

# New Executive Committee and Board Members Elected

Every year at the annual meeting of the American Board of Family Practice (ABFP), we elect four new executive committee members to serve during the upcoming year. These positions are president, vice president, treasurer, and member-at-large. Each elected person has served as a Board member for at least 3 years in a variety of different capacities. Also selected at this meeting are three new Board members.

As we enter our 31st year of service to the specialty, the ABFP can trace its ability to maintain its high standards for its policies and examinations directly to the efforts of its outstanding Board of Directors. Robert F. Avant, MD, Executive Director of the ABFP states, "Our Board members are essential to our success. Each is selected for his or her ability to bring unique perspectives and experiences to help us examine both our policies and the issues that relate to family physicians today." Each Board member serves on a number of committees during his or her 5-year tenure.

The Board of Directors is responsible for making policy for the American Board of Family Practice. This effort includes setting quality standards for admission to the examinations, giving final approval of all questions on the examinations, and determining the pass-fail cutoff score for the examinations. With more than 55,000 current Diplomates, family practice is the second largest medical specialty in the United States.

The ABFP Board of Directors consists of 15 members selected by the Board. There are 10 family physicians – 5 are nominated through the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and 5 are nominated by the Board or by organizations outside the Board. In addition, there are representatives from 5 other specialties, including internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, and psychiatry-neurology. Each Board member serves a 5-year term. All members of the Board of Directors are physicians and must be certified.

## New Executive Committee

Four new Executive Committee members were elected at the Annual Meeting. Each has been extremely active during his or her tenure on the Board. Each also provides a unique perspective based on experience from practice. We have asked the new officers to reflect in their own words what their service on the Board has meant to them.

### *Deborah I. Allen, MD, President*



Dr. Allen is Otis Bowen Professor at Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Allen states, "My tenure of service on the ABFP Board of Directors has been both personally and professionally gratifying. I am impressed by the unselfishness and dedication shown by the individuals who serve on the Board. Each spends a significant amount of time working to improve the examination procedures so that we can better assess the quality of family physicians and their practice while continuing to enhance the credibility of the specialty." She concludes, "During the last four years, it has been very exciting to see the progress the Board has made in its development and implementation of cutting-edge technology in their administration of the examination. I look forward to what the future brings."

### *R. Jerry Mann, MD, Vice President*



Dr. Mann is Interim Co-Chair, Assistant Professor, and Associate Residency Director of the Department of Family Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine. Dr. Mann states, "My time and service to the Board is a constant reminder of my personal obligation to properly educate and fully train our future family physicians." He continues, "I believe it is important to give something back to the specialty that has given me so much. More importantly, I believe that it is my obligation to the citizens of our country to certify family physicians properly, thereby safeguarding the specialty and ensuring our Diplomates that their certification is 100% credible."

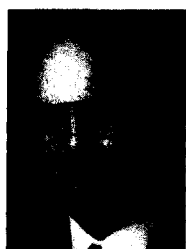
### *Marjorie A. Bowman, MD, MPA, Treasurer*



Dr. Bowman is Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System. Dr. Bowman is the founding chair of this department. She is active as an editor and author for several medical publications, maintains a clinical practice, and teaches

residents, students, and fellows. She states, "It is my belief that the specialty of family practice is the front line of delivery of health care in the United States. It is also my belief that each family physician be able to provide excellent care to everyone." She adds, "During my tenure on the Board, I have been continually impressed by the dedication and innovation of the other members and how they work together for the common goal of enhancing and ensuring the credibility of our specialty, which will guarantee excellent health care for all."

#### **Larry Roger Anderson, MD, Member-at-Large**



In 1976, Dr. Anderson and a physician friend since high school moved their families to Wellington, Kansas, to establish a new rural practice to include obstetrics, surgery, emergency, and nursing home care. Despite a full-time active rural practice, he has devoted considerable

time to local, state, and national medical organizations. He states that his first contact with the ABFP was the good advice he received from Dr. Nicholas Pisacano regarding family residency training in 1974. Through the AAFP Commission on Education, he subsequently met Drs. Pisacano, Paul Young, Robert Avant, and Joe Tollison. He states: "Working with these individuals has convinced me that the decisions and actions of the ABFP are grounded in professionalism and focused on improvement of the medical profession, the specialty of family medicine, and the health care of our patients. It is an honor to serve with these and other dedicated and visionary individuals."

#### **New Board Members Selected**

Three new Board members were selected at the Annual Meeting. Each brings to the Board a tremendous amount of experience in private practice and academia.

#### **Glenn Craig Davis, MD**



Dr. Davis is Corporate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Henry Ford Health System; Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Dean, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine for Henry Ford Health System Affairs; President of the American Board of Psychiatry

and Neurology; and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. Dr. Davis states, "I am proud to have been elected to the Board. I hope that my experience in both hospital and academic settings will allow me to contribute new

insights to an already excellent ABFP certification and recertification process. Strengthening the delivery of primary care medicine and enhancing the education of primary care physicians at the undergraduate and graduate level have been among my major career objectives."

#### **Thomas E. Norris, MD**



Dr. Norris is an Associate Dean and Professor of Family Medicine in Biomedical Informatics at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and is Executive Director and Medical Director of the UW Physicians Network. "I have spent half of my career in full-time practice and the other half in education

and administrative roles in family medicine. While I still practice and teach, I have been very involved in researching the practical application of electronic records and their use and benefit for the specialty. It is my hope that my experience of both private practice and academia can assist the Board in improving the quality of measurement as it pertains to family physicians today and in the future."

#### **Thomas L. Schwenk, MD**



Dr. Schwenk is Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, University of Michigan. "I have always valued the contributions of the ABFP Board in setting standards for the specialty and helping family physicians meet those standards. I look forward to using my clinical

and academic experience in supporting and enhancing those critical activities. I have always tried to represent the values that define family practice, while dedicating my efforts to finding ways in which to improve the linkages between the academic and clinical worlds. In short, I want to work to improve the quality of family practice education and practice, so as to enhance the credibility and influence of the specialty."

Since the founding of the ABFP in 1969, members of Board of Directors have used the tools available to make improvements in the assessment of family physicians. These new executive committee officers and Board members will continue the tradition to safeguard the specialty and ensure that the Diplomates' certification is credible to the public. To quote Dr. Pisacano from a 1980 interview, "We are proud of what we've done, but we are not the least bit complacent. The desire for continued self-improvement is a hallmark of the ABFP."