

## What our Fellows Say about our Faculty

The fellows are asked to confidentially evaluate their attending physicians after their rotations. Here are selected comments about our faculty that illustrates their breadth and depth in the teaching role. Notice the common themes about what makes effective teachers.

I am impressed that Dr. Gary Buckholz is so good at balancing the many roles of an attending while he is relatively new on faculty. I appreciate his willingness to allow me to make the vast majority of management decisions in inpatient care. I also appreciate his efforts to teach. He was always willing to help with ‘nuts and bolts’ work as much or as little as I asked him.

Dr. Frank Ferris is a role model for teaching, human being and big brother. His skills, information and personality were very helpful in teaching for this month. Not only his clinical skills and information, but also his way of talking with team members—patient--was very effective. He is very kind and has a sense of humor which is very vital for a successful physician. We are lucky to have him here.

Dr. Frank Ferris is an excellent teacher with immense breadth & depth of knowledge which he readily shares. Overall fabulous, patient, thorough—thorough! teacher, mentor, advocate & role model. It is clear how he played a critical role in the advancement of palliative care—bringing forth the pathophysiology, pharmacology into the medicine with a humanistic approach. He has demonstrated how to bridge the language and culture gap between goals of patients—‘the soft stuff’ with the science, evidence-based approach of the medical community.

I spent a completely excellent, practical and useful month with Dr. Frank Ferris. He has demonstrated a way of looking at patients and their care that is entirely new to me and will improve my skills as a physician greatly.

I could listen to Dr. Ferris talk for hours, but I’d like the option of only listening from scheduled start to scheduled end times. Dr. Ferris is brilliant but a bit long –winded. His time management flaws are an acceptable price to pay for access to his clinical acumen.

Dr. Lewis is a highly skilled teacher. He is excellent at not ‘micro-managing’ but rather focusses on the ‘big picture’. He is a ‘model physician’. He embodies the description of ‘a gentleman and a scholar’.

Dr. Lewis is a wonderful teacher who created a culture of humanism & excellent and truly an interdisciplinary approach to palliative care. He is extremely supportive, allowing the fellow to develop his or her own style while challenging the fellow to improve leadership skills.

Dr. Naco was wonderful to work with. He allowed me enough freedom to do my job and learn and he was always available for help. He was always ready to teach and his personality always kept it fun and enjoyable.

Dr. Steve Oppenheim is an incredible patient advocate. Dr. Oppenheim models a high level of professionalism and ethics. He is unique in his ability to teach, direct in a non-micromanaging manner. Through encouragement and gentle probes he challenges the learner to further exploration of knowledge, science & practice. He is clear on his objectives, which eliminates second guessing, while open to and supportive of creativity on the part of the fellow.

Dr. Julie Prazich provided just the right amount of supervision and involvement during my month in the ICC. She is an excellent physician and role model.

I felt considerable growth as the month with Dr. Renee Smilde progressed. When I first walked into the ICU I felt a bit weak in the knees. By the end of the month I felt comfortable there, even providing consultation to some attending physicians who had been rather intimidating.

I feel quite fortunate to have spent 2 months with Dr. Jeff Stoneberg as my attending physician. His mentoring was supportive, patient and constructive. I felt I was learning important lessons daily, not only from our discussions but also by his example. I had to keep reminding myself that he was in my role only a year ago. I hope I can be nearly as competent as he one year from now.

I feel quite fortunate to have spent a month under Dr. Jeff Stoneberg's mentorship. His relaxed yet confident manner helped greatly to keep my anxiety in check (and I think helped to keep the whole wing's atmosphere peaceful and stable). Attendings may not realize how much of a role model they can be as we develop our own styles. I have been especially appreciative of his willingness to help when he saw I was getting tired or overwhelmed.

Dr. Jay Thomas is an excellent clinician and scientist.

Dr. Annette Vollrath is fabulous at the bedside. She epitomizes the palliative care physician who 'gets it'. Her compassion & empathy are unsurpassed, bringing a depth to discussion and assessment I hope to integrate into my own practice. She brought literature to rounds, stimulating others to use and using clinical questions as stimulus and focus for ongoing learning and discussion.

Dr. Annette Vollrath is a very non-threatening, positive & supportive in her teaching style. This really helped me to stay energized and committed to do my very best during this rather exhausting month. Her very positive and enthusiastic countenance was infectious and a model I can only hope to emulate.

Dr. Marcia Yee is excellent and enjoyable staff physician to work with. She has a particularly strong knowledge of geriatric care.

Dr. Marcia Yee is a fabulous addition to the faculty as a means to teach the complexity of long term care based hospice & palliative care. She was great at keeping in touch, following up and processing clinical and organizational thinking. Dynamic & dedicated.

Dr. Marcia Yee has an excellent background in nursing home medicine which she is happy to share with the fellows. She is very good at stressing the importance of dealing with families and she performs this task skillfully. Working with Dr. Yee has been a pleasure and is a very positive experience for the fellows

Dr. Charles von Gunten is one of the big reasons I came here and continues to impress & amaze me. I had an amazing month with him. I hope to fail so I can repeat this month over.

During my whole medical career thus far, I've never encountered anyone even approaching the caliber of Dr. von Gunten in terms of being a complete physician in every sense, a wonderful teacher and I believe it is not overstating to say, a revolutionary pushing medicine way beyond its comfortable boundaries. I have felt most privileged to be under his mentorship this past month and will try very hard to integrate all the many lessons we've been provided by his Socratic questioning and fine example into my own behavior from here on out.

Dr. Charles von Gunten is a fabulous mentor! Very supportive & trusting. Available & easily accessible. I never felt as though I were imposing. Modelled bedside interaction, teaching, consulting & politicking well. I'll take with me a lot of information I hope I don't forget!