

## Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award



While program coordinators' titles may vary, this generally refers to the role that supports the program director, manages day-to-day program operations, and is actively involved in the program's ACGME-related functions. The Debra L. Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award recognizes these individuals for their deep understanding of the accreditation process, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and projects that improve GME.



### **Hemali J. Shah, C-TAGME, PACE**

Surgery  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

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

"Ms. Shah has been an active member of our graduate medical education (GME) community since she began her role at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2014. She has served on integral sub-committees of the GMEC and is well respected amongst her peers as experienced, knowledgeable, and comprehensive in her approach to her program. Not only has she played a significant role in our GME, she has also been very active nationally serving as the Executive Secretary of the Association of Residency Administrators in Surgery since 2016, as well as the founding member of the Program Coordinator's organization. Ms. Shah further demonstrates personal lifelong learning, leadership, and mentorship of others through her participation in these important organizations. She also demonstrates a desire to contribute to the national GME environment through her work on various scholarly activities that have been presented at national meetings including projects on Bullying in Medicine and GME Program Coordinator Orientation and its usefulness."

"Hemali started at this university filling in for someone during maternity leave, but has now ended up with her becoming our head program coordinator. Hemali has exemplified herself as a coordinator at such a young age and in a short amount of time."

"She has been able to spearhead two research projects: the Orientation of Program Coordinators into the GME World, reaching out to 1,643 coordinators in five specialties in the US, and the Incidence and Characterization of Bullying in Medicine: An International Survey of Trainees, reaching out to 10,902 coordinators and directors across the US and Canada. She also led the initiative to create the Program Coordinators Organization at the University

of Illinois at Chicago that helps coordinators in all specialties discuss problems they may have in their daily activities. She has shown significant interest in resident education, by attending every M&M, didactic, clinical correlation and grand rounds conference as well as the ABSITE reviews that help gauge resident knowledge. She has performed tasks beyond her requirements and shows drive in striving for the best.”