2023-2024 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Demonstrating Leadership

Name of Nominee Dr. Jarrett Leech

Precepting alongside Dr. Leech was the most valuable collection of experiences I have had in my first year at CU. When I found out I was paired with an attending neurologist, I was excited but anxious, as precepting would be my first encounter with inpatient care, as well as working with an entire care team of attendings, resident physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other medical students.

From our initial meeting, I could tell Dr. Leech was an exceptional mentor. His immediate willingness to have personal conversations outside of the standard “med talks” made him feel approachable and trustworthy. Further, as someone with an enormous lack of medical knowledge (at least at the start of the year), I had many questions. Dr. Leech fostered an environment where questions were both welcomed and celebrated.

In both the clinic and inpatient settings, Dr. Leech exemplified what it means to be a leader in healthcare. His team leaned on him for advice, both silently and directly, and he always provided constructive and respectful commentary that was immensely valuable. Even when he noticed something that prompted him to comment, say, in an oral presentation of a patient, he would wait until the presentation was over to first support and applaud the student or resident’s effort, and then add in his thoughts wherever necessary. This approach not only maintained a positive learning environment but also built confidence in all the team members.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Dr. Leech’s leadership was the trust he had in his team, as well as the trust that we had in him. Whenever he spoke, everyone stopped to listen, as his insights were not only respected but eagerly awaited. This trust was evident even in the most complex cases, where the most experienced and eager team members always looked to him first for his thoughts. His ability to navigate these challenging situations with composure and clarity set a powerful example for all of us.

The diversity of presentations we encountered in the hospital was another highlight of my precepting experience. Dr. Leech allowed me to witness a wide range of medical presentations and patient scenarios, each of which offered unique learning opportunities for me. Some of these patients were being seen primarily by other providers, and some had presented for the first time. But, Dr. Leech’s comprehensive and inquisitive approach to new patients, especially while on consult, set the perfect example for a student like me. His thoroughness and dedication to understanding each patient’s story reinforced the importance of holistic and patient-centered care, and this attitude was further embodied by the rest of his team. The lessons I learned under his guidance will undoubtedly shape my approach to medicine and patient care in my future career.

Written by: Evan Haas B.S.

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