PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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Tar Wars Aims to Educate Youth on Harmful Effects of Tobacco Use; Your Support and Assistance is Needed

The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) have once again teamed up to bring Tar Wars, a tobacco-free education program for both fourth – and fifth – grade students, to communities in and around mid-Missouri. MAFP is looking for family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students, school nurses and nurse practitioners, physician assistants, other health care providers, dental hygienists, health education professionals, community leaders, or even parents to present Tar Wars to local elementary schools. Special training is not necessary, and all information you need to present the program is provided to you by the AAFP. Your time and enthusiasm are key elements in the success of Tar Wars.

Tar Wars is designed to teach kids about the short and long term, image-based consequences of tobacco use, the cost associated with the use of tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market their products to youth. The Family Health Foundation of Missouri, MAFP’s philanthropic arm, was recently awarded a $4,000 American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Healthy Interventions: Tobacco and Nicotine Chapter/Family Medicine Residency Program Mini Grant. The Missouri chapter was one of the 10 applicants selected for 2015-2016 mini-grants. This grant proposal aims to re-energize the current Tar-Wars program, and more collaboration with local organizations for outreach and participation. Missouri’s pilot efforts will work with the Central Missouri Council for Drug Free Youth, which currently targets 3rd graders for their tobacco-free efforts and will complement the Foundation’s Tar-Wars program currently targeting 4th and 5th graders. This year’s presentation has been updated to include the health hazards of electronic cigarettes. If you want to make a brief presentation to your local elementary school, or know of someone who may be interested, please contact the MAFP at office@mo-afp.org or call us at (573) 635-0830.
Eubanks-Meng (President-Elect)
Kathleen Eubanks-Meng, DO, of Blue Springs, Missouri, was installed as President-Elect of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) during the Awards and Installation Dinner in conjunction with MAFP’s Annual Meeting in Camdenton, Missouri, on June 6, 2015. Dr. Eubanks-Meng is a board certified family physician who resides in Blue Springs, Missouri, with her husband, Mark Meng and their three daughters. She is in a physician owned practice in Lee’s Summit, Summit Family and Sports Medicine, where she practices patient centered care. She is a clinical preceptor for KCUMB and UMKC. She enjoys serving in the Eastern Jackson County community on the Child Abuse Prevention Association’s Board of Directors and is actively involved volunteering in the Blue Springs School District. She also serves as the MAFP Membership Services Commission Co-Chair.

Schabbing (Vice President)
Mark Schabbing, MD, FAAFP, of Perryville, Missouri, was installed as Vice President of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) during the Awards and Installation Dinner in conjunction with MAFP’s Annual Meeting in Camdenton, Missouri, on June 6, 2015. Dr. Schabbing is employed by the Perryville Family Care Clinic, where he is also a partner. He graduated from University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine and completed his residency there as well. He is married to Tracey and they have two daughters, Linden and Sydney, and a son, William.

Stevermer (Secretary-Treasurer)
James Stevermer, MD, FAAFP, of Fulton, Missouri, was installed as Secretary-Treasurer of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) during the Awards and Installation Dinner in conjunction with MAFP’s Annual Meeting in Camdenton, Missouri, on June 6, 2015. Dr. Stevermer is a Professor of Clinical Family and Community Medicine at University of Missouri Health System, Columbia. He is also the medical director of Callaway Physicians and the MU Area Health Education Center.

About the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP)
Founded in 1947, the MAFP is a non-profit professional medical society of more than 2,200 physicians, residents and medical students across the state. Nearly one in four office visits are made to family physicians. That is 213 million visits annually - nearly 74 million more than the next specialty (CDC, 2010). Today, family physicians provide more care for America’s underserved and rural populations than any other medical specialty. Headquartered in Jefferson City, the MAFP is dedicated to optimizing the health of patients, families, and communities of Missouri through patient care, advocacy, education, and research. The MAFP is a constituent chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), representing 120,900 physicians and medical students nationwide. It is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care. The AAFP is headquartered in Leawood, Kansas.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST