The well-trained eye

The winners of our annual photo contest

Early in their schooling, physicians begin to develop their eye. They learn to notice what looks normal and what appears to be suspect. They train their eye on images of the patients they care for, the manifestations of illness and the signs of healing and recovery. Many further cultivate their ability to recognize a significant image working behind a camera. Physicians and physicians-in-training seem to be natural photographers. That’s why we weren’t surprised to receive 50 entries in our photography contest this year.

Having so many great images to choose from made judging a challenge for Minnesota Medicine art director and photographer Kathryn Forss and 33-year veteran photographer Mike Krivit.

“The entries this year were technically strong — and we often chose between them by the strength of their composition,” Forss wrote. “Many had an interesting story to tell — they were more than just a technically strong image made of an attractive subject. They were thought-provoking and beautiful.”

Thanks to all who took the time to enter and share their amazing work with us.

NOTE: You can see the winning photos on display at the MMA Annual Conference September 25-26 at the Doubletree Park Place Hotel in St. Louis Park.

Havana Harbor at Dawn
David Boran, MD, family physician, Essentia Health, Crosslake Clinic, Crosslake, Minnesota
WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO: I have had the privilege of traveling to Cuba with the Santa Fe Photographic Workshops three times. This photo was made while walking along the Malecón near Havana Harbor at dawn. It is my attempt to show usual activity in the wonderful light of early morning.
**The Juggler**

Lisa Erickson, MD, reproductive medicine and infertility specialist, Center for Reproductive Medicine, Minneapolis

**WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO:** This photo represents the kaleidoscope of activities that takes place at Lake Calhoun on a summer day. I asked the juggler permission to shoot him in action, and he juggled until he could juggle no more. We were both in the zone; he with the toss and me with catching the image.

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**Blue-Eyed Shags, Port Lockroy, Antarctica**

Lynn Cornell, MD, renal pathologist, Mayo Clinic

**WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO:** The blue-eyed shags reflect the colors of Antarctica—white, black and blue. These two birds were nesting quietly near a colony of thousands of penguins, and they could easily be overlooked in the presence of more charismatic birds.
Rainbow Falls
Siu-Hin Wan, MD, internal medicine residency, cardiovascular diseases clinician investigator program, Mayo Clinic
WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO: The appearance of rainbows requires a combination of water droplets and sunlight. The mist from Niagara Falls on a bright day resulted in the perfect conditions for a rainbow.

Keyhole to Preserving the Memory of Science
Colin Boettcher, MD, anesthesiology residency program, University of Minnesota
WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO: I was leaving the last lecture of the day at the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists annual conference in Washington, DC. I had been informed the cherry blossoms were at their peak and wanted to see them before the sun set. The streets and sidewalks were filled with thousands of people. Walking through the gardens near the Smithsonian Institution Building (the Castle), I found a couple reviewing their photos. The couple became a small microcosm of the thousands unknowingly preserving the memory of early science in America, and the sculpture provided the perfect context in which to frame my own memory.
Watching Over Athens
Vania Phuoc, MD, internal medicine residency program, Mayo Clinic

WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO:
During my fourth year of medical school, I had the privilege of visiting Athens. Everywhere I turned, sights were picture-worthy. But nothing proved as breathtaking as the view from the Acropolis. True to its original intention, it still watches over Athens as a citadel, guarding history as the modern world encroaches. Old meets new in the stark contrast of contemporary buildings merely feet away from famous ruins, lending to the unique beauty of this ancient city.

The Perfect View
Kristin Comstock, University of Minnesota Medical School (now beginning a family medicine residency in Duluth)

WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO: I took time during my residency interviews to explore the surrounding areas, often by going on hikes. This was taken during a hike in Bozeman, Montana, after my interview in Billings. Views like this melted any interview jitters away.
Split Rock Lighthouse
Star Trails
Kirsten Larson, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth

WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO:
This was inspired by my passion for astrophotography, as well as by my hope to capture an image highlighting the movement of the stars across the sky. I thought the contrast between the steadfast lighthouse and the moving stars would create an interesting image.

Life Reflections on Lake Superior
Dema Alniemi, Mayo Medical School

WHAT INSPIRED THIS PHOTO: Lake Superior proved to be the perfect location for my brother and me to have a deep discussion about the importance of work-life balance. This photo captures the essence of the conversation we shared that day.