2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Use of Physical Exam Skills/Best Clinical Reasoning

Name of Nominee Dr. Maria "Gaby" Frank

Dr. Frank has been an exceptional preceptor throughout the several years we have worked together. She has been an outstanding mentor that continues to promote my own growth and development in the field of medicine. Dr Frank ensures that I always learn something new when I am with her and finds ways to make it memorable so that I can recall it later. Her command of the physical exam and the ability to incorporate it into her clinical reasoning has been a cornerstone of our interactions. She will often have me research additional physical exam maneuvers then perform them on patients to help sway or affirm a diagnosis. One of many memories that comes to mind is an encounter with a patient with aortic insufficiency and seeing a pulsating uvula, and feeling a water hammer pulse. Another memory I have was seeing a patient with possible BPPV for the first time and Dr. Frank performed a Dix-Hallpike maneuver. The list goes on and on for times Dr. Frank has shown me the power of the physical to help guide clinical reasoning and has stuck with me throughout the past three years.

In addition to her use of the physical exam, I am always astounded by Dr. Frank's clinical reasoning. Not only does she demonstrate her knowledge through a final plan or assessment, she always makes time to explain her clinical rational to me after a presentation, so I know what to look for or ask about in the future. Her ability to link symptoms to pathophysiology to disease states is unrivaled. She continues to push me to be a better clinician and to constantly expand how I approach and look at a problem. She always looks at the bigger picture and always takes a comprehensive approach to make sure she isn't missing something. She is able to take the history, the physical exam, the lab and imaging findings and analyze each piece individually and see how they fit together. She is always considerate of the socioeconomic factors in her patient's lives and how they can contribute to their current clinical picture. If I could one day even have a fraction of Dr. Frank's clinical reasoning skills, I would consider myself lucky.

Dr. Frank has been an excellent mentor throughout my time in medical school. She always ensures our sessions are meaningful and that there is something I can take away at each encounter. She continues to be a wealth of knowledge and someone who continues to help shape me into the physician I hope to one day be. I feel incredibly lucky to have had Dr. Frank as my preceptor throughout these years and believe she is 100% worthy of a golden stethoscope award.

Written by: Samuel Maltby

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