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CONTACT:

Samantha White
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
(512) 329-8666 ext. 16
swhite@tafp.org

Jasmine Sulaiman, M.D., named Physician of the Year

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — Jasmine Sulaiman, M.D., of Cleveland, Texas, has been awarded the highest honor among family doctors in Texas by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Sulaiman was named the 2013 Texas Family Physician of the Year during TAFP’s Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Fort Worth on Aug. 3. Each year, patients and physicians nominate extraordinary family physicians throughout Texas, and a panel of TAFP members chooses one as the Family Physician of the Year.

Since 2006, Dr. Sulaiman has been the medical director of the Health Center of Southeast Texas, a federally qualified health center, and since 2008 the associate medical director of Compassionate Care Hospice, both in Cleveland, Texas. Prior to these positions, she held various practitioner positions around the state of New York. After completing her education in India and Saudi Arabia, she completed her residency with the Bassett Elizabeth Family Medicine Program at Columbia University and post graduate training at the University of North Carolina and Duke University.

Among other community organizations, Dr. Sulaiman is active in Hard Hats for Little Heads, a head injury awareness program run by the Texas Medical Association, and Tar Wars, a national tobacco prevention program. She also works with multiple patient education programs concerning immigrant and refugee populations.

Her nominators specifically identified her compassion for her patients and willingness to spend time getting to know more about them than just their medical charts. One patient, a 12-year-old, described Dr. Sulaiman in her nomination letter as “loving” and “not selfish,” saying that “she loves checking my grades, lectures me about my love life and schooling.” She is often mentioned as a great teacher, mentor, and friend, always ready to care for those who would not otherwise receive health care.

Her humility was apparent at the awards lunch, saying that she doesn’t “do anything different than any of you other family physicians,” in her acceptance speech. She follows “dharmo rakshati rakshitah” on a daily basis, explaining it to mean “you protect ethics, ethics will protect you.”

Criteria for the TAFP Physician of the Year award requires that candidates be compassionately dedicated to their patients; active in their communities; and act as a credible, invaluable role model as

a professional in the science and art of medicine. The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is honored to name Dr. Jasmin Sulaiman the 2013-2014 Family Physician of the Year.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.

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