

2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase II Preceptor

Name of Nominee Jason Zamkoff

I am nominating Dr. Jason Zamkoff for Best Phase 2 Preceptor. – Sarah Nodine (Phase 2).

“Teach me something.” Dr. Zamkoff says to me at 8 am on a Sunday morning in the Children’s Hospital elevator as we head up to our floor. This is how he starts all of our sessions. I then try to find some semblance of words to explain what I am learning about in class at that moment. This semester I was so excited to discuss respiratory viruses with him, as RSV is our bread and butter at CHCO. As I tell him about the RNA virus in more detail than anyone wants to know, he looks at me encouragingly and reaffirms my knowledge. He tells me every day that a career in medicine is humbling and that even he learns something new most days. Having that open mindset has become engrained in me. He tells me that his goal as my preceptor is to make sure I am always learning and because of him I always am.

Dr. Z has constantly encouraged me to ask questions. Whether he is busy, rounds are hectic, or there’s a million things on his plate, he always takes a moment and says “what questions do you have?” I usually have a few, and he subsequently spends ample time answering them. I will never forget the semi legible yet somehow very descriptive drawings he does with expo markers on windows to try and teach concepts. He is capable of explaining confusing topics better than textbooks for me. He took the daunting topic of DKA and clearly and concisely walked me through it like a case presentation. Now, because of his teaching, it just makes sense to me.

His patient care is unsurpassed. I’ve watched him provide such empathetic care and make meaningful connections with patients, which is inspiring to me. He has taught me so much about physical exam skills and patient communication. He has me examine every patient we see, since he knows discriminating heart sounds is my weak spot. He has shown me how to make not only the patient, but also the parents feel cared for. He deeply cares about what he does and the people and patients he works with. I couldn’t ask for a better example of someone who is rewarded by their job every day.

Dr. Zamkoff has a term he calls “Zamkoffian Based Evidence which are trends he has noticed as a clinician that may not be in textbooks. Zamkoffian Based Evidence has shown that 100% of students who work with Dr. Z will become better because of it. I know this because I have become better. My clinical knowledge, my physical exam skills, and my patient interactions are all better because of him. I know I will be a better physician because of my time working with him. Thank you Dr. Z for being my preceptor and subsequently my life coach and mentor.

Written by: Sarah Nodine