HIPPOCRATIC OATH

In our profession it is a custom, established more than 2,000 years ago, that no one may be admitted to its honors, who has not first expressly undertaken its obligations. Now, therefore, I call upon you to take, as we have taken before you, the oath which bears the name of Hippocrates. The language in which our predecessors first pronounced it is no longer spoken: the very gods whom they called to witness have been discarded, but still we can find no nobler words than the most ancient in which to hand down the traditions of our calling:

"I do solemnly swear, by whatever each of us holds most sacred

That I will be loyal to the Profession of Medicine and just and generous to its members

That I will lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honor

That into whatsoever house I shall enter it shall be for the good of the sick to the utmost of my power, my holding myself far aloof from wrong, from corruption, from the tempting of others to vice

That I will exercise my art solely for the cure of my patients, and will give no drug, perform no operation for a criminal purpose, even if solicited, far less suggest it

That whatsoever I shall see or hear of the lives of my patients which is not fitting to be spoken, I will keep inviolably secret

These things do I swear. Let each of us bow the head in sign of acquiescence

And now, if I will be true to this, my oath, may good repute ever be mine; the opposite, if I shall prove myself forsworn".