

Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



Adam Foster
Gastroenterology

Jason Etzel from Gastroenterology submitted the following nomination...

Adam has always gone an extra step to make our endoscopic procedures run smoothly, especially the urgent after-hours cases that I am frequently involved with as a fellow. When I began as a GI fellow at OHSU 2 years ago, Adam took it upon himself to train me and my colleagues on the function of the endoscopy equipment and how to properly set it all up independently in case we had to do this in the middle of the night. What I think really qualifies Adam for the Golden Rose is a recent project on quality improvement that he took on independently. In GI, we often have to do upper endoscopy on patients with variceal bleeding. Our treatment for these patients involves a procedure called banding that requires reliable high power suction. All of the GI attendings and fellows have long noted that the suction in the ICU was much weaker than the suction in our endoscopy center. Ironically, the ICU is where we need the best possible suction. While everyone in our department, including myself, assumed that this was a complicated problem with the building infrastructure that we could never address, unbeknownst to any of us, Adam decided to get to the bottom of the problem. He located a vacuum meter that could actually quantify suction and confirmed that it was worse in the ICU. He then embarked on multiple experiments to try to improve the issue. Bottom-line, he discovered that the problem was actually just the suction regulator in the ICU, which was a different model than we use in the endoscopy unit. This is an incredibly simple fix. He has definitely improved the quality of care that these patients receive by allowing us to have a greater chance of success in stopping their bleeding at the time of endoscopy.

August 2011

