

2023

**FAFP “ACADEMY” AWARDS
&
Degree of Fellow Induction**

Friday, December 8, 2023



**INSTALLATION OF FAFP OFFICERS
& BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Saturday, December 9, 2023



*2023 Family Medicine Winter Summit
The Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island*



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gabrielle Yap Sam (FSU)
Victoria Sands (USF)
Monica De Varona Torras (FIU)

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Maribeth Williams, MD

FAMILY MEDICINE DEPARTMENT COUNCIL CHAIR

Nipa Shah, MD, UF-JAX

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George Bernardo, MD	Chris Scuderi, DO
Christy Cavanagh, MD	Carrie Vey, MD
Kamini Geer, MD	Maribeth Williams, MD, Residency Dir.
Matt Rensberry, MD	Tisha Van Pelt, MD, Resident Dir.
	Rotating Student Director

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, December 8, 2023

12:30 - 1:00pm EST

2023 FAFP "ACADEMY AWARDS"

Video & Awards Presentation

Christy Cavanagh, MD, President

3:00 - 3:15pm EST

2023 Degree of Fellow Induction

Sterling Ransone Jr., MD, AAFP

Past President

Saturday, December 9, 2023

9:30 - 10:00am EST

2023 Board Chair Recognition

Carrie Vey, MD, Board Chair

Approval of 2024 Board & Officers Slate

Christy Cavanagh, MD, President

FAFP Presidential Inauguration

George Bernardo, MD

77th FAFP President



FAFP FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2023

DIANA TWIGGS, MD, FAFP

The FAFP Family Physician of the Year award is provided in recognition of outstanding service as a Family Physician, and acknowledges dedication to the profession and compassion for patients. This year's award is presented to **Diana Twiggs, MD, FAFP**, of Fernandina, Florida.

Diana Twiggs, MD, has been in practice in Fernandina Beach since 2000. After graduating from Florida State University, she stayed in Tallahassee to complete the PIMS program (Program in Medical Science), a precursor to the FSU College of Medicine, before moving to Gainesville to complete medical school at the University of Florida. After family medicine residency at Halifax in Daytona Beach, she joined her father-in-law, Dr. Donald Twiggs, in medical practice in Fernandina Beach. As the practice evolved over the years, Diana has had roles as a business owner, mentor, instructor, and employed physician.

She has been involved in organized medicine since medical school. Serving as a delegate to the FMA for many years, she also sat on the FMA Board of Governors and several reference committees. She is currently completing a term on the Board of Directors for Baptist Primary Care in Jacksonville. Diana has served as Doctor of the Day in Tallahassee and has been active in communicating with legislators, advocating for patients and family physicians. She has loved the FAFP since medical school and has had several leadership roles, including Board President in 2016.

In addition to her medical career, Diana is active in the community. She and her husband Chris have raised three children: Wesley, Brendan, and Faith. She has actively contributed to her community by volunteering with local choral groups, assisting with coaching her daughter's swim team, and participating in various church activities.

More recently, Diana has extended her impact, as she answered a calling to serve in the mission field, particularly in Eastern Europe. In response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, she ventured to Warsaw, Poland, providing medical care and comfort to displaced Ukrainians on several occasions. Her commitment to humanitarian work then led her directly into Ukraine, where she continued her volunteer efforts in the war-torn country. She plans to return to Ukraine soon to continue offering support and care wherever it is needed.



FAFP FAMILY PHYSICIAN EXECUTIVE 2023

ALINA ALVAREZ, MD, MHA

The FAFP Family Physician Executive award was created to recognize an outstanding family physician for his or her role as a physician executive. This award is reserved for Florida Academy members whose executive skills in health care organizations have contributed to excellence in the provision of high-quality health care, demonstrating that family physicians can greatly impact the nation's health. This award is to recognize exceptional leadership by a full-time family physician executive. This year, the FAFP Family Physician Executive Award goes to **Alina Alvarez, MD, MHA**, of Hialeah, Florida.

