



OHIO ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

NEWS RELEASE

4075 North High Street Columbus, Ohio 43214-3296 614.267.7867 www.ohioafp.org

Date: Aug. 2, 2010

Contact: Megan D. Smith
Director of Communications
msmith@ohioafp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Academy Recognizes Bellefontaine Physician as Family Physician of the Year

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) has announced that Roger J. Kauffman, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., of Bellefontaine, Ohio, will receive its 2010 Family Physician of the Year Award.

Kauffman has been practicing family medicine for 30 years at Oakhill Medical Associates in West Liberty, Ohio, the largest group practice in Logan County.

“He still embraces the concept of years gone by when a family physician was just that—a doctor who took care of the family day and night, both physically and emotionally. He has a heart for charity and vision for health care, especially for those that are underserved,” stated Pat and Debbie Ellis in their letter of nomination.

Kauffman’s contributions to his community—and state and country—go above-and-beyond the typical volunteer citizen. He gives of his personal time to help others. It is not unlike him to provide care without payment to individuals who cannot afford it otherwise, or purchase medications for patients who could not afford to get urgently needed medication. Kauffman also provides from his personal garden freshly grown produce to patients, and often will invite patients to his home for dinner to share information on a test, diagnosis or any other reason.

“...Dr. Kauffman actually brought the patient to the hospital in his private vehicle, assisted in providing initial admission orders and reassured family over the phone that the patient was in a safe environment. Again, this occurred on his day off, and he was in his ‘gardening clothes’ during all of this,” said James W. Schwind, M.S.W., L.I.S.W.-S., B.C.D., director of the Care Coordination Department at Mary Rutan Hospital, Bellefontaine, when telling of a patient story.

Kauffman has an extensive list of volunteer activities and community involvement. Some of them include starting Habitat for Humanity of Logan County with his wife; tutoring Anatomy students in preparation for the Science Olympiad; engaging in mission trips to Haiti and Honduras; and serving as resident doctor for Green Hills Community Care Center. He is also an active member of the Jubilee Mennonite Church, and received the Mary Rutan Hospital Physician of the Year Award in 2009.

Throughout his career, Kauffman has provided a full spectrum of care to his patients, community and fellow citizens. He is the face of family medicine in his community and is deeply devoted to it and his

- more -

patients. Perhaps, one of the people who knows of this devotion the best is Ryan Kauffman, M.D., his son and partner.

“I remember the opportunities he has had to take part in major events of patients’ lives—graduations, weddings and funerals. Seeing his ability to improve the lives of those around him and his love of his calling to family medicine inspired me to become a family physician,” said Ryan Kauffman, M.D.

“For his patients and many in the community, he is the face of Oakhill and the face of family medicine. I have seen first hand the devotion that his patients have. Many of his patients refuse to see any of the other doctors when he is away, and sometimes will wait for weeks for his return,” he continued.

Kauffman graduated with his M.D. from Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Va., and completed his family medicine residency program at University of South Alabama, Mobile, Ala. He obtained the Certificate of Added Qualification in geriatrics the first year it was offered and will be named a Fellow of American Academy of Family Physicians this year.

Kauffman and his wife, Rachel, reside in Bellefontaine, Ohio, (43311) and have three grown children, Ryan (Valerie), Rudi (Ravonn) and Ross, and five grandchildren.

OAFP annually presents the Family Physician of the Year Award to an individual who meets and exceeds the criteria of being an outstanding family physician role model; maintaining high professional standards and service orientations; providing high quality and family-centered, continuing healthcare; and being active in community, education or other public affairs. Also, candidates must have 10 years post-residency (or equivalent) experience, currently be in practice and be a member of OAFP.

Kauffman will receive the Family Physician of the Year Award at the 2010 OAFP Awards Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2010, from 6:30-10 p.m. at Embassy Suites Dublin in Dublin, Ohio. Registration to attend the dinner is \$40 per person; there is no charge for OAFP members. Reservations can be made at www.ohioafp.org or by calling OAFP at (800) 742-7327.

Also during the awards ceremony, Sanford Kimmel, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., of Toledo, Ohio, will be presented with the OAFP Educator of the Year Award and Lauren Burns, D.O., of Akron, Ohio, will receive the OAFP Resident Leadership Award.

The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians is a statewide, professional association with more than 4,200 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. For more information, visit www.ohioafp.org.

-30-

Editor’s Note

To receive a copy of Kauffman’s photograph or to schedule an interview, please send an e-mail to Megan Smith at msmith@ohioafp.org or call (800) 742-7327. Photographers and videographers from the media are welcome to attend the Awards Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 7.