

2021 AMSER Excellence in Education Award – Carl R. Fuhrman, MD

Tribute by Jeffery Hogg, MD

I met Dr. Carl Fuhrman as a 4th year medical student, and Carl was the senior radiology resident hosting my interview lunch. It was clear Carl had a passion for teaching, and that he loved his specialty. This informed my decision to rank the University of Pittsburgh my number 1. I was happy to learn after I matched that Carl stayed as faculty.

Carl made it look easy to be a superb faculty member. He knew the content and taught us expertly in our readout sessions and procedures. Carl also started a new 4pm teaching conference based on interesting cases each of us were charged to bring daily. Carl found the important lesson to teach in the most mundane case or even normal cases.

Carl was the consummate teacher. Carl excelled in this role by demanding much of his learners. It was good if you could make the diagnosis, but Carl always asked one more question for which the only honest answer could be, “I don’t know, Carl”. In this way he probed the depth and extent of our knowledge and signaled where to begin for teaching and learning more. Nobody wanted to disappoint in Carl’s tutorials. We read and practiced for his daily hot seat sessions where we all learned so much. Carl taught us to own, and then work on the limits of our knowledge.

Carl set the example for those of us who would pursue teaching. He modeled for us love for the learners. Carl’s ongoing concern, supervision, and help in preparation for ABR exams made him a beloved faculty member and friend to all residents. Carl modeled for me the kind of faculty member I hoped I could become.

Years later, when I was made Director of Medical Student teaching at WVU, I needed help. Carl shared great resources and wisdom. Carl guided me to AUR and AMSER, where he introduced me to important future peers and working partners. Even years after I was his resident, Carl taught me to cultivate extended teaching partnerships. Carl knew none of us individually can offer all the resources and instruction learners need, but through cooperative effort, we can provide excellent instruction. AMSER and AUR were extremely important to Carl because their missions so closely aligned with the great passion in Carl’s life, which was to teach.