2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Viral Shah

Dr. Shah is a man who has seen me grow throughout medical school and the person who offered me the most clinical guidance and tutelage in my most crucial first years.

On my first ever day in clinic, I felt extremely anxious and nervous. Dr. Shah picked up on this and gave me words of encouragement: "Dan, you are going to do just fine. You made it here and all it takes is just experience and time." My fears dissipated, I knew that I would have a great time working with Dr. Shah.

He quickly became one of my favorite mentors. He gave me pointers on my interviewing without making me feel small. He helped me improve my physical exam skills and expanded my future repertoire of maneuvers. He was someone who I could present a formal assessment and plan to one minute and joke around with the next. He challenged me to do the best I could by asking me questions that sparked my internal drive. And most importantly, Dr. Shah was someone I felt like I could share my worries to and have them be assuaged.

In clinic, Dr. Shah is someone that I hope to emulate when I become an attending. He was professional and kind when talking to his patients. Patients I saw with him treated him like a friend instead of a client or a provider. Dr. Shah had a human touch that was clearly evident in the relationships that he fostered with his patients and myself. He was also an amazing clinician. Within minutes of hearing a patient's story, he always knew the correct diagnosis and made a plan that both he and the patient were happy with. Furthermore, he was always extremely efficient with his work while still maintaining a real, compassionate connection during a patient's visit.

Dr. Shah is an outstanding physician and a fantastic teacher. He is professional, warm, and welcoming. He didn't tell me what to think, but rather created an environment in which I felt comfortable asking "why." He let me stumble, but gave me the tools to pick myself up. Dr. Shah is an exemplary doctor, a person I greatly admire, and a role model that I look up to.

Written by: Daniel Thieu, Phase 3