MSSNY Offers Three Hour CME Program on Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction

New York State requires every prescriber who has a DEA license to take a three hour continuing medical education (CME) program in Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction medicine by July 1, 2017 and every three years after that.

The Medical Society of the State of New York has developed an online program that meets New York State’s coursework requirements. The on-line course is now available at cme.mssny.org.

The MSSNY course includes the eight (8) statutory topics:
- New York State and federal requirements for prescribing controlled substances
- Pain Management
- Appropriate prescribing
- Managing acute pain
- Palliative medicine
- Prevention, screening and signs of addiction
- Responses to abuse and addiction
- End of life care

(Continued on page 20)

2017 House of Delegates Highlights

MSSNY Union Affiliation
MSSNY will open talks with the National Guild for Medical Professionals, Office and Professional Employees Union to ascertain if membership in the union would further the interests of New York State physicians.

Complete Treatment of Opioid Overdoses in the Emergency Room
MSSNY will strongly encourage all physicians and hospitals to advocate to patients the substance use treatment options available to them in treating addiction; encourage collaboration with multi stakeholders for integrated Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) for the management of addictions; and encourage physicians and other medical staff to become voluntarily certified to prescribe buprenorphine.

Survey: New York Physicians’ Attitudes Toward Medical Aid in Dying
MSSNY will conduct a survey to determine physician attitudes toward medical aid in dying and will present a report of findings to the MSSNY Council or House of Delegates. MSSNY’s Bioethics Committee will assist in the development of an unbiased survey on this issue. The medical societies of the states of CO, MD, CA and OR and Washington, D.C. have recently taken a neutral position on the aid in dying issue. Additionally, the AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs has been asked to examine the current landscape on this issue.

Sale of Health Insurance Across State Lines
MSSNY will oppose federal and state legislative proposals that would permit the sale of health insurance products in a state that does not comply with that state’s laws and regulations. The New York delegation will introduce a similar resolution at the June AMA House of Delegates meeting calling for similar action.

Reduce Physician Practice Administrative Burdens
MSSNY will work with the AMA and the federation of medicine to advocate to repeal the law that conditions a portion of a physician’s Medicare payment on compliance with the Medicare Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APM) programs. Should full repeal not be achievable, MSSNY will work with the AMA and the federation of medicine to advocate for legislation and or/regulation to significantly reduce the administrative burdens and penalties associated with compliance with the MIPS and APM programs. The New York Delegation will introduce a resolution at the June AMA House of Delegates calling for similar action.

Amendments to the Workers’ Compensation Law Section (Confidentiality of Workers’ Compensation Records)
MSSNY will seek legislation to strengthen Workers’ Comp law to reduce potential fraud and abuse by amending Article 110-a to allow physicians to report alleged discrepancies and apparent fraudulent activities by patients to Workers Comp for consideration.

Office Based Surgery Reimbursement
MSSNY will seek legislation to require

(Continued on page 20)
THERE’S A REASON DR. STIEFEL IS SO SUCCESSFUL.
HE’S GOT 3,500 PEOPLE WORKING FOR HIM.
When we work as one, staying independent is a healthy option. Work as one

To learn more about athenahealth’s solutions please visit athenahealth.com/mssnyprint

NYS DOH Adds Chronic Pain to List of Qualifying Conditions for Medical Marijuana And Will Permit PAs to Certify Patients
Final regulations were adopted by the NYS Department of Health to add “chronic pain” to the list of conditions for patients to use medical marijuana. Chronic pain is defined as “any severe debilitating pain that the practitioner determines degrades health and functional capability; where the patient has contraindications.” Additionally, the regulations also allow physician assistants to certify patients for the use of medical marijuana.
Authorization is dependent upon whether the supervising physician is already qualified to certify patients for medical marijuana. Physician assistants would have to complete the required coursework. Physician assistants who successfully complete the NYSDOH approved course and are in full compliance with other regulatory requirements must complete an authorization form with their supervising physicians, and mail this form along with the course completion (Continued on page 20)

Dr. Bill Valenti Publishes Book on NY’s Early AIDS Epidemic
All Proceeds Go to Trillium Health End the Epidemic Fund

Bill Valenti, MD, has dedicated his life and career to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic and rightfully earned his reputation as a medical maverick and pioneer in HIV prevention, research and policy.
A Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) at the University of Rochester School Of Medicine, Dr Valenti has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and scientific abstracts on HIV medical care, infectious diseases and healthcare epidemiology and infection control. In the early 1980s, he would see AIDS patients in his office in the evening, after the staff left.
FIRST CHAIR
Dr. Valenti has served as the first chair of MSSNY AIDS Advisory Panel (now the Infectious Disease Committee) since the early 90s. The MSSNY Advisory Panel was one of the first formal committees nationwide to begin a medical discussion of this epidemic. Dr. Valenti has devoted countless hours to educating his peers for MSSNY.
From the prologue: By 1986, there were 10,000 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S. The fatality rate was 75 percent. That same year, Jackie Nudd, executive director of AIDS Rochester and I went to Auburn State Prison to do an educational program for prison staff. Almost 200 cases had been reported in New York State prisons by that time. Condoms weren’t allowed, so we couldn’t talk about sex in prisons. We promoted HIV testing, but testing was complicated in the corrections system, and it would be another year before AZT would be available. They served us lunch for our efforts. It’s true what they say about prison food.
For more information, visit drbillvalenti.com.

Talk NYS - Mandated Opiod Talk at www.mssny.org FREE for MSSNY Members
Choosing medical liability insurance is about trust. Knowing that you have the resources, guidance and expertise to support you...today and tomorrow. So, at a time when others are struggling, MLMIC stands strong, and you can count on this:

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* The 20% dividend applies to policyholders insured on May 1, 2017 and who maintain continuous coverage through July 1, 2017 and is based upon the annual rate of premium in effect on May 1, 2017.
My Focus: Engagement, Wellness and Diversity

I clearly remember my first House of Delegates. I just love this meeting. Is it not the essence of our society? Whether you are a first timer or a 30-year veteran of this house, what could be more collegial and important than thrusting and parrying with other physicians on matters that directly affect our patients, our practices and the future of medicine? I cherish being a delegate seated with my beloved county – as much as I do standing at this podium. And they return here as an inspiration to us as we journey forward.

I consider myself an informed optimist. In my view success for us is well within MSSNY’s grasp. The bad news is that success won’t come easy. And success will not result from inaction. Nor will it result from being too risk averse. I try to live by the notion that we will be judged by the things that we do, not by those things that we failed or neglected to do.

• We are going to have to work, work, work to sign on new members, to retain established ones, and to bring in hospital and large group memberships;
• We’ll need to work to advocate on behalf our doctors, to provide legislative relief, regulatory relief, and administrative simplification;
• We’ll need to advocate for them or to help them to more effectively represent themselves in an ever changing practice environment – more often in the role of employee in a changing workforce environment.

When I opened my own practice in the late 80s, there were many hurdles. I started to go to Suffolk County meetings where I received some guidance.

Dr. Scher, a fellow ophthalmologist, like a father to me – he guided with wisdom and also by example. He was judicious with his advice, and he was always – sometimes painfully – correct. He was always and continues to be immensely supportive. Once, while trying to work through a complicated problem, as usual, I went to him for a cup of wisdom. After explaining all the details, he looked me straight in the eye and gave me his surprising to me King Solomon-like response, “You’re on your own with this one!” That was actually uncommonly good advice, although I did not appreciate it as such at the time.

