In an effort to honor the former Executive Director of the ACGME (1997 – 2007), David C. Leach, MD, and his contributions to resident education and well being, the ACGME created this award in 2008. This award is unique in that it acknowledges and honors residents, fellows, and resident/fellow teams and their contribution to graduate medical education. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

**Tierney Lake, MD**
Internal Medicine
University of Colorado
Aurora, CO

**Nominators had this to say:**
“An initial needs assessment was developed and distributed to all residency and fellowship program directors at the University of Colorado to determine following: current medical education curriculum, the needs in medical education curriculum, and the attitudes toward development of an interdisciplinary medical education elective for trainees. The project is improving education by addressing the needs of trainees and programs by providing a mechanism for trainees to develop their medical education/teaching skills, as well as, creating an environment to support and enhance the education of students, residents, and fellows."

“Tierney has developed and is implementing a new interdisciplinary rotation on our campus for GME entitled "Medical Educators" which will include residents from four different disciplines this April. Tierney first did a needs-assessment in preparation, met with the Academy of Medical Educators here on campus (for which she now serves on the executive committee as a resident representative) for guidance and input, and then designed the rotation and helped with recruitment. Her goals for the rotation stem from a desire to help residents become better teachers, to work in interdisciplinary groups, to improve communication skills among residents, and to hopefully do some research on the impact of a rotation such as this. Tierney has been chosen as one of our Chief residents, so she will have ample opportunity to refine this rotation over the next two years.”