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.

Alexander M. Djuricich, MD
Program Director for Internal Medicine
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, IN

Nominators had this to say:
"As a student I saw Dr. Djuricich prove his passion to mentor as he volunteered his time to not only be the faculty advisor for the Med-Peds Student Interest Group, but also as he took time with each individual student from IU who was interested in Med-Peds. In my year alone, there were 17 students who sought to pursue a career in Med-Peds and he took 45-90 minutes with each one of us to help map out individual plans and discuss our unique and specific questions. Dr. Djuricich does this year after year, on a voluntary basis, sacrificing his own time each week because of the importance he sees in assisting young physicians-to-be as they make life altering career decisions."

"Alex is the founder of our quality improvement (QI) curriculum starting ten years ago. He created core didactics as well as an experiential curriculum that at first was used by the medicine and medicine-pediatrics programs then exported and adapted by the pediatrics residency. Our residents graduate with skills in QI that exceed many of the faculty! He created a rubric for scoring QI projects that is used by other programs nationally. He has served as the Medical Director for Quality Improvement at Riley Hospital for Children from 2006 through 2011. He is an active member of the Riley Maintenance of Certification Portfolio committee which supports faculty QI projects in the department and community as well. He provides training seminars in QI implementation and dissemination and is truly an expert in this field."