



MISSOURI ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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November 21, 2023 – Griffith Named MAFP Family Physician of the Year

The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) presented R. Stephen Griffith, MD, FAAFP, of Kansas City, Missouri, with the 2023 Family Physician of the Year Award at the Academy's 75th Annual Meeting on November 11, 2023, at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri. A committee of family physicians selected Dr. Griffith from nominations made by patients, community members, and fellow physicians.

Dr. Griffith has practiced family medicine in Missouri, including obstetrics, inpatient, pediatric, and adult medicine for over 40 years. As a rural family physician, then a residency program director, and then Chair of the family medicine department, Steve used every opportunity to teach and share his compassion with patients, medical students, residents, and colleagues.

Dr. Griffith was born in rural Northeast Missouri and raised on a farm where hard work wasn't optional. He earned his medical degree at the University of Missouri - Columbia and completed his family medicine residency at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He has given back to his profession by providing dedicated service to the American Academy of Family Physicians, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, the Association of Departments of Family Medicine, and other national and statewide organizations.

Dr. Griffith attributes the impact he made to those around him – particularly his colleagues, parents, wife, and children. He reflects fondly on his career in family medicine saying, "The relationships that a family doc develops with the patients over multiple generations is unique among the specialties and is what I believe most patients still desire." He also looks forward to the next generation of family physicians saying, "I also spent most of my career teaching medical students and residents. The fulfillment one gets from that is great. We should all share the responsibility to teach the next generations of family physicians.

Dr. Steve Griffith is a Family Physician at University Health, Lakewood Medical Center in Lee's Summit. He is married with four children and four grandchildren.

About the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP)

Founded in 1947, the MAFP represents over 2,400 physicians and medical students nationwide. It is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care. Headquartered in Jefferson City, MAFP is dedicated to optimizing the health of patients, families, and communities of Missouri through patient care, advocacy, education, and research.

Family physicians conduct approximately one in five of the total medical office visits in the United States annually – more than any other specialty. Family physicians provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and cost-effective care dedicated to improving the health of patients, families and communities. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing and personal patient-physician relationship where the family physician serves as the hub of each patient's integrated care team. More Americans depend on family physicians than on any other medical specialty.

The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians is the state chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, which represents 136,700 physicians and medical students nationwide and is located in Leawood, Kansas.

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2023 Family Physician of the Year R. Stephen Griffith, MD, FAFAP



2023 Family Physician of the Year R. Stephen Griffith, MD, FAAFP, and his wife Nora.