

# SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

*Values. Ethics. Advocacy.*

The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) is a professional organization of more than 1,900 members, including physicians, residents and medical students, who are all dedicated to protecting the health care interests of patients and enhancing the effectiveness of physicians throughout South Dakota.

The SDSMA's mission is to promote the art and science of medicine, protect and improve the health of the public, and provide leadership and advocacy in the field of quality health care. The SDSMA seeks to define and promote:

- Medical knowledge and science and high standards of medical education;
- Medical ethics and competence in the art of healing;
- Laws and regulations that protect and enhance the physician/patient relationship and improve access and delivery of quality medical care; and
- An understanding between the public and the medical profession.

The SDSMA Council of Physicians is the official policy-making body of the Association. The Council meets quarterly, including during the SDSMA's annual meeting. Special meetings of the Council may be called at the discretion of the SDSMA President or upon petition.

Individual members are encouraged to bring their issues before the SDSMA through the Council or its Executive Committee at any time. The Executive Committee or Council considers and acts on all issues.

The point of entry for membership in the SDSMA is generally through one of the 12 district medical societies or through a specialty society. District medical and specialty societies provide the opportunity for physicians to meet, socialize, strategize and collaborate with peers. Here, members can preserve and promote a unified front and discuss issues important to local physicians and patients.

The SDSMA's 2012 annual meeting is scheduled for May 30 – June 1 in Sioux Falls. The SDSMA's Web site, [www.sdsma.org](http://www.sdsma.org), allows physician members and others to keep up to date on current advocacy efforts at the state and national levels. The Web site also enables physicians to stay abreast on dynamic issues that have a direct impact on how they manage their practices.

The SDSMA also publishes *South Dakota Medicine*, a monthly peer-reviewed medical journal dedicated to publishing scholarly articles on practicing medicine, member news updates and profiles of doctors across the state.

For more information on the SDSMA, contact Megan Myers, SDSMA Director of Communications, at 605.336.1965 or [mmyers@sdsma.org](mailto:mmyers@sdsma.org).