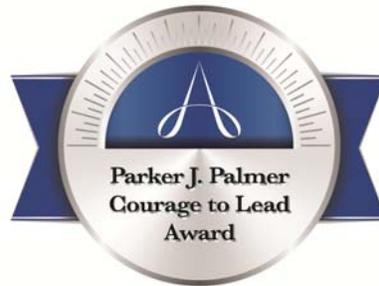


Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency/fellowship programs at their Sponsoring Institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors such programs. The ACGME congratulates the recipients of the 2017 Courage to Lead Award.



Rita M. Patel, MD
Designated Institutional Official
UPMC Medical Education
Pittsburgh, PA

Nominators had this to say:

“One of Rita's earliest initiatives as DIO was to institute the UPMC Annual GME Leadership Conference. The GME community, including program directors, chief residents and fellows, and key education faculty, come together to discuss innovations and to workshop together on shared issues in GME. Under Rita's guidance, the conference has evolved from an initial focus on "Outcomes Project" education for program directors to a scholarly yet interactive event. Rita has engaged institutional leaders in the Dean's office and the C-suite to support the conference, leveraging the opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of the huge number programs she supports. Rita's additional GME community efforts include new program director orientation, the Program Director Development Subcommittee, and a GMEC meeting format that allows time for sharing information about educational innovations. These initiatives have increased the collaboration of program directors and residents/fellows across the institution and created a community of mentorship and advising.”

“Within the department of Anesthesiology, she advises and coordinates each senior resident as they develop a systems based project in order to make quality improvement initiatives a priority within the department. Dr. Patel oversees these projects over several months and facilitates presentation to a departmental executive committee to ensure that each initiative is given appropriate consideration by those with the power to make the described changes.”