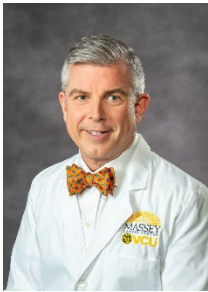


## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and fellows, 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*; his promotion of the concept of “living divided no more” has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



### **J. Christian Barrett, MD**

Program Director for Hematology and Medical Oncology  
Virginia Commonwealth University Health System  
Richmond, Virginia

### **Nominators had this to say:**

“The breadth of Christian’s outstanding teaching and leadership is reflected by numerous awards from medical students, trainees, faculty colleagues, institutional leaders, and practicing physicians - including our medical school’s highest teaching award. Beyond his exceptional content expertise and teaching methods, he is widely appreciated for his innovation and his unwavering focus on humanism.”

“Creatively, Christian merges his interest in acquiring perspective through art and VCU’s strength in art education. His innovative trainee orientation occurs at the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, where he prompts discussions and exercises on recognizing diverse perspectives, cultural competence, communication, and recognition of emotions. Annually, he invites a VCU acting professor to teach effective communication and use of acting techniques to improve non-verbal skills, reinforced by communication simulations. Presently, Christian is convening focus groups to brainstorm on incorporating emerging technologies in our learning environment. His cutting-edge vision contributes to departmental excellence in our educational missions.”

“Dr. Barrett introduced innovative flexibility in the clinical and research curriculum in the hematology/oncology fellowship program, tailored to individual career goals. Thanks to his continued efforts, the program was expanded to recruit more fellows. This increased the time for training individualization and scholarship activities. The impacts were immediate. Graduates are now regularly recruited in leading cancer centers of the country.”