

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.



Benjamin Doolittle, MD, MDiv
Program Director for Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
Yale University
Kensington, Connecticut

Nominators had this to say:

“[Dr. Doolittle] is an outstanding program director. He supervises residents in both the inpatient and outpatient settings with inexhaustible enthusiasm. In doing so, he is the ultimate coach. He encourages and reassures; he provides oversight but balances it with autonomy to allow the residents to grow. He cares so much about his residents and he sees each of us a whole person- more than just a resident. In fact, he often starts pre-clinic conference by asking each resident “How is your

soul?”

“Time and time again Ben has recognized the unmet medical needs of the local community and has been eager to mold our practice in order to meet those needs. Clinical programs in addiction medicine, hepatitis C, HIV, and refugee medicine all housed within our resident clinic have emerged due to Ben's vision. Recently, he has built a partnership between our residency program and the engineering department at Yale, allowing our residents to work collaboratively with engineers to develop medical devices to solve clinical problems. On a regional level, Ben has spearheaded the creation of a Northeast Med-Peds working group as an off-shoot of his work in the MPPDA, with a goal of fostering collaboration among Med-Peds faculty with geographic proximity to each other. As MPPDA president, he has brought this spirit of collaboration nationwide.”