

## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients

### For Program Director Excellence 2013



The ACGME is proud to announce the ten recipients of the 2013 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award, which honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents 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* and whose promotion of the concept of "living divided no more" has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers. Congratulations to this year's recipients!



#### **David B. Sweet, MD, FACP**

Program Director for Internal Medicine  
Summa Health System / NEOMED  
Akron, OH

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

"In 2006, well before any involvement in the EIP, Dr. Sweet developed a resident work schedule consisting of 16-hour work period maximums, long before such schedules were considered at the national level. This innovation was implemented at our institution without significant resistance or difficulty, and has since been presented and discussed at a number of national meetings including those of the ACGME."

"Dr. Sweet has also led the development of opportunities for residents on the medicine teaching services to work in interdisciplinary care teams, and has led our efforts to gather ongoing data about the impact of that involvement. The implementation of this teaching and care-giving strategy has resulted in reductions in cost of care, length of stay, and readmission rates for patients cared for by residents on interdisciplinary teams as compared to patients receiving traditional care. Dr. Sweet also led the development of these interdisciplinary team approaches in our resident ambulatory training center, and this work has resulted in significant improvements and care outcomes in patients with diabetes."

"Dr. Sweet's commitment to quality and safety training for our residents is also evident in the QI/Systems-Based Practice morbidity and mortality conference requirement that he has implemented for all third year medicine residents. As a result of this activity, our residents have had the opportunity, supported by their faculty, to participate in hospital quality and safety committee meetings and meetings of hospital administrators, and to actually effect meaningful changes in policies and procedures within the hospital.