Professor of the Year 2015

John A. Davis PhD MD

Each year since 1931, the graduating class of The Ohio State University College of Medicine selects one faculty member for the Professor of the Year Award. This award recognizes one individual that best exemplifies excellence in teaching and mentoring in medical education. Previous winners have often stated that this award is the most memorable accomplishment of their career. Today, I have the great honor of presenting the Class of 2014 Professor of the Year Award to John A. Davis, PhD MD.

Dr. Davis grew up between Houston and East Texas. He attended the High School for Health Professions in Texas and then completed his undergraduate degree at Harvard College in 1992. He later completed his PhD in bioinorganic chemistry at Boston College in 1998. Dr. Davis continued his education at the Yale School of Medicine, where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in 2002. He went on to complete both his internal medicine residency and infectious disease fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. He stayed in Boston for two additional years for further training in HIV and transplant infectious diseases.

In 2008, Dr. Davis joined the faculty at The Ohio State University College of Medicine where he has served as a clinical educator and researcher with a focus on infectious diseases in immunocompromised patients. His positions have included Deputy Director of the Comprehensive Transplant Center and Assistant Dean for Student Life, and within just four years of coming to Ohio State, Dr. Davis was selected for his current position, Associate Dean for Medical Education at the College of Medicine. Many of us first met Dr. Davis during the Host Defense Block as first-year students. During this block, Dr. Davis took part in a “stump the expert” session in which he awed students with his knowledge and infinitely broad differential diagnosis. We all left in astonishment, hoping that one day we could be half as intelligent as Dr. Davis.

However, his selection as Professor of the Year was not because of his intelligence but because of his passion and love for medical education. During our first year, Dr. Davis began volunteering as a tutor on the Student Life Team, helping students learn the curriculum and prepare for Step 1. Additionally, Dr. Davis has served as a learning community facilitator. As both a teacher and dean, Dr. Davis has mentored and guided numerous students through the challenges of medical school and the residency application process. Students that have worked with him in these capacities have described him as “a trusted advisor and advocate for medical students;” “caring, passionate, and inspiring;” “generous and humble;” “willing and excited to help at all times;” and “always putting medical students first.” Before our class voted for this award, it was easy to see that Dr. Davis was the frontrunner, receiving a record nine nominations. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Dr. Davis.

More than just a mentor, Dr. Davis has been a friend to all. He can often be spotted out and about in Columbus with medical students and faculty members or on his porch enjoying the beautiful weather Columbus has to offer.

Thank you Dr. Davis for all that you have done for our class. You have gone above and beyond your duties to help each and everyone one of us succeed and achieve our dreams. On behalf of The Ohio State University College of Medicine Class of 2014, I am honored to present Dr. John A. Davis with the Professor of the Year Award.

David Philip Kallile
Class of 2014 President, Student Council