



CDEM Faculty Highlight



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What is your most memorable moment of teaching?

A moment working with a senior EM resident on her last shift of residency – after she put in a central line in a crashing patient, she said to me “Wow, I remember when you walked me through my first central line as a medical student, it seems like so long ago”. It was on the surface a very simple and ordinary interaction, but reflecting on my drive home it was a wonderful reminder how often we have a profound impact on our students (that we often forget but they remember years later) without realizing it. I try to hold on to moments like that when we get those wonderful reminders.

Who or what is your biggest influence?

My patients are my biggest influence. Working in a county hospital ED we have the privilege of providing care to patients and populations that struggle with so many things that we take for granted. The resilience and strength of our patients is inspiring. Of course not every patient encounter makes us feel this way (“no sir, I can’t refill those prescriptions for you”), but if we take the time to dig a little deeper in our patient encounters we can take away so much goodness and maintain our gratitude and wellness.

Any advice for other clerkship directors?

Return e-mails from students right away or make sure you have a process that they don’t get overlooked (a folder in your account that you attend to daily). Of course I’m only giving this advice because I’m not

great at it myself (though certainly much improved) and have learned these lessons the hard way. Pay particular attention to emails from EM-bound students during the application/interview process. Many of their questions are time critical and even if not, are related to high levels of anxiety that we can often help calm.

What is your favorite part about being an educator/director?

The relationships I've developed with faculty members outside of my department. It's one of the great blessings of diving into undergraduate medical education. I have a great network of colleagues in almost all fields. Some have become research collaborators, others mentors or role models, and a few who I've sought to take care of me or a family member (it can also make those "soft admissions" much easier).

Any interesting factoids you would like to share?

After years of unhealthy eating and no exercise as a med student, resident, and junior faculty member I took up running about 12 years ago. For whatever reason it seems to have stuck with me. To date I've run 6 full marathons and over a dozen halves and 10Ks. I'm running my first international marathon in February (Tel Aviv).