

T E N N E S S E E

Spring 2005

FAMILY PHYSICIAN

An Official Publication of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians

CALL FOR NOMINEES:

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**Call for Student & Resident
Research Papers – See Page 4**

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.



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Hearts and Minds



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President's Corner

Time is a very scary thing. Because we pay so much attention to it, and measure so much by it, its passing creates a sense of urgency. Here I am, faced with my second 'President's Corner', already into my third month of an incredibly quick year as President. Happily, it gives me another opportunity to follow-up on the theme of "communication" I raised last time. Since that column, I've already heard from a number of constituents throughout Tennessee that may have contacted someone within the Academy for the first time. I've heard concerns from members about such things as the Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians, electronic medical records, and the difficulty about being involved in the political process. Unfortunately, there are no easy or quick answers to any of these questions. One of the things that is important is hearing from you, so that I have a better chance to represent your interests at all the levels I'm privileged to serve.

So far, I've had an opportunity to talk to the medical students at Memphis and Vanderbilt. I'm thrilled by the enthusiasm I see in students throughout our state. The increased involvement of the Family Medicine Interest Groups over the past year, particularly in Central and West Tennessee bode well for our specialty. It is exciting, yet daunting, to try to talk with students and explain why being a family physician is so powerful and special. Particularly in these days of uncertainty about so many aspects of medicine, it can be an even harder sell. Trying to make sense of such things as *The Future of Family Medicine* is critical for students, but also for private physicians. Thanks to many of you who serve our academy as preceptors and role models, we are making progress!

The topic of the Future of Family Medicine Project is another one that merits attention this year. The Project is over. Now the fun begins! What do the reports mean? How do we interpret them practically for practicing physicians? How do we prioritize the suggestions for change? Most important, how do we each implement change designed to help us regain control of our practices? The answers depend upon the job we do as leaders of your academy in response to your identified needs. So keep talking! Ask us questions. Share your concerns and frustrations. Better yet, share your creative ideas and your joy of the practice of medicine. Therein lies the secret of our strength and success.

Thanks for traveling this path with me.

Cheers,

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



Call For Nominees:

2005 "John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award"

Nominations are being sought for the TAFP's 'John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award' by June 1, 2005. Nominations received should be for persons who deserve recognition of their outstanding service or contribution to the advancement of Family Medicine, to the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians, or to the public welfare on Family Medicine's behalf, whether of a civic, scientific, or special service nature. Nominees are NOT required to be members of the Tennessee AFP, but nominations must be made by a member in good standing of the Tennessee AFP.

The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians' 'Distinguished Service Award' was established to recognize outstanding and distinguished service by a physician or by a non-physician demonstrating exemplary leadership, character, and/or dedication to community involvement. In 1998 the 'Distinguished Service Award' was renamed the 'John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award' 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. Doctor Derryberry served as President of the AAFP in 1979.

The following support data is required for each nominee:

- (1) A detailed statement of the scientific, cultural, or special service justification for the nomination.
- (2) Biographical information on the nominee including a recent black and white photograph.
- (3) Education and training of nominee.
- (4) Professional history, contributions to Family Medicine, special appointments.
- (5) Substantial evidence of merit including printed material, publications, articles, or other citations or relevant supporting documents.

The recipient will be selected by the TAFP Board of Directors at their summer meeting with the actual award to be presented during the TAFP's 57th Annual Scientific Assembly in Gatlinburg the week of October 25-28, 2005.

To obtain a nomination packet, please contact the TAFP office at 1-800-897-5949 or in Nashville 615-833-5522. Complete nomination packets must be received by the TAFP prior to June 1.

Call For Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

Pursuant to Article X, Section 2, of the TAFP Constitution & Bylaws, "An amendment to the Constitution & Bylaws may be proposed by any regularly appointed committee of this Academy or by any five (5) or more members. The proposed amendment(s) must be submitted to the Executive Director of the Academy no less than 100 days prior to the meeting in which the proposed amendment(s) is to be considered...Notice of such proposed amendments to be made to member of the Academy by the Executive Director at least 30 days before the meeting at which such proposed amendments are to be acted upon. Publication of proposed amendments in the official publication of the Academy shall be sufficient to constitute notice thereof to the members".

Proposed amendments to the TAFP Constitution & Bylaws must be received by the TAFP office by July 15, 2005, and will be published in the Fall issue of *Tennessee Family Physician*.

Call For Nominees:

2005 "Family Physician of the Year Award"

The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians is soliciting nominations for the TAFP 'Family Physician of the Year Award' with a deadline of June 1, 2005. The 2005 Family Physician of the Year will be selected by members of the TAFP Congress of Delegates voting through their Director on the TAFP Board of Directors at the Summer TAFP Quarterly Board Meeting.

