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CLEVELAND PHYSICIAN NAMED MISSISSIPPI'S NEW FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

RIDGELAND - P. Brent Smith, MD, MSC, FAAFP, of Cleveland, was honored as New Physician of the Year 2019 by the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) at its Annual Meeting in July.

Individuals who earn the New Physician award must have completed residency or extended training seven years ago or less, must be community leaders who prioritize patients in their care, and they must make a contribution to the family medicine profession. Dr. Smith was chosen by a committee of physicians from nominations submitted by members.

A native of Cleveland, Dr. Smith has served as a family physician at Family Medical Clinic in Cleveland since 2014. He has completed specialized training in sports medicine and serves as the team physician for both the Cleveland High School and Bayou Academy. Dr. Smith is Director of Acute Care at North Sunflower Medical Center in Ruleville, where he also serves as an emergency room physician.

Dr. Smith earned a medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and completed his residency in Family Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He then completed a 1-year Sports Medicine fellowship at the University of Alabama College of Community and Health Sciences.

MISSION: Supporting Family Medicine physicians as they improve the health of all Mississippians.

Active in the Mississippi Athletic Trainer's Association (MATA), Dr. Smith was honored with the MATA Sports Medicine Person of the Year award in 2017. While he was a resident, he received the Gary W. Jefcoats, DO, Resident Teaching Award and the AMA-RFS Paul Ambrose Award for Leadership Among Residents.

A leader on the national level, Dr. Smith served for 6 years on the board of trustees for the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation, serving as the organization's national president in 2018. During his residency, he served as a resident member on the AAFP Board of Directors.

Dr. Smith has served as a member of the MAFP Board of Directors as an at-large director and was recently elected to represent Mississippi as an alternate delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Congress of Delegates. He recently completed five years of service on the MAFP Foundation Board of Trustees.

Smith is involved in the American Medical Association and Mississippi State Medical Association, having served as a resident member of the MSMA Board of Trustees, and as a representative of the Delta Medical Society to the MSMA Annual Session. His other professional involvement includes chairing the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for the Mississippi High School Activities Association, and membership in the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine.

Dr. Smith has earned two undergraduate degrees from Ouachita Baptist University in addition to his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He also holds a master's degree in clinical education from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and a master's degree in healthcare law from the University of Oklahoma.

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The MAFP has almost 1,200 members consisting of physicians, residents and medical students. The MAFP is dedicated to supporting Family Medicine physicians as they improve the health of all Mississippians. 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.