

Letter of Endorsement for Dr. Siegel

I first met Steve Siegel when I interviewed for fellowship. One of my former coresidents was his fellow at the time and kept raving about his fellowship director. I remember doubting that he could be that great...until I met him. Steve is a wonderful person, a fantastic surgeon, and an exceptional mentor. I had the opportunity to work with him exclusively for 6 months. During that time, he taught me so much about female urology. He pushed me as a fellow to develop my clinical and surgical skills while also working on research and academic pursuits. He is quick to compliment and his criticism is always constructive. Even after leaving fellowship, he continues to mentor. Not a month goes by that he does not receive a call from one of the former fellows with questions about complex cases. He is such a great teacher and physician that 3 of his former fellows have chosen to work in his practice.

Though I was his fellow, I felt more like one of his children. Whenever someone comes to the Metro Urology office, Steve excitedly shows them the "Wall of Fame" which is a collection of pictures of all of his former fellows. He takes the time to talk about each of us and our accomplishments. It is like a proud father boasting about his children. This same pride is seen at meetings when he takes time out of his hectic schedule at SUFU and AUA to introduce his current fellows to the "movers and shakers" in female urology and always organizes a special dinner with the past fellows so we can all catch up. When he recently was president of the North Central Section, an impressive 8 fellows came for the meeting, many of whom were not part of the NCS, just to show support for Steve.

More than just being a mentor, he has a special gift for cultivating the talent of his female fellows. If you look on the Wall of Fame, over half of his fellows have been women. As most of us know, urology residency can be a male-dominated/male-focused time in our lives. It was a refreshing change to have someone who not only accepts you as a female physician, but rather appreciates the unique skills that a female in urology possesses. He is also very aware and sensitive to issues that affect a female physician. I was pregnant with my second child during fellowship. Steve went out of his way to ensure that I had a safe pregnancy and had time to spend with my child and family while still getting the most I could out of the fellowship.

He has had a number of accomplishments during his career thus far. I would have to say one of his greatest has been the indelible mark he has made on a future generation of female urologists.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Libby) Williams

When you ask Steve Siegel why he continues to do vasectomies, he says with his typical candor and humor, "I see it as a blow for women's reproductive rights." I believe Steve merits this award not only for his past accomplishments but because of his continuing commitment to teaching fellows and setting the best example possible for his colleagues inside and outside of his specialty. By giving an equal amount of guidance and independence to his fellows, he instills a trust that helps to build confidence with experience. From the few months that I have worked with him, I have to come to know and respect his high ethical standards and the way he incorporates those standards into his practice. As a surgeon, there is no better way to learn than by experiencing a lesson in practice. While he is a gifted surgeon, I think his legacy will be the humanity with which he treats patients and the example he has set for those around him. In summary, I hope that you will strongly consider Steve Siegel for this award.

Sincerely,

Aimee Wiltz

Metro Urology
8025 Lake Rd.
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January 9, 2011

In regards to: Christina Manthos Mentoring Award

To Whom It May Concern:

The field of urology has changed significantly over the last 30 years. Our field has pioneered many technical advances and subspecialties in medicine: neuro-urology, endo-urology, laparoscopy, and robotics. While these individual specialties were in their infancy, we relied on leaders to champion the special interests and mentor future urologist in the nuances and skill required to perpetuate that field. In regards to Female Urology, Steven Siegel has played an integral role in the advances of Female Urology and neuro-urology. He clearly embodies the attributes of an appropriate mentor and should be given strong consideration to be awarded the Christina Manthos Mentoring award in Female Urology.

Dr. Steven Siegel began his career as a resident at the Cleveland Clinic. With the support of his chairman, he working with the then leaders in female urology and developed a female urology sub-specialty at the Cleveland Clinic. He continued in this role for seven years until his work then transplanted him to Minnesota—a hotbed of medical technology companies. This location provided a unique opportunity for collaboration and the improvement of products for our patients through bench and clinical research. While he continued to help a multitude of patient with his tireless work and presented his findings at national and regional meeting, he lacked an outlet to share and impart his knowledge upon others in a more intimate setting. His strong foundation in teaching and mentoring led him to create a clinical Fellowship in pelvic floor health and voiding dysfunction in 1998. Without the backing of a large medical center, he created the funds to support this position. Since that time, sixteen clinical fellows have matriculated into his program and fourteen thus far have graduated and progressed onto careers in female urology.

As one of his current fellows, I am thankful daily to have a mentor as amazing as Steve Siegel. His knowledge of the field is apparent based on his training and curriculum vitae, but the papers do not demonstrate his amazing ability to teach. He provides an open working environment where fellows are able to ask questions without fear, we are able to delve into the literature and discuss with him a myriad of topics because of his vast knowledge. In the operating room, he is a technically gifted surgeon, but beyond that, he is a gifted mentor who is able to identify your shortcomings and redirect them to reproduce the proper techniques. In the consultation suite, he is able to glean information and advise patients effortlessly—he exemplifies an amazing physician. As each of us has embarked upon our first job, be it academic or private practice, he has been supportive: ever ready to answer questions, provide feedback, and give advice without being overbearing.

