**GRADUATION SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SHABNAM KASHANI**

Hello everyone. One of the joys of my life is to work in this profession of Obstetrics and Gynecology and in the capacity of mentor, it is always fascinating and encouraging to meet and interact with, the fine physicians that enter and complete our residency and fellowship programs. To work with, and see the potential to emerge from each candidate… to witness the growth and understanding, to be a part of the depth of impact each one can have on saving lives and giving life, is really extraordinary, and speaking of extraordinary, every once in a while, a candidate comes along, breaks the mold, and provides new insights into what it means to truly be involved in the medical profession.

One person who really does that for me is Dr. Metehan Imamoglu. Metehan is the type of physician who lets us know, sometimes without even needing to speak, that he is a very special person, a true “student of the world.” Just looking at his CV and learning of all of the places he has traveled on his professional path… from his native Turkey to Lund, Sweden… From Siena, Italy to New Haven and here in Bridgeport, Connecticut …. all of those settings, each with different cultures, all leading back to the same fascination with the human body… it becomes very clear that the depth of knowledge and experience Metehan posseses is indeed, a treasure. Seeing him in action, reading his scholarly papers, delving into his mind regarding research and other critical topics, gives us a pretty good picture of a man who is poised, involved, and passionate about his mission and work. We also learn fairly quickly that there is a worldliness about him. It’s easy to say he is self possessed in the best meaning of the term. His global experience informs his natural curiosity. His time spent learning and practicing in many countries and cultural contexts has given his skills and knowledge an enviable “patina.”

To paraphrase James Thurber, “Sophistication might be described as the ability to cope gracefully with a situation…” when I think of Metehan, I think of his unique ability to cope gracefully…. in **ANY** circumstance. While he has had more years of experience than the usual fellowship candidate, the special quality this doctor possesses is more than years of learning and practice. One gets the sense of a physician who is really engaged in all that he does. Dr. Imamoglu is humble… he never brags. He’s a wonderful team player…. probably because he has learned time and again that the greatest potential for discovery and implementation is in working within a group dynamic. He’s a committed, devoted family man… one who believes, once again, that there is power in sharing and collaboration…. So much so that his wife, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is also in this program!!! I have nothing but praise for Dr. Metehan Imamoglu, and it has been a privilege to know and work with him.

Dr. Imamoglu, as you leave here and move on to the next phase of your professional life, please know that you will always be a part of the “pentimento” of Bridgeport Hospital. As with every place you’ve been, you leave a mark… one that is positive, encouraging, and inspirational. I consider myself privileged to have known you, worked with you, and learned from you. I offer you my most sincere congratulations and I thank you for being a part of this program. Thank you all!!