

President
Carlos A. Latorre, MD, FAAFP
Vicksburg

President – Elect
Paul M. Pavlov, MD
Biloxi

Vice President
Stephen C. Hammack, MD, FAAFP
Madison

Secretary
John P. Vanderloo, MD, FAAFP
Jackson

Treasurer
Bradley J. Suggs, MD, FAAFP
Brandon

Immediate Past President
James W. Griffin, MD
Hattiesburg

Executive Director
Beth Embry
Madison

AAFP Delegates
Katherine T. Patterson, MD, FAAFP
Indianola

P. Brent Smith, MD, MSC, FAAFP
Cleveland

AAFP Alternate Delegates
Jennifer D. Gholsen, MD
Summit

Dustin Gentry, MD
Louisville

Directors
District 1
Angela C. Jones, MD
Poplarville

District 2
Chrystal A. Sumrall, MD, FAAFP
Laurel

District 3
James W. Ervin, MD, FAAFP
Crystal Springs

District 4
Scott C. Martin, MD
Clinton

District 5
Amy Hollman, MD
Brandon

District 6
Erik Lessman, MD, FAAFP
Indianola

District 7
Emily B. Landrum, MD
Starkville

District 8
Lakeisha R. Chism, MD
Verona

Director at Large
Anna Marie Hailey-Sharp, MD
Preston

Director at Large
Jeremy B. Wells, MD
Hattiesburg



755 Avignon Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-853-3302 (P)
601-853-3002 (F)
www.msafp.org

PONTOTOC DOCTOR HONORED WITH MAFP'S HUMANITARIAN AWARD

JACKSON, July 29, 2021 – Family

physician **John R. Mitchell, MD, FAAFP**, of Pontotoc, was honored as the recipient of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians **Humanitarian Award** at its Annual Meeting July 17-21.



The MAFP was founded in 1949 and has more than 1,300 members statewide. The Humanitarian Award is not given every year, and has been only given to three previous recipients.

Dr. Mitchell is Director of the Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce, a position he has held since 2013. The OMPW was established in 2012 primarily to increase the number of primary care physicians in Mississippi. Under his direction, the Office has assisted in the establishment of 13 new residency programs in the state, where medical school graduates train to become full-fledged doctors.

“Dr. Mitchell has quietly and methodically made the OMPW office the most meaningful force solving the seemingly unsolvable problem of not enough physicians in the State of Mississippi,” said Tim Alford, MD, of Kosciusko, a MAFP past president who has served on the OMPW Board of Trustees for the past 9 years.

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

“By installing GIS Mapping Data and having full command and understanding of it, Dr. Mitchell has built community residency infrastructure. He has drawn from the deep well of his experience as a family physician to make the case at a community level. He has been steady at the wheel without fanfare, and he has put all Mississippians in a better place.”

A native of Lafayette Springs, a small community outside of Oxford, Dr. Mitchell graduated from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy. After practicing pharmacy, he became a pharmacist in the U.S. Army, achieving promotions from first lieutenant to captain over the course of three years of service. Following his military service, he completed the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and a family medicine residency at University of Alabama Birmingham in Tuscaloosa before moving to Pontotoc, MS. Dr. Mitchell practiced family medicine in Pontotoc and Tupelo for more than 25 years, including association for 20 years with the North Mississippi Medical Center Family Medicine Residency.

Dr. Mitchell is board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He has served in MAFP leadership positions over the years including MAFP President in 2010-11 and served as AAFP Delegate for four years. He is a member of the American Medical Association and an associate member of the Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association. He is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Mitchell and his wife, Elaine, have one son and four grandchildren. They live in Pontotoc, as they have for more than 30 years, however Dr. Mitchell’s work has him living in Jackson part-time for the past 8 years.

###

The MAFP has over 1,300 members consisting of physicians, residents and medical students. The MAFP is dedicated to advancing the specialty of Family Medicine and improving the health of all people in Mississippi. The vision of the MAFP is for every person in Mississippi to have access and availability to a well-trained family physician to manage their medical care.

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

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