The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency programs at their sponsoring institutions. Designated institutional officials, or DIOs, have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital or other type of institution that sponsors residency programs. The ACGME congratulates the recipients of the 2014 Courage to Lead Award.

Robert B. Baron, MD, MS  
Designated Institutional Official  
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine  
San Francisco, CA

Nominators had this to say:
“One of Dr. Baron’s most important achievements in the area of patient care and collaboration with the health system has been the implementation and expansion of the housestaff quality incentive program. In collaboration with medical center leadership, Dr. Baron developed an incentive program in which all housestaff share in the three quality goals set by the health system and each residency and fellowship program may identify one additional program specific goal. In addition to creating greater alignment around specific quality goals (e.g., reducing catheter associated infections and improving sepsis care), the program has created an environment in which trainees can innovate with the support of the health system.”

“Dr. Baron is a personal role model for continuous, reflective educational quality improvement. During his AAMC sabbatical last year, he worked on challenges facing graduate medical education. Feedback from the leaders in Academic Medicine confirmed what we at UCSF already knew: Bobby is a tireless leader, a creative thinker, a supportive colleague and a champion for what is right.”