

For Immediate Release
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California Academy of Family Physicians Names Isabel Chen, MD, MPH 2018 Resident of the Year

San Francisco – The California Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (CAFP-F) has named Isabel Chen, MD, MPH the 2018 Family Medicine Resident of the Year in recognition of her early-career leadership in the specialty. Dr. Chen is a third-year resident and Chief of Social Mission and Advocacy at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles (KPLA) Family Medicine Residency.

The CAFP Foundation annually bestows the Resident of the Year Award on a family medicine resident who represents the finest characteristics of family medicine, including commitments to leadership, communication, mentorship and advocacy.

“Throughout their careers, family physicians advocate for patients and for improvements in health care for all,” said CAFP-F President Anthony Chong, MD, FAAFP. “Just a few years out of medical school, Dr. Chen has already demonstrated that she has the passion, compassion and leadership skills to continue this work as a member of a new generation of family physicians.”

Dr. Chen has served as a student and resident leader at CAFP, and has participated in legislative advocacy, planned for annual Family Medicine Summits, served as a delegate at the National Conference for Residents and Students, and encouraged peers to become involved as well.

At the KPLA Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program, she serves on several committees, including Resident Wellness, Graduate Medical Education, Clinical Strategic Goals, Bioethics, and Health Quality Improvement. She is a member of CAFP and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Chen is also a co-coordinator of the resident-Led Wellness Committee, where she has designed an annual curriculum for an evidence-based wellness program for residents and conducts ongoing research on initiatives to address resident burnout and build wellness and resilience. She is the recipient and principal investigator of an Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) funded grant to find innovative strategies to reduce resident burnout.

As an investigator for the KPLA Medical Center Social Mission Curriculum, she has developed and implemented a six-month curriculum for residents to bolster understanding of social determinants of health. The curriculum focuses on awareness, engagement with patients, and addressing social barriers to patient care. She has also implemented social needs screening into her primary care clinic with hopes of increasing opportunities to address health equity disparities in her practice.

Dr. Chen participates in a wide range of public health activism and community service. At present she is active with Doctors for America, where she leads the Food As Health Team and served on the Affordable Care Act Leadership Team. She is a board member of the Beyond Flexner Alliance, where she seeks to inspire and mobilize an international coalition of health

professional students and trainees to engage in creating a more equitable, healthy world through advocacy and education.

She serves as a forensic evaluator for the Physicians for Human Rights Asylum Program, performing forensic psychological and physical examinations for asylum seekers in Southern California. She is a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association Disaster Response Surge Committee, and participates in the design, development and training of a citywide volunteer disaster response unit. During residency, Dr. Chen also is a research assistant with the World Health Organization's Human Resources for Health Department on determinants impacting health care stewardship.

Dr. Chen is a former board member and abstract reviewer for the American Public Health Association's Women's Caucus and UNESCO's Canadian Commission Youth Advisory Group. She also is co-founder and Director of Students at the Reading Bear Society Early Education Literacy Initiative in Vancouver, British Columbia, where she has developed a health and literacy initiative to tackle issues of poverty, food insecurity and social isolation. She also has published in medical journals and made numerous presentations at professional meetings.

Dr. Chen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Yale University; a Master of Public Health from Yale; and a Doctor of Medicine degree from University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine.

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About the California Academy of Family Physicians: *With more than 10,000 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.*