Dr. Alvarez, a Cuban immigrant who arrived on the Mariel boat lift, emigrated to the United States with her family in search of a better life. Driven by a passion for medicine and a desire to make a difference, she embarked on a journey that would lead her to become an exceptional healthcare professional.

Dr. Alvarez's journey began at the University of Miami, where she pursued her undergraduate degree. She simultaneously dedicated her free time to AmeriCorps, actively volunteering with the Non-Violence Project and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

While attending medical school and residency, she continued to work in the healthcare field at one of the HCA Florida hospitals as a Quality Manager and Patient Safety Officer. It is at this time that she discovered the intersection of medicine and administration, forgoing a path that would blend her medical expertise with her passion for improving the healthcare system.

During her residency, Dr Alvarez's leadership qualities were recognized and she was chosen to serve as Chief Resident for her Family Medicine Program. She currently serves as Regional Medical Director for Caremax, a value-based care delivery system that utilizes proprietary technology-enabled platform and multi-specialty, whole person health model that delivers comprehensive, preventative, and coordinated care for its over 200,000 Medicare patients in over 10 states.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Alvarez is the proud mother of two young boys ages 7 and 9. Serving as an inspiration to women who strive to pursue their passions while nurturing a family. In her free time, Dr. Alvarez participates in non-profit events that honor first responders.

As the recipient of the 2023 FAFP Family Physician Executive Award, Dr. Alvarez's accomplishments shine as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring healthcare professionals around the world.



ART OF MEDICINE AWARD 2023

DANIEL VAN DURME, MD, FAFP

The Art of Medicine Award is provided in recognition of a physician's compassion, proven by personal example, that the patient receives the full benefit of total care only when the science of medicine is practiced as an art. This year's award is posthumously presented to **Daniel Van Durme, MD, FAFP**, of Tallahassee, Florida.

Dr. Van Durme, MD, MPH, served as Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health at the Florida State University (FSU) College of Medicine in Tallahassee, FL from 2004-2023. He also served as the Director of the College's Center for Global Health. Previously, he spent 15 years in academic medicine at the University of South Florida (USF) College of Medicine and in semi-rural private practice in the Tampa Bay area, where he also worked as the team physician for college and professional sports teams. During his time at FSU and USF he received numerous awards for teaching, service, humanitarianism, and mentoring, including the Sir William Osler Award for Outstanding Faculty Role Model, the USF President's Award for Faculty Excellence and Gold Humanism Honor Society selection.

Dr. Van Durme has held numerous leadership positions including service on the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the AAFP Foundation, and FAFP Past President. He was also very active in global health humanitarian efforts and medical education development in several countries, including ongoing work in Nicaragua and Haiti. He received his medical degree at the University of South Florida, did his residency training at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, FL, and received his MPH with a concentration in Global Health from Johns Hopkins University. A past president of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Van Durme developed Family Medicine Scholars at FSU to produce specialty leaders of the future. He also served as the first director of the college's rural health program in Marianna, with the intention of helping to develop more physicians who will care for patients in rural areas and small towns.



FAFP FULL-TIME EDUCATOR 2023

ANN KLEGA, MD

The FAFP Exemplary Full-Time Educator of the Year award is provided in recognition and appreciation of outstanding efforts towards providing quality education to students, residents, and practicing family physicians. This year's award is provided to **Ann Klega, MD** of Winter Park, Florida.

Dr. Klega graduated from University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, and Halifax Family Medicine Residency, in Daytona Beach. After working in college health and urgent care, she found her way to full time family medicine teaching as a faculty member at AdventHealth Family Medicine Residency in Winter Park, FL. Through that role, she has served as the Women's Health Fellowship Director, Medical Director for Discovery Behavioral Health Residential Treatment Center for adolescents with eating disorders, and currently serves as Associate Program Director. Dr. Klega says, "working with amazing residents and colleagues keeps medicine fresh and interesting, and I can't imagine a better career!" She also serves as speaking faculty for FAFP and AAFP, including FMX, Child and Adolescent Health Course, Mental Health Course, Family Medicine Update, and Women's Health Course. As much satisfaction as her career brings her, her true joy is in her family and her three awesome kids, ages 7-13.



