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Texas Physician Elected to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians

PHILADELPHIA — Lloyd Van Winkle, MD, FAAFP, a family physician in Castroville, Texas, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians. The AAFP represents 105,900 physicians and medical students nationwide. Van Winkle was elected to a three-year term by the AAFP's governing body, the Congress of Delegates.

As an AAFP board member, Van Winkle will advocate on behalf of family physicians and patients nationwide to inspire positive change in the U.S. health care system.

Van Winkle has been a family physician in solo practice in rural Castroville for nearly 30 years. He also serves as a clinical associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. In addition, Van Winkle is the health officer for Castroville and its neighboring community, La Coste, and served as medical director of the Medina Valley Emergency Medical Service for more than 25 years. He is an aviation medical examiner and a quality reviewer for Texas Medical Foundation Health Quality Institute. He also provides expert testimony for Texas Medical Liability Trust, defending family physicians in medical malpractice litigation.

A member of the AAFP since 1985, Van Winkle has served as a delegate and alternate delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates for the past 10 years. He also has served on the Commission on Membership and Member Services, and as chair of the Committee on Communications and the Subcommittee on Awards.

At the state level, Van Winkle is an active member and past president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. He has held many positions on the Texas AAFP Board of Directors, and served on numerous committees and commissions. He currently serves as chair of its Political Action Committee Board of Directors. Van Winkle was named Texas Family Physician of the Year in 2010 by the Texas AAFP.

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An active member of his community, Van Winkle sponsors children's baseball, soccer and basketball teams, and he serves as a volunteer physician at the annual marathon in San Antonio. He has provided free care for many patients at VITAS Innovative Hospice Care of Texas, where he now serves as a part-time attending physician. Van Winkle also has precepted medical students in his office for more than 20 years, mentoring the next generation of family physicians.

Van Winkle earned his undergraduate degree from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, and his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, where he also completed his family medicine residency.

He is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and has the AAFP Degree of Fellow, an earned degree awarded to family physicians for distinguished service and continuing medical education.

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About the American Academy of Family Physicians

Founded in 1947, the AAFP represents 105,900 physicians and medical students nationwide. It is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care.

Approximately one in four of all office visits are made to family physicians. That is 240 million office visits each year — nearly 87 million more than the next largest medical specialty. Today, family physicians provide more care for America's underserved and rural populations than any other medical specialty. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on integrated care.

To learn more about the specialty of family medicine, the AAFP's positions on issues and clinical care, and for downloadable multi-media highlighting family medicine, visit www.aafp.org/media. For information about health care, health conditions and wellness, please visit the AAFP's award-winning consumer website, www.FamilyDoctor.org.