I am well aware that I have just a one-year term in which to implement some ideas that I believe critical going forward. But I intend to build upon the strong foundation provided by my predecessor, Dr. Reid and I expect (Continued on page 18)

Budget Challenges Bring MSSNY Success

A particularly challenging State Budget negotiation has finally been concluded and once again your MSSNY helped to produce many successful results for New York physicians and their patients.

These successes include:
• Preventing the imposition of a proposal that could have empowered state agencies to conduct demonstration programs that override existing scope of practice laws; and
• Preventing proposals that would have dramatically expanded the right of Workers’ Compensation carriers to limit injured workers’ choice of treating physician.

However, as many of you know, the State Budget is the first “half” of the Legislative Session, with the second “half” consisting of many non-Budget items, including numerous health (Continued on page 20)
DOH Announces Attestation Process for Mandatory Prescribers

The New York State Department of Health has announced the attestation process for prescribers. Prescribers must attest to the completion of the pain management, palliative care and addiction course work or training by July 1, 2017, and again every three years thereafter. The prescriber should only attest after completion of at least three hours of course work or training covering all eight topics.

Assembly Passes Network Due-Process and Uniform Credentialing Bills

In March, The New York State Assembly passed two managed care reform bills supported by MSSNY.

The first bill (A.2704 Lavine) would require health insurers to provide physicians with necessary due-process protections where health insurers seek to terminate a physician from its network by failing to renew the physician’s contract. This legislation is in part a response to recent examples of health insurance companies dropping scores of physicians from their networks. While current law prohibits a health insurer from terminating a physician’s contract without appropriate peer review of such termination, these protections do not apply to situations involving the non-renewal of a physician’s contract. Identical legislation (S.3943) has been introduced by Senate Health Committee Chair Kemp Hannon. The second bill (A.2389, Gottfried) that passed the Assembly this week would ease the administrative hassles of physicians and their staff by requiring all health insurers to use the same credentialing and re-credentialing forms.

MSSNY thanks the sponsors for advancing these important bills.
Albany Considers Compensation to Live Organ Donors For Expenses

The Living Donor Support Act “could make New York the first state in the country to directly compensate living organ donors...for lost wages, child care and other expenses.” The bill “has broad support from lawmakers” and has already unanimously passed the Senate Health Committee. Many state lawmakers and health care groups are rallying behind the cause because of some dire statistics. 

Crain’s New York Business (2/23)

New York ranks 50th in the United States for organ donation registration, according to LiveOn NY, the metropolitan region’s federally designated organ-procurement organization. While most organs are donated after a person’s death, increasing living donations is one way to address the acute shortage, advocates say.

The proposed legislation would cost the state about $3 million per year, and donors would receive on average about $4,400 each, according to Waitlist Zero.

About 10,000 New Yorkers are awaiting an organ transplant, and about every 18 hours, a New Yorker dies waiting for a heart, lung, kidney or pancreas.

New York State is ranked last in the nation for the share of people registered as organ donors—just 28% versus a national average of about 50%, according to the latest data from LiveOnNY.

More than 8,000 await kidneys; over 1,300 need livers; and more than 300 need hearts.

Others also need pancreas (more than 100), lungs (over 50) and intestine (around 10).

Every 2½ hours, a person’s name is added to the New York State organ transplant waiting list.

Attestation Process

(Continued from page 5)

Applications”

• Click on “N”

• Scroll down to NEAT (Narcotic Education Attestation Tracker) and double click to open the application. You may also click on the “+” sign to add this application under “My Applications” on the left side of the Home screen.

• Complete the steps to ATTEST to the completion of the education requirement.

A full set of instructions can be found HERE.

Prescribers that do not have access to a computer can request a paper attestation form by calling the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) toll-free at 1-866-811-7957. They may then complete the form and return it by mail to the address provided in the form.

The Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement has also released a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the prescriber mandate. A copy of the FAQs can be found HERE.

In certain limited circumstances, the New York State Department of Health may grant an exemption to the required course work or training to an individual prescriber who clearly demonstrates to the department that there is no need to complete such training.

Exemptions will be granted only in very limited circumstances, and not solely on the basis of economic hardship, technological limitations, prescribing volume, practice area, specialty, or board certification. Prescribers may apply for an exemption through the Health Commerce System.

For further information contact BNE at 1-866-811-7957 or email narcotic@health.ny.gov.

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MSSNY Joins AMA and Federation of Medicine in Urging CMS to Create Hardship Waivers for 2016 Reporting Obligations

MSSNY joined nearly 90 other state medical and national specialty associations in a letter initiated by the AMA urging that CMS create “hardship waivers” for physicians to prevent imposition of Medicare payment penalties for failing to satisfactorily complete participation of the Meaningful Use (MU) and PQRS programs in 2016.

As many physicians are aware, failing to have satisfactorily complied with the cumbersome MU and PQRS programs in 2016 could result in penalties that will produce significant cuts to a physician’s Medicare payments in 2018. 2016 was the last year for physicians to have to comply with the old MU, PQRS and Value Based Modifier (VBM) programs, as the new Medicare Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) takes effect this year and will impact Medicare physician payments in 2019.

Specifically, the AMA-medical societies’ letter to CMS notes that the societies are “grateful the agency recognized there were a number of challenges with the requirements of MU, PQRS and VM. Consequently, we urge the Administration to take a series of steps to address these same challenges in MU, PQRS and VM prior to their replacement by MACRA and minimize the penalties assessed for physicians who tried to participate in these programs. Clearly this would send a strong message to the physician community about the extensive regulations with which physicians have been dealing and the Administration’s commitment to reduce the burden”.

Specifically, the letter requested that CMS:

• create a hardship exemption that would allow physicians who successfully reported on any number of PQRS measures in 2016 to avoid the 2% penalty in 2018; and

• protect physicians from additional penalties of up to 4% under the VBM Program, urging that any physician who avoided the PQRS penalty in 2018 should be exempt from any VBM penalties as well.

New York AG Joins Whistleblower Lawsuit against AstraZeneca

On March 31, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman joined a whistleblower lawsuit against AstraZeneca’s MedImmune unit that accuses the company of creating “baby leads” for sales of its Synagis treatment for severe respiratory illness in premature infants. The lawsuit claims MedImmune gathered “private information from patient logbooks” and shared it with a specialty pharmacy Trinity Homecare, which then contacted the babies’ families or physicians “regardless of patient need or if the current physician sought a prescription.”

In its complaint that intervened in a whistleblower nurse’s 2009 lawsuit, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said that MedImmune’s sales representatives paid kickbacks to Trinity Homecare LLC from 2007 to 2011 by passing along “baby leads.”

