

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.



Charles Kwon, MD

Program Director for Pediatrics
Cleveland Clinic Children’s
Cleveland, Ohio

Nominators had this to say:

“Charles is a thought-leader in our institution regarding effective teaching of patient care and safety, particularly in the domain of health care disparities. His innovative longitudinal social determinants of health curriculum has been a model for other training programs and takes an interdisciplinary approach to addressing these complicated problems.”

“Dr. Kwon has done much to optimize the clinical learning environment. Perhaps his most challenging accomplishment was in optimizing night coverage for the pediatric intensive care unit. As is true of most hospitals, this is a busy and stressful service with many stakeholders. Recognizing the negative impact on his residents’ well-being, he was able to successfully navigate the politics involved with creating a much healthier learning experience for the trainees by transitioning to a night-float system. This required a collaborative approach with advanced practice providers and nursing teams with the ultimate result of better patient care through these interdisciplinary relationships. He has also demonstrated innovation in this regard by implementing defined scheduled time for residents to attend to their wellness. At its inception this seemed like an impossible task in such a busy residency, but he was able to create a workable schedule through clever resource management. These initiatives show his commitment to assuring the values and principles he identifies as key to a highly effective learning environment are enacted through his patient, calm, leadership style.”