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The Thoracic Surgery Foundation
633 N. St. Clair Street, 23rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
February 26, 2017

Re: Elizabeth A David, MD 2016 Carolyn Reed Award Recipient

Dear Thoracic Surgery Foundation Carolyn Reed Award Committee,

Thank you very much for honoring me with the 2016 Carolyn Reed Award. I used my Carolyn Reed Award to gain exposure to health services research techniques, specifically qualitative and mixed methods approaches, that were new to me and that I will use to advance patient care in the future.

In June 2016, I traveled to the University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Surgical Outcomes Research Program (WISOR) to shadow Dr. M. Gretchen Schwarze, who is a well-respected surgical mixed methods research expert. During this week, I was able to participate in research lab meetings, attend collaborative work in progress sessions and meet individually with numerous health services researchers engaging in qualitative research methodology. The networking opportunities were tremendous.

After my initial trip to WISOR, I began to develop my own mixed methods research proposal building directly on knowledge that I gained during my visit to WISOR. I was able to conduct pilot studies using skills and techniques that I learned at WISOR to enhance my research proposal. In September 2016, I traveled back to WISOR and was able to receive direct feedback on my proposal and preliminary studies. Over the course of the entire year, I developed a close mentoring relationship with Dr. Schwarze while developing my career development award applications and several other research proposals. The funds from the award directly supported my travel and coursework.

I am very grateful to the TSF/WTS Carolyn Reed Award for the opportunity to build my research skills and gain mentorship to which I would otherwise not have been exposed. I look forward to putting these new skills to use to enhance care of thoracic surgery patients in the future. Thank you very much for investing and believing in me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E David".

Elizabeth A David, MD FACS