Q&A with Resident Jasmine Love

As she prepares to step into a senior resident role, Jasmine Love, MD, reflects on the lessons, patient experiences, and personal passions that have shaped her journey through residency at UCSF Urology

What have been your top lessons learned this year?

As a resident, being an affective teacher is just as important as being an active learner. This year I have really been challenged to take on more responsibility as I prepare to be a senior resident next year. Learning how to guide my more junior co-residents through tough consults or taking them through a case has persistently humbled me in a positive way and shown me that even in moments of teaching I am learning. I've seen that to embrace being uncomfortable fosters growth and develops an impeccable clinician and incredible surgeon.

Could you share a memorable case or clinic moment that's stayed with you (keeping patient details general)?

The VA hospital rotation is one that I hold dear. I grew up in a military family so caring for vets often feels like caring for my dad, grandfather or uncle. One memory I have is a patient who was very afraid after being given a new bladder cancer diagnosis. I would call him a few times during the week to talk him through his diagnosis, care plan and provide reassurance. The day after I finished the rotation, I stopped by to say goodbye to the clinic staff and ran into him. He told me how much he appreciated the time I spent solely listening. Just a few moments of my day impacted his life, and it showed me how much power we have as physicians – and even just as humans - to positively change someone's trajectory with only a small gesture.

What words of advice would you want to share with others earlier in their journey?

Residency is hard, but hard work speaks for itself. If there's one word of advice I would give to early residents is to take every opportunity as it comes and approach it with your best foot forward. You are only here at UCSF as a resident for a finite amount of time so learn as much as you can from some of the brightest minds in urology. Furthermore, you are here for a reason and more than capable so keep going even when times are hard. Balance. Take time for yourself when needed because you can't pour into patient care when your glass is not full.

What's next after residency - fellowship interests or career plans?

I have a broad set of interests because there are many aspects of urology that intrigue me. I love the critical thinking and innovation in endourology, the creativity and impacts of quality of life of reconstructive urology, and the patient connections and technical skills required in oncology. I see myself being a general urologist one day where I can combine these many interests to serve a broad set of patients.

What's one fun fact or outside-the-OR hobby you'd like readers to know about?

I love to travel and am an avid collector. Being a resident though seemingly impossible has actually opened up more opportunities for me to travel abroad. During these trips I have become interested in collecting street art and figurines from local vendors. My most recent trip I brought home a hand-blown glass koala from Cairns, Australia.