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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Academy Recognizes Pepper Pike Physician as Family Medicine Educator of the Year

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) has announced that Masahiro Morikawa, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.F.P., of Pepper Pike, Ohio, will receive its 2011 Family Medicine Educator of the Year Award.

Morikawa has been practicing family medicine for 24 years with areas of interest including: in-patient management, global health, bedside education and primary care in post-conflict communities. He serves many roles in the department of family medicine at University Hospitals of Cleveland/Case Medical Center, Cleveland, including course director for the annual international track workshop, director for inpatient service and director of the global health track.

As director of the global health track for the residency program, Morikawa has developed an integrated global health curriculum including a yearly two-week workshop on global health and recurrent journal clubs. Residents from all around Cleveland and the state contact him to participate in this track.

Morikawa is also responsible for creating a 600-plus page global health handbook entitled *International Health Handbook: Guidebook to Family Medicine International Health Track* that contains core content, key resources and bibliographic material.

“This handbook is an impressive piece of scholarship in itself and it speaks to the fact that Dr. Morikawa places scholarship, education and clinical service on an equal plane in his role as an educator in family medicine,” said George Kikano, M.D., C.P.E., F.A.A.F.P., nominator and chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Case Medical Center,

Among other factors, Morikawa was chosen for his experience and expertise abroad. He has traveled to Afghanistan, Vietnam, Guatemala, Nepal, Honduras and Balkan training and sharing his knowledge and skills with family physicians and health care workers.

“Dr. Morikawa is an inspirational leader in that he not only talks the talk, he walks the walk. He is not only a strong educator and clinician, but he is a visionary leader in the education of learners in family medicine. His creativity, productivity and excellence in teaching learners of all levels is commendable, but his selfless commitment to the health and well-being of others makes him a role model for students, residents and fellow faculty,” said Kikano.

According to one of Morikawa’s students, his philosophy on patient care and commitment to best clinical outcomes is the reason why people truly trust him with their health and families.

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“I have yet to meet another clinician in my years of both general surgery and family medicine residency who round every day without fail at 3 a.m.; actually hand feed patients; make each and every day, each and every patient a learning experience; finds the time to mentor residents both in and out of his department and continues to do this day in day out without fail for more than ten years,” explained Kerry Lecky, M.D., M.S., a past resident of Morikawa.

Not only has Morikawa had an impact overseas sharing his knowledge to the world, he has been a role model for his students and residents in Ohio.

“Whether we had 30 seconds or an hour, he taught,” explained Hisam Goueli, M.D., a past student of Morikawa. “He expanded my knowledge and challenged my understanding of medical concepts every time.”

“He improved my weaknesses and fostered my strengths. He helped me develop a research career in international health that led to an oral presentation at a national family medicine meeting. Dr. Morikawa is the professional mentor my father once described to me and he is the reason I have made a difference. The lessons I have learned from him have shaped my professional development and life. His love for patients is genuine. His passion for the potential of family medicine is boundless. His commitment to education is immeasurable. His impact on my life goes beyond the words of this recommendation letter,” said Goueli.

Morikawa graduated with his M.D. from Tokyo Medical University, Tokyo, Japan, and completed his family medicine residency program at Department of Family Medicine, University Hospitals Cleveland/Case Medical Center. He also received his M.P.H. from the School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, as well as completed residency at the Department of Traumatology and Critical Care, Nippon Medical School Hospital, Tokyo, Japan.

Morikawa and his wife, Hikari, reside in Pepper Pike (44124).

OAFP annually presents this award to a family medicine educator that meets and exceeds the criteria of being a capable teacher of family medicine, successful administrator/practitioner, productive researcher/scholar and inspiring leader. Candidates must also have 10 years post-residency (or equivalent) experience, be actively caring for patients and be a member of OAFP.

Morikawa will receive the Family Medicine Educator of the Year Award at the 2011 OAFP Awards Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011, from 7:00-10 p.m. at Marriott Columbus Northwest 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, Thomas E. Albani Jr., M.D., F.A.A.F.P., of Boardman, Ohio, will be presented with the OAFP Family Physician of the Year Award.

The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians is a statewide, professional association with more than 4,100 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.

Editor's Note

To receive a copy of Morikawa'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. 6.