



WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

August 2018

Dear AAFP Leader,

As leaders of the Washington Academy of Family Physicians, we would like to share with you the reasons why we support **Carl Olden, MD, FAAFP** for AAFP president-elect, and how his leadership will help our academy address our present and future challenges.

Many of you will be familiar with Carl's background and qualifications from his election twice to the AAFP Board of Directors—for a one-year term in 2014 and for the current three-year term.

Carl has been a tireless leader and mentor who has traveled the world to educate family physicians, improve care delivery and health outcomes. In addition to his leadership service as WAFP president, AAFP delegate and alternate delegate, his effectiveness in policymaking has been recognized in his ongoing service as the governor's appointee to the Robert Bree Collaborative; he has been appointed to serve three times by two governors. The Bree Collaborative is a legislatively mandated consortium focused on triple-aim improvements in health care delivery for state-funded programs in Washington.

He has been a champion of the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO®) program since its rollout 27 years ago, establishing courses and training instructors and providers across the US. He has taken the program to Tajikistan, Mexico, Lithuania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Hong Kong, Japan, and Iraq, and has been a physician liaison for program development with the ALSO® program, helping the AAFP to develop and market US and international programs.

We are inspired by Carl's compassion in working with Heart-to-Heart International in Moldova and Tajikistan and serving as US representative to the Hiroshima International Council for Healthcare of the Radiation Exposed.

While his contributions to family medicine have extended to all those places around the world, he is at heart a rural family physician.

For over 30 years, he has maintained a full-spectrum practice in the community where he was raised, caring for multiple generations of families—many of whom, like Carl, have Native American roots going back many, many generations. Carl has been active in educating and directing the provision of health care in the community, as faculty in the Central Washington Family Medicine Residency program, as medical director of health care facilities and currently as the CMIO and medical director for quality for Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

Well respected and highly regarded by his peers, Carl was selected as WAFP Family Physician of the Year in 2014.

Dr. Olden's contributions as a leader on the AAFP Board of Directors have been noteworthy:

- His perspective from a full-spectrum practice (including obstetrics) in a rural community serving a diverse multicultural population have informed and advanced AAFP policies that advocate for payment reform to improve the viability of family medicine practices.
- Serving as the board liaison to the AAFP Commission on Health of the Public and Science, Carl brought his experience with the United States Public Health Service and the Indian Health Service, as well as his health disparities advocacy work with the Robert Bree Collaborative, to advance AAFP's advocacy efforts to reduce health disparities in America.
- As the liaison to the Commission on Finance and Insurance last year, he brought the financial acumen attained from years as a group practice CEO and the experience as medical quality director in the operation of a \$500 million hospital in a pay-for-performance environment to advise on payment reforms and processes to support evidence-based cost-effective care.

- Finally, as the at-large member of the AAFP Board Executive Committee this year, Carl has contributed his extensive leadership experience to contribute to guiding the day-to-day challenges faced by the AAFP in a rapidly-evolving health care environment.

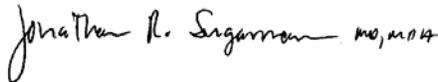
In our view, Dr. Carl Olden has the right combination of passion and intellect; caring and commitment; readiness to listen and willingness to work that will make him an outstanding president-elect of the AAFP. He is a proven leader with heart.

Looking towards the future, Carl's priorities for the Academy are clear and direct:

1. Grow and sustain a family medicine workforce equipped with the emotional, intellectual, and technical skills necessary to provide the full range of care that patients require. Foster the ability to effectively lead health care teams in our practices, hospitals, and communities.
2. Transform the payment model to achieve universal access to comprehensive prevention, wellness and disease management care. Assure the economic viability of family medicine practices.
3. Reduce the administrative burden that erodes the joy from family medicine practices and advocate for change so electronic health records work for us, not us for them. Fix the system to prevent the "overwhelm" that leads to burnout.

We strongly believe that Dr. Carl Olden's depth and breadth of experience—as a leader and as a practicing physician—combined with his heart and passion for family medicine, make him the best choice for AAFP president-elect. We respectfully request that you join us in supporting his candidacy.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Sugarman, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Westside AAFP Delegate



Russell Maier, MD, FAAFP
Eastside AAFP Delegate



Gregg VanderKieft, MD, MA, FAAFP
Alternate Westside AAFP Delegate



Tony Butruille, MD
Alternate Eastside AAFP Delegate



Jeremia Bernhardt, MD
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Erika Roshanravan, MD
Alternate Member Constituency Delegate



Karla Graue Pratt
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