2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Fostering Curiosity

Name of Nominee Dr. Jonathan Tashkin

Learning from Dr. Tashkin has been one of the biggest privileges of my first year of medical school, and I am honored to nominated him for a Golden Stethoscope Award. Throughout my time with him in the ER, he has shown a true passion for educating the next generation of physicians. To me, "fostering curiosity" means cultivating a learning environment in which your students feel supported an encouraged in testing out their knowledge, and comfortable making the mistakes necessary to grow. Dr. Tashkin consistently demonstrated these qualities and provided me with an excellent environment to grow as a medical student.

Being a part of the Emergency Room environment was a completely new experience for me entering medical school, and one that came with a lot of intimidation. Dr. Tashkin introduced me to this new environment in a way that made me as comfortable as possible. Something that I found extremely helpful was that he never assumed what my level of knowledge was; he always asks what I know about a topic, which ensures that I am never uncomfortable asking questions or expressing the gaps in my knowledge. When it came time for me to interact with patients one-on-one, he made sure to select patients that would be conducive to gathering a history, practicing physical exams, and working on my clinical reasoning. He very purposefully and tactfully set me up for success in this way, which facilitated my growth and confidence.

Dr. Tashkin also provided me with consistent and diverse opportunities to practice my skills, which exemplifies his ability to foster curiosity in his students. He does so in a way that makes me feel capable, but not pressured. For example, the first time I was presented with the opportunity to suture, I decided that I was not prepared to use that skill on patients. He completely understood, and I was able to use that time to observe and learn. The second time I was given the opportunity, I felt able to put the skills I learned into practice. In this way, Dr. Tashkin has always allowed me to progress at a pace that pushes me outside of my comfort zone, but also feels appropriate and confidence-building.

I will always be grateful for the space Dr. Tashkin carved out for me in his clinical environment. He single-handedly turned an experience that was unknown and intimidating to me into something I actively look forward to. He absolutely deserves to be recognized for his fantastic ability to cultivate a space that is so conducive to learning!

Written by: Shivani Beall