2020-2021 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Best Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Susan Ryan

Dr. Susan Ryan in the Rose Medical Center Emergency Department is incredibly deserving of the Best Role Model award. I first met Dr. Ryan as a paramedic in the city and county of Denver and like every other person who meets Dr. Ryan, I was struck by her impeccable care for both her patients and her fellow healthcare responders. If you have ever met Dr. Ryan, you know exactly what I am talking about. If not, I hope you one day have the pleasure to do so. She is simply incredible. Dr. Ryan mentored me far before preceptorship, including as a paramedic to further my clinical reasoning and critical thinking, then through the medical school application process, and now, as her medical student. Dr. Ryan, who often has multiple medical students and residents at one time, never lets any of us feel neglected and encourages and facilitates camraderie amongst the students, residents, nursing staff, and patients. She is like a mayor for the emergency department and doctor all at the same time.

While I could go on and on about Dr. Ryan and her dedication to teaching and why she is deserving of every award on the list, I specifically wanted to nominate her for the Best Role Model award because in addition to learning an incredible amount about medicine from her, I have learned more than I could have ever imagined about interpersonal communications as a physician and genuinely feel like I have become a better person. Dr. Ryan treats all members of the team the same, and she is BELOVED by everyone, from nursing staff, environmental services employees to doctors in other departments and patients alike. It is really hard to put down on paper how loved she is and how well respected she is. While I have noticed her relationships with all of her coworkers certainly makes her job easier and more efficient, the best part about Dr. Ryan is that this isn't why she does it. Dr. Ryan has taken the time to discuss how to be an effective woman physician with me, and I can honestly say if I become half the human she is, I will be the most proud of myself and the doctor I become.

Outside of work, Dr. Ryan is dedicated to community service, specifically in the community of training service dogs. Dr. Ryan is also a huge proponent of employing service dogs to provide support to first responders. In fact, Dr. Ryan trains service puppies and brings them into her shifts in the emergency department to love on the staff and any first responders who come in. She is truly exceptional and dedicated to the well-being of her patients and of her coworkers. See more information here: https://kdvr.com/news/hero-service-dog-gets-sendoff-party-after-comforting-hospital-staff-during-pandemic/

Dr. Ryan is so giving that when I asked her to be my preceptor for medical school, she postponed her retirement. If that doesn't say dedicated to teaching and to being a role model, I don't know what does. I am so grateful to have Dr. Ryan, and she has truly shaped my medical school experience thus far. She inspires me to be a better doctor and to be involved in the community in ways beyond being a physician.

Written by: Coco Wham, MS1