

### *About the Lee Foundation Professionalism Award*

Introduced in Academic Year 2011, the Professionalism Award is instituted through the charitable contribution of the Lee Foundation. Five awards are available every academic year to be presented to one student from each year of the MBBS course for having demonstrated exemplary professional conduct.

The Award is given in recognition of medical students who display a high level of professional conduct towards their peers, the public, patients under their care, other medical personnel they come into contact with, including administrators in the University and hospitals, and for other projects and activities demonstrating professionalism.

### *Goal of the Award*

The Lee Foundation Professionalism Award is intended to promote a change in the professional culture among medical students. This is done by promoting a positive approach to professionalism through recognising and encouraging professional conduct, as well as projects and activities by medical students that demonstrate professionalism.

### *Who should get nominated for the Award?*

A nominee should have exemplified one or more professional values and conduct (described below) in specific social engagements, projects and activities that the nominee has contributed to. Such engagements, projects and activities wherein exemplary professionalism (or inter-professionalism) could be demonstrated include social services, local or overseas charitable work, publication of research paper or other contribution to research, student-led projects (such as float building and drama performance) and fund raising for charitable purposes. Above all, the nominee should be an advocate for professionalism, is inspirational and a change agent.

Professional Values entailed in medical professionalism are:

- Enthusiasm and commitment for medicine;
- Humility;
- Honesty;
- Integrity;
- Keenness to learn;
- Compassion; and
- Altruism as exhibited by a willingness to help others without any expectations of personal gain.

In professional conduct, the nominee(s) would have shown:

- That a patient's interests came first (where applicable);
- That the required skills and competencies have been effectively maintained;
- Responsibility and accountability for quality, safety and morality of the care provided; and
- Continuous development and improvement in reflective ability in self-evaluate, as well as knowledge, skills and attitudes to be effective learner or practitioner.

### *When can a nomination be made?*

All eligible nominations must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> March of each Academic Year.

Apart from the above, a nominee will be assessed for a set of conducts previously identified by the medical school as minimal “professionalism” expected of a medical student:

(In a non-clinical setting; most pertinent for students in Years 1 and 2)

1. High level of attendance, demonstrating keenness to learn, enthusiasm and commitment;
2. Punctual;
3. Takes responsibility for the task/duty at hand;
4. Fulfills responsibilities and meets deadlines for assignments without the need for reminders;
5. Behaves respectfully;
6. Responds positively to feedback and advice;
7. Takes steps to correct shortcomings;
8. Has a positive attitude;
9. Demonstrates team spirit through participation and sharing of information;
10. Is accommodative towards alternative views or ideas;
11. Makes valuable contributions during classes, rounds or meetings;
12. Maintains composure during difficult interactions;

(In a clinical setting; most pertinent for students in Years 3 to 5)

13. Behaves respectfully towards patients;
14. Demonstrates an interest in patients, especially in introducing him/herself to, and communicating with, patients and is sensitive to the needs (expressed and unexpressed) of patients;
15. Maintains composure during difficult interactions;
16. Takes on extra work when appropriate, for the benefit of the patient;
17. Takes on extra work when appropriate, to help the team; and
18. Behaves respectfully towards nursing and other hospital staff.

*How can a nomination be made?*

Nominations are to be made through an online platform. An online account will be created for a nominator based on his or her email address and the nominee’s name.

During the online nomination process, the nominator will have the option of naming another person (the ‘second’) to support the nomination. Anyone who is familiar with the nominee and able to vouch for the nominee’s professional attributes and conduct, may be named as the second. If the nominator intends to name a second, the second’s email address will have to be specified within a designated field in the online platform.

In the nomination process, the nominator will be invited to provide as much detail as possible on how the nominee has demonstrated exemplary professional attributes and conduct in specific social engagements, projects and activities that the nominee has contributed to. In addition, the nominator will have the option to upload a supporting document as additional justification for the nomination.

Once the nomination has been completed, an email will be sent to the nominator and to the second, if one has been named.

It is important to note that a nomination cannot be withdrawn, once made.

*Who can nominate?*

Except for self-nomination (which is not acceptable), nomination may be made by any student in the MBBS course, tutors, subject coordinators, hospital staff, and (for students in Years 3 to 5) patients and their caregivers. Class representatives will also be invited to nominate candidates whom they consider to meet the criteria.

*If a nomination is made, can it be withdrawn prior to the closing of the nomination period?*

No, a nomination cannot be withdrawn once it is made.

*Who decides?*

The Professionalism Award Committee will make its recommendations on the recipients of the Award to the Board of Undergraduate Studies.

Prior to making its recommendations, the Professionalism Award Committee may request for more details from the principal nominators and seconders of shortlisted nominees. *\*Shortlisted nominees should at least pass all ethics assessments\**

If there should be no suitable candidate in any one year of the course, the Professionalism Award need not be given.

*What does the Lee Foundation Professionalism Award comprise?*

Each award is to the value of S\$1,000 and comprises a book prize of \$750 and a cash award of \$250.

*How many times can a student receive the Award?*

A student can only receive the Award once. Hence Award recipients will not be eligible for consideration for the same award in subsequent years.

*What if a student was nominated in a previous year but did not receive the Award?*

Previous nominees who did not receive the Award remain eligible in subsequent years of the MBBS course.

**If you have any queries, please contact us at: [medbox38@nus.edu.sg](mailto:medbox38@nus.edu.sg)**