More than 200 attend successful Annual Conference

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATHRYN FORSS

ZDoggMD headlined Friday night with a highly entertaining performance.

Blanton Bessinger, MD, shares a laugh with medical student Risa Visina.

Andrea Westby, MD; her poem was featured during Thursday’s Hippocrates Cafe.

The conference featured a good mix of practicing physicians and medical students from across the state.
President’s Award
Sally Trippel, MD, a board-certified preventive medicine physician at Mayo Clinic, received the President’s Award, which recognizes a physician who has given much of his or her free time to help improve the association.

Trippel (shown here with Immediate-Past President Dave Thorson, MD) has been a member of the MMA’s delegation to the American Medical As-

More than 200 physicians, residents, medical students and guests attended the 2016 MMA Annual Conference September 23 and 24 in St. Louis Park. They were treated to an energetic keynote by ZDoggMD, a thought-provoking presentation on health disparities by Damon Tweedy, MD, as well as a variety of educational sessions and policy discussions.

Other highlights included:

- A talent show featuring performances by five MMA members. Mayo Medical School student Elizabeth Fracica, who sang “Good Morning, Baltimore,” took first place. Judges included ZDoggMD, former presidents Cindy Firkins Smith, MD, and David Thorson, MD. Other competitors included Matthew Kruse, MD, who performed stand-up comedy; Randy Rice, MD, who played Harry Chapin’s “Cats in the Cradle” on his guitar; Gabe Komjathy, MD, who played an original composition on his guitar; and Joan Madden, MD, who performed a trumpet duo with Richard Baldinelli.
- A student/resident poster competition. University of Minnesota Medical School student Robin Sautter won $500 for her poster “Identifying Barriers to Physical Activity for Somali Women in Willmar, Minnesota.”
- Hippocrates Cafe hosted by member and MPR contributor Jon Hallberg, MD. The show featured professional actors reading members’ prose and poetry plus music.

Four awards presented
Three physicians and one legislator were honored with MMA Foundation awards for going above and beyond.

Distinguished Service Award
Patricia Lindholm, MD, a Fergus Falls family physician, received the Distinguished Service Award, which is given to a physician who has made outstanding contributions to medicine, the MMA and the physicians of Minnesota during his or her career.

Lindholm (shown here with Board Chair Doug Wood, MD) served as the MMA’s president in 2010-2011. Currently, she is president of the MMA’s Foundation’s Board of Directors and is serving a four-year term on the Board of Medical Practice.

During her 25 years as an MMA member, she has served on the Board of Trustees and represented the MMA on the MN Community Measurement Board. She also served on an MMA Professionalism Advisory Team that met in 2013 and 2014 to work on improving the culture of medicine in Minnesota by promoting collegiality and networking opportunities.
News Briefs

Board approves health disparities recommendations
At its September meeting, the MMA Board of Trustees approved a series of recommendations from the MMA’s Health Disparities Work Group, including a call for the association to help Minnesota physicians reduce racial and ethnic health disparities in their practices.

The 17-member work group, chaired by Fatima Jiwa, MBChB, a pediatrician in Rogers, presented the following seven recommendations to the board:

- Provide education to physicians, residents and medical students in an effort to raise knowledge/awareness of racial and ethnic health disparities
- Provide resources to assist physicians in addressing racial and ethnic health disparities in their practices
- Recognize that factors such as health care financing, the composition of the health care workforce, employment, housing and public transportation have had a negative effect on the quality of and access to care by members of racial and ethnic minority groups. Also recognize that health disparities are a consequence of structural and institutional racism in hospitals and health systems in the state
- Support initiatives that will lead to increased funding for social services that are essential to a patient’s health and will help them overcome health inequities
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- Support initiatives that will lead to increased funding for social services that are essential to a patient’s health and will help them overcome health inequities
- Support efforts to incorporate information on health disparities, health equity and the social determinants of health into undergraduate and graduate medical education at the University of Minnesota and Mayo medical schools
- Support an increase in the number of underrepresented minorities in health care fields
- Have the MMA’s board assess MMA policy and advocacy recommendations through a health equity lens as a way of maintaining a focus on reducing health disparities.