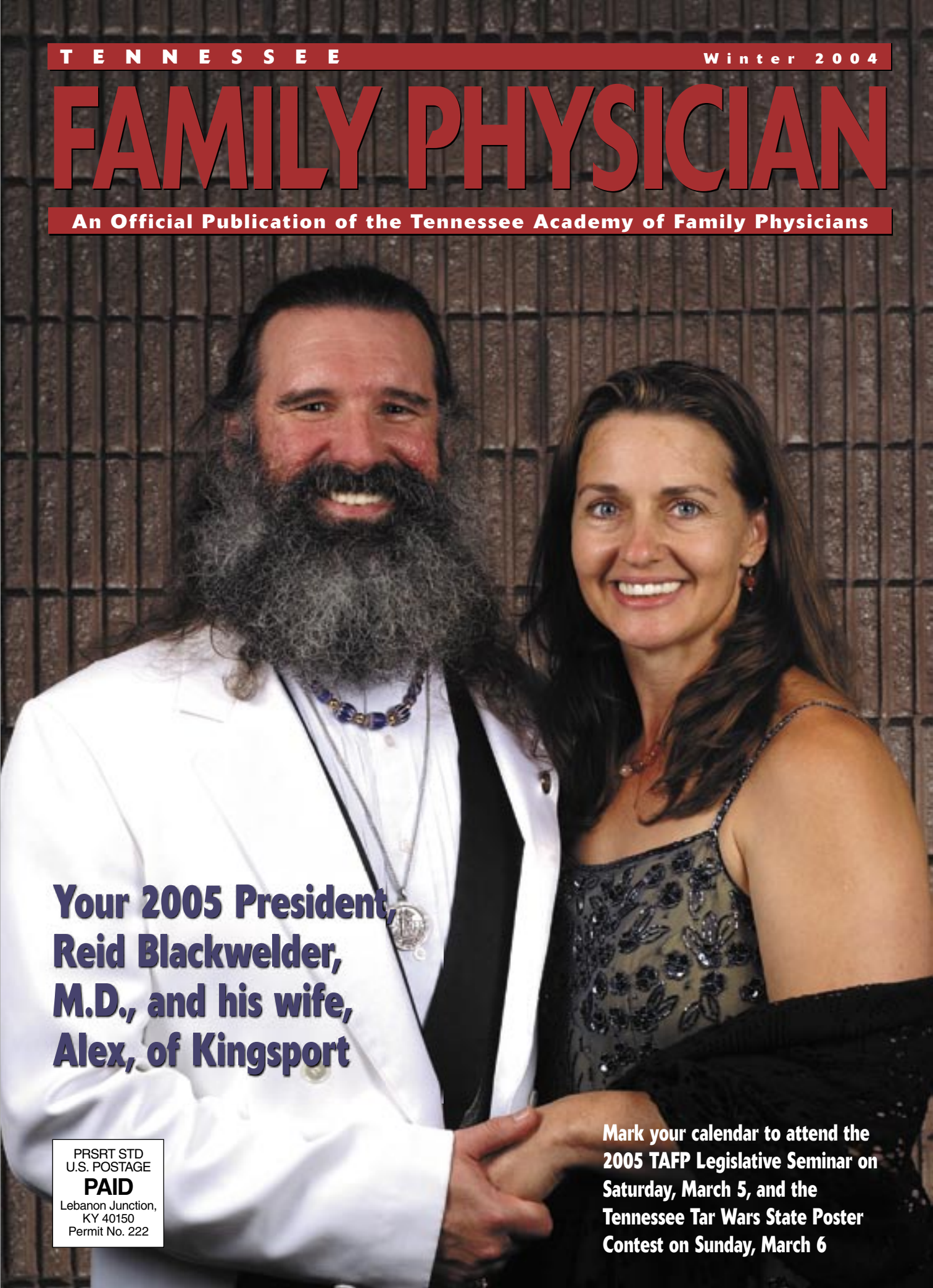


FAMILY PHYSICIAN

An Official Publication of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians



**Your 2005 President,
Reid Blackwelder,
M.D., and his wife,
Alex, of Kingsport**

**Mark your calendar to attend the
2005 TAFP Legislative Seminar on
Saturday, March 5, and the
Tennessee Tar Wars State Poster
Contest on Sunday, March 6**

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Being a seasoned pilot, Bernie Caldwell knows a thing or two about technology. So when he was facing surgery after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, he began researching his options from his home in Oklahoma. Learning that great strides were being made through the use of robotics, Bernie decided to

ask

what made a robot at one hospital any better than a robot somewhere else. What he found was Vanderbilt's Dr. Jay Smith, who performs a minimally invasive procedure proving that the difference in robots has nothing to do with technology. Just as every airplane is only as good as its pilot, every robot is only as good as the person at the controls.



Vanderbilt Medical Center

Hearts and Minds



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PLEASE SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians
4721 Trousdale Drive, Suite 202
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President's Corner

I have just returned from the American Academy of Family Physicians' Congress of Delegates in Orlando, where I and other leaders of your state chapter represented Tennessee in the important politics of medicine. During this time, I had an opportunity to talk with our national academy leaders, family physicians from different regions, residents, medical students, private physicians, and academics. Such gatherings are full of many emotions. I am alternately excited and disappointed, exhilarated and fatigued. I question why I've chosen to add this task to an already "overwhelming" personal and professional life. But, then I am also reminded why I have chosen this path.



Change is happening faster and faster all over the country. We have declining interest in Family Medicine. We have challenges to reimbursement with increasing administrative requirements also without reimbursement. We have a new process of continuing professional development which includes a revamped "Maintenance of Certification" (MOC) process, a push to electronic access, and many other issues. In addition, the future of Family Medicine has reviewed our past and charted our future. Hidden in all of this, sometimes hard to find, is still the inherent joy of our profession, fueled by the call to compassion and caring.

As I enter as the President of our Academy, I follow in the footsteps of amazing individuals and great leaders. One of the most important lessons they have taught me is the critical role of communication. Yet ultimately, this is one of the things we often do badly. We don't always communicate well with our patients. We don't communicate our love of our profession to the students that we're mentoring. We don't communicate clearly within our national or state academies. Perhaps our biggest challenge is learning to improve that communication. Access to your state leaders has always existed. The opportunity to be involved is always available. Not everyone understands or appreciates this. We are wrestling with the absence of electronic access not only across our state, but also on our Board. We are unable to immediately connect with the people who are the life blood of this academy, family physicians throughout our great state.

I look forward to working with you to solve this problem this year. I hope that a year from now we will have found a way to easily and consistently communicate what is going on at the national and state level to all the members of our state academy. I will be working to find ways to improve this from my position. I expect you to do the same. Please recognize I am always available for questions, thoughts, and concerns. My email is blackwel@mail.etsu.edu, and phone number is (423) 245-9640. I look forward to growing together over the next year.

**Reid Blackwelder, M.D., Kingsport
2005 President**

Highlights of 2004 TAFP Annual Assembly



Debbie Jenkins with Emergency Coverage: Winner of female first place in the exhibitor costume contest.



Organon: Winner of the best group costume contest.



Kevin Finn with Quest Diagnostics: Winner of male first place in the exhibitor costume contest.



TAFP's 2005 President in costume.



Student Board Member, Andy Shull and family.



Board Member, Doctor Donald Zeigler and family.

More photos on page 11

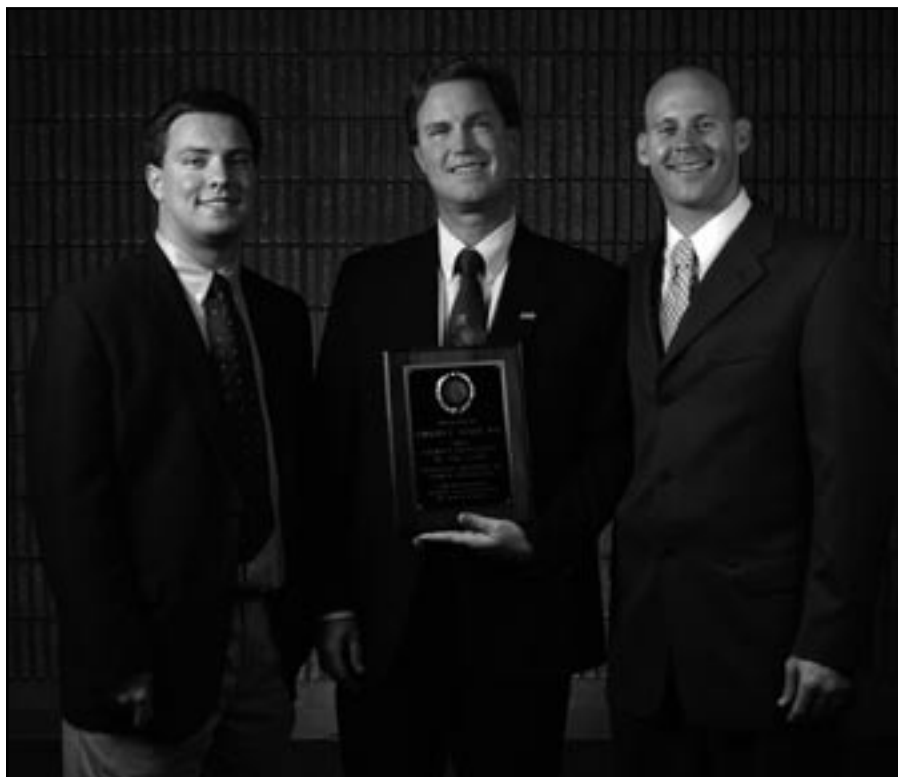
TAFP 2004 "Family Physician of the Year"

