



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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Mercersburg doc named ‘Public Health Award’ winner

(HARRISBURG, PA. Feb. 22, 2019) Elizabeth George, MD, of Mercersburg, Franklin County has been named the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians’ 2019 Public Health Award winner!

George, the PAFP’s inaugural Public Health Award winner, began her journey as a family physician at Brown University, where she earned her medical degree. She completed her family practice residency at Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey, and established a primary care office, including obstetrics, with her husband in Mercersburg with her husband, with a commitment to community wellbeing, both as physicians and parents of young children.

George’s impact on public health has been vast, from spearheading the elimination of smoking at Chambersburg Hospital in 1984 and helping to establish and direct the Chambersburg Hospital Maternity Clinic for patients without medical insurance to directing a medical mission trip to El Alto, Bolivia and co-founding a nonprofit in Mercersburg, MACWell, committing to making the area a place that inspires its population to live well. Recently, MACWell obtained a grant to collaborate with Mercersburg Borough to repurpose a tannery brown field area for a streamside trail and park; last year, tree planting and pollinating for the trail area began.

“Dr. George began the best community health intervention I have ever witnessed called the Healthy Eating Adventure (HEA),” said a colleague who nominated George. “She collaborated with Dr. Calwell Esselstyn, noted surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic and researcher on plant-based, whole foods nutrition, and his son Rip Esselstyn, author of The Engine 2 Diet. She has for the past eight years conducted 6-week long Healthy Eating Adventures at three sites around Franklin County. This includes measurements of several physiologic parameters such as blood pressure and weight before and after, and laboratory testing of glucose and lipids before and after.

“I have never met a physician who has done more for a community in Pennsylvania than Dr. Elizabeth George,” he said.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation supports its members (including nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania family physicians) through advocacy and education to ensure physician-coordinated, personalized, and comprehensive quality health care for every Pennsylvanian. The Academy and its Foundation are the leading influential resource among family physicians and physicians in training in Pennsylvania; the primary voice on health care issues with state legislative and administrative branches of government, media and professional health organizations; and the leader on health care issues in the community.

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