Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients
For Program Director Excellence 2013

The ACGME is proud to announce the ten recipients of the 2013 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award, which honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. Parker J. Palmer is the author of the book The Courage to Teach and whose promotion of the concept of "living divided no more" has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Deborah A. Schwengel, MD
Program Director for Anesthesiology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

Nominators had this to say:
“In 2004, Dr. Schwengel was appointed the Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship Director. I can say without exception that all the fellows loved her. She created new goals and objectives, a renewed educational series, and obtained a 5-year re-accreditation from the ACGME. The fellowship course curriculum included a lecture series that covered the fundamentals of pediatric anesthesia and rotations in pediatric anesthesia, pain, intensive care, and cardiac anesthesia. She was an early adopter of simulation as a teaching tool and provided simulation sessions on airway management and pediatric advanced life support to the fellows. She directed recruitment, education, evaluation and program expansion of fellowship. She has created the anesthesiology Colleges Education Program (CEP) within our department. The CEP is a dramatic and innovative departure from traditional education in clinical programs, the first of its kind in anesthesia, and perhaps the first for clinical residency training in the nation.”

"Perhaps one of the most innovative areas of our education days is the integrated research program where residents may elect to join in existing projects, start new projects faculty members have requested help with, or by suggesting new projects with a mentor. This program has helped me to learn ways to identify clinical questions, design studies, complete background research, and give presentations on research proposals. This is the newest part of our program, but certainly promises to be an innovative mentoring method that will help ensure we continue to produce effective academic anesthesiologists at Johns Hopkins."

“In 1999, Dr. Schwengel became the Founder and Director of the International Adoption Clinic of the Kennedy Krieger Institute and the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center. As the ultimate role-model, she started this clinical service while in the process of adopting her own children. This Clinic now provides care to approximately 4-6 children/families per month.”