

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.



Suzanne K. Woods, MD

Program Director for Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
Duke University Hospital
Durham, North Carolina

Nominators had this to say:

“On the inpatient wards, Dr. Woods sets a high standard for excellence, challenging us not only to employ evidence-based medicine, but to also consider cost-conscious care and socio-economics. She encourages residents to take ownership of their patients while always being available for assistance and support when needed.”

“In our continuity clinic, Dr. Woods is patient and detailed. She allows residents the autonomy we need to develop as physicians, while still providing guidance and pushing us to grow. She prioritizes education for both residents and patients in a way that is applicable and respectful, and is a great role model. When she speaks, her communication style is both direct and compassionate, and her clinical approach provides an inspiring example.”

“Dr. Woods is committed to the education and success of her trainees. Dr. Woods invests in the careers of her trainees and provides continued mentorship even after graduation. Dr. Woods has been consistent in her expectations: she holds high standards for all trainees she works with and she expects hard work, commitment, and professional behavior in return. Her goal is to ensure that each trainee gets the well-rounded clinical training he/she needs to become an excellent physician.”