2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best at Fostering Curiosity

Name of Nominee **Dr. JoAnn Zell**

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Laveen Khoshnaw, a current Phase 1 student working with Dr. JoAnn Zell in the outpatient rheumatology clinic at University of Colorado Hospital for my Foundations of Doctoring preceptorship. I am writing to your esteemed group today to nominate Dr. Zell for the Golden Stethoscope Award in *Fostering Curiosity*.

Dr. Zell is an exceptional clinician and an even more phenomenal educator. Her passion for providing care in rheumatology coupled with her love of clinical education makes her a top candidate for the Golden Stethoscope Award for Fostering Curiosity. Since starting my FDC preceptorship, I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Zell at the UCH Rheumatology clinic several times. She is highly organized; she takes it upon herself to understand my goals and match them to days on her clinical schedule that she feels would best help me meet those goals. In the patient encounter, Dr. Zell involves me and the patient simultaneously as we navigate the complex rheumatologic disorders the patients are experiencing, and she does so with intention. Before seeing a patient, she encourages me to browse their chart to familiarize myself with the patient and the clinical conditions they face. She constantly pushes me to ask questions about the patient and about context that I do not understand. After we see the patient, we discuss the plan together. She encourages me to actively conduct research while we are in the clinic together, so I can maximize my learning opportunities.

Most notably, Dr. Zell weighs clinical outcomes for these patients with me. She loops me into the conversations with her residents and asks for insight on what I think would happen to a patient should we have followed a different treatment plan. She is constantly teaching and praises me when I demonstrate strong clinical knowledge. At these junctures, she challenges me to take the knowledge a step further, and asks a critical thinking question, stimulating my curiosity and thought.

My favorite part about working with Dr. Zell is sharing all of our ideas, outside of the immediate practice. Dr. Zell has many unique passions, and we often engage in conversations that have truly diversified my outlook on so many different aspects of the care. She is a champion for women's health and a huge proponent of health equity. I constantly find myself learning new things with her and being more and more interested in all of the interplaying facets of medicine.

I want to thank you for considering my nomination of Dr. JoAnn Zell for the Golden Stethoscope Award in *Fostering Curiosity*. My time with Dr. Zell has been filled inquiry, excitement, fulfillment, and thought-provoking experiences. She is an exemplary clinical educator and a true advocate for fostering curiosity. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,
Laveen Khoshnaw
University of Colorado School of Medicine, Class of 2024

Written by: **Laveen Khoshnaw, CUSOM Class of 2024**

University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus