

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sept. 19, 2011

**For more information, contact:**

Adele M. Lash  
Director of Communications  
(317) 261-2060 OR (800) 257-4762

**State medical alliance inaugurates first physician president**

INDIANAPOLIS – Terre Haute emergency physician Ferial Alsikafi, M.D., became the new president of the Indiana State Medical Association Alliance (ISMA-A), an organization composed of physicians' spouses. Dr. Alsikafi was inaugurated Sept. 17 during the ISMA-A and the Indiana State Medical Association conventions in Indianapolis. She is the first physician to hold the office.

As president, Dr. Alsikafi said she would like the organization to focus on childhood obesity by working with schools, physicians and community leaders.

"This year, I am working to spread the message of healthy lifestyles for children," she said. "We need to encourage children to eat healthy foods, limit TV and computer time, and exercise."

An immigrant of Iraq 40 years ago, Dr. Alsikafi has been a member of the Vigo County Alliance since 1978. She completed her residency in anesthesia at the University of Louisville and practiced board certified emergency medicine at Union Hospital from 1979 to 2009.

Dr. Alsikafi is married to hand surgeon Fadhil Alsikafi, M.D. The couple has three sons.

The ISMA-A is an organization composed of physicians' spouses and is dedicated to the health of Indiana residents. The Alliance aims to serve the needs of medical families, serve its membership through a strong federation; work in partnership with the medical profession and other organizations; and support and promote quality health care for Indiana citizens.

- 30-

Editor's Note: For more details about the ISMA convention and a photo of Dr. Ferial Alsikafi, go to [www.ismanet.org/convention/go/2011convention](http://www.ismanet.org/convention/go/2011convention).