

# Award: Outstanding Resident Teacher Application Form

## Basic Information

Your name:

Libby Weaver

Your title:

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Associate Program Director Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Your institution:

University of Virginia

Your email address:

[libbyweaver@virginia.edu](mailto:libbyweaver@virginia.edu)

Name of nominee:

Jessica Ruck

Nominee's institution:

Johns Hopkins University

Nominee's title:

General Surgery Resident

Nominee's email address:

[jessicaruck@jhmi.edu](mailto:jessicaruck@jhmi.edu)

Has the nominee completed at least two years of surgical residency?

Yes

## Short Essays

Why do you think the nominee deserves this award?

Dr. Ruck has demonstrated a passion for education since I have known her as a medical student. She goes above and beyond to be not only a great teacher, but a mentor as well. She is actively engaged in teaching medical students and peers, both clinically and in research endeavors. In her time at Johns Hopkins she has been awarded the Junior Resident Teaching Award, completed the Johns Hopkins Teaching Academy, and been inducted into the Distinguished Teaching Society (an honor reserved for a select group of around 15 faculty and trainees in the entire school of medicine annually as voted by the medical students). She has also developed and implemented a leadership, education, and allyship curriculum for the general surgery residency program after identifying areas of need within the program. Overall, Dr. Ruck has continually demonstrated a commitment to providing high-quality education to learners at all levels within the department of surgery.

How has the nominee demonstrated passion and enthusiasm for teaching?

Dr. Ruck has more enthusiasm for everything she does, including teaching, than any other resident I have ever encountered. I met Dr. Ruck back when I was an intern orienting in the ICU and she was a sub-intern. She gracefully applied her effective teaching skills to help me, a more 'senior' trainee, become accustomed to working in this new facility and on a new service. I subsequently worked with Dr. Ruck as her chief resident where I watched her teach students, peers, and patients and their families. She has been recognized for her teaching efforts by her resident peers, who voted to award her the department of surgery Junior Resident Teaching Award at the conclusion of her second clinical year of residency. She has also been recognized with the highest teaching honor in the Johns Hopkins Medical Institute with induction into the highly selective Distinguished Teaching Society. During her academic years, she continues to mentor lab residents through grant writing and submission, statistical analysis, and overall development. She directly mentors at least 15 students and residents at any given time through her research-related education efforts.

How has the nominee demonstrated a commitment to maintaining a positive, productive learning environment?

Last year, Dr. Ruck's resident colleagues identified some areas for improvement within the general surgery residency that focused on helping each other provide more professional and productive peer feedback in order to develop stronger teams and working relationships within the residency. Her response to this was to develop an entire curriculum called LEAD-S (Leadership, Education, and Allyship Development for Surgeons) with the goal of improving the culture of the learning environment. This curriculum includes 12 modules with content focused on effective leadership skills, giving feedback, fostering learning for others, tools for effective bedside teaching, learner self-advocacy language, understanding and managing micro aggressions, conflict resolution, working in teams, and identifying peers in need of help. This was successfully implemented for all general surgery residents within the institution, and is now seeking grant funding to expand to a multi-institutional effort.

How has the nominee demonstrated being able to provide effective feedback to learners?

I recently found the following quote highlighted in Dr. Ruck's Johns Hopkins Distinguished Teaching Society Induction announcement from a medical student which highlights her ability to give effective feedback better than I ever could: 'In addition to being an amazing compassionate and great clinician, she was an amazing teacher. She constantly took the time to teach me when she could. Almost every morning, she would ask me about my plan for my patients and then give me feedback on what I did well and what I didn't do well. In the OR, she would take the time to explain things to me during

complicated cases. To summarize my time during my month working with Jess, I was so excited to wake up in the morning and go to work and I honestly didn't mind working 12+ hours a day because I was learning so much with Jess.'

Please give an example of the nominee role modeling professionalism.

In addition to the numerous examples listed above, Dr. Ruck is an absolute role model of professionalism on every level. The best personal example I can give of this pertains to Dr. Ruck's response to the COVID pandemic. I was a chief resident at that time, and she and I were tasked with creating a procedure service. She led the way in developing a mobile supply cart with anything we could need for procedures, and helping to create a system for efficient response to procedural requests. After developing an effective system, she then created a reference guide for all residents that would subsequently rotate onto this service throughout the pandemic, and helped orient other residents to the service. She remained positive and productive during a very stressful time for all of us, and demonstrated the utmost professionalism throughout this challenging time.

## **Please complete the following:**

Please list any education or teaching awards the nominee has received.

Dr. Ruck has been awarded the following:

Johns Hopkins Junior Resident Teaching Award (Department of Surgery)

Johns Hopkins Distinguished Teaching Society Inductee (It should be noted, only a handful of general surgery residents have ever received this honor, and only one other has received this honor as a junior-level surgical resident).

Please list the nominee's education-related activities (e.g., lectures, programs, presentations, curricula, innovations for teaching or assessment, education-related research).

Dr. Ruck continually teaches the medical student and resident didactics. She also developed and leads surgery research working groups which meet weekly. These include 15-20 research assistant, medical student, and resident participants each week, and mentors them through projects, grant writing, etc. Finally, as described above, Dr. Ruck created and implement the LEAD-S curriculum for her general surgery residency, and is in the process of executing implementation of this curriculum on a national, multi-institutional scale.

Please list the nominee's leadership roles in courses or groups related to surgery and surgical education, including involvement in national committees related to surgical education.

Director: Leadership, Education, and Allyship Development for Surgeons

Moderator: Johns Hopkins Surgical Research Lab Working Group

## **File Uploads**

Please upload the nominee's CV

- [202212\\_ruck\\_cv.pdf](#)

Please upload a teaching statement from the nominee about their passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to teaching.

- [Ruck\\_ASE\\_personal-statement.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter of recommendation from a learner.

- [jess\\_ase\\_letter\\_student.pdf](#)

Please upload documentation of teaching competency in the form of an aggregate evaluation report (from MedHub, New Innovations, etc) from learners over the past year.

- [Teaching-Competency\\_-Peer-to-Peer-Evaluation-Report\\_Ruck-Jess\\_New-Innovations.pdf](#)