The purpose of Virtuous Healer Honor Society (VHHS) is to recognize NEOMED students, residents and faculty who exemplify the attributes of the virtuous healer, including:

- Altruism
- Compassion
- Curiosity
- Generosity
- Humility
- Justice
- Moral Imagination

Altruism: Acting for the benefit of others regardless of the consequences for oneself. Characteristics of altruism include: it seeks to increase another's welfare, not one's own; it is voluntary; and it expects no external reward.

Compassion: A virtue combining concepts such as sympathy, empathy, benevolence, care, love, and sometimes pity and mercy. These are character traits that enable professionals to use their cognitive and psychomotor skills of healing to meet the needs of a particular patient. The need for particularity in the healing relationship makes compassion a moral virtue.

Curiosity: An eager desire to know; inquisitiveness. For physicians, curiosity is fundamental to understanding each patient's unique experience of illness, building respectful relationships with patients, deepening self-awareness, supporting clinical reasoning, avoiding premature closure, and encouraging lifelong learning.

Generosity: Giving of oneself and one's resources, in kindness and magnanimity without asking for anything in return.

Humility: Recognition of the limits of one's abilities and position; openness to learn from mistakes and from others. In its relational aspect, humility includes reverence or awe for the grace and strength of patients and their caregivers, a sense that the care-provider is not self-sufficient but needs the care-receiver, and recognition of the worth of those who are oppressed and outcast.

Justice: The quality of being fair and reasonable. The principle of justice states that there should be an element of fairness in all medical decisions: fairness in decisions that burden and benefit, as well as equitable distribution of resources and effort.

Moral Imagination: In ethics, the presumed mental capacity to create or use ideas, images, and metaphors not derived from moral principles or immediate observation to discern moral truths or to develop moral responses. A focus on moral imagination is considered important to better understand the complexity of patient's biomedical choices, providing more plausible descriptions of the decision-making process and moral change.

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