MSSNY WORKS FOR YOU!

MSSNY Users Guide:
How to make the most of your MSSNY membership

LEARN MORE INSIDE about how membership benefits you!
Welcome to the Medical Society of the State of New York

Dear Doctor,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to membership in the Medical Society of the State of New York. Our goal is to protect the profession, protect your rights and income, advance your practice, and keep you informed. We specialize in effective and hard-hitting advocacy and, in partnership with our sixty county medical societies, we have been helping New York physicians set high professional and ethical standards since 1807.

By working together, New York physicians can achieve positive change in their offices and hospitals, in the courts and legislative chambers, and in patients’ homes, workplaces, and schools.

Membership is one of the best investments you can make in your professional future. This guide explains how your membership helps advance your profession on a global scale, while providing you with individual services and benefits that will advance your personal career.

We hope you’ll consider the many avenues for participating in our organization and helping direct our efforts to shape MSSNY, AMA and government healthcare policy.

Please call on us at any time. Your membership is an important statement of your commitment to your patients – and we are similarly committed to serving you.

With warmest regards,

Philip A. Schuh, CPA, MS
Executive Vice President
800-523-4405
516-488-6100 x398

The Seal of The Medical Society of The State of New York

The stick, with the snake curled around it, is the staff of Aesculapius (Roman), also called Asklepios (Greek), the ancient god of medicine. Aesculapius may have been a real person who was renowned for his gentle, humane remedies and his humane treatment of the mentally ill. His followers established temples of healing where the sick would spend a night while the proper remedies were revealed during a dream to the priests of the temple. The cured had to make a suitable sacrifice, usually a rooster, to the god. According to mythology, Aesculapius had a number of children, including Hygieia, the goddess of health, and Panaceia, the goddess of healing. Laurel or bay leaves were believed to have healing powers and to resist witchcraft; they were used for their narcotic properties when questioning the Oracle of Delphi.

Visit www.mssny.org
You’ll find a wealth of information on MSSNY benefits, activities, events and more.
Advancing Your Interests on a Global Scale

MSSNY WORKS FOR YOU!

Your Advocate in the New York State Legislature - the forum where most of the laws affecting your day-to-day practice originate.

MSSNY is YOUR representative. We are committed to policies that will enhance the delivery of quality medical care, and we work to ensure that your rights and the interests of your patients are fully recognized and reflected in all health policies adopted in New York State.

MSSNY’s leadership and its Division of Governmental Affairs monitor hundreds of state and federal legislative and regulatory proposals affecting health and healthcare each year, submit written positions and testimony at hearings, and conduct regular meetings with legislators, regulators and their staff.

Major areas of involvement today include physician collective negotiation, reducing prior authorization hassles and other insurance reforms, medical liability reform, improving care quality, and promoting and preserving public health.

Making the Most of Your Political Clout

Your Medical Society membership provides you with tools to leverage your influence. In addition to MSSNY lobbyists, legislators need to hear directly from physician constituents if they are to believe that an issue is of serious concern. We make this easy for you through the Grassroots Action Center on the MSSNY website, www.mssny.org. Here you can instantly contact the governor, your legislative leaders and your local representatives using messages we’ve prepared or your own edited versions.

MSSNY’s Legislative Agenda can be found on the Society’s website, www.mssny.org, or by calling our Albany Headquarters at 518-465-8085.

Join MSSNYPAC

Political action committees are voluntary associations of persons who share political objectives and pool resources. PACs play a vital role in the political process: they foster political participation and educate voters. MSSNYPAC helps elect legislators who share the views of New York State physicians on how to improve our health care system and helps ensure that your voice will be heard. Call 518-465-8085.

What is Our Advocacy Worth to You?

MSSNY takes on powerful special interests to ensure that your concerns are effectively represented. Don’t just acquiesce as big government, big insurance, big business and big hospitals reshape the healthcare system in their interest. Fight for yourself and your patients through membership.

Year in and year out, our presence in Albany has prevented harmful legislation from passing, saving physicians MANY times the cost of dues.

