

Report #5, West Metro Trustee District

To: Minnesota Medical Association House of Delegates  
Convening September 17, 2008

As the West Metro Trustees of the Minnesota Medical Association, it's been our pleasure to represent the nearly 4,100 members of the West Metro Medical Society (WMMS). We, and our WMMS colleagues, have had a very productive year since our House of Delegates last met.

The physicians of WMMS continued to be involved in preventing exposure to secondhand smoke. After successful work in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Edina, Golden Valley, and Bloomington, the WMMS established the Partnership for a Smoke Free Scott County, supported by a contract from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. Since the passage of the Freedom to Breathe Act, the focus of our effort has been to support the implementation of the new statewide law. Several physicians have taken a visible role in this project, serving as the project spokesperson, overseeing the project on a day-to-day basis, and writing letters to the editor and op-ed pieces for their local newspapers.

The WMMS continues to be active in the area of advocacy. We continue to monitor what's going on at the Legislature through our own staff attendance at meetings and that of the Government Affairs Department of Lockridge Grindal Nauen as well as our membership on the Minnesota Provider Coalition (MPC) and the Minnesota Medical Group Management Association's Government Affairs Committee. During the 2008 legislative session, the WMMS, in collaboration with the Minnesota Medical Association and the East Metro Medical Society (EMMS), monitored health care reform, the translator bill, and workers compensation reform, among other issues. We are committed to working closely with the MMA to make sure our voices continue to be heard locally and at the Capitol.

This year, Congressman Keith Ellison and his constituent services coordinator Mike Siebenaler participated in a surgical care team observation at Abbott Northwestern Hospital under the auspices of the WMMS/EMMS Community Internship Program. The Community Internship Program was created to provide leaders in the community, government, and business the opportunity to experience the practice of medicine from a physician's perspective and to observe the actual operations of our health care system at the point of delivery.

The Metropolitan Hospital Physician Leadership Committee, a joint committee of the WMMS and EMMS, has continued to meet and address issues concerning the practice of medicine.

- In response to a proposed change to the medical staff bylaws issued by the Joint Commission relating to medical staff governance, the Joint Commission established a MS 1.20 Implementation Task Force. Paul Kettler, M.D., and alternate representative T. Michael Tedford, M.D., participate in the work of this Task Force.

- Based on a recommendation made by this committee, the Joint Commission is rewriting the standard relating to history and physicals by non-medical staff members to more realistically accommodate patient care;
- A recommendation was also made to the Joint Commission to develop a process for standardization of medication reconciliation;
- A metro-wide effort to collect immunization information on physician medical staff members resulted in a successful pilot project, bringing together hospital representatives and the Minnesota Department of Health. The Minnesota Immunization Information Connection database demo was completed and is ready for roll-out to all hospital medical staffs.

WMMS and EMMS leadership again participated in the University of Minnesota's White Coat Ceremony acknowledging each incoming medical student with the gift of a reflex hammer.

WMMS, in conjunction with the Minnesota Medical Foundation, the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, and the EMMS continue to promote the Connections program, which creates mentoring opportunities that connect practicing physicians with medical students.

*MetroDoctors*, the journal of the WMMS and EMMS, serves as the primary communication vehicle to our membership and continues to receive favorable reviews.

The WMMS looks forward to a successful 2009 and is committed to continuing to work closely with the MMA on membership and advocacy issues.

Michael B. Ainslie, M.D.  
Beth A. Baker, M.D.  
Karen K. Dickson, M.D.  
Donald M. Jacobs, M.D.  
Roger G. Kathol, M.D.  
Karin Tansek, M.D.  
West Metro Trustees