2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Phase 2 Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Adam Abraham

Dr. Abraham is one of the best instructors I've had in any civilian or military educational environment and an even better professional role model.

I've heard many of my peers lament that they aren't able to practice the communication and physical exam skills we're taught throughout the curriculum during preceptorship. Not the case with Dr. Abraham. Even as a phase one student, Dr. Abraham quickly encouraged me to interview patients on my own and apply physical exam skills as I saw fit. Over time, through his thoughtful, constructive feedback, Dr. Abraham taught me the value of eliciting a complete history and quickly establishing rapport with patients. I came into medical school with almost no clinical experience and finished my first year feeling comfortable with gathering and presenting the subjective and objective components of a SOAP note--all thanks to Dr. Abraham.

As a second year student, Dr. Abraham further helped me expand my skillset. After I'd conduct an interview and physical exam, he encouraged me to start adding assessment and plan elements to my presentations. While my assessments and plans were misguided more often than not, he always encouraged me to present them to him. He didn't just afford me the opportunity to succeed--more importantly, he afforded me the opportunity to fail and cultivated an environment where failure is considered a chance to learn and progress. For example, when I once told him that I thought a patient had a left middle lobe pneumonia, he focused more on the fact that I was able to identify a likely pneumonia and proper workup including chest x-ray than the fact that there's no such thing as a left middle lobe in the lung.

I'd also be remiss not to mention how much Dr. Abraham's patients adore him. Each time I precept, at least one or two patients tell me how lucky I am to have him to learn from. They value Dr. Abraham as the leader of their healthcare team and rely on him as a pivotol member of their lives--something I hope to be when I'm a physician.

I feel incredibly lucky to have learned from Dr. Abraham over my first two years of school. I firmly believe that my clinical reasoning and ability to link class material with real patients has improved greatly under his guidance. His unique commitment to teaching, constant encouragement to push me outside of my comfort zone, and ability to cultivate an environment conducive to learning all contribute to why I believe Dr. Abraham should be strongly considered for Best Phase 2 Preceptor.

Written by: Matt Paulson

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