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## **TEXAS ACADEMY *of* FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

12012 Technology Blvd, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78727 | (512) 329-8666, fax (512) 329-8237

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Jonathan Nelson  
Phone: (512) 329-8666**

### **SAMUEL T. COLERIDGE, D.O., COMPLETES YEAR AS TAFP PRESIDENT**

For the past year, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians has been led by Samuel T. Coleridge, D.O., of Fort Worth, Texas. He was honored and recognized for his service at TAFP's 57th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Frisco. Dr. Coleridge passed the gavel to Douglas W. Curran, M.D., of Athens, Texas, at the Academy's July 22, 2006 annual Installation of Officers and President's Gala.

"It's really been a joy serving as president for such an exciting organization with great leaders, patient advocates and friends," said Dr. Coleridge. "I'm impressed with the tremendous leadership skills of family physicians. It reminds me of the definition of a physician, which is a teacher, a healer and a learned person. And I think this perfectly describes the family physician."

Currently a professor in the department of family medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. Coleridge is a graduate of the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine. He's also a member of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at John Peter Smith Hospital. He is actively involved in TAFP, having served in numerous positions of responsibility, including TAFP President, Vice President, Parliamentarian and Treasurer, and he has served on many committees and commissions over the years.

It is the mission of TAFP to assist family physicians in improving the health of patients and their families, and to advance and represent the specialty of Family Practice. At this 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, Dr. Coleridge and his colleagues tackled many issues of concern to family doctors and the patients they serve. These include access to health care, scope of practice, student interest in family medicine, and various other legal and legislative issues. The Scientific Assembly portion of the meeting featured over 28 hours of accredited continuing medical education.

During his year as president of TAFP, Dr. Coleridge led the Academy in an effort to increase the public awareness of family medicine. Dr. Coleridge also met with state legislators and testified before legislative hearings as an advocate of family doctors and the patients they serve. He carried the TAFP message on a wide variety of issues including obesity, immunizations, public health, rural health and funding for graduate medical education. Dr. Coleridge was assisted in his year as president by President-elect Douglas Curran, M.D., of Athens; Vice President Robert Youens, M.D., of Weimar; Treasurer Linda M. Siy, M.D., of Fort Worth; and Parliamentarian Kaparaboyana Ashok Kumar, M.D., of San Antonio.

As the state's largest medical specialty organization, TAFP promotes and assures the maintenance of high-quality health care. It has over 5,000 members, 32 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. TAFP provides its members with a unified voice for family medicine and continues to be one of the most patient-oriented public health groups in Texas.