

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award
for Program Director Excellence



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents/fellows and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. The ACGME congratulates the 2018 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



John Del Valle, MD, AGAF, FACP
Program Director for Internal Medicine
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nominators had this to say:

“Separate from his enormous educational impact, Dr. Del Valle is beloved for his unwavering commitment and devotion to his residents. During the past 17 years, two residents died unexpectedly during their training. Dr. Del Valle comforted the families most affected by these losses; supported their peers; and provided stability to the training program at a time of profound sadness. Working with the residents’ families, he created two awards that honored their

memory, carrying forward their passions- community service and research- so they will never be forgotten.”

“While others can speak in greater detail to Dr. Del Valle’s impressive record of achievement in medical education over the past two decades, we hope to provide a different viewpoint, that of the residents who train to become physicians under his leadership. Several qualities distinguish Dr. Del Valle as a program director. First, he runs an exceptionally approachable and responsive program. Over the past four years alone, Dr. Del Valle has shepherded the development of a bedside procedure service, a “Resident as Teacher” curriculum, an interdepartmental Global Health curriculum, a medical education elective, an intern wellness initiative, and several concerted efforts to enhance the time and resources available to residents for scholarly research. All such projects were catalyzed by thoughtful receptivity to feedback from house officers.”