

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.



Sima Desai, MD

Program Director for Internal Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Nominators had this to say:

“Dr. Desai is a truly exceptional educator, leader, mentor, role model, and friend. In aggregate our writing group has known Dr. Desai since her arrival to Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) as an intern in 1994. Members of our group have interacted with Dr. Desai as residency program directors, supervisory chief residents, Division Head, associate and assistant program directors, mentor and mentees, students, residents and chief residents.”

“She is clearly the heart and soul of our residency program. Ask any of us and you will receive the same answer- she is the reason we chose OHSU. It is her grit and grace that drew us here, and has changed us all for the better.”

“She fiercely advocates for us. A great strength that all of us appreciate is her involving us in important decisions regarding the residency, and this has allowed us to grow as the next generation of thought leaders in resident education.”

“We find it ironic that “Sima” means “limit” in Hindi, because she is truly limitless. Whether it is her daily bike ride up Marquam Hill, volunteering at the local food bank, or hosting a “Women in Medicine” night at her home, Sima illustrates to us what it means to be a holistic physician and role model. She is not only clinically superb, but also personally and professionally fulfilled. Her words and actions align deeply, and inspire us all.”