2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Role Model, Commitment During A Pandemic, Fostering Curiosity

Name of Nominee Dr. Helen Story

I want to start this letter of recommendation by stating that I feel truly privileged to have had Dr. Story as my Preceptor for the last two years. Not only is she a logical and insightful physician–she is also an all-around wonderful person! During my time as a student at Family Care Southwest, I observed Dr. Story frequently go above and beyond to make she each and every one of her patients received the care that they needed. Whether that meant coordinating treatment plans between multiple specialists or simply being a voice of reason during a difficult time, Dr. Story pragmatically and compassionately navigated her role as a Primary Care Provider. As such, it's really not surprising that her patients love her and that I felt so welcome in her practice.

When COVID-19 put most of the medical industry on pause last March, Dr. Story and her partners adjusted quickly to start providing Tele-Medicine appointments. As a small company, Family Care Southwest clearly felt the economic burden of the pandemic, but Dr. Story and her team found a way to keep all of their staff on the payroll without having to reduce wages or cut back hours. And, on top of everything else their office was going through, Dr. Story agreed to take on an additional 3rd year student for the CPC clerkship. Dr. Story is impressively committed to her role as a medical educator!

Lastly, I want to say that I am inspired by Dr. Story's ongoing enthusiasm for the pursuit of scientific knowledge. During our sessions together, we regularly reviewed interesting patient cases in detail so that I could get a clearer picture about how care is coordinated across our complex medical system. This often resulted in me doing deep dives into UpToDate and PubMed outside of Preceptorship so that I could make sense of the patients we discussed each week. This process fostered my curiosity about the science of medicine, but it also helped to reaffirm content from class in a clinically relevant way. I sincerely hope that I can maintain the same sense of inquisitiveness throughout my own career!

Thank you,

Written by: Greg Watson, Phase II

University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus