

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients

For Program Director Excellence 2014



The ACGME is proud to announce the ten recipients of the 2014 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!



Saba A. Hasan, MD, FACP

Program Director for Internal Medicine
Capital Health Regional Medical Center
Trenton, NJ

Nominators had this to say:

"The first and immediate quality one recognizes in Dr. Hasan is her role as a leader among those around her. There is something to be said for an international graduate, who is able to successfully finish a residency program in the United States, to go on to become director of that same program, and to further improve the program in terms of ACGME competencies. For us residents, who are all international graduates, Dr. Hasan represents a beacon of hope and opportunity. As foreigners in the United States, many of us carry or feel that we carry a stereotype of not being as proficient or competent as US medical graduates. Dr. Hasan inspires us all to overcome our own stereotypes and to build our own identity and belong in this country. Not only this, but to make this country our own and to make it our responsibility to improve the health of its citizens.

"The program was in good standing for many years but more recently had been neglected as evidenced by two consecutive 1-year accreditations with 19 citations and the possibility of probation status. The Program was notified that the accreditation survey would take place in December 2008. Dr. Hasan went right to work. All Program Requirements were studied and an evaluation of how to meet each was done. Citations were studied and addressed one-by-one. All of this while in her first recruitment season! She learned, and empowered the faculty to assist in the process and was confident that she could restore the program's standing. The result? A 3-year accreditation cycle and the Review Committee commending Dr. Hasan for her turnaround of the program. It was stated in the letter that only because of significant past issues was the cycle kept to 3 years. Courage, heart and a lot of hard work made this happen."