

COSTUME POLICY

Dear Colleagues,

We are eagerly anticipating our upcoming physician dinner event! For the very first time, we are introducing a costume theme to this gathering. This inaugural themed evening offers an exciting opportunity for us to step away from our demanding clinical schedules, enjoy good food and fellowship, and celebrate our community's shared creativity in a new way.

Please note that costumes are entirely optional. Guests are welcome to attend in business formal, cocktail, or evening attire, and choosing not to wear a costume will not detract from the spirit of the evening.

As medical professionals, our community holds us to high standards of trust, cultural humility, and integrity - both inside and outside clinical settings. In today's interconnected environment, public perception and professional reputation are paramount. To ensure this first-ever costume event sets a positive precedent and remains an enjoyable, inclusive, and professional environment for all guests, we ask everyone to observe a few straightforward costume guidelines.

Principles of Respectful & Inclusive Attire

We encourage clever, lighthearted, and imaginative attire (e.g., fictional characters, movie/literary icons, classic puns, or pop culture tropes). When choosing or designing your costume, please keep the following core principles in mind:

- 1. Avoid Cultural Appropriation & Racial Stereotypes:**
Costumes should never turn a race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or marginalized culture into a caricature or costume element. This includes avoiding traditional/sacred clothing, wigs, facial paint, or props associated with specific racial or ethnic groups.
- 2. Respect Patient Dignity & Medical Sensitivities:**
Please refrain from attire that trivializes severe medical conditions, mental health crises, physical disabilities, trauma, or recent medical emergencies. Costumes that mock patient populations or subvert medical ethics diminish our professional standing.
- 3. Maintain Professional Boundaries & Social Media Awareness:**
Please keep in mind that photos taken during the event may be shared online, on social media, or circulated outside the venue. A helpful benchmark: **If you would not feel comfortable seeing a photo of your costume published on the front page of the newspaper or on public media, it is likely not appropriate for this event.**

Self-Reflection Check: Before finalizing your attire, ask yourself: *"Could this costume make a colleague, staff member, or community member feel marginalized, offended, or uncomfortable?"* If there is any uncertainty, we recommend choosing a different concept.

Upholding Event Standards

We trust the discretion and professional judgment of our membership to uphold our shared values. To protect the integrity of the organization and the comfort of all attendees, **event organizers and venue leadership reserve the right to ask any attendee to modify or remove any costume elements that do not meet these expectations.**

Quick Reference Guide

Welcome & Encouraged	Please Avoid
Fictional characters (superheroes, sci-fi, literature)	Cultural, ethnic, or religious garments worn as costumes
Visual puns or clever wordplay	Face paint intended to alter skin color or imitate race
Nostalgic pop culture or iconic movie duos	Mockery of physical/mental health conditions or trauma
Vintage or period-accurate historical attire	Overly partisan political figures or controversial news topics
Committee or group-themed costumes	Highly graphic gore or realistic weapon replicas

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to building an inclusive, collegial culture. We look forward to establishing a wonderful tradition together!

Warm regards,



Dr. Carla Holinaty
President