• MSSNY has been a highly visible partner in successful advocacy efforts to improve public health, including expanding immunization, raising the smoking age, and combating maternal mortality.
• MSSNY has successfully fought for numerous legislative initiatives that prevent health insurers from interfering with patients receiving the care and medications they need.
• MSSNY has successfully fought against numerous well-meaning but misguided practice mandates that would have taken time away from patient care delivery.
• MSSNY has consistently defeated persistent efforts by trial lawyers to increase liability exposure.
• Every broad scope of practice expansion bill proposed by or involving allied health professionals has been defeated by MSSNY.

Report Managed Care Abuses Through MSSNY’s Online Hassle Factor Form

If you believe that insurers are employing unfair business practices or are not complying with terms agreed to in our lawsuit settlements, please contact the Division of Socio-Medical Economics 800-523-4405 x332.

New or continuing tactics that seem unwarranted and unfair can be reported to MSSNY through our Online Hassle Factor form on our website www.mssny.org, under Practice Resources/Payer Relations.

CELEBRATING MORE THAN 200 YEARS AS THE VOICE OF NEW YORK PHYSICIANS

This historical timeline highlights important medical events in New York, including MSSNY activities that have affected physicians and patient care. The Medical Society of the State of New York has long been a major player in socioeconomic, legislative, legal, public health and medical education matters in the state and the nation.

1749

The “Weekly Society of Gentlemen in New York,” a group of physicians, meets to present medical papers.

1764

Cadwallader Colden, physician, farmer, surveyor, botanist and a lieutenant governor for the Province of New York, proposes the Medical Society concept to Benjamin Franklin.

1769

The New York Medical School, the first in New York and second in the New World, grants Bachelor of Medicine degrees to its class of two students.

1794

New York State Medical Society organized in New York City.

April 4, 1806

Enactment of law authorizing each county to form a local medical society, empowered to grant medical licenses to qualified applicants, as well as a state society divided into four districts, each of which can also license candidates.

June 10, 1806

Twelve physicians meet to begin organizing MSSNY.

Medical Society of the State of New York
Advancing Your Interests on a Global Scale

MSSNY WORKS FOR YOU!

**MSSNY’s wins enable the practicing physician to stay in business!**

MSSNY activities help protect your bottom line. If you are employed, your membership works to help your employer’s bottom line, and the information, education and services you receive through MSSNY make you a more valuable employee. It makes sense for employers to include MSSNY and County Medical Society membership as a benefit of employment. And a major portion of your dues may be tax-deductible.

**Public Health Is Key**

MSSNY’s Public Health and Education Division is committed to the science of protecting and improving the health of New York State communities by the promotion of healthy lifestyles, elimination of health disparities, and understanding of diseases and injury prevention.

MSSNY presents Category I CME programs, accredits institutions as CME sponsors, and provides a strong committee structure through which physicians help MSSNY develop policies and position statements on public health issues, and work with relevant state agencies to advance our public health goals.

**Your Advocate On All Fronts**

MSSNY has a history of success in challenging insurers’ unfavorable business practices. Earlier victories included the successful challenge to the validity of United Healthcare’s Ingenix database for determining out of network reimbursement rates, and settlements with numerous managed care organizations that won nearly $850 million in settlement funds and direct payments to physicians, and more than $1 billion in improved business practices.

But adverse business practices and egregious activities that increase our burdens and decrease the quality of care are always on the horizon. Whether the issue is surprise billing, pre-authorization requirements, coverage of anesthesiologist services during certain procedures, or one-sided employment contracts, we are on your side!

**We monitor the big players!**

**MSSNY WORKS FOR YOU!**

July 8, 1806

The MSSNY Bylaws are adopted.

February 5, 1807

MSSNY holds its first official meeting in Albany. William McClelland is elected first President.

1817

MSSNY takes first steps to establish a US pharmacopeia, in order to combat the chaotic state in which drugs and medications are compounded.

