

2011 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award Recipients

for Program Director Excellence



Karen J. Souter, MB BS, FRCA

Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Nominators had this to say:

"But what makes Dr. Souter stand out is her creativity. For example, most anesthesiology program directors do not think teaching "disclosure of bad news" is a high priority for anesthesiologists since such news is often delivered to families by surgeons or internists. Yet Dr. Souter recognized that when difficulties happen in anesthesia, patients can be gravely hurt and it is the responsibility of the anesthesiologist to disclose such information to families. She therefore was

the first program director to develop "disclosure" training for anesthesiology residents, using both patient models and simulation group training."

"Dr. Souter has notable administrative accomplishments. At the departmental level she was appointed Residency Program Director in Spring 2005 and is currently responsible for 93 residents and interns (n=24 residents per R2, R3, and R4 resident class and n=21 interns), as well as an additional 23 fellows (these with the help of specific fellowship directors)... At the institutional level she is a member of the General Medical Educational Committee, the Residents and Fellows Advisory Committee, the School of Medicine Academic Affairs Committee, and several GME Internal Review committees. At the national level she serves on the Board of Directors of the Society for Education in Anesthesia (SEA) and is a member of the SEA Committee for Scientific Meetings, and a member of the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) Committee for Scientific Review with specific responsibility for providing review responses to all submitting authors."