

## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award 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.



### **Edwin L. Zalneraitis, MD**

Program Director for Pediatrics  
University of Connecticut School of Medicine Connecticut Children's  
Hartford, Connecticut

### **Nominators had this to say:**

"Dr. Zalneraitis, or "Dr. Z", as he is known at the University of Connecticut, has been our pediatric program director since 1987 and has trained over 500 pediatricians. The majority of pediatricians in Connecticut trained as either medical students, residents or both under Dr. Z's tenure. While Connecticut may be a small state, this is still an incredible accomplishment."

"As a chief resident and helping with recruit the class of 2022, we have asked the residents what should be highlighted about UCONN or what they remember as memorable when choosing a residency. Everyone has the same answer: Dr. Z."

"As a program director he has fought for residents' wellness and created an effective learning environment by being forward thinking and initiating policies like work duty hours and night float prior to them being the standard. This courage he displays in instituting change makes it an honor for our residents to call him our program director. He attends resident handoff almost every morning at 5 am. As a teacher he offers educational pearls at the end of hand-off as he monitors our progress. I have never met someone who is so dedicated to promoting patient wellness and safety through modeling and feedback. It is remarkable that he continues to do this daily, trying to encourage residents to be better and more inquisitive."