**GRADUATION SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SHABNAM KASHANI**

Hello everyone!! Each year, as we gather to acknowledge and signify the closing of the academic year and the transition to the next steps in each resident’s medical careers, I look forward to having the privilege of seizing a moment, taking a deep breath, assessing, ruminating, and recognizing an outstanding member of the Yale New Haven Health- Bridgeport Hospital ObGyn residency team, and this year is no exception. Today, we honor a young doctor who has demonstrated intelligence, compassion, curiosity, and a deep, **DEEP** desire to explore and expand her already formidable organizational skills…. (**Wait for the laugh)**…She’s a medical professional whose accomplishments and distinctions, if listed end to end…. in not very large or bold typeface…. would rival the length of an average CVS drugstore receipt…. Yes… get out the yardsticks… (**Wait for the laugh)**….a woman who, with her energy and joy for life inspires every being to smile…. **ESPECIALLY** her sidekick and muse…. her beloved dog, Stuart…. (**Wait for the laugh),** I clearly can be referring to only one person…. The talented, inimitable… **ORGANIZED** …Dr. Colleen Murphy. It has been an incredible experience to be Dr. Murphy’s mentor throughout the program, and today, I can finally and publicly, express my pride and appreciation for a doctor who has made an indelible mark on this program, this hospital, and all of the people associated with what we do and why we do it.

Most medical professionals wear the white coat for preventative purposes…. To keep street clothes clean…. to have a few extra pockets for storing the tools of the trade… and then some…. the coat is worn proudly, as a utilitarian symbol of the path forged by a person who has selected to go forth into the great “medical abyss…” … and on rare occasions… maybe once or twice in a lifetime, the white coat is worn so that we may see the physical embodiment of **pure energy**….. and **THAT**, ladies and gentlemen, is what we experience with Dr. Murphy. In **THIS** case, kinetic energy needs to be harnessed and defined in some way, and at least when Colleen wears her white coat… or scrubs… or at the very least her ID badge and lanyard, we can see her… otherwise, as she works her magic, advancing from place to place…. Focusing… organizing… instituting systems and revolutionizing administrative protocol, in her sleek, **stealth** manner… we would probably not be able to see her at all…. To borrow and adapt a phrase from the old “Superman” television series… “Who **WAS** that??? Is it a **BIRD**??? Is it a **PLANE**??? No…. It’s **SUPER** Dr. Murphy!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Stuart is a really lucky dog….. and we here at Bridgeport Hospital are really lucky to have known and experienced the light and energy of Dr. Colleen Murphy. Throughout the past four years, as residents navigate through our programs and challenges, I too, must admit, that with each successive term, I feel as though I have been through a master class. It is thrilling to observe, collaborate, and learn from, the interns and residents that work with us in our programs, and working with Colleen has been particularly refreshing and energizing. I’ve witnessed her face challenges and setbacks, and when life handed her lemons, she definitely made lemonade…. and didn’t spill a drop. Colleen has proven her mettle. She demonstrates her worth and dedication every day. She gives her all to whatever task crosses her path, and analyzes, focuses, and implements improvements in ways that result in better conditions for all. As Administrative Scheduling Chief… a not-so-glamorous assignment, feared by some…. dreaded by most… Dr. Murphy applied her forethought, determination, and organizational skills to a seemingly endless project and established a matrix and guidelines that finally work … the innovations and upgrades instituted due to her vision and follow through, will serve to ease the pain and frustration faced by future administrative schedulers. Dr. Murphy turned that thankless job into **THANK YOU**.

… And while Dr. Murphy’s organizational skills are clearly something to regard with awe…. her passion for detail and completion knows no bounds. Let’s face it… if Marie Kondo hadn’t nabbed her own series on Netflix, I might easily imagine our very own **Kelly Clarkson** lookalike hosting her own show… how unique would that be??? It could be called, “Diagnosing Clutter: Get your Parts in Order with Dr. Colleen Murphy.” I’d watch!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)….

But I digress…. Colleen’s commitment to her practice, to advancing her knowledge and skills, and most of all, to serving her patients, is an even more remarkable aspect of this dedicated doctor’s contribution to all she encounters. When I think of Dr. Murphy and the times we have shared together, I am inspired by her commitment to learning… and while she is definitely **PLANNER** with a capital **P**, there is no doubt in anyone’s mind that Colleen is the one who is willing to go above and beyond to make sure that not only the patient receives the care that is needed, but also, through education and explanation, does her best to make sure details are clear and understandable. I remember one incident in particular. Colleen was working with a patient, a woman in her mid-sixties with multiple medical problems. She hadn’t seen  an ob/gyn for 20 years and clearly suffered from that kind of neglect. The patient needed a hysterectomy as soon as possible, hopefully in the following week. Frankly, my immediate thoughts went to limitations and probable roadblocks….I didn’t think processes could be handled in such a critically short time, after all, she needed pap, EMB, ultrasound, medical clearance, and on top of all that, the patient didn’t have a ride to the hospital… **TALK ABOUT STACKING THE DECK!!!**  But wouldn’t you just know… Colleen’s response was immediate, thorough, and thankfully **BEYOND** pro-active. She calmly informed me that she already spoke to our nurse to do EMb and pap that day and put a rush order on it, then the patient would go to radiology to get an ultrasound. Colleen also let me know she spoke to the medicine clinic to clear her, and Colleen **PERSONALLY** planned to go to pick up the patient the following week to take her for surgery!!!! **NOTE TO SELF**: I want Dr. Colleen Murphy as **MY** doctor!!! What a woman!! What a Doctor!!! What lucky patients and colleagues!!

The next steps in store for Dr. Colleen Murphy are very exciting ones. As she moves on to her fellowship at Yale New Haven, Colleen will further hone her skills and refine her delicate, knowing hand in the field of laparoscopy. As her husband, Jim, has reminded us, “Colleen has never been scared to accept a new challenge.  I have had to talk her in off the ledge when she has dived into a challenge head first, only to realize “what the heck have I done?” But I think we know, and what we admire so much about this dynamo, is that, like an agile cat… or Stuart …on a good day… (**Wait for the laugh**), Colleen lands on her feet, raring to go, ready for what lies ahead. In the words of the **OTHER** inimitable Kelly Clarkson, “Some people wait a lifetime for a moment like this.” We know, from “reliable sources,” that Colleen knows that she always wanted to be a doctor. Colleen **KNOWS** this is her calling, and we are all so proud and assured that with people like Dr. Murphy in this world and contributing to this field, the community, and women, will be in a much better place. With that, I say a very fond and sincere, “Congratulations!!!” Here’s to the best of everything in your medical career and in Life!!! Thank you all!!