

2018 AΩA Professionalism Award



Eugenio M. Rothe, MD, left, and Rodolfo Bonnin, PhD, are co-directors of "The Professional Development Strand" course at Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

The 2018 Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AΩA) Professionalism Award has been presented to Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, for their professionalism curriculum, "The Professional Development Strand."

The Professional Behavior course is designed to introduce and teach awareness of the impact of values, emotions, and attitudes of behaviors (VEAs), and self-reflection on the doctor/patient relationship. The course applies philosophical, psychodynamic, and practical concepts that help prepare future physicians for the diverse emotional and psychological experiences associated with the clinical setting and professional life.

The course prepares students to understand and be aware of behavioral issues and emotional stress that can impact physicians; explores how VEAs can impact patient care and health outcomes; and introduces students to the professional behaviors and responsibilities required of physicians.

Established in 1972, Florida International University has 56,886 students. It has the largest number of graduating

Hispanics in the United States, at 61.8 percent. The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine graduated its first medical school class in 2013. Since 2012 there have been 120 medical students admitted each year.

The College of Medicine focuses on community health in a diverse metropolitan region. The curriculum is designed to instill cultural sensitivities, while allowing graduates the flexibility to pursue a wide range of careers in medicine.

Foreseeing the need to train culturally-sensitive, empathetic, ethical, and dedicated physicians to treat the most under-privileged residents of South Florida, the Deans of the College of Medicine formed a committee to design a course to train future doctors to uphold these qualities.

The development and planning of the Professional Behavior Course began in 2008, and has since gone through multiple revisions, improvements, and transformations to develop the most appropriate curriculum that will meet the students needs and achieve the desired goals.

To learn more about the curriculum at visit <https://medicine.fiu.edu/hwcom-medical-student-handbook.pdf>.