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 2017 GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award.

**Thea Stranger-Najjar**  
Pediatrics  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

**Nominators had this to say:**
“[Thea] helped develop the Coordinator Education Series with our GME staff and several coordinators at our Institution. This Idea, which translated into a monthly education series for our coordinators, was also accepted as a poster for AHME In 2012. It was also presented as a poster at the Quality Fair at the University of Chicago Medicine.”

“Thea is a true leader in every sense of the word. She has served as the Midwest Regional Director for the Association of Pediatric Program Directors since 2013.”

“During my first year as program director I knew, of course, how valuable she was to pediatrics. It was not until her maternity leave, however, that I learned just how valuable she is to the rest of the graduate medical education community. Many of the questions that would otherwise go to her were redirected to me, and I quickly learned that she is one of the “go-to” administrators in this institution. Whether it’s an interpretation of ACGME’s program requirements, a question of how a budget ledger is structured, or advice for answering a question on WebADS, administrators across this institution know that she will have the answers and will help in any way that she can. We were all thrilled to see her again!”