2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Patient/Physician Communication Skills

Name of Nominee Dr. Melissa Neuman

I remember getting the email – our placements for Phase One and Phase Two Preceptorship had been set. I enthusiastically opened my assignment to see that I had been placed with Dr. Melissa Neuman in Family Medicine/Women's Health. A wave of mixed emotion set in, as Women's Health was the one facet of medicine I did not think was for me… at all. Fast forward six short months, and here I am, far surpassing the necessary hour requirements and finding time nearly every week to get into clinic or rounds to learn from Dr. Neuman.

I would like to nominate Dr. Neuman for Best Patient/Physician Communication Skills. I have never seen people so excited to come in and see a doctor, especially for uncomfortable visits like pap smears. Dr. Neuman manages to maintain a perfect balance of empathy and respect while cultivating a warm and inviting atmosphere, where every patient seems to immediately let her into their lives. This allows for very effective visits that are well communicated and leave the patients feeling understood and directly involved in their care. Dr. Neuman has a liveliness about her that is contagious. Her energized demeanor illustrates her commitment to her patients and further exemplifies her strong ability to empathize with people from all walks of life. She is very respectful to all of her co-workers and is extremely appreciative for all they do in the clinic and hospitals. Dr. Neuman serves as a wonderful role-model for me through her exemplary communication skills and breadth of knowledge in her specialty. She is an amazing teacher that challenges me in my learning and includes me in every step of the patients' care. Dr. Neuman allows me to perform many physical exam maneuvers and is consistently giving me tips to improve my technique. She answers my many, sometimes rudimentary, questions with considerate answers followed by current supporting literature. Much like how she treats her patients, this shows how invested she is in my personal and academic growth. I feel extremely lucky to be Dr. Neuman's student.

In closing, I could nominate Dr. Neuman for nearly all of these awards, but her ability to create an empathetic, understanding atmosphere with her patients is the most deserving of the Golden Stethoscope recognition. I never thought that I would be taking advantage of every opportunity I get to precept in Women's Health, but due to Dr. Neuman and her contagious attitude and impressive patient communication skills, I plan on getting a great deal of exposure in the Family Medicine and Women's Health specialties moving forward.

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