Timothy F. Linder, M.D., Selmer

The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians' Family Physician of the Year Award is bestowed upon an individual who exemplifies the ideal Family Physician and who has made an outstanding contribution to Family Medicine, and to the advancement of health and/or medical training and medical education. This year's recipient meets all of these criteria with dignity and outstanding commitment to Family Medicine in Tennessee.

The 2004 recipient of the TAFP's Family Physician of the Year Award received his medical degree from UT Memphis and completed the UT Jackson Family Medicine Residency. He previously worked as Director of the Emergency Department at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, and now is in private practice in Selmer, Tennessee. He takes time for community service and is a leader in teaching Tar Wars in Tennessee in his local 4th and 5th grade classrooms.

Quoting one letter of support received, "He is investing in the future of Family Medicine in Tennessee. He has consistently taught medical students and residents. He presented to the Family Medicine Interest Groups at each medical school in Tennessee while he was President in 2003, and



Doctor Tim Linder with his nephew, UT medical student John Hyden (L), and his son, Chris Neudecker (R).

has continued these presentations in 2004. The AAFP has noted Doctor Linder's service on the Commission on Membership and Membership Services. He has served the TAFP faithfully in nearly every office. He is known as a leader who pulls for the greater good of

Family Medicine. He is a star among us but who leads by example."

The Tennessee AFP is honored to have Doctor Tim Linder as a member. Congratulations and best wishes to the TAFP's 2004 Family Physician of the Year - Tim Linder, M.D.

Very Sincere Thank You to Our Outstanding 2004 Supporters

As the year comes to an end, we'd like to offer a very sincere 'thank you' to those companies who provided outstanding financial support to the Tennessee AFP during 2004. This support includes educational grants, function sponsorships, Tar Wars financial support and advertising in our

journal; 'Tennessee Family Physician'.

SILVER SUPPORTERS
(\$10,000 to \$15,000 total support):

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Insurance Company**

BRONZE SUPPORTERS
(\$5,000 to \$10,000 total support):

**Aventis
KOS Pharmaceuticals
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Vanderbilt**

TAFP 2004 "John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award"

David T. Dodd, M.D., Murfreesboro

The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians' John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual, or individuals, whom the TAFP feels has demonstrated exemplary leadership and character along with outstanding and distinguished service to the Family Physicians in Tennessee. The award is named in honor of the late John S. Derryberry, M.D., Shelbyville, who served the TAFP and AAFP with honor and distinction from 1964 until his passing in 1998.

It is a pleasure for the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians to have the opportunity to recognize an individual who has distinguished himself so outstanding to medicine in Tennessee. The 2004 recipient of the TAFP's John S. Derryberry, M.D. Distinguished Service Award is David T. Dodd, M.D. of Murfreesboro. Doctor Dodd was a practicing surgeon for 22 years and served as Medical Director of the Tennessee Medical Foundation's Impaired Physicians'



Doctor David T. Dodd with his wife, Nancy, and his daughter, Leslee Dodd Karl.

Program from 1984 to 2002.

To quote several support letters received in support of his nomination, "During those years he was Director of the Impaired Physicians' Program, he intervened and worked with more than 2800 Tennessee physicians to engage them in treatment for addiction and disruptive behavior. His tireless efforts to rescue physicians, many of them family physicians, from addiction, depression and burnout

have resulted in healers who once again can heal others. Many family physicians in Tennessee owe their lives to David's involvement in their addiction treatment and providing a monitoring program for them when they returned to practice and to their families"

Sincere congratulations are extended to David T. Dodd, M.D. upon receiving the 2004 TAFP's "John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award".

Leaders on the Move & Information For Members

- **Max Bayard, M.D., Director of ETSU's Johnson City Family Practice Residency, along with James Holt, M.D. and Cathy Peeples, M.P.H.,** have taken a creative approach to meeting the needs residents state they need – to learn more about the science of business so they can practice the art of medicine. The residency program has launched a practice management curriculum that transforms residents into entrepreneurs who have time for patients, professional development, community involvement along with family and friends. The three presented their practice management curriculum to participants at the 2004 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference. Congratulations!

- Remember to utilize your *Tennessee AFP website* at: www.tnafp.org.

