

# 2024-2025 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

Nominated for:

## *Name of Nominee*

Dr. Solomon is the kind of preceptor from whom I wish every medical student had the opportunity to learn. I can only hope I've internalized even a fraction of the wisdom, professionalism and generosity that he naturally exhibits as a teacher, team-member and clinician.

We were sitting in the room with a patient, and it was my first time running an observed encounter, start to finish, on my own. The computer stalled, I could not get into EPIC, and every question I had prepared suddenly evaporated from my brain. After a few faltering sentences, in a last-ditch effort to cover my panicked silence, I blurted out, "so...where are you coming from?" – earning a puzzled look from the patient. As I braced for the weight of the growing silence, Dr. Solomon chimed in casually, "Denver traffic can be really crazy." He continued on a conversation about long drives, shouldering the transition as both the computer and my brain returned online. To anyone else, this moment seems trivial. But to me, and to any other first-year medical student confronting a new experience, it was a lifeline. He could have pivoted, re-started the visit in his own style, or allowed the silence to continue. But instead, he used his position to support my flailing prompt and nurture it into a real conversation. He then asked me how I wished to continue the visit, helped me re-calibrate my plan, and gracefully stepped back to allow me to lead again. He truly embodied the quote, "leaders instill in their people a hope for success and a belief in themselves."

This anecdote is but a miniscule representation of the role model that Dr. Solomon is. As a teacher and mentor, he creates an environment for students in which they feel safe to learn, to try (even at the risk of making mistakes), to be curious and to participate actively. He has a way of understanding a new learner's limits while never treating them as limited. When we would debrief post-patient visit, he spoke to me about his perspectives, ideas, plans, even doubts, as if I were an equal collaborator. To every question I asked, he gave genuine consideration and thoughtful answers, as if it were the first time he had heard that question be uttered. In every input I offered, he found in it a new point of value. It is in the way he listens and responds with such sincerity and receptiveness that inspires me to do the same.

I believe this is why he so quickly earns trust from even the most doubtful patients: a skill I aim to master. With every stone they carry – no matter how rough, rigid or unrelenting -- he seemingly turns it over in his mind, weighing it carefully amongst the vast fund of knowledge he possesses. He looks at it with the wisdom of someone who has seen hundreds of similar stones, yet with the adaptability to put on a fresh pair of glasses each time, doing his best to set aside any biased lens. So, when he says, "let's get you feeling better," you can tell he really means it, because he makes you feel as if he understands the wholeness and depth of you as a person.

I cannot think of a preceptor more deserving of the Golden Stethoscope award for being an Outstanding Role Model. I've learned so much from him by mere osmosis: by simply observing and operating in the same space, he has shown a new learner like me what it authentically looks like to lead with intellectual curiosity, open-mindedness and humility.

Written by: