

General Thoracic Surgical Club (GTSC)

Member Code of Ethics

Guidelines for ethical conduct by GTSC members

Our members strive to uphold the highest ethical principles both within the association and in the conduct of their alliances.

All GTSC members are committed to observing and promoting the highest standards of ethical conduct with the General Thoracic Surgical Club. GTSC members pledge to accept this code as a minimum guideline for ethical conduct and shall:

Accountability

- Faithfully abide by the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and policies of the organization.
- Exercise reasonable care, good faith, and due diligence in governing and managing affairs.
- Fully disclose, at the earliest opportunity, information that may result in a perceived or actual conflict of interest.

Professional Excellence – Integrity

- Maintain a professional level of courtesy, respect, and objectivity in all matters and activities.
- Strive to uphold and assist other members of GTSC in upholding the highest standards of conduct.

Confidential Information

- Respect the confidentiality of sensitive information.

Collaboration and Cooperation

- Respect the diversity of opinions as expressed or acted upon by the Executive Committee, committees, and membership, and formally register dissent as appropriate. Promote collaboration, cooperation, and partnership among association members.

Social Media Conduct

- Engage with GTSC social media posts with respect, professionalism, and a spirit of collaboration.
- Ensure that all comments and interactions are consistent with the values of integrity, courtesy, and the promotion of positive dialogue.
- Avoid posting or commenting in a way that may harm the reputation of GTSC, its members, presenters or meeting attendees.
- Respect the privacy of others and refrain from sharing confidential or sensitive information through social media channels.
- Use social media platforms to promote constructive discussions and foster an inclusive, respectful environment for all GTSC members.

Disclaimer Requirement for Personal Statements

- Should a current member of GTSC be asked to provide a personal statement regarding GTSC's programs and activities that will be published outside of any official GTSC platform, they must follow the following disclaimer requirements:

- Personal Opinions: Members who speak to the media must include a disclaimer if their statements reflect their personal opinions rather than the Club's official position. This applies to broadly disseminated communications including interviews, blogs, and social media.
- Disclaimer Wording: The recommended wording for such a disclaimer is as follows:
"The views expressed in this interview/article/statement are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the General Thoracic Surgical Club."

Posts and Comments Guidelines

- GTSC welcomes evidence-based posts and discussions in the field of thoracic surgery and related research.
- Posts that deprive people of dignity based on age, sex/gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, faith, health, and their intersections will be removed. Additionally, ad hominem comments that compromise the exchange of scientific knowledge will be removed.
- No pornographic content will be tolerated.
- No posting or promoting commercial products, including personal blogs.
- No posting that intends to promote political parties or individual politicians or political activities beyond the scope of thoracic surgery or healthcare.
- Single users who post/comment as multiple people will forfeit their posting/commenting privileges.
- GTSC retains the prerogative to close comments and/or delete posts that undermine the scientific mission of the Club.
- GTSC retains the prerogative to remove a member or individual from any and all social media platforms if that person is not adhering to the policies described herein.