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PINE BELT PHYSICIAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION

RIDGELAND – Dr. James W. Griffin Jr. of Hattiesburg was elected president of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) at its Annual Meeting in July. He is the first African-American president of the MAFP, which was founded in 1949 and has more than 1,300 members statewide. In recent years, Dr. Griffin has served the organization as a board member, as secretary, as vice president, and as president-elect.

“I love family medicine, and I consider it a calling rather than job,” Dr. Griffin said. “I am honored and humbled to be not only elected but inducted as the next president of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians and the first African-American to enjoy this role. I have loved this organization from the first meeting I attended as a resident years ago.”

Dr. Griffin is a board-certified family physician who practices at Hattiesburg Family Health Center, which is part of the Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative (SeMRHI). He has served as chief medical officer for SeMRHI from 2012-April 2020, and he has worked for the organization for ten years.

Dr. Griffin graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, with a degree in biology, then went on to receive his medical degree from Indiana

MISSION: Supporting Family Medicine physicians as they improve the health of all Mississippians.

University School of Medicine. He completed a 4-year internship and residency – where he served as chief resident -- in obstetrics and gynecology at Medical College of Ohio at Toledo, then practiced as an OBGYN in Indianapolis in the early part of his career. After deciding to become a family physician, Dr. Griffin completed a 3-year internship and residency in family medicine at the North Mississippi Family Medicine Residency Center (NMFMRC) in Tupelo, Miss. He stayed on with NMFMRC as an assistant professor before moving to the Pine Belt to begin a family medicine career. Over the years, Dr. Griffin has worked at clinics in Purvis, New Augusta, and Hattiesburg.

Dr. Griffin was the medical director of the Accountable Care Coalition of Mississippi and chair of the organization's Quality Improvement & Care Coordination Committee from 2014-2019. He has served as associate medical director for Halcyon Hospice in Hattiesburg since 2017.

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The MAFP has over 1,300 members consisting of physicians, residents and medical students. Its mission is to support Family Medicine physicians as they improve the health of all Mississippians.