

## Excellence in Professionalism Award

# Cara O'Brien, MD

Dr. Cara O'Brien graduated from Harvard College in 1999 and from Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine in 2004. After completing her residency in Internal Medicine at Duke, she joined the faculty of the Division of General Internal Medicine as a hospital medicine physician. Since joining the faculty, Dr. O'Brien has focused on innovation related to clinical care, education and quality improvement. She created the General Medicine Procedure Service to improve the procedural education of internal medicine residents and to incorporate ultrasound into internal medicine residency training.

Dr. O'Brien also created the Internal Medicine simulation program which allows residents to hone their critical care skills in a realistic yet safe environment. She has been the associate director of clinical operations for the Hospital Medicine Program since 2010. In this role she has helped to design the ways in which care is best provided to the general medicine population and to grow the hospital medicine program. Dr. O'Brien also has a significant leadership role in health system quality improvement work, and is currently leading efforts to redesign the way in which care is provided to patients with sepsis.



*"She has always modeled professional behavior and handled difficult situations with constant grace and poise."*

*"She is humble, thinks critically, and motivates her colleagues to succeed. Her commitment to teamwork and thoughtful interprofessional interactions is truly commendable. She has constantly been a leader in our Hospital Medicine group, partnering with nursing, patient resource management, and other to improve the care of patients. She models a leadership style that is inclusive and effective."*