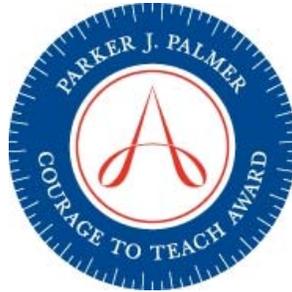


2012 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients
for Program Director Excellence



Waquih William IsHak, MD, FAPA

Psychiatry
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and UCLA
Los Angeles, CA

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. IsHak has been in charge of the UCLA clerkship since coming to Cedars-Sinai in 2001. He has been responsible for the organization of the clerkship as well as the quality control of the medical student teaching and mentorship. Dr. IsHak has been the key catalyst behind this rotation becoming one of the most highly-sought rotations in Psychiatry at UCLA. He is an enthusiastic and active teacher as well as assuring that all of the other lectures given to medical students of first-rate quality. Dr. IsHak also ensures that the clinical experiences that the 3rd-year medical students receive is comprehensive, interesting, and facilitates them having a complete view of Psychiatry, extending from Child Psychiatry to Inpatient Psychiatry, Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, Emergency Psychiatry, Adult Psychiatry, and Geriatric Psychiatry.”

“He advocates for the residents passionately. He meets with the residents every other week in the program director's meeting where he advocates the notion of "a complaint is a treasure, an opportunity to improve" with the firm belief that the best ideas originate from the front line. He helps us (as a group) understand and deal effectively with 'change' (the most challenging issue for residents) by enlisting our input, and giving the group control over how to implement the changes within the provided guidelines, constituting a real world exercise in system-based practice. He also meets with every resident individually in a formal exchange of feedback and career counseling in addition to the informal "coffee or tea with the program director" to get to know each resident up close and personal. These meetings result in pairing residents with local and national mentors to foster interest in subspecialties or research, pointing out important educational conferences, or key contacts for jobs in the community. Thanks to Dr. IsHak, all PGY3 and PGY-4 residents are strongly encouraged and supported to present at the Annual Meetings of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), a vital activity in improving practice-based learning.”