Foundation's goal is to improve access to care in underserved Minnesota communities and to support medical students through scholarships.

Forum addresses opportunities and challenges for independent practices
Recruiting and retaining physicians. Sustaining a referral base in a consolidated market. Having to meet performance standards with limited resources. Feeling like you have to know everything. Those are among the issues that keep physicians in independent practices awake at night, according to those who attended an MMA-sponsored forum in November. The forum featured Bruce Bagley, MD, MAAFP, a family physician and practice redesign expert with the American Medical Association (AMA), who discussed how physicians can adapt to a changing environment, prevent burnout and utilize the AMA’s STEPS Forward practice improvement program. About 25 physicians attended in person; 15 more attended online.

Medical student section elects 2016 leaders
The MMA Medical Student Section elected its new leaders in December, installing Augustin Joseph, Mayo Medical School, as chair; Erica Sanders, the University of Minnesota Medical School, Twin Cities campus, as vice chair; Stephen Palmquist, the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus, as delegate; Annabelle Soares, Mayo Medical School, as alternate delegate; and Gretchen Hoff, the University of Minnesota Medical School, Twin Cities campus, as secretary.

Trauma surgeon wins Bolles Bolles-Rogers Award
David J. Dries, MSE, MD, FACS, FCCP, MCM, a trauma surgeon and critical care specialist at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, received the Charles Bolles Bolles-Rogers Award from the Twin Cities Medical Society Foundation.

On the calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day at the Capitol</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, St. Paul Downtown</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Annual Conference</td>
<td>Sept. 23-24</td>
<td>DoubleTree Park Place Hotel, 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 mid-November, Robert Meiches, MD, presented an MMA update at a Sanford Midweek Conference in Bemidji. Meiches and Mandy Rubenstein, manager of physician outreach, also met with the St. Cloud Medical Group Board of Directors.

Dave Renner, MMA director of state and federal legislation, is attending the AMA State Legislative Conference in January. While there, he will chair a meeting of the AMA Advocacy Resource Center Executive Committee.

Janet Silversmith, MMA director of health policy, presented on the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 to Allina Integrated Medical Network’s board of directors in mid-November. She also presented on the topic at the Allina CEO Summit in early December. Silversmith also met with representatives from the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement to review their prior authorization recommendations.

Eric Dick, MMA manager of state legislative affairs, presented the MMA’s legislative priorities to a meeting of the Rural Health Advisory Committee in mid-November. The 15-member panel made up of health care providers, legislators, consumers and others advises the Legislature and governor on health care issues of concern to rural Minnesota. The committee is chaired by MMA member Daron Gersch, MD, a family physician from Albany, Minnesota.