(STAT News (4/4))
Photos from the 2017 House of Delegates, Tarrytown, NY

Salvatore Volpe, MD Addresses the MLMIC Risk Management Conference

NYS Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, MD, JD and MSSNY Immediate Past President Malcolm Reid, MD, MPP

Charles Rothberg, MD; NYS Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, MD, JD; and Moe Auster, JD, MSSNY Senior Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs

MSSNY Alliance. Front Row (Left to Right): Barbara Ellman, Co-President; Valerie Semeran, Co-President; Nuise Bhiyakul, Past President
Back Row (Left to Right): Barbara Ramsdell, Past President; Bonnie Liebers, Past President; Beth Perenyi, Past President; Corrie Verde, Treasurer; Kathy Rohrer, Executive Director; Jean Hammoud, Co-President, Broome County Alliance

NYS Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, MD, JD Addresses the House of Delegates in Tarrytown

Reference Committee on Government Affairs A (left to right): Bradley Block, MD, YPS, Nassau County; Robert Kimball MD, Jefferson County; Kara Kvilekval, Chair, Suffolk County; Alan Diaz, MD, Bronx County; Abdul Rehman, MD; Kings County; Suresh Sharma, MD Herkimer County; Moe Auster, MSSNY Senior Vice President

Reference Committee on Government Affairs B (left to right): John Belmont, MSSNY Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs; Rose Berkun, MD, Erie County; William Spencer, MD, Suffolk County; Gregory Pinto, MD, Saratoga County; Raymond Lanzafame, MD, Monroe County; Michael Piscano, MD, Chair, Bronx County; William Zurhellen, MD, Putnam County

(Continued on page 8)
Photos from the 2017 House of Delegates, Tarrytown, NY

Reference Committee on Bylaws
Left to right: Arthur C. Fougner, MD (Speaking), Robert Hesson, MD; Robert Goldberg, DO; Steven Kaner, MD, Chair; Jerome Cohen, MD; Sana Bloch, MD

Reference Committee on Public Health (left to right): Erin Duffy, MSS, Suffolk County; Gino Bottino, MD, Westchester County; Mark Stamm, MD, Orange County; Geoffrey Moore, MD, Cortland County; Stephen Coccaro, MD, Suffolk County

MSSNYPAC Roundtable (Left to Right): Barbara McAneny, MD, AMA Trustee; NYS Assemblyman Andrew Raia; NYS Senator Terrence Murphy; Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer, MD

Reference Committee on Reports of Officers
(left to right): Susan Baldassari, MD; Joseph A. Mannino, MD; Hillary Fairbrother, MD, MPH; Kevin L. Hastings, DO; Penny Stern, MD, MP

Reference Committee on Social Medical Economics, left to right: MSSNY’s Angela Gladkowski; Olga Lisnyak, DO; Mary Ruth Buchness, MD; Jennifer Congdon, MD, Chair; Joseph DiPoala, Jr. MD; Greg Dash, MD; Charles Wiles, MD

Past President Robert Goldberg, DO Discusses Symposium Poster with Resident Mustafa Catlan, MD

(Continued from page 7)
Photos from the 2017 House of Delegates, Tarrytown, NY

MLMIC Vice President Ed Amsler, JD; MLMIC President Robert Menotti, MD; MSSNY Member Sal Volpe, MD; Incoming MLMIC President John Lombardo, MD

CME Seminar on Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction

9th District Branch Back row left to right: Loren Rosenthal, MD; Rajat Malik (OMS III); Johnny Truong (OMS I); Rishi Thaker (OMS II); Jennifer Lee (OMS I); Andrew Kleinman, MD; Thomas Lester, MD; Janine Miller, ED; Jim Pollowitz, MD; Lobsang Lhungay, MD; Norma Kurtz, MD; William Barrick, MD; Thomas Lee, MD; Marshal Peris, MD; Peter Liebert, MD; Robert Ciardullo, MD; Mark Stamm, MD; Bess Rodgers, ED; Uma Mishra, MD; Gina Del Savio, MD
Front Row left to right: Joseph Tartaglia, MD; Bonnie Litvack, MD; Ranjana Chaterji, DO; Stephanie Zeszutek, DO; Kathy Mallard, ED; Natasha Wu (OMS II); Emily Emmet (OMS III); Lauren Fleig (OMS I)

MSSNY Board Chair Dr. Leah McCormack presents the Feinberg Award to MLMIC Vice President Donald Fager. Mr. Fager is the first non-physician to win MSSNY’s most prestigious award.

Dr. Malcolm Reid and his wife, Emily, honored at HOD President’s Ceremony. Dr. Leah McCormick (left) leads the applause.

Dr. Malcolm Reid, MD delivers his inaugural address at the Ceremony of the Presidents.

MSSNY Past Presidents, left to right: Robert Scher, MD; Andrew Kleinman, MD; Duane Cady, MD; Immediate Past President Malcolm Reid, MD, MPP; Jeffrey Ribaner, MD; William Rosenblatt, MD; Paul Hamlin, MD; Robert Goldberg, DO; Richard Peer, MD; John Ostuni, MD; Stuart Orsher, MD; Robert Hughes, MD; Leah McCormack, MD; Joseph Maldonado, MD, MBA, DipEBHC

(Continued on page 12)
Increase in Cases of Hepatitis A Among Men Who Have Sex with Men Reported in NYC
The New York City Health Department has noted an increase in hepatitis A cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) who did not report international travel. There have been five cases of hepatitis A among unvaccinated MSM since January 1, 2017 and three of the five patients were hospitalized and all patients have recovered.
Since 1996, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that all MSM receive two doses of hepatitis A vaccine; the second dose should be administered 6-12 months after the first dose. The New York City Department of Health has issued Alert #6 and has sent a letter to all providers in the New York City region. A copy of the letter can be found here.

Saratoga County Is Number One for Overall Health of Residents in NY
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborated with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to publish the information online at www.countyhealthrankings.org.
The rankings are designed to help counties gauge the overall health of residents. Saratoga County tops the 2017 rankings for New York. Rockland County just north of New York City is No. 2; No. 3. Is Nassau County on Long Island; and Westchester rounds out the Top 5.
Ranking No. 62 and last is the Bronx.
The rankings are based on such factors as high school graduation rates, access to healthy foods and rates of obesity.

Say Goodbye to Your Prescription Pad
Comply with New York's I-STOP and E-Prescribe Legend and Controlled Drugs with the Official E-prescribing Solution of MSSNY.
DrFirst and MSSNY have partnered to bring MSSNY members the industry's leading e-prescribing solution at a special discounted price. DrFirst’s Rcopia® and EPCS Gold™ 2.0 will help New York providers improve patient safety, comply with I-STOP, and prescribe legend and controlled drugs in a single, web-based workflow.
To get started and receive your special MSSNY member discount visit www.DrFirst.com/mssny or call us at 866-980-0553.

Avoid Medicare Penalties
Reporting PQRS has never been more important. The penalty for not reporting is, at a minimum, -2.0% but it could be more. Understanding the rules can be confusing but is necessary.
Attention MSSNY Members! Save $104
Use Code MSSNPQRS at the time of submission and receive a discounted submission rate of $195
Visit Covisint at: www.pqrs.covisint.com or contact them at 866.823.3958 for more information.
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION:
Clinical Updates in Transgender Medicine

Friday, June 2, 2017
Hilton Garden Inn
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This free full-day conference is restricted to New York State medical providers including physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, and pharmacists.

To register, please go to www.bit.ly/TransHealth2017

For more information, please contact Jessica Steinke
jessica.steinke@mountsinai.org
212-731-3789
Photos from the 2017 House of Delegates, Tarrytown, NY

(Continued from page 9)

New York County, from left to right: Last row: Zebulon Taintor, MD; Erick Eiting, MD; Thomas Sterry, MD; Robert Viviano, DO; Scot B. Glasberg, MD; Malcolm D. Reid, MD, MPP; Peter Lombardo, MD; Anthony A. Clemendor, MD; Joshua M. Cohen, MD, MPH; Michael T. Goldstein, MD, JD
Second row: Robert B. Goldberg, DO; William B. Rosenblatt, MD, Marlin Mattson, MD; Emerald Lin, MD; Lana Kang, MD; Mimi Buchness, MD; Naheed Van de Walle, MD; Edward Powers, III, MD; Paul N. Orloff, MD
First row: Cheryl M. Malone, CAE; Susan Y. Tucker, Esq.

