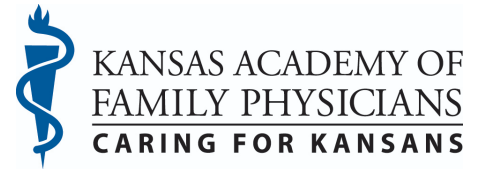


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**Kansas Academy of Family Physicians Awards
recognize outstanding members for
contributions to health of Kansans**

The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians has announced the recipients of its KAFP Awards, which recognize members who have made significant contributions to the field of family medicine and served their patients and communities throughout the state of Kansas.

They are:

Kansas Family Physician of the Year: Jen L. Brull, MD, FAAFP (Vice President, Clinical Engagement - Plainville)

Growing up in a small Kansas town, Jen Brull's desire to practice family medicine in a similar setting was strong. She was committed to serving in a rural community and improving access to primary care for rural Kansans. Brull knew she had found her calling during her first clinical rotation, where she experienced a spectrum of patients.

For two decades Brull was an integral part of the healthcare team in Rooks County, providing primary care to many in the community. She lived her mission and celebrated her patients' successes, delivered babies, and held the hands of dying patients. Brull found friends among her team and patients alike, and the experience was everything she hoped for when she chose family medicine.

In November 2022, Brull moved full-time to work at Aledade, a company that partners with independent primary care physicians to deliver value-based care in the setting of an accountable care model. Her family medicine training and extensive experience are invaluable in seeing this effort through the lens of those doing the hard work of transformation and patient care.

Brull finds joy in helping family physicians who are serving their patients and communities and ensuring that all have access to high-quality primary care. "I am certain my starry-eyed younger self could not have predicted the journey I launched with that family medicine residency application," Brull said. "I am equally certain it

was the right first step."

Rising Star: Colleen Loo-Gross, MD, MPH (Supervising Physician at Wesley Family Medicine in Wichita; Assistant Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita - Family & Community Medicine)

Colleen Loo-Gross is a rising star in the medical field, known for her work on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her passion for this work began early in her career and has taken her from her clinical practice to the school-wide, campus/department, and state/local levels. Loo-Gross sees herself as a clinician who seeks to view things through an equity lens, dedicating much of her work to bettering herself and her community. She has a strong commitment to caring for underserved and diverse populations, which is reflected in her clinical practice at a federally qualified health center and her involvement in medical missions in other countries. As an educator, she aims to teach and model how to provide equitable care for all people, including those from diverse and marginalized backgrounds. Loo-Gross believes in leaning into communities and taking steps toward systemic change.

"Colleen Loo-Gross, MD, MPH is clearly a rising star, devoted to expanding society's acceptance of diversity, inclusion, and diversity," said Rick Kellerman, MD and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita. "Her philosophy and actions are heartfelt, and in a nonjudgemental way, she convinces others of the importance and indeed for improved understanding of the experiences and cultures of others."

Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award (Full-Time): Gretchen Irwin, MD, FAAFP, MBA (Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Designated Institutional Official for the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita)

Gretchen Irwin is known for her outstanding contributions to medical education. She has served in various leadership roles, including program director of the family medicine residency program at Wesley Medical Center and associate dean of graduate medical education at the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita.

Irwin's contributions to teaching and education were recognized by the KUSM-Wichita medical students who selected her to serve as a graduation marshal in 2012. That same year Wesley Family Medicine residents chose her to receive the Teacher of the Year Award.

Irwin has authored or co-authored more than 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals in addition to book chapters. She has lectured nationally and internationally and conducted research in medical education.

Beyond her work in academia, Irwin has also made significant contributions to the broader medical community, serving on the boards of several national organizations. She is widely respected for her knowledge, expertise, and leadership skills.

Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award (Volunteer): Mark Leiker, MD (MDL physician at Wichita State University, private practice physician with Primary Care Associates in Wichita, and medical director of Home Health of Kansas Hospice)

Mark Leiker is a dedicated family medicine physician with a passion for teaching and mentoring the next generation of doctors. He received the Doug Parks MD Family Medicine Community Volunteer Teacher of the Year Award in 2022 for his exceptional contributions to family medicine education. Leiker has been a community volunteer Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita since completing his residency in 1998.

Throughout his career Leiker has taken on the responsibility of teaching and mentoring medical students during their eight-week family medicine clerkship. Despite the challenges of balancing patient care with teaching responsibilities Leiker has never turned down an opportunity to take a student under his wing. In fact, he has taught and mentored over 26 medical students since 2000, many of whom now practice medicine throughout the state of Kansas.

Leiker's commitment to medical education is evident in his teaching style. He fosters an environment of support and equanimity, even for challenging students, and values the knowledge and insights that his students bring to his practice. When he's not teaching, Leiker practices at Primary Care Associates in Wichita, where he continues to provide exceptional care to his patients.

Humanitarian Award: Beth Oller, MD, FAAFP (Rooks County Health Center Clinic)

Oller is a highly respected family physician who has gone above and beyond the traditional medical context to advocate for the transgender and gender-diverse community in Kansas. She has a strong commitment to providing gender-affirming healthcare to trans-Kansans.

She regularly engages in policy advocacy to ensure that the rights of trans-Kansans are protected, showing up for her patients and fellow community members. Oller consistently provides oral opposition testimony at Kansas statehouse hearings and helps to educate legislators about the needs of trans, intersex, and gender-diverse people.

“Dr. Oller’s work, as a physician and as an advocate, has made Kansas more welcoming state for trans people and has undoubtedly saved trans-Kansans lives,” said D.C. Hiegert, Skadden Fellow at the ACLU of Kansas. “I cannot think of a more deserving person to be selected for the 2023 Kansas Humanitarian Award.”

About the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians

The KAFP represents nearly 2,000 physicians and medical students statewide. It is the only medical society in Kansas devoted solely to primary care and is the largest medical specialty organization in Kansas. A family physician takes care of the whole family, all ages and 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 empower and cultivate Kansas family physicians to advocate and collaborate for the health of all Kansans. For more information visit the website at kafponline.org.