2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase 1 Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Laura Macke

I am delighted to send in this letter of nomination for Dr. Laura Macke for the Golden Stethoscope Best Phase I Preceptor Award. Through my experiences with Dr. Macke, she has distinguished herself as an excellent teacher, a caring mentor, and an exceptional physician. I am sure that many Phase I preceptors provide their students with excellent opportunities to learn and practice; what sets Dr. Macke apart are the following reasons why I am nominating her: (1) Dr. Macke artfully creates a balance between providing a safe and challenging experience for me, and (2) despite her busy schedule and seemingly endless patients, I always feel like I am a priority to Dr. Macke.

Just as Dr. Macke gains the trust of her patients as a physician, she has gained my trust in her as my preceptor. Starting off preceptorship as a first year medical student is both exciting and scary, and I was mostly the latter. Growing up in my culture, I was taught to not ask questions because they are a burden onto others and a demonstration of a lack of knowledge. As a result, I grew up afraid of being vulnerable and proactive in my learning. Dr. Macke has been one of the first mentors to break through this fear and make me feel comfortable sharing my lack of experience and desire to grow with her. Ironically, she gained my trust by pushing and challenging me. She empowered me to take risks by giving me opportunities to experience new situations with patients. She would then provide constructive feedback and encouragement. Her patient yet firm approach inspires me to do better each time, and she makes herself widely available as one of the resources I can use to improve. She also lets me take a front seat in my education by constantly soliciting my feedback, and customizing opportunities to work towards my dynamic goals.

Dr. Macke continually makes generous investments in my education through her time and resources. One example, out of many, is when I was having difficulty locating a patient's coracoid process during a shoulder exam. Upon returning to her office, Dr. Macke pulled up her sleeve and challenged me to find her coracoid process. Despite her lengthy to-do list and imminent next patient, we spent several minutes working on this and discussing it until I was confident that I could locate it in any patient. In other examples that have now become routine, Dr. Macke challenges me to come up with unique and creative solutions to patient problems. We have gone through many patient cases together in syncope, neck masses, and swelling, where I am challenged to justify my differential diagnoses, assessments, and plans. Most of the time (all of the time), I am wrong or missing pieces, and she spends ample time discussing each case with me at length such that I can confidently approach these cases in the future. Dr. Macke is tireless in ensuring that I have obtained mastery of a concept before moving on to something else.

In addition to medical training and practice, Dr. Macke also serves as a general mentor. When deciding how to rank my clerkship options, I experienced a lot of fear for the future and difficulty deciding how to proceed. Dr. Macke spent a great deal of time with me in the hour before clinic started, no doubt sacrificing her personal get-ready-and-catch-up time, talking it through with me until I felt reassured and confident in my next steps. Dr. Macke always makes me feel like I am a priority when I am in the office with her.

Thank you for considering my letter of recommendation for Dr. Laura Macke for the Golden Stethoscope Best Phase I Preceptor Award. Dr. Macke is immensely deserving of this accolade for the difference that she has made in my first-year education.

Written by: Jane S. Manalo

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