Queens County, Sitting from left to right: Lorraine Giordao, MD; Saulius Skeivys, MD; Leah McCormack, MD; Evangeline Rosado-Tripp, ED; Vivian Williams, OM
Standing front row: Deborah Blenner, MD; Sandhya Malhotra, MD; Cornelius Foley, MD; Paul Gitman, MD; Penny Stern, MD; Steven Schwab, MD
Standing back row: Standing Back row: Robert Kraft, MD; David Vilabrera, MD; Paul Aaronson, MD; Arthur Fougner, MD; L. Carlos Zapata, MD; James Satterfield, MD; Fred Fensterer, MD

Suffolk County, top row, from left: Dr. William Spencer, Dr. John Franco, Dr. Bruce Berlin, Dr. Richard Schoor, Dr. Keith Harris, Dr. Stephen Coccaro, Dr. Linda Efferen, Dr. Greg Dash, Dr. Robert Scher, Dr. Aaron Kumar
Second Row, from Left: Dr. Christine Doucet, Dr. Samara Churgin, Dr. Badri Nath, Dr. Frank Dowling, Dr. Maria Basile
Seated, from Left: Dr. Ramin Rak, Dr. Nabil Kiridly, Dr. Charles Rothberg, Dr. Kara Kvilekval

Kings and Richmond Counties, first row (left to right): Dr. Lance Austein, Dr. Sangita Parab, Dr. Radha Syed, Dr. Lisa Eng, Dr. Pardha Valluru, Dr. Abhimanyu Amarnani, Dr. Adolph Meyer
Second row (left to right): Ms. Linda Sabatino, Dr. Deborah Aanonsen, Dr. Clarisse Clemons-Ferrara, Dr. Veronica Santilli, Dr. Deeptha Nedunchezian, Dr. Prasad Gudavalli, Dr. Madhu Gudavalli, Dr. Abdul Rehman, Dr. Elizabeth Haines, Ms. Liz Harrison
Third Row (L-R): Dr. Larry Melnicker, Dr. Robert Frankel, Dr. Donald Moore, Dr. Furgan Nusair, Dr. Hilary Fairbrother, Dr. Steven Kaner, Dr. Marc Mendelsohn, Dr. Bledi Hysa, Dr. Masazumi Adachi

(Continued on page 13)

Nassau County Delegation, left to right: Michael Ziegelbaum, MD; John Ostuni; MD, Michael Brisman, MD; Ellen Braunstein; MD, Paul Pipia; MD, Vincent Geraci, Jr. MD; Carole Moodhe, MD; Ronald Menzin, MD; Joseph Baccoti, MD; Daniel Nicoll, MD; Paul Hamlin, MD

All photos by Steve Sachs
Photos from the 2017 House of Delegates, Tarrytown, NY

(Continued from page 12)

Bronx County, front row: Samantha Levine, Christina Kratschner, Koirala Pratista, Dr. Thakor Rana, Dr. Nina Huberman, Corin Kinkhabwala, Dr. Sana Bloch. Back row: Dr. Peter Wyer, Dr. David Jakubowicz (President), Ronald Blount ED, Dr. Michael Pisacano, Dr. Milton Gumbs

Malcolm Reid, MD, MPP presents the Presidential Medal to Charles Rothberg, MD at the Ceremony of the Presidents

IMG Committee, top row: Adolph Meyer, MD; Masazumi Adachi, MD; Suresh Sharma, MD. Bottom row: Lobsang Lhungay, MD; Sumir Sahgal, MD; Badri Nath, MD; Abdul Rehman, MD

Robert Goldberg, DO; Naheed Van De Walle, MD; Emerald Lin, MD; Malcolm Reid, MD, MPP

President Elect Thomas J. Madejski, MD and Sandra Madejski; President Charles Rothberg, MD and Maryellen Rothberg

Dr. Charles Rothberg with his wife, Maryellen, and daughter, Anjelika

MESF Executive Director Thomas Donoghue, Robert Goldberg MD, AMA Trustee Barbara McAneny, MD, President Elect Thomas J. Madejski, MD
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

TARA MARTINEZ, DO NAMED DIRECTOR OF COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY AT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA HOSPITAL

Dr. Tara Martinez was recently named Director of Colon and Rectal Surgery at St. Catherine of Sienna Medical Center in Smithtown. She has been a member of MSSNY since 2013.

A board-certified general surgeon, Dr. Martinez obtained her medical degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her surgical residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry and her fellowship in minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery at the University of Texas, Houston. Her credentialing includes robotic colon and rectal procedures as well as minimally invasive surgery for treatment of colon and rectal diseases, including single-incision laparoscopy.

Dr. Martinez is a fellow in the American College of Surgeons as well as the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons. She has co-authored numerous papers published in peer-reviewed journals.

ROBERT M. GALLER, MD, MPH NAMED DIRECTOR OF NEUROSURGERY AT PECONIC BAY MEDICAL CENTER

Robert M. Galler, DO, MPH, has been appointed director of neurosurgery at Peconic Bay Medical Center and neurosurgical spine for Northwell Health’s Eastern Region. He has been a member of MSSNY since 2006.

“We are delighted to have Dr. Galler on board to expand neurological surgery services throughout eastern Long Island,” said Raj K. Narayan, MD, Northwell Health’s senior vice president, neurosurgery service line and director of Northwell Health’s Neuroscience Institute.

After graduating from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine with honors as a neuroscience fellow, Dr. Galler completed his residency in neurosurgery at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park. He completed two fellowships in complex spinal neurosurgery and minimally invasive spinal neurosurgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, and the University of Tennessee in Memphis, TN respectively. Most recently, Dr. Galler received a master’s degree in health care policy and administration at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health in Manhattan.

OBITUARIES


MSSNY’s 12th annual Resident, Fellow and Medical Student Symposium was held on April 21 at the House of Delegates in Tarrytown. Seventy posters were accepted from a pool of 110 abstracts submitted statewide. The presenters’ work was reviewed by volunteer judges drawn from the 2017 House of Delegates as well as by a number of “visiting judges” who came specifically to lend a hand. The work was judged on originality, significance, presentation, methods (where applicable), visual impact and interview, in three categories: Medical Students, Resident/Fellow Clinical Medicine and Resident/Fellow Vignettes.

