?
 - Did values change?
 - Are values weighted differently after clinical training?
 - How salient is the POV relative to the Hippocratic Oath to be read at graduation?