2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Laura Rochford

Dr. Rochford has been an amazing preceptor to work with over the past 2 years in the pediatric ED for night shift. It wasn't until I began to work more with other preceptors during second year that I truly realized how excellent Dr. Rochford is! Firstly, the way she approaches her teaching role has always made me feel comfortable learning with her. I feel comfortable asking her questions and sharing my ideas for patient diagnoses and plans. When I'm wrong about something, she never makes me feel inadequate, but instead always takes the time to give a thorough explanation of the topic. She also makes my presence feel valued, and has stood up for me when parents have made rude comments about being seen by a medical student. During every shift she makes my education a priority and we discuss important learning points and resources that are related to the patients we see.

When there are procedures that need to happen, she always explains the steps and rationalle behind them before we enter the patient room. If the same procedure is indicated again at a future shift, she will offer me the opportunity to try to do it. While trying new procedures, she is a great coach in the room. The way she is able to calmly coach me through new things makes me feel comfortable trying things I haven't done before because I know it's okay if I need to ask a question or need to have her take over. I can tell she really cares about teaching and advancing my skills because she always remembers what things we've seen together and talked about.

Additionally, I know she cares about maximizing my education during each shift. When we see patients that need to be picked up, she always choses the ones that might have good learning opportunities, rather than the patients that might be quicker or easier for her to see. When there are other providers with interesting patients, she will find a way for me to learn from them as well. For example, she saw that a different provider was about to do a shoulder reduction, walked me over to the room, and asked if I could stand in front to watch.

I also really appreciate how Dr. Rochford appraoches a patient. She lets patients and their families tell their stories first, then dives in to ask specific clarifying questions. She always practices evidence based strategies and will often use sensitivity, specificity, and validated medical calculator tools to assist her in making decisions about testing or treatments. It's really helpful to see a preceptor practice medicine in a way that mirrors the skills we are taught in our pre-clinical courses.

Overall, Dr. Rochford has been an outstanding preceptor and I feel lucky to learn from her. I enjoy working with her so much that I requested to continue working with her through my LIC clinical year, even though that means more night shifts for me.

Written by: Emma Lamping, class of 2024