1819

Solicitation of dues is instituted, at a sum not to exceed $1 per year.

1821

MSSNY formulates and adopts a code of ethics, the first medical group in US to do so. This code becomes the model for the one adopted at the American Medical Association in 1847.

1826

The MSSNY Treasurer reports a balance of $113.75 ½, including a counterfeit $3.00 bill.

1839

John McCall of Utica starts a movement towards a national medical organization.
Valuable Benefits for Your Practice*

MSSNY has Staff Experts On Call to Assist You in the Following Areas
Call 800-523-4405 and the division extension indicated for friendly, personal service.

LEGAL QUESTIONS
Our General Counsel, the law firm of Garfunkel Wild PC, specializes in health care law and has extensive high-level experience within the regulatory and administrative services of the state government. With over 80 attorneys, Garfunkel Wild is able to serve all of our members’ needs from medical school to retirement. MSSNY members receive free consultations and reduced rates. Garfunkel Wild can help you negotiate, draft, and review all types of agreements: employment contracts, wills, and real estate agreements, shareholder and operating agreements; managed care/third-party payer participation agreements; billing and other vendor agreements. Moreover, the firm’s attorneys can work with our physicians to develop, implement and supervise corporate compliance programs, to prepare for and defend against both routine and more complex audits, investigations, and reimbursement appeals, and to protect your license before professional licensing boards.

PAYER PROBLEM ASSISTANCE
MSSNY’s S.M.E. Division offers you and your staff free assistance with questions relating to health insurance policies, and can help resolve claims-related disputes and questions re Medicare, Medicaid, Workers’ Compensation, No-Fault Auto programs, managed care, traditional indemnity plans, coding, billing, etc.

LOCAL DISCOUNTS
Access local deals and discounts through the Abenity app: movies, restaurants, office products, car maintenance, variety stores, theme parks, and more!

NEWS SERVICES
Communications (x355)
The Daily: a digest of clinical and other health-related news items with links to full articles in major news publications.
MSSNY eNews, delivered weekly to your e-mail address, provides updates on groundbreaking issues affecting physicians in the healthcare, legislative and government arenas. Includes “Currents Update” when the New York State Legislature is in session.
News of New York: MSSNY’s monthly electronic publication, presents pertinent information in full detail on issues affecting healthcare delivery in New York State.

CURRICULUM VITAE SERVICE
MSSNY’s Curriculum Vitae (CV) Production Service prepares CVs and personal statements. We copy edit for grammar and spelling, and reformat for better organization and flow.

CHART REVIEW & CODING SERVICES
Medco Consultants, Inc.
718-217-3802
www.medcoconsultants.com
info@medcoconsultants.com
A complete package of reimbursement services provided at special MSSNY member rates. All coding services are performed by a Certified Professional Coder (CPC) or Certified Professional Chatter Auditor (CMA). The program features FREE introductory patient encounter reviews for correct documentation and correct coding/billing of diagnoses and procedures, with additional patient encounters reviewed at a discounted rate.

MORNING/LUNCH/EVENING WEBINARS
Presentations, one hour or less, on public health, practice related matters and legal issues:
Governmental Affairs 518-465-8085

MAILING LIST / LABEL SERVICE
Information Services (x369)

MEDICAL DIRECTORY OF NEW YORK STATE

MSSNY Membership (x368)
As a member, you have access to our statewide directory of physicians (member and nonmember) and hospitals. The directory is searchable and is continually refreshed with up-to-the-minute data.

DISCOUNTED DEBIFRILLATORS
Simple to use, maintenance free.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
1846
Nathan Davis, a state society delegate from Broome County, leads the formation of the AMA by convening a meeting of physicians from all over the US at New York University.

1893
MSSNY is instrumental in forming the New York State Department of Health.

1899
MSSNY publishes the first Medical Directory of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. This title remains until 1951, when it becomes the Medical Directory of New York State.

