

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.



Christopher Nagy, MD

Program Director for Anesthesiology
San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Nagy, in short, is an outstanding clinical educator. He teaches and explains complex concepts well. Dr. Nagy always questions an anesthetic plan, not to rake you over the coals, but to allow one to explain the thinking and evidence behind the decision making.”

“Under his direction, the SAUSHEC Anesthesia program has become the Department of Defense (DoD) only tri-service training platform, and the first to transition to a four-year curriculum with a clinical base year. First-time pass rates on the American Board of Anesthesia certifying examination have catapulted from 84% to 98%, which is the highest in program history. Resident and faculty scholarly activity has increased by over 300%. Last year, 55% of residents presented posters at the national level. Dr. Nagy was awarded the Colonel Roscelli Award for 2014-2015, recognizing him as the top program director among 60 graduate medical and allied health programs, and the 2015 Air Force Physician Educator of the Year from among over 2,500 USAF physicians.”

“Chris recognized the importance of resident resilience and well being. I hand-picked him as the inaugural SAUSHEC Physician Well-Being committee chair. Under his leadership, the wellness initiative has evolved to encompass quarterly housestaff-driven seminars, collaborative engagement with our GME-specific mental health program (GME HARBOR) and the hospital's Healthcare Resolutions Program (i.e., second victim), and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Interactive Screening Program.”