2024-2025 Golden Stethoscope Nomination
Nominated for:

Name of Nominee Jason Zamkoff, MD

Dear Members of the Golden Stethoscope Awards Committee,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for Dr Jason Zamkoff, MD, who has served me as an outstanding DOCS Preceptor and mentor and has left an indelible mark on both my professional development and personal growth. He exemplifies the very best of medical education—compassion, patient-centered focus, and sincerity in cultivating the next generation of thoughtful, skilled physicians.

From the first session I attended with Dr Zamkoff, it was clear that to him an encounter is more than simply a checklist of techniques, but rather an opportunity to connect meaningfully with his patients. Through his personable, earnest coaching, I came to appreciate how each physical exam, every patient interview, and even subtle non-verbal cues could be part of a larger, holistic approach to healing. He consistently emphasized the importance of listening deeply, respecting each patient's story, and evoking the complex interplay of physical, emotional, and social factors in every diagnosis and treatment plan. He helped me remember especially to ask questions early about patients' goals of care and worries or expectations to help craft plans and offer management strategies that best align with their desires and values.

What sets Dr Zamkoff apart is not only his clinical acumen but also his ability to communicate in a simple, thoughtful manner. He challenged me to think beyond the immediate presenting symptoms and to consider how I, as a future physician, could use the "art" of medicine to improve lives beyond the exam room, and approach the problems each patient faces from a whole-health perspective. It was by modeling this approach that he helped me refine my understanding of medicine as a humanistic endeavor—one that values empathy as highly as evidence.

Thanks to Dr Zamkoff's mentorship, I now approach my LIC year with a greater sense of curiosity, humility, confidence, excitement and purpose. He has not only helped shape my clinical approach but has also instilled in me a lifelong commitment to treating patients with dignity, compassion, and to viewing them through a quintessentially human lens.
I am confident that Dr Zamkoff will continue to be a tremendous asset to any educational or clinical setting and a source of inspiration to countless other students, just as he has been for me, and he continues even now to offer opportunities to shadow and learn with him, demonstrating his commitment not only to teaching, but to establishing longitudinal mentoring relationships with his students.

Written by: Dalton Tanner

University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus