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IDAHO ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
Neva Santos, CAE, Executive Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**"McCALL PHYSICIAN NAMED FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR BY THE IDAHO  
ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS"**

The Idaho Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) named Dr. Jim Dardis from McCall, Idaho as the 2010 Idaho Family Physician of the Year at the 2010 IAFP's 62nd Annual Meeting in West Yellowstone, Montana. The award was presented to Dr. Dardis by a third year medical student from the University of Washington, Mo Fitz-Maurice, who has trained under Dr. Dardis for the last five months in McCall and previously during a six-week summer rotation in 2008. In the moving tribute to him, Fitz-Maurice outlined the inspiration he has given her as she pursues her career as a family physician. She spoke of his dedication to medical education and his commitment to his patients and his community.

Dr. Dardis received his medical education at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver. He completed an externship through the Bristol Bay Area Hospital in Dillingham, Alaska and then went on to do his residency training in family medicine for three years at the Northern Colorado Medical Center Family Practice Residency Training Program in Greeley, Colorado. After completing residency, Dr. Dardis worked in Boulder, Colorado for one year until he moved his family to McCall, Idaho in 1987 where they settled and still call their home.

As an advocate for medical education, Dr. Dardis served on the WWAMI Admissions Committee for the State of Idaho from 2002 to 2006, helping identify the best and brightest students wanting to practice medicine in Idaho. Dardis was a member of the IAFP Board of Directors from 1992 to 2004 and President of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians from 1995 to 1996. He also served as the

delegate representative for Idaho to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates from 1996 to 2004.

Dr. Dardis is the epitome of family medicine and has the motto that "To be a good family physician, you just need to treat your patients like family." Dardis' passion for medicine carries over to the students he mentors, his colleagues and other medical personnel because of his strong commitment to his patients and families. Dr Dardis attributes his success as a physician to his parents. While his father was also a physician from whom he learned how to build close relationships with patients, it was really his mother from whom he learned the most important lessons: His mother was afflicted with multiple sclerosis and spent 32 years in a wheel chair, always living in the family home and not requiring a nursing home. From her he learned to see life from the patient's perspective which gave him the gift of empathy and the ability to put himself in the patient's shoes, which, Dardis states, has turned out to be the best training he ever received.

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