

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2008

CONTACT: Johnnie Jones, johnnie.jones@ttuhsc.edu
432-335-5119

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER PROFESSOR SELECTED AS OUTSTANDING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

James K. Burks, M.D., was selected as one of eleven outstanding program directors in the nation to receive the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) *Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award*. Burks is professor and program director of the Department of Internal Medicine Resident Program of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) at the Permian Basin.

From an ACGME September 29, 2008 release, “the Courage to Teach Award is given to program directors, nominated by their peers and students, who have innovative residency program curricula, and who have improved graduate medical education and served as exemplary role models for residents. The award is named for Parker J. Palmer, Ph.D., a sociologist and teacher who wrote *The Courage to Teach*.”

“Dr. Burks has exerted extraordinary effort to make certain that resident physicians graduate as competent physicians. His residents respect and recognize him as a mentor, friend, and readily available consultant,” stated John C. Jennings, M.D., regional dean of TTUHSC.

Each recipient will receive a plaque and \$1,000.00 at a luncheon during the ACGME’s Annual Educational Conference March 5-8 in Dallas. They also will be invited to attend an educational retreat next May at the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Burks, who has served as program director in the Department of Internal Medicine since 1996, has been a member of TTUHSC at the Permian Basin faculty for 14 years. Since that time more than 100 resident physician have graduated from the Internal Medicine residency program.

--30--