- For *bioterrorism, related resources and public health preparedness* information, go to: <http://www.aafp.org/btresponse.xml>.

- Please make note of the *Tennessee AFP's new email:* tnafp@bellsouth.net. After December the old msn email address will no longer be available for contacting the Tennessee AFP office.

- *Best wishes to Brigadier General Donald H. Polk, D.O., Waynesboro* (TAFP Past President) upon his retirement as Deputy Commander, State Area Command, Tennessee Army National Guard. He had served in the Guard since 1976.

- The *nondeductible portion of your 2005 Tennessee AFP membership Dues* as a result of lobbying activities will be 8.07%.

Resolutions Presented to the 2004 TAFP Congress

Special Resolution-2004: "Commendation of Deceased Members"

Introduced By: J. Lynn Williams, M.D., President,
On Behalf of the Tennessee AFP Board of Directors

Whereas, the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians is extremely grateful to its many members who devote their time and effort to the continuing growth of the Academy; and

Whereas, the affiliation of Family Physicians with the Academy of Family Physicians is necessary for the continuing expansion of Family Practice; and

Whereas, members of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians are deeply saddened by the loss of six (6) of its members who passed away in the Years of Our Lord, two-thousand-three and two-thousand-four, namely:

Robert F. Baker, Sr., M.D.,

Sparta – February 2004

William D. Brackett, M.D.,

Chattanooga – February 2004

Philip V. Daugherty, M.D.,

Nashville – July 2004

John W. Ellis, M.D.,

Jefferson City – February 2004

George L. Perler, M.D.,

Nashville – November 2003

Charles L. Roach, M.D.,

Sevierville – November 2003

Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, that this Congress of Delegates here assembled observe a minute of silent prayer in memory of these members; And Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the families of these members be made aware of the deep and sincere sympathy of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.

Action Taken: Adopted as Presented

Resolution 1-2004: Changes in Global Climate and Implications for Public Health

By: Charles Leonard, M.D., Delegate-District 2

Resolved, that the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians:

(1) Supports research activities intended to improve our understanding of global warming and changes in global and regional temperatures and weather systems, along with expanded basic and translational research to improve scientific understanding of the health impacts on infectious and chronic diseases and population health, and to expand opportunities for successful therapeutic intervention and to strengthen public health; and

(2) Supports precautionary primary preventive measures to avert climate change, including reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions

and preservation of greenhouse gas sinks through appropriate energy and land use policies, both to mitigate emerging and continuing health impacts of changes in global climate, and to secure important, consequent public health co-benefits associated with reduction of air pollutant emissions; and

(3) Supports engagement with U.S. efforts to address the public health threat of climate change through the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians' participation in national coalitions to combat global warming; support for efforts to strengthen medical and public health infrastructure and workforce, both domestically and abroad, to effectively respond to changes in climate and global temperatures; and by empowering physicians and other health care professionals to act as advocates for sustainable climate policies in their own communities and, where appropriate, in clinical settings; and

(4) Supports the immediate adoption of legislative strategies to minimize anthropogenic impacts on climate change, both through reduction or other appropriate control of direct emissions of greenhouse gases, and through efforts to increase energy conservation and energy efficiency, and to reduce the consumption of polluting fossil fuels through strengthened support for renewable energy; and

(5) Supports U.S. efforts to reduce, and ultimately stabilize, global greenhouse gas emissions through international cooperation and multilateral negotiation; and

(6) Supports efforts to strengthen educational opportunities for the medical and public health workforce to learn more about the health effects of global climate change through content in curricula and continuing education.

Action Taken: Not approved.

Resolution 2-2004: TennCare

By: Edward Capparelli, M.D., Delegate-District 1

Resolved, that the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians send a letter to Doctor E. J. Hicke, TennCare Commissioner; to Doctor Wendy Long, TennCare Medical Director; to Mr. David Goetz, Finance Commissioner; and, Governor Phillip Bredesen, describing our concerns and requesting that:

A) Proper channels be established to include practicing physicians that will review all deletions from the TennCare Preferred Drug List and consider implications to patient care; and

B) Notification be provided to physicians at least 60 days prior to any changes to enable time for appropriate interventions to be made.

Action Taken: Referred to the TAFP Board of Directors for action with a positive feeling for the Resolution from the Congress of Delegates.



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Amendment to the TAFP Constitution & Bylaws for Consideration by the 2004 TAFP Congress

Amendment No. 1-2004: REQUIRED MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AMENDED THE BYLAWS of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians in Chapter VI, Section 3 by deleting the current wording entirely and replacing it with new wording.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet at least three (3) times each year in the fall, winter and summer with all meeting dates and locations being set by the President for that year working in conjunction with the Executive Director. At the discretion of the President, a fourth meeting may be called in the spring.

