

## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency and fellowship programs at their Sponsoring Institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education (GME) programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors GME programs. Parker J. Palmer is the author of the book *The Courage to Teach*; his promotion of the concept of “living divided no more” has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



### **Mark C. Wilson, MD, MPH**

University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics  
Iowa City, Iowa

### **Nominators Had This to Say:**

“Mark has developed a well-integrated and mature educational system that has flourished from simple beginnings. He mentors new and experienced program directors (PDs) through monthly GME committee meetings, bi-weekly PD informal Zoom chats, bi-annual leadership seminars, and the frequent, unscheduled cup of coffee. Mark has worked with colleagues at McMaster University to develop faculty development opportunities in evidence-based medicine.”

“I have worked with Dr. Wilson on the inpatient wards and the mentorship and support he provides for trainees is outstanding. His ability to constantly accept and utilize feedback from trainees leads to high-quality care provided to patients along with phenomenal education. The information he acquires on the ground helps identify areas of need and improvement within the institution. One such example is when one of our trainees made note of the poor state of the lactation facilities, he immediately set out to working with hospital administrators, IT, and others to improve the condition of and accessibility to lactation rooms. While these may seem like small things, they do not go unnoticed and greatly improve the morale and well-being of many trainees.”

“During the current pandemic, he has gone above and beyond to promote an atmosphere that protects trainees while not sacrificing education in the name of service. The respect he has earned and relationships he has built allowed all departments to work together to ensure adequate staffing and providing time off when needed during extraordinary times.”

“Mark’s humility and deep passion for forming the next generation of providers are hallmarks of every interaction he has with staff. Knowing that the program directors are essential determinants of a learner’s

experience at the University of Iowa, Mark has gone above and beyond in supporting the program directors, so that they in turn, can have the greatest impact on our learners. He has built an environment in which program directors are expected to play an active role in the professional development of their staff, enabling our institution to train not just the greatest physicians, but also the greatest leaders. Simultaneously, Mark is consistently innovative, and he is tenacious in his efforts to push the institution forward. He is a great champion for the role of learners within the broader institution, consistently advocating on their behalf, and ensuring that the health system's leadership are well apprised of successes and opportunities for growth within graduate medical education.”