

1                                   **INDIANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS**  
2                                   **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**  
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4   **French Lick, IN**

**July 21, 2017**

5                                   **Christopher Doehring, MD**  
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7   Thank you for the privilege of having served as the IAFP Chairman of the Board during 2016-  
8   2017. It has been another busy and productive year for our Academy and for the Board. We  
9   have continued to promote family medicine in Indiana and advocated for our patients and their  
10   needs. Our collective voice is heard in a variety of ways, including through our lobbying efforts  
11   at the Statehouse and through involvement of many of our members in national Committees  
12   and Commissions at the AAFP.  
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14   This past year was marked by a number of key events and moments. While we were  
15   disappointed at the outcome of the AAFP Board candidacy of our own Dr. Windel Stracener, the  
16   outpouring of encouragement towards him and his campaign has strengthened our commitment  
17   to his candidacy and we are excited about the prospect of a successful outcome this September  
18   in San Antonio.  
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20   Another key development this past year involved the decision by Hall Render, our longtime  
21   lobbying and governmental affairs partner, to discontinue its lobbying division. Consequently,  
22   we contracted with John Hammond and Kip Tew from Ice Miller for the 2017 legislative session  
23   and were very well represented. Unfortunately, one of our key priorities was a proposed  
24   increase in the tobacco tax and an accompanying increase in funding for tobacco prevention  
25   and cessation programs, neither of which made it into the final biennial budget. With a new  
26   governor, however, we have been very pleased by the collaborative tone that seems to have  
27   been struck between the Executive and Legislative branches of our state government,  
28   particularly as it relates to issues of importance to the IAFP and family medicine.  
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30   2017 has also been a landmark year in medical education in Indiana as the Marian University  
31   College of Osteopathic Medicine has graduated its first class, with nearly 60% of the new  
32   graduates pursuing residency training in primary care. While final figures are still pending, given  
33   the impressive number that “matched” at residency programs in Indiana, Marian is poised to  
34   have a profound impact on the future primary care workforce in Indiana. These are truly  
35   exciting times for our specialty and we are pleased that the IAFP has been a close partner with  
36   Marian since its inception.  
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38   Finally, as a closing thought and observation, the issue of physician burnout continues to be  
39   front and center in our profession nationally and I would implore any of our members who are  
40   either experiencing burnout or aware of it in a colleague to take action to address its underlying  
41   cause(s). Our Academies, both state and national, stand ready to support you and your  
42   practice and want to help you maintain appropriate balance in your life and satisfaction in your  
43   career. We are all at risk of experiencing the negative consequences of burnout, especially if  
44   we insist on enduring it in silence.

1 Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board Chair and I wish you nothing but  
2 success in all you do!

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4 With admiration,

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6 Christopher B. "Topper" Doehring, MD, MMM, FAAFP

7 Chairman of the Board, IAFP