The GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award honors and recognizes the crucial role that program coordinators play in the success of a residency/fellowship program. The ACGME congratulates the recipients of the 2016 GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award.

**Denise O. Garcia**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
University of California, Irvine  
Orange County, CA

**Nominators had this to say:**

“Mama D gets six new kids!” were Denise’s words to us when we matched to UC Irvine. After nearly four years of residency I now see why Denise said that. From learning where the restrooms were the first week of internship, to applying for our medical license and lamenting the endless hours of sleep deprivation in second year, to applying for fellowship in third year and sharing with her the joy of matching in our fourth, Denise truly has been our mother away from home during these past four years. Her familiarity provides us the comfort we often need but so rarely see during the constantly changing landscape that is residency.”

“Her organizational skills and her attention to preparation and to details have made our program a model that other residency programs in our University try to emulate. Her charts, graphs and time lines are essential in keeping track of the many items that are necessary to run a program. She serves as a resource for other coordinators and she is always to one who is chosen to train and orient other coordinators. I have to say that Denise is always one step ahead of everyone.”