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AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE AAMC TO MCAT EXAMINEES: HONORING YOUR EXAMINEE AGREEMENT

Congratulations on your decision to consider a career in medicine! We wish you the greatest success and hope that you fulfill your aspirations. As we begin the 2012 testing year, I am writing to remind each examinee of the importance of honoring the MCAT® Examinee Agreement.

The MCAT exam has been a key entry point for medical and other health-related professions for more than 80 years. Members of those professions must adhere to the highest level of ethics, earning and keeping the public's trust each and every day. Following the rules of the MCAT exam is an essential step in demonstrating a lifelong commitment to professionalism.

As the administrator of the MCAT exam, the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) has a responsibility to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the MCAT exam to provide a level playing field for medical school applicants and a standardized score upon which medical schools can rely when making admissions decisions. As a result, we require all examinees to comply with the MCAT Examinee Agreement.

The Examinee Agreement is reproduced in the MCAT Essentials and is required reading for all examinees. On test day, you must specifically indicate your acceptance of the Examinee Agreement before you begin to answer questions on the exam. The Examinee Agreement is not legalistic fine print; it is a binding contract and will be enforced as such. Just as a physician has a professional obligation to review a list of potential drug interactions carefully before ordering a prescription for a patient, aspiring doctors have an obligation to take the time to read the MCAT Examinee Agreement. Rushing through this important information could lead to serious adverse consequences.

The AAMC is committed to enforcing the terms of the Examinee Agreement. As stated in the agreement, we reserve the right to investigate any alleged violation and we send reports documenting our findings directly to medical schools. In addition, actions that violate the agreement could subject you to a civil lawsuit or criminal charges. Last year, the AAMC investigated several individuals who posted lists of MCAT topics on a Web site frequented by examinees. This week we filed a lawsuit in British Columbia against two individuals in connection with a cheating scheme.

The privilege of caring for others requires the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct. As a potential future member of the medical profession, you have an ethical obligation and a commitment to professionalism that begins with adhering to the MCAT Examinee Agreement. We encourage you to share and discuss this letter with your peers who also are preparing for the MCAT exam. Concerns about potential violations may be sent to MCATSecurity@aamc.org.

If you have any questions about the Examinee Agreement, please contact the MCAT Quality Assurance & Security Specialist at 202-828-0690.

Sincerely,

Karen Mitchell

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Association of American Medical Colleges