

Name: Edwin Bogonko, MD, MBA

Candidate For: President-Elect

City of Residence: Lakeville

MMA Trustee District: Twin Cities

Primary Practice Name/Location: St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Shakopee

Specialty: Internal Medicine, Hospitalist

Why Are You Running for this Position: For the last 30 years, I have understood what a privilege it is to be a physician. To support patients in their journey towards sustained health, to advocate for an environment that preserves the physician/patient relationship on the one hand, as well as a fair playing field for physicians to practice their trade on the other. First, while serving in the Twin Cities Medical Society for which I had the honor to be President, it was very clear to me that being involved in organized medicine is an indispensable obligation to give back to a profession that has granted so many of us so much as the privilege to care for others. I witnessed firsthand how involving our communities in public health initiatives including smoking cessation, tobacco 21 and obesity prevention made such a huge impact to the public health. Second, for the last 6 years I have served the MMA in various capacities including the last 3 as Board Chair. Advocating for patients in this great state and for the sustenance of quality health care to ensure a healthy population is something that I hold dear and promote amongst fellow physicians. COVID-19 enabled the MMA, through consistent content webinars, to support physicians take care of patients regardless of their locale. I appreciate that it will take all of us to achieve the ultimate goal of making Minnesota the healthiest state in the nation and to meet the challenges that lie ahead from among others, insurers, politicians, government and those that seek to encroach on the scope and value of physicians' practice. In continuing this work, I am running for MMA President-elect to be a fearless advocate for patients, their physicians and for the health of Minnesotans. To amplify the MMA as the trusted voice for healthcare in MN.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: I have been a member of the Board of Trustees for the maximum 3 terms (nearly 9 years). I have served on the Finance & Audit committee, first as a member then as Chair while serving as Secretary/Treasurer. My experience helping navigate the financial challenges we faced during the pandemic, and being part of some complex negotiations on behalf of the MMA leaves me well grounded on why a self-sustaining MMA is good for our mission long term. I am confident the MMA is in its strongest position ever.

For the past 3 years, I have served as Board Chair. In close consultation with the CEO and the Executive Committee, we steered the MMA through a difficult pandemic and the organization is all better for it. We have led the way incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion in the conduct of our business and look forward to supporting physicians seeking self-care. Providing fair market opportunities to our staff in order to execute on our collective mission has seen us improve our benefit structure so we can retain our incredibly talented staff. And not forgetting the many tough decisions we have had to make along the way.

I understand the role of the MMA and the value we offer, physicians, their patients and the state in general in preserving that which is good about MN healthcare. My experience through many roles of MMA leadership has exposed me to multiple great physician leaders with whom I hope to continue working with through the MMA to face the challenges ahead.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I subscribe to collaborative leadership and to be a servant first. In my leadership journey, I have tried to exemplify humility, good listenership as well as allow dialogue that gives even the minority of 1 a chance to be heard. My experience on multiple boards, participation in tough negotiations and decision-making, and being unafraid to state matters as they are has allowed me to be trusted by many to always do the right thing, however unpleasant. I bring a diverse set of leadership skills that are balanced, accommodating and will always lead with the tenet of being fair, just and equitable.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): Having been on the board for nearly 9 years now, I have seen the evolution of the MMA's strategy while being front and center in crafting successive iterations. The institutional knowledge, my connection with MN physicians and my unrelenting desire to support physicians through self-care, well-being and professional satisfaction will allow me to continue to contribute to advancing the member facing parts of the MMA strategic plan. Leading the work of leadership and finding the next generation of physician leaders through the MMA's new Leadership Institute as well as other physician engagements is critical to the MMA's future success. I will champion this. Above all, I know we can only succeed together - with other physician groups, healthcare organizations and those friendly to the MMA agenda - this will advance the MMA's broader community impact and help us to be viewed as a trusted leader, voice, resource for our partners, members and their patients. Lastly, I hope to continue advocating for a self-sustaining MMA through solid financial health.

