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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLINOIS FAMILY PHYSICIANS HONORED AT IAFP ANNUAL MEETING

OAKBROOK, Ill. - The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians honored some of its finest family physicians at their annual meeting today. A long-serving Harrisburg physician is the IAFP Family Physician of the Year. Two Chicago-area family medicine educators received Family Medicine Teacher of the Year honors.

2011 IAFP Family Physician of the Year – Larry R. Jones, MD, Primary Care Group - Harrisburg

The Family Physician of the Year was chosen from candidates nominated directly by patients and colleagues. The award is presented annually to an outstanding family physician that illustrates the values and vision of the family doctor. He or she is a role model for the community and sets the standard for health care delivery. The IAFP Public Relations Task Force and Board of Directors selected the recipient from the nominees.

Larry R. Jones, MD planted his family medicine roots in Harrisburg in 1979 with Primary Care Group. More than 30 years later, he has established a legacy of quality care and community support with the highest standards. He has the unflagging support of his colleagues, patients and community.

Jones is a home grown product born and raised in Harrisburg. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and a 1976 graduate of SIU School of Medicine, although he did cross the border for residency training in Terre Haute, Ind.

His career is filled with service, leadership, teaching, and caring. He has served in leadership roles at Harrisburg Medical Center, his state and local medical societies, as well as the county health department and Southern Illinois University. He is co-owner of Saline Care Center, an intermediate care nursing home.

He has been a family medicine volunteer faculty member for Southern Illinois University since 1981, and is known for always having a medical student with him. In fact, the practice often welcomes local high school and college students who are interested in medicine.

Dr. Jones served as the chair of the IAFP Rural Health committee in 1996 and then as an IAFP board of directors member from 1997-2001. During his time on the board, he was a consistent preceptor for the IAFP's Summer Externship Program, voluntarily hosting a rising second year medical student for four weeks each summer. Several of his summer externs who spent four weeks with him during that stretch are now family physicians.

Dr. Jones was nominated by one of his current practice partners, Matthew C. Winkleman, MD. Years ago, Dr. Winkleman was Dr. Jones patient, a young boy named Matthew.

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“He was a compassionate, tireless presence in Saline County providing exceptional care to my family and many others. His influence was a key factor in my choice of medicine as a career.” When Matthew was an SIU medical student, he spent four weeks in 1999 with Dr. Jones through the IAFP’s Summer Externship program. In fact, Laura Winkleman was another of Dr. Jones’ summer extern students that same year. Today Dr. Jones is the family physician for Dr. Matthew and Dr. Laura Winkleman’s children.

Primary Care Group is a leading edge multi-specialty practice, combining the personal care of thousands of patients with the advances of electronic health records and a patient portal. Jones credits the outstanding dedication of the physicians at Primary Care Group for their success as a practice and balance with family life. “With ten physicians in our group, we work together to ensure that each physician has plenty of personal time away from the professional demands of practice.”

Beyond the success of Primary Care Group, Dr. Jones also founded Bridges Medical Clinic in 2000. As the name suggests, the clinic serves as a “bridge” for working patients who don’t have insurance, but don’t qualify for Medicaid or other government assistance. He has worked tirelessly to recruit volunteer providers to ensure that those working uninsured have access to affordable quality medical care. Bridge Clinic board member Michael V. Oshel is also one of Dr. Jones patients, and his respect for Jones as his colleague and his physician is evident in his support letter to IAFP. “He may not be able to ‘fix’ everybody’s orthopedic or neurological problems or treat a cancer, but he can certainly recognize them and determine what treatments they need.” Oshel also cites Jones’ work in attracting new providers to the area. “I know we will be well cared for after he retires, but I do not look forward to that day because I have always known that Dr. Jones has his patients’ best interests at heart.”

Dr. Jones and his wife, Janet, live in Harrisburg, where they raised their three children: sons Braden and Loren and daughter Tara Jones Grosner. Braden is currently a student at SIU School of Medicine and Loren is a urology resident at UIC.

2011 IAFP Family Medicine Teachers of the Year

The Family Medicine Teacher of the Year Awards recognize family physician faculty who play a pivotal role in recruiting and developing the best in family medicine. The recipients can teach in the medical school, residency or community-based setting. IAFP honors an employed faculty family physician and also to one physician who contributes to family medicine teaching on a part-time basis in addition to their duties as a practicing family physician.

