2024-2025 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

Name of Nominee Kara Alexandrovic

Dear Golden Stethoscope Award committee,
I am excited to nominate Dr. Kara Alexandrovic for the Golden Stethoscope Award in the category of Outstanding Role Model. I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Alexandrovic this year as part of the first-year DOCS preceptorship program to introduce students to the clinical setting. In addition to being an outstanding clinician who is clearly loved by her patients, Dr. Alexandrovic is an excellent teacher. I was intimidated by the prospect of seeing patients in OB/GYN clinic, as I had no prior experience in the field, but Dr. Alexandrovic made me feel comfortable and confident. She helped me grow and allowed me to explore my growing interest for OB/GYN throughout the year. Through working with her, I have developed an appreciation and passion for women's health that I did not have prior to this year.

One particularly memorable patient encounter was with a woman being evaluated for vaginal bleeding who needed an exam to evaluate a potential cervical mass. Dr. Alexandrovic didn't know this patient prior to this encounter, but from how she treated her you would have thought they were lifelong friends. I remember being struck with how compassionate she was while also also being clear and direct as she laid out the clinical plan. She approached the patient and her partner as a team member, not an authority figure, and I could feel the tension and fear in the room dissipate. It was clear to me in that moment that Dr. Alexandrovic embodies the kind of physician that I hope to become.

The first year of medical school is an incredibly daunting experience. It is especially challenging to enter the clinical space in a new role with new responsibilities that include the awesome sense of responsibility for a patient's health. Dr. Alexandrovic has been an incredible mentor to have by my side during that transition. She has the ability to balance teaching, patient care, and kindness, and has always made me feel included in the conversation in clinic. Now that I am staring down the barrel of my LIC year, I feel so lucky to have had the chance to work with her and learn from her. I feel not just prepared, but excited to take a more active role in clinical care next year. Dr. Alexandrovic has gone above and beyond my expectations for a first-year preceptor and I hope to be able to continue working with her as a mentor. I genuinely believe that she has altered the course of my career for the better, and demonstrated to me what it looks like to be a confident clinician, surgeon, advocate, and friend to her patients.

Written by: Ainsley Hutchison