



MEDIA RELEASE – PHOTOS AVAILABLE

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(LISLE, Ill.) The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) honored three outstanding physicians as part of the annual awards program held November 9 in Lisle. The IAFP Public Relations Task Force evaluated all the nominees and selected the recipients.

Family Physician of the Year

Joseph M. Welty, MD
KSB Medical Group, Dixon

Joseph M. Welty, MD of Dixon has practiced family medicine for 28 years. He's an avid runner, taking great joy in Dixon's annual Reagan Run each July. The race is a 5K, which is a great distance for beginning runners. To encourage his community, Welty hosts a weekly "Run with the Doc" so that others can get out and join him, with the goal of running in that Reagan Run. It's another way to lead in transforming the wellness of his patients and community. Welty is a lifelong runner who has completed at least 10 marathons. He's also met the qualifications to compete in the Boston Marathon. In fact, he had already finished the race this past April and was just blocks away when two explosions rocked the finish line. He plans to return to Boston to run again in April 2014.

Tim Appenheimer, MD – Chief Medical Officer at KSB Hospital has known Welty since he arrived in Dixon nearly 30 years ago. They have served together in numerous teaching, practice and leadership roles. "During his career here in Dixon, Joe has quietly and steadily earned the respect of patients, colleagues and administrators," he says.

Welty has practiced in Dixon since 1985 after completing residency training at MacNeal Memorial Hospital in Berwyn. He was nominated for the award by a former resident, Dr. Emilee Bocker, now a physician at KSB. Welty was her advisor when she started as a resident in the Univ. of Illinois – Dixon Rural Track.

Turns out – Dr. Welty pretty much lived out the "what do you want to be when you grow up" that every kid is asked! His mother was an office nurse for Dr. Wayne Spenader, a family physician in Welty's home town of Amboy, Ill. Young Joe worked there as a teenager washing office windows, emptying trash cans, and helping to clean the waiting area. Because Dr. Spenader's practice covered three different towns, his mother often functioned much like our current day nurse practitioner. "I witnessed the tremendous impact family medicine can have on the lives we care for and about," recalls Welty. During my high school years I formulated a dream and subsequently a plan to become a family physician, and with the incredible support of innumerable people along the way I continue to live that dream today," says Welty.

Welty takes a major role in the care and safety of his community at Neuman Central Catholic High School as the all-sports team physician, a volunteer position. According to athletic trainer Andy Acardi, "He has helped me develop concussion management programs with return-to play protocols long before they were required

by the state. Every year, he gives up his personal free time during the summer to help me administer over 100 baseline concussion tests on student athletes. It would be one thing to point out that he does a great job with the medical treatment of our athletes, but he also has an incredibly strong passion for the overall health and care of young men and women. He wants them to be successful on the playing field, but places above all else their well-being now and in the future.”

KSB Hospital CEO David Schreiner has also known Dr. Welty for decades and sums him up quite succinctly in his support letter. “The communities that KSB Hospital serves are better for his presence and his unwavering dedication to those he cares for.”

Father Paul White is a friend and colleague who sent his letter of support for Dr. Welty. “Dr. Welty is the best family physician I have encountered in the 24 years and six communities I have served as a priest. We put our lives in the hands of our family physician and trust he will take care of us. There are many great doctors. There are many great people. There are many great community leaders. I have never met a man who is a better doctor, who diagnoses patients more accurately and quickly, with the humility to find the right specialist available, who is a great man, loving father, caring professional and devoted member of the community.”

Family Medicine Teacher of the Year

Careyana Brenham, MD

SIU Springfield Family & Community Medicine Residency Program

Dr. Brenham’s family medicine career began as a Southern Illinois University (SIU) Medical Student. And just a few months ago, she took over as program director for the SIU Family and Community Residency Program, ensuring that her exemplary career will continue and continue to inspire the SIU Community.

She is the only person in the history of SIU School of Medicine to receive the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award as both a medical student and an attending physician. After receiving the award as a student, Brenham believed the bar, or perhaps the floor, had been set for her future contributions as a physician.

“I love taking care of patients and cherish the relationships I have established in my clinical practice. I however feel like I need more to complete my goals and passion in medicine. Teaching helps me do this,” she says. “Working with residents and medical students and seeing the progress they make in their training is inspiring.”

