



MISSISSIPPI  
ACADEMY  
OF  
FAMILY  
PHYSICIANS

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### ***Four Family Physicians Honored with AAFP Distinction***

RIDGELAND – Four Mississippi family physicians recently achieved the **Degree of Fellow** from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). They were presented with their degrees April 22 at a MAFP convocation ceremony in Jackson. Those honored were:

- William P. Howard, MD, FAAFP of Jackson
- Katherine Patterson, MD, FAAFP of Indianola
- Sonya Shipley, MD, FAAFP of Flowood
- Bradley J. Suggs, MD, FAAFP of Flowood

“Being recognized with the Degree of Fellow has great significance among family physicians,” said MAFP President Sue Simmons of Maben. “Not only does it represent the respect of one’s peer physicians, but it symbolizes high personal standards as well. We are so pleased to include these four new Fellows in our ranks.”

As Mississippi’s representative of AAFP, Simmons conferred the Degree of Fellow on each physician April 22 at the convocation ceremony. Each took an oath and received a certificate.

The Degree of Fellow recognizes AAFP members who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues, as well as in their communities, by their service to family medicine, by their advancement of health care for the American people, and by their professional development through medical education and research. Fellows of the AAFP are recognized as champions of family medicine. They are the physicians who make family medicine the premier specialty in service to their community and profession. From a personal perspective, being a Fellow signifies not only “tenure,” but one’s additional work in your community, within organized medicine, within teaching and a great commitment to continuing professional development and research.

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*The MAFP has over 1,000 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: Dedicated to advancing the specialty of Family Medicine and improving the health of all people in Mississippi.*