

David C. Leach Award



Named to honor the ACGME's former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997-2007), and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident/fellow-led projects and innovations.



Bryce Edward Montané, MD

Team Members: Omar Gutierrez, MD; David Savage, MD, PhD; Joseph Sleiman, MD
Internal Medicine
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

About the project:

"Dr. Montané's team has identified various opportunities to enhance the educational environment of our residents and medical students. During the first two years, each resident was provided with time, space, and mentorship to undertake novel curriculum projects that would improve the education of our residents and the passion we have for patient care. Products of their work have included: a radiology course, a physical diagnosis course teaching pre-clinical medical students, a novel telemedicine course for ambulatory resident clinics that launched spring 2020, and a new inpatient teaching service where residents served as an 'acting' attending."

"The Clinician Educator Track (CET) residents, through each of these initiatives, have identified areas for improvement from an educational standpoint. Faculty often have a lot of competing time constraints that limit their ability to teach or prepare educational topics in advance. The resident-led projects, however, met the needs of all the trainees in the Cleveland Clinic IMRP by substantially enriching their learning environment."

"Dr. Montané's team's teaching-centered service is also meant to perform clinical reasoning at the bedside to allow patients to have more autonomy, and to give them a better understanding of the clinical decisions healthcare providers make with them. This challenged our residents and medical students to perform at a level that was not previously expected. By students gaining the responsibilities of a resident and residents adopting the role of an attending, each group gained a rich appreciation of the skills they will need in their near future."

“I would like to highlight one project in particular that this team created that truly met a need of their training program and the public. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cleveland Clinic Community Care program took many measures to reduce virus exposure risk in its patient population. One of these measures was moving follow-up appointments to telemedicine visits. Drs. Montané, Gutierrez, Savage were already in the process of creating a telemedicine curriculum for the 2020-2021 intern class. However, in light of the pandemic, they worked tirelessly to meet with their Program’s leadership to expedite the adoption of this curriculum. This allowed their peers to add tele-health appointments within the primary care clinic this year. This was a valuable learning experience, undoubtedly, but it also met a critical institutional need and lowered the risk of patients to COVID-19. This would not have happened without the leadership of this team of residents, and our GME office is especially grateful.”