

# Community Trust and Good Will Agreement

## The Profession of Medicine

*DMS is a community and we care for each other!*

### **Fourth year student responsibilities.**

*This document describes an important dimension of the role accepted by me as a Group Discussion Leader for the Profession of Medicine course at the Dartmouth Medical School. This is a volunteer position, and I am free to withdraw from it at any time without adverse consequence. It is also a position that obliges me to exercise professionalism & diligence. As a Group Discussion Leader, I will have meetings with a specified group of first year DMS students with the goal of supporting their individual & collective well-being as they navigate the often demanding pathways of a medical school education. My function during these meetings is to encourage them to form into communities of support for one another, to share their individual experiences of being in medical school, to demystify & illuminate the cultures of medicine, and to assist them in accessing the resources available to them at DMS for academic advising, mental health, and general problem-solving. Given that medical students often struggle with mental health issues due to the pressures of the medical school environment, it is especially important that I remain attentive to the specific responsibilities outlined below.*

As a Group Discussion Leader, if I judge that a student in my group may have a mental health issue (e.g., is persistently anxious) or a significant problem of a different nature (e.g., reports feeling mistreated by a professor or another student) and the student is not at risk to him/herself or others, I will speak with the student privately & confidentially to offer my assistance. I will encourage the student to seek care or discuss the situation with an advisor, SNAP rep, a faculty member, or a health care professional.

If I believe that a student may have a significant & impairing mental health problem (e.g., reports severe depressed mood, expresses suicidal thoughts, or is acting bizarrely) and may be a danger to him/herself or others, I will break the agreed upon rule that the specifics of conversation within the group will not be shared with others. I will inform the student that I am breaking this rule, unless it would place others at risk, that I will involve faculty or Dick's house. I will then immediately involve the student's society advisor, or a faculty member, or escort the student to Dick's house for emergency services. If a student refuses assistance or appears to be at imminent risk of harming him/self or others, I will dial 911 or campus security (603 646-4000). If the student goes to Dicks House, and I cannot wait until he/she is seen by a counselor then the student must agree to let the staff at Dicks house contact me or a faculty member to confirm that he/she was seen by a provider.

Throughout the period I am actively serving as a Group Discussion Leader, I may ask for advice or guidance from Joseph O'Donnell, James Bell, William Boyle or Ann Davis, M.D, or the Dean on call (call list available on web site or from campus safety and security).

Except in the rare exceptions noted above, in order to help build a safety net within our DMS community, specifics of the discussions within our group are not to be shared with others.

**Please note this is a double sided document: first year responsibilities detailed on back side.**

## **First year Student responsibilities for “Profession of Medicine”**

I know that the fourth year leader of my group has agreed to the responsibilities noted above. I know that my fourth year leader is not a professional but a student colleague in the DMS community that is passionate about supporting my well-being and supporting my transition into the profession of medicine.

In order to help build community and trust the specifics of discussions within our group are not to be shared with others.

If I have a concern about my own safety, mental health status, or general well-being at DMS, I may contact my society advisor, any society head, or the Dean on Call (list available on the web or by calling campus safety and security) or access emergency care at Dick’s House.