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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rhode Island Physician Receives National Honor from the American Academy of Family Physicians**

PHILADELPHIA. — . Dr. Emily Harrison, a family physician practicing in Pawtucket, Rhode Island., has been selected to receive the national Humanitarian of the Year Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). this national award is given to a Family Physician who is chosen from among thousands of nominees and who best exemplifies the tradition of service to others through their work in Family Medicine.

Dr. Harrison practices full spectrum family medicine in at Women's Care, an innovative joint OB/Gyn and Family Medicine practice in Pawtucket RI, where she serves a primarily Latino patient population. The practice, which she joined in 2006, is completely bilingual and bicultural. Dr. Harrison sees patients of all ages in addition to delivering babies and caring for patients while they are in the hospital.

She also serves on the faculty of the Brown/Warren Alpert Medical School Department of Family Medicine, where her teaching is focused on Maternal Child Health. She performs c-sections and other surgeries and helps to direct the Brown Fellowship in Maternal Child Health.

In addition to her clinical and faculty work, Dr. Harrison has been a volunteer since 2006 with Shoulder to Shoulder, a non-profit delivering health care and public health services to remote southwestern Honduras. She served as Shoulder to Shoulder director of Women's Health, was instrumental in building the Brown affiliation with the village of Guachipilincito, and for the past year and a half has served as Executive Director. Leading Shoulder to Shoulder is a challenging job and has required hundreds of hours of work and thousands of miles of travel to Honduras. Shoulder to Shoulder has rightfully achieved the reputation of the model health care volunteer organization; there is ongoing care after the visit by U.S. volunteers, there is community involvement, public health interventions are central and as a non-profit it is integrated with the Ministry of Health activities rather than creating a parallel health system. This approach is difficult and complex, but impactful over time.

Dr. Harrison graduated from Harvard University in 1988. She received her MD degree from the University of Vermont in 2001. After finishing her residency and fellowship in Family Medicine at the Memorial Hospital of RI, she received a Masters in Public Health from Brown.

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**About the American Academy of Family Physicians**

Founded in 1947, the AAFP represents 105,900 physicians and medical students nationwide. It is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care.

Approximately one in four of all office visits are made to family physicians. That is 240 million office visits each year — nearly 87 million more than the next largest medical specialty. Today, family physicians provide more care for America's underserved and rural populations than any other medical specialty. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on integrated care.

To learn more about the specialty of family medicine, the AAFP's positions on issues and clinical care, and for downloadable multi-media highlighting family medicine, visit [www.aafp.org/media](http://www.aafp.org/media). For information about health care, health conditions and wellness, please visit the AAFP's award-winning consumer website, [www.FamilyDoctor.org](http://www.FamilyDoctor.org).