

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors Designated Institutional Officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency programs at their sponsoring institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital or other type of institution that sponsors residency programs.



Elias I. Traboulsi, MD

Designated Institutional Official
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

Nominators had this to say:

“The role of DIO is one in which Dr. Traboulsi sees himself not simply as an administrator but also an advocate; wholly dedicated to optimizing our residency experience. In recent years, institution wide care affordability initiatives have resulted in changes to on-call meal allowances, parking fees and narrowing of healthcare benefits. In each of the above situations Dr. Traboulsi called urgent meetings with HSA representatives to address our questions and concerns, carrying those forward to administration. He has never shied away from a complicated conversation and never fails to make himself available, in person or phone, when difficult situations arise.”

“To fully appreciate his skills and dedication in leading our GME efforts with integrity and indeed courage, it is important to know that during his tenure as DIO the CC [Cleveland Clinic] morphed from a traditional academic infrastructure to an "Institute Model" which deconstructed the traditional relationships between departments and academic leaders. Thus, Elias needed to forge entirely new and novel lines of communication to gain support for his consistently trainee proactive innovations. In conjunction with our Chair of the Education Institute, he has been enormously successful in accomplishing this. He has overseen the creation of a robust cross-disciplinary program review process.”