

It is my distinct honor to announce this year's SDAFP's Family Physician of the Year . Dr. Craig J. Uthe of Sioux Falls, SD is this year's recipient. In my many years of working as a close colleague of Dr. Uthe, and being the recipient of a lot of his experience, wisdom, and mentoring, I believe he is very deserving of this recognition.

Dr. Uthe has been employed at Sanford Health for the past 30+ years, and in addition to practicing full-spectrum family medicine for a majority of those years, he has been a mentor and resource to many of his colleagues within the Sanford system and across the region. Over time his interests and influence have expanded in many directions. Areas in which he has branched out into include health system and state medical association leadership roles, chronic pain and opioid addiction management, physician coaching and leadership development, physician professionalism, medical student teaching and well-being coaching, and physician impairment assistance. His present work in training future physicians through the USD Sanford School of Medicine continues to be a real passion of his.

Anyone who knows Craig has heard him say “Good morning, and welcome to a new day. They have also heard him describe patient visits as M&Ms or double fudge brownies. And as I have matured in my practice I now finally get it. I would sure love a few more M&Ms in a day.

Just a quick note from Leanne:

Not sure how to approach this without writing pages and making myself cry. It was truly one of my greatest blessings getting to work with Dr. Uthe for many wonderful years. I always said to my late husband “he always just walks the walk” describing Dr. Uthe's character. Every morning for 24 years he was late, but came in saying “good morning, it's a beautiful day.” That my friend is how he made it a beautiful day. His compassion, understanding, knowledge, patience, faith, and love of his patients was like no other. His patients showed their respect for him by waiting their time in the waiting room (which was sometimes pretty long) or waiting days for an opening to see him. Faith is what made him who he is.

LTW 2013

Seek Margin. Practice Reflection. Lead Mindfully. Thrive with Intentional Presence.

Congrats, Dr. Uthe

Scott Boyens, MD