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INDIANOLA DOCTOR ELECTED MAFP PRESIDENT

RIDGELAND – Katherine Fokakis Patterson, MD, FAAFP, of Indianola, was elected president of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) in July at the group's Annual Meeting.

Patterson leads the state's largest physician specialty organization, which is dedicated to advancing the specialty of family medicine and improving the health of all people in Mississippi. The MAFP supports and provides education for family physicians, advocates for them as their unified voice, works to expand the physician workforce, and promotes the specialty of family medicine.

Patterson has been involved with MAFP since she was a medical student, having served on the board as a representative before her election as an officer. She was recently honored with the Degree of Fellow from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which recognizes those physicians who are leaders in their communities and enables them to put the initials FAAFP after their names.

Patterson has been a practicing family physician with Indianola Family Medical Group since 2007. Having grown up in Hattiesburg, she earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Southern Mississippi, then completed the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. She finished both her residency and a women's fellowship at Corpus Christi Family Practice Residency Program in Corpus Christi, Texas, before returning to Mississippi to practice.

She has also been involved in the AAFP, the Mississippi State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. She is vice chair of the Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce and has served on that board since 2013.

Patterson believes in giving back to her community, and she served for two years as a volunteer physician advisor at the Good Samaritan Clinic in Sunflower County. Patterson is president of the Friends of the Henry M. Seymour Library, secretary of the Indianola Civic League, and serves on several church boards.

Patterson and her husband, David, have four boys, Samuel (10), Reilly (7), Nicholas (6), and John Kastens (2). They are members of Indianola's First United Methodist Church.