The TAFP's 'Family Physician of the Year Award' honors a member of the TAFP who has made an outstanding contribution to Family Medicine, to the advancement of health and/or medical training and to medical education is eligible for nomination for this Award. All nominations must be submitted on an official nomination form available from the TAFP office. In addition to the completed nomination form, all nominations must be submitted with an

updated curriculum-vitae, a current photograph of the nominee and up to five (5) pages of additional support documentation such as personal letters or testimonials. All nominees MUST be a current member in good standing of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.

This is an opportune time to honor one of your colleagues! Consider submitting a nominee this year, or see that your TAFP chapter/district submits one. To receive a nomination packet, please contact the TAFP office at 1-800-897-5949, or in Nashville at 615-833-5522.

Remember, the deadline for nominations for the 2005 TAFP 'Family Physician of the Year' is JUNE 1. Only nominations with complete nomination packets will be accepted, and no nomination materials will be accepted after June 1.

Recap of October 28, 2004 TN AFP Board of Directors' Meeting

❖ Voted for the TAFP to submit a proposal to the AAFP to sponsor a Tar Wars training workshop for residents and students at the 2005 National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students.

❖ Received report from the Executive Director on her attendance at the September Pri-Med educational program held in Nashville.

❖ Received report on ETSU College of Nursing's new Doctor of Nursing degree.

❖ Referred to the Assembly Program Committee if there is a need to fine-tune the term business casual for the TAFP Annual Scientific Assembly.

❖ Noted the new AAFP policy approved by the AAFP Congress of the use of the term 'Family Medicine' rather than Family Practice, with staff being instructed to ensure the TAFP is compliant with such policy.

❖ Referred the AAFP Future of Family Medicine strategic initiatives to the Executive Committee.

❖ Received report from Chet Gentry, M.D. on his Partnership Proposal for the Rural Health Networking Project.

❖ Received report from Timothy Linder, M.D., 2005 Summer Seminar program chair. The program will be on Electronic Health Records (EHR).

❖ Voted to extend the deadline to July 15 for receipt by the TAFP office of resident and student research papers for the selection of three for presentation at the annual meeting.

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

Leaders on the Move & Information For Members

- *Congratulations to Timothy Linder, M.D., Selmer*, who was appointed to the AAFP Commission on Legislation and Governmental Affairs for a four-year term ending in 2008. Reid Blackwelder, M.D., Kingsport, continues to represent the TAFP on the AAFP Commission on Continuing Medical Education.

- *Congratulations are extended to Amanda Crabtree of ETSU, TAFP Student Member*, on her appointment to the AAFP Committee on Scientific Program.

- *Congratulations to J. Mack Worthington, M.D., Chattanooga*, on his re-appointment to the AAFP Delegation to the AMA for a two-year term.

- The AAFP Degree of Fellow recognizes family physicians who have distinguished themselves through service to family medicine and ongoing professional development. *The following TAFP members were confirmed as AAFP Fellows in 2004: Jerry Banks, M.D., Bristol; Nancy Y. Blevins, M.D., Winchester; David Byrd, M.D., Athens; Concepcion Clifford, M.D., Nashville; J. Chris Graves, M.D., Chattanooga; Chad Griffin, M.D., Sparta; Samuel Johnson, M.D., Covington; Rodney Shane Roberts, M.D., Decatur; and, Nancy Moultrie Rockstroh, M.D., Memphis.* Congratulations to all of you!

- *The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)* has extended the deadline to April 15 for completing the required 2004 self-assessment module (or SAM) of the ABFM's Maintenance of Certification Program for Family Physicians (or MC-FP). To take advantage of the extension contact the ABFM at 1-877-223-7437, or email abfphd@abfm.org.

- *The TAFP is again providing the Doctor of the Day each Tuesday in 2005 to the Tennessee General Assembly.* If you are interested in serving please contact Cathy at the TAFP office in Nashville.

- Mark your calendar for the *TAFP's Summer Weekend Seminar on July 22-24 at Paris Landing State Park.* The program topic will be Electronic Health Records (EHR).

Call for Research Papers Deadline of July 15, 2005

The Research Committee of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP) is pleased to announce the Call for Resident and Student Research Papers for presentation at the 57th Annual Scientific Assembly to be held at the Gatlinburg Convention Center the week of October 25-28, 2005. Three abstracts will be selected by the TAFP Research Committee from those abstracts received for presentation at the TAFP's 2005 Annual Scientific Assembly. Those selected will have the opportunity to present their research paper to approximately 350 physicians from the mid-south who attend the TAFP's Annual Scientific Assembly. Those selected will receive

up to two (2) night's lodging and car mileage paid, and a \$300.00 honorarium.

