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## **Edwin R. Franks, M.D., honored for philanthropy in medicine**

AUSTIN, TEXAS — Edwin R. Franks, M.D., of Iraan, Texas, was named the 2012 Philanthropist of the Year by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Foundation during the Academy's 63rd Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Austin on July 14.

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 to encourage medical students to choose family medicine, support family medicine resident activities, and fund family medicine office-based research.

During his career, he volunteered many years with the Texas Statewide Family Medicine Preceptorship Program, hosting 29 medical students in his practice to help them "learn the art of medicine, as well as the science of medicine," as he told attendees of the awards lunch. Family physicians like Dr. Franks are qualified to work in all major medical areas and trained to treat more than 90 percent of all cases they encounter. Family physicians care for patients of all ages.

This program matches medical students with an experienced family physician for a two- to four-week period to help them gain real-life experience in a community setting. By participating in a family medicine preceptorship, students have the opportunity to explore what being a family physician is really about and many have decided to pursue family medicine as a result of their participation.

Though funding for the preceptorship program was zeroed out during the 82nd Texas Legislature, the TAFP Board of Directors voted last year for the Academy to continue administration of the program without providing student stipends for participation. During their 2012 meeting, Dr. Franks and other members of the TAFP Foundation Board of Trustees voted to create a fund to reinstate the stipends for the benefit of the program and all Texans.

The TAFP Foundation Philanthropist of the Year Award was initiated in 1995 to recognize physicians whose contributions have made a significant impact in fulfillment of the TAFP Foundation mission: to support the educational and scientific initiatives for the specialty of family medicine and to improve the health of all Americans.

*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](http://www.tafp.org) for more information.*

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