Gary Plant, MD FAAFP was recognized by the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians as the 2020 Oregon Family Doctor of the Year. Dr. Plant has been practicing family medicine in Madras, Oregon for over 15 years. He is the senior partner of Madras Medical Group, a physician-owned family medicine practice in rural Central Oregon.

“It was a wonderful surprise to be recognized by my colleagues from around the state,” said Plant. “Family medicine is about teamwork, relationships, and caring for families within a community. The fact that nominations for Family Doctor of the Year come patients in the community makes the award that much sweeter.”

Dr. Plant practices a broad scope of family medicine, including inpatient and outpatient care, maternity care with C-sections, upper and lower endoscopy, and numerous office-based surgical procedures. He has been a volunteer faculty member with Oregon Health & Science University since 2004, providing third- and fourth-year medical students and second-year physician assistant students with educational experiences in rural primary care.

“Students love the breadth of medicine and continuity of care they get to see here in Madras,” he explained. “Some of our students will deliver more babies in Madras than they will on their OB rotation. Then, they see those babies back in the clinic the next week and see how caring for mom and baby are all intertwined.”

Growing up in the rural community of Philomath, Oregon, Dr. Plant had early exposure to strong mentors in family medicine.

“My own family physicians growing up—Drs. David Cutsforth and David Grube—were also close family friends. Their kids were my classmates, and I saw how a physician could be more than just a doctor, but an important part of the community.”

Dr. Cutsforth, Dr. Grube, and their partner, Dr. Bruce Byram, were each chosen previously as Oregon Family Doctor of the Year.

“Apparently I grew up with three of the best,” laughed Plant. “I would like to think that one of my own patients might go on to become a Family Doctor of the Year someday.”