

Professionalism in Dermatology

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Dermatologists encounter many challenges in technology and business, especially in aesthetic practices. Professional ethics include personal, organizational, and corporate standards of behavior. The core constituents of professional ethics include honesty, integrity, transparency, accountability, confidentiality, objectivity, respectfulness, obedience to the law, and loyalty. Professionalism and ethics should be a mandatory component of the dermatology residency program. A 2023 survey of dermatology residency programs revealed that there is no formal ethics curriculum.¹ This emphasizes instructional strategies for future generation of dermatologists, especially when professional education is left to observation.²

The mentor-resident relation allows professional development. The structured mentorship programs lead to residents' satisfaction, progress in career development, efficient research, and workforce retention.⁴ Institutions should encourage and plan mentoring programs. These programs may include formal matching processes, mentoring bonds, workshops, and time for mentor-mentee interactions in this way academia will uphold professional standards.

The Aesthetic Challenge

The dermatologists encounter the challenge of an increasing demand to improve patients' aesthetic care and satisfaction. The common way to address this challenge is through the use of evidence-based medicine & clinical practical guidelines, ongoing professional development, accountability, patient empowerment, and ensuring quality. All the approaches are of equal value in providing patient care.

The aesthetic practices must have a structured framework of ethics.⁵ Aesthetic dermatology training should include informed written consent, setting realistic and practical goals, safe technical procedures, a photographic record of pre- and post-procedures, and transparent marketing. The instructional strategy should incorporate structured consent procedures that clearly define residents' roles in aesthetic procedure, document level of supervision, aligned with departmental and organization policies.^{3,5}

Workplace-based education for Professionalism

Bedside teaching is the mainstay of workplace-based education. Informed consent, maintaining confidentiality, and involving the patient in decision-making is a part of case-based teaching and learning.³ **Narrative medicine** nurtures empathy and forms a professional identity.⁵ Community-based programs give an insight into cultural practices.

A Proposed Action for Ethical Aesthetic Training

The evidence is clear: professionalism in dermatology cannot be achieved by chance. Training can be imparted through committed mentoring, a structured ethics program, supervised clinical training, and following ethical practice. By doing so, the next generation of dermatologists shall achieve not only technical competence but also the professional values that define our specialty at its best. The literature provides the challenges and the solutions.

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