2024-2025 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for: Outstanding Role Model

Name of Nominee Dr. Ann Klein

It is with great admiration and gratitude that I nominate Dr. Klein for the Golden Stethoscope Award for Outstanding Role Model. Throughout my time in clinic, Dr. Klein has exemplified the very best of what it means to be a physician and a mentor. Her approach to patient care is rooted in deep empathy, humility, and a commitment to truly meeting patients where they are.

Dr. Klein never approaches a patient encounter with assumptions. Instead, she enters each room with curiosity, compassion, and respect for each individual's unique experiences and challenges. She strives to understand her patients as whole people—their barriers, their stories, and their goals. In doing so, she creates a safe and trusting environment that empowers patients to open up about deeply personal and often vulnerable issues. I vividly remember one encounter in which a patient disclosed an eating disorder. Dr. Klein held space for her with such grace and attentiveness—it was clear the patient felt heard and supported. She validated the patient's strength and courage, and before suggesting any clinical steps, she first asked what the patient wanted. It was a powerful moment that demonstrated Dr. Klein's unwavering respect for patient autonomy and her ability to build trust in difficult moments.

As a preceptor, Dr. Klein has profoundly shaped my clinical education. She gave me significant independence—from conducting patient interviews to presenting cases and writing notes—while always remaining a supportive and attentive presence. She provided thoughtful, specific feedback after every encounter, helping me grow in both confidence and skill. Her balance of trust and guidance pushed me to stretch beyond my comfort zone and helped me realize what I am capable of.

Through her example, Dr. Klein has shown me what it truly means to care for patients not just as cases, but as human beings. The lessons I've learned from her—about empathy, partnership, and presence—are ones I will carry with me throughout the rest of my training and into my future career. I hope to one day emulate the kind of physician and role model she is.

Dr. Klein's impact on her patients and her students is profound and lasting. She is more than deserving of this recognition.

Written by: Neha Bharadwaj

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