

Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award



While program coordinators' titles may vary, this generally refers to those who support the program director, manage day-to-day program operations, and are actively involved in the program's ACGME-related functions. The Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award recognizes these individuals for their deep understanding of the accreditation process, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and projects that improve graduate medical education (GME).



Sharon M. Ashley
Emergency Medicine
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia

Nominators had this to say:

“Ms. Ashley has survived the implementation of CCCs and PECs, and oversaw PIFs and site visits, APRs, and Self-Studies. She maintains an active alumni Facebook site, Instagram feed, and routinely tweets out program accomplishments. Ms. Ashley started as the sole program administrator and now manages a growing staff, a changing and increasing complement of program directors, and teaching faculty to maintain a smooth working consensus.”

“She regularly goes above and beyond her duties, volunteering her time with residents and participating in community service activities such as Medpals and the Atlanta Food Bank. Her organizational skills helped ensure administrative tasks such as patient and procedure logs, and licensing and certifications were completed and easily tracked, allowing us to focus on our education and patient care.”

“Although well known for her managerial and organizational skills, Ms. Ashley is best defined for her compassion and nurturing of residents and students. Every resident gets a personal gift from Ms. Ashley at graduation, but the premier award that night is the ‘Carin’ for Sharon’ award to the one resident who best helped her support the program.”

“For 32 years, Ms. Ashley has honed her skills as an outstanding program coordinator. She has worked with medical students and fellows while managing a residency class that surges to over 80-plus at the end of an academic year. She does this with organization, grace, and a “know how to get things done” spirit. She works tirelessly throughout each year to ensure New Innovations is up to date, our GME tasks are complete, and notifications to the ACGME are

discussed. She is readily available to all who need her assistance and provides a source of history for the program. Further, her spirit of service was noted in several canned food drives to assist our communities.”