Name: Lynn D. Cornell, MD (incumbent)

Candidate For: Trustee

City of Residence: Rochester

MMA Trustee District: Southeast

Primary Practice Name/Location: Mayo Clinic, Rochester

Specialty: Pathology

Why Are you Running for this Position: The MMA is best able to represent Minnesota's entire physician community when its leadership, including the Board of Trustees, is itself diverse. I can offer insights from my experience in a large medical center outside of the Twin Cities, and from the field of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. Traditionally there have not been many pathologists involved in MMA leadership; as a pathologist, I believe I can offer a different perspective regarding physician interests and patient care. I have served on the MMA Board for nearly 6 years; during this time, I have learned more about how the MMA operates and how I can better participate in the organization.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: I served on MMA committees for 9 years - the Committee on Health Care Access, Financing & Delivery, and the Public Health Committee; and currently am on the Governance Committee. Prior to the proposed state constitutional amendment proposal to ban same-sex marriage in 2012, I proposed that the MMA develop policy on marriage equality, which was eventually adopted by the Board. I also submitted a policy proposal through the MMA's new platform, The Pulse, on the topic of healthful food options in healthcare facilities, which was adopted by the Board. I have encouraged other MMA members to review policy proposals and submit their own through this new platform. I am a regular participant in the MMA Day at the Capitol and have attended the Annual Conferences and online learning programs that the MMA offers. I have served as a Trustee for Southeastern Minnesota for two terms (nearly 6 years).

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: As a physician I am involved in clinical practice, research, and education. I am particularly proud of starting a fellowship program at Mayo Clinic in my specialty area (renal pathology) and serving as the program director. I have been involved in my medical specialty society (Renal Pathology Society) for the past 16 years, and currently serve on that organization's Board of Directors, and so I can bring insights from that experience to the MMA. I am also interested in public health and patient access to health care; I would like to work with the MMA to advocate for these issues. Looking beyond 2023, I see the main issues to be addressed are: 1) medical center staffing shortages, physician burnout, and healthcare workforce consequences of Covid-19; 2) how physicians can practice medicine, engage in teaching, and conduct research in an equitable and inclusive manner; 3) healthcare access for all Minnesotans, particularly vulnerable populations; and 4) encouraging and enabling youth in underrepresented minority groups to develop an interest in medicine and eventually enroll in medical school.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): I am eager to contribute to the MMA mission. I am enthusiastic, dedicated, and committed to quality work. I discuss with my colleagues the MMA's initiatives, and try to engage other physicians, especially trainees, to participate in advocacy work related to healthcare. I study emerging issues where the MMA can have an influence, and engage with MMA staff and physicians and policy experts in other specialty areas to educate myself and to inform MMA policy.

Name: Saam Dilmaghani, MD, MPH (incumbent)

Candidate For: Trustee

City of Residence: Rochester

MMA Trustee District: Southeast

Primary Practice Name/Location: Mayo Clinic Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship Program

