

Ten Commandments for a Colleague

- I. Whenever and whatever thou knowest not, thou shalt say that thou knowest not.
- II. Thine ego is a dangerous beast, and thou shalt keep it on a leash at all times.
- III. When thou reviewest thy colleague's case, thou shalt find and note every aspect of said case with which thou agreest, and thou shalt express thine agreement.
- IV. If thou must disagree with thy colleague in front of thy clinicians, thou shalt do so with utmost respect. If thou must disagree with thy colleague's report, thou shalt advise thy colleague forthwith.
- V. Thou shalt be patient with thy registrar, for thou wert thyself equally ignorant not so very long ago.
- VI. Thou shalt not report cervical intraepithelial neoplasia after five of the hours of the afternoon, lest thine hunger and fatigue play tricks with thine eyes.
- VII. Thou shalt not try to do thyself the work of three slaves, lest thy hospital's Pharaoh be minded of this, and demand this from thy successor after thou fallest over.
- VIII. Thou shalt make certain that thy colleague abandoneth his microscope while the sun shineth still, lest thy colleague break Commandment VII.
- IX. Before thou has formally reported thy case thou shalt not give thy clinician thine off-the-cuff diagnosis, for thus wilt thou surely err and thy face be coated with egg.
- X. Thou shalt never threaten thy Quality Manager with thy brain knife, no matter how grievously she hast pist thee off.

Contributed by Dr Anon Ymous