2022-2023 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding DOCS preceptor

Name of Nominee Dr. Ben Walker

Dr. Walker is an incredible preceptor and beyond worthy of recognition.

He is a great teacher and always promoted my critical thinking. He always began the preceptor sessions asking if there was anything specific I was hoping to see/do, and he then guided his teaching from there. He worked hard to tailor the patients that I saw depending on my specific interests and what was best correlated to the didactic material I was covering, which make my sessions as valuable and interesting as possible. Additionally, he spent a ton of individualized time with me. Either before or after I saw each patient, he would explain their situation and answer any questions I had. He never made me feel like my questions were insignificant, always provided me with his undivided attention even when extremely busy, and would help me think through the various pathologies. He had the perfect balance of providing direct observation and helpful feedback when I asked, but also didn't helicopter me and gave me space to interact with patients on my own which was an extremely valuable learning experience in and of itself.

He also spent a lot of deliberate time trying to provide me with different experiences in the hospital setting. This was extremely helpful as a first-year student. I saw a breadth of different patient concerns, but he also spent a lot of time going out of his way providing advice and experiences to help me transition into my clerkship year: what an admitting shift is like, how he systemically looks through a new patient's chart, what MDR entails, expectations for MS2's, etc.

He also spent a lot of time helping me with my oral presentations and anything else I wanted to specifically work on. This was so helpful, and he created a great learning environment where I could comfortably practice. He provided great feedback and advice for next year, as well as encouraged me. His help with my oral presentations was incredibly valuable, and I am so appreciative of all of the help and additionally how nice he was when delivering this help because orals are definitely an aspect of clinical work that make me anxious. Whenever I wanted to work on something specific like this, he was a great resource providing advice and also creating an atmosphere where I could practice and improve.

Dr. Walker has been a great mentor for me. He is incredibly knowledgeable and it has been fantastic learning clinical skills/reasoning from him. He has also modeled what I hope to be like with how I treat and interact with patients and my care team. He creates a positive learning environment and you can tell other medical professionals enjoy working with him as well. If I had a family member in the hospital needing care, I would hope Dr. Walker was their physician.

Written by: Grace Thompson

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