**Lewis Katz School of Medicine**

**The Honor Code and Honor Board**

Dear Class of 2021,

Welcome! Congratulations on your acceptance to the Lewis Katz School of Medicine!

My name is Akaash Sheth. I am an M2 and the Honor Board Chairperson. I know this is an extremely busy time for you but I would like to briefly discuss two topics with you, the Honor Code and Honor Board.

As future physicians, we all have a duty and obligation to ourselves, our patients, and our profession to behave with the highest possible moral and ethical standards. To that end, Temple has an Honor Code that acts as a framework and guide for our actions. By joining Temple, you have pledged your personal responsibility to maintain these high ethical and moral standards. The Honor Code is an integral part of Temple’s curriculum and all students are expected to abide by its tenets.

It is important to recognize that the knowledge you gain in medical school will constantly be drawn upon when treating your future patients. You will be working hard throughout medical school to become a better doctor for your community, and it is crucial to understand the importance of this concept. As such, upholding the Honor Code is critical for us as medical students and as future physicians. We hope that you recognize its significance and ask that you help create the most conducive environment to learning by adhering to the Honor Code.

The Honor Code states:

**The students and faculty of the Lewis Katz School of Medicine subscribe to the high ethical and moral standards of conduct inherent to health care professionals that are set forth in this Honor System. These standards are based on the principles of honesty, integrity, and civility… The code is not designed to dictate the lifestyles of an individual. Rather, its intent is to promote relationships of trust and respect among students, faculty, staff, and patients; to foster an environment which promotes such relationships; and to take examinations ethically and to act on any knowledge of unethical behavior that you witness during an examination period.**

The Honor Board is a representative body, composed of twenty students and four faculty members. Its primary function is to disseminate information and educate the Temple community on issues concerning ethical behavior expected of medical students and physicians. Please feel free to approach any member of the board if you have questions. We encourage you to take time to familiarize yourself with the Honor Code, which can be found on the medical school website (<https://medicine.temple.edu/about/administrative-offices/office-student-affairs/resources-students>). It is your responsibility to know the content of the Honor Code and its inherent importance in the academic and community setting. This fall you will have an opportunity to elect five of your fellow classmates to represent your class on the Honor Board.

We look forward with great anticipation to meeting you this fall. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Enjoy the rest of summer!

Sincerely,

**Akaash Sheth**

Honor Board Chair

templemedicalhonorboard@gmail.com