FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2014

Dr. Maureen Murphy of Concord, NC Honored with 2014 Family Physician of the Year Award

RALEIGH, NC (12-15-14) - Passionately committed to patients while striving to educate and mentor the next generation of family physicians. These core traits have defined the remarkable medical career of Dr. Maureen Murphy of Concord, NC, a family physician, medical educator, and the 2014 North Carolina Family Physician of the Year.

The North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians honored Dr. Murphy with the award during a brief ceremony in Asheville in early December.

Dr. Murphy was recognized for effortlessly blending adept clinical skill with compassion and inspiring wisdom while embracing all of the key ideals of the specialty, including a lifelong commitment to delivering both comprehensive and coordinated care to patients, helping to advance the specialty of family medicine, and tirelessly serving North Carolina's communities.

Called to Family Medicine through Journalism
Dr. Murphy began her career in communications, working as a television reporter and public relations writer. This path led her to join the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine as their membership and public relations director in 1977. It was in this role where Dr. Murphy would discover her true life's calling: family medicine.

"While writing about this newly invigorated specialty of family medicine -- with stories about taking care of patients in the context of their families and within their communities and treating people not just diseases -- the whole idea of family medicine just made sense to me," noted Murphy in explaining what drew her to medicine. Committed to becoming a doctor, Murphy re-enrolled in college for the requisite science classes and eventually was accepted at the University of Kansas Medical School. "I stated in my medical school interview that I was doing this solely to become a family doctor."

Dr. Murphy's passion for family medicine continued throughout medical school, leading her to make several lasting impacts. She helped organize the university's first Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) and was also an active student leader in Kansas' family medicine community, and nationally with the American Academy of Family Physicians as its national student director. After graduation, Dr. Murphy went on to complete her residency training in family medicine at Duke University in 1988, again serving as the specialty's national resident representative on the AAFP Board of Directors.

An Educator and Community Physician

Throughout Dr. Murphy's ensuing medical career, she has served as an extraordinary medical educator and a beloved community physician. In doing so, she has motivated and energized thousands. Dr. Murphy has served North Carolina communities ranging from the medically underserved in rural Sparta, NC, to busy suburban communities like Gastonia and Concord. All the while, Dr. Murphy has continually put patient care first and remained committed to educating and mentoring medical students and physicians-in-training. Her steadfast drive has been an inspiration to all who know her: patients, colleagues and her community.

"I truly believe that if every medical student had an experience like I did with Dr. Murphy, we'd see the numbers of students going into family medicine skyrocket," noted Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, Medical Director with the Buncombe County Department of Health & Human Services. "She is an inspiration to me to truly connect with my patients and those I am surrounded by -- neighbors, coworkers, and of course, medical students -- and show them compassion, respect and the joy that being a family physician can bring to oneself and to one's community."

Dr. Murphy cares for patients and continues to help educate family medicine residents and medical students at Cabarrus Family Medicine in Concord where she serves as Faculty Coordinator of Student Programs.

Beyond clinical practice, Dr. Murphy was also an instrumental voice in the creation of the NCAFP Foundation's Medical Student Endowment Fund designed to promote medical student interest in family medicine and primary care. She has also served family medicine in various leadership capacities, including NCAFP President (2001), NCAFP Board Chair (2002), and led the NCAFP Foundation as its president from 2004-2009.

Dr. Murphy resides in Concord with her husband Scott Maxwell.
The Family Physician of the Year Award is given annually to family physicians whose careers exemplify an unwavering commitment to their patients, the ideals of Family Medicine, and to enhancing the quality of life in their local communities.

The North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, Inc. (NCAFP) is a non-profit professional association headquartered in Raleigh representing over 3,700 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students across North Carolina. It is the largest medical specialty association in North Carolina and is a constituent chapter of the 115,000+ member-strong American Academy of Family Physicians, based in Leawood, Kansas.

For more information about the NCAFP, please visit the Academy’s website at [www.ncafp.com](http://www.ncafp.com).

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