Only TAFP Resident and Student members in good standing are eligible to participate in the TAFP Research Paper Competition. If you are involved in research or other scholarly activities, the TAFP Research Committee would very much like to have you participate in this Research Paper Competition. If you have questions or wish to receive the required 'Competition Application' packet, please contact Cathy Dyer at the TAFP headquarters office at 1-800-897-5949 (Nashville: 833-5522). **The (firm) deadline for receipt of Research Abstracts is July 15.**

Electronic Health Records

President Bush wants important medical health records of patients to be in electronic format by 2010. Find out what QSource is doing to get your office ready for electronic health records (EHRs) and new software created to get your office and staff compliant.

EHR.
KLAS.
HL7.
ASP.

Are they words found in Alphabet Soup or clues to a crossword puzzle? Neither.

It's the next step in medicine, as healthcare providers get ready for implementation of electronic health records (EHRs); a goal outlined by President George W. Bush in his January 21, 2004 State of the Union Address. "By computerizing healthcare records, we can avoid dangerous medical mistakes, reduce costs and improve care," Bush said.

Physicians today are challenged to provide better care for their patients while attempting to save time and money at the same time. EHRs enhance access to patient information, decision support, and reference data. EHRs can also decrease the likelihood of errors and improve patient-clinician communications. EHRs can be major tools in addressing quality of care and cost/time issues in clinical practice.

However, effective imple-

mentation takes more than just purchasing and installing an EHR. It takes time, money and careful planning that many practices cannot afford. This is where the QSource Doctor's Office Quality Improvement Technology (DOQ-IT) pilot program, led by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), can help.

DOQ-IT is designed to improve quality of care, patient safety and efficiency for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by promoting the adoption of Electronic Medical Records (EMR)/EHRs and Information Technology (IT) in primary care physician offices.

The Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 (H.R. 1-263) encourages the use of health information technology to better manage the clinical care of beneficiaries. There is great interest in integration of IT in healthcare systems by patients, payers and health policy leaders alike.

A recent Institute of Medicine (IOM) report "Fostering Rapid Advances in Health" called for significant reforms in the practice and organization of medicine. It recommended that the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) undertake a number of demonstration projects to stimulate innovation in the adoption of IT systems in healthcare. Despite these efforts, physician offices remain largely unengaged in terms of their adoption and use

of e-health technologies.

Given that the bulk of patient care is provided in physician office settings, a lack of IT adoption precludes potentially significant improvements in quality and efficiency in the delivery of healthcare. Through its role as a major payer of healthcare services and sponsor of both the largest national quality improvement program in the nation and innovative disease management demonstrations, CMS is in a position to provide leadership in the area of IT integration in the outpatient environment.

In an effort to provide localized support, CMS is looking towards Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) to implement pilot projects in each state. The QSource pilot project will provide support to small and medium practices with one to nine physicians in implementing EHRs. QSource is not a vendor of EHR products and does not endorse any vendor. All services and materials from QSource are available free of charge. QSource helps physicians and their staff identify which of the existing systems would best meet a practice's needs. After identifying the needs, QSource staff will look at steps that may help with a successful integration of an EHR into an office's structure.

Through QSource assistance, offices can identify changes

- continued on page 7

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Practice Opportunities

If you are looking for a partner or a practice location, send information by mail to: TAFP, 4721 Trousdale Drive, 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 (Summer 2005) is April 29, 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.

• Nashville – 25 year old established and well furnished practice for sale. Located in suburban area near the airport and several hospitals. For more information please page (615) 736-0963.

Electronic Health Records – continued

that need to occur in an office's workflow to ensure that the EHR functions in such a way as to be effective and not cause unnecessary issues on duplication of work.

QSource is offering its services free of charge to a limited number of physician offices in the initial 10 months of the project, but will look to provide no-cost assistance to a greater number of practices beginning August 2005. If you and your staff are interested, visit the QSource Web site at www.qsource.org and click on the DOQ-IT icon for more information and an application.

Deadline for the TAFP Quarterly Journal:

Summer 2005 – Deadline of April 29
(publication date of June)

Fall 2005 – Deadline of July 22
(publication date of September)

Winter 2005 – Deadline of October 28
(publication date of December)

Submissions should be provided to the TAFP single spaced on a disk or as an email attachment in MSWord format if at all possible. If you have articles, information, letters to the editors or submissions for the TAFP quarterly journal, please forward to: Cathy Dyer, TAFP –By Mail: 4721 Trousdale Drive, Suite 202, Nashville, TN 37220. Or, by email: tnafp@bellsouth.net.

