2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase 2 Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Michael Breyer

Precepting with Dr. Breyer has been one of my most valuable and meaningful experiences in medical school. The practice I have gained with him has prepared me to proceed with confidence and excel in my further clinical training. I am nominating him as Best Phase 2 Preceptor to commend his holistic approach to training that fosters well-rounded growth as a clinician while instilling confidence and inspiring.

Dr. Breyer fosters development in all aspects of clinical practice. He approaches preceptorship as practice for the complete patient visit, requiring execution and continuous improvement of clinical reasoning, physical exam, communication with both patient and providers, and self-directed learning with every patient encounter. From our very first session, he had me practice the entire workflow of independently seeing a new patient; from performing history and physical, through presenting to the attending. Furthermore, I leave most sessions with homework to learn more about a particular topic relevant to my patient, fostering a mindset of continuous learning as a physician. This integrated focus has helped me build an appreciation for how to adapt an encounter. For example, as I learned a wider range of physical exam skills both in class and from Dr. Breyer, we practiced and discussed with each case how to choose maneuvers that will help inform the differential diagnosis. Moreover, Dr. Breyer exemplifies teamwork with his colleagues and we periodically discuss these aspects of clinical work.

Dr. Breyer provides well-directed and organized training that has taught me how to engage in self-directed learning in the clinical setting. He always establishes goals for the new semester and a game plan at the beginning of each session, giving a sense of direction and purpose. Furthermore, at the end of a patient encounter and every session, we close with critique and feedback, which is concrete and includes what I did well. While these aspects were initially driven by Dr. Breyer, he has increasingly pushed me to take the lead, asking me what my goals are at the beginning of a session and what my assessment of progress is at the end of a session before offering his perspective. I have consequently grown more deliberate in deciding beforehand what improvements I will practice during a preceptorship session. Furthermore, I have developed the ability to pause and assess my work and accordingly adjust my performance. Dr. Breyer also encourages curiosity and ownership of learning through our homework assignments, guiding me in discerning avenues for further investigation and prompting me to consider how the new information would change my approach or considerations for a patient I have seen.

Dr. Breyer is ambitious for his students, well-attuned to their needs both in terms of readiness for clinic and in terms of learning and encouragement. When we first met, Dr. Breyer explained that his goal for me is to be ahead of the game by the time I reach third year and for me to be a usefully competent MS3. To that end, he has consistently ensured that our aims outpace my performance such that I am continuously pushed to higher levels of proficiency. For example, as soon as I improved on expanding my differential diagnosis, we shifted our focus to discuss how I might use my differential diagnosis to inform my physical exam, and how I could use the results thereof to craft a compelling story in my oral presentation. Dr. Breyer has continuously pushed me beyond my own comfort and expectations, never letting progress stagnate.

Working with Dr. Breyer motivates me. He tells me when he is proud of my progress and ends every session on a high note. He never fails to boost my morale, especially in the midst of the stress and frustration of pre-clinical years. Whenever I have been discouraged or disillusioned with medical school, preceptorship with Dr. Breyer has been reinvigorating and grounding. His holistic approach gives me a sense of competence and purpose and his sincere feedback and encouragement gives me a sense of accomplishment. I am grateful for this encouragement.

Dr. Breyer has provided me with a meaningful preceptorship experience. He has ensured continual improvement in all aspects necessary for the practice of clinical medicine, given me an appreciation for the full scope of the daily work, and equipped me with the tools and confidence to succeed in the remainder of my clinical training. Dr. Breyer deserves to be commended for his stellar mentorship.

Written by: Amita Kashyap (Phase 2)

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