2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Preceptor

Name of Nominee Ben Leon, MD

I'm sure many first year students think that they have a great preceptor. And they probably do. We're in our first year of medical school, and we get to see patients for the first time -- what's not to love? However, Dr. Ben Leon has uniquely provided the best experience a first year medical student could want. Let me tell you why.

Within one week of meeting Dr. Leon, he invited me in to the clinic, brought me coffee, and let me see a couple of patients. All before a required preceptorship. Early on, he went out of his way to make me feel comfortable in the clinic by introducing me to the other staff and including me as a member of the team. And, most importantly, he went above and beyond making me comfortable the first couple of times we were together in a patient room. Often times, he would sit on the exam table allowing me the coveted doctor's chair! (Nothing is worse than standing there awkwardly, not knowing where to sit, while a preceptor talks to the patient).

Dr. Leon encourages active learning in between patients by guiding me to an appropriate care plan. And he routinely make me feel good the few times I stumble into the correct diagnosis.

I wasn't entirely certain of my chosen medical specialty coming into my first year, but now when patients and family members ask what kind of doctor I want to be, I tell them that I want to be just like Dr. Leon. Seriously, I can't tell you the number of additional hours I have spent with Dr. Leon just because he makes primary care so much fun!

I cannot wait to meet the next lucky student to get Dr. Leon as their preceptor, because I am going to make sure that they know how good their first precepting experience will be.

Thanks for such a wonderful first year of medical school, Dr. Leon.

Written by: Satya Raj Trikha

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