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**Kansas Academy of Family Physicians Honors  
2026 Award Recipients for Excellence in Family Medicine**

**OVERLAND PARK, Kansas, June 5, 2026** – The Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) is pleased to announce the 2026 KAFP Award recipients. These honorees exemplify clinical excellence, compassionate service, and leadership in family medicine across Kansas.

**Kansas Family Physician Lifetime Achievement Award**

This award honors individuals whose sustained dedication and leadership have advanced the mission and development of family medicine.

**Mary Boyce, MD, FAAFP**

Dr. Mary C. Boyce's career is marked by her dedication to patient care, medical education, advocacy, and service. She earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Kansas and her medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, completed her residency at Wesley Family Medicine, and joined the faculty in 1994. For over 30 years, Dr. Boyce has demonstrated a deep commitment to whole-person care.

Dr. Boyce has taught and mentored numerous residents, medical students, and colleagues, serving as a trusted advisor to more than 140 resident physicians.

“As a teacher and mentor, Dr. Boyce is the person others turn to when they need guidance, perspective, or simply someone who will listen,” said Aaron Sinclair, MD, associate professor at KUSM-Wichita.

Her advocacy extends beyond the clinic, focusing on child abuse evaluations, family violence prevention, maternal and child health, and community safety. She has served with organizations such as the Wichita Family Crisis Shelter, the YWCA Crisis Shelter, the Sedgwick County Drug Endangered Children Task Force, and the Kansas Maternal Child Health Council.

As one nominator wrote, “Dr. Boyce's career is not defined by a single accomplishment, but by a lifetime of consistent service, leadership, and care. Kansas family medicine is stronger because of her.”

### **John Shell, MD, FAAFP**

Dr. John R. Shell has spent more than 30 years serving Burlington and east-central Kansas as a family physician, mentor, medical leader, and advocate for rural health care. After completing his medical training at the University of Kansas and residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center, he joined Coffey Health System in 1993.

In addition to maintaining a family medicine practice, covering emergency and inpatient care, and providing obstetrics care for more than 30 years, Dr. Shell has served as Chief Medical Officer since 2003 at Coffey Health System and twice stepped in as interim CEO for the hospital. His leadership supported Coffey Health System during administrative challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic, and strengthened the hospital's role as a cornerstone of rural health care. Dr. Shell's dedication to his staff and patients was emphasized throughout nominating letters, with one colleague commenting that Dr. Shell "was a role model for staff and routinely checked on the physical and emotional well-being of our team."

Dr. Shell was also noted for being an integral member of the community, serving as a coach, supporting school events, and as a volunteer doctor for military veterans through the "Honor Flight" program.

He has mentored medical students for decades, helping them experience the value and impact of rural family medicine. One student wrote in his reflection essay that doing his rural health rotation with Dr. Shell was the most extraordinary experience that he had in medical school.

"Not only has he eagerly mentored medical students toward careers in rural health, but he has encouraged his partners to do the same," said Stephen Hopkins, a board trustee at Coffey Health System. "Because of him, CHS is a standout location for training tomorrow's family physicians."

### **Kansas Family Physician of the Year: Jason Butler, DO, FAAFP**

Dr. Jason Butler has built his career on service, adaptability, leadership, and a strong commitment to his hometown of Junction City. After graduating from the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine and completing his residency at Womack Army Medical Center, Dr. Butler held several military medical leadership roles before returning to Kansas to practice full-spectrum family medicine, emergency medicine, and hospital-based care. He currently serves as Medical Director and Emergency Physician at Stormont Vail Hospital-Flint Hills, where he provides care in a 10-bed emergency department serving about 15,000 patients annually and oversees operations, staffing, policy development, and community relations.

As one nominator wrote, "Dr. Butler stands out among his colleagues as a credible role model who consistently advocates for equitable, evidence-based medicine for all Kansans. His leadership, compassion, and dedication over the past year embody the spirit of family medicine."

Dr. Butler's military service includes roles as a family medicine physician and medical leader at Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley, as well as service as a Battalion Surgeon in Poland and Germany, where he provided primary and emergency care in resource-limited settings. He continues to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve.

