

Vascular Disease Foundation Board of Directors Code of Conduct

As a member of the Board of Directors, I will:

- listen carefully to my fellow Board members;
- carefully consider and respect the opinions of my fellow Board members;
- respect and support all majority decisions of the Board;
- recognize that all authority is vested in the Board;
- keep well-informed of developments relevant to issues that may come before the Board;
- participate actively in Board meetings and actions and not discuss elsewhere what I am unwilling to discuss in Board meetings;
- bring to the attention of the Board any issues I believe will have a significant effect on our organization or those we serve;
- attempt to interpret the needs of all those we serve to the Board of Directors;
- refer complaints directly to the proper level on the chain of command;
- recognize my job is to ensure that the organization is well-managed, not necessarily to manage the organization;
- represent all those whom this organization serves and not a particular geographic area or interest group;
- consider myself a "trustee" of the organization and do my best to ensure that it is well-maintained, financially secure, and always operating in accord with our stated objectives and in the best interests of those we serve;
- always work to learn how to do my job better; and
- acknowledge conflicts of interest between my personal life and my position on the Board, and abstain from voting or attempting to influence issues in which I am conflicted.
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As a member of the Board of Directors, I will not:

- criticize fellow Board members or their opinions, in or out of the Board room;
- use the organization or my position for my personal advantage or that of my friends, relatives or associates;
- discuss the confidential proceedings of the Board outside the Board room;
- promise how I will vote on any issue before hearing the discussion and becoming fully informed;
- interfere with the duties of staff or undermine the authority of our chief staff executive to perform his/her duties; and
- speak for or in behalf of the organization unless specifically authorized to do so.