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I.L. Balkcom IV, M.D., completes year as TAFP president

AUSTIN, TEXAS — I. L. Balkcom IV, M.D., of Sulphur Springs, Texas, has served as president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians for the past year. During the 63rd Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Austin, he was honored and recognized for his service. Dr. Balkcom passed the gavel to President-elect Troy Fiesinger, M.D., of Sugar Land, on July 14 at the annual Installation of Officers and Awards Lunch.

During his year as president, Dr. Balkcom led the effort to reach out to medical students, encouraging them to choose family medicine. He also visited family medicine residency programs to show support for these physicians-in-training. And in his outgoing presidential address, he encouraged residents to pursue the full scope of family medicine, to be prepared for any medical circumstance that presents in a profession dedicated to whole-person care.

Dr. Balkcom is a physician with the Medical-Surgical Clinic in Sulphur Springs. He was awarded a B.S. degree in Biology by Georgia Southwestern in Americus, Ga., and was awarded a medical degree by La Autonoma De Guadalajara, Mexico, and Ross University, Portsmouth, West Indies. He completed his internship with Medical Center Family Practice in Columbus, Ga., in 1987 where he was chief resident during his third year.

Family physicians like Dr. Balkcom 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.

Dr. Balkcom has practiced family medicine since 1987, which was also the year he joined the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians. He joined TAFP in 1993. He currently serves as a member of the Commission on Legislative and Public Affairs and the Executive Committee. He previously served on the boards of directors for the TAFP Political Action Committee and the TAFP Foundation, and represented the Red River Chapter on the TAFP Board of Directors.

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.