FAFP YOUNG LEADER 2023

KRISTA BRINKERHOFF, MD

The FAFP Young Leader award is provided in recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the Florida Academy of Family Physicians and the specialty of Family Medicine. This year's award is provided to **Krista Brinkerhoff, MD**, of Sanford, FL.

Dr. Krista Brinkerhoff is a Florida native, born and raised in Ormond Beach. She attended University of South Florida for her undergraduate degree before being accepted into the Florida State University College of Medicine. During her time at FSU, she graduated in the top of her class and received the AMWA Glasgow-Rubin Citation for Academic Achievement and the Flagler Community Cares award for her dedication to serving her community.

Dr. Brinkerhoff completed her Family Medicine Residency at Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, North Carolina, where she received the AFMRD Family Medicine Residency Award for Scholarship. In 2020, she started with Florida Health Care Plans in as a Primary Care Physician. Dr. Brinkerhoff also provides treatment of substance use disorders, and has a passion for teaching students and practicing physicians about caring for patients with opioid use disorder. She became a Clinical Assistant Professor with FSU College of Medicine Daytona Campus in 2021. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, hiking national parks, gardening, baking, cooking, and visiting with family and friends.



FAFP EXCEPTIONAL RESIDENT SCHOLAR 2023

BRADFORD BINDAS, MD

Since 2006, the FAFP Foundation has annually presented \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding third-year family medicine residents in Florida. The program is merit based, and scholars are chosen by an FAFP Foundation selection committee. This year, FAFP is pleased to award **Bradford Bindas MD**, of Clearwater, Florida with the Exceptional Resident Scholar designation.

Dr. Bindas was born in Plymouth, MA and spent most of his childhood in his hometown of Orlando, FL. He attended Florida State University where he got his B.S. in Exercise Physiology and minor in Business. He worked as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist and Certified Exercise Physiologist prior to getting into the University of South Florida (USF) Morsani College of Medicine. In medical school, Dr. Bindas found that his passion for helping patients through diverse social and medical issues, in addition to his goals in sports medicine, were a perfect fit for family medicine. He then matched into USF Family Medicine Residency at the Turley Family Health Center in Clearwater.

While in residency, Dr. Bindas has served as Point of Care Ultrasound Chair and academic preceptor for medical students at USF, volunteered at over 30 sporting events, given over a dozen academic lectures, published three posters, two manuscripts, and one textbook chapter, was accepted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Society, and is currently serving as chief resident. Dr. Bindas plans to continue his academic training after graduation, and he is in the process of applying for a sports medicine fellowship. He has goals of being a primary care sports medicine physician and leader of an all-inclusive primary care team that serves a diverse local community.



EXCELLENCE IN ADVOCACY AWARD 2023

MICHAEL SWARTZON, MD, FAFP

The FAFP Excellence in Advocacy Award honors and officially recognizes an individual, or individuals, for outstanding work in political advocacy at the local, state, or national level which advances the FAFP's mission to Support Florida's Family Physicians. This year's award is presented to **Michael Swartzon, MD, FAFP**, of Miami, Florida.

Dr. Swartzon completed his residency at the University of Kansas in addition to a sports medicine fellowship at the University of New Mexico. As a physician with Baptist Health South Florida, Dr. Swartzon provides services in Miami Gardens, Plantation, and Key Largo, Florida. Dr. Swartzon cares for active youth and adults, athletes, and individuals with musculoskeletal conditions. As a medical team physician, he cares for the primary care needs of the Miami Dolphins, Florida Panthers, and InterMiami CF, as well as Barry and St. Thomas Universities, and their extended families. He serves as the fellowship director for the Baptist Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship and is an Associate Professor for Florida International University School of Medicine in the Department of Humanities.

