2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase 1 Preceptor

Name of Nominee Liberty Amador

As phase 1 students, we started out with very few clinical skills and knowledge of common medical conditions, especially because our first two blocks are Human Body and Molecules to Medicine. However, between our FDC courses and general immersion in our medical education, we quickly start to pick up clinical skills and knowledge about common conditions and treatments. This poses a unique challenge to the preceptor of a phase 1 student because of the student's rapidly increasing foundation and comfort in the clinic. Dr. Amador's efforts to check in and assess what I knew at the time, her enthusiasm to see her patients, and her regular check-ins allowed me to learn more than I could have ever imagined during phase 1 because I was able to stay in the zone of proximal development.

Every time I started a preceptor session, Dr. Amador made an effort to talk to me about what I learned in school, both clinical skills and foundational knowledge. In addition to this, every time we saw a patient together, she did a short debrief with me where she asked me about what we learned in school relating to this patient's condition. This helped me review what I previously learned, understand what these foundational concepts look like in clinical practice, and remember them better ebcause I had a real life experience to connect them with.

Another reason Dr. Amador should be selected as the best phase 1 preceptor was her enthusiasm and energy when she spent time with her patients. Every time I entered the room to perform a physical exam and take a history, they mentioned something about how uniquely positive their experience at the doctor always is, how they are always so happy to see her, or how they can tell she really cares about them. In terms of communication skills and the general feel of each visit, a phase 1 student would be lucky to be able to watch how Dr. Amador communicates with her patients and how much they trust and respect her. In my year and a half working with her, countless patients gave me a glowing description of the way she takes care of them.

Lastly, Dr. Amador regularly checks in with me, even now at the end of phase 2. She makes an effort on her own time to ask me how I'm doing, how school is going, and even sends me a text on holidays. Having a mentor like her and having a physician as part of my support system has been invaluable for me, especially as a phase 1 student with no idea what to expect. I also felt much more comfortable and confident when working with her patients because I always knew she had my best educational interests at heart. Having someone like her regularly checking in on me helps me feel very special and valued. How many people have a real doctor regularly checking in on them?

Dr. Amador has always made an effort to spend time understanding where I am with my clinical and foundational education that goes far beyond what anyone could expect from a preceptor. This resulted in all of my preceptor sessions being extremely valuable and easy to relate back to what we learned. The hands on experience and clinical examples of what we learned in class have helped me in every aspect of my education. She also has a bedside manner that is so effective and filled with positive energy, I feel like it's exactly what I needed as a phase 1 student. Her positivity and brilliance has had an impact on every patient encounter I've had since I met her.

Dr. Amador is exactly what I needed when I came into medical school, and I feel so lucky that she has been a part of my life. I am already excited for the next phase 1 student who is given the honor of working with her.

Written by: Eric Bayman

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