



# NEWS RELEASE

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Date: Sept. 27, 2007

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Columbus Family Physician to Receive National Physician Executive Award**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Mary Jo Welker, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., of Columbus, has been selected to receive the Robert Graham Physician Executive Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

The award was created to recognize an outstanding family physician for their role as a physician executive. This award is reserved for Academy members whose executive skills in healthcare organizations have contributed to excellence in the provision of high quality healthcare and demonstrated that family physicians can have an impact on improving the overall health of the nation.

This award is named in honor of Robert Graham, M.D., AAFP past executive vice president who dedicated his career to improving healthcare access and fostering the tenets of family medicine. His long-term dedication and commitment to the specialty of family medicine and healthcare as a whole are the principle foundations for the creation of this award.

Welker will receive her award during the AAFP Congress of Delegates on Tuesday, Oct. 2, in Chicago, Ill.

The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP), the Ohio state chapter of AAFP, nominated Welker for the award. Welker is an OAFP past president who has served and continues to serve on numerous OAFP committees including its national action committee, practice management commission, and legislation and advocacy commission. Welker also serves on the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Board of Directors as the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFP/F) liaison. Welker served on the AAFP Board of Directors from 2002-05, and currently serves on the AAFP/F Board of Directors and AAFP Political Action Committee Board of Directors.

Welker is the executive director for The Ohio State University (OSU), Columbus, network of 20 primary care sites. She also serves as associate dean for primary care and chair of the Department of Family Medicine at OSU. Welker serves as treasurer on the Board of Directors for OSU Physicians, and also is on the OSU East Hospital Board.

*The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians is a statewide, professional association with more than 4,400 members, including practicing physicians, family medicine residents and medical students. The scope of family medicine encompasses all ages, both sexes and every disease entity. Family physicians provide comprehensive, continuing care to all members of the family.*

-30-

**Editor's Note:** To request a photo of Welker, please send an e-mail with resolution requirements to [msmith@ohioafp.org](mailto:msmith@ohioafp.org).