



# POLICY ON SOCIETY MENTORS CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Approved: December 12, 2013

Revised: March 22, 2023

**Rationale:** Societies Program mentors have a unique role at the College of Medicine – Tucson (COM-T) in which they maintain multiple responsibilities for their students including education and mentoring. Societies Program mentors are among the COM-T’s best clinical educators and frequently serve in other leadership roles in the curriculum or administration of the COM-T. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the COM-T’s position when there may be a perceived or real conflict of interest between a mentee and their mentor’s other educational roles.

- 1) Societies Program mentors may not provide a summative grade for their own students in the Doctor and Patient Course, which is administered by Societies Program mentors. Rather, the grade in this course is determined by:
  - a) a history and physical practicum graded by a trained Patient Instructor (Semester 1);
  - b) two formal Standardized Patient encounters graded by a trained Patient Instructor and two written history and physicals graded by a Societies Program mentor different from the student’s designated mentor (Semester 2), and
  - c) the student’s score on the Year 2 Clinical Thinking OSCE, which is observed and graded by a Societies Program mentor different from the student’s designated mentor (Semester 3).
- 2) Societies Program mentors who serve as a block director may tabulate and report grades based on students’ performance in Team-based Learning (TL), quizzes, homework assignments, and exams but may not independently assess individual students. Additionally, if a mentee challenges an overall block grade, the matter will be referred to a co-block director and/or the associate dean for curricular affairs rather than the block director who is the mentee’s designated mentor.
- 3) A Societies Program mentor may not function as a regular Clinical Reasoning Course (CRC) facilitator for their assigned mentees.
- 4) Societies Program mentors may not serve as clerkship directors.