Her approach worked on Tabatha Wells, MD now a first-year faculty physician at SIU Family and Community Medicine. “Her excellent teaching style and dedication to her students and residents was one of the strongest motivators in my choosing SIU’s Department of Family and Community Medicine for residency training... While I have only been in this position (faculty) for a year, Dr. Brenham has been a guiding hand in helping me to learn how to be an effective teacher and leader.” Janet Albers, MD of Springfield preceded Brenham as residency’s program director and nominated her for the award.

Family medicine certainly runs in Brenham’s blood. Her dad and grandfather are family physicians, and her mother is a family nurse practitioner. Being a great family medicine educator requires being a great family physician. “Nothing can compare to the truly personal levels of relationships you develop with entire families when providing them care. It is a unique honor to feel so much a part of the care of an entire family. In addition family medicine has prepared me for doing so many diverse things in medicine that no other medical specialty could do,” says Brenham.

Brenham has a very unique and critical role in the Springfield and surrounding communities. She is on call 24/7 for both Springfield hospital emergency rooms to respond for cases of child sexual abuse. She conducts the exam and then provides guidance and counseling for the child and family. She also

compiles the evidence and provides expert testimony at trial. This expertise has led to her role as chair of the Children's Justice Task Force, uniting child advocates and experts to provide better services to children who have been physically or sexually abused. She's also been able to build this special training in child abuse and child advocacy into the family medicine and pediatrics residency programs at SIU ensuring that this important work can grow into new areas in the future.

President's Award- Stephen Stabile, MD Chicago

Each year the outgoing IAFP president may award a President's Award to an individual or organization that he or she feels makes significant impact on advancing patient care and/or the specialty of family medicine. Carrie Nelson, MD has selected Stephen Stabile, MD of Chicago as her President's Award honoree. "Anything with Steve Stabile starts with a smile, because it's hard to find someone who brings more joy to family medicine," declares Nelson. He served on the IAFP Board of Directors from 1999-2004 and continues to be a regular contributor and resource on public health and access issues.

Stabile was a consistent and dedicated preceptor for the IAFP's [now defunct] Summer Externship program. He was the man behind the scenes organizer of the Cook County Health Systems preceptors over the years. Many medical students were able to experience family medicine in the underserved communities of the Cook County ambulatory system thanks to his work enabling externship participation across practice sites in underserved communities. He personally mentored two students in the final years of the state-funded Summer Externship Program. His 2009 extern Kamil Kurkowski, DO is now a family physician in Michigan and 2010 extern Yesenia Valdez, MD is now a family medicine resident at UIC.

Steve was instrumental in the process that led to CountyCare and early Medicaid expansion in Cook County. Steve knew that if patients came to the County clinics, they'd get the right care in the right place. If more patients had access to Medicaid insurance, they could have that medical home right in their local Cook County Ambulatory Clinic. As a result, Steve got to work early on the federal Medicaid waiver that paved the way for County Care, providing early enrollment and immediate coverage to low-income childless adults.

Steve's philosophy emulates the best in family medicine leadership and service:

I believe that physician leaders grow, understand and lead best when they are imbedded in the clinical practice of medicine. While I have held various academic and operational leadership roles, I have always maintained a full spectrum practice as a family physician. This is particularly important when serving those who are challenged or marginalized by the health care "system". I am passionate about the patients we are privileged to serve and seek to continuously improve the care of individuals, communities and populations.

He spent the past six years as the Associate Chief Medical Officer of the Ambulatory and Community Health Network at Cook County Health and Hospitals System, with oversight of eight community-based health centers that focus on primary care and behavioral health care to diverse underserved populations. As Chair of the Quality Council, he managed the clinical quality for 13 community-based and 3 hospital-based primary care ambulatory centers. He was a physician leader in the development of patient centered medical home initiatives, which included implementation of their electronic health record. Meanwhile he practiced full spectrum family medicine including outpatient, inpatient, obstetrical and procedural care and taught it all to residents and students. He spent the six years before that as a division chief the [then] Cook County Hospital dept. of Family Medicine, devoting a full 12 years to the Cook County System.

On October 1 – which was already a big day in health care - Steve began a new chapter as Chief Executive Officer for PrimeCare Community Health, Inc. a community health center system consisting of five health centers serving the near northwest side of Chicago. Conceived as a family practice center with obstetrics model and including behavioral health services, PrimeCare prides itself as a provider of health care "Head to Toe"... "Newborns to Seniors."

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Founded in 1947, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) is a professional medical society of over 4,300 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students interested in family medicine. IAFP is a constituent chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians representing over 110,000 members. Follow us on Twitter @IllinoisAFP