

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM)

Statement: Physician Thought Leader Communities (PTLC)

Subject: Student Affairs

Administrator: A. Stovall

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Revision dates:

Background:

The mission of VTCSOM is to train physician thought leaders through developing the knowledge, attitudes and skills of research, inquiry, and discovery. The development of a thought leader is a deliberate process that extends well beyond the classroom. An effective student advising and mentoring process serves as an integral component of training physician thought leaders, and is essential to the professional and personal development of a medical student. One important component of this process is the Physician Thought Leader Communities (PTLC). PTLCs are faculty-led student communities that provide an administrative structure through which students can experience individualized advising and mentoring that fosters personal and professional growth. Additionally, it is intended that these communities teach and model professionalism, enhance connectivity and collaboration both between students and faculty as well as among classes, and promote student wellness.

There are fourteen Physician Thought Leader Communities. Each Community is led by an exemplary faculty member chosen by the Dean's Office. All VTCSOM faculty members are eligible to be a PTLC leader, with the exception of physicians who serve as Deans within the medical school and those who serve as VTCSOM Clerkship Directors. In general, it is expected that PTLC leaders will have at least 5 years of clinical experience beyond their residency training, but exceptions to this could be made based on the attributes of a particular faculty member. The communities are comprised of 3 students from each Class for a total of 12 students per community.

The faculty physician leaders of the Physician Thought Leader Communities will be exemplary professional and personal role models who embody the character and skills desired of our VTCSOM graduates. They will be enthusiastic about working with medical students to help mold and shape them into such graduates, regardless of the career path the student might choose. They will have a "heart" for students, be approachable and available, possess refined listening and communication skills, maintain personal integrity, and have a desire to open their lives to help shepherd students through medical school from matriculation until graduation. They will be willing to learn about and participate in faculty development activities to help them develop their skills as a student mentor and personal/professional role model.

Responsibilities of a Physician Thought Leader Communities leader:

- Leadership training once yearly.
- Meet with each of their assigned M1, M2, M3, and M4 students individually at least once a year.
- Be available to meet with their students on an as needed basis

- Help to facilitate the organizing of and participate in group gatherings for their PTLC at least 2x/year. This could include such things as a journal club, a book club, viewing and discussing a movie or article, attending a lecture together and meeting afterward to discuss, or meeting to discuss patient care or professionalism issues. These gatherings could also be purely social. This is dependent on the personality of each PTLC.
- Meet with the Senior Dean for Student Affairs once a year individually and once a year as a group to discuss progress, receive and provide feedback, and help plan for ongoing improvement in the process.