Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency/fellowship programs at their sponsoring institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors such programs. The ACGME congratulates the recipients of the 2016 Courage to Lead Award.



Mary C. Ottolini, MD, MPH
Designated Institutional Official
Children's National Medical Center
Washington, DC

Nominators had this to say:

"To support the ongoing development and scholarly productivity of MTLDP graduates she established the "Children's Academy of Pediatric Educators (CAPE)" as the second component of faculty development. To become a member of the CAPE physicians and nurses must be actively leading educational projects leading to educational scholarship. Currently there are 27 CAPE members collaborating on over 30 projects.

As the program has matured, two unique components have evolved. The primary outcome of the scholarly projects has

become addressing patient care gaps through interprofessional education. Secondly, residents and fellows are deliberately involved as co-investigators to gain the learner's perspective and to encourage trainees to embrace a clinician-educator/QI career path. An example of such a completed project is a blended learning curriculum for residents and nurses, which successfully decreased errors in children hospitalized for diabetes by 50%. The PI on this project was a pediatric resident who won the David Leach award.

In sum, Dr. Ottolini has demonstrated innovation in education in the past 6 years as DIO. She is a recognized national leader in pediatric education and has been a strong advocate for investment in education and educational research."