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## **Robert Youens, MD, honored for philanthropy in medicine**

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS — Robert Youens, MD, of Carmine, Texas, was named the 2021 Texas Academy of Family Physicians Philanthropist of the Year during TAFP’s Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in The Woodlands on Nov. 6. The 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 family medicine research and future family physicians.

Youens is retired now, but spent his career in private practice in Weimar, Texas and many years as an assistant professor with UTMB Galveston. Outside of his practice, he was active in the community and is past president of a long list of entities including the Weimar Independent School District, Weimar Rotary Club and Booster Club, and the Colorado Fayette Medical Society.

He got involved with TAFP almost 20 years ago and worked his way through the officer positions to become president in 2008. He continued to stay involved after his year as president serving on the Finance Committee and the TAFP Foundation Board of Trustees including two years as vice president.

In addition to his leadership, he’s been a very generous financial supporter. He’s a TAFP Foundation monthly donor and is at the Trailblazer level of giving in TAFP’s cumulative donor program.

“The [TAFP] Foundation supports scholarships for students and residents, and it supports research,” Youens said. “It’s important to our specialty that we have our own body of research and I’m proud of the Academy and thereby the Foundation for supporting this fundamental principle of our specialty, which is family medicine research.” After all, Youens explained, “family physicians are guardians of science.”

*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 32 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit [www.tafp.org](http://www.tafp.org) for more information.*