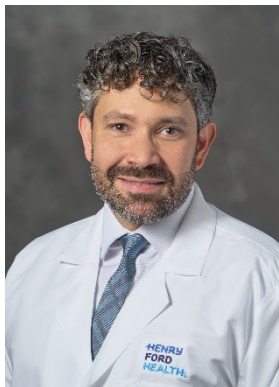# Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award

The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and fellows, and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. Parker J. Palmer is the author of the book *The Courage to Teach*; his promotion of the concept of "living divided no more" has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.

Odaliz E. Abreu Lanfranco, MD
Program Director for Internal Medicine
Henry Ford Health
Detroit, Michigan

Nominators had this to say:
"In the face of unrelenting pressures both within the hospital and from the outside world, Dr. Abreu is a tireless innovator [who] always finds opportunity. As the [COVID-19] pandemic ravaged the city of Detroit and put incredible stress on our program, he was far ahead of the curve on leading initiatives to adapt both patient care systems and our educational curriculum to support our residents in a changing world, always asking for feedback along the way. He spearheaded a complete institutional change in how rotation schedules are constructed and organized, which will improve opportunities for residents to develop relationships in careers of their choice, streamline day to day workflow, and eliminate the vast majority of work hours violations, augmenting resident wellness and work-life balance. Accomplishing change in such a big hospital system with such big programs is often a daunting, if not impossible, task, let alone during a global pandemic; yet create change he did, rallying support across our program and others, fighting on our behalf with a smile on his face."

"In collaboration with the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), Odaliz offers an innovative teaching approach on implicit bias training. All residents are encouraged to participate in the Visual Thinking Strategies Program (VTS) at the DIA. The program helps [residents] improve observation, critical thinking, and communication skills."