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VICKSBURG PHYSICIAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

JACKSON, July 29, 2021 – **Carlos A. Latorre, MD, FAAFP**, a Vicksburg family physician, was elected president of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) at its Annual Meeting July 17-21. The MAFP was founded in 1949 and has more than 1,300 members statewide. In recent years, Dr. Latorre has served the organization as a board member, as secretary, as vice president, and as president-elect. He is also a past president of the MAFP Foundation.

Dr. Latorre is a board-certified family physician and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He is currently the Associate Chief of Staff for Primary Care at G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, and also practices family medicine in Vicksburg at Mission Primary Care Clinic.

Winner of several awards, Dr. Latorre earned the Doctor of Distinction Award in 2015 from the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) and was honored with the MSMA's James C. Waites Leadership Award in 2014 and 2019. While a family medicine resident at UMMC, he earned the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award, the Daniel Mark Pogue MD, Humanitarian Award, and the George Lally Beville Memorial Fellowship Fund Award.

Dr. Latorre is also actively involved in MSMA, currently serving as Vice-Speaker of the House. He is a past member of the MSMA Board of Trustees,

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Medical Service Council, Council on Medical Education, and a past Chair of the Reference Committee. He has completed the MSMA's Physician Leadership Academy. Dr. Latorre is president of the local West Mississippi Medical Society and has served as state delegate for the chapter. He is a member of the national American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Latorre didn't start out his career aiming to be a doctor. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with both a bachelor's and a master's degree in geology. He worked from 1994 to 2002 as a research geologist for the Naval Oceanographic Office, Hydrographic Cooperative Survey Section at Stennis Space Center, and Vicksburg's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center Geotechnical and Structures Laboratory.

After deciding to become a physician, Dr. Latorre attended medical school at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in San Juan, PR, completing his degree in 2008. He then trained in a 3-year family medicine residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where he was selected as chief resident.

Active in his community, Dr. Latorre is very involved as a team physician and a member of the Board of Directors for the Miss Mississippi Competition Corporation, which conducts the Miss Mississippi competition each summer in Vicksburg. He also mentors medical and nursing students by serving as a Preceptor. Dr. Latorre volunteers at Vicksburg's First Baptist Church Free Clinic and participates in the Walk With a Doc Vicksburg program each month in cooperation with organizer Mrs. Linda Fondren. He volunteers his services as a physician to local competitions and programs throughout his area of the state. Multi-lingual, he is fluent in both English and Spanish, and proficient in Portuguese. Dr. Latorre has also served in multiple local and state COVID-19 task force committees working with Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs, Gov. Tate Reeves and State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs. He also served as an advisor to the Catholic Diocese of Jackson.

Dr. Latorre and his wife, Nalini, have a daughter, Alana, a freshman at Mississippi College.

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The MAFP has over 1,300 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.

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