2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Fostering Curiosity

Name of Nominee Dr. Stephanie Segal

Dr. Segal was the epitomy of everything I had hoped for in my first medical school preceptor. Prior to my time in clinic with Dr. Segal I had almost no clinical experience and especially no experience working with real patients.

The aspect of Dr. Segal's teaching style that I appreciated above all else, and why I chose to nominate her for her ability to foster curiosity, was her willingness to answer my questions and provoke even deeper thoughts about our patients. The clinical space was at first uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Under Dr. Segal's leadership I soon realized that no question was off-limits and anything we were uncertain about we would work together to find the answer to. I found this to create a learning environment that was incredibly open, focused on leaving the clinic better than we arrived, and above all focused on the care of our patients.

Dr. Segal's commitment and relationships with her patients was what really inspired me in medicine. As Dr. Segal was preparing to transition to a new role at the end of my time with her, I had the privilege of witnessing her last encounters with many of her long-term patients and her transferring of their care to a new physician at her office. The genuine sincerity with which she spoke with these patients, the compassion with which she addressed their concerns, and the care she took to ensure they found a new physician exemplified to me what it means to be a holistic physician and to take care of people, beyond treating their ailments.

The initial discomfort I felt when going to clinic eventually was wholly replaced with a confidence that Dr. Segal would put me in situations that would force me to be better, but that she would always be available to debrief and counsel me afterwards. I cannot overstate how healthy this environment became and how grateful I was to have a mentor that was genuinely invested in my learning and wanted me to be the best medical student and future physician that I can be. I am encouraged about my future in medicine based on the way I witnessed her perform her duties and form genuine and healthy relationships with her many patients.

Any student that has the privilege of working with Dr. Segal in the future will be better for it.

Written by: Reilley Knott

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