

Statement of Values

The purpose of this Statement of Values is to outline principles that the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Class of 2024 will abide by during our medical training and throughout our careers. We understand that these values may sometimes be challenged during our training, but we promise to uphold them to the best of our abilities. This year and every year, we recognize our duty to hold these values steadfast and to stand up against injustice for ourselves and our patients.

Empathy/Compassion

We were drawn to medicine by the opportunity to care for patients at their most vulnerable moments, to join them in their joys and sorrows, and to provide the compassion that such empathy inspires. The positive impact that we have on our patients' care through compassion and generosity will motivate us to continue seeking to know and understand our patients as whole persons. Through all of this, we hope our patients will remember us as physicians who *saw* them, as physicians who *listened*, and as physicians who *cared*.

Physician Advocacy

The potential that a career in medicine provides to advocate for patients and promote health equity inspires us. We will remain motivated by our belief that healthcare is a right and should be equally accessible to all, and our desire to care for underserved and marginalized populations. We recognize the systemic nature of forces which have acted to adversely affect the health and well-being of marginalized communities, and we commit to our uniquely powerful role in dismantling these harmful systems. Throughout our careers, we hope that we will have pushed for positive change in policy, the medical system, and in the individual lives of our patients.

Community/Trust

By entering the medical profession, we hope to have opportunities to earn the trust of the communities we serve. We are motivated to bridge divides between physicians and communities by working to build longitudinal community relationships and practicing cultural humility, sensitivity, and competence. We hope to leave behind a medical and scientific system that is trusted by individuals from all walks of life.

Service/Altruism

We came to medical school because we wanted to serve others without consideration of personal gain or recognition. As future physicians, we pledge that we will work towards combating systemic racism, as it has a detrimental impact on the health and well-being of marginalized groups in our communities. The ability we will have to improve the lives of our patients and communities will continue to motivate us through all stages of our careers. We want to be remembered as people who were active members of our community who worked for the good of their colleagues and patients.

Cultural & Structural Competency

Medicine will allow us to bridge the gaps that patients face. By being equitable, culturally competent, patient-centric, and knowledgeable, we hope to develop a trust among those that we serve. We pledge to continually educate ourselves about and work against systemic factors that propagate health disparities and barriers to care in our institution and community. As we advance in our careers, we aspire to bring medical advances to marginalized populations that are often utilized for scientific discovery but unfortunately forgotten during implementation efforts. At the end of our careers, we hope we are remembered as physicians who recognized and confronted our implicit biases, and who were educated about how social factors and outside experiences impact our patients' health.

Mentorship

We were inspired to pursue medicine because it is a collaborative environment where you can lean on the strengths of others. Having physician role models, whose knowledge and skills in helping patients we aspire to emulate, will continue to motivate us throughout our careers as physicians. We want to be remembered as mentors who were accessible and promoted teamwork for future medical students or trainees, recognizing that we would not be here without the support of those who came before us.

Collaboration

We desire to be a part of something larger, working synergistically with a diverse team of healthcare professionals to provide the best care we can to our patients. We believe every single member of the healthcare team provides a valuable and unique perspective. We aspire to create a supportive and encouraging environment where every voice is heard, and collaborative relationships are formed. We want to be remembered as compassionate and kind, and as physicians that listen without judgement, uplift their colleagues, and lead thoughtfully.

Curiosity

We are entering the medical field because it fosters a sense of lifelong learning and encourages the pursuit of excellence, while reaching new frontiers in the realm of scientific advancement and patient care. As we move forward in our careers as physicians, we will remain curious about how we can better the system we are a part of, so it serves everyone, particularly those who it has harmed in the past and present. We want to be remembered as physicians who put the care of our patients before anything else, humbly admitting when we do not know something and seeking clarity from a variety of sources. Likewise, we hope to be remembered as physicians who were curious about their patients as a whole person, learning about their lives and who they are beyond their medical conditions.

Patient Relationships/Patient Care

We recognized the immense privilege this profession gives us to form meaningful relationships with our patients, and to be there for them in some of life's most beautiful and difficult moments. We wanted to become physicians so that we could connect with patients of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, socioeconomic statuses, and other backgrounds and provide affirming care to the best of our ability. As we continue in our careers, we strive to be a source of hope for our patients, a shoulder to lean on, and a provider of expertise in the area in which they are seeking our help. We hope to be remembered as physicians who put our patients' wellbeing before anything else, remaining present in all our interactions and listening without judgement or agenda beyond providing compassionate care.