



Boston University School of Medicine

Section of General Internal Medicine

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Dear Awards Committee,

I am writing this letter to nominate Jane Liebschutz, MD for the Department of Medicine Outstanding Citizenship Award.

I first met Jane when I was a fourth year medical student, in 1994. I was visiting Boston City Hospital (BCH) as a primary care internal medicine resident applicant, and observed her precepting residents in clinic. From this first interaction, I was impressed by Jane's deep commitment to BCH (and now BMC) patients and to the institution as a whole. For the past three years, I have had the privilege of practicing alongside Jane in Shapiro Suite 6B (and prior to that in the Yawkey building in the Latino Clinic), observing Jane in her role as interim Section Chief for General Internal Medicine, teaching General Medicine fellows, and collaborating with her on a project to improve opioid prescribing in the Community Health Centers.

The past two years have been difficult ones for the Section of General Internal Medicine; at the time I write this letter, 24 individuals have left the Section. Jane has distinguished herself as a person who is deeply committed to making the Section, the Department of Medicine, and BMC as an organization, a better place to work. These efforts are guided by a desire to promote provider retention and ultimately improve patient satisfaction and outcomes. As interim section chief from November 2011-April 2012, Jane worked tirelessly to promote bottom-up engagement from her colleagues. She sought input from her colleagues, at a time when many were feeling disenfranchised. She invited honest dialogue about practice conditions, and the challenges of the BMC practice environment. In eliciting solutions from her colleagues, Jane helped to raise morale in the Section, and promoted our well-being. Her commitment to promoting her colleagues' wellness is further demonstrated by her new role as BMC Wellness Director.

I have also observed Jane in her role as Director of the GIM Fellowship and Preventive Medicine Residency. Jane has demonstrated a tireless dedication to her trainees, both on an individual level and to the program as a whole. Jane is a mentor who always makes herself available to trainees. When the fellowship was at risk of losing its funding, Jane responded by writing multiple grants. She is now serving as PI on three grants funded during the past 18 months to sustain and enhance the fellowship program. Some of these grants do not provide her with salary support; her involvement in the grant activities is pure citizenship.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines citizenship as "the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community." I can think of no individual who has had a greater response to membership in the DOM community. Jane has currently chairs two committees (the Faculty Development and Diversity Committee and the Primary Care Director search committee) and is currently (or has recently been) a member of six other committees (the Family Medicine Chair search committee, the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee, the DOM Finance Committee, the BUMC Faculty Affairs Committee, the Managed Services Board, and the Lynn Stevens Memorial Award Committee).

I support Jane Liebschutz's nomination with great enthusiasm and no reservations.

Sincerely,

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