

## 2011 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients

### *for Program Director Excellence*



**Maria Aaron, MD**

Ophthalmology  
Emory University  
Atlanta, GA

**Nominators had this to say:**

“She is a true leader who knows how to talk with residents at all levels of training and in all programs. In fact, Family Practice residents who are required to rotate through Ophthalmology voted for Dr. Aaron to receive their Teacher of the Year award. This is a very unusual situation, and Dr. Aaron certainly deserved the honor. Within Ophthalmology, she received the Resident Education Appreciation Award given by the graduating residents to the faculty member who, over the term of their training, was their best educator and most sincere mentor.”

“Some Program Directors perform their duties, while others are clearly leaders. She definitely falls into the second category even at the national level. Dr. Aaron is the Vice Chair of the Review Committee for Ophthalmology and is an Associate Examiner of the American Board of Ophthalmology. She is not just a member of the Association for University Professors in Ophthalmology, but she was elected by her peers to represent them as a Director of the AUPO Program Directors' Council. She was then elected President of this Council. Dr. Aaron is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in which she served the Surgical Simulation Task Force and, currently, the Committee on Resident Education. As one can see, she stretches herself to educational roles at a national level.”