2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Commitment during a pandemic

Name of Nominee Dr. Timothy Amass

Dr. Amass is an incredible preceptor, and I'm very grateful to have worked with him during my pre-clinical years. Through my time with him, I was able to practice my clinical skills, witness rounds in the ICU, and see patients in different settings, I believe all of which contributed greatly to my medical education. I truly learned a lot, and I strive to become a physician like Dr. Amass: knowledgeable, patient, compassionate, and enthusiastic about teaching.

Dr. Amass is exceedingly knowledgeable and very clearly passionate about medicine, but beyond that, he is also a great teacher and mentor. There were many times when I felt unclear about something I had already learned about previously, and Dr. Amass would always take the time to explain it to me, even using a whiteboard if needed or applying it in the context of a patient we were seeing.

I also learned a lot about compassion and developing good relationships with patients and colleagues through observing Dr. Amass. He always demonstrated understanding and compassion when communicating with patients and cared for patients' emotional and mental well-being in addition to the medical concerns they were presenting for. He is always respectful of his colleagues as well, and I appreciated the conversations he would often initiate addressing the complicated ethical aspects of caring for a patient in the ICU and potential end-of-life care.

Throughout this pandemic, not only did Dr. Amass took care of COVID patients as a pulmonologist and critical care physician, but he also stepped into the role of ICU director at the VA. He is also heavily involved in research and conducted a research study on how the pandemic is affecting family members of COVID patients who had to stay in an ICU. His devotion to his profession during this time has been admirable and inspiring, and for that reason, I am nominating him for the Golden Stethoscope award for Commitment during a Pandemic.

Written by: Stephanie Yu