2024-2025 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Fostering Curiosity

Name of Nominee Stacy Dixon, MD, PhD

Dr. Stacy Dixon (neuromuscular neurology) is very deserving and fitting of the Golden Stethoscope award for Fostering Curiosity. Throughout my first year of medical school, I had the privilege of witnessing her dedication to patient-centered care and lifelong learning. She consistently demonstrates the ability to reason through complex patient presentations, create a thorough differential diagnosis, and apply the principles of evidence-based medicine.

Dr. Dixon is very involved in conducting clinical research trials for various neuromuscular disorders, and her patients are always very excited and hopeful to discuss potential emerging therapies and clinical trials with her. This undoubtedly requires resilience, as many of her patients face conditions with limited therapeutic options and underlying research, such as SMA and ALS.

Another way that Dr. Dixon exemplifies curiosity is by exploring and integrating latest research into her practice. On many occasions, I observed Dr. Dixon turning to PubMed between patients to become more educated on rare disorders, their spectrum of presentations, and possible treatment options. I could tell that this action was out of genuine curiosity and that she was motivated by a drive to provide her patients with the best possible care. This was an example of how much energy and passion Dr. Dixon put into every patient visit she had.

I will never forget the many times when Dr. Dixon would explain rare genetic syndromes to me, diving into specific gene mutations and even the consequences on protein folding. She has an exceptional habit of thinking very deeply about each patient presentation, embracing the scientific knowledge she has.

Through my short time working with Dr. Dixon, she established in me a fire to remain curious during every patient interaction, and to act on this curiosity by commiting to a career of lifelong learning, research, and exploration. I am inspired to stay up-to-date with current research trials to provide the best education and care for my future patients, and I am motivated to learn about medicine in a deeply detailed and scientific way, while simultaneously understanding the patient as a whole person. Dr. Dixon models the best of academic medicine, and she truly resembles the definition of fostering curiosity.

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