Following are the winners in each category:

**MEDICAL STUDENTS**

1st Prize: Charles Sanky, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai for “Residents’ Perceptions of Inappropriate Consults: Expectations of Expertise Among Medicine and Neurology Residents”

2nd Prize: Neha Naik, MD, SUNY Stony Brook/John T. Mather Memorial Hospital, “An Interdisciplinary Approach to Improving Care and Reducing Length of Stay in Patients with Cellulitis”

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**

Daniel Buchalter, New York University School of Medicine for “Two-Stage Revision for Infected Shoulder Arthroplasty”

Clancy Mullan, Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine for “Tracheal Schwannoma Presenting as Chronic Chest Pain and Asthma”

**RESIDENTS, CLINICAL MEDICINE**

1st Prize: Radhika Ghosh, MD, Staten Island University Hospital, Northwell Hofstra School of Medicine for “Predictors of Parental Consent for Donor Human Milk in the NICU”

2nd Prize: Jonathan Smerling, SUNY Downstate College of Medicine for “Higher Case Volumes of Percutaneous Coronary Intervention are Associated with Improved Risk Adjusted Mortality Rates in 33 New York State Hospitals”

(Continued on page 16)
2017 MSSNY Poster Symposium Winners

(Continued from page 15)

HONORABLE MENTION

Chukwunonso Chime, MD, Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, (with colleague Thomas Shawn, MD) for “Avoiding Antibiotic Use in Acute Bronchitis – An Integrated Approach”

Shoshanna Miller, MD, School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester Medical Center, for “OPaL, A Mobile and Online Tool for Documenting Residency Competencies and Milestones”

RESIDENTS, VIGNETTES

1st Prize: Joselle Cook, MD, SUNY Downstate Health Science Center, for “Highest CPK in Sickle Cell Trait Associated Rhabdomyolysis”

2nd Prize: Arash Ronaghy, MD, PhD, Hofstra North Shore LIJ School of Medicine, for “PD-L1 and Notch1 Expression in KSHV/HHV-8- and -EBV Associated Germinotropic Lymphoproliferative Disorder: Case Report and Review of the Literature”

3rd Prize: Laxmi Upadhyay, MD, Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, for “Transient ST Segment Elevation with Gastric Distention”

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Umut Gomceli, MD, Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, for “A Rare Case of Didanosine Related Severe Lactic Acidosis Predisposing to Infection with Mucormycosis”

Sandra Gomez-Paz, MD, Nassau University Medical Center, for “An Unusual Case of Gallbladder Cancer in a Young Male”

Hamead Reza Moshrefi, DO, SUNY Stony Brook/John T. Mather Memorial Hospital, for “CNS Toxoplasmosis Encephalitis in CLL – A Challenge to Diagnose and Treat”
2017 House of Delegates Highlights

(Continued from page 1)

health plans to pay facility fees to physicians that obtained state-mandated accreditation for their office based surgical suites.

Correcting Workers’ Compensation Board Policy

MSSNY will seek legislation to allow payment for services be made by the patient or the patient’s private insurance when the patient and physician agree that additional treatment is necessary to improve impairment beyond the services that the Carrier’s IME and the WC ALJ are willing to pay for under the Workers’ Comp Program.

Medicaid Payment of 20% Residual Medicare Fee

MSSNY will pursue state regulatory and/or legislative action seeking to restore funding for “crossover” payments, cut in previous years, for care provided by physicians to patients who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. MSSNY also included this issue in our budget testimony and has advocated for the final budget to include funding to restore funding for “crossover” payments, cut in previous years, for care provided by physicians to patients who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

Study and Promotion of Telemedicine Payment Parity

MSSNY will work with individual legislators throughout the state to introduce legislation that would require parity of payment between services provided in-person and via telemedicine.

Development of Physician Burnout Programs/Management of Physician and Medical Student Stress

MSSNY will inform its members of the Council action supporting development of a program to assist physicians experiencing symptoms of stress or burnout. MSSNY will request the AMA to produce a report summarizing current research and efforts to address physician practice sustainability and satisfaction. The MSSNY Task Force on Physician Burnout and Stress will continue to expand its work to include the development of information about the administrative and regulatory burdens placed on physicians and recommendations to reduce these burdens that may also then reduce burnout, depression and suicide.

Supporting International Medical Graduates and Students

MSSNY will oppose laws and regulations that would broadly deny entry or re-entry to the US of persons who currently have legal visas, including permanent resident status and student visas, based on their country of origin and/or religion and MSSNY will oppose policies that would broadly deny issuance of legal visas to persons based on their country of origin and/or religion. This resolution will be forwarded to the AMA.

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The BankAmericard Cash Rewards™ credit card for Medical Society of the State of New York.

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* For information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of this Rewards card, or to apply, go to the website listed above or write to P.O. Box 15020, Wilmington, DE 19850. The 2% cash back on grocery store purchases and 3% cash back on gas purchases applies to the first $1,500 in combined purchases in these categories each quarter. After that the base 1% earn rate applies to these purchases.

† You will qualify for $100 bonus cash rewards if you use your new credit card account to make any combination of Purchase transactions totaling at least $500 (exclusive of any fees, returns and adjustments) that post to your account within 90 days of the account open date. Limit one (1) bonus cash rewards offer per new account. This one-time promotion is limited to new customers opening an account in response to this offer. Other advertised promotional bonus cash rewards offers can vary from this promotion and may not be substituted. Allow 8-12 weeks from qualifying for the bonus cash rewards to post to your rewards balance.

by opening and/or using these products from Bank of America, you’ll be providing valuable financial support to Medical Society of the State of New York.

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to provide a bridge to the leadership of President Elect Dr. Madejski.

I introduce Three Pillars that make up my platform:
- Wellness
- Disparities and
- Engagement

**WELLNESS**

The term “burnout” has become so overused that it risks losing much of its meaning. Physician Burnout is a catchword that can include exhausted, overworked, discouraged doctors that want to give up, retire early and chuck decades of schooling and practice. They may even internalize these feelings and engage in destructive behaviors.

We learned at a CME program at this HOD and through our task force report that it is institutional factors that contribute to ‘burnout’ and not defective doctors. Yes, they are exhausted from the hamster wheel of insurance authorizations, rejections and unfair remuneration for work that has been signed, sealed and delivered. Yes, they are mad as hell and they don’t want to take it anymore. MSSNY is currently working on early intervention programs.

We must change our focus from intervention to one that places greater emphasis on prevention.

Thus we should refer to ‘physician wellness’ which is suggestive of the remedy, rather than ‘burnout’ which refers solely to the symptom.

We should learn to incorporate healthy lifestyles and personal stress reduction exercises. We need balance and energy to do our day-to-day jobs; and we need more energy for our families and our leisure.

34.9% of the 1200 physicians who participated in our burnout task force recent Physician Burnout Survey indicated that they are definitely burning out and have one or more symptoms of burnout. 30% of us work in a hectic, chaotic atmosphere; two of the most problematic issues in our practices are prior authorization for medical procedures and admissions and the lack of adequate voice to decide what is good care; 80% live in fear of litigation. In spite of this bleak backdrop, only 8.4% said, given the opportunity, they would have gone into another profession. Almost 70% would still choose to be a physician. We need to focus more on the 16% who were neutral. After all can anyone truly be dispassionate about this profession? As Ken Kesey said, “You’re either on the bus or off the bus. Which is it?”

For those who are feeling weary and angry, just like the flight attendant says, “put your own oxygen mask on before you help anyone else.” We’ll help you, but we truly need you.

**ENGAGEMENT**

If we want to survive as a viable society, we must engage of course our members, but also non-members, our students, other health care stakeholders, and the press.

If we do not engage, we undermine our own authority. The balance is tricky. When the press asks us for statements, we have to speak decisively, thoughtfully, unambiguously and without timidity. To do so we need to have abundant policy, positions and discourse on which to rely.

We need to engage by means of all kinds of media – conventional, social media, face to face. Please sign up for twitter.

Our MSSNY needs to be more relevant to our colleagues. Our council and our committees should take a greater role in leading thought, become more involved in the genesis of ideas and policies rather than just responding to work referred by the HOD. Our HOD after all meets just once each year. They cannot possibly anticipate everything that lies in the year ahead.

