



For Immediate Release

Contact Kristen Kern, 601-853-3302 or kristen@msafp.org

STEPHENS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MAFP FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RIDGELAND – Melissa R. Stephens, MD, MS, FAAFP, DABFM, was elected president of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Board of Trustees, charged with raising funds to support family medicine in Mississippi. She is a board-certified family physician who has been part of the faculty at William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM) since 2013.

Dr. Stephens currently serves WCUCOM as Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education and Population Health. She serves as an instructor in multiple clinical courses on campus and has served as a course director in the past. Dr. Stephens is the faculty advisor for the primary care student interest groups in addition to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and the student section of the American Medical Association.

Prior to her career in Mississippi, Dr. Stephens served as an assistant professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center and on the faculty of the the Baptist Lutheran Medical Center in Kansas City. She also practiced medicine in Aurora, Missouri; Monett, Missouri; Warsaw, Missouri; Lewiston, Idaho, and Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Dr. Stephens graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with both a bachelor's and a doctorate of medicine degree. She then went on to complete a 3-year residency in family medicine with the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), serving as chief resident her final year. After that, she

President	MAFP Ex-Officio	Board of Trustees	
Melissa Stephens, MD	Bill Grantham, MD	Sarah Barowka, MD	Rickey Chance, DO
		Barbara Goodman, MD	Cierra Green, MD
Vice-President	Treasurer	Thais Tonore, MD	Kelly S. Tullos, MD
Patrick Whipple, MD	Jonathan Buchanan, MD		



was a fellow in a public health and preventive medicine grant program at KUMC before beginning her career in academia. Most recently, she earned a master of science degree in population health management at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Stephens is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine.

To hone her teaching skills, she has participated in national workshops to learn effective methods of teaching to medical students, including the National Workshop to Advance Medical Education to Combat Opioid Misuse, the Stanford 25 Skills Symposium at Stanford University, and the Principles of Medical Education Maximizing Your Teaching Skills at Harvard Medical School.

As an advisory board and executive board member for the Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce, Dr. Stephens works to create new medical residency programs throughout the state. She is very involved in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, belonging to several groups and task forces.

Dr. Stephens' professional memberships include the American College of Physicians, the Mississippi State Medical Association, the Mississippi Public Health Association, the Association of Osteopathic Physicians, the Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association, and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Medical Association. She is on the National Faculty for the the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

President Melissa Stephens, MD	MAFP Ex-Officio Bill Grantham, MD	Board of Trustees Sarah Barowka, MD Barbara Goodman, MD Thais Tonore, MD	Rickey Chance, DO Cierra Green, MD Kelly S. Tullos, MD
Vice-President Patrick Whipple, MD	Treasurer Jonathan Buchanan, MD		



Involved in the community, Dr. Stephens serves on the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi. She has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Children's Home, The Place at the Lake Domestic Violence Program, and the Habitat for Humanity.

Dr. Stephens and her husband, John Stephens, have three children, Paige Regan and Nathan. They are members of Temple Baptist Church, where she actively participates in short-term missions trips to Honduras with Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International.

###

President

Melissa Stephens, MD

MAFP Ex-Officio

Bill Grantham, MD

Board of Trustees

Sarah Barowka, MD

Barbara Goodman, MD

Thais Tonore, MD

Rickey Chance, DO

Cierra Green, MD

Kelly S. Tullos, MD

Vice-President

Patrick Whipple, MD

Treasurer

Jonathan Buchanan, MD