

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 2016 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



Curtis Whitehair, MD, FAAPMR

Program Director for Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital & Georgetown University Medical Center
Washington, DC

Nominators had this to say:

"[Dr. Whitehair] assumed the leadership of the National Rehabilitation Hospital Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program at a time when it was in crisis, having just been put on probation. In response, Dr. Whitehair revamped the recruitment process, upgraded the teaching of the entire staff and faculty, and restored the Residency to its rightful place as one of the most competitive programs in the U.S."

"Dr. Whitehair is dedicated to constant improvement of our didactic series, incorporating technologies like "polleverywhere" and experiential learning activities with hands-on prosthetics and wheelchair didactics. He ensures that residents can participate in resident-driven learning experiences such as spasticity, academic education (through sponsorship of a resident to go to the Harvard-Macy Institute for Future Medical Educators), quality improvement/patient safety, and acupuncture training, which only nurtures the love of life-long learning in his residents. Academically, the resident participation in poster presentations at our national conferences has skyrocketed to over 40 poster presentations at national PM&R conferences in 2014 (quite a high number when one considers the size of the residency program: 19 residents)!"