Mentorship implies being a trusted teacher. In my humble opinion, Dr. Steven Siegel is a wonderful example of a person who embodies the virtue of an amazing mentor. I strongly urge you to consider him as this year's winner of the Christina Manthos Mentorship award in female urology.

Regards,
Sneha S. Vaish, MD

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to nominate Dr. Steven Siegel for the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award. Dr. Siegel has dedicated his practice to female urology and voiding dysfunction. He found early in his career that there was not much to offer women with voiding dysfunction and pelvic pain. It became his mission not only to better understand their problems but also to find solutions. He is a leader and a visionary in this field. He actively contributes to research, product development, teaching and training of other physicians. He has trained 16 fellows who have busy female urology practices throughout the country.

Dr. Siegel's enthusiasm is contagious. I met him in my third year of residency. I was not sure whether or not I wanted to pursue a fellowship. He asked me to come to St. Paul, MN and learn more about the fellowship program. His passion was evident as he talked to patients and as he explained to me his understanding of the pelvic floor and its relationship to urinary symptoms. I left St. Paul excited to pursue practical training that would provide me with skills to treat these women. I did not receive these skills in my traditional urology training program. I knew I wanted Dr. Siegel to become a pivotal figure in shaping my professional career.

I completed my fellowship in June of 2010. My goal in completing a fellowship program was to obtain surgical skills to manage pelvic organ prolapse. I knew that I would also be trained in voiding dysfunction and neuromodulation, but I did not expect that this would be the part of my practice I enjoy the most. I enjoy treating women with overactive bladder symptoms and pelvic pain. Many have similar stories of being dismissed by multiple providers or told they were crazy. I particularly remember one patient who came to see Dr. Siegel after being treated by four other urologists. She complained of urgency and pelvic pain as well as urge incontinence. She had undergone bladder instillations, hydrodistension, Elmiron therapy, anticholinergics, and urethral dilation. Nothing had significantly improved her symptoms. She looked somewhat disheveled and sad. She looked at the floor as she told her story. Dr. Siegel put her at ease while she told her story by letting her know she was not alone. He let her know that he had patients with similar complaints. His examination always includes a thorough musculoskeletal exam. He gave the patient options including pelvic floor physical therapy, Botox and neuromodulation. She decided to pursue Interstim therapy. She underwent a PNE the very next week and when she returned to have the dressings removed her hair was combed away from her face and she had makeup on and a huge smile. She did not want us to take the leads out because for the first time she had relief of her symptoms. This left a lasting impression. Dr. Siegel's philosophy regarding pelvic floor dysfunction has changed the way I view and treat these women. I now feel equipped and confident to take care of them.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jannah H. Thompson

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January 11, 2011

Dear Nominating Committee,

I ask you to consider Steve Siegel for the Christina Manthos mentoring award.

Steve is a thought leader in the field of female urology, a private practice urologist with an academic background. For many years he has trained fellows in female urology, the majority of whom are women. I believe a mentor in urology inspires others, offers unique opportunities, leads by example and often puts the needs of others before his own, and I believe Steve Siegel exemplifies all these characteristics.

At the recent North Central Section meeting, which served as president, several of the fellows he trained were in attendance, participating in the meeting, to showcase the legacy of Steve Siegel. When elected by his peers as president of the NCS he had the opportunity to select the local arrangements chair, he asked me to fill this position. Only after a retrospective look at past local arrangements chairs did I realize what an honor this was. Politically, there may have been some (more senior) candidates more appropriate, but he chose to advance the position of a former fellow, also I believe, the first female to serve in this capacity. For me it was a wonderful experience, and a way to gain an introduction to leadership that would have taken years without his intervention.

He does what he feels is best, for his patients, for his students, and to advance the field of female urology. A friend of mine was considering his fellowship, but when Steve learned she was leaning toward an academic career, he counseled her to choose a different program that would be better for his career, despite the fact she would have been an excellent fellow. She is now an academic urologist, happy in her position, and I know grateful for his guidance.

He teaches a practical approach to patient care, and leads by his example. At a recent incontinence panel, 2 other participants were asked regarding mixed incontinence, if they would treat stress or urge first. One chose stress, one chose urge, stating statistics. Steve took the microphone last, and simply said he likes to listen to the patient, and treat accordingly. That is the kind of common sense, rational approach to treating patients, that one learns from working with Steve.

He is a teacher, a mentor, a colleague, a model of the type of physician I try to be. I strongly encourage you to consider him for this award.

Sincerely,

Tamra E Lewis