

## **University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry Commitment to a Humanistic Environment**

The College of Dentistry seeks to foster an environment that is respectful of all parties: students, staff, patients, faculty and the community at large. In this framework of respect, the following principles are emphasized:

- **Open Mindedness:** An unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral point of view and a willingness to gather and consider the best evidence for decision making.
- **Compassion and Empathy:** A sense of concern for those suffering any variety of life events, and a consideration of others' perspective.
- **Honesty:** Respecting the position of trust inherent in the dentist-patient relationship, communicating truthfully and without deception, and maintaining intellectual integrity.
- **A Sense of Service –** Using skills, knowledge and experience for the improvement of the dental health of the public. Recognizing the unique place in human affairs occupied by health care professionals that transcends self-centeredness.
- **Integrity:** A firm adherence to the moral and ethical principles associated with dental education and the practice of dentistry, as reflected in documents such as the UTHSC Honor Code, the Hippocratic Oath and the American Dental Association Principle of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.
- **Collegiality:** A work environment in which all members work in collaboration demonstrating respect and acceptance of each other's opinion with the goal of promoting universal growth.

These principles can be summarized by the term “professionalism” or the application of legal, moral, ethical, and dental science principles as they apply to the practice of dentistry and interaction with others.