

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. Parker J. Palmer is the author of the book *The Courage to Teach* and whose promotion of the concept of "living divided no more" has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



Brett W. Robbins, MD

Program Director for Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York

Nominators had this to say:

"We genuinely believe in Dr. Robbins' vision and trust him to value our feedback. He fosters a culture that residents, faculty and staff enjoy working in. Last year, 31 of 32 residents attended our Program Evaluation Committee meeting. Despite the invitation to share concerns, the conversation was constructive, engaging, fun and led to changes in our program. He has a unique ability to recognize key components of a problem and use them in a proactive process of improvement. This exemplifies how Dr. Robbins approaches opportunities and challenges."

"Since the University of Rochester was selected as a Pathway Innovator in the ACGME Pursuing Excellence Initiative, Dr. Robbins has been a member of our Leadership Team. In 2017, his national colleagues elected him to serve as President-Elect of the Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association (MPPDA); on July 1, 2018, he will become [became] President of MPPDA."

"It has been our pleasure over the years to watch him teach in many settings: Morning Reports, Noon Conferences, Grand Rounds, and Journal Clubs. In every setting, he combines intellectual rigor with a commitment to understanding the unique medical and psychosocial needs of the patients discussed. Through his example, he encourages all learners present to be the best they can possibly be. Finally, we have stood next to him as he carries out teaching in the setting that matters most: one learner, one patient and one teacher, all together at the patient's bedside."