



TEXAS ACADEMY *of* FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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K. ASHOK KUMAR, M.D., SWORN IN AS TAFP PRESIDENT

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — Kaparaboyana Ashok Kumar, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.A.A.F.P., of San Antonio, Texas, was sworn in as president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians during the 60th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Arlington. Dr. Kumar assumed his duties July 25 at the annual Installation of Officers and Awards Lunch.

During his first presidential address, Dr. Kumar spoke on health care reform. “As doctors, we must get at the forefront of medical reform in this country and we must work with other specialties to ensure that a reasonable solution is found. We are the best advocates for our patients; therefore, we must be ready to lead.”

Dr. Kumar currently serves as a professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He was awarded his medical degree by Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, India. He completed a surgical residency at St. James’ University Hospital, England, and a family medicine residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. Dr. Kumar was also elected to the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

Speaking from his experience in academia, he expressed one of his goals for his year as president: to increase the number of medical students choosing to enter family medicine. “This is not just because we love our specialty, but it is good for the health of the country. We must invest our Academy’s time and resources, along with our members’ personal efforts to help students and residents see the rewards of becoming a family physician.”

Dr. Kumar has been actively involved in TAFP for more than a decade, leading the Academy over the years as parliamentarian, vice president and treasurer. He has also served in other leadership roles as the representative of the special constituencies, a group that speaks on behalf of minorities, women, GLBT physicians, new physicians and international medical graduates. Dr. Kumar served as the special constituency representative on the TAFP Executive Committee and on the TAFP Board of Directors, as well as the first international medical graduate delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates.

Dr. Kumar is recognized as an outstanding teacher in family medicine. He has received many teaching awards from the students, residents and faculty at UTHSCSA, and in 2006, he was awarded the TAFP Exemplary Teaching Award for his dedication to medical education in Texas.

As TAFP president, Dr. Kumar will represent the entire Academy, amplifying the voice of family physicians. Dr. Kumar will establish goals and objectives for the organization, and monitor and evaluate the organizational effectiveness and accomplishment of the 5,500 members. He will be accompanied by President-elect Melissa Gerdes, M.D., of Whitehouse; Vice President Troy Fiesinger, M.D., of Sugar Land; Treasurer I. L. Balkcom, IV, M.D., of Sulphur Springs; and Parliamentarian Clare Hawkins, M.D., of Baytown.

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.