

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to nominate Dr. David Kass of Upper Great Lakes/UP Health Systems Portage for Family Medicine Clerkship Community Faculty Member of the Year. Dr. Kass is not only an exemplary physician who treats every patient with dignity and compassion, he is also an excellent teacher who goes out of his way to create learning opportunities for the students who work with him.

As a physician, Dr. Kass not only sees a full schedule of patients in clinic, but he also completes cardiac stress tests and nursing home rounds in the morning prior to seeing patients. He is very busy and sacrifices much of his personal time to provide care for his patients in each of these settings. He is one of the most personable and compassionate physicians I've had the privilege of working with, as I have rarely seen patients so comfortable chatting and sharing as I've seen in Dr. Kass' practice. Not only is he a warm-hearted and caring physician, Dr. Kass is very intelligent and by far one of the most proficient and competent physicians I have had the opportunity to learn from.

As a teacher, Dr. Kass went above and beyond to make sure that I was learning new things. He invited me to observe stress tests in the morning and went over each test with me individually. He encouraged me to look at the studies myself beforehand and come up with a result prior to discussing it with him. This helped me become a more proficient and confident learner. During nursing home rounds, he allowed me to interview patients on my own and do my own documentation. He would often send me to see patients who he thought I had something in common with to help me get even more out of the experience. He also encouraged me to take extra time to chat with the patients and provide friendly conversation, which I think made the interactions more meaningful for the patients. In the clinic, Dr. Kass encouraged me to interview patients independently, write notes, and develop a differential and management plan all before he saw the patient himself. He would consider my thoughts and often implement my plans or ideas, which made me much more confident as a student. When labs or studies came back, he would have me look at the results independently prior to discussion, which helped me become more proficient in interpreting results. He offered feedback liberally, and was very gentle when providing constructive criticism. I thoroughly enjoyed the time I was able to spend with him as a student, and learned a great deal from him about becoming an exemplary physician.

Dr. Kass has been one of the most influential preceptors I have had the privilege of working with, and firmly re-established my decision to go into family medicine. He is very deserving of recognition for his outstanding dedication to both his students and to the practice of family medicine.

Sincerely,

Valerie Taglione, MS4