

2011 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients

for Program Director Excellence



Gregory Kane, MD, FACP, FCCP

Internal Medicine
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA

Nominators had this to say:

"He can find that "teachable moment" in any interaction for the benefit of those working with him. Dr. Kane is humble and meets all the criteria of a servant leader—he is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and tackle any problem for his residents, no matter how big or small. When your boss acts this way, it has an amazing "trickle down" effect of making a large residency program feel like an extended family! He was again selected by our residents to receive an award for Teaching Humanism in

medicine in 2009."

"He knew us well enough that early in our intern year, he was walking by a group of interns, said hello to us all in his usual gregarious manner. He then asked one in particular, "Jen, correct me if I am wrong, but you earned a PhD as well, right?" He was of course correct, and two weeks later, my colleague was surprised to get a call from his office that her new white coats with MD PhD embroidered on the front were available for her to pick up. It was a small gesture which was by no means necessary, but exemplifies his compassion for each of his residents, and the pride that he takes in each one of us individually.

"Throughout medical school, many of us had training in delivering bad news to a family in the hospital. However, as he discussed from his experience, he has developed close relationships with many patients [but] he has not been there for their death. Not being there at the time of their death was not a reason not to pass on condolences to a family and showing gratitude for having been given a chance to get to know the patient. He reads us one of the many letters he has written and asks us to write a letter to a family of a patient. I am grateful for having had this experience because I believe this was a unique experience that will make me a better doctor and person."