Minnesota Medicine wins five magazine excellence awards

Minnesota Medicine won five awards at the annual Minnesota Magazine & Publishing Association (MMPA) Excellence Awards in November. Here’s the breakdown:

- **Gold** in the “Regular Column for Association Under 30,000” category for the magazine’s Perspective column
- **Silver** in the “Feature Article for Association Under 30,000” category for “Equity Rx,” which appeared in the October 2015 issue
- **Silver** in the “Editorial: Technical for Association Under 30,000” category for “The Opioid Epidemic and the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice” that appeared in the May/June 2016 issue
- **Bronze** in the “Overall Excellence for Association Under 30,000” category
- **Bronze** in the “Single Topic Issue for Association Under 30,000” category for the magazine’s arts issue (July 2015).

The MMPA is an organization of publishers, vendors, freelancers, educational institutions and sponsors.

**MMA in Action**

In early December, MMA CEO Robert Meiches, MD; Dave Renner, director of state and federal legislation; Janet Silversmith, director of health policy; MMA President David Agerter, MD; and MMA Board Chair Douglas Wood, MD, met with Erin Sexton, Mayo Clinic director of state government relations, to discuss MMA legislative priorities. Meiches, Renner and Silversmith also met with Sexton and Mayo’s Robert Nesse, MD, and Paula Sandrich, MD, to discuss value-based payment reform.

Renner participated in a meeting of hospital and physician groups from southern Minnesota to discuss the problems caused by the MNsure changes and narrow networks. The late November meeting, convened by Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Vernon Center), included 11 provider groups from the Mankato, Fairmont, St. Peter, Madelia and Blue Earth areas. Rep. Bob Guther (R-Fairmont) and Sen.-Elect Nick Frentz (DFL- Mankato) attended as did Lauren Gilchrist from Gov. Mark Dayton’s office and Deputy Commissioner Dan Pollock and Assistant Commissioner Gil Asavados from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Eric Dick, manager of state legislative affairs, presented the MMA’s legislative agenda for the 2017 legislative session to the Rural Health Advisory Committee (RHAC) in mid-November. The RHAC is a statewide group at the Minnesota Department of Health that is tasked with serving as a forum for studying and investing in rural health care needs. The 15-member panel is composed of health care providers, consumers, legislators and others.

In mid-November, Meiches, Renner, Silversmith, Dick, Teresa Knoedler, policy counsel, and Juliana Milhofer, policy analyst, met with Minnesota Council of Health Plans staff to discuss upcoming legislative issues, individual market/MNsure challenges and the MMA’s MARCH effort.

In mid-December Meiches, Renner, Silversmith, Dick, Knoedler and Milhofer met with Minnesota Hospital Association staff to discuss legislative issues and priorities for 2017.

Also in mid-December, Meiches, Renner, Silversmith, Dick and Knoedler met with Health Commissioner Edward Ehlinger, MD, and senior MDH staff to discuss the upcoming legislative session.