

July 15, 2021

Dear students,

I am excited that you will be joining the Pritzker family in August and would like to extend a warm personal welcome to all of you! In the weeks leading up to medical school, there will undoubtedly be times when you will be nervous regarding the notion that you will become a physician in a few short years.

The foundation of knowledge and skills you will gain during your time at Pritzker will serve you well as you care for patients throughout your careers. You will ultimately become the type of physician you wrote about in your applications to medical school – someone who is compassionate, competent and professional.

The last word (professional) can be a difficult one to define. Several years ago, a group of students, faculty, staff and deans set out to express what professionalism means to Pritzker. The group created a document outlining the guiding principles of professionalism that will serve as a “touchstone” during medical school. Please find attached a copy of this document for your review. I look forward to the opportunity to talk with you about these principles and your personal aspirations throughout your time at Pritzker!

With warm regards,



James Woodruff, MD
Dean of Students
Pritzker School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine
The University of Chicago
Enclosed: Guiding Principles of Professionalism