As stated in Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution, "The Executive Committee by majority vote of its members, shall have full authority to act for and in behalf of the Board of Directors, or when it is impractical or impossible to convene the Board. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the call of the Chairman. A report of its actions shall be given by the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board following the meeting of the Committee."

Action Taken: Adopted as Presented.

Mark Your Calendar for These Important Tennessee AFP 2005 Dates:

**Annual Legislative Seminar/
Board Meeting**

*Embassy Suites, Nashville,
March 5-6*

**Tennessee Tar Wars
State Poster Contest**

*Embassy Suites, Nashville,
March 6*

**Tennessee Summer
Seminar/Board Meeting**

*Paris Landing State Park,
July 22-24*

**57th Annual
Scientific Assembly**

Gatlinburg, October 25-28

Your 2005 TAFP Officers & Board of Directors

President: Reid Blackwelder, M.D., Kingsport
President-Elect: Raymond Walker, M.D., Memphis
Vice President: Charles Ball, M.D., Columbia
Secretary-Treasurer: J. Chris Graves, M.D., Chattanooga
Speaker of the Congress: Lee Carter, M.D., Huntingdon
Vice Speaker of the Congress: T. Allen Polk, M.D., Murfreesboro
Delegates to the AAFP: Donald H. Polk, D.O., Waynesboro
 J. Mack Worthington, M.D., Chattanooga
Alternate Delegates to the AAFP: Reid Blackwelder, M.D., Kingsport
 Michael Hartsell, M.D., Greeneville

DISTRICT:

DIRECTORS:

1	Jim Wilson, M.D., Johnson City
2	Jack Clark, Jr., M.D., Knoxville
3	John Standridge, M.D., Chattanooga
4	Ty Webb, M.D., Sparta
5	T. Scott Holder, M.D., Winchester
6	B. Alan Wallstedt, M.D., Brentwood
7	Lang Smith, M.D., Columbia
8	Gregg Mitchell, M.D., Jackson
9	John Hale, M.D., Union City
10	John Delzell, M.D., Memphis
Minorities	Griselle Figueredo, M.D., Germantown
New Phys.	Kim Howerton, M.D., Savannah
Women	Doreen Feldhouse, M.D., Dyersburg
Resident	Angie Brown, M.D., Memphis
Student	Jon Andy Shull, Memphis (UT)

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS:

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 Wesley Dean, M.D., Powell
 Mary Bean, M.D., Chattanooga
 Tera Lively, D.O., Crossville
 Stephanie Gafford, M.D., Fayetteville
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 Roger Zoorob, M.D., Nashville
 Donald Ziegler, M.D., Hixson
 Amylyn Lane Crawford, M.D., Kingsport
 Laura Bowen, M.D., Kingsport
 Zanetta Stewart, Nashville (Meharry)

Special Thanks to Our Supporters & Exhibitors at the TN AFP's 56th Annual Assembly

The Tennessee AFP wishes to express its most sincere appreciation and gratitude to each and every educational sponsor, function sponsor and exhibitor at our 56th Annual Scientific Assembly the week of October 26-29, 2004 in Gatlinburg. When representatives of these companies visit your offices, please express to them your appreciation for their support. The TAFP Annual Assembly would not be possible without their support!

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UT Department of Family Medicine
UT Dept. Family Medicine–Chattanooga
UT Family Medicine Residency–Jackson
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Recap of August 2004 TN AFP Board of Directors' Meeting

❖ Received report from John Midtling, M.D., Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at UT Memphis, concerning the low match rate in Family Medicine at UT in 2004.

❖ Voted to present the 2004 John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award to David T. Dodd, M.D., Murfreesboro.

❖ Voted to present the 2004 Family Physician of the Year Award to Timothy F. Linder, M.D., Selmer.

❖ Received report from the Executive Director on the 2004 National Tar Wars Poster Contest in Washington D.C. in July, noting that she and the winning student from Tennessee along with her parents, visited with five Tennessee Federal Legislators.

❖ Discussed the TAFP presenting a Tar Wars Workshop at the 2005 AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students.

❖ Received report from John Delzell, M.D., TAFP Education Chair, on the match rate in Tennessee in 2004.

❖ Received report from Doctor Williams on a meeting she and Doctor Blackwelder had with Dean Gabbe at Vanderbilt.

❖ Voted to make no changes in TAFP membership dues for 2005.

❖ Voted to support the nomination of J. Mack Worthington, M.D., for reappointment as an Alternate Delegate to the AAFP Delegation to the AMA.

For additional information on any of these items, contact Cathy at the TAFP office in Nashville.

