MMA goes to Washington to discuss SGR

MMA leaders and staff traveled to Washington, DC, in February to urge Minnesota lawmakers to repeal and replace the flawed Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) payment system.

MMA President Donald Jacobs, MD, President-Elect Dave Thorson, MD, Maya Babu, MD, and Dave Renner, MMA director of state and federal legislation, met with Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Sen. Al Franken and Rep. Betty McCollum to discuss the issue. They also met with representatives for Rep. Erik Paulsen and Rep. Tom Emmer. The MMA group was in the nation’s capital to attend the AMA’s National Advocacy Conference.

On the calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Council day-long health policy conference</td>
<td>April 25, 9 am to 4 pm</td>
<td>DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington-Minneapolis South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td>Sept. 25-26</td>
<td>DoubleTree by Hilton, St. Louis Park</td>
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Check the MMA’s website (www.mnmed.org/events) for more information and to register.

MMA in Action

In February, Immediate Past President Cindy Firkins Smith, MD, gave a presentation, “Tanning and Teens,” at the University of Minnesota’s pediatric dermatology conference.

MMA President Donald Jacobs, MD, took part in a conference call with physician CEOs and CMOs from Minnesota’s largest health care provider organizations.

MMA President-Elect Dave Thorson, MD, attended the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology monthly board meeting in early March.

Robert Meiches, MD, MMA CEO, Keith Stelter, MD, and Janet Silversmith, MMA director of health policy, attended a dinner meeting with University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and U of M Medical School Dean Brooks Jackson, MD, in late February to hear more about the university’s 2015 legislative asks and the governor’s initiative on the medical school.

Juliana Milhofer, MMA policy analyst, represented the MMA on an age-related hearing loss and healthy aging task force, a group convened by the Commission of Deaf, Blind & Hard of Hearing Minnesotans.

Brian Strub and Kathleen Baumbach, MMA managers of physician outreach, Terry Ruane, director of membership, marketing and communications, and Scott Wilson, MMA sponsorship manager attended the Minnesota Medical Group Management Association’s 2015 winter conference in early March.

Mandy Rubenstein, MMA manager of physician outreach, represented the MMA at the Central Minnesota Prescribing Coalition in St. Cloud in late February. She also attended the Clay Becker Medical Society annual meeting in early March.

Eric Dick, MMA manager of legislative affairs, traveled to Olmsted Medical Center in late February to provide an update on the 2015 legislative session to clinic staff. While in Rochester, Dick also visited with pediatric residents at the Mayo Clinic in preparation for the Pediatricians’ Day at the Capitol in mid-March.