Professionalism Assignment for PGY1 Residents in General Surgery

Distributed to the incoming PGY1 residents at the Transition to Residency Workshop

Assignment: Reflection paper on “Professionalism in Practice”
Evaluation: Will be by two faculty members. The paper will be marked as PASS/FAIL/HONOURS
Format: 1.5 – 2.0 line space, 12 font (Times New Roman), 1” margins on each side, 3-5 pages. The best paper will be recognized at the Annual Assembly with a prize.

Successful completion of this assignment is a requirement for the completion of the PGY1 year. This paper will become a part of your permanent residency file. The resident with the best paper will be recognized at the Annual Assembly.

You are required to write a reflection paper about an incident related to professionalism that you were involved with or witnessed during the first 6 months of residency. This incident could be something that impressed you as an example of highly professional behaviour or as highly unprofessional behaviour. This incident could have directly involved yourself or another member of the health care team, including non-physician members of the team. The paper must include your suggestions about how this situation might be addressed and what specifically you might do if you were the supervisor.

All places and people must be de-identified. Persons should be referred to only using fictitious initials or fictitious names. Failure to anonymize the events will result in an automatic FAIL mark. Approximately 50% of the paper should be devoted to recounting the factual details and 50% should be devoted to your reflections about how this incident was a manifestation of professionalism or the absence of professionalism. These reflections should be grounded in your understanding of the literature on the subject.

It is expected that you will complete the required reading list, but reading more is not necessary. It is expected that actual writing of this paper will not take you more than approximately one weekend.
Required Reading List


3. University of Toronto, Standards of Professional Behavior and Ethical Performance (distributed your orientation documents).