Dr. Swartzon has pursued his passion for advocacy by fulfilling the position of Doctor of the Day for the past six years, attending the Family Medicine Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC, and serving as chair of the Government Relations committee and the FFM-PAC, in addition to serving on the FAFP board. Dr. Swartzon has a wife and three children, and he enjoys serving the community by giving local talks and volunteering at sporting events, including the Miami Marathon and Half Marathon and the Miami Open tennis tournament.

2023 Degree of Fellow

Immanuel Amissah, MD, FAFP - *Cape Coral*

Phillippe Chain MD, FAFP - *Wesley Chapel*

Yi Chen, MD, FAFP - *Lakeland*

Jorge Gonzalez, DO, FAFP - *Miami Beach*

Tristan Imhof, MD, FAFP - *Jacksonville*

Jason Largen, MD, FAFP - *Saint Johns*

Sheridan Major-Moore, DO, FAFP - *Miramar*

Daniel Matta, MD, FAFP - *Tallahassee*

Matthew Nessetti, MD, FAFP - *Bradenton*

Michael Peterson, DO, FAFP - *Fleming Island*

Rheinhard Reyes, MD, FAFP - *Coral Gables*

Charles Ross, MD, FAFP - *Lutz*

Amber Shepard, MD, FAFP - *Orlando*

Samantha Somwaru, MD, FAFP - *Vero Beach*

Petra Townsend, MD, FAFP - *Gainesville*

Maribeth Williams, MD, FAFP - *Gainesville*

Presiding

Sterling Ransone Jr., MD, AAFP Past President

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 to 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 greater commitment to continuing professional development and/or research.

An Evening in Las Vegas

Celebrate with FAFP's
Incoming President,
Dr. George Bernardo!

Saturday, December 9 | 7:00 pm



\$75/person
PRE-REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

PROPOSED 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

George Bernardo, MD, President
Chris Scuderi, DO, President-Elect
Danielle Carter, MD, Vice President
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Christy Cavanagh, MD, Board Chair

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Michael Cromer, MD
Kristin Dimas, MD
Nathan Falk, MD
Jonathan Hart, MD
Daniel Montero, MD
Sergio Seoane, MD
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Maribeth Williams, MD

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Alfred Gitu, MD

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Rahil Gour, DO, Secretary/Treasurer

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Nipa Shah, MD, UF-JAX

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Kyle Benkel (UCF)
Bailey Creighton (FSU)
Jordan Dressel (NOVA SE)
Max Farson (FIU)
Luis Gonzalez Anguiar (UM)
Alexis Hanlon (UF)
Samantha Hicks (FAU)
Angela Tavolieri (USF)

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Christy Cavanagh, MD	Chris Scuderi, DO
Kamini Geer, MD	Courtney Mangum, MD, Resident Dir.
Kristen Dimas, MD, New Physician	Rotating Student Director



**FLORIDA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
SUPPORTING FLORIDA'S FAMILY PHYSICIANS



**Happy Holidays
from the FAFP
Board of Directors!**

UPCOMING CME MEETINGS

2024

Hybrid FAFP Family Medicine Spring Forum

April 5-7

Hilton Bonnet Creek - Orlando, FL

Virtual FAFP Family Medicine Summer Forum

(Virtual Only, No In-Person Option)

July 12-13

Hybrid FAFP Family Medicine Winter Summit

December 6-8

Ritz Carlton - Amelia Island, FL

2025

Hybrid FAFP Family Medicine Spring Forum

April 4-6,

Hilton - Orlando, FL

Virtual FAFP Family Medicine Summer Forum

(Virtual Only, No In-Person Option)

TBD

Hybrid FAFP Family Medicine Winter Summit

December 5-7

Ritz Carlton - Amelia Island, FL

www.fafp.org/cme-meetings



FLORIDA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

SUPPORTING FLORIDA'S FAMILY PHYSICIANS