Foundation for Change

Leaders of our Academy established the TAFP Foundation in 1989. Our AAFP had encouraged component state chapters to use this as an ancillary means for furthering the work of family medicine on the state level. The history of our own chapter Foundation reflects our desire to assist new Departments of Family Medicine recruit and retain leaders in medical education. The goal was ambitious and stood on its own merit. The Foundation's goal was to fund Chairs of Excellence for faculty similar to Chairs in other clinical departments. The initial idea of one endowed chair soon became two with the formation of a second state medical school. The Foundation leaders allowed funds to be ear marked for either school or both. The legacy has pure roots in our struggle for equal footing in academic centers. Where are we in 2005?

Endowed Chairs in Medicine require in excess of a million dollars to provide stipend significant enough to consider the position stable and independent from the prevailing winds of change in academia. Presuming interest on investment of over seven percent per year on one million, we would have only a half salary to be competitive in today's market. Financially, we must come to

terms with the reality that reaching levels necessary to fund a Chair at Memphis and one in Johnson City is a four million dollar endeavor. We are currently stalled at levels that do not even exceed twenty five thousand for either Chair when all funds are combined. Clearly this idea will need reexamination with reality.

The TAFP-Foundation deserves a Board that is committed not only to furthering the goals of Family Medicine in our state but to actively raise funds in an ongoing campaign to stimulate targeted programs that complement the mission of the TAFP.

Whose job is it? Much to the surprise of a few of our Board of Directors, the majority of the Board of our TAFP serves as the TAFP-Foundation Board. There is fading memory of

these events among current members. Our Board is not recruited for their experience in managing a non-profit corporation under the IRS 501-C3 designation. My suspicion is that most of them are indifferent about the Foundation when those issues compete with the pressing business of the Academy. The TAFP-Foundation deserves a Board that is committed not only to furthering the goals of Family Medicine in our state but to actively raise funds in an ongoing campaign to stimulate targeted programs that complement the mission of the TAFP. The TAFP-Foundation should be a separate entity with sufficient crossover of key TAFP members to ensure dedication and accountability to the stated purpose.

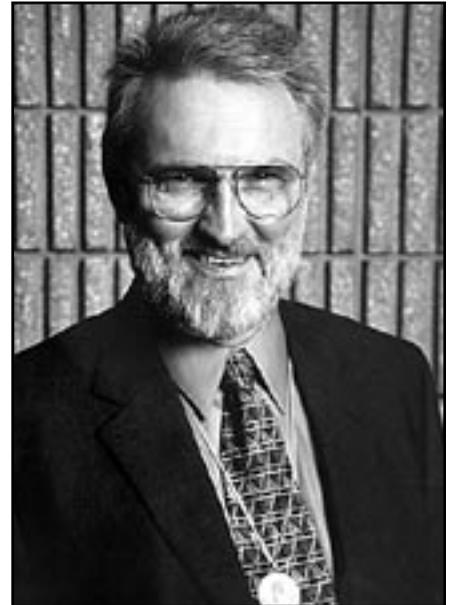
Our TAFP-Foundation must learn from the wisdom and error of other state Academy Foundations. We must be focused on specific programs that distribute funds regularly to meet the IRS regulations for non-profit foundations. We must be lean and not hire personnel that exhaust the seed moneys donated. We must guard against adding another agenda for our already tasked Executive Director. Thus, the TAFP-Foundation Board must be active and self sustaining. After all, the TAFP is our primary organization and the

Editorial – continued

TAFP-Foundation only serves to complement the goals of its parent. The TAFP-Foundation Board must be about fund raising and be designed to incorporate broader membership than just TAFP members. These members can include corporate partners in delivery of health care, pharmaceutical interests, health systems, and academic interests.

This is an active agenda. An active Foundation Board is needed. The TAFP has the opportunity in the next few months to discuss and act to change the TAFP-Foundation. First the TAFP Board of

Directors must decide if it wishes to remain as the Foundation Board. If so, then they must “fish or cut bait” as the needs of the Foundation have to be met. If not, then they must vote to abandon the current form of the Foundation and effect a restructuring. The latter would relieve them of that responsibility and allow an ad hoc task force to recommend a new structure. The future awaits our TAFP-Foundation. We should go forward courageously recognizing the efforts of those who had the wisdom to start our Foundation over a decade ago.



**Mike Hartsell, M.D.,
Greenville**

Congratulations to Joey Hensley, M.D.

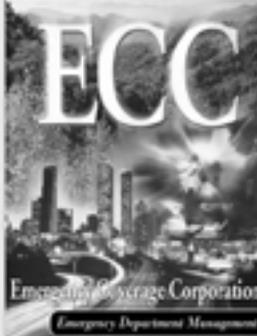


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