

Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award



While Program Coordinators' titles may vary, this generally refers to those who support the program director, manage day-to-day program operations, and are actively involved in the program's ACGME-related functions. The Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award recognizes these individuals for their deep understanding of the accreditation process, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and projects that improve graduate medical education (GME).



Adam Finney

Child Neurology
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Aurora, Colorado

Nominators had this to say:

“Adam has presented himself as a leader among his peers from the first days of his arrival to Colorado in March of 2015. His is a servant leadership style, placing himself in an active, supportive role among his peers through supporting the Program Coordinator Council (PCC) first as a member, followed soon by being selected as Chair in 2017. The PCC provides mentorship for new program coordinators as well as professional enhancement and self-care activities throughout the year. In 2016, he created and managed the Program Coordinator Peer mentorship program, developing a system to identify and welcome new coordinators. His leadership expands nationally not only as a member of Program Coordinators of Child Neurology as an active member of its Annual Conference Planning Committee, but as its current Vice-President.”

“Adam is respected and trusted by his program leaders, residents and fellows, his peers and the Office of Graduate Medical Education. For example, he established a program coordinator committee whose purpose is to mentor new coordinators at CUSOM [University of Colorado School of Medicine]. He developed a residency onboarding templated process as a tool for his peers across our campus as well as nationally. Through his vision and collaboration with program leaders, the child neurology program implemented a new night float system as well as a yearly resident retreat. Based upon the new process he created for obtaining resident feedback on the program, the results of the ACGME Resident Survey for child neurology reflected a 47 percent increase in “very positive” overall satisfaction with the program (from 22 percent to 70 percent).”

“Another example of Adam’s creativity includes creating online portals for each chief resident which allows them to develop orientation materials, schedules to support the chiefs in their new role. Following the success of this project, Adam extended this practice across program leadership.”

“When we were having trouble getting faculty evaluations from our residents, Adam helped devise and establish a project we termed the Reverse Clinical Competency Committee, using protected administrative time for the residents to all complete their evaluations in a group setting. This project has greatly improved our faculty satisfaction with feedback, and was selected for presentation by our team at our local GME meeting because of its creativity.”