2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Stephanie Segal

I am honored to nominate Dr. Stephanie Segal for Outstanding Preceptor because of her dedication to teaching, her welcoming nature in the clinic, and her inspiring communication with her patients.

Beginning from my first meeting with Dr. Segal, she explained her love for teaching students; this was supported throughout my experience. Whether it was her finding resources online to further answer a question I asked deciding in the beginning of the day which patients would be most impactful for me to see, or discussing nuanced ideas in medicine, her love for teaching was clear. She would give me the autonomy to take histories and perform physical exam elements on my own, which was beneficial for my learning. She would provide me with encouraging, and constructive feedback which has been exceptionally helpful for preparing for our rotations next year.

In addition to her dedication to teaching, Dr. Segal cultivates a welcoming environment for her students and patients. Each time I went to her clinic she had a different colorful hair color, which is an aspect of what creates this warm environment. I watched numerous patients tell her that her colored hair allowed them to feel like she was a genuine person and they felt more comfortable with her. She creates a warm environment for students by intentionally creating an area for students in her office, fit with a jar of candy. She also had me and the other students she precepts over to her home. She fed us a homemade meal and introduced us to her family. This action speaks volumes about how dedicated and above-and-beyond Dr. Segal is as a preceptor.

The impactful communication of Dr. Segal with her patients was remarkable to witness. With seeing a diverse patient population as a family medicine provider, it is clear she intentionally changes her communication strategy depending on the patient in front of her. I remember distinctly when she had a telephone visit with a woman who was diagnosed with osteoporosis. Dr. Segal spent thirty minutes talking through each option with her patient, answering each question, validating each concern, and coming to a decision. This patient was very nervous and had numerous questions and anecdotes; not once did Dr. Segal interrupt or pressure this patient in any way. Dr. Segal is remarkable at teaching her students how to empower their future patients through effective communication.

Dr. Segal was invaluable to my learning experience, and I could not have had a better preceptorship experience. She deserves to be awarded Outstanding Preceptor because of her dedication to her students, patients, and cultivating a warm environment in medicine.

Written by: Brittany Marks

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