

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award
for Program Director Excellence



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents/fellows and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. The ACGME congratulates the 2018 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



Vishad Nabili, MD

Program Director for Otolaryngology
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Los Angeles, California

Nominators had this to say:

“From my first interaction with him as a rotating sub-intern, it was apparent that he is totally driven to give world-class patient care and constantly strive for advances in the field. From his congratulatory phone call on residency Match day, to his one-on-one meetings with new interns, to his frequent supportive calls and text messages, Dr. Nabili has always proven himself to be thoroughly invested in the well-being of each individual resident.”

“His leadership as program director is transformative in all senses of that overused term. Long before “Core Competencies” were Power-Pointed-mandates, he displayed their essence in all interactions. In addition to sharing his exceptional surgical skills, Dr. Nabili has repeatedly demonstrated to residents at all levels how compassion for patients and families lends succor and support at the most difficult of times. This modeling is exceptional. His heart is not on his sleeve, but it is open, large and readily available to all those who need it. His head is clear and bright, filled with not only the best and latest in science and medicine, but also with the wisdom derived from a wide reading of the necessary literature that defines humanity. With such integration, he has shown himself to be a true model of integrity.”