2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Mark Huber

I'm writing this letter to thank Dr. Huber for his mentorship and also to nominate him for the Golden Stethoscope award for "Outstanding Role Model". In addition to helping me prepare for my clinical year, he is a great example for the kind of physician I hope to be.

One of the first patients we saw together was a patient who had been called a Code Stroke. Seeing Dr. Huber run the room and lead the team was exciting for me, especially so early in the year. He was efficient, calm, and confident, just as I hope to be if I have a chance to take that role in the future. On that same day, we saw an elderly patient who had dementia but no acute concerns. She had been brought in by her son because her family felt overwhelmed taking care of her and had no idea what to do next. With this patient, Dr. Huber's approach completely changed. He sat down with the patient and her son and talked through the situation and explained the options to them fully, answering all concerns and at no point rushing the conversation. The patient had severe hearing loss, and though he could have turned the conversation into one just between the son and himself, Dr. Huber addressed the patient as much as possible despite her hearing loss, which I could tell made her feel more involved in the conversation. These are just two of many patients I have seen Dr. Huber interact with, always knowing exactly what type of approach is necessary for a given situation from the moment he enters the room.

Dr. Huber is also the kind of teacher I hope to be. From the moment we met he established that he was excited to have a student, and that it was okay if I made mistakes. That kind of openness gave me immediate comfort because I had no idea what to expect from my first medical school preceptor. I have certainly made mistakes and he's given me guidance and correction, but the dynamic he established allowed me to try things in my notes and presentations without fearing embarrassment from potential mistakes. In addition to talking through my patient interviewing, oral presentations and note writing, he talks me through cases he has had on previous days to give me opportunities to see real examples of less common pathologies. He also teaches me things beyond the scope of interviewing patients, which is how I've gotten to learn about reading EKGs, thinking through differential diagnoses like an EM physician, placing sutures, Wells' Criteria, the progression of treatment options for COVID over the course of the year, and that bats are the animal that most often causes rabies, along with many other things. I want to be open and demonstrate my excitement to teach others when I am the teacher in the future and as I'm trying to do so, I will think about the way that Dr. Huber taught me.

Throughout all of our encounters, Dr. Huber has demonstrated a genuine care and interest in me as a person, remembering my background and specialty interests, asking about upcoming trips and fun plans I had, and then asking how they went the next time I saw him. He also has been more than willing to discuss choosing a specialty, telling me about his own experience and reassuring me that I'm on the right track during multiple discussions. I also asked him advice about what neighborhood to move to next year because I'm new to Colorado, and he happily gave me advice on that as well. I think a big part of the reason we've been able to have all of these conversations is because Dr. Huber has truly made me feel like I can ask him about anything. I hope to someday have a student that I can make feel as comfortable as Dr. Huber has done for me.

I see Dr. Huber not just as a preceptor but as a mentor and as someone I feel very lucky to have had as a resource during my first year of school. He has helped me progress as a student, but more importantly to me, he has shaped my view of how I want to present myself as a physician, a teacher, and a person. I am very grateful to him for the guidance he has given me and for everything he has taught me.

Written by: Matthew Wong, Class of 2025

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