Specialty: Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Why Are you Running for this Position: Thank you for considering me for a second term as the Resident/Fellow representative on the Minnesota Medical Association Board of Trustees. I continue to believe that policy and legislative involvement is critical for optimizing community health, maintaining effective and joyful medical practice, and empowering our professional community. The past two years on the MMA Board in the resident/fellow seat has reinforced this belief, as I have had the privilege of learning about, reflecting on, and participating in advocacy and legislative agenda items. These have included committee presentations and action items, review, and discussion of member comments in The Pulse, and update of the MMA Strategic Plan. The Board remains central, with inspiration and guidance from its membership, in directing the MMA priorities and resources. If elected for another 2-year term on the BOT, I aim to maximize the effectiveness and success of the Board and the MMA.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: My involvement with the MMA began during the 2020-2021 year while in my residency during which I served on the Resident Fellow Section (RFS) Governing Council as the Alternate Delegate to the AMA-RFS. I was able to attend the AMA RFS Annual Meeting and work with my Co-Chair to amend, finalize, and vote on key proposals. On the Governing Council, I helped plan, draft, and implement a survey to RFS members to identify priority areas and barriers to MMA participation. The following year I ran for the Board position as the resident/fellow representative. I enjoy participating in meetings and believe I maintain consistent attendance. In this role, I learned about the inner workings and strengths of the MMA and its committees, as well as our outstanding membership. One of the highlights thus far was reviewing and updating the MMA Strategic Map, which has significant implications for the future of health and medicine in the state. After taking the time to appreciate the intricacies of the MMA, this past year I made more effort to share my perspectives when productive and helpful. As a member, I regularly vote on items in The Pulse, and participated in one Day at the Capitol event. I will be attending our 2023 Annual Conference (evening session) where we welcome an esteemed guest. I have developed great respect for the work that is asked of the physicians in Minnesota, the staff at the MMA, and our community leaders, and hope to contribute further if elected for a second term.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: Regarding experiences, I have been an active member of the MMA, as outlined above, for nearly three years, allowing me to understand the role and processes of the organization. If re-elected, I will be able to build and capitalize on these experiences and guide the MMA (and its Board) as we continue to make Minnesota the healthiest state and the best place to practice medicine. My passion for advocacy

and legislation was first nurtured many years ago in the American Medical Student Association where I also held a leadership role. Since then, I found my way back to advocacy within the MMA. Community health and the interaction between policy, health, and medicine has also remained a key personal priority since my Master's in Public Health, and I will continue to bring this outlook to Board meetings. My attributes that are suited for being on the Board include my respect of colleagues (both leaders and members), attentiveness and preparedness during/to presentations, inclusivity and open-mindedness to multiple viewpoints, collegial demeanor with other Board members, and enthusiasm for advancing the mission and objectives of the MMA.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): On review of the Strategic Map, my background as a trained educator and passionate teacher prepared me to effectively and efficiently communicate with my peers. This is critical for all our strategies and outcomes, including the development of physician leaders and the communication of issues related to the successful practice of medicine in Minnesota. Furthermore, if re-elected to my position, I aim to use my background in public health with my colleagues on the Board to promote health equity, improve population health, maximize physician value and trust in the community. My background in public health also developed the technical skills that I am enthusiastic and prepared to share as a member of the Board, such as analysis of community data and how to translate findings into action as we develop legislative priorities and discuss committee proposals. One of the areas for which I can (and plan to) improve is with member communication and recruitment, which is listed as a key outcome in our Strategic Map. I am already working with MMA staff to organize an event towards this goal. Lastly, I will improve my understanding of MMA finances if elected for a second term, as finances ensure that the MMA can carry out its goals and mission.

Name: Elizabeth Elfstrand MD (incumbent)

Candidate For: Trustee

City of Residence: Minneapolis

Trustee District: Twin Cities

Primary Practice Name/Location: Haugen OB/GYN, Minneapolis

Specialty: OB/GYN

Why Are you Running for this Position: I have been in private practice for 30 years and have witnessed lots of changes for physicians and in the practice of medicine. I did not just sit back and watch but jumped right in with being very involved in leadership positions. At my primary hospital, Abbott Northwestern, I was involved in peer review for 20 years, department chair and then OB Medical director and led Allina Pregnancy Care Committee. In my specialty organization, ACOG, I was the vice chair/legislative chair and then chair of Minnesota ACOG and really became more involved in advocacy and understood the importance of not being on the sidelines but trying to help shape the future of medicine. I have now been a trustee of the MMA over the last three years, which of course was altered because of the pandemic, and I look forward to continuing to be a part of this high quality organization.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: I have been involved for years at Doctor's Day at the Capitol and the last three years I have been a MMA Trustee.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I am an extrovert and really like connecting with other people. That means I know a lot of physicians because I make a point of trying to reach out and meet them in my hospital, my specialty and in my community. I have experience doing advocacy work both at the state and national level. I have shown my dedication by showing up at our meetings and participating for years at our Day at the Capitol and annual conferences.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): The MMA is very progressive and I think is not fully appreciated by all the physicians in our state. We need to continue to draw people in and have them see the work that is being done like the Physician Forums, The Pulse, and the annual conference. I want to see growth of our membership and highlight what the MMA can do for its members.

