



For Immediate Release
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Maria F. Ciminelli, MD, FAAFP, Named Family Physician of the Year

Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians (NJAFP) recently recognized Maria F. Ciminelli, MD, FAAFP, family medicine residency director at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, as the 2016 New Jersey Family Physician of the Year at its Annual Scientific Assembly in Atlantic City.

Each year, this award is presented to one outstanding physician in the state who best exemplifies the tradition of the family physician by providing the community with compassionate, comprehensive and caring medical service on a continuing basis. The recipient is directly and effectively involved in community affairs and activities that enhance the quality of life within their community, emulating the family physician as a healer and human being. In addition, the Family Physician of the Year is a role model for professionalism in the service and art of medicine to colleagues, other health professionals, the community and especially to young physicians in training and to medical students. Dr. Ciminelli meets all of these criteria and more.

Dr. Ciminelli has practiced medicine and advocated for family physicians in New Jersey for more than 20 years. Recognized for her boundless energy and dedication to family medicine, Dr. Ciminelli is recognized for her “laser-like focus” which helps her to manage the family residency program at CentraState while simultaneously service on several committees and an IT group to advise the hospital on its growing needs. Her tireless advocacy work on behalf on behalf of family physicians resulted in the creation of loan forgiveness programs in New Jersey that have become an important factor in keeping graduating residents in the state.

A board-certified family physician, Dr. Ciminelli serves as a member of NJAFP’s House of Delegates and is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She has previously received numerous honors including Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-CentraState Family Medicine Residency Faculty of the Year, as well as the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School - CentraState Family Medicine Residency Faculty Award of Excellence.

As the 2016 New Jersey Family Physician of the Year, Dr. Ciminelli will become the NJAFP's nominee for the 2017 National Family Physician of the Year, presented by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Ciminelli earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Cornell University and attended medical school her medical degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey School of Medicine. She completed a residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

She resides in Somerset.

Photo: 2016 New Jersey Family Physician of the Year Maria F. Ciminelli, MD, FAAFP, with nominating physician Lisa Lucas, DO.

About the NJAFP

For more than 65 years, the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians has been advancing the cause of family physicians and their patients. With more than 2,000 members, including active practicing family physicians, residents in family medicine, and medical students interested in the specialty, the NJAFP is the largest primary care medical specialty society in the state and a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. To learn more about NJAFP, visit www.njafp.org.

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