# 2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

**Nominated for:** Outstanding Preceptor

***Name of Nominee*** Dr. Christopher McKinney

It is with great pleasure and no hesitation that I write this letter nominating Dr. Christopher McKinney for the Golden Stethoscope Outstanding Preceptor Award. I will start by saying that before our class was informed of this opportunity to highlight outstanding mentorship, I had pondered a way in which I could thank Dr. McKinney and recognize his skills as my first preceptor in medical school.

My journey into medicine has been through an extensive exposure to physicians; through shadowing, volunteering, and working alongside surgeons throughout my career. I am not afraid of being yelled at, of being in chaotic operating rooms and trauma bays, of telling surgeons they need to, in fact, submit their research to the IRB before they can proceed with a study. Turns out, what I was afraid of, was taking my first tiny steps as a clinician and in front of a seasoned, trained physician who was to be constantly evaluating my ability to safely be around patients. It took exactly one patient interaction with Dr. McKinney to dispel this fear, allowing me to focus on honing clinical skills instead of sweating over being constantly observed. Not only was I able to relax and focus on implementing our DOCs curriculum with each visit to my preceptor but Dr. McKinney somehow managed to make me feel like a valued member of his care team and someone who could contribute to the care of his patients as opposed to just being able to take a pulse.

Under Dr. McKinney's guidance I was able to perform all the physical exams that we were taught, and was able to adjust them to infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents. Throughout the year he allowed me to hone my oral presentation and physical exam skills, giving me just enough feedback and room to grow as we moved through the year. His trust in my ability to interview and perform brief examinations of patients alone lead to some of my most memorable patient interactions of medical school. These tiny moments of victory, including a young girl disclosing for the first time that she was sexually active, hearing a murmur on a tiny heart, and correctly identifying an enlarged spleen, will stay with me forever. Not only did we progress through the physical exam skills, but Dr. McKinney had a knack for knowing what we were learning and presenting me with patients and clinical questions that were completely relevant to our current medical science pilar topics. This included interviewing a teenager who was acutely manic, obtaining a sexual history from someone who is undergoing sexual reassignment, listening to the lungs of a small boy with croup, and uncovering Sheehan's syndrome in a new mother of twins.

Throughout my preceptorship I felt supported in every way and appreciated and was able to grow from every piece of feedback that was given. I truly am coming out the other side ready to interact with patients and integrate myself into the flow of a clinic. I would not trade this preceptorship experience for anything and am deeply thankful to Dr. McKinney for giving me this experience and the outstanding foundations of doctoring that will define my career.

Written by: Caitlin Robinson

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