MMA in action

Cindy Firkins Smith, M.D., MMA president, and Brian Strub, MMA manager of physician outreach, met with Essentia Health leaders in Duluth in late July. Smith also spoke at the Twin Cities Miles for Melanoma 10K in early August.

Terry Ruane, MMA director of membership, marketing and communications, Dave Renner, MMA director of state and federal legislation, and Evelyn Clark, MMA manager of grassroots and political engagement, attended the AAMSE annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, in late July.

Clark also led a resident round table on advocacy featuring member Will Nicholson, M.D.

Renner, Clark and Eric Dick, MMA manager of state legislative affairs, attended the AMA’s State Legislative Strategies Roundtable in Chicago in August. Renner also participated on a panel related to scope-of-practice issues, where he discussed Minnesota’s experiences with the APRN legislation. In addition, Renner also chaired a meeting of the AMA’s Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) Executive Committee. The committee includes representatives from 18 state medical societies and provides direction for the AMA’s ARC staff.

Barbara Daiker, MMA manager of quality, co-led a webinar on violence prevention in health care workplaces with the Minnesota Hospital Association, Minnesota Nurses Association and long-term care providers in late July. She also served as the MMA representative on a review panel for HIE (health information exchange) service provider certification in early August. And she presented on quality and measurement to Sanford in Windom in mid-August.

Dennis Kelly, chief executive officer of the MMA Foundation, provided welcoming remarks at the University of Minnesota Medical School White Coat Ceremony in early August.

In mid-July MMA board member Mac Baird, M.D., TCMS board member Matthew Hunt, M.D., and MMA CEO Robert Meiches, M.D., talked about recent achievements and activities of the MMA and TCMS with clinic leaders at University of Minnesota Physicians. They were joined by Sue Schettie, TCMS CEO, and Strub.

Clark and Strub met with Matthew Kruse, M.D., and Linda Vukelich, executive director of the Minnesota Psychiatric Society, to discuss ways to increase engagement among psychiatry residents, as well as all residents.

In late July, Smith and Audrey Park-Skinner, M.D., Lake Superior Medical Society president, met with Dan Nikcevich, M.D., Ph.D., president and chief medical officer of Essentia Health East Region, to discuss how Essentia Health physicians can be more visible and influential in the physician-led work taking place with the Lake Superior Medical Society and the MMA.