Important Information on Inactive Volunteer Tennessee Medical License from the Tennessee Department of Health, Health Related Boards

Persons who intend to exclusively practice medicine without compensation on patients who receive medical services from organizations granted a determination of exemption pursuant to Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code may obtain an inactive volunteer license to do so. Persons requesting an Inactive Volunteer License must have held a valid Tennessee license to practice medicine originally issued by the Board which is in good standing. To obtain the new status the licensee must retired

their active license; certify that they are practicing medical exclusively on the patients of the qualified entity and that such practice is without compensation; and, have submitted to the Board Administrative Office directly from the qualified organization proof of the determination of exemption issued pursuant to Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

There is no cost for this licensure however, those persons obtaining the Inactive Volunteer Licensure Status must continue

to renew their license at no cost and obtain the 40 hours of continuing education now required for active medical licensees. The Inactive Volunteer will also be subject to disciplinary action for the same causes and pursuant to the same procedures as active licensees, however, they will not be required to pay the professional privilege tax.

For additional information, contact the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners, State of Tennessee at (615) 532-4384.

Practice Opportunities

If you are looking for a partner or a practice location, send information by mail to: TAFP, 4721 Trousdale Dr., Suite 202, Nashville, TN 37220; or by fax to: (615) 833-2677; or by email: tnafp@bellsouth.net. Information for practice opportunities will be accepted only from TAFP members and will be placed in the Tennessee Family Physician at no charge. Please include your name, address and/or telephone number and/or fax number since contact concerning opportunities will be made directly between interested parties and not through the TAFP. Information will be placed in four (4) editions unless the TAFP is notified otherwise. Deadline for the next issue (Spring 2005) is January 8, 2005.

• **Board-Certified Family Physician.** Available for office practice coverage during vacations, illness or leaves of absence. No OB. Willing to do hospital rounds if necessary. Respond to (615) 831-1810; or, cell phone (615) 972-7601. References

available upon request.

• **Knoxville** – Well established outpatient occupational and primary care practice is seeking BC/BE FP or IM associate physician. Desirable call schedule with no weekend or extended office hours. Well-organized office with productive staff, accepting selective insurance. Excellent benefit package. Please respond by fax to (865) 673-4971 Attn: Recruitment; or by e-mail to blsharp@knoxvillemedicalcenter.com.

• **Winchester** – Well-established call group of four have full practices in growing area and are looking for another physician to join their call group. The applicant must be willing to have a solo practice including inpatient coverage, weekend and ICU call. Prefer an AAFP/TAFP member with ABFP certification. No OB. Beautiful vacation and retirement area with excellent payer mix. Please contact: tsmithmd@bellsouth.net or (931) 967-9680.

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TAFP Supports Attendance of Student Members at 2004 AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students

The Conference for Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students greatly strengthened my interest in Family Medicine. Coming from Quillen College of Medicine in Johnson City, a medical school that strongly supports family medicine, I was surprised at how many new topics this conference offered to me.

Doctor Norman Kahn's opening speech on Wednesday evening was inspiring. He outlined the philosophy and bigger ideals behind the specialty of family medicine – continuity of care, altruism, healthcare for all people, and mind-body-spirit integration. As an upcoming second year medical student my career options are wide-open, and I have much to learn about each specialty. Learning about family medicine doctors who are at the apex of this vision seems to be the perfect way to learn family medicine has the potential to become for me.

Being able to observe and become active in the politics of medicine was both informative and enjoyable. I now see myself becoming more politically involved because it is apparent to me that doctors truly are leaders within their local and global communities and should act accordingly. One of our Family Medicine Interest Group's new initiatives is to promote political activism within our medical school. Participating in a

functioning body of medical students that operate as a political voice in the conference will prove extremely beneficial to our future programming efforts.

One of my favorite educational sessions explained the nuances of gynecological and obstetrics care within family medicine. The speaker discussed the risks and benefits surrounding OB care within family medicine – the malpractice, time constraints and the patient satisfaction and personal fulfillment it offers. He also clearly outlined the characteristics of a residency program to best prepare me for competent care of my future patients. This seminar and others like it allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of family medicine and all its potential.

Thank you,
**Sarah Fletcher, Johnson City
ETSU Quillen College
of Medicine**

I had been looking forward to attending this year's AAFP National Conference for many reasons. Primarily as a rising third year medical student, I realized the importance of having residency programs from all over the nation in one building. It seemed (at least in my mind) that all of them were trying to recruit me to their program. Every state had residencies present with extremely helpful representatives that were not

only eager to provide information about their own program, but were willing to patiently answer all questions a naïve junior medical student could come up with. Also, there were workshops that explained how students should approach choosing, applying to and interviewing for residencies. While I was there, my entire view of the matching process changed. Prior to the conference I believed the only role I had in matching was to get great test scores and then pray that a program I applied to would take me. Now I have a better awareness of the control a student has in selecting a residency of his choice. I learned that although the preferences I have (i.e., location of residency, specialties offered, faculty size, patient volume, fellowship opportunities) may limit the number of available options, those criteria actually makes the selection process easier.

