



MISSISSIPPI  
ACADEMY  
OF  
FAMILY  
PHYSICIANS

755 Avignon Drive  
Ridgeland, MS 39157  
601-853-3302 (P)  
601-853-3002 (F)  
www.msafp.org

## JACKSON PHYSICIAN HONORED WITH HUMANITARIAN AWARD

JACKSON, April 30, 2018 – Robert Smith, MD, ABFM, FFAFP, of Jackson, was presented with the Humanitarian Award by the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) in Jackson on April 21.

The award is given by fellow physicians in honor of a Mississippi family physician with a lifetime of service in uplifting humanity, social justice and the health of all citizens, especially the underserved and those in greatest need. This is only the second time the award has been given by MAFP – the first was to the late Dr. Gilbert R. Mason of Biloxi, the first recipient in 2012.

Dr. Smith graduated from Howard University School of Medicine in Washington D.C. in 1961, a time when African-Americans could not attend medical school in Mississippi. Upon his return to our state, he founded the Medical Committee for Human Rights when the fight for Civil Rights was at its tumultuous peak in 1963, and provided health care to Civil Rights workers repeatedly at personal risk to himself. He co-founded the first community health center in Mound Bayou in 1965, meeting an urgent need of the underserved population of the Delta. These centers are now called FQHCs

“Dr. Smith has truly blazed a trail in Mississippi for so many physicians to follow,” said Dr. Katherine Patterson, FFAFP, current MAFP President. “He faced so many obstacles both personally and professionally, and he persevered.”

Smith has been a member of MAFP since 1972 and has been an active participant in Academy activities, conferences, and meetings. His long career in medicine has been capped by two recent honors: he received the American Medical Association’s Medal of Valor in 2017 and was recognized by the Mississippi Legislature in 2017 with a resolution honoring his achievements and dubbing him the ‘Champion and Hero of Health Care in Mississippi.’

Smith and his wife, Otrie, live in Jackson. They have three children, Claude, Donna and Robert Jr., an adopted daughter, Pamela, and two grandchildren.

###

*The MAFP has over 1,100 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.*

**President**

Katherine T. Patterson, MD, FFAFP  
Indianola

**President – Elect**

David B. Wheat, MD, FFAFP  
Clinton

**Vice President**

William M. Grantham, MD  
Clinton

**Secretary**

James W. Griffin, MD  
New Augusta

**Treasurer**

William E. Loper, III, MD, FFAFP  
Ridgeland

**Immediate Past President**

Sue H. Simmons, MD  
Maben

**Executive Director**

Beth Embry  
Madison

**AAFP Delegates**

Timothy J. Alford, MD, FFAFP  
Kosciusko

Lucius M. Lampton, MD, FFAFP  
Magnolia

**AAFP Alternate Delegates**

John R. Mitchell, MD, FFAFP  
Pontotoc

Susan A. Chiarito, MD, FFAFP  
Vicksburg

**Directors**

*District 1*

Paul M. Pavlov, MD  
Biloxi

*District 3*

J. Lee Valentine, DO  
Meridian

*District 4*

Scott A. Carlton, MD  
Jackson

*District 5*

John P. Vanderloo, MD  
Madison

*District 6*

Carlos A. Latorre, MD  
Vicksburg

*District 7*

T. Bruce Longest, MD  
Bruce

*District 8*

Christopher L. Park, DO  
New Albany

**Director at Large**

Christy B. Vowell, MD  
Eupora

**Director at Large**

P. Brent Smith, MD, MSC, FFAFP  
Cleveland