Name: Dania Kamp, MD, FAAFP (incumbent)

Candidate For: Trustee

City of Residence: Sturgeon Lake

MMA Trustee District: Northeast

Primary Practice Name/Location: Gateway Family Health Clinic, Moose Lake, MN

Specialty: Family Medicine

Why Are you Running for this Position: I have been a trustee on the MMA Board for the past 3 years and would like to continue my service to the physicians and patients in MN. The MMA is a respected voice in health care policy and I enjoy collaborating with colleagues and interested parties to advance the practice of medicine in our state.

Now more than ever, we need to have physicians who are engaged in health care policy and reform. We need to use our collective voice to help make our practices viable and enjoyable, and to help reduce the inequalities that exist in Minnesota's health care delivery.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: I have been actively involved in medical leadership for the MAFP and MMA for years, serving for the past 3 years as a trustee on the MMA Board. Prior to my Board service, I actively participated in several MMA task forces, and continue to be involved in Day at the Capitol. I have testified on behalf of the MMA at the State Capitol regarding a prior authorization bill. As a Past President of the MAFP, I worked closely with the MMA to help advance our mutual goals and policy agenda.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I have years of service to both the MAFP and MMA, serving on the MMA Board for the past 3 years, and as president of the MAFP from 2016-17. Currently, I serve as one of two delegates from MN to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Congress of Delegates. I understand health care policy at a local, state and national level. My role as a representative is to be a voice for our members, to serve the organization's goals.

Being a family physician, I've always had a variety of interests in medicine. As co-owner of my clinic, I bring the unique perspective of a business owner and non-employed physician to the board. Having lived and worked in a rural area for my entire 18 years of practice, I am passionate about rural health care and access to care, especially maternity health and inequities in this. I enjoy working with the many medical students and residents we have rotating through our clinic. Outside of medicine, I love to read, hike and travel, and am currently on a sabbatical traveling around the US and Canada with my partner, Kara.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): Having helped develop the current strategic plan as a Board trustee, I feel I know it well. I believe in the strategies we listed as a board: Advocate, Engage, Empower and Inform, and the duty we have to our members to do all of these. My 3 years on the board have helped me understand the direction/goals of the board, along with the importance of our members' voices, such as through the Pulse.

Name: Stephen Palmquist, MD, MBA

Candidate For: Trustee

City of Residence: Duluth

Trustee District: Northeast

Primary Practice Name/Location: Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital, Duluth

Specialty: Family Medicine

Why Are you Running for this Position: I am running for a Trustee position to help give voice to a wider range of Minnesota physicians. I believe that adding strong voices at the Trustee position from around the state will better represent the broad range of physicians and opinions held by our members. With wider range of voices and opinions at the Trustee level I believe we can better strengthen and expand physician involvement in the MMA and advance our mission of making MN the healthiest and best place to practice.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: My involvement began in medical school as a student member in 2014. I rotated through many of the committees during this time and eventually held the position of president of the MMA student section. Since graduating from medical school, I have been active in the MMA Foundation, serving on that board and as the Foundation's Treasurer.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I would bring to the table a range of experiences and passions that will assist me in being an effective Trustee. I have held several different positions in the non-profit sector including starting a non-profit, being a grant evaluator for a major foundation, and being treasurer of the MMA Foundation to name a few. I have learned how to help build an effective mission driven non-profit which I can bring to the MMA Trustee position. The passion that I bring is in giving voice to a wider range of physicians across the state. There are many physicians who are not members and a large number who are members but not active. I hope to show more physicians the impact the MMA can have and help increase the number of active physicians from across our state.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): As outlined in the MMA's strategic plan, a large part of fulfilling our mission relies on physician engagement, empowerment, and keeping physicians informed on key issues. In order to effectively accomplish this we need Trustee's who understand the wide range of issues that impact physicians across the state, the diverse opinions in our profession, and how to include a growing number of people in our decision making process. If elected I would prioritize listening to these opinions, making sure more physicians feel the MMA is hearing their concerns, communicating what we are doing back to physicians across the state. By doing this, I believe we can grow physician involvement and the strength of MMA.

