# 2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

## Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

## *Name of Nominee* Dr. Zachary Hutzayluk

The sunlight glints warmly off of the dozens of pictures of smiling faces sitting on the desk, clustered around where Dr. Hutzayluk sits in his shared office at Brighton Kaiser Permanente. Photos of the family and friends of my new preceptor stare back at me, making me smile back and feel welcome. It was during this first visit to his office for preceptorship that I learned that Dr. Hutzayluk is not just a great physician; he is an incredibly empathetic and kind person. I am nominating him for the "Outstanding Role Model" because it best fits with the lessons I learned from him in my short time at preceptorship.

Dr. Hutzayluk values relationships with people, which is evident in his work as a family medicine provider and preceptor. He takes time to introduce himself and asks questions to better understand his patients as people with unique lives, emotions, and hearts. For example, at the start of each visit, Dr. Hutzayluk always asks patients about their family, pets, new job, etc. His patients trust him because he shares parts of his life with them, and he cares about what they share with him. In my short time with Dr. Hutzayluk, I could tell that his patients were receiving great healthcare, not because of the medications or medical advice given, but because Dr. Hutzayluk ensured that they were cared for. His relationships with people helped him do that.

One quality that I admire most about Dr. Hutzayluk is his ability to make his coworkers and staff feel seen and heard. He interacts with his coworkers daily, smiles and asks them about their day or life, and makes it clear that he values them as people and that he appreciates the work they do in clinic. People are constantly leaning inside his open door to ask questions, show Dr. Hutzayluk pictures of their loved ones, or to crack a joke. It is clear that Dr. Hutz is well loved and appreciated, and I wanted to highlight how important I think it is that he works so well in a team setting. The KP Brighton team is phenomenal for many patients, and Dr. Hutzayluk is an integral reason why.

I learned many things from Dr. Hutz, but my favorite conversations were about more than just medical concepts. We talked about intimate partner violence and how screening efforts works sometimes, but not nearly enough. We talked about mental health, and how physicians should understand how to not only talk about it with patients, but how to find them resources and treat it. We talked about being a woman in medicine and the potential challenges and discrimination that might occur. We talked about longitudinal relationships with people, and how we can make the most impact (and I saw my first longitudinal patient, with whom I shared vulnerable conversations with about his health). We talked about life, how to balance what I want and need with work and family, and how important it is to be a human first. We talked about social determinants of health, and how we can make the most of what we can do as physicians. These conversations might have only been 30 seconds long or a comment here and there, but they made a difference in how I approach medicine now.

Dr. Hutzayluk models what I hope to be as a physician: empathetic, kind, curious, collected, in search of excellence, and constantly looking for the beauty in life and medicine. Not only does he embody these qualities and more, but he tries to teach it to his students - sometimes with words, often with actions, and always with humility and grace. He is an incredible preceptor and teacher. He gives students opportunities to work on skills, gauges our comfortability and abilities, and challenges us to practice and improve. He is outstanding as a preceptor, has outstanding communication skills, demonstrates leadership, fosters curiosity, and has outstanding physical exam skills. Most importantly to me, he is an outstanding person for his patients and his students.

Dr. Hutzayluk's desk is the first thing I remember about preceptorship for a reason. Looking at those smiling faces, often covered in cake or wearing birthday hats, reminds me that medicine is a job that I am choosing because it makes a difference for people, including myself. I am honored to have learned from Dr. Hutzayluk this year. Please accept this letter as my attestation that Dr. Hutzayluk is an "Outstanding Role Model."

Written by: Theresa Tafoya, class of 2025