



June 5, 2020

Dr. Rahim Kachra  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
University of Calgary  
Calgary, AB

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

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Dear Dr. Kachra:

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:

*"I am writing to nominate Dr. Rahim Kachra for the PARA Clinical Teaching Award. Dr. Kachra is an outstanding professional, colleague, and mentor, but I believe he should be viewed first as an outstanding clinical educator. Dr. Kachra has made significant contributions to every level of medical education and continues to be a leader in innovation and medical curriculum design. He is invested in the development of individual medical trainees, the undergraduate (UME) and post-graduate medical education (PGME) programs, and continuing medical education.*

*Dr. Kachra's formal roles within the UME include the Director of Internal Medicine Clerkship and Director of Teaching Innovation. As the Internal Medicine Clerkship Director, he is working to improve the clerkship experience by creating appropriate and relevant objectives for academic half days and for each subspecialty rotation. By updating the Internal Medicine (IM) clerkship clinical examinations and facilitating clerkship committee meetings to adequately address the trainee needs, he is dedicated to setting students up for success during this rotation. He facilitates the OSCE and written exam, and as an Internist himself, he works directly with medical students while on service. As part of his focus on quality patient care, his routine incorporates meaningful clinical and bedside teaching for his trainees. This is a general consensus among medical students as reflected in his receipt of the Gold Star Teaching Award in the Internal Medicine Clerkship and the Excellence in Clerkship Teaching Award in 2018. Additionally, given the limitations of teaching during the COVID19 pandemic, he has developed a way to continue providing education to medical students in clerkship. He has launched bedside teaching and longitudinal asynchronous case based teaching using zoom and an online tool called Cardboard; all of which has been well received by students and teachers. IM residents have been provided the opportunity to lead these teaching sessions which has been a great way for supporting resident professional and teaching development. Overall, Dr. Kachra has led by being among the finest examples of a true professional in higher education, sparking interest and curiosity, and even inspiring students to pursue Internal Medicine as a life-long career.*

*On a larger scale, Dr. Kachra is dedicated to a more widespread growth of the profession and medical education as a whole. As the Director of Teaching Innovation in the UME and holding a Master of Education in Technology, Innovation and Education from Harvard University, he is well equipped to understand the current design of medical education at the Cumming School of Medicine, and through design thinking methodology is working to transform the delivery of education to the future generation of doctors. With his dedication, he has successfully landed over \$100,000 of funding to fuel medical education at the Cumming School of Medicine, including grants for Re-Imagining Medical Education, design thinking for improving the patient experience, and for extending interprofessional education beyond the healthcare team.*

*At the PGME level, Dr. Kachra is formally involved in the Internal Medicine Selection, Competency Based Design, and Residency Planning committees. In this capacity, he is working to improve program development. His contributions to formal teaching activities include small group seminar teaching, academic half-day teaching, bedside teaching, and OSCE settings. However, despite the large amount of formal teaching that he provides, I believe that it is through his informal teaching that he truly serves as an inspiration to the development of trainees at the beginning of their careers. On behalf of all residents, he was recognized for his clinical teaching and received many Internal Medicine Calgary PGME awards, including Silver Tongue, Silver Finger, and Repeat Offender awards. He serves as an extraordinary role model to residents, naturally inspiring creativity and curiosity in trainees at all levels. Much of resident training is focused on being a medical expert, but Dr. Kachra fosters resident skills in all CanMed roles. In clinic, he challenges residents to be effective managers and communicators. On the wards, he stresses the importance of patient advocacy, professionalism, and collaboration, and is a role model in all of these core competencies. Dr. Kachra is a dedicated mentor, formally as an Academic Advisor for IM Residents, but also informally to those who require additional support clinically or personally.*

*As a professionally driven activity, Dr. Kachra challenges himself and his colleagues to maintain excellence in the field of Internal Medicine with his involvement in many Continuing Medical Education initiatives. Dr. Kachra shares his passion for medicine with his colleagues, voluntarily creates continuing medical education courses for Internal Medicine and non-Internal Medicine colleagues, and is a co-organizer of an annual Internal Medicine conference (Rocky Mountain Medicine Conference), which brings together Internists and Internal Medicine trainees from across Western Canada to share their research interests and work towards knowledge translation. Locally, he is a Faculty Facilitator of an annual Calgary CME course, "Practical Management of Hospitalized Patients with Liver Disease", and internationally, he continues to be a course lead in Innovation in Health Care and Education, an international course aimed at medical educators, through the Harvard Marcy Institute and Harvard Medical School Office of Global and Continuing Education.*

*Dr. Kachra is recognized for his ability to translate his skills in education and mentorship beyond his work within the Cumming School of Medicine. With his specialty in design thinking, he founded the Calgary Interprofessional Challenge, a university-wide inter-professional event bringing together undergraduate health care trainees to solve a community problem. He was invited to present on this topic at the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE), which connects experts in medical education from around the world. Additionally, he was invited to present to the Chancellor's Club in May 2018 on design thinking applied to education, as well as has been a guest lecturer for a main campus Taylor Institute undergraduate course, UNIV 201, also teaching design thinking. Moreover, Dr. Kachra took on large a community health initiative wherein he organized and supervised a hospital setting at the BMO Centre to accommodate and care for patients with high medical needs transferred out of hospital to attend "His Highness the*

*Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee". He supervised and mentored medical residents who volunteered their time to be a part of the medical team, sharing the experience of true community service.*

*Dr. Kachra's teaching philosophy is reflected in his actions above. He inspires students to discover information through new ways of thinking and inquiry-based learning and to engage in their independent learning. As a third-year resident in Internal Medicine, I have noted Dr. Kachra's influence on those of us within the profession. He is a widely respected clinician and educator and is deserving of this high award for education."*

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Francesco Rizzuti  
PARA President

cc: *Dr. Jon Meddings, Dean, Cummings School of Medicine*  
*Dr. Lisa Welikovitch, Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education Office*