“Family medicine, at its core, is about presence, showing up for patients, for communities, and for systems in moments of need,” Dr. Butler said. “It is about breadth, adaptability, and a commitment to care that extends beyond any single setting.”

**Exemplary Teaching Award: Bethany Enoch, MD, FAAFP**

Dr. Bethany Enoch has made a lasting impact on family medicine education in southeast Kansas through her work as a physician, mentor, program director, and advocate for rural training. Since 2013, she has practiced at the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHCSEK), providing inpatient and outpatient primary care for patients of all ages, as well as obstetrical care. Her commitment to educating future family physicians has also shaped her leadership in the University of Kansas School of Medicine and CHCSEK Rural Family Medicine Residency Program. After helping develop the program as associate program director, Dr. Enoch now serves as program director, guiding residents as they prepare to care for rural and underserved communities.

“Dr. Enoch is a natural educator whose teaching abilities far exceed the typical expectations of a physician,” said Holly R. Gault, MD, in her nominating letter. “Her clarity in communication, passion for her subject matter, and ability to connect with students and residents make her an outstanding instructor.”

Dr. Enoch has taught more than 75 medical students individually during family medicine rotations and now guides residents through rural family medicine training. Her teaching is described as dynamic, student-centered, supportive, and grounded in the belief that every patient deserves access to skilled, compassionate care.

As one nominator wrote, “Dr. Enoch is a gem – her leadership, scholarship, and remarkable heart make her deserving of this award and so much more.”

**Rising Star Award: Kathryn Rampon, MD, FAAFP**

Dr. Kathryn “Kate” Rampon has quickly distinguished herself as a compassionate family physician, educator, mentor, and advocate for maternal, infant, and community health in Kansas. Since joining the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Kansas City faculty in 2019, she has practiced full-spectrum family medicine, including outpatient and inpatient care, obstetrics, pediatrics, home visits, and telehealth. Her clinical interests include breastfeeding and lactation medicine, peripartum care, chronic disease management, and whole-person care.

Dr. Rampon is Associate Professor and Undergraduate Medical Education Director for Family Medicine and Community Health, as well as Clerkship Director for third-year medical students. In these roles, she has helped shape future physicians through innovative curricula in chronic disease management, outpatient care, the mother-baby dyad, telemedicine, and compassionate, evidence-based care.

Her commitment to family medicine extends beyond the classroom and clinic. Dr. Rampon is involved with JayDoc Free Clinic’s Women’s Health Night, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Family Health Screening and Surveillance Unit, the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and KUMC obstetric quality and safety initiatives. Through these roles, she has

contributed to efforts that support maternal and infant health, expand access to care, and strengthen the systems that serve Kansas families.

As one nominator wrote, “Dr. Rampon is a doer, and she does so with intention and care for her learners and her community.”

### **Humanitarian Award: Richard Randolph III, MD**

Dr. Richard “Rick” Randolph III has dedicated his career to service, humanitarian medicine, and caring for people in some of the world’s most challenging settings. After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and earning his medical degree from the University of Kansas Medical Center-Kansas City, Dr. Randolph served 26 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel after roles that included physician with the 82nd Airborne Division, Command Surgeon with the 3rd Special Forces Group, and Trauma Resuscitator with the Joint Special Operations Command. He later spent 20 years as a family physician and partner at College Park Family Care Center, establishing deep roots in the Kansas City medical community.

Dr. Randolph’s humanitarian work extends globally through Heart to Heart International, where he served for 13 years, including eight as Senior Chief Medical Officer. He led disaster response teams after earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tropical storms, and disease outbreaks, and in 2015 served as Chief Medical Officer of the Heart to Heart International Ebola Treatment Unit in Tappita, Liberia. His leadership helped the organization achieve World Health Organization Emergency Medical Team certification, enhancing its disaster response capabilities worldwide.

Locally, he has provided care to underserved communities through Hope Family Center, Hope Faith Homeless Assistance Campus, and Care Beyond the Boulevard.

As Gary Morsch, MD, wrote in support of his nomination, “I believe he embodies what it means to be a humanitarian.”

### **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 [www.kafponline.org](http://www.kafponline.org).