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Preface

Educating undergraduate students requires patience and commitment. This is a slow and evolving process that provides future manual therapists with those essential competencies necessary to begin a lifelong career of caring for patient's needs. Professional education also establishes a solid foundation for acquiring the attitudes and behaviors of a professional. This predicates the continued learning and ongoing clinical experience – essential qualities for the lifelong learner. This basis of professionalism underpins the core psychomotor palpation, observational and treatment skills which are combined with a strong knowledge base and a current scientific evidence rationale. Clinical observation, diagnostic palpation and manipulative therapeutics are intimately linked as the fundamental components of all manual therapeutic disciplines including chiropractic, physical therapy, massage therapy, naturopathy and acupuncture. It is therefore crucial that undergraduate students understand the importance and clinical relevance of the key principles of professionalism, and how these relate to the

basic rudimentary skills of all diagnostic and therapeutic manual interventions.

This textbook provides a systematic and practical approach to the essential tenets and principles of professionalism in order to prepare the student for more advanced clinical experiences concerning all aspects of the clinician-patient encounter. The book methodically reviews the characteristics of what constitutes a healing profession and the features of professional attitudes and behaviors.

The book also instructs key essential ethics of care and virtues of care. This provides a practical and safe approach to maintaining healthy boundaries during the clinical encounter during undergraduate training. There is no substitute for the fundamentals required in developing clinical professional interpersonal practice skills, particularly those required by a primary contact practitioner. The entire basis of practice life and clinical success revolves around the educational encounter experienced in the early undergraduate years.

This text is timely. Erosion of the basic concepts of honesty, altruism, commitment and compassion has resulted in a shift in values in this past generation in our current culture. There has even been a trend among health care professionals to engage in self-serving, inappropriate, unethical and in some cases illegal activities. Students studying the health professions need to be keenly aware of the high standards that working as a professional demands.

One reason for writing this text was to fill a void in the instructional literature for teaching the ethics, virtues and the other professional skills used in the manual therapy disciplines. Though written by a chiropractor actively engaged in teaching these skills

to students, all of the professional tenets dealt with in the text are common to many professional groups utilizing manual therapies. The intent of the text is to present a simple yet effective instructional manual dedicated to the basic principles of professionalism essential to all manual therapists.

The overall intent of the text is to advocate to the student both the intrinsic and extrinsic values of holding oneself to a higher standard, subordinating one's own needs and desires in order to serve the patient uncompromisingly. Professionalism serves to advocate for the trustworthiness of the professional. There is no greater accolade or finer reward for professional work than to possess the rich reputation of being found trustworthy. This is the heartbeat of the professional.

Stuart Kinsinger, DC, FCCRS(C)