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## **Brian Smith, MD, MPH, receives Public Health Award**

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS — Brian Smith, MD, MPH, of McAllen, Texas, was awarded the Public Health Award by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians during the organization’s 2015 Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in The Woodlands on Nov. 14. The award recognizes individuals who are making extraordinary contributions to the public health of Texas.

Dr. Smith served as the Regional Medical Director for the Texas Department of State Health Services Region 11 for 17 years, and for five additional years as the communicable disease clinician. In this role, he was responsible for 19 counties in South Texas, dealing with tuberculosis, diabetes, ebola, influenza, and other cross border issues. He provided emergency preparedness for many hurricanes and other natural disasters along the state’s coast.

Before joining DSHS, Smith practiced medicine in South Texas community health centers, with the Cherokees and Choctaws in Oklahoma, and in other countries including Guatemala, Nigeria, and Cameroon. He also practiced family medicine privately in Africa and Guatemala for Indian Health Services.

Smith received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, and holds a master’s in public health from the University of Texas Health Science Center/Houston School of Public Health.

Family physicians like Smith 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.

*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.*