



TEXAS ACADEMY *of* FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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MELISSA GERDES, M.D., SWORN IN AS TAFP PRESIDENT-ELECT

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — Melissa Gerdes, M.D., of Whitehouse, Texas was sworn in as president-elect of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians during the 60th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Arlington. Dr. Gerdes assumed her duties July 25 at the annual Installation of Officers and Awards Lunch.

Dr. Gerdes is the current medical director of Trinity Clinic in Whitehouse, Texas, and a staff physician of family medicine at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Texas. She has also served as a staff physician at the East Texas Medical Center and as the associate professor of medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Tyler.

Dr. Gerdes attended Northwestern University for her undergraduate degree and received her medical degree from the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. She completed her family medicine residency at UTHSC in Tyler.

Dr. Gerdes constantly works to improve family medicine and the quality of care for patients. Her practice was chosen by the American Academy of Family Physicians to participate in TransforMed, a practice redesign initiative created to train family physicians and their staff to make their practices more patient-centered and accessible. The two-year demonstration concluded in 2008 and TransforMED staff identified Dr. Gerdes' practice as one of the stars of the program for their hard work to meet patients' needs. Trinity Clinic will continue to serve as an example for other practices around the country.

As TAFP president-elect, Dr. Gerdes will train and prepare for her year as president in 2010-2011. She will serve as an advocate for family medicine, meeting with state legislators and other advocacy groups around Texas. Dr. Gerdes will be assisted in her year as president-elect by other TAFP officers: President Kaparaboyana Ashok Kumar, M.D., F.R.C.S., of San Antonio; 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.