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MAFP Announces 2010 Family Physician of the Year

The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) has selected **Richard A. Wehsler, M.D.**, of New London/Spicer, as the 2010 Family Physician of the Year. This award is presented annually to a family physician who represents the highest ideals of the specialty of family medicine, including caring, comprehensive medical service, community involvement and service as a role model.

Family physicians from across the state were nominated for the award by patients, community members, and colleagues. Four finalists were selected from the field of nominees. After reviewing dozens of nomination letters, the MAFP Board of Directors chose Dr. Rick Wehsler as the winner. The award will be presented to him during the MAFP All-Member Celebration on Thursday, April 15, 2010. The event will take place at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel in downtown St. Paul.

Dr. Wehsler practices at the Affiliated Community Medical Centers New London clinic. He has been a family physician in the community for 12 years. He attended medical school at the University of Minnesota - Duluth and did his family medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Those who nominated Dr. Wehsler describe him as an outstanding family physician who demonstrates genuine concern and compassion for his patients on a daily basis. "If there is only one reason why Rick Wehsler deserves this award, it is not because of the work he performs with his hands, but rather the work he performs with his heart," wrote New London resident April Dorry.

Another patient, Diane Paffrath wrote, "Dr. Richard Wehsler exemplifies everything a family physician characterizes. He is caring, kind, considerate and most importantly, he takes the time necessary to meet the needs of his patients."

(more)

Family physicians provide comprehensive medical care to people of all ages

Patients say Dr. Wehler is known for his personalized notes to patients, house calls when needed, and strong support during times of crisis. New London resident Abigail Duly summed it up best. “He is the epitome of the gold standard people would hope to encounter at some point in their lives - not just as a professional, but as an active member of the community,” said Duly.

Along with carrying a full patient schedule, Dr. Wehler is the Chief of Staff at Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar and Assistant County Coroner for Kandiyohi County. He is also an active volunteer in the community helping with skin checks before wrestling meets, serving on several church committees and working at the parish cemetery.

Dr. Wehler and his wife, Nancy, live in Spicer with their three children.

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The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians is a professional association of approximately 3,000 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students organized to support and promote family physicians as they provide quality, comprehensive and on-going medical care for patients of all ages. The MAFP is the largest medical specialty organization in Minnesota and is a state chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the largest medical specialty organization in the United States with more than 94,000 members.

An electronic version of this news release can be found at www.mafp.org/newsreleases.asp.