**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO: Weimar Mercury, Schulenburg Sticker, Flatonia Argus, Hallettsville Tribune Herald, Columbus Banner Press, Colorado County Citizen, Fayette County Record, Giddings Times and News, Smithville Times, Eagle Lake Headlight, Gonzales Inquirer, Yoakum Herald Times, Victoria Advocate, KVLG, KBUK, KNRG, KULM**

**Jorge Duchicela, MD, FAAFP, named Physician of the Year**

GALVESTON, TEXAS — Jorge Duchicela, MD, FAAFP, of Weimar, Texas, has been awarded the highest honor among Texas family doctors by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP). He was named “Physician of the Year” during the organization’s 2017 Annual Session Primary Care Summit held in Galveston on November 11. Each year, patients and physicians nominate extraordinary long-serving physicians and a panel of TAFP members chooses one as the “Family Physician of the Year”.

 In receiving the award, Duchicela said, *“I am convinced that when the physician lives in the patient’s community and is involved in the area’s activities, this allows unsurmountable benefits to the patient, the community and the physician. I am honored to receive this award!”*

 Originally from Guayaquil, Ecuador, Duchicela immigrated to Wisconsin at the age of 13. He would later earn his Bachelor of Science and his Medical Degree from the University of Wisconsin. He completed his family medicine residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and is currently a Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine at UTMB. He moved to Weimar in 1990, and is a partner in the Youens & Duchicela Clinic there. Dr. Duchicela and his wife, Juanita, have three children, Keegan, Ima and Dezbah.

 Duchicela recently completed a term as Chief of the Medical Staff at Columbus Community Hospital. He is Founder and President of the Texas Rural Family Medicine Education Center, Founder and Director of Cachamsi, a nonprofit medical immersion institute located in the mountains of his native Ecuador, which helps health professionals learn Spanish while also learning global and cross-cultural medicine. He has served as Board Director of the Colorado Valley Chapter of the TAFP for 10 years, and currently serves as the TAFP Chair of the Commission on Legislative and Public Affairs. Duchicela also Chairs the Conference Committee of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine on Practice Improvement.

 In addition to his medical role in the community, Dr. Duchicela has been a Founder, Director and Contributor to several non-profit organizations serving youth and adults with educational assistance in the Weimar area. He has also been instrumental in the foundation of an area soccer league and the establishment of a permanent practice and game facility.

 Criteria for the TAFP Physician of the Year award requires that candidates be compassionately dedicated to their patients; active in their communities; and act as a credible, invaluable role model as a professional in the science and art of medicine. The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is honored to name Dr. Jorge Duchicela the 2017 Family Physician of the Year.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit [www.tafp.org](http://www.tafp.org) for more information.

 Youens & Duchicela Clinic in Weimar has a history of 60 plus years providing patient-centered care, encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and the prevention of disease, while making healthcare affordable to those they serve. # # # # #

**Photo Caption**: TAFP President Tricia Elliott, MD *(left)*, presents Jorge Duchicela, MD, with the Texas “Family Physician of the Year” Award. The award is inscribed to Jorge Autachi Duchicela XXVIII Santacruz, MD *“For Outstanding Accomplishment and Dedication to Medical Education and Patient Care”* – 2017. Dr. Duchicela is wearing the traditional ceremonial poncho from his parents’ ancestral land in Ecuador. His family traces their ancestry back to 600AD. In the 1500’s, the last ruling Inca emperor, Atahualpa, was Duchicela XVII, with the family continuing on to the 29th and 30th generations through Dr. Jorge’s children and grandchildren. He is proud to serve the medical needs of patients in a large area of central Texas.