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California Academy of Family Physicians Names Orange County Family Physician the 2017 Hero of Family Medicine

Tim Munzing, MD recognized for his work to train next generations of family physicians and end primary care physician shortage

San Francisco – The California Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP) has named Tim Munzing, MD from among its 9,000 members statewide as the 2017 Hero of Family Medicine. Dr. Munzing practices family medicine in Santa Ana and serves as director of the Kaiser Permanente Orange County Family Medicine Residency program.

“Dr. Munzing’s leadership as director of a residency program, training the family physicians of tomorrow, his tireless advocacy for patients and fellow physicians, and his work to end the primary care physician shortage make him an inspiration to colleagues across the state,” said CAFP President Lee Ralph, MD.

The Hero of Family Medicine title is awarded annually to a CAFP member who has “gone above and beyond the call of duty to advocate for patients, colleagues and the family medicine specialty,” Dr. Ralph said. “Dr. Munzing is a superb family physician, an outstanding leader and an excellent teacher.”

Dr. Munzing joined CAFP’s work to win bipartisan support for \$100 million in funding last year for primary care residency programs. “At a time when residency programs in California are losing tens of millions of dollars in other funding, Dr. Munzing is helping ensure the future of family medicine and primary care in California,” Dr. Ralph said. “He maintains strong relationships with elected leaders who shape the state’s health care system and has led many important initiatives, served on the CAFP Board of Directors and held other CAFP leadership positions.”

The recent \$100 million appropriation over three years to the Song-Brown Physician Training Program is designed to replace more than \$55 million in lost funding and begin to address the state’s serious shortage of primary care physicians. Residency programs that receive Song-Brown funding have a proven record of treating the underserved as well as graduating primary care physicians who go on to practice in underserved areas. “Unfortunately, Governor Jerry Brown has proposed eliminating the \$100 million appropriation in his new budget,” Dr. Ralph said, “a move strongly opposed by CAFP and others.”

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine, Dr. Munzing completed his family medicine residency at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Los Angeles and

has been practicing medicine with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group in Santa Ana since 1985.

About the California Academy of Family Physicians: *With more than 9,000 members, including active practicing family physicians, residents in family medicine, and medical students interested in the specialty, CAFP is the largest primary care medical society in California. Family physicians are trained to treat an entire family's medical needs, addressing the whole spectrum of life's medical challenges. FPs serve a broad base of patients in urban, suburban and rural areas, often in California's most underserved areas.*