Secondly, the information taken from the exhibits helped me back home in the clinics. The ability to speak Spanish is definitely a skill that is beneficial to many practicing physicians, especially at the hospital where I am currently studying. In the Introductory Spanish exhibit, an admittedly oversimplified, yet highly effective seminar was given in a manner that enabled participants to use medical Spanish immediately after the conference. My first clinical

Letters From Our Students

rotation was OB/GYN and for me one of the more difficult topics to learn was management of the abnormal pap smear. I remember being frustrated by my repeatedly unsuccessful attempts at memorizing the different classifications, and the respective treatment methods, of abnormal pap smear findings. During the triage of the abnormal pap smear exhibit, lecturers logically explained the importance understanding terminology. Then an easy to understand clinical based model was given, which allowed examiners to quickly diagnose and treat patients. Other informative seminars covered ECG interpretations, updates in contraceptions and, my personal favorite, how to deal with common office emergencies with confidence. All medical students and residents appreciated the workshops which described practical approaches to money and debt management.

Finally the conference provided an opportunity for students and residents to establish relationships with one another. Daily calendars filled with social events such as the TAFP's Dessert Reception, maintained a relaxed vibe throughout the conference. I would especially like to thank the TAFP for providing a means for myself and three of my classmates at Meharry Medical College to attend the AAFP National Conference this summer. We certainly would not have been able to attend without your financial support.

Thank you,
Laurence McMillan, Nashville
Meharry Medical College

Thank you for sponsoring my trip to the National Conference of Family Medicine and Medical Students in Kansas City. It was the perfect opportunity for a student who, like me, is going to pursue a career in family medicine. I was able to attend workshops and spend many hours in the exhibit hall talking to residency programs from all over the nation. It was great to be able to meet and interact with other students who are enthusiastic about Family Medicine. I also enjoyed meeting the students, residents and faculty from the

programs in Tennessee including St. Francis in Memphis, Jackson, Chattanooga, Knoxville and the ETSU programs.

The meeting also provided me the opportunity to talk with Doctor Lynn Williams and Doctor Reid Blackwelder about the TAFP and Family Medicine in the state of Tennessee. With their leadership and the support of others, I believe that Family Medicine has a bright future in Tennessee.

Thanks,
John Hyden, Memphis
University of Tennessee

More photos ... continued from page 2

2004 TAFP Annual Assembly



Afghanistan

I was scared. We all were, though not one would show it or verbalize it. Few of us had ever been in actual combat before. Our Special Forces team was flying on a Talon EC-130 into post-9/11 Afghanistan just months after our initial invasion. Our mission was to rout the Taliban and to deny Al-Queda sanctuary within the borders of Afghanistan – and sometimes beyond.

We were locked and loaded, carrying an M4 Colt carbine, an M9 Beretta with a full battle load of ammo, 40 pounds of body armor, and a seventy pound ruck sack. I remember wondering whether or not I had bought a one-way ticket, or if I would make it home in one piece. I wondered if I would ever see my wife and 2 year old daughter again. After viewing videos of decapitation, and the horrendous torture and eventual slaughter of the Navy SEAL who fell out of the back of the MH47 Chinook earlier in the war, we were advised to save one bullet for ourselves should we fall into enemy hands.

We bumped around the country at 10 miles an hour in our dust filled Toyota Tacoma pickup trucks wearing civilian clothes, hiking boots, baseball caps, and full beards – somehow thinking no one would know who we were. Afghanistan was the most heavily mined country in the world with 20 million land mines scattered throughout the countryside by Russian and American forces 20 years ago. It wasn't just the land mines we were wary of, but the remotely detonated booby-traps set up to kill us, and to set us up for an all out ambush. These booby traps were usually well placed around tight curves and sheer rock mountain walls on one side so the majority of our team would be in the "kill zone" with little way of escape.

As we traveled we saw dozens of burned out Russian armored



personnel carriers, tanks, helicopters, and planes. All had been scavenged for any part that was considered usable. We discovered weapon stockpiles – mostly Chinese rifles and mortars. We discovered mass graves with skulls, femurs, humeri. We found fields laden with opium poppies and hashish. Much of this served to remind me of the frailties of human life. Psalm 23 kept running through my head – "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me".... The Lord's protection of King David as he engaged in hand-to-hand combat many times throughout his life, encouraged me and gave me hope and confidence.

