2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Fostering Curiosity

Name of Nominee Dr. Elizabeth Gillespie

I am writing to nominate my Phase I and II preceptor Dr. Elizabeth Gillespie for the Golden Stethoscope Award in the category of fostering curiosity. Dr. Gillespie started the process of stoking my curiosity early on in our time working together. As a brand new medical student, I often found myself overwhelmed with questions about patients' conditions that we encountered in the hospital. With daunting gaps in my education yet to be filled, Dr. Gillespie always seemed to help me focus in on the few items that would be most beneficial to laying a foundation to continue to build on.

As we slowly started filling in those gaps, she helped me expand my thinking beyond focusing on a pathologic process and shifting towards a more clincal mindset. WIth a broader knowledge base, I began to explore how to organize this information in my head and take a methodical approach to clinical reasoning. We spent much time together talking through how to systematically build a differential diagnosis, target my encounters, and think about approaches to treatment.

Learning did not end for me when I left the hospital. Throughout our sessions I compiled points I wanted to further research when I returned home, as well as questions we both had that we didn't have time to tackle in the moment. She consistently kept in touch with me about our queries and with the follow-up of patients that we saw together.

After nearly a year and a half of mentorship, Dr. Gillespie's teaching culminated in a learning opportunity I was fortunate to engage in as a second year medical student. After seeing a case of cardiac sarcoidosis together, she encouraged me to construct a case presentation about how to approach making that challenging diagnosis. As a testament to her dedication to teaching, she put in many hours outside of our sessions providing active back and forth feedback on my poster--not to mention all of which occurred in a matter of weeks to meet a quick turnaround time for the abstract submission. Ultimately, I had the opportunity to present my poster at and attend the 2021 Hospitalist Summit of the Rockies.

Dr. Gillespie, I appreciate your commitment to me as a learner. Thank you for being such an integral part of my early medication education!

Written by: Shea Claflin

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