University of Minnesota Division of Global Pediatrics
Professionalism, Social Media and Blogging Policy
Adopted 11/23/10

WHY THIS POLICY?
You as a traveler represent the University of Minnesota, and, regardless of your intentions, any posting placed on the web could possibly be interpreted as a position held by the University. In addition, this policy is in place to assist you in making decisions that prioritize the right to privacy of host communities and individuals with which you may work during your international experience. We cannot risk posting comments or content on the internet that might be offensive to anyone in the host country—from your patient or patient’s family, to the ministry of health.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Refrain from making specific comments about your international experience when updating Facebook or using other social media. Especially, do not post photos of your patients or your working situation. In fact, it is recommended you take a Facebook vacation during your experience.

BLOGGING
Public blogging is prohibited. Keep a private, written journal (NOT a blog) while on your international elective. This policy applies to any internet-based blog and to all blogging activity—private and password protected or not. If you would like to keep family and friends abreast of your experiences while abroad, use your personal email OR send your blog entries to Ann Fandrey (fandr002@umn.edu), who will review them for appropriateness and post them one of the Global Pediatrics site-specific blogs.

PROFESSIONALISM
- Always act in the best interest of your hosts.
- Personally prepare yourself to recognize the signs of culture shock when you begin to experience them.
- Be mindful of privacy when taking of photos. Use the same guidelines for obtaining permission to take a patient’s photo as you would in the U.S. The same standards of appropriateness, including full disclosure and transparency of purpose, and permissions (both from your preceptor and from your patient or patient’s family), apply when you are abroad as when you are in the U.S.
- Dress appropriately, always (“appropriate” varies; this topic will be discussed at regional breakout sessions during your international orientation).
- Review first with a faculty mentor any presentation you plan to give while abroad.

I HAVE READ THIS POLICY, AND I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ITS TERMS.

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