Family Medicine Teacher of the Year - Full-time Faculty

Mari Egan, MD - University of Chicago – Pritzker School of Medicine.

Mari Egan is a family physician educator to the core. After completing medical training in Seattle, Dr. Egan completed a faculty development fellowship with Cook County Family Medicine Department in 1996 and pursued her Masters in Health Professional Education.

Dr. Egan joined the University of Chicago – Pritzker School of Medicine in 2009. She also spent nine years at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. Her impressive resume outlines 16 very busy years of family medicine education in Illinois. Currently she is the director of medical student education at the Univ. of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, where that’s just the tip of the iceberg of all the things she does. She’s also the director of their longitudinal program for the first year students and serves as the FMIG Advisor where she has reinvigorated their activity on campus.

Dr. Egan sees great potential for the future of family medicine. “With the Affordable Care Act and the Patient Centered Medical Home, I know Family Medicine is what our country needs in terms of health care reform. What we continue to need is smart, committed, service oriented students to go into family medicine and be the leaders of reform,” she says. “I also hope that as future student leaders go into family medicine, we make sure that they work in our underserved communities and understand that you must have healthy communities in order to have healthy patients.”

She’s grooming a future of family medicine educators with her “residents as teachers workshop” giving them valuable structure to be good teachers themselves in their interactions with students and interns. The project is funded by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Mari Egan has also “gone global” in her role fostering collaboration between Pritzker and Wuhan University creating a new family medicine clerkship in China. This amazing project was the topic of her presentation at the American Academy of Family Physicians Family Medicine Global Health Workshop in San Diego in October and also at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Conference on Medicine Student Education back in January.

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Perhaps the greatest evidence of Dr. Egan's work at the University of Chicago can be found in their Match rates. In the last two years, 19 students have chosen family medicine, out of a total student pool of under 200, statistics that were unheard of from Pritzker only a few years ago.

Asked what drew her to family medicine, Egan says, "When I look back on it now, I think that the way I was raised by my parents, would only allow me to be a family medicine doctor. We were taught about the importance of social justice and that the greatest thing one could do was to help the underserved. My siblings (three brothers and one sister) are my heroes and work for homeless families, county outreach, public school children and for the Veterans Administration. When I did family medicine as my last clerkship rotation and I was able to be a families' doctor in the outpatient setting, I knew this was the field for me. I also had help in keeping to this field by meeting my husband on the first day on medical school! He loved every specialty he did but he was always going to be a family medicine doctor and his conviction and enthusiasm have bolstered me for the last 22 years."

Family Medicine is truly family life for Dr. Egan. Her husband, IAFP member Dr. Mark Potter is the program director at the University of Illinois at Chicago family medicine residency program. They live in Chicago with their daughters Fiona (15) and Maeve (13).

Family Medicine Teacher of the Year – Part-time faculty
Gregory K. Milani, MD
Rush-Copley Family Medicine Residency Program – Aurora

Dr. Milani joined Rush-Copley family medicine residency at its inception in 1999 and in 1998 became medical director of its Primary Care Associates site. He also serves as medical director of Care Clinics of Aurora/Naperville. He currently serves on several key committees for Rush-Copley hospital, including safety/pharmacy and therapeutics, as well as medical group quality, operations and the electronic medical records committee.

His teaching technique has twice earned him the Rush-Copley Family Medicine Residency Program's Teacher of the Year Award, in 2000 and 2009. For the past three years, he has taught residents the critical skills needed to manage patients in the hospital, including involving consultants and communicating with patients' family members. He was nominated by chief resident Abrar-Husain, who also cited Dr. Milani's wonderful practice management education, such as billing and coding, as well as career development topics such as contracts and negotiations. "Beyond the years and the awards, his greatest contribution to the residents who work with him is the example he sets through his commitment and meticulous care of patients. At this level of learning, often example and trust combined with guidance and autonomy lead to the best teaching, and Dr. Milani has mastered this balance."

Rush Copley program director Brenda K. Fann, MD was equally enthusiastic in her praise of Dr. Milani. "Dr. Milani takes his time with the residents – I've never seen him rush them. He listens carefully, challenges their thinking and rationale, and supports their growth and development throughout residency." After a decade of working with Dr. Milani, she continues to be impressed by his dedication and accountability to patients, colleagues and the profession.

Milani is an Illinois educated family physician, with his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, medical degree from Loyola University – Stritch School of Medicine and residency training at MacNeal Family Medicine Residency program in Berwyn.