**NON-PARTISAN POLITICS**

Our politics should NOT be bi-partisan – it should be non-partisan. We cannot be a slave to partisanship. When asked where we stand on an issue, there should be only ONE overriding concern – what is good for our profession and thus our patients? Sometimes a when policy decision is before us, I’ll ask a colleague what she thinks. She’ll respond that as a taxpayer she thinks ‘this’. I’ll have to tell her that the taxpayers already have a representative, I want to know ‘what do you think of this policy as a doctor?’

Albany is not our boss. They are our partners – and with our partners, as my wife Mary Ellen can tell you, we win some and we lose some. Either way, we remain whole. However, we cannot command the level of respect from these ‘partners’ unless we are prepared to speak in a more unified voice.

Engagement for MSSNY will involve much more than compelling policy and advocacy. More than effective messaging. It must involve enrichment as well. Enrichment involves outreach and programs that improve the lot of individual physicians. For sure our ‘burnout’, uh wellness, programs will do that. But expanding upon existing programs such as our cme programs, our advocacy programs, newsletters, and especially programs modeled on our successful leadership seminars which engaged over 100 physicians in programs both downstate and in central New York.

**DISPARITIES**

We have developed an overly narrow view of disparities – a narrow view that I believe we have outgrown. Going forward, our solutions must extend beyond just the ethnic.

It must include all contributors to adverse health outcomes –gender, LGBTQ, geography, poverty and even physician diversity. Anything that contributes to health care disparities. The concept of ‘the cause of the cause’ needs more clarity. For example, while there is very little research on transgender people in New York State, it is clear they struggle with discrimination, poor access to education and employment and a lack of economic opportunities that impact their health status and access to health care services. Solutions we develop to eliminate their disparate health outcomes will inform the strategies for others. Failure to examine any one group’s adverse health outcomes compromises the solutions for all of the other groups.

We need to look beyond how we traditionally view diversity. There are lots of people out there who don’t want to fit a mold. But they do want to feel free to be themselves and so they look to us for understanding, not necessarily for advice.

**WE ARE A STATE OF DIVERSITY**

As we are coming to understand, patients with gender identity issues have hated going to the doctor, any doctor. They were afraid, because they thought they might be judged. New York State, not just one or two boroughs, has been a magnet of diversity. New clinics in major hospitals are opening in every borough. For example, the governor has recently proposed $1.4 billion to reverse
Rule of Three?

How can pharma advertisers best engage physicians? A leading pharma-focused media company went straight to the source to find out that the answer is the “Rule of Three.”

SSCG Media Group, the industry’s leading pharma-focused strategic media planning and agency network – revealed findings from its MAP MD survey of physicians regarding their preferences on advertising and other content they access each professional day.

A key finding, the Rule of Three, is that physicians require three views of a given pharma ad to ensure recall. Specifically, nearly half (47%) of physicians reported that after seeing a pharma ad an average of three times, they feel aware of the information. Further, after the third view of the same ad regardless of where it is seen, 37 percent would read some of the ad and 13 percent would read the full ad. It is important to keep in mind that it may take numerous exposures of an ad before a physician actually “views” the ad, validating the need for purchasing multiple impressions based on your brand’s digital media objectives.

The results further revealed numerous insights with respect to physician preferences regarding digital advertising and other content:

EHR MESSAGING

Of the 20 percent of physicians who are able to receive ads via their electronic health records (EHR) platform, nearly 60 percent are most satisfied with dosing information; nearly 45 percent with formulary information, coupons and vouchers; and nearly 40 percent with ads that provide clinical information and patient information/education tools.

ONLINE RESOURCES

The proliferation of digital resources has given physicians numerous options in finding professional information. Overall, 76 percent rely on between two and five healthcare sites on a given day for professionally relevant information. These core sites can vary each day by physician as the type of content they seek largely drives the site selection.

TOPICS

Nearly 75 percent of physicians are most likely to engage with condition specific or disease state content that appears on a healthcare site. News updates pique the interest of 55 percent, (Continued on page 20)

Medical Malpractice ActionDismissed for Inadequate Certificate of Merit

In Calcagno v. Orthopedic Associates of Dutchess County, P.C., No. 523454, slip op. (N.Y. App. Div., 3d Dept. Mar. 2, 2017), the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, Third Department, affirmed the trial court’s dismissal of a medical malpractice action on the basis of an inadequate certificate of merit. Civil Practice Laws and Rules (CPLR) 3012-a requires that in any action for medical malpractice, the complaint must be accompanied by a certificate executed by plaintiff’s counsel declaring the attorney consulted with at least one licensed physician who the attorney believes is knowledgeable in the relevant issues involved in the action, and the attorney has concluded on the basis of such consultation that there is a reasonable basis for the commencement of the action. CPLR 3012-a also provides that if the complaint is not accompanied by the attorney’s certificate of merit because of a limitation of time, the certificate of merit must be filed within 90 days after service of the complaint.

Following a motor vehicle accident, the defendant physician performed surgery on plaintiff’s right ankle and prescribed physical therapy. Thereafter, plaintiff filed a medical malpractice complaint accompanied by a document claiming a certificate of merit would be filed within 90 days after service of the complaint. In March 2015, plaintiff’s counsel still had not submitted a certificate of merit. Defendants moved for dismissal of the action for the failure of the plaintiff to submit a certificate of merit. Some twenty (20) months later, requesting the court to accept the late filing, plaintiff’s counsel submitted a certificate of merit based on an affidavit of plaintiff’s treating physical therapist, who opined that the defendant’s actions were “departures from good and accepted medical practice.” Without addressing the timeliness of the late filing, the trial court held the certificate of merit was inadequate and dismissed the action. On appeal, the Third Department unanimously affirmed, holding that, “by definition, a physical therapist cannot diagnose and is incompetent to attest to the standard of care applicable to physicians and surgeons.”

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

(Continued from page 18)

economic stagnation for underserved areas of Brooklyn called Vital Brooklyn. Half of that money is targeted to health care – finally recognition of what we’ve been saying about the broader importance of health care all along. The people who have been outliers have stepped forward and we should walk beside them and learn how to better treat them in our offices. This is an excellent time to acknowledge the work of our disparities committee and especially Drs. Milton Haynes and Anthony Clemonor whose wisdom, hard work and temperament have elevated us all, have delivered us to where we now stand, and who taught me more about how to approach disparities than I thought I could ever learn.

The objective of the three pillars I have outlined is to chart a path to the future. Other stakeholders are certainly positioning themselves to fill any voids – we see how that is working out. We must not allow voids, and where they exist we must fill them. Now that we know better, we must listen better and we will do better.

In a recent AMA survey of 1,200 physicians and physicians-in-training, they found that despite challenges common to each career stage and today’s challenging health care landscape, half of those who pursue medicine consider it a calling, and three-quarters of physicians are motivated, above all else, by the opportunity to help people. Remarkably, 73 percent of those surveyed knew before they reached the age of 20 that they wanted to become doctors, and nearly one-third knew before becoming a teenager.

In March, I spoke to my Downstate Medical School alumni group. I told them that I want them to feel about medicine and their future like they did when they were applying to medical school, and to continue to carry that optimism and excitement into their future and the practice of medicine. I wish the same positivity and enthusiasm upon us all.
The Rule of Three?

(Continued from page 19)

while nearly half engage with content that discusses product or prescribing information.

MESSAGING

When it comes to physicians’ expectations of pharma advertising message content, nearly 60 percent reported they are most likely to engage with an ad that discusses efficacy. Ads that discuss products with a new indication or are new to market are favored by 54 percent of physicians, while over 40 percent expressed high interest in ads focusing on new study data and dosing and titration.

