

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, August 3, 2020

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UTMB Recognized by AAFP for Program of Excellence in Family Medicine

August 5, 2020 — The University of Texas Medical Branch was recently recognized by the American Academy of Family Physicians as one of 18 medical school Family Medicine Interest Groups to win the 2020 Program of Excellence Award for exemplary efforts to grow and support interest in family medicine.

Medical students and faculty were honored during the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students, where they gathered virtually across the country to network with each other, hear addresses by family medicine leaders and to learn which schools won the PoE Awards.

FMIGs are student-run organizations that create opportunities for students to learn about and experience family medicine outside of their medical school curricula. FMIGs host social events, workshops, leadership development opportunities, community service and clinical experiences. These award-winning groups are breaking new ground with important initiatives such as starting pipeline programs for students who are underrepresented in medicine and serving their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The University of Texas Medical Branch was recognized as a Program of Excellence for its robust programming for students navigating the match, hosting a family medicine residency fair, a Strolling Through the Match workshop, and Tales from the Trail, a panel discussion with recently matched students. These efforts extend far beyond the national award to improving the future of family medicine and building the vital primary care physician workforce.

Dr. Jennifer Raley, faculty advisor, and the FMIG officers are thrilled with the honor. Dr. Raley said “the honor of receiving this award shows the commitment of the Family Medicine Department to the education and growth of UTMB students and the dedication of the students to make these programs come alive. It is such a privilege to work with the future of Family Medicine. Special thanks to the Chair of the Department, Dr. Barbara Thompson, for prioritizing recruitment and education efforts here at UTMB.”

“The FMIGs we honor this year have gone above and beyond by activating students to put the knowledge they’ve acquired in the classroom into practice,” said Clif Knight, MD, senior vice president for education at the AAFP. “These programs help students develop leadership skills that will serve them in their future practices and communities and provide opportunities to better understand the many vital roles that family physicians play in our health care system.”

The AAFP [publishes winning applications](#) to share best practices and innovative programming ideas with other FMIGs and family medicine educators nationwide. There is also a [programming resource](#) for all FMIGs to use that highlights the most successful and innovative ideas from these exemplary schools.

FMIGs are independent groups, governed by their host medical school and supported by faculty and staff with resources and support from the national FMIG Network administered by the AAFP.

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About American Academy of Family Physicians

Founded in 1947, the AAFP represents 136,700 physicians and medical students nationwide. It is the largest medical society devoted solely to primary care. Family physicians conduct approximately one in five office visits -- that’s 192 million visits annually or 48 percent more than the next most visited medical specialty. Today, family physicians provide more care for America’s underserved and rural populations than any other medical specialty.

Family medicine’s cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on integrated care. To learn more about the specialty of family medicine, the AAFP’s positions on issues and clinical care, and for downloadable multi-media highlighting family medicine, visit www.aafp.org/media.

For information about health care, health conditions and wellness, please visit the AAFP’s award-winning consumer website, www.familydoctor.org.