2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Sara Scherrer

I heard very early on that one of the goals of the new TREK curriculum was to foster leadership, curiosity, and commitment amongst our class. Dr. Scherrer has embodied these traits in ways I never expected to see, but have fundamentally changed the way I view the role of a clinician and medical provider. She is truly someone that has impacted the vision of who I want to be as a professional in this field.

Dr. Scherrer is committed to her patients. The genuine care she exhibits when she meets with her patients goes beyond the acute medical concern. She takes the time to develop longitudinal relationships to know more of who the person sitting in front of her is, what is happening in their life, and what they need. I have watched her patients light up (even as they sit in the hospital) when she walks in the room as they proceed to update her on their families, travels, troubles, and hardships. Patients bring her baked goods or homemade food as a token of their gratitude for the difference she has made in their lives. Her patients respect her, in part, because she is working WITH them not on them as they navigate their lives.

She pushes those around her to be curious about their field just by being curious herself. I did not attend a single preceptor shift where Dr. Scherrer was not excited about an advancement in the treatment or understanding of some disease or other development. What struck me is why she was excited. What thrilled her is impact it would have on patients. In moments like this, you really get the sense of her passion for bettering the lives of the people around her and how much a lifestyle of constant growth and learning is necessary for the best patient care possible. She has imparted the importance of growth to the people around her simply by being the example and being true to her own values.

As a leader, I had the privilege to see her work with the administration over the course of the last year to ensure patients had access to the best possible treatment she could offer. Sometimes this meant educating herself or those around her on the intricacies of insurance and sometimes it meant helping to write new policies that allowed for a change in the way UCH handles treatment options. Most important to me is that she is the primary care provider for so many of her patients. I did not expect to see this when I was assigned an Infections Disease physician as a preceptor. She changed the way I view who we could be in any given clinic/service. The way she helped facilitate care for so many of her patients by calling other medical professionals, scheduling appointments, researching treatment options, and connecting her patients with resources that can be difficult to find made the most impact on my professional identity formation. The idea that we as a profession have a role to fill for our patients and if you find a gap, you can fill it. Not because it's your job, but because it is what is best for the patient.

I cannot say much more than THANK YOU for starting me on this path and I will be forever grateful. I hope that I will eventually part of your legacy you can be proud of.

Written by: Tyler "Benji" Benjamin

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