

David C. Leach Award



Named to honor the ACGME's former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997-2007) and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident-/fellow-led projects and innovations.



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About the project:

The project focused on educational outcomes and advancing humanism in patient care by creating a curriculum to improve residents' skills in managing medical complexity.

Residents led the initiative, with training on G-tube and tracheostomy care. The project resulted in significant improvements in residents' confidence. It addressed gaps in [intellectual and developmental disabilities] education and is designed to be sustainable by integrating into residency curricula and collaborating with advocacy groups. The model is replicable for other programs.

Nominators had this to say:

"Dr. Schoenberger has repeatedly demonstrated commitment and advocacy for vulnerable populations living with intellectual and developmental disabilities who frequently face discrimination and challenges throughout their lifespan. Literature shows that medical providers, both pediatric and adult, are reluctant to care for patients with disabilities or medical complexities. Dr. Schoenberger has worked tirelessly to dismantle ableism in our medical community, to improve education about caring for adults with medical complexity, and to ensure that this vulnerable population receives the highest quality health care possible."