

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 2017 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



Vu Q.C. Nguyen, MD, MBA
Program Director for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
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Charlotte, NC

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Nguyen is also a strong proponent of Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA). Several years ago, he developed a method of measuring competency in the context of the milestones for use in his residency program. It wasn't until he was informed later by academic colleagues that he realized that what he was developing was consistent with EPA. In his method, he proposed measuring competency in nine domains in PM&R, each with seven conditions in which a trainee should demonstrate competency by graduation. He then validated these ‘EPAs,’ the results of which he shared with other PM&R PDs at the annual meeting of the American Academy of PM&R in 2014.”

“He jumps at any opportunity to teach, and it is in those moments one can see the sheer delight in his eyes as he explores a topic with a learner. His courage emanates from humility - he is always willing to explore a void in his own knowledge openly and with childlike inquisitiveness. He is unafraid to say, ‘I don't know, but let's find out!’ Most of all, he empowers his learners to continue their journeys of inquiry, not just academically but also into the human condition. He shows residents how not only to care for the human body in front of them, but for the human soul.”