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Leila Myrick, MD, PhD, receives the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Public Health Award

ADDISON, TEXAS — Leila Myrick, MD, PhD, of Seminole, Texas, was awarded the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Public Health Award during TAFP's Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in Addison on Nov. 15. The award recognizes individuals who are making extraordinary contributions to the public health of Texas.

When the Texas measles outbreak originated in her community earlier this year, Myrick acted decisively, leading efforts in case identification, quarantine protocols, and collaboration with local schools and public health authorities. Myrick launched an aggressive, community-wide vaccine campaign in Gaines County and quickly became an expert voice, being interviewed by media outlets such as CNN, ABC News, The New York Times, and London Times, among others.

A distrust in vaccines and vaccination misinformation was a large contributing factor to the community's outbreak. Myrick confronted these issues head on, organizing and leading town halls and building trust with community members through transparency and compassion. Her swift response and willingness to discuss vaccine concerns further proved that family physicians are trustworthy members of the local community.

Family physicians like Myrick are qualified to work in all major medical areas and trained to treat more than 90% 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 for more information.