

David C. Leach Award



Named to honor the ACGME's former Executive Director, Dr. David C. Leach (1997 – 2007), and his commitment to resident education and physician well-being, this award recognizes resident/fellow-led projects and innovations.



Eric J. Chow, MD, MS, MPH

Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital
Providence, Rhode Island

About the project:

“The project involved the design, implementation, and delivery of a series of educational activities, called "MED Talks" that were focused on improving cultural competency for healthcare professionals around marginalized and underrepresented patient populations that we serve in our community.”

“Each talk includes a panel composed of community members (representing a marginalized patient population) and team leadership. This panel engages an audience of healthcare workers including students, residents, fellows, attendings and allied health professionals. The focus of the presentation is for these patients to tell personal stories about their experience in the hospital and suggest ways in which that could be improved. The audience then has an opportunity to ask questions in a safe and open space to learn more about their culture and community. “

“MED Talks have introduced healthcare providers to the concerns of patients who they are not generally able to ask questions during the hospital encounter. These talks served not only to educate caregivers on the issues important to these marginalized populations, but served as a catalyst to promote real change in our institution to improve the healthcare of these populations. For example, prior to MED Talks we have experienced challenges to outreach to the Cambodian community; after a MED Talk was done, communications between residents and Cambodian community leaders was established to help address barriers to care here in Rhode Island.”