

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award
for Program Director Excellence



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents/fellows and to provide quality health care while remaining connected to the initial impulse to care for others in this environment. The ACGME congratulates the 2015 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



Kevin M. Means, MD

Program Director for Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Little Rock, AR

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Means has markedly improved the program over the years. He expanded the program from a three to a four-year program several years ago. He led the faculty in making major updates in the competency-based and level specific educational objectives and the curriculum. Dr. Means revised the resident selection criteria and reorganized the resident selection process to include more resident involvement. Dr. Means developed and instituted many program innovations including a PM&R continuity clinic for PGY-1 residents to gain PM&R skills and maintain a PM&R identity during the first year. He arranged community-based private practice experiences for PGY-4 residents. He developed a Board examination preparation program and a mock oral examination that others have adopted,”

“Dr. Means is a strong patient safety advocate. He created and facilitates our Residents' Continuous Quality Improvement Committee where we learn and develop projects to improve the safety and quality of our care. Dr. Means uses his expertise in preventing falls and fall-related injuries to teach patient safety principles to the residents.”

“Dr. Means has instituted many program innovations. His program was the first residency in the U.S. to adopt team-based learning (TBL) teaching methodology in its curriculum. The PM&R program and Dr. Means have been commended for the program's pioneering involvement in TBL.”