"I was rotating in an ICU with Dr. Symonds where he initially established a precedent as a future clinical educator and mentor. For example, while the code team was responding to a Condition A, he took the time to educate the learners on what was happening and to teach us about resuscitation and ACLS. More important, and what truly sets Dr. Symonds apart, is how he treated a learner on a different team. During the abovementioned Condition, we learned that it was a medical student who initially recognized the patient was pulseless, immediately started compressions, and instructed the nurse to call a Condition. After 30 minutes of resuscitation, it was obvious that the patient would not live, at which point the medical student became emotional. Despite being surrounded by approximately 30 bystanders, no one asked him how he was doing. However, Dr. Symonds recognized the student's pain and spent time comforting and reassuring them. This small act may have gone unnoticed to many, but it was largely consistent with exemplary behavior consistently demonstrated by Dr. Symonds. He is an incredibly compassionate intern, and I am assured that the learning environment at Pitt Med will be a better place because of residents like Dr. Symonds."

-- submitted by a UPSOM student

Fall 2020: ICU

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