

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.



Saadia Akhtar, MD

Program Director for Emergency Medicine
Mount Sinai Beth Israel/Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York

Nominators had this to say:

“One of [Dr. Akhtar’s] first accomplishments was to have our upcoming annual academic assembly, as well as those going forward, be anchored by the uniting theme, “Taking care of our learners, ourselves and each other.” In addition, she launched the creation of a major task force on well-being, resilience and suicide prevention whose product over the last 11 months has been quite impressive.”

“Not being content with influencing only the Program Director Association, she partnered with the American College of Emergency Physicians, our specialty’s largest organization, to lead, for the first time in our specialty’s history, a summit on Emergency Medicine Physician Wellness and Resilience with representatives from all of the emergency medicine stakeholder organizations. The summit, which occurred in February, was charged with looking at five major topics that span the spectrum of practice that would yield a list of deliverables, some of which could be implemented immediately, along with future initiatives related to wellness and resilience that would be formalized in a summit proceedings manuscript that will be published in our specialty’s leading journal.”