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PAFP Reports on Health Effects of Fracking Marcellus Shale Impacts Study Featured in *Keystone Physician*

(HARRISBURG, PA.) The public health and environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing are often debated, but it's difficult to cut through the rhetoric to the facts – especially given the dearth of evidence on the topic. In the new issue of its magazine, *Keystone Physician*, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) gets down to the bottom line on fracking. The “Health, Hope & Hydrofracturing” feature examines what we know already and what we have yet to learn about the effects of hydraulic fracturing on public health, the environment, and the infrastructure of the local communities affected by drilling activities.

In “Health, Hope & Hydrofracturing,” the PAFP talks to researchers from the first-ever longitudinal impacts study of the Marcellus Shale region about the use and value of patient-level data, early results of current research, and why previous studies on the impact of hydraulic fracturing have missed the mark. Readers will also discover the important part that the family medicine community is playing in the process of determining whether fracking negatively impacts the health of drilling region residents. You can read “Health, Hope & Hydrofracturing” at goo.gl/WGXQj or by clicking the link to *Keystone Physician* on the PAFP’s website at PAFP.com.

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 a patient-centered medical home 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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