Another prediction
I enjoyed the provocative predictions by Minnesota physicians regarding the future of medicine in your excellent December 2013 feature “A Look into the Future” (p. 16).

May I respectfully add one more prediction? We finally will confront the elephant in the exam room—that the American health care “system” is actually a complicated and inefficient patchwork that squanders 31 percent of our health dollars on administration. We will recognize that the highly profitable and duplicative private insurance industry has proven a perennial failure, both in containing costs and in achieving anything resembling universal coverage.

We will adopt the streamlined efficiencies of a single-payer system to finally bring costs under control, achieve fair and comprehensive risk pooling, and most importantly, guarantee quality coverage for all citizens.

Dave Dvorak, M.D.
Minneapolis

D.O. training update
I was just reading your article on the growth in the number of D.O.s. It mentions that the University of Minnesota Department of Family Medicine and Community Health has two dually accredited residency programs, which is no longer true. We now have one dually accredited program, the University of Minnesota Mankato Family Medicine Residency. However, all of our residency programs provide integrated training opportunities for D.O.s and M.D.s. Learn more at http://z.umn.edu/familymedwelcomesdos.

Emie Buege
University of Minnesota Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

A study on physicians with chronic diseases
Physicians who live with chronic disease have personal knowledge of the obstacles associated with meeting care requirements. They also have the opportunity to apply this understanding as they treat patients who have chronic disease. At the University of Minnesota, we are conducting a study to look at how having a chronic disease affects a physician’s approach to practicing medicine. Our hypothesis is that physicians living with a chronic illness will have values and experiences that inform and change how they work with patients who have chronic diseases.

We are seeking to interview physicians who have a chronic illness. If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact John Song, M.D., or Amy Kosel at kose0018@umn.edu or 612-961-4904.