



FOR RELEASE: July 14, 2012

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TAFP names recipients of top honors

AUSTIN, TEXAS — The Texas Academy of Family Physicians named the recipients of its top honors during the 63rd TAFP Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Austin, Texas, on July 14. Each year, patients and physicians nominate extraordinary family physicians and others working on behalf of family medicine, and they are honored with a TAFP award.

TAFP is pleased to announce the 2012 TAFP award recipients.

Physician of the Year – Justin V. Bartos III, M.D.

Dr. Bartos currently serves as medical director of the Dr. David Pillow Senior Health Clinic in North Richland Hills, where he provides comprehensive geriatric care for Medicare patients. He previously practiced for more than 25 years at North Hills Family Medicine, providing multigenerational care in the private practice setting. He has been a leader at the local, state, and national levels of organized medicine, most notably serving as alternate delegate and delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates since 2003.

Physician Emeritus – Henry J. Boehm Jr., M.D.

Dr. Boehm has practiced family medicine in his hometown of Brenham for almost 50 years. During his career, he has served as chief of staff at the local hospital, on the faculty of the Texas A&M medical school, and as medical director of the Washington County EMS and of AMA Home Care and Gazebo Terrace Nursing Home, as well as many other leadership positions in the Academy, his community, and his church.

Presidential Award of Merit – Lewis E. Foxhall, M.D.

Dr. Foxhall is a family physician, professor, and senior leader at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Throughout his career, he has been a leader in organized medicine on all levels, including serving as TAFP president and on the Texas Medical Association Board of Trustees. He served as director of the Texas Family Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program for more than a decade and shepherded it through a series of funding cuts to ensure its continuation.

Patient Advocacy Award – Representative Vicki Truitt

Representative Truitt has represented northeast Tarrant County, House District 98, in the Texas House

of Representatives for more than 14 years. Last session, she authored a bill to remove licensure barriers for international medical graduates, allowing these qualified physicians to start caring for patients as quickly as graduates of U.S. medical schools.

Public Health Award – David S. Buck, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Buck, president and founder of Healthcare for the Homeless – Houston, currently serves as professor of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, and professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston.

Exemplary Teaching Award – Donald Briscoe, M.D.

Dr. Briscoe is the program director of the Methodist Hospital Family Medicine Residency, and chair of the Department of Family Medicine. He is known as an excellent leader and mentor, working hard to create a robust learning environment for the residents and motivating them to pursue lifelong learning with his own enthusiasm for the specialty.

Medical School Award of Achievement – University of North Texas Health Science Center / Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

UNTHSC has achieved the criteria for this award, with 25 percent of its graduates entering family medicine residencies. This is the school's 15th award.

Special Constituency Leadership Award – Linda Siy, M.D.

Dr. Siy is a family physician at JPS Health Center Northeast in Bedford. She has been a strong advocate for all special constituencies and, as a member of the women constituency, has served as an outstanding leader in TAFP, AAFP, and in her community.

TAFP Foundation Philanthropist of the Year – Edwin R. Franks, M.D.

Dr. Franks, now retired, practiced family medicine for 51 years in the rural community of Iraan, Texas. He was one of 12 founding members of the modern TAFP Foundation and continues to contribute monthly in support of the Foundation's mission.

TAFP Political Action Committee Award – Lloyd P. Van Winkle, M.D.

Dr. Van Winkle, a family physician in Castroville, has served as chair of the TAFP Political Action Committee for six years. During his tenure, the nonpartisan political arm of the Academy has steadily increased its resources and has gained donors—many through his personal encouragement.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.