Name: Caleb R. Schultz, MD, MPH
Candidate For: Trustee
City of Residence: Minnetonka
MMA Trustee District: Twin Cities
Primary Practice Name/Location: Mayo Clinic, Rochester
Specialty: Anesthesiology

Why Are you Running for this Position: I would like to help the MMA attain greater recognition as an indispensable leader in developing and advocating for robust community and public health initiatives. To do this we must utilize members to engage on a local grassroots level with school systems and municipal/county health boards (and aid in the creation of such advisory bodies when absent) in an effort to ensure local and school-based decision-making has a “health in all policies” approach. By redoubling our efforts in this way, the MMA can morph into an organization that feels more like a movement for creating a healthful and equitable society. Such a movement will draw new physicians to membership from around the state and keep that membership active. Further, I have eagerly engaged in leadership opportunities within the MMA for several years and see participation on the Board as a natural progression in my service to the physician community statewide.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: I served on the MMA Board as the elected representative of the Policy Council in my 6th and final year in active service. Unfortunately, due to term limits, I was not able to continue in this role on the MMA Board. While on the Policy Council, I led efforts to rewrite and update the MMA policy on gun violence prevention and a Minnesota public insurance option. I also served on the Board of the Twin Cities Medical Society for 6 years. While in residency at Mayo Clinic I served on the Zumbro Valley Medical Society Legislative Committee. And finally, I currently serve on the Minnesota Firearm Safety and Suicide Coalition of which the MMA is the convener.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: As an Edina Community Health Commissioner I sparked the statewide effort on Tobacco 21 by leading the advocacy and community organizing efforts that resulted in Edina becoming the first city in the state to enact a ban on the sale of all tobacco-related products to anyone under 21 years of age. Knowing the MMA had my back was a tremendous help. I carried on the same work when I moved to Minnetonka to get it passed in my new city of residence and then continued the momentum through lobbying and expert testimony before the State legislature. I plan to bring this grassroots experience to drive the MMA Board to fight for and achieve major public health wins for our state. I'll also bring my non-profit leadership Board experience as reflected in my appointment to the Protect Minnesota Board (C4) and election as Member-at-Large on the Minnesota Public Health Association Governing Council.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): One of the things I really value about the MMA is the way it provides a community connection for physicians of various specialties, career stages, and locations around the state. This community also brings collective advocating

power which can translate into better practice environments. Additionally, I believe the MMA should make stronger efforts “to make Minnesota the healthiest state.” I hope to turn the full attention of the MMA Board and our membership to confronting and eliminating the shameful health disparities that quite frankly make Minnesota the least healthy state for some of our residents. Despite the discomfort it may cause certain members, we in the MMA need to push specific policies that make it plain to all that the MMA really does want to make Minnesota the healthiest state.

Name: David L. Smith MD (incumbent)

Candidate For: Trustee

City of Residence: Sartell

MMA Trustee District: North Central

Primary Practice Name/Location: Sartell Pediatrics, Sartell MN

Specialty: General Pediatrics

Why Are you Running for this Position: The MMA serves an important role in advocating for physicians and making sure their best interests are represented at a state level. The longer I've practiced the more I've realized that the business/advocacy within medicine is so important and often under appreciated.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: Over the past 9 months I've had the privilege of serving as a trustee for the North Central Trustee District (I was elected by the Board to fill a vacancy of a previous trustee who resigned and left the state). During this time I've gained a better understanding of the MMA and how I can contribute to the success of the organization. I've been a member of the MMA since moving here in 2005. I attended my second physicians Day at the Capitol this past year and plan to become more involved over the next few years as my two children are out of the house (college and hockey).

