

Supplementary Online Content

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eTable. Medical Student Professionalism and the Internet—Student Affairs Deans

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

eTable. Medical Student Professionalism and the Internet – Student Affairs Deans

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for participating in our study on medical student professionalism and the internet. We are interested in your experiences with students posting content online in PUBLICALLY-ACCESSIBLE forums. This includes participation in "blogs" or online journals, social networking sites (websites which facilitate social interaction such as Facebook, MySpace, Match.Com, Second Life), and similar.

Data will be anonymous and reported in aggregate form. The survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete.

By clicking "next" below, your consent to participate in the study will be implied.

1. Are you aware of any incidents AT YOUR SCHOOL in which medical students have posted unprofessional content online?

Examples include violations of patient privacy, use of profanity, frankly discriminatory language, depicted intoxication, being sexually suggestive, failure to reveal conflicts of interest, or speaking about the profession or patients in a negative tone.

- Yes
- No or Not Sure

** If No or Not Sure, skip to question # 9*

2. How many total incidents have come to your attention IN THE PAST YEAR?

- None
- <5
- 5-15
- >15
- Some, but cannot guess how many

3. Did any of these incidents in the past year involve violations of patient confidentiality? If so, how many?

- None
- <5
- 5-15
- >15
- Some, but cannot guess how many

4. Did any of these incidents in the past year involve conflicts of interest - for example, product endorsement without conflicts of interest disclosure? If so, how many?

- None

- <5
- 5-15
- >15
- Some, but cannot guess how many

5. Did any of these incidents involve content that fits into the following categories?

	None	<5	5-15	>15	Some, but cannot guess how many
Profanity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discriminatory language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Depicted intoxication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually suggestive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Please give an example of any incident you can recall:

7. How did unprofessional student-posted online content come to your attention?

Choose all that apply:

- Reported by trainee (student, resident, fellow)
- Reported by faculty
- Reported by non-faculty staff
- Reported by patient or patient family member
- Other (please specify)

8. Have any disciplinary actions been taken because of unprofessional student-posted online content at your school?

Choose all that apply:

- Incidents occurred but no actions taken

- Informal warning (verbal or written communication)
- Formal disciplinary meeting
- Temporary suspension
- Dismissal
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

9. Are you aware of any incidents AT OTHER SCHOOLS in which medical students posted unprofessional content online?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

10. Please give an example of any incident AT ANOTHER SCHOOL you can recall:

11. Please rate your OVERALL level of concern about unprofessional student-posted online content:

- 1 (Not concerned at all)
- 2
- 3 (Moderately concerned)
- 4
- 5 (Very concerned)

12. Please rate your level of concern about SPECIFIC unprofessional student-posted online content:

	1 (Not concerned at all)	2	3 (Moderately concerned)	4	5 (Very concerned)
Patient confidentiality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conflicts of interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Profanity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frankly discriminatory language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Depicted intoxication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexually suggestive material	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Affiliation with my school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Affiliation with profession at large	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify issue and level of concern from 1-5):

13. Do your school's current professionalism policies cover student-posted online content?

- Yes
- No or Not Sure

** If No or Not Sure, skip to question # 15*

14. Does your school's policy SPECIFICALLY address issues of internet use such as blogs and social networking sites?

- Yes
- No or Not Sure

** If yes, skip to question # 16*

15. Is your school currently developing policy to cover student-posted online content?

- Yes, currently developing new policy or revising existing policy
- No, but planning to revise or create new policy in future
- No, do not feel revisions or new policy necessary
- Not sure

16. Given your existing policies, do you feel you are able to effectively deal with unprofessional student-posted online content?

- Yes
- No

17. Is there a committee or task force at your school that is responsible for addressing student-posted online content?

- Yes
- No or Not Sure

** If No or Not Sure, skip to question # 19*

18. Who is involved? Choose all that apply:

- Deans Office
- Faculty (non-Dean)
- Students
- Hospital Administration
- Legal Department
- Ethics Department
- Public Relations Department
- Not sure

- Other (please specify):

19. What percentage of students at your school do you believe post online content in some form (blogs, social networking sites, wikis, etc?)

Note: this question refers to ANY posting, not just unprofessional content.

- 0-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-90%
- >90%
- Cannot guess

20. Does your school use Social Networking Sites, Blogs, Wikis, etc for educational purpose?

- Yes
- No or Not Sure

21. How many medical students are in your entering class this year?

- ≤ 80
- 81-120
- 121-160
- 161-200
- >200

22. Which setting best describes your main medical campus?

- Urban

- Community/Rural
- Pre-clinical campus urban/clinical rural
- Pre-clinical campus rural/clinical urban

23. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

24. What is your age?

- <40
- 40-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71-80
- >80

25. Please tell us about your personal computer use. How often do you use a computer for the following?

	Never	Rarely	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
Communication (email, instant messaging, chat, forum)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Web surfing (news, information, shopping)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social networking (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blogs – reading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blogs – posting or commenting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wikis – reading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wikis – writing or editing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you for your participation!

If you would like to be contacted for pre-publication results or would like to make further comments, please leave an email address below.

All comments and data will be anonymous when reported.

This step is optional. You may enter an email address below or leave it blank and then simply click "done" to complete this survey.