

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 2017 recipients of the Courage to Teach Award.



Susie Buchter, MD
Program Director for Pediatrics
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Buchter has always impressed us with her strong passion for justice. She is a fiery advocate for resident rights and is usually the clear bell weather for ensuring the institution is doing the right thing. Dr. Buchter is the natural choice to chair the Duty Hours Monitoring Subcommittee of the GMEC, which she has graciously done for 11 years. It is no small job and one she has taken quite seriously as no specialty is spared her scrutiny. It is a testament to her work that in an academic center that encompasses 97 programs, 1,200 residents and five autonomous medical centers that there have been no major duty hour citations. She is clearly a leader in the development of institutional GME policy and has shared her own innovations with other Emory programs.

“In addition to being the Program Director since 1992, Dr. Buchter has fully embraced an academic medical career. She is one of the leading Neonatologists in the State of Georgia and runs the regions referral center. Dr. Buchter has won every teaching award available at Emory, such as the APPD LEAD Graduate, the George W. Brumley, Jr. Pediatric Leadership Award, and the Woodruff Leadership Academy to name a few.”

“Dr. Buchter has developed several courses within the residency program, including a curriculum in basic quality improvement concepts, presented as a workshop at the national APPD meeting in 2013.”