MMA in Action

In August, Dennis Kelly, MMA Foundation chief executive, addressed incoming medical students at White Coat ceremonies at the University of Minnesota Medical School’s Twin Cities and Duluth campuses. Kelly has also been named to serve on the Minnesota Department of Health’s Program Sustainability Committee of the Student Parent Support Initiative. The initiative works with selected Minnesota colleges and universities to provide a range of support for students who are the parents of young children. The committee will meet monthly through January 2015.

Barbara Daiker, MMA director of quality, and Robert Meiches, M.D., MMA CEO, attended the Minnesota Community Measurement board of directors’ retreat in August as well as the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) board of directors’ retreat in September.

In August, Cindy Firkins Smith, M.D., MMA president, attended the first meeting of Gov. Mark Dayton’s blue ribbon commission tasked with raising the national prominence of the University of Minnesota’s medical school. She also took part in the American Academy of Dermatology Association’s skin cancer screening held at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Minneapolis. In September, she spoke on Minnesota’s success passing its Tan-Free Teen legislation at the American Academy of Dermatology Association’s Legislative Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

Brian Strub, MMA manager of physician outreach, and Evelyn Clark, MMA manager of grassroots and political engagement, traveled to the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus in late August for a lunch-and-learn on ways medical students can have an impact on organized medicine through involvement in the Lake Superior Medical Society and the MMA. Medical students Toy McGee and Kellen Albrecht shared their experiences and encouraged other UMD medical students to represent Duluth, the medical school and Minnesota by attending state and national physician meetings and conferences.

Clark and Strub also joined Zumbro Valley Medical Society’s (ZVMS) John Shonyo in addressing medical students at Mayo Medical School in Rochester. The lunch lecture covered ways medical students can have an impact on organized medicine through involvement in ZVMS and the MMA.

Janet Silversmith, MMA director of health policy, presented an ACA primer to family medicine residents at Park Nicollet in late August. She also held a webinar in September on how the MMA’s Choosing Wisely project and collaboration with the Guthrie Theater is working to change physicians’ attitudes and the culture about unnecessary care for the ABIM Foundation Choosing Wisely grantee learning network.

Juliana Milhofer, MMA policy analyst, is taking part in a work group at the University of Minnesota Medical School that will look at how to integrate education about public policy and public health into the medical school curriculum.

Mandy Rubenstein, MMA manager of physician outreach, attended the Stearns Benton Medical Society Circle of Health meeting in August to discuss a communitywide opioid prescribing program.

Kathleen Baumbach, MMA manager of physician outreach, and Teresa Knoedler, MMA policy counsel, appeared before 60 residents at the Transition to Practice program in September at the University of Minnesota. Thomas Flynn, M.D., an MMA member who practices at Minnesota Hematology and Oncology, and Anne Valaaas-Turner, M.D., from Allina Medical Clinic Woodlake, presented on practice opportunities with large organizations and independent groups. Claire Topp, an attorney with Dorsey & Whitney, presented on contracting.