1901
New York State Journal of Medicine begins publication.

1905
The first MSSNY headquarters building is established at 64 Madison Avenue, New York City. Rent is $500 a year.

1916
MSSNY establishes the Committee on Medical Economics.

1921
MSSNY organizes the Group Plan of Malpractice Insurance and Defense and creates the Legislation Bureau in Albany, the forerunner of the Division of Governmental Affairs.

1926
MSSNY amends its constitution and bylaws and establishes a Board of Trustees, transferring authority and management over Society funds from the Council to the Board.

* Benefits listed are as of January 2020, subject to change.
PHYSICIAN SUPPORT SERVICES
Committee for Physician Health (CPH)
518-436-4723
CPH provides confidential assistance to physicians, medical students and physician assistants suffering from substance use or other psychiatric disorders; monitors the treatment and clinical practice of program participants; and provides advocacy, support and outreach activities, including prevention and education.

MSSNY COMMITTEE FOR PHYSICIAN WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
To meet the profession’s needs, MSSNY has established this committee to increase education, awareness and recognition of stress and burnout and their effects on both the individual physician and the physician workforce, and to support physicians in optimizing their physical, emotional, cognitive and psychological well-being.

ALTGEST WEALTH MANAGEMENT
provides personalized financial guidance for physicians and their families; investments, creditor and asset protection, tax planning and student debt management. Learn more at www.altfest.com/physicians or call 212-406-0850.

REFI WITH SOFI
SoFi student loan refinancing lets you consolidate your loans at a much lower interest rate than banks offer. Benefits of SoFi include a welcome bonus, low variable and fixed rate options, and no hidden fees. SoFi offers member events, career advisory, a referral program, and more. Visit SoFi.com/MSSNY or contact customer service at 855-456-7634 or ask@sofi.com

PREMIER MERCHANT PROCESSING (PMP)
is a preferred merchant services provider for MSSNY. PMP specializes in designing the proper payment solution for your office to streamline your business acceptance practices.

COLLECTION SERVICE
I.C. Systems, Inc.
800-279-6620
Efficient collection services that help preserve the physician/patient relationship.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
800-269-6247
Members receive discounts on magazines for office and personal use. Call MSSNY Benefits for more information on the following 800-523-4405 x 355

NEW YORK RX CARD
The New York RX Card is a free and confidential point of sale prescription discount card that can save your patients up to 75% on prescription medications.

LOCAL DISCOUNTS
On movies, restaurants, office products, car maintenance, variety stores, theme parks, and more!

LA FITNESS
Exclusive discount for you and your family! Typical amenities include state-of-the-art equipment, free weights, basketball, racquetball, group fitness, yoga, indoor cycling classes, swimming pool, sauna, personal training, babysitting.

MSSNY TRAVEL DISCOUNT PROGRAM
Exclusive travel discounts average 10-20% below market on all hotels and car rental suppliers worldwide. Any hotel, any car, anywhere, anytime.

BROOKS BROTHERS
15% discount on full priced merchandise at all Brooks Brothers U.S. and Canadian stores, by phone and online.

PREMIER GEM
PremierGem offers MSSNY members a different and better way to save on quality diamond jewelry. Contact 212-319-5151 or steve@premiergemconcierge.com.

SCRUBS CLEARANCE STORE
Large variety of brands at huge savings. Visit smartscrubs.com/clearance and use site code “SAVE” to access deals.

More MSSNY Benefits
Save on these professional and personal services
Call 800-523-4405 x 355 for more information on the following

1927
MSSNY establishes the “Wear, Tear, Loss and Depreciation Fund,” later to become the Building Fund.

1936
The Workers’ Compensation Bureau is established as an arm of the MSSNY. The state Women’s Auxiliary holds its first meeting.

1937
MSSNY Women’s Auxiliary participates in the first pilot blood banks program. Founded in Chicago, some of the earliest hospital and community blood banks in the US are established in New York.

1971
MSSNY purchases and dedicates the Lake Success Headquarters building, modeled after a hospital in India.

May 25, 1975
A special session of the House of Delegates establishes the Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company to resolve a major crisis when all liability insurance carriers refuse to offer medical liability insurance in New York State.

