Medical Society executive board and chair of the MMA’s Medical Student Section.

The Foundation scholarship recipients were Lee Morris from Sabin, Nicole Pothen from Faribault, Rachel Warnert from St. Joseph and Jason Weiderin from Park Rapids.

Working through the University of Minnesota Foundation, MMAF awards scholarships to medical students from medically underserved Minnesota communities. Scholarships are $5,000 per year for four years.

Twenty-three medical students have participated in the MMAF scholarship program. Two other MMAF scholars, Ryan Clark and Hannah Wangberg, will complete medical school at the University of Minnesota in the spring of 2015. All past recipients are in residency programs or are practicing medicine.

Save the date: Day at the Capitol is March 11, 2015

The MMA’s annual event at which physicians meet face to face with their state senator and representative has been set for March 11. Watch MMA News Now for details.

MMA in Action

In October, Terry Ruane, director of membership, marketing and communications, and Kathleen Baumbach, manager of physician outreach, met with Mankato Clinic CEO Randy Farrow and CMO Julie Gerndt, M.D., to discuss the needs and concerns of their clinic and how the MMA can help.

Baumbach also met with Lori Bennett of Regions Hospital in St. Paul to discuss ways to engage medical residents working at Regions.

Dennis Kelly, MMA Foundation executive officer, hosted the Foundation’s “Care Where It Counts” fundraiser at the University of Minnesota’s McNamara Center in October and took part in a rural family medicine panel presentation for first-year medical students at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus.

Janet Silversmith, MMA director of policy, attended the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Region V meeting in Chicago with representatives from other state medical associations in September. There, she discussed Medicare value-based payment reform, new Medicare demonstration projects for patients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, and physician training needs. She also presented a talk, “Affordable Care Act—Changes and Challenges for Physicians,” at Allina’s Cambridge Medical Center.

In September, Silversmith and Barbara Daiker, MMA manager of quality, met with Minnesota Department of Health staff to discuss recently passed legislation requiring the state to develop a plan for stratifying state quality measures by race, ethnicity, language, disability and other sociodemographic factors. The Health Department is looking to the MMA, the Minnesota Hospital Association and others for insight and expertise.

Members Ken Kephart, M.D., and Phil Stoltenberg, M.D., led a discussion with the physician leaders of Minnesota Gastroenterology, PA, in St. Paul on independent practice, physician well-being, burnout and recent achievements of the MMA and Twin Cities Medical Society (TCMS). They were joined by Robert Meiches, M.D., MMA CEO, Sue Schettle, TCMS CEO, and Brian Strub, MMA manager of physician outreach.

In mid-September, Strub and Nancy Bauer and Andrea Farina of TCMS met with student leaders from the University of Minnesota Medical School to discuss issues relevant to medical students. The MMA and TCMS will design educational programs based on this information.