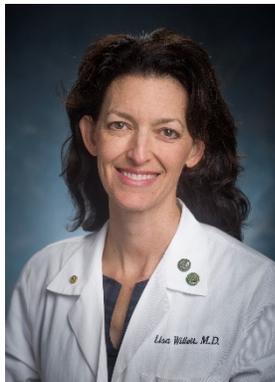


Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and 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* and whose promotion of the concept of "living divided no more" has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



Lisa L. Willett, MD, MACM

Program Director Internal Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Willett has a well-earned reputation for being fiercely protective of her residents. While ensuring clinically rigorous training, Dr. Willett also prioritizes resident well-being, ensuring service never outweighs education, instituting policies such as personal half-days, and organizing regular resident social gatherings to foster community. Her commitment to residents also manifests as a sincere willingness to respond to feedback, which during my residency lead to changes ranging from improvements in clinical rotations to the rapid ousting of a subspecialty attending that exhibited unprofessional behavior.”

“In her tenure as Program Director since 2012, Dr. Willett has instituted important and innovative changes including the creation of a Global Health, Health Care Disparities, and Medical Education tracks and many electives including topics such as Patient Safety and Quality Improvement. She has shown great leadership by embracing, even before it was in the national news, the well-being of the residents at UAB with a number of innovative programs including community level work by the residents, investment in space for residents to meditate and relax, and promotion/funding of social events for residents and their families that I believe have moved UAB to the forefront of such efforts at the national level and created a vibrant environment of work that is balanced with life outside of training.”