



June 5, 2020

Dr. Gail Lam  
Preceptor  
University of Calgary  
Calgary, AB

**Re: 2019-2020 PARA Clinical Teaching Award Honourable Mention – University of Calgary**

Dear Dr. Lam:

The Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA) is pleased to inform you that you have received an Honorable Mention for the 2019-2020 PARA *Clinical Teaching Award* for the University of Calgary. This award recognizes physician preceptors who have shown excellence in resident physician education.

This is what your nominators shared about your commitment to medical education:

*“Dr. Lam provides comprehensive and compassionate care that comes from being consistently up-to-date on the evidence and her decades of clinical experience. She places a strong emphasis on teamwork, whether it be engaging her complex patients in their own care or involving other subspecialists, allied health workers, or administrative members of the team. She is respected by her colleagues and patients alike, clearly emphasizing patient-centred care.*

*Whether in the Operating Room (OR), on Labour & Delivery, or in clinic, Dr. Lam goes out of her way to teach residents around cases and procedures. In a very busy service, she regularly makes time to pass on clinical pearls or discuss possible approaches to problems. She adapts to the level or specialty of her learner with ease, and utilizes a combination of bedside teaching, reviewing evidence, and discussing past and present cases of her own. Beyond teaching the nuts and bolts of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN), she also offers feedback around our communication or interprofessional interactions to help learners grow in more than just medical skills.*

*Dr. Lam has a special way of taking an interest in her learners at both a personal and professional level. She outlines her expectations, including those for herself as a preceptor, and is dedicated to supporting residents through the ups and downs of their rotations. She exemplifies work-life balance, and regularly discusses life outside of medicine. With a good sense of humour and a listening ear, she has been a mentor and reference for countless numbers of our current and past residents. She delves head-first into the nuances of the hidden curriculum and we feel heard not only as her students but as individuals with her constant interest and concern in our overall wellness. She never fails to listen to our concerns, complaints, and grievances, or to celebrate in our accomplishments, celebrations, and joys in both our careers and more importantly in our lives outside medicine.*

*Not all attending physicians have the same comfort as Dr. Lam with running a Chief Resident rotation, allowing senior residents to run a clinic independently and take the lead in the OR or on Labour & Delivery. Besides the innumerable number of hours of support she dedicates to running the Chief Resident rotation (including making time on her days off to review our cases and plans), she has also been a strong resident advocate voice on the OB/GYN Residency Program Committee (RPC). She works hard to support both OB/GYN residents and the off-service junior residents of the PGY1 program on rotation, liaising with the RPC and Chief Residents to ensure a quality learning environment. She also commits her time and expertise to preparation for Royal College OSCEs and half-day sessions.*

*Dr. Lam's philosophy is perhaps best described as a balance of both guidance and freedom. This is across all levels and environments of learning. She is willing to stand behind our decisions, whether it be management for a clinic patient or use of a particular instrument in the OR, as long as we can provide a justification. She challenges us with questions, and encourages us to try things differently while also weighing in with her clinical judgement and experiences. Pushing us to grow, we know that she will never let us do harm and that she has our backs as we explore the limitations of our skills and understanding. This is not an easy balance to maintain, but we are so appreciative of her clear motivation to uphold this philosophy*

*Additional Comments – Erin Sloan: As a resident Dr. Lam guided me through my first few months of residency in R1 and through my transition to practice in my chief year. She is a teacher that can not only highlight your strengths and encourage you but also challenge your weaknesses and in doing so make you a better clinician. As highlighted above I felt supported in every clinical domain but also personally while I made the transition from learner to clinician. Dr. Lam has high expectations of her residents but she is also someone you know has your best interests at heart and is working hard for you.*

*Additional Comments – Serena (Xinye) Wang: As a junior resident at just the beginning of my training, I continue to be inspired by the balance Dr. Lam strikes between supporting me in my uncertainty while encouraging me to develop my own confidence as a clinician. On a day-to-day basis, Dr. Lam ensures to close the loop when running teaching sessions on service by checking to make sure that she has discussed the pertinent objectives and learning points around an interesting case and answered all of our questions, even if it means coming back to a topic in the future. Regardless how busy it may be on service she never fails to create opportunities for learning that go beyond just knowledge but focus on important skills in our development from student learners to competent physicians. As a junior resident, Dr. Lam helps to nurture my independence by helping me to develop a sense of confidence around my own clinical decision making. Dr. Lam's compassion and advocacy go beyond the care she delivers for her patients, and extends to all those who have the pleasure to work alongside her."*

Again, congratulations on receiving this Honourable Mention for the 2019-2020 PARA Clinical Teaching Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Rizzuti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Francesco Rizzuti  
PARA President

*cc: Dr. Jon Meddings, Dean, Cummings School of Medicine*

*Dr. Lisa Welikovitch, Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education Office*