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I am the son of a family practice physician who was in a private practice in Ohio and now we have a private pediatric practice for the last 10 years. Private practice is more of a rarity in this state and I hope to be able to promote this type of medicine. Being an advocate for children and especially mental health services has always been important and we made it a focus of our practice by having psychologists on staff.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): I hope to further the MMA's strategic plan by encouraging other physicians to become involved and sharing the importance of the MMA to the future of medicine in Minnesota. As a trustee, I would have the ability to help prioritize the group's goals and direct the energy and resources to accomplish these objectives.

Name: Andrea Hillerud, MD (incumbent)

Candidate For: AMA Delegate

City of Residence: Eagan

MMA Trustee District: Twin Cities

Primary Practice Name/Location: HealthPartners / CVS, Bloomington

Specialty: Family Medicine

Why Are you Running for this Position: I believe physicians deserve a strong voice at the national level through professional organizations like the AMA because for most, medicine is a calling, leaving little time or energy to advocate for ourselves. I would be proud to continue to serve as a delegate to the AMA, and sincerely hope you will support my candidacy. I consider physician wellness & satisfaction, practice sustainability and physician workforce adequacy key issues for the AMA, and am eager to hear from you about concerns you would like the AMA to address on our behalf.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: I have been an MMA member since relocating to Minnesota, after practicing full spectrum family medicine in Wisconsin. I had the privilege of serving on the Minnesota Medical Association Medical Practice & Quality Committee, the forerunner to the MMA's Equity in Access & Quality policy committee, and enjoy participating at MMA annual conferences and monthly physician forums. I currently serve on the MMA's delegation to the American Medical Association.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I have experience practicing broad scope family medicine including obstetrics, ER and in-patient care. As a result of this experience, I believe our patients deserve a health system that recognizes the need for a solid foundation in primary care, in addition to providing high quality tertiary care. I also firmly believe our physicians deserve a system that recognizes and rewards our commitment to our patients by supporting physician well-being and long term practice sustainability.

I've been told I am a good listener. While this is a critical skill for any family physician, as a delegate to the AMA it is similarly important to actively listen to the voices of our collective MMA membership, to ensure Minnesota physicians are represented at the national level.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): I hope to help reinforce and strengthen the MMA's position as the leading voice of medicine by helping advocate for AMA policies that address critical healthcare issues.

Name: Cindy Firkins Smith, MD MHCI (incumbent)

Candidate For: AMA Delegate

City of Residence: Spicer, MN

MMA Trustee District: Southwest

Primary Practice Name/Location: CentraCare-Willmar Main Clinic

Specialty: Dermatology

Why Are you Running for this Position: The Minnesota delegation to the American Medical Association brings Minnesota issues to the attention of the AMA. We have been extremely successful gaining collaborative support for Minnesota's concerns and priorities. The delegation has developed a reputation for thoughtfulness, collaboration and leadership and we are now in a position where some of our delegates can seek leadership positions within the AMA, a process which takes time and influence. I believe that one of the most important roles of a physician-leader is to create more physician-leaders. I see my primary delegation role as one of leaning into my experience and relationships to support and inspire our next generation of Minnesota delegation AMA leaders.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: My membership in the MMA dates back to my first day of medical school 41 years ago. (I have NO idea where the time has gone!) I became an active member as a young physician when I recognized that our rural community needed someone to step up and lean in. Over the decades I have played many roles for the MMA and had the privilege to serve as president ten years ago. Through all those years my goals have remained the same: to listen well and serve faithfully, be a voice for patients, share the physician experience and the vital role we play in caring for Minnesotans, and remind those who live elsewhere of the unique health care challenges we face in rural Minnesota. I often remind students that as physicians we have the opportunity to make someone's life better every day, but if we work outside our clinics and hospitals and advocate at the legislature or in court, or in a boardroom we can improve the lives of scores of patients for generations; such is the power of advocacy. The MMA allows us to wield that power and purpose.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I am a rural physician servant-leader. I have led multiple professional organizations, including the MMA. I have helped transform a rural multispecialty clinic, been tapped to build a rural health division and am now working with the University of Minnesota to create a Rural Medical Campus in St. Cloud. My only ambition is to make things better. My "area of expertise" beyond dermatology is rural health care. The best compliment I have ever received was from a medical student when she told me, "I want to be just like you."

