

# Office of Global Health

## Professionalism Expectations

### Professionalism and Behavior

- As a representative of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, I will hold myself to the highest standards of professionalism, respect, and courtesy.
- I will always act in the best interests of my patients and hosts.
- I recognize that personal and professional behaviors, clinical skills, and competencies are culturally framed and resource dependent. I will therefore refrain from passing judgment or expressing opinions that are insensitive to those contextual frameworks.
- I will minimize the burden of my presence on my host institution. Specifically, I will be mindful of their resources when I order tests or medications for patients; arrange for an interpreter when needed and not use nursing or other staff unless their services are offered; not impose on the training of others; and be mindful of host time limitations.

### Clinical Care

- I will care for patients under the direct supervision of my faculty mentor or local preceptor within the limitations established by my level of training.
- I will not make any promises to patients or local clinicians regarding allocation of resources at the local institution or financial assistance from Ohio State.
- I will not make direct donations to a patient or other individual, as I understand that it would compromise the patient-clinician working relationship and would also set a precedent for future visiting clinicians. If I would like to contribute to a patient's care, I will do so in an anonymous manner through the host administration.

### Social Media

- I will respect the privacy of my host community and individuals and will not post patient or clinical information on social media (e.g., public blogs, Instagram, Twitter/X, TikTok, etc.).
- I understand that social media posts might be misinterpreted. I will use good judgement when posting about my host institution or colleagues on any social media and will limit any negative comments about the experience to a personal journal or private communication with family and friends by phone call or text message.
- I understand the importance of respect and how others might perceive my social media posts. I understand that such posts can damage relationships with host sites, undermine reputations, and discourage teamwork. I will ensure that with all posts I would be comfortable posting the same information about people from Ohio State.
- I will check the accuracy of everything I post. I understand that I am in-country on behalf of Ohio State and that others may assume that I am representing the views of my institution. I will be aware of the privacy status of sites where I am posting content about my experience. I understand that posted content is difficult to remove completely and that even when deleted the data may be stored where I may not have anticipated.

## **Photography**

- I will use discretion in taking photographs both for clinical and social media use. I will seek permission (with full transparency of purpose) from individuals being photographed. I will be aware of and comply with my host institution's policy for taking photographs of patients and facilities.
- When taking photographs, I will protect patients' privacy. I will be considerate during private moments of grief and not be intrusive. I will build a relationship of mutual understanding with my subject and not be a stranger from a distance.
- I will examine my motives for taking a photograph. I will attempt to inspire hope or understanding and not simply try to gain pity for my subjects.
- I will not stereotype or make false generalizations. I will use captions to contextualize images. I will use my photos to raise public awareness, not to exploit public sympathy. I will edit my photos carefully to avoid misrepresentation and ensure that my photos document what I believe is the real situation of my subjects.

## **Personal Conduct**

- I will respect and comply with the rules, regulations, and cultural standards of both the United States and my host country and institution.
- I will refrain from participating in political activity.
- I will dress in a culturally appropriate and professional manner.

*Adapted from the Global Child Health Educational Modules Project "Preparation for Global Health Electives" preparation packet, St Clair et al, AAP and CUGH, 2013. Content was adapted from codes of conduct from the following institutions: Medical College of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota, and UW-Milwaukee.*