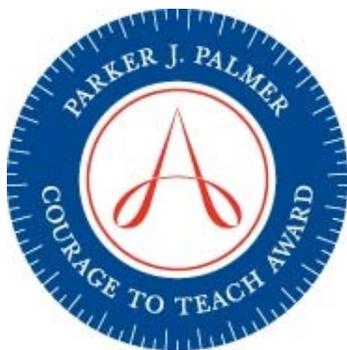# Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award
for Program Director Excellence

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 2015 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.

Anthony C. Arnold, MD
Program Director for Ophthalmology
Stein Eye Institute, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Los Angeles, CA

Nominators had this to say:
"Dr. Arnold has had a distinguished career as an educator, as evidenced by his long tenure as ophthalmology Residency Program Director at Jules Stein Eye Institute- University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). A program consistently rated as one of the top five residency programs nationally."

"One of Dr. Arnold's most notable qualities has been his ability to guide a program with a proud tradition of rigorous training and resident autonomy through the changing landscape of graduate medical education, improving the resident experience without sacrificing program identity."

"During my first year, Dr. Arnold asked my thoughts on leading an international elective. He knew it would greatly expand resident exposure to different practice systems, but also had the potential to disrupt the delicate balance of residents covering our six affiliate hospitals. I assumed this plan would take years to implement, but by the following year, Dr. Arnold called a meeting to introduce a new international elective at the Aravind Eye Hospital in India. He worked closely with our rounding Chairman, Dr. Bradley Straatsma, to move things forward in an inconceivably short time. He was able to accomplish this by shortening rotations with lower educational value without sacrificing time at higher yield sites. This may not have been popular with those losing resident coverage, but it confirmed his dedication to putting resident education first."