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): If I read the four MMA Strategies: Advocate, Engage, Empower and Inform, I've lived all four of them for four decades. My advocacy for patient safety, rural health and other issues spans my entire career. Connection, building trust, community and engagement are key to my leadership tenets and were the core principles of my MMA presidency. Creating physician-leaders is one of my primary goals for

my remaining career years, and one of the main reasons I seek to return to this role. And though communication is ALWAYS a challenge (seven times, seven ways?) I strive to be clear, transparent, authentic, and always honest. I don't think there is any better way to advance the MMA's Strategic Plan or Strategies than to live them.

Name: Lisa R. Mattson MD, FACOG (incumbent)

Candidate For: AMA Alternate Delegate

City of Residence: Plymouth

MMA Trustee District: Twin Cities

Primary Practice Name/Location: NA

Specialty: OB/Gyn

Why Are you Running for this Position: I am running for re-election as an Alternate Delegate to the AMA representing the Minnesota Medical Association. I have been active in organized medicine since medical school because of my belief that physicians need to be at the table to participate in decisions that affect us and our patients. I bring years of experience from clinical practice and my involvement with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and MMA. My background has helped me improve my skills in diplomacy, look for the unanticipated consequences of our policy requests, and prepare me to better guide our medical students and residents to be effective future leaders in health care.

Summary of MMA Involvement/Experience: I have been involved in many MMA activities dating back to medical school when I was on the Zumbro Valley Medical Society Legislative Committee. During residency and my early career I was actively involved with State and National ACOG positions and committees and then became more involved in Minnesota organized medicine again. Within the MMA I have served on multiple committees including Chair of both the Policy Council and the Health Care Access, Financing & Delivery Committee. I have participated in many committees including Ethics, Choosing Wisely, MN Action to Reduce Costs in Health Care (MARCH), and the Payment Policy Reform Subcommittee. I have served as a MMA Board member, and have been a member of reference committees at the AMA since the beginning of my tenure as an alternate delegate.

What Skills, Attributes, Experiences Will You Bring to the MMA: I am passionate about improving the health of our patients and also about improving physicians' ability to provide good health care and find joy in their careers. I have been a victim of burnout, and rather than becoming apathetic, I have tried to use my own experiences to help my colleagues and make it better for a new generation of physicians. I have lobbied for changes in health care at both the State and National levels. Prior to medical school, I was a high school science teacher and my teaching skills have helped me explain complex medical issues to legislators who often have minimal knowledge of health care. I have also tried to be a mentor to the medical students and residents at the AMA to help them obtain the results they desire.

How Will You Help Advance [MMA's Strategic Plan](#): I believe that Minnesota is the healthiest state and the best place to practice medicine. People watch to see what we do in Minnesota and the voice of the MMA is well respected. I strive to represent the strengths of the MMA in all my encounters. I am a strong advocate for patients and my colleagues who are trying to provide the best health care possible. I have learned to collaborate (and am continually honing my skills) with the many players in the health care system from fellow physicians to advanced practice

providers, to patients, and to our elected officials. Clarifying evidence-based medical knowledge is a priority for me and I am always willing to do the research necessary to strengthen the wording in a resolution or speak up to share my clinical expertise if necessary. I collaborate with others to help identify viable solutions and/or potential compromises when dealing with controversial issues and I try to understand the reasons for any opposition or the potential for unintended consequences whenever possible. I always try to be a team-player and have enjoyed the camaraderie of the MMA delegation to the AMA. As an alternate delegate, I feel that I have only begun to understand the complexities of AMA meetings and I hope to be re-elected to this position so I can continue with the excellent work that happens at a national level.