I was there for a purpose. I was the FOB 201 Special Forces Flight Surgeon and Diving Medical Officer with the US Army's 1st Battalion 20th Special Forces Group, (Airborne). I was responsible for all medical issues in the two-thirds of Afghanistan that our unit controlled. My responsibilities included advising our commander with regard to medical issues, training our Special Forces

Medics (who I trust more than I trust most medical or surgical residents), setting up medical supply delivery throughout our area of operations, coordinating and providing medical care to our forces in safe houses throughout the country, and setting up, coordinating, and overseeing Medevac routes and logistics – especially for those places north of the Hindu Kush as winter rolled in (helicopters just couldn't make it through the treacherous mountain passes in bad weather). We also organized and ran medical services for the indigenous population.

One of our most successful indigenous clinics was outside of Asadabad a few miles from the Pakistani border. We treated otitis, colitis, pneumonia, chronic pain, leprosy, and shrapnel injuries. This was the same place from which we mobilized from for our frequent forays into the surrounding areas with the CIA and Delta. We quickly discovered that our "allies" were anything but. We were held at gunpoint until a \$50,000 ransom was paid to the Pakistani government. Along the border, Pakistani forces were told to

engage us, and even went to arms on our forces – until a couple of Army A10s moved in with a low pass over the heads of our “friends”.

Some ask why I gave up my job at the University of Tennessee and left my family to put myself in harm’s way. As I sat in my living room watching events unfold on the morning of September 11, 2001, I realized we were at war. I realized life would never be the same again. I realized I must act to protect what I believe, and must sacrifice if my children are to grow up in a world free from fear. I experienced every emotion that morning from shock to sadness, from anger to bewilderment. We were at war.

In the weeks before we deployed, I took my entire medical section to New York City where I had spent a couple of years of my life. I gave them each a New York Metro Subway token to place on the chain with their dog tags. As we viewed the site where the World Trade Centers once stood, we cried – Special Forces soldiers standing there in tears as we imagined people jumping from 80 stories above; we stood incomprehensibly envisioning planes flying in to these symbols of freedom; we stood steeling our determination and resolve to find those responsible and meet justice to them.

The line from Braveheart rang true. “And dying in your beds many years from now, would you be willing to trade all the days from this day to that for one chance, just one chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they’ll never take our freedom”.

Would I do it again? Certainly. Do people truly understand and appreciate what the average soldier sacrifices – hardly. I do wish I could tell America that freedom is bought with a price. Appreciate it. Unite. Learn humility. Give thanks. Get along. Love one another. Aim high. And remember, “Every man dies – but not every man truly lives”.

Omar L. Hamada, M.D.
Brentwood

2005 Tennessee Tar Wars Poster Contest Dates Set & Volunteers Needed

The Tennessee Tar Wars program announces the 2005 Tennessee Tar Wars Poster Contest to be held on Sunday, March 6, 2:00 p.m., at the Embassy Suites, Nashville. The first place winning student, and one parent or guardian, of the Tennessee Tar Wars Poster Contest will receive a trip to the National Tar Wars Poster Contest in Washington D.C. in July of 2005.

If you have posters to submit, please note the requirements below for submission of posters to the Tennessee State Poster Contest:

- All poster entries must have a completed ‘School Poster Entry Form’ secured to the back of the poster or have information required on the poster form printed clearly on the back of the poster.
- All poster entries must have a completed ‘Authorized Release Form’ received with the poster.
- All posters submitted for the Tennessee State Tar Wars



Megan Mickiewicz, Enville, winner in the 2004 Tennessee State Tar Wars Poster Contest receives congratulations from Representative Marsha Blackburn while attending the National Tar Wars Poster Contest in Washington D.C. in July

Poster Contest will NOT be returned.

- All poster entries, with completed ‘Entry Form’ and ‘Release Form’ must be received by the Tennessee Tar Wars program by February 14, 2005 for inclusion in the 2005 State Poster Contest.
- You are requested to submit no more than one poster per school.

If you are interested in teaching Tar Wars in your local 4th and/or 5th grader classrooms, please contact Cathy at the TAFP office in Nashville to receive a copy of the 2004-2005 Tar Wars teaching guide (or, you can print a copy from the TAFP website at: www.tnafp.org). It only takes approximately one hour to teach one Tar Wars class.

(Special Note: Congratulations to Greeneville City Schools for adopting the Tar Wars program and committing to present it system-wide; especially Dale Landers, Principal, Eastview Elementary School and Amy Hutchinson, R.N., Hal Henard Elementary School.)



Megan and her parents visit with Representative Harold Ford, Jr. in Washington D.C.





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the Tennessee Medical Association and its 50 component societies.



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