2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase 3 Preceptor

Name of Nominee Terri Marty, MD

The surgery rotation is known for being intense, demanding, and challenging. However, thanks to Dr. Marty, my experience on my surgery rotation was also engaging, thought-provoking, and exciting. From day one, Dr. Marty welcomed my fellow medical student and me into the team without hesitation. She invited us to participate in patient care as more than her shadow and challenged us to take full responsibility for the care of our patients. She engaged us in discussion of approaches to patient care and encouraged us to think through why things are done a certain way instead of quizzing us on obscure surgical facts or eponyms of anatomic locations.

My time working with Dr. Marty was full of memorable experiences including the drainage of one of the most putrid abscesses I have ever smelled. Before this particular case started, she asked the medical students how we would approach the drainage of the abscess and why. We each took a stance, explained our reasoning, and then she walked us through her approach. The scent of the OR will haunt me forever, but the memory of her handing me the scalpel and suction with confidence in my capability influenced the rest of my rotation and the rest of my clinical year.

Dr. Marty approached her role as a preceptor with the intent of being an effective teacher and genuine mentor. She made it so that wrong answers weren't something to be ashamed of, but rather an opportunity to learn and discuss. During down time between cases, she made a point of taking time to sit down with the medical students to go over our goals and make sure the rotation was living up to our expectations. She gave us honest and direct feedback in a way that was motivating and inspiring. She even took a couple of hours to sit down with us and discuss how to approach a trauma patient since it had been a slow week for trauma. Within only days of knowing each other, she made us feel comfortable coming to her for questions, advice, and even career guidance. She makes students feel like they can do anything if given the right tools and background knowledge.

In the past year, I have worked with some amazing physicians and had fantastic experiences in the clinical space, but I wish I could have spent more time with Dr. Marty. In fact, I wish every third year student could have a preceptor who was as engaged, thoughtful, and caring as Dr. Marty - especially during what is known to be one of the toughest rotations of the year. Dr. Marty has a daughter in medical school who will soon be starting a general surgery residency. When I thanked her for her time and teaching, she said, "I just want to treat students the way I want my daughter to be treated."

Well Dr. Marty, your daughter should be proud. Thanks to you, I left my surgery experience with a deepened sense of confidence, enthusiasm for surgery, and motivation to become an excellent physician and empowering teacher just like you. Your impact on my journey as a future physician is immeasurable.

Written by: Emily Wolverton

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