# Social Networking Policy

**A. EFFECTIVE DATE:** 4/19

**B. PURPOSE:** To provide guidance on appropriate use of social networking when residents and fellows identify themselves as UConn Housestaff.

**C. POLICY:**

UConn GME offers support of institutional communication goals, as well as provides social media use guidelines for UConn SOM residents/fellows engaging in online discourse and identifying themselves with UConn SOM.

Social and business networking websites (i.e., Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, etc.) and cell phone texting are increasingly being used for communication by individuals as well as businesses and universities. As such, it has become necessary to outline appropriate individual and University of Connecticut School of Medicine (UConn SOM) Graduate Medical Education (GME) sanctioned use.

This policy is not intended to guide online communications when residents/fellows do not associate or identify themselves with UConn.

**D. SCOPE:** Residents and fellows

**E. PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS:** Guiding principles, including protecting patient information and providing disclaimers that opinions and views are one’s own and not representative of the University of Connecticut can be found in the [Resident Policy Manual- Social Networking](#).

Please refer to the Social Networking guidelines and procedures set forth in this policy.

**F. REFERENCES:** n/a

**G. RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES:** [Professionalism Guidelines](#), [HIPAA/Privacy and Security of Confidential Data Guidelines and Policy](#)

**H. SEARCH WORDS:** Social media; social networking; texting

**I. ENFORCEMENT:** Violations of this policy or associated procedures may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with University By-Laws, General Rules of Conduct for All University Employees, applicable collective bargaining agreements, the University of Connecticut Student Code, or other applicable University Policies.

**J. APPROVED BY:**

1. [Signature](#) 4/5/19
   
   Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

2. [Signature](#) 4/5/19
   
   Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education

**K. REVISION HISTORY:** 1. Effective: TBD