

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Dr. LuAnne McClean, DMD, ISDS Foundation President, commented in the Fall issue of the ISDSF "Cornerstone" newsletter:

White Coat Ceremonies are less than ten years old. It's a beautiful and passionate event that stresses the main purpose of being ethical in treating patients, running your practice, and being an upstanding person in your profession and community. The Freshmen students participate in this ceremony before they enter clinical practice. They must pass all of their ethics classes. The emphasis is on helping and that doing dental work on their fellow human beings is a privilege not to be taken lightly.

This is the future of our profession. These young students exude talent, poise and charisma. This ceremony brings out the extraordinary person behind the mask of the dental student. Their real personalities are revealed as they march on stage and are draped in their white clinic jacket. This is an exciting moment in their educational evolution, and you can see the joy, vision and expectations of themselves in their eyes.

Extremely proud families are in attendance with cameras ready! They have probably sacrificed greatly for this inspiring moment in their child's life. On stage, alongside the students, are many faculty members and representatives of organized dentistry. All of these guests are often wearing white clinic jackets. When the guests wear the white coat I have always felt it shows great camaraderie and acceptance between the young students, and demonstrates the support of their peers in organized dentistry.

The ISDS Foundation is proud to support these wonderful schools and students. We want to stress the vital importance of ethical practice, and to encourage students and seasoned professionals alike to become the best you can be throughout your entire career. These young men and women are our future. We care that our profession is always held in great esteem. This ceremony certainly reaffirms that positive position.

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry

Dentist Pledge

I pledge to uphold my obligations as a member of the healing profession:

- I will devote my professional life to the betterment of the health of all persons who receive my care.
- I will honor my patients' dignity and respect all that is confided in me.
- I will prevent disease whenever possible
- I will not treat patients beyond their needs nor beyond my capabilities.
- I will strive to make my services tomorrow better than they were today.

- I will uphold the integrity of the dental profession.
- I make this pledge freely and upon my honor.

Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine

Professional Oath (based on the Hippocratic Oath, the Prayer of Maimonides and the 1947 Declaration of Geneva)

As a student of dentistry and as a dentist, I freely make the following pledge:

- I promise to observe the code of ethics for the profession of dentistry from this day forward.
- I shall at all times and in all places conduct myself with honesty and integrity.
- I shall include my patients in all important decisions about their care.
- I shall obtain consultations and make referrals when appropriate.
- I will provide absolute discretion and confidentiality for my patients.
- I shall provide treatment to all patients without bias to race, economic status or religion.
- I will conduct myself with compassion, integrity and professionalism.
- I will use my skills to serve those in need.
- I will continually seek new knowledge and skills in the best interest of serving my patients.
- I pledge myself to the service of humanity, my patients, my community and my profession.