

## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award honors designated institutional officials (DIOs) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency and fellowship programs at their Sponsoring Institutions. DIOs have authority and responsibility for all graduate medical education (GME) programs in a teaching hospital, community hospital, or other type of institution that sponsors GME programs. Parker J. Palmer is the author of the book *The Courage to Teach*; his promotion of the concept of “living divided no more” has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



### **Antoinette Spevetz, MD**

Designated Institutional Official

Cooper University Health Care, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University  
Camden, New Jersey

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

“Dr. Spevetz implemented a robust, independent, and collaborative interdisciplinary Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) with subcommittees devoted to wellness and diversity. The GMEC oversees an outstanding annual cycle of reflective program assessment and improvement that culminates in a comprehensive Annual Institutional Report. There is deliberate and thoughtful inclusion of Cooper GME trainees in strategic decision making and operations of

the GME apparatus.”

“Dr. Spevetz maintains an open door for all of our residents. She is a shoulder to cry on, a solver of problems, and a cheerleader for success. She has met and mentored a large number of trainees who were in serious risk of losing their careers for various reasons and has kindly and effectively helped the vast majority to achieve success. She has helped many others with less dire yet important concerns to reach a better place in their educational journey. She is a tireless advocate for resident wellness and has spearheaded many initiatives to keep our residents engaged, safe, and content during the difficult times of the [COVID-19] pandemic. As examples, she has founded and supported our Diversity Council. She oversaw housestaff deployment through three COVID-19 surges in an equitable way that managed to satisfy not only hospital needs but more importantly, resident education and safety. During this time, she maintained excellent communication with multiple video town hall meetings for housestaff and for program directors and PAs.”