

ETHICAL CODE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK

PREAMBLE

The transformations taking place in the political systems and moral codes of social life make it urgently necessary to recapitulate the core values and the principles of their attainment in the contemporary cultural conditions and civilisation. Establishments of higher education should embody the unquestionable ethical authority and whilst keeping pace with the times should be the haven of ethical excellence in the society, or at least strive at the excellence uncompromisingly.

A medical school of higher education has a social role to play by teaching and educating the young generation and engaging in scientific research in the spirit of truth. Because of its medical profile, the university has a specific role to play in the society, the role stemming from care for protection of human life and health irrespective of the skin colour, nationality, personal beliefs, social status, or other similar factors.

In view of the above, members of the community of the Medical University of Gdańsk, i.e. its governing bodies, academic staff, students, and administration staff, aware of the School's unique social mission and the burden of responsibility for accomplishing it, adopt this Code which details the core ethical values, principles, and duties defined herein to support the unyielding effort to do good.

I. THE VALUES

The values cherished by the School are mutually intertwined creating space for science and sound moral stance to develop. The values include: Good, Truth, Dignity, Freedom, Respect for Human Life, and Fairness. Translation of these values into real life determines not only the role, but also the School's position in the society, since the higher position its representatives are perceived to take in human community, the higher ethical standards they should meet.

1. GOOD

Good represents the rudimental value which, when seen in interpersonal relationships, always translates to openness to the needs of another human. Doing good better the man. As the School sees it, what matters is not only the good of an individual, but also the common good of the whole academic community and the society the University serves.

2. TRUTH

Truth comes down to consistency between beliefs and the reality. The truth is discovered piece by piece, gradually, and arriving at it is the subject matter of all scientific research. Truth plays a fundamental role in the moral life of any human being, since the man can only fulfil himself as a person and appreciate the dignity of human nature when abiding by truth.

3. DIGNITY

Dignity stands for the personal value which determines the way the man should be treated and the way he himself should behave. The dignity of a human being is an inalienable value irrespective of the skin colour, sex, faith, social position, skills possessed, personal beliefs, etc.

4. FREEDOM

Freedom denotes the liberty to make decisions and see them through. Freedom is an elementary value each human being should enjoy. Freedom of expression and freedom of conscience gain a specific dimension in the academic community. The freedom the man enjoys, however, carries responsibility for the choices made and actions taken.

5. RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Life is an immanent value of each human being bestowed on him by nature itself. The value gains specific significance at medical schools whose mission is to serve human life and health. Therefore, any symptoms of disregard for the value should be censured.

6. FAIRNESS

Fairness stands for unceasing and steady endeavour to give everyone what is due to them. Fairness plays an immense role in appraisal and sharing wealth of both tangible and intangible nature, as it translates to respect for the right to equal and fair treatment of all people.

II. THE PRINCIPLES

The adopted values form the foundations for the general principles governing the University's life.

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY

The School defines its own mission based on independence of any political, economic, or other influences in its seeking, publishing, and teaching the scientific truth.

2. THE PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The medical school operates *pro public bono*, i.e. for the common good. The teaching of the vocation, the lines of scientific research, and participation in practical medical care are targeted at the needs of the entire society. Awareness of the role should mould the attitudes of the academic community of the medical school.

3. THE PRINCIPLE OF HONESTY

The School accepts diligent and decent behaviour following the adopted obligations as its elementary moral principle in the community life.

4. THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR DIGNITY

The School abides by the principle of respecting the dignity of each human being. The principle lays the foundations for any interpersonal relationships.

5. THE PRINCIPLE OF TOLERANCE

In its respect for human dignity and personal freedom of each man, the School declares respect for any personal beliefs and any actions in accord with the universal values. Specifically, the principle of tolerance gives every member of the academic community the unconstrained right to present his/her personal views.

III. THE DUTIES

As guidance in the pursuance of the above listed principles we here define the duties which, if performed, should build the ethical image of the Medical University of Gdańsk.

CORE DUTIES

1. Seeking the truth.
2. Respecting the core values and following the ethical principles in action, formulation and expression of views.
3. Complying with the principles of honesty, thoroughness and due diligence, and responsibility.
4. Furthering knowledge and skills continuously.
5. Caring about the good name, image, and prestige of the School.
6. Showing mutual respect, goodwill, and culture in the relationships with other members of the academic community.
7. Accepting functions burdened with responsibility in line with personal competencies, and not evading involvement in the works of collective bodies.
8. Inspiring and developing creativity, and building an atmosphere of harmonious development of the entire academic community.
9. Exercising the authority conferred by the academic community in an open and transparent manner.
10. Avoiding actual and potential conflicts of interest, i.e. double loyalty obligations.
11. Demonstrating loyalty towards the academic community of the home school without transgressing on the borders of respect for human dignity and autonomy.
12. Avoiding dissemination of unverified critical information which might shape wrong opinions discordant with the actual facts.
13. Opposing firmly any form of moral pathology, which translates to deeming any of the following unethical: corruption, nepotism, favouritism, fraud, and other forms of dishonesty.
14. Refraining from using personal role in the society for generation of private benefits contrary to the public interest.

THE DUTIES OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF

The academic teachers:

1. Protect the dignity of their vocation with their stance and right ethical decisions made in their professional and private lives.
2. See to high quality of their teaching and to the sharing of up-to-date knowledge, broadening their own professional knowledge and perfecting their teaching skills.
3. Inspire the students to think independently, express their opinions, and actively participate in the teaching-learning process.
4. Treat the students with all due respect, goodwill, and culture, refrain from undermining the authority of other academic staff, and do not formulate any categorical statements that would overrule any discussion.
5. Oppose any dishonest behaviour among the students in presenting their knowledge, and any other behaviour below the dignity of a member of the academic community.
6. Assess the student's knowledge fairly and based only on their achievements, against uniform and clear criteria.

Moreover, it is the duty of the School's authorities to:

7. See to high quality of teaching by aligning the curricula to the current state of knowledge, selecting appropriate research and academic staff, and supporting their development.

Students:

8. Perform their obligation to acquire knowledge and skills diligently
9. Pay all due respect to their teachers, peers, and patients.
10. Participate in perfecting the teaching through expressing their opinions on the attitudes of the teaching staff and their engagement in the teaching process.

THE DUTIES IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH

1. Abiding by good customs and principles in research, especially such as selection of innovative goals, proper research methods, and fairness in presentation of the research results.
2. Following the principles of just and fair distribution of the benefits stemming from scientific achievements among the co-authors and their colleagues.

3. Reviewing others' works and research output in accordance with own competence, with all insight, objectiveness, and fairness exerted.
4. Opposing the use of the authority ascribed to science or oneself for marketing or propaganda purposes.

In addition, it is the particular duty of the School's governing bodies to:

5. Ensure freedom of research in any dimension.
6. See to the proper climate conducive to the development of research cooperation.
7. Support research by ensuring proper conditions to pursue it.

THE DUTIES IN TERMS OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TASKS

The Community of the Medical University:

1. Accepts the good of the patient as the fundamental value ultimately governing any actions taken at and by the School.
2. Abides by the principles laid down in codes of professional conduct, especially the patients' rights, in its actions.

IV. CLOSING PROVISIONS

Each community member of the Medical University of Gdańsk:

1. Covenants in his/her conscience he/she shall follow faithfully this Ethical Code of the Medical University of Gdańsk.
2. Covenants he/she shall honourably accept ethical appraisal in the event he/she is in breach of the principles of this Ethical Code.