



TEXAS ACADEMY *of* FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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KAPARABOYNA ASHOK KUMAR, M.D., COMPLETES YEAR AS TAFP PRESIDENT

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Kaparaboyna Ashok Kumar, M.D., F.R.C.S., of San Antonio, Texas, has served as president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians for the past year. During the 61st Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in San Antonio, he was honored and recognized for his service. Dr. Kumar passed the gavel to President-elect Melissa Gerdes, M.D., of Whitehouse, on July 24 at the annual Installation of Officers and Awards Lunch.

“At the beginning of my year as president, I made it a priority to address the declining interest in family medicine and vowed to visit all of the Texas medical schools and family medicine residency programs,” Kumar told the audience at the ceremony. “My purpose at the medical schools was to explain to students who we are and what we do as family physicians. At the residency programs, I explained to them what we, the Academy, do for our members, our profession, and our patients.”

“I am delighted to tell you that both groups were extremely receptive to our message,” he said. “The medical students loved the fact that we are patient-centered and offer continuity of care, and that our specialty is relationship-based. The residents were astounded at the Academy’s work on their behalf advocating for graduate medical education and workforce issues, providing high-quality education, and providing practice management tools that help family physicians in the business of medicine.”

Dr. Kumar challenged all TAFP members to continue the work he has begun to enlighten the next generation of physicians. “We want to show students that our profession is great and it is worthwhile to be a part of, and we need to teach the residents the benefits of involvement in the Academy.”

Dr. Kumar currently serves as a professor and vice-chair of Medical Student Education 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, U.K.

Dr. Kumar has been actively involved in TAFP and AAFP 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. He is currently serving as the Chair of the AAFP Commission on Membership and Member Services.

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 2010 he received the Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award from UTHSCSA for practicing finest principles in education and making significant contributions to the education and development of future health care professionals. In 2006, he received the 2006 TAFP Exemplary Teaching Award for his dedication to medical education in Texas.

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.