

April 3, 2016

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Office of Faculty Affairs
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
4301 W. Markham St
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Dear Promotion and Tenure Committee,

I am currently a fellow at the University of Louisville. However, I have had the good fortune of working with and learning from Dr. Sara Shalin from July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2015 while I was a dermatology resident at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

I think that Dr. Shalin's greatest skill is as an educator. While I was at UAMS, she taught dermatology and pathology residents as well as medical students rotating through the dermatopathology service on a daily basis. She was an active participant during the multidisciplinary melanoma clinic. She was instrumental in planning the didactic schedule of the dermatopathology portion of our residency. She was even part of the committee that controlled our residency curriculum. In these roles, she always sought constructive criticism and made changes to our didactics based on feedback she received. She was innovative as a teacher and worked tirelessly to make dermatopathology interesting and fun. On a personal level, in the beginning of my residency, I struggled with dermatopathology. However, Dr. Shalin constantly provided encouragement and had an open door policy for questions. Often, I stopped by her office with a question or a slide to review and she would drop everything she was doing and spend as much time as was necessary to review the topic and answer my questions. On our yearly inservice exam, dermatopathology was always my highest scoring section. I owe this to Dr. Shalin's due diligence. She established and actively maintained a teaching slide set for residents which was an incredible resource to use when preparing for the inservice and board exam. Every year while the senior residents were studying for the board exam she would organize a mock portion of the exam focusing on dermatopathology. Having worked with several other academic dermatopathologists outside of UAMS, I feel very fortunate that Dr. Shalin was in charge of my dermatopathology education.

Dr. Shalin is passionate about research. During my residency, Dr. Shalin was involved in two of the seven papers I was a co-author on. During those projects, she was a wonderful source of guidance and inspiration. On a daily basis, she constantly encouraged other residents to pursue the answers to clinical questions through research.

In summary, Dr. Shalin is a gifted educator and has distinguished herself through leadership and mentoring. She is one of those special teachers that has an impact on everyone around her. I can honestly, say that she ranks as one of the best clinicians that I have worked with and has made a lasting impact on my career as a physician. It is therefore my privilege to enthusiastically support her promotion with my strongest recommendation.

Sincerely,

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