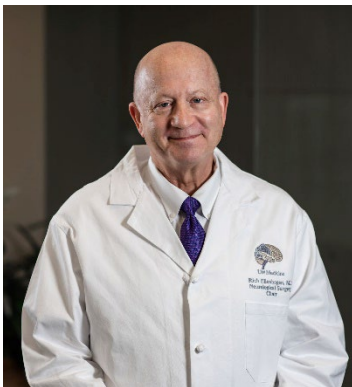


## Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award



The Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award honors program directors who find innovative ways to teach residents and fellows, 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*; his promotion of the concept of “living divided no more” has proven relevant to teaching in academic health centers.



**Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD, FACS**  
Program Director for Neurological Surgery  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

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

“Dr. Ellenbogen's well-known mantra is ‘the platinum rule’: treat others how they wish to be treated. In stark contrast to the legacy surgical culture of hierarchy, this is a paradigmatic culture shift. He expects this rule from all of us, but always leads from the front. One example is through innovating resident education. He is the architect of faculty-run, hands-on teaching courses that differentiate our program's culture. Every year this includes two skull base cadaver dissection courses, a micro-anastomosis training course, and four ‘sawbones’ spine courses. No other program in the country has such a breadth of supplementary, hands-on training for crucial neurosurgical skills designed exclusively for internal resident trainees. Furthermore, he helped pioneer the ‘home microsurgery laboratory’ geared toward time-strapped residents.”

“Before institutional protocols were developed early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Ellenbogen acted decisively to protect the well-being of his trainees and maintain excellent patient care. Residents who were not needed in clinical settings were asked to stay home on call to back up those providing care in the event of illness. Trainees received an even higher frequency of personal communication from Dr. Ellenbogen inquiring about our mental health in those early times of high anxiety and isolation. Grand rounds were moved to virtual spaces and took on a ‘fireside chat’ quality to allow for real-time feedback and improvement to maintain the quality of our care and health and well-being of the department.