

Future doctors of the class of 2008,

Congratulations! You are soon to join the ranks of the esteemed students and alumni of the first public medical school in the country. Undoubtedly, your different roads to medical school were full of difficulties and obstacles which you overcame, and you can bet you will face many more challenges in the future. But for now, relax, you have made it, and the Student Advisory Committee on Professionalism would like to welcome you to the University of Maryland School of Medicine community.

This letter is meant to give you information on how professionalism will be incorporated into your orientation and to let you know a little bit about the Student Advisory Committee on Professionalism. The first day of orientation on August 12th will begin at Davidge Hall, the oldest medical teaching facility in the northern hemisphere. Opening ceremony will start promptly at 10:00am, so please arrive no later than 9:45am. At the start of the ceremony a presentation detailing the great history of our school will be given. This will be followed by your induction into the School of Medicine. This ceremony will officially mark the beginning of your medical careers. Dress for the ceremony is business casual and please wear comfortable shoes as you will be doing a lot of walking the first day.

So what is the Student Advisory Committee on Professionalism? We are the student run part of the Professionalism Project (HELPERS-PRO) of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. This project is “dedicated to improving professionalism of its faculty, students and staff in their provision of biomedical education, basic and clinical research, quality patient care and service to improve the health of the citizens of Maryland and beyond.” In other words, the project was created to ensure the “art” of medicine would not be lost in the “science” of medicine. University of Maryland has a long history of producing excellent clinicians, clinicians who epitomize the ideals of the caring and professional physician. The Professionalism Project’s purpose is to ensure this tradition continues. The Student Advisory Committee meets regularly with Dr. John Talbott, the project director, to discuss issues in professionalism which may arise among students and faculty. We also plan different events and programs to aid in fulfilling the goals of the Professionalism Project. This includes the ceremony you will take part in the first day of your orientation.

If you have any questions regarding the Professionalism Project, please feel free to contact Latrica Cook '07 at lcook004@umaryland.edu or Hava Tillipman '07 at htill001@umaryland.edu. More information regarding the project can be found on the web at <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/professionalism/>.

We look forward to meeting all of you, during orientation and on the wards, and we wish you the best of luck and success as you begin your careers in medicine. Once again, welcome to the University of Maryland!

Sincerely,

The Student Advisory Committee on Professionalism
University of Maryland, Baltimore
School of Medicine