

## **Young Physician Event A Crowd-Pleaser**

Over 70 young physicians attended the latest networking event arranged through the MSSNY Young Physicians Section and sponsored by the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. Designed to help young physicians develop referral and social networks and to expand their understanding of issues impacting their careers, these events continue to grow in popularity.

The setting, food and drinks made the evening enjoyable, but the informative presentation and Q&A session conducted by North Shore LIJ CEO Michael Dowling highlighted the intensity with which physicians are seeking insight into the future of healthcare, and many who heard Mr. Dowling speak at a similar event last June returned to hear more of what he had to say.

Speaking from his broad experience in healthcare management and state government, Mr. Dowling addressed such topics as the future of health system reform, state and federal budget implications for medical practice, and relationships with health insurers.

**Asked how physicians can respond to negative forces affecting them and their patients, Mr. Dowling recommended membership in MSSNY as the means for physicians to develop professional consensus and wield their collective power.**

MSSNY President-Elect Leah McCormack, MD, reinforced that message in brief remarks highlighting the results of a MSSNY-commissioned study on the Economic Impact of the Private Practice Physicians in the State of New York. The study demonstrates the enormous impact of physicians on the local, state and national economy.

Private practice physicians are the seventh largest industry in New York State, with each physician employing an average of eight other workers. Salaries paid and products and services bought by private practice physicians are a huge contributor to the economy, and MSSNY will make use of the specialty and county-specific data to inform policy makers and thought leaders of the importance of a supportive environment for medical practice to prevent the loss of qualified physicians.

Event organizers David Podwall, MD, Bruce Rutkin, MD and Ian Storch, DO, created and shared lists of participants, their specialties and their contact information to support networking, and Dr. Podwall, chair of MSSNY's Young Physicians Section, noted that members can also participate in an online searchable directory of young physicians through MSSNY's website.

Mr. Dowling introduced MSSNY EVP and CEO Rick Abrams as a source for young physicians to contact for detailed information on MSSNY's strong lobbying efforts in Albany and in Washington, DC, and noted the excellence of MSSNY's lobbyists in representing the profession's interests.

Participants were urged to join their colleagues in traveling to Albany on March 9 for MSSNY Lobby Day to learn more and demonstrate their solidarity on political issues. County medical societies can provide details on transportation and arrange for young physicians to join their physician leaders in appointments with local legislators.