

**TIMOTHY C. NICELY, M.D.**  
**2003 California Family Physician of the Year**

The California Academy of Family Physicians presents this prestigious award to the individual who exhibits the finest qualities of family physicians and who goes above and beyond in service to patients, colleagues and community. This year we proudly announce Timothy C. Nicely, MD of Arcata as the 2003 California Family Physician of the Year. Dr. Nicely has been instrumental to the growth and stability of the United Indian Health Services (UIHS) which services more than 13,000 Native Americans living on and around two reservations and numerous rancherias across Humboldt and Del Norte counties. He has provided hospital, clinic and nursing home care, as well as obstetrical care and home visits to the two counties for at least 20 years. His uncompromising devotion to delivering quality, compassionate health care to each of his patients is noted by many. Dennie Schultheis, MD, states: Home visits have always been a hallmark of Tim's care. He has logged many miles traveling to and from home visits. At times, these are done during his lunch hour and others after clinic responsibilities are done. Can one imagine home visits as a regular part of medical care, let alone in an Indian clinic, which is sorely under-staffed and under-funded? He is without a doubt the embodiment of the ideal family physician. Dr. Nicely has certainly left his mark on his community and has, as the Chairman of the UIHS Board of Directors says, made his way into the hearts of our people. One patient's account speaks volumes: When my husband collapsed and was flown to a hospital in Medford, Oregon, Dr. Nicely was there with him, even sleeping on a bed near him, in the same room. My husband told me he felt so honored to have Dr. Nicely there. Do all doctors go to this degree of caring? I don't think so, as I've had many in my 79 years and not one cared for us like Dr. Nicely does, extending himself, even in his rest time, to care for us." In addition to his superior patient care, as the Medical Director of UIHS, Dr. Nicely is intimately involved in the daily workings of each clinic. From PDAs to open access/same day appointments to establishing and staffing a satellite clinic on a reservation where electricity is new and no phone lines exist, he has put UIHS ahead of the curve. Dr. Nicely participates in numerous hospital committees and is a tenacious yet graceful supporter of family practice privileges. When not on-call for UIHS medical admissions, Dr. Nicely is not only on-call for all UIHS obstetrics consultations, but also for other local family physicians obstetrics consultations for cesarian sections, D&Cs, post-partum and laproscopic tubal ligations. He holds advanced family practice obstetrical privileges at hospitals in both Humboldt and Del Norte counties, and is in the unique position of delivering newborn babies for young women he himself delivered 18 to 20 years ago. With the ability to provide full scope family practice, Dr. Nicely helps keep his patients close to home and allows their limited health care funding to be used wisely. His longevity at the United Indian Health Services and his loyalty to his patients makes him an exemplary role model for family physicians and to his community at large. For these reasons, CAFP is honored to award the 2003 California Family Physician of the Year to Dr. Timothy C. Nicely.