CALL TO ACTION (DIGITAL)

Eighty-five percent of physicians reported clicking on ads to see more information about a given product. “Learn More” is the most likely call to action (39%) that would result in a click, followed by “Find out More” (33%). “Click Here” was the least popular call to action with just under 15 percent.

SSCG Media Group used its custom research offering, MAP MD, to survey and analyze results from more than 2,100 physicians across 15 specialties. The survey was fielded online from December 2016 through January 2017. The survey questions were motivated by the need for a better understanding of site content and messaging preferences of physicians when receiving ads from pharmaceutical companies.

Qualifying Conditions for Medical Marijuana

(Continued from page 2)

certificate to the department. Once the information provided is validated, the department will send an email confirmation to the physician assistant containing a link that will authorize the physician assistant to register to certify patients.

In December, the Medical Society of the State of New York President Malcolm Reid, MD sent a letter to DOH Commissioner Howard Zucker that expressed concerns that the use of medical marijuana to treat chronic pain may be inconsistent with national treatment guidelines, and perhaps most importantly, could expose physicians to enhanced risk of federal prosecution especially with the change in the federal administration. A copy of Dr. Reid’s letter can be found here.

Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction

(Continued from page 1)

MSSNY’s CME program was developed in conjunction with the NYS Office for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Service. The NYS Department of Health’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement lists the Medical Society of the State of New York as an accredited provider for this coursework.

In 2014, the American Medical Association, the Medical Society of the State of New York and more than 25 states, specialty and other health care associations joined together to create a task force to help reduce the nation’s burden from prescription opioids and heroin. We believe that a comprehensive public health approach is needed to address prescription opioid-related harm and the growing heroin epidemic. This is an issue of high importance to the profession. This interest is reflected in the fact that nearly every state has considered—and enacted—multiple pieces of legislation to address this problem.

More than 16,000 patients annually suffer an unintentional overdose and death from opioid analgesics, and more than 8,000 deaths occur annually from heroin overdoses. MSSNY’s course discusses the safe and effective prescribing practices; approaches to treating pain, ways to respond to abuse and treatment and how to prevent, screen and recognize the signs of addiction.

We urge you to take the MSSNY 3 Hour CME program on Pain Management, Palliative Care and Addiction and join your colleagues in helping to combat the opioid epidemic. www.mssny.org.

MSSNY-PAC

(Continued from page 4)

care issues.

There are no shortages of challenges we will face over the next two months before the Legislature adjourns on June 21 or thereabouts. The lawyers are again seeking to expand the time to bring lawsuits against physicians. Big box stores continue to seek the right to own medical clinics. And numerous non-physicians - podiatrists, nurse anesthetists, optometrists, to name just a few - are seeking to expand the types of care they can provide to patients.

At the same time, your MSSNY and MSSNYPAC are fighting on your behalf to reduce burdensome prior authorization hassles physicians face imposed by market dominant insurers when trying to assure patients get the care they need.

Assuring a strong MSSNYPAC is integral to these efforts. Please join us or increase your level of support right now by clicking here.

We appreciate the great support we receive from many physicians but we need far greater support from physicians across the State.

Think about it - So much of our professional life is the result of policies directed out of Albany and Washington. Don’t you think you should have some say in deciding who is elected to make these policies?

A THANK YOU AND A WELCOME

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Malcolm Reid for a great year as President of MSSNY. Under his leadership, MSSNYPAC implemented a new higher PAC donation level, the President’s Circle, and inspired many physicians to increase their levels of donation to enhance the work of MSSNYPAC.

Now that’s what I call leadership.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Dr. Charles Rothberg as the new MSSNY President. Also a member of the President’s Circle, Dr. Rothberg has long been a champion for physician participation in the policymaking and political process. Moreover, he has long sought to embrace and enhance the involvement of younger physicians and medical students within organized medicine.

Our future should be in good hands. Let’s help to make Dr. Rothberg’s Presidency as successful as Dr. Reid’s. Again, please join MSSNYPAC now or increase your membership level. And make sure your colleagues do the same!

The future you save may be your own.
More New York Residents Have Access to Prescription Savings

Statewide Prescription Assistance Program Offers a Prescription to High Healthcare Costs

The Centers for Disease Control reports that Americans spend more on prescription drugs than people in any other country: some $45 billion in out-of-pocket dollars in the last year alone. With that in mind, the New York Rx Card is reminding physicians that their patients who aren’t insured or who take prescription drugs that aren’t covered by their health insurance plans, can use the New York Rx Card to obtain discounts of up to 75 percent off the retail price for FDA-approved medications.

New York Rx Card has been working closely with Medical Society of the State of New York, as well as numerous clinics and hospitals around the state to distribute free discount prescription cards so that all New York residents will have access to this free program. New York Rx Card was launched to help the uninsured and underinsured residents afford their prescription medications. The program can also be used by people that have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in many health savings accounts (HSA) and high deductible health plans.

New York Rx Card has helped residents save over $143 million since its inception in 2010. You can help by encouraging your patients to print a free New York Rx Card at www.newyorkrxcard.com. New York Rx Card is also available as an app for iPhone and Android. You can search “Free Rx iCard” in the app store. Any physicians who are interested in ordering free cards for their clinic/hospital can email Chez Ciccone, New York Rx Card Program Director at fciccone@nyrxcard.com.

Another unique component of the program is their preferred pharmacy option. New York Rx Card has chosen CVS as their preferred pharmacy so that residents who don’t have access to a computer and can’t obtain a hard card, can visit any CVS to have their prescriptions processed through New York Rx Card. Residents can simply reference “New York Rx Card” to have their prescription processed through the program. New York Rx Card is accepted at over 68,000 participating regional and national pharmacies.

New York Rx Card has helped residents save over $143 million since its inception in 2010. You can help by encouraging your patients to print a free New York Rx Card at www.newyorkrxcard.com. New York Rx Card is also available as an app for iPhone and Android. You can search “Free Rx iCard” in the app store. Any physicians who are interested in ordering free cards for their clinic/hospital can email Chez Ciccone, New York Rx Card Program Director at fciccone@nyrxcard.com.

Program Highlights:

✔ Free Card For Everyone
✔ No Restrictions on Eligibility
✔ Low Price Guarantee
✔ Discounts Most Medications
✔ Accepted at Over 68,000 Pharmacies
✔ HIPAA Compliant

For more information
or to order free hard cards visit:
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Phone: 800-931-2297

New York Rx Card Preferred Pharmacy:
Multiple Physician Positions with DOHMH Office of School Health

Office of School Health is the largest program of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). This bureau is responsible for managing the health issues and promoting the well-being of the over 1.3 million children and adolescents enrolled in New York City's 1700 school buildings.

Positions with the Office of School Health (OSH) combine clinical skills and public health training. OSH focuses on child health, asthma prevention, obesity and nutrition, vision screening, dental care, mental health, reproductive health and childhood disability. We collaborate with various city and community based agencies to provide social and academic services to address the needs of all New York City school children, especially those facing the most significant social, economic and health challenges.

The Office of School Health is currently undergoing expansion. There is an immediate need for physicians with an expertise in pediatric, adolescent, or family medicine, with the capacity to utilize primary care skills set through a public health lens. OSH is also interested in public health and preventive medicine graduates with programmatic, analytic and social medicine skills.

The NYC DOHMH is reaching out to identify candidates for this recruitment. We are enlisting your help to nominate medical professionals who are committed to contributing their talents to improve health and academic outcomes in our schools. Please consider applying for these positions or passing these opportunities on to talented physicians among your own personal networks.

