



APRIL 14: DULUTH STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (MMA) HOSTS STATE SPRING EDUCATION DAY

The Duluth medical student chapter of the MMA is hosting this year's annual, state-wide Spring Education Day on April 14, from 3:30 – 7:30 on the UMD Campus in the Kirby Ballroom. A light dinner will be served so if you plan to attend, please RSVP by April 1. See RSVP list below.

Duluth campus medical students, Karlyn Halfaker, President of the Duluth chapter and Hope Pogemiller, Chair of the event committee, planned the day which features a variety of speakers who will comment on the Physician's Plan for a Healthy Minnesota. Proposed by the Minnesota Medical Association's (MMA) Health Care Reform Task Force, the MMA describes the plan as "a bold new approach that seeks to ensure affordable health care for all Minnesotans."

Medical school students, faculty and physicians from around the state are invited to the event to hear:

- Don Jacobs, MD: (Keynote Speaker) CEO of Hennepin Faculty Associates; Chair of the Healthy Minnesota: A Partnership for Reform; MMA Board Member;
- Ruth Westra, DO, MPH: Chair of and Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at UMD; Family Practice Physician at the Gateway Family Health Clinic, Moose Lake, MN
- Representative Thomas Huntley, Ph.D.: Co-author of Healthy MN Plan; DFL Rep; Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Medicine and Department of Chemistry, College of Science and Engineering, UMD
- Paul Sanford, MD: Former Lake Superior Medical Society President; Internist at St. Luke's, Duluth, MN
- David Luehr, MD: Immediate Past President of MMA; Associate Professor at Schools of Medicine, UMD and UMN-Twin Cities; Family Practice Physician at Raiter Clinic, Cloquet, MN.

To RSVP or for more information contact: Duluth Chapter Pres. Karlyn Halfaker: half0029@d.umn.edu
Mayo Chapter Co-Pres. Jennifer Kruse: kruse.jennifer@mayo.edu and Co-Pres. Priyanka Gupta: gupta.priyanka@mayo.edu; Minneapolis Chapter Pres: Jason Meyers: jdm@umn.edu



**BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK:
DULUTH MEDICAL CAMPUS REACHES RECORD
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS**

**Gary Davis, interim senior associate dean,
congratulates Brain Awareness Week participants
on community outreach records.**

University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus students and faculty celebrated a record year for community education outreach via Brain

Awareness Week. 5700 fifth and sixth grade students in 64 schools in communities throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin participated in interactive presentations as Duluth medical students and professors told them all about the brain. Last year the Medical School Duluth Campus reached 5275 students at 60 schools.

The Medical School Duluth Campus has participated in the international initiative called "Brain Awareness Week" for ten years. The first year the program started modestly with three schools hosting presentations. By the end of March 2007, more than 25,000 students in more than 100 schools in 60+ towns will have participated in a Duluth Brain Awareness presentation.

On March 19, the Medical School Duluth held a ten-year celebration in honor of the approximately 250 volunteers who've made those totals happen.

Gary Davis, Ph.D. interim senior associate dean of the Medical School, Duluth Campus, recognized the work of the students and faculty at a celebration event on March 19. "I can't think of a better example of public service and public engagement than what you have done during Brain Awareness Week," he said.



JOYCELYN DORSCHER, MD, NAMED CO-CHAIR OF CITY OF DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Joycelyn Dorscher, MD Director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health has been named co-chair of the American Indian Commission, an advisory board to the City of Duluth. Michele Gordon, MS.ed, a licensed therapist in Duluth is her co-chair.

The purpose of the commission is to guide the development of public policy, planning and services so that the American Indian community is represented in the process.

Commenting on her appointment Dorscher said, "The work of the commission is very important to me because we create a space and time where Native Americans can truly feel comfortable sharing their concerns, confident that they are heard and trust that we on the commission represent their voice fairly and strongly."

MATCH DAY RESULTS

Duluth campus closely watched Match Day results for seniors selecting family medicine or primary care residencies. The Duluth campus focuses is on developing family and primary care doctors to practice in rural areas.

Here's the overall picture of our 53 graduating seniors. Almost 55% chose primary care (which includes family, internal medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine / peds). All others chose a specialty.

Compared to national statistics

- 34% of Duluth students chose family medicine residencies, 4.5 times greater than the national average of 7.68%. 55% chose primary care residents (which includes family med), 3.6 times the national average of 15% (15% is from an article distributed by the AAMC).
- 50% of our alumni are in family practices. 67% are in primary care (which includes family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and internal medicine/pediatrics). Our numbers selecting family medicine residency have been as high as 70% and as low as 28% since our first students graduated in 1976.



**BARBARA ELLIOTT, PH.D. SELECTED TO RECEIVE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
SERVICE AWARD**

The University of Minnesota has announced that Barbara Elliott, Ph.D. a professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus, will receive a prestigious [Outstanding Community Service Award](#). Elliott will receive the award on April 11 at a banquet at the McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis.

Established in 1999 by President Robert H. Bruininks, this award recognizes members of the University community who have devoted their time and talent “to make substantial, enduring contributions to the community and to improving public life and the well-being of society.”

Five people from all University campuses were selected for the recognition.

In his congratulatory letter to Elliott, Victor Bloomfield, the University’s Associate Vice President of Public Engagement said, “We very much value your contribution to the community and recognition to the University of Minnesota for your work in advancing adolescent health care, your involvement with the TeenLife Center, and many other contributions to community service. It is obvious that your work, while related to your academic field, goes above and beyond what the University considers to be high professional standards.”

Announcing the award on the Medical School Duluth campus, Gary Davis, Ph.D., interim Senior Associate Dean of the Duluth medical school campus invited students and staff to “join me in congratulating Dr. Elliott on this wonderful achievement. Her work reflects positively on the Medical School and all of us.”

A professor of Family Medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School – Duluth Campus, Dr. Elliott focuses her research on social justice issues in health care settings. Currently most of her research evaluates access to health care for at-risk youth. Her research projects and her personal dedication support the Teen Life Center, a multi-program multi-site Center that provides year round, innovative, research-based programming for adolescents in Duluth, MN.

In 2006, Elliott was presented the UMD Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Research. Elliott is a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow, a program of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation that identified and offered training for emerging leaders to better serve communities and catalyze change.

NATIONAL BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS USMLE STEP 1 PERFORMANCE RESULTS

94% of Duluth campus medical students taking Step 1 of the US Medical Licensing Exam in 2006 passed. The pass rate for all examinees from U.S. and Canadian medical schools is 93%. The minimum passing score for the 2006 Step 1 administrations was 182. The mean score for Duluth students was 217. 45% of Duluth first-time examinees fell into the 216 – 230 range compared to 25% of students nationwide.