2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase 1 Preceptor

Name of Nominee Emily Spencer

It is nigh impossible to enter the first phase of clinical preceptorship without some level of trepidation, excitement and perhaps even a degree of impostor syndrome. I recall the feeling well walking into my first session, unsure of the expectations of a newly enrolled medical student. Thankfully, those feelings quickly abated as I progressed through my preceptor experiences. From the very beginning it was abundantly clear that preceptorship was an opportunity to work with patients, apply course material, foster curiosity, and most importantly, ask questions. I owe this experience to a wonderful preceptor, Dr. Emily Spencer.

Among Dr. Spencer's greatest qualities, is the relationship she has established with her patients and colleagues. She is well-loved by her patients and they are typically eager and notably tolerant participants when allowing for interviews and exams by a first-year student. The respect of her coworkers, especially the medical assistants, has been fundamental in introducing me to patients and helping me find my bearings. The established capital and repertoire of Dr. Spencer has been invaluable and a striking example of how I hope to practice medicine someday.

Dr. Spencer has demonstrated a clear desire to facilitate the learning of medical students. Following our patient interviews, prior to any orders or note-writing, she characteristically asks, "What questions do you have for me?" An eloquently simple but hallmark teaching opportunity that has fostered some of our best discussions, highlighting not only the science of medicine, but the art of its practice. It is incredibly gracious to equate the responsibility of preceptorship to clinical workflow.

Finally, Dr. Spencer has exhibited a phenomenal ability to create an overall preceptorship environment that drives an excitement for sessions and serves as a highlight of the curriculum here at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She has accomplished this despite the unique challenges imposed by an ongoing pandemic. I have been fortunate to have such a remarkable teacher and I am confident that she embodies the ideals of a Golden Stethoscope Nominee.

Written by: Ernie Arnouts