

The Stanford Affirmation

Dr. Eric Rasmussen, while attending Stanford Medical School and in addition to his primary research on acetylcholine receptors, chose to create a new version of the outmoded Hippocratic Oath. His stated goal was to reflect modern ethics in a societal promise. Soon named *The Stanford Affirmation*, it was recited by medical graduates for the first time at Rasmussen's own 1990 graduation from the Stanford School of Medicine. Reproduced below, the Stanford Affirmation was placed in the public domain in June of 1990. In 2014, it was reported to be the Oath of choice in 52 medical schools around the world¹.

The Stanford Affirmation

On my admission to the Practice of Medicine,

I pledge to devote my life to the service of humanity.

The care of my patients will be my first consideration;

I will practice my profession with reverence and dignity, and to the best of my ability and judgment;

I will treat any who need my ministrations, without regard to religion, nationality, race, politics, sexual orientation, or social standing;

I will approach each patient with charity, attention, and commitment;

I will hold all life dear, and let knowledge, wisdom, courage, and compassion guide my therapy;

I will respect the confidences with which I will be entrusted;

I will give gratitude and respect to those from whom I have learned my Science and my Art;

I will uphold the integrity of the medical profession;

I will cultivate peace in both personal conduct and political expression;

I will not use my knowledge contrary to the spirit of this Oath;

I make these promises in witness of those who have stood here before me, and those who will come after,

Solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

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¹ <http://med.stanford.edu/ism/email/pdf/2014-09-08.pdf>