2001
MSSNY initiates the largest class action lawsuit ever brought against managed care insurance companies, and joins with other state medical societies in an action leading to settlements worth over $1.6 billion to physicians.

2002
MSSNY receives a grant from the New York State Department of Health to manage a statewide bioterrorism education program.

2007
MSSNY secures state grants to educate and assist physicians with health information technology through the advancement of an interoperative health information technology infrastructure in New York State.

Valuable Benefits for Your Practice
MSSNY WORKS FOR YOU!
Educational Opportunities for Members Available Online

OVER 30 FREE CME PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE AT www.mssny.org “CME”
- Monthly Live Webinars
- An Interactive Platform
- Personalized Online Workspace
- Popular Public Health and Advocacy Topics
- 24-Hour Live Programming
- Instant CME Certification

For further information, contact Pat Clancy at 518-465-8085

RESIDENT/FELLOW/MEDICAL STUDENT SYMPOSUM
The Resident/Fellow and Medical Student Poster Symposium has been held annually since 2006 at the MSSNY House of Delegates meetings, offering a wonderful opportunity for our younger members to display their research and case studies.

2007
MSSNY embarks on a major campaign to lead key change in the tort and medical malpractice insurance environment in New York State as part of a special task force established by the Governor.

2008
MSSNY moves its Downtown Headquarters to Westbury.

2011
MSSNY embarks on a new approach to membership involving all members of a medical staff at a reduced rate.

2016
MSSNY’s intervention vastly improves the usefulness of the prescription monitoring STOP program through our insistence on modifications to reduce burdens on physicians.

2016
Based on a survey of NYS physicians, MSSNY forms its Committee for Physician Wellness and Resilience, focused on increasing education, awareness and recognition of the causes and effects of stress and burnout.

2017
MSSNY works with the NYS Office for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to develop a highly lauded required CME program on Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction, offered to MSSNY members free of charge.

2018
Our Telemedicine Work group focuses on policies, resources and opportunities MSSNY can provide to help members in providing or obtaining care for patients remotely.

Leadership Opportunities

Your medical societies offer numerous opportunities and paths through which to enter the leadership track. MSSNY’s leaders interact with officials and elected representatives at the highest levels of government, as well as with hospital and business leaders, insurance companies, key players in the AMA and specialty societies, and with the media.

Get involved through your county medical society, or through one of the MSSNY sections or committees that provide an entrance to top leadership roles as well as powerful learning experiences. International medical graduates, minority physicians, women, and salaried and group practice physicians have all been recognized as special constituencies whose increased participation and input MSSNY wants to encourage.

MSSNY COMMITTEES
Committee participation is a great way to hone your leadership skills, voice your opinions, and affect change. MSSNY offers dozens of committees covering the gamut of the work we do. New members are always welcome. Committee descriptions are available at www.mssny.org/About MSSNY.

THE PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY LIAISON NETWORK (PAL)
The PAL network makes grassroots contacts with legislators more defined and personal. PAL members are assigned as liaisons to their state legislators and meet personally with them at least twice a year. By developing close relationships with elected officials, the PAL Network gets MSSNY and the physician community’s message across in a more visible way at the local level.

HOW TO BE A GRASSROOTS ACTIVIST
MSSNY’s Grassroots Action Center is your link to reviews of current legislative issues of concern to physicians and tools for making your voice heard. Send model letters to legislators or your own versions to help advance quality health care for all New Yorkers and improvement in the professional lives of physicians. The site enables you to look up your federal and state representatives by zip code. www.mssny.org/Governmental Affairs/State Advocacy/ Grassroots Action Center.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Medical Society of the State of New York is a federation of 60 county medical societies. MSSNY is governed by a House of Delegates (HOD) whose members are elected by their colleagues in their county medical societies or other constituent groups. Between annual meetings of the HOD, MSSNY is governed by its Council, a body of 25 members elected by the HOD. The Council meets approximately every two to three months. In cases of emergency arising between Council meetings, authority falls to the ten member Executive Committee, which is appointed by the President from among the elected councilors and officers. Financial affairs are supervised by the seven members of the Board of Trustees, who are elected by the HOD.

