

Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients

Michael Hart, MD

Surgery

Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, WA



Nominators had this to say:

Dr. Hart believes that a program director does not have to create every new idea and direction for his program. He recognizes the good ideas no matter where they arise, shapes them into a useable form, creates the framework within which they can be integrated into the program, and obtains the needed buy-in both from the faculty and the residents. He is receptive to ideas from the residents and listens well. He is very well respected by the residents and faculty for his ability to analyze opportunities and make improvements, always giving priority to the excellence of the training experience.

Each quarter, the Chief Medical Officer and I meet with the Surgery Chief Residents, Dr. Hart, the Assistant Program Director, and the Residency Coordinator. I am continually impressed with the spirit of teamwork, professionalism, and trust among this working group. It is obvious that there is a great deal of respect for Dr. Hart's experience, and that he has learned the fine art of encouragement, open communication, and professional development of new physicians, as well as teaching them surgical skills and clinical acumen.

Dr. Hart has been steady and straight forward in his commitment and dedication to the surgery residency program. He has carefully considered issues that could potentially impact the residents and their experience to assure that the premise of a community hospital-based residency program focused on training excellent general surgeons is upheld. Whether discussing new training programs, visiting trainee relationships, or the program budget, his advocacy to maintain a strong core program is always first and foremost. Hence, the success of excellent match results, superb residents, and impressive pass rates.