**Temple University School of Medicine**

**The Honor Code and Honor Board**

Congratulations on your acceptance to Temple University School of Medicine! By enrolling in Temple, you have pledged your personal and collective responsibility for maintaining high ethical and moral standards. The Honor Code is an integral part of Temple’s curriculum and all students are expected to abide by its tenets.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Honor Code, you will quickly see how it affects every aspect of your medical student career. The assumption is that you realize that engaging in unethical or dishonest behavior will undermine the foundation of your own medical education. It is important to recognize that the knowledge you gain in medical school will constantly be drawn upon when treating your future patients. You will be working hard throughout medical school to become a better doctor for your community, and it is crucial to understand the importance of this concept. Medicine is a unique profession, and it calls for the highest standard of professionalism, which we hope that all of you will be able to achieve. As such, upholding the Honor Code is critical for you as students of medicine and as future physicians. We hope that you recognize its significance and ask that you help create the most conducive environment to learning by adhering to the Honor Code.

The Honor Code states:

**The students and faculty of the Temple University School of Medicine subscribe to the high ethical and moral standards of conduct inherent to health care professionals that are set forth in this Honor System. These standards are based on the principles of honesty, integrity, and civility… The code is not designed to dictate the lifestyles of an individual. Rather, its intent is to promote relationships of trust and respect among students, faculty, staff, and patients; to foster an environment which promotes such relationships; and to take examinations ethically and to act on any knowledge of unethical behavior that you witness during an examination period.**

The Honor Code carries additional significance in the context of the medical school. You have embarked on a career in which your patients will depend on you to exemplify ethical, moral, and trustworthy behavior. Furthermore, the Honor Code is designed to aid students in internalizing these standards and to raise consciousness about moral and ethical issues specific to the field of medicine.

The Honor Board is a representative body, composed of twenty students and four faculty members. Its primary function is to disseminate information and educate the Temple community on issues concerning ethical behavior expected of medical students and physicians. Please feel free to approach any member of the board if you have questions. We encourage you to take time to familiarize yourself with the Honor Code, which can be found on the medical school website (<http://www.temple.edu/medicine/education/documents/HonorCode.pdf>). It is your responsibility to know the content of the Honor Code and its inherent importance in the academic and community setting. This fall you will have an opportunity to elect five of your fellow classmates to represent your class on the Honor Board. We hope that you will consider the principles outlined in this letter and in full detail in the Honor Code when you vote for your class representatives for the Honor Board.

We look forward with great anticipation to meeting you this fall. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Enjoy the rest of summer!

Sincerely,

Your Honor Board Co-Chairs

**Anup Bhattacharya Aditya Das**

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