2022-2023 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding DOCS Preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Burke

Dr. Burke has made a major impact on my first year of medical school. Not only is he a fantastic clinician, beloved by his patients, and a voice of reassurance on a sometimes terrifying cancer journey, but he is also a dedicated educator.

From the first time I came to precept, he laid out a framework for how he approached teaching, what he hoped I would learn, and asked me what my own goals were. From the early days, he taught me exam maneuvers we wouldn't end up learning until the spring and challenged me with questions that he knew I could reason through. He pushed me to clinically reason and recall why certain drugs may be effective or how different body systems interacted over the course of a disease. He believed in many of my skills before I believed in myself – examining patients, taking histories, giving presentations. When I did these things, it wasn't just for show. There was a purpose. As I grew in my skills, I could tell that he was trusting my presentation and exam findings. At Dr. Burke's office, I wasn't just some 1st year medical student; I felt like a part of the team that had a small role in taking care of his patients.

Beyond the work at hand, I could always tell that Dr. Burke cared. Before we would walk into a patient room, he would mention "this guy is a fantastic golfer" or "this woman just got back from a Europe trip." He taught me how much it means to care about the small details. While his style is direct and clear (which was incredible to witness and try to emulate), he is so personable that it's impossible for his patients to not trust in him. He leaves no room for doubt that he will take care of his patients – both their disease and their humanity.

I have grown tremendously much over this past year, and I attribute much of my ability to work in the clinic to Dr. Burke and his dedication to helping me learn. I am incredibly grateful for this time and can only hope that more students are able to learn from him in the future.

Written by: Ella Annest

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