University of Pittsburgh | Office of the Learning Environment School of Medicine

PITT MED PROFESSIONALISM ACCOLADES

Cultivating a Positive Learning Environment



ZACHARY SPEARS

MS2 Student

"For the past summer, I worked in the same research lab as Zach, where he has been tremendously helpful. Since the start, Zach has been incredible at communicating with me. He sets clear goals, follows through on actions, and creates an environment that propels the lab forward. For example, on my first day of the lab, Zach spent the entire day helping me settle in. He gave me a tour of the medical school and assisted me with setting up the relevant technology. Later, he went a step further, arranging for me to shadow in the operating room, walking me through what to expect, and teaching me how to properly wear PPE.

Beyond the lab, Zach has also helped me feel much more prepared for my first year of medical school. He helped me set up my Anki deck and gave me practical advice on how to study effectively and succeed once school starts.

As an incoming medical student, I have found Zach's guidance at every step to be invaluable. He is organized, takes initiative without being asked, and leads by example. I feel so lucky to have had him as a mentor this summer."

Submitted by a Medical Student

UPMC Eye and Ear - 3D Printing/Ghodadra Lab, Spring 2026

Submit #PittMedAccolades via PAIR at ole.pitt.edu/PAIR