2023-2024 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Cleveland Piggott

This past year has both challenged me and fostered growth within me in so many unanticipated ways, and I accredit a key part of that growth to this physician leader. When I started my preceptorship in the fall, I was so nervous about not having all of the knowledge necessary to hit the ground running in the clinical setting. I put a lot of pressure on myself to do well, but I quickly realized how unattainable perfection is. Instead, I was taught that knowledge is a foundation in which you build upon little by little and that no amount of breaking yourself down will ever contribute to the overall structure of who you are as a lifelong learner. I was shown that the pursuit of becoming an excellent physician starts with being a good human.

I want to be the type of physician leader within whom patients and colleagues can confide and turn to for unbiased support. These are some of the qualities that have stood out to me about my preceptor. This past year, it has been an absolute privilege to learn from Dr. Cleveland Piggott. He shows up for his patients in whatever way they need moment-to-moment. I've watched nervous first-time parents light up when they see the doctor who has cared for their infant son since birth enter the room. He knows about their transition back to work and the struggle to find sleep and a reliable babysitter in the process. He smiles as a quick-witted octogenarian playfully teases him before opening up about her recent concerns around memory loss. These conversations are always centered around patient values and tools to empower them in their care. When a teenage mother came to clinic for her first prenatal visit, he sat with her and gently asked her about her goals and what support she might need to flourish along the way. He listened without judgement, discussed all of her options, and ultimately connected her with a support system for young moms.

This patience, compassion, and unrelenting desire to help others extends to his colleagues, residents, and students as well. Dr. Piggott cultivates a culture of collaboration with both his patients and the team at AF Williams. He checks in with other physicians and supports them when they have questions or busy schedules. He empowers the residents through active listening, autonomy in their patient care, open-ended questions that allow them to critically think through next steps, and non-judgmental feedback throughout their learning. When it comes to my learning, he always encourages me to set my own goals. He challenges me to sit with and work through my areas of opportunity so that they will one day become strengths. Not only has he provided me with support and guidance in navigating patient care and my first year as a medical student, but he has also given me with an invaluable perspective on what it will mean to my future patients and teams to become an excellent physician, a good human before anything else, and a collaborative leader.

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