

Mentors Making a Difference

Jill Hall

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It became very obvious early on in my residency cardiology rotation that my preceptor was extraordinary. Everything about her exuded passion, intelligence, confidence - from the way she stood so tall on rounds, to her piercing eyes as she questioned me about my patients, to the conviction in her voice when she addressed medication issues to the team. Jill Hall - she was exactly who I wanted to be, but I simply did not know how to get there. Over the next 4 weeks, I tried to absorb every ounce of wisdom from her, intently listening to every word, reading every article, performing every task asked of me. I learned more about cardiology than I ever knew before, but the lessons did not end there. She taught me about compassion when we met a patient with scoliosis who had become paralyzed from CPR after cardiac arrest. Tears rolled down his eyes as the team broke the news to him - a moment I will never forget. She taught me to never assume and always talk to the patient when I too quickly dismissed that the patient's zopiclone 15mg PO HS was not necessary (he had tried 7.5mg and it was not effective). She even taught me about myself - how I have a blank stare when I'm thinking that makes people wonder if I'm listening to them at all. I have since then tried to nod at everyone speaking to me so they don't have the same misunderstandings. She taught me to never stop learning, as she was doing the PharmD program while precepting me, and has since then never stopped excelling in her career. Most importantly, she modeled for me what it means to be a pharmacist practicing to expanded scope; it forever changed the trajectory of my career. It has been 8 years since my short time together with Jill, but those brief moments have been defining in who I am today as a pharmacist. Every time I speak to a patient candidly, recommend medications confidently, or precept a student sternly, I reminisce briefly - about how all these unassumingly characteristic "Erica" traits were actually taught, practiced, and refined - because I was lucky enough to have someone like Jill to aspire to, and because she took time out of her busy schedule to guide me and care for me.