2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Anna Munoa

I would like to nominate Dr. Anna Munoa for the Golden Stethoscope Oustanding Preceptor Award. As a first year medical student, I was assigned to Dr. Munoa roughly halfway through the year, which is admittedly a later start than most precepting students. I felt highly unprepared, as my previous experiences in hospital medicine were only in a shadowing role. Dr. Munoa was incredibly understanding and began by taking things slow and really learning what my interests were. As a DOCS coach in the Trek curriculum, she knew what skills I've learned, and made sure to ask what I felt most confident in, and what I felt I needed more work with. We worked on physical exam skills that I had less experience with, and she always made sure to show me extra tips and tricks for how to accomplish the physical exam in a way that respected patient autonomy and was as minimally invasive as possible. I learned a new way of checking for ascites from Dr. Munoa that was not in my curriculum, but is now something I feel confident in, among several other practical physical exam skills.

Dr. Munoa also continuously encouraged my curiosity. She made sure to give me ample opportunity to ask questions after each patient we saw, even when it was a question we might have answered in a previous precepting session. She was patient, she was kind, and above all, even when I was on the wrong track and my treatment plan for our patient was less than exemplary, she really tried to understand my thought process and where I went wrong so I could better assess the treatment plan in the future. After each precepting session, I left feeling like I had learned more than just physical exams and disease schemas, but that I also knew how to work through the rationale for why and how each disease was affecting each patient.

Finally, I truly believe that Dr. Munoa should be awarded the Golden Stethoscope because she truly enjoys her time with each patient. Every time we entered a patient's room, Dr. Munoa made sure that the patient felt heard and knew that their concerns were valid. From listening to the concerns of a patient who wasn't sure where he would be discharged, to empathizing with a different patient who had a distrust in the healthcare system, Dr. Munoa always made sure to put the patient first. She taught me that although the diagnostic tests and checking the patient's status were important, it was even more crucial to know that your patient is a person and that they exist as more than a teaching tool for me as a student. I have appreciated all of the experiences I've gotten as a preceptee with Dr. Munoa, and I know that she will continue to inspire and be a great menor for future preceptees.

Written by: Adrianna Kayden