MSSNY embarks on a new approach to membership involving all members of a medical staff at a reduced rate.

MSSNY works with the NYS Office for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to develop a highly lauded required CME program on Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction, offered to MSSNY members free of charge.
Networking Through Membership

Avenues For Involvement

MSSNY’s Special Interest Sections provide a means for their members to make local, statewide and national contacts, exchange ideas and have direct input into MSSNY and AMA policy.

Young Physicians Section (YPS)
The YPS is the voice of young physicians in New York. Young physicians are defined as age 40 or under, or within eight years of completion of residency/fellowship. YPS provides MSSNY with the perspective of young physicians in policy processes, educates young physicians on professional matters, and provides leadership opportunities. The section holds an annual state meeting and sends delegates to both the MSSNY annual and the national AMA assemblies. Many of the larger county societies also have young physician committees through which members can become active.

Resident and Fellow Section (RFS)
The RFS provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among resident physicians in New York State, provides programs and services that enhance the educational environment of resident physicians, and enables resident members to influence society policy. There are many opportunities to develop leadership skills, make professional contacts, and meet to socialize with local residents. The section sends delegates to both the MSSNY annual and the national AMA assemblies.

Medical Student Section (MSS)
The MSS provides a forum for student opinions and ideas that can influence MSSNY policy as well as the AMA’s. The MSS is proactive in community service and has been influential in establishing national health care policy. MSS programs have included, among many others, outreach and education regarding organ donation, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), blood and bone marrow drives, and AIDS. The section sends delegates to both the MSSNY annual and the national AMA assemblies.

Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)
OMSS is MSSNY’s grassroots physician organization, composed of representatives from organized medical staffs in hospitals, group practices and other physician organizations. OMSS can help your medical staff organization stay effective and strong and can deliver the message of physicians on medical staffs to MSSNY, the AMA, federal and state legislatures, health care agencies, the Joint Commission, the insurance industry, and other public and private sector groups.

Make Change Happen!

Do you have a good idea that can change healthcare delivery for the better? Are there changes you’d like to see your medical societies adopt?

Individual MSSNY members have started movements that have changed healthcare and their patients’ lives for the better. Recent achievements, such as vastly improving I-STOP legislation to reduce the burden on physicians, and securing the New York State Attorney General’s intervention when managed care organizations tried to set up physician tiering programs, have been significant in changing the rules under which physicians practice.

Bring your ideas to a county medical society or section meeting, or seek support through one of MSSNY’s committees or special sections. Committees are listed on the MSSNY website, and your county society or section can nominate you for appointment to one that interests you. Committees and sections can bring proposals to the MSSNY Council or House of Delegates for action.

The most direct way to propose an idea or action may be simply to pick up the phone and call MSSNY at 800-523-4405, or send an email to the appropriate staff person on our website www.mssny.org/About MSSNY/Divisions.
# Quick Guide to In-House Services

## MSSNY Member Resources

MSSNY staff are ready to assist you in any way possible and welcome the opportunity to do so. Call MSSNY’s Executive Headquarters at 516-488-6100 (toll free 800-523-4405) followed by the appropriate extension, or Albany Headquarters at 518-465-8085.

### Westbury MSSNY

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<td>Lobby Fax</td>
<td>516-282-7098</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>518-465-0976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditations for CME</td>
<td>518-465-8085 x317</td>
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<td>Continuing Medical Education</td>
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<td>518-436-7943</td>
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The Medical Society of the State of New York  
[www.mssny.org](http://www.mssny.org)

**EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS**  
865 Merrick Avenue  
Westbury, NY 11590  
516-488-6100  
Fax: 516-282-7098  

**ALBANY HEADQUARTERS**  
1 Commerce Plaza  
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 408  
Albany, NY 12210  
518-465-8085  
Fax: 518-465-0976