

**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 2016 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



**Jeffrey S. Berger, MD, MBA**

Program Director for Anesthesiology  
George Washington University School of Medicine and Health  
Sciences  
Washington, DC

**Nominators had this to say:**

“Dr. Berger has enthusiastically transformed our training program into one of the most innovative ones in the country. The fact that he has been so successful despite all the financial constraints and production pressures that academic physicians meet is a testament to his persistence and ingenuity. He instituted an individualized portfolio-based learning program for each resident trainee. This is not merely an effort at documentation, but is truly a personally tailored program that takes advantage of each resident’s unique abilities and strengths and guides them through the learning process.”

“Approachable, trustworthy and an advocate - these were characteristics I was seeking from a program director when interviewing for residency. In half a day, it is hard to gauge the culture that exists within a program. However, Dr. Berger stood out to me right away as a person who I knew would be in my corner throughout my residency. One of the greatest virtues Dr. Berger has is his thoughtfulness. I was probably the only person in my medical school that received a phone call from a program director during Match Day. He had called to congratulate me and tell me how excited he was that I would be joining the program. In that moment, I knew I had made the right decision in choosing GW, because very rarely do you run into individuals who go out of their way to make you feel appreciated like Dr. Berger does.”