



KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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**Joseph LeMaster, MD, MPH FAAFP Honored with Humanitarian
Award for Local and International Work**

WICHITA, Kan. – The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) announces **Joseph LeMaster, MD, MPH, FAAFP** of Kansas City, Kan. as the 2020 Kansas Humanitarian Award recipient. This award honors extraordinary and enduring humanitarian efforts both within and beyond the borders of Kansas and the United States.

LeMaster is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) in Kansas City, Kan. He has served as a faculty member since 2011, receiving tenure in 2013. He came to KUMC from the University of Missouri, Columbia in part, to serve a large and growing Bhutanese, Nepali-speaking refugee community living in Kansas City, Kan. Besides his medical degree, he holds Master's degrees in public health (MPH) and in public health in developing countries (from the London School of Tropical Medicine).

After completing his family medicine residency at John Peter Smith in Fort Worth, Texas, LeMaster spent 10 years in Nepal, becoming fluent in Nepali. Over the last eight years, he has provided clinical care to many Nepali-speaking, refugee families and has been able to conduct projects that impact this community through grants. He involves medical students and family medicine residents in clinic, research and outreach activities in the community. Many students and mentees have routinely adopted his values for caring for the underserved while at the same time becoming immigrant and refugee advocates. LeMaster has a true devotion to serving the community, particularly the Nepali refugee community in which he lives.

LeMaster has been nominated for the AAFP Humanitarian Award, to be announced in the fall of 2020.

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About the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians

Founded in 1948, the KAFP represents nearly 2,000 physicians and medical students statewide. It is the only medical society in Kansas devoted solely to primary care. A family physician takes care of the whole family, all ages, both sexes, each organ system and every disease entity. Research has proven that people with access to primary care have better health outcomes than those who do not. In Kansas, approximately one-half of family physicians practice in non-metropolitan areas. Over 25 percent treat uninsured patients, especially children and families receiving public assistance. The mission of the KAFP is to support and serve family physicians of Kansas as they advance the health of Kansans. For more information visit the KAFP website at www.kafponline.org

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