2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase 2 Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Timothy Luebbert

I wish I could nominate Dr. Luebbert in each of these categories, as he fully deserves recognition for his well-rounded approach not only to being a mentor, but to his profession. I am extremely fortunate to have been assigned such an outstanding preceptor, mentor, and role model in medicine these last two years. He demonstrates a level of empathy and compassion during each patient encounter that I hope to emulate with my future patients (although I'm not sure I'll ever be able to master his uncanny ability to calm crying children). His ease of conversation with children and parents has a calming effect on everyone in the room. He exudes confidence and care with his clinical decision making. He never fails to include me in patient encounters, encouraging me to step in with questions to both him and our patients. I greatly appreciate that he engages me as part of the team. He takes the time to teach as he works through the case, which is not only beneficial to me, but more importantly beneficial to our patients and parents, encouraging shared decision making. It has been wonderful to get to work alongside him in both clinic and the hospital setting through these past two years.

Initially I had some reservations when I was assigned a preceptor in Pediatric Neurology. It was not a field I was particularly familiar with, and as a niche subspecialty, I was unsure how much exposure I would be afforded in other areas. However, Dr. Luebbert has made a conscious effort to provide me a holistic view of medicine and patient care. He always takes the time to ask what we are learning in class so he can supplement that information with his teaching and then when possible, demonstrate and apply that information in real world patient care. He seeks out unique learning opportunities for me and educates me with enthusiasm before each of our patient encounters. Afterwards, he happily entertains my onslaught of questions. Though he has still yet to convince me to switch from Ob/Gyn to Neuro, he has successfully ignited my curiosity and passion for medicine. I leave my preceptorship sessions each week with even more enthusiasm for this profession, calling my parents and raving about how amazing my day was and how I cannot wait until I am a physician, because he continues to show me what a gratifying career this is. I appreciate that he has fostered a safe environment for me to practice my communication and physical exam skills and given me the confidence that I need going into third year. Though I am at times apprehensive about performing a new exam technique or taking a difficult patient history, he always encourages me to step outside of my comfort zone and ensures me that this is a no judgement zone.

Beyond being a phenomenal teacher, what I have loved most about working with Dr. Luebbert is how valued he makes me feel as a medical student. He takes the time to ask me about my life and my goals and how things are going. He makes sure to check in on me, both in clinic and in my outside life. On an occasion when I experienced a particularly tough patient encounter, he sat with me for as long as I needed to talk through it and to debrief to ensure I was okay with what I had experienced. He followed that up with texts checking in, and offered as much support as I needed. He truly cares about me as a student and does everything he can to ensure I have the best possible clinical experience when precepting with him. I think one of the most intimidating things about being a medical student is never wanting to feel like you are a burden or like you are getting in the way. Dr. Luebbert has been intentional in creating a welcoming environment for me, where I feel like I can contribute, learn, and thrive as a medical student. I am both humbled and inspired to get to work with someone who whole-heartedly embraces their role as teacher and mentor like Dr. Luebbert does. I truly could not have asked for a better intro to clinical medicine and strongly believe Dr. Luebbert deserves this honor.

Written by: Erica Dolph

University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus