

## 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.



**Alfred Thomas Frontera Jr., MD**  
Program Director for Neurology  
University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine  
Tampa, Florida

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

“Our primary goal is not to boost test scores but to create outstanding neurologists and in 2015, Tom identified an opportunity to substantially improve residents’ preparation for the start of their [education and] training, creating the Neurology Boot Camp. This intensive course incorporates clinical, didactic, and medical simulation education to provide incoming PGY-2 neurology residents with critical instruction in the diagnosis and management of neurological emergencies. The simulation training allows residents [to] practice running an assortment of “code” scenarios, including a series of stroke codes on a both robotic and live, standardized patients, including training in TPA administration and management.”

“Dr. Frontera is easily one of the most humanistic, innovative, and dedicated mentors I have had the privilege to know. Dr. Frontera’s commitment to the well-being of patients, medical students, residents, and fellow faculty members in our neurology department can hardly be overstated.”

“Dr. Frontera holds monthly town hall meetings where residents are empowered to raise concerns, and he is determined to optimize workflow and work-life balance. Outside of this, he actively pursues opportunities to enhance our residents’ well-being. For example, tackling the many unexpected challenges of COVID-19, he secured the necessary protective equipment and in the unfortunate case of resident illness, there was a process in place to recover without having to be concerned about clinical duties.”