

# Preface



**T**he concept of professionalism is currently the focus of much research and public interest, with an ever-increasing number of publications across many professions and disciplines. ‘Professionalism’ comprises a number of professional behaviours and areas for discussion and, although there is no single simple definition, it is a core requirement for all health professionals. Professional behaviours and attributes are included in curricula and competency frameworks. In this book we consider the key features of professionalism that health professional students are expected to acquire as well as how they are taught, learned and assessed. Each chapter takes one topic, introduces key definitions and explores important aspects relevant to learners and novice professionals. The chapters do not go into great detail but aim to raise questions, stimulate reflection and signpost further learning

and readings. They include case scenarios, points for discussion and key references. We conclude with further reading for those of you who want to pursue topics in greater depth. As with many areas in medicine and health care, the concept of professionalism is constantly changing and so there are differences of opinion about some of the topics in the book, which help to generate stimulating conversations. Finally, although much of the text is aimed at medical students and doctors in training in the UK and western countries, the book is useful and interesting for all health professionals, including teachers and supervisors in any context. We hope you enjoy it.

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