

Michigan State University – Department of Family Medicine

Family Medicine Clerkship Preceptor of the Year Award

Nominee's Name: Dr. Paul Karr

Dr. Karr was an outstanding family physician preceptor and would be extremely deserving of the Preceptor of the Year award. I spent four weeks in his clinic during the beginning of my third year of medical school. Dr. Karr considered where I was in my medical training, and made sure to tailor my experience appropriately. He spent extra time helping me perfect my patient presentations and pushed me to develop differential diagnoses and plans for each patient.

An average day with Dr. Karr started with him reviewing his schedule, as well as that of his partners, and making sure that I made it to the cases that would provide the best learning opportunities (such as rarer condition or procedures). He would send me into patients' rooms with limited information to allow me to gather a full history on my own. He would then review the plan with me and use that as a learning moment. He also would ask me relevant basic science questions, but never in a "pimping" way. During his lunch hour, he would spend time explaining the business of medicine or just talking about life. At the end of every day, we would spend an hour reviewing the cases of the day and what was important to remember about each one.

Dr. Karr also went above and beyond to make sure that I had exposure to different procedures. At the end of the clerkship, he learned that I did not perform a knee injection and that casting clinic had been cancelled. He let me inject a saline shot in his knee as well as put a cast on his right arm so that I could get the experience. He has continued to support me in my pursuit of family medicine after the end of the elective, and has been one of the most meaningful parts of my medical training.