Attached are the American Academy of Pediatrics position statements on the role of the School Physician as well as the job description and recruitment flyers:

**Adolescent School Health Physician, Family and Child Health/SH Reproductive/City Medical Specialist**, Level: 01/Part-time/Flexible Work Schedule (20-35 hrs/week) To learn more about this position & apply, please submit your resume & cover letter to: [https://a127-jobs.nyc.gov/](https://a127-jobs.nyc.gov/) In the Job ID search bar enter: **Job ID: 277208**

**Field Doctor, Bureau of School Health/SH Medical (pre-K-8 Programs or High School) City Medical Specialist**, Level: 02/Part-time (35 hrs/week) To learn more about this position & apply, please submit your resume & cover letter to: [https://a127-jobs.nyc.gov/](https://a127-jobs.nyc.gov/) In the Job ID search bar enter: **Job ID: 265869**

**Supervising Medical Doctor, Bureau of School Health/SH Reproductive Health, City Medical Specialist**, Level: 02/Part-time (35 hrs/week) To learn more about this position & apply, please submit your resume & cover letter to: [https://a127-jobs.nyc.gov/](https://a127-jobs.nyc.gov/) **Job ID: 277026**

Please list in your cover letter how you heard about this position (including name of the professional association, website or individual who referred you). If you have questions, please contact Caroline Volel, MD, MPH at OSH@health.nyc.gov.

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**MSSNY IN THE NEWS**

- **Patient Daily – 02/05/17 Major medical organizations call for prior authorization reforms** (MSSNY mentioned)
- **Medscape – 02/07/17 Medical Coalition Calls for Prior Authorization Reform** (MSSNY mentioned)
- **New York Amsterdam News – 02/23/17 Eating red or processed meat can increase colon cancer risk** (MSSNY mentioned)
- **Buffalo News – 02/27/17 Doctors warn of criminalizing painkiller prescriptions** Dr. Thomas J. Madejski, Vice President for the Medical Society of the State of New York quoted
- **All Daily News – 02/27/17 Exceptional Interventional Radiologist, Mohammad A. Bilal, MD, will be Displayed in The Leading Physicians of the World** (MSSNY member Mohammad A. Bilal, MD mentioned)
- **NBC News 2 – 3/6/17 Stem Cell Therapy: Modern Solution to Joint Pain Relief** (MSSNY member Dr. Andrew J. Rochman mentioned)
- **Great Neck Record – 03/09/17 Local Doc Discusses Cardiac Screening For Athletes** (MSSNY member Dr. Joel Harnick mentioned)
- **New York State Osteopathic Medical Society – 03/09/17 NYSOMS : DO Day**
- **In Albany Held Together With MSSNY Lobby Day** (MSSNY mentioned)
- **Federal Telemedicine News – 03/15/17 Pharmaceuticals in NY’s Proposed Budget** (MSSNY mentioned)
- **White Plains Daily Voice – 03/15/17 White Plains Hospital Welcomes Dr. Michael E. Elia, Orthopedic Surgeon** (MSSNY member Dr. Michael E. Ella mentioned)
- **National Law Review - 03/21/17 New York Medical Society Warns Providers to Avoid Percentage-Based Billing** (MSSNY mentioned) Also Ran in *Health Law Policy Matters*, *JD Supra Business Advisor*
- **Crain’s Health Pulse - 04/25/17 Medical Society takes temperature on assisted suicide** (MSSNY President, Dr. Charles Rothberg, MD quoted)
- **Politico Pro Tipsheet – 04/25/17 MSSNY Board** (HOD and new officers mentioned)
- **Spectrum News: State of Politics - 04/25/17 Medical Society To Survey Aid In Dying** (MSSNY mentioned)
- **New York Daily News – 04/25/17 9/11 hero who died of cancer wanted New York State lawmakers to legalize assisted suicide** (MSSNY mentioned)
- **Lockport Union Sun & Journal – 04/25/17 Madejski poised to lead state Medical Society** (MSSNY President-Elect Dr. Tom Madejski mentioned)
- **The Malone Telegram – 04/26/17 Malone doctor in new state title** (MSSNY Vice Speaker Dr. William Latreille mentioned)

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**Society authorizes survey on aid in dying** (MSSNY President, Dr. Charles Rothberg, MD quoted)
**WXXI News – 04/24/17 New York’s medical society will survey doctors on attitudes toward physician assisted dying** (MSSNY President, Dr. Charles Rothberg, MD quoted)
**Cran’s Health Pulse - 04/25/17 Medical Society takes temperature on assisted suicide** (MSSNY President, Dr. Charles Rothberg, MD quoted)
**Politico Pro Tipsheet – 04/25/17 MSSNY Board** (HOD and new officers mentioned)
**Spectrum News: State of Politics - 04/25/17 Medical Society To Survey Aid In Dying** (MSSNY mentioned)
**New York Daily News – 04/25/17 9/11 hero who died of cancer wanted New York State lawmakers to legalize assisted suicide** (MSSNY mentioned)
**Lockport Union Sun & Journal – 04/25/17 Madejski poised to lead state Medical Society** (MSSNY President-Elect Dr. Tom Madejski mentioned)
**The Malone Telegram – 04/26/17 Malone doctor in new state title** (MSSNY Vice Speaker Dr. William Latreille mentioned)

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BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Robert S. Asher, Esq.  
*Attorney at Law*

Robert S. Asher, J.D., M.P.A. Health  
Former Director Professional Regulation  
N.Y.S. Board of Regents  
(27 years health law experience)

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Ophthalmologist needed to work at multiple nursing homes in all 5 boros except Staten Island. Part time or full-time position available. Generous salary and incentives. Tech provided. Opportunity to perform surgery, but not required. Please email cv to privacyssw@gmail.com

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Charles Rothberg, MD, took office as President of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) at its annual House of Delegates meeting in Tarrytown, NY on April 22, 2017. Dr. Rothberg is an ophthalmologist in private practice in Patchogue.

A graduate of Muhlenberg College, Dr. Rothberg earned his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. He received his internship training in internal medicine at Nassau County Medical Center and his residency training in ophthalmology at Kings County Hospital. Dr. Rothberg is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is a member of the Suffolk Ophthalmology Society as well as the New York State Ophthalmology Society.

Dr. Rothberg has been actively involved in organized medicine ever since he first sought guidance from his county medical society on starting a practice. He has been president of the Suffolk County Medical Society, the Suffolk Academy of Medicine, and the Second District Branch of MSSNY (Nassau/Suffolk). For seven years, he represented his county as MSSNY Councilor. Additionally, he has been a delegate to the AMA for 11 years and is currently vice chair of the MSSNY Delegation. For his dedicated work as advisor to MSSNY’s Medical Student Section, he was honored with the prestigious Charles Sherman Award.

Dr. Rothberg has been particularly vocal in matters related to medical liability reform and abuses of the health insurance industry. He has served MSSNY as commissioner of its Governmental Affairs Division and as co-chair of its MSSNYPAC. Additionally, Dr. Rothberg was instrumental in initiating an institutional membership, which has greatly increased the number of physicians supporting MSSNY’s agenda.

Thomas J. Madejski, MD, took office as President-Elect at MSSNY’s 211th annual House of Delegates meeting in Tarrytown on April 22. A board-certified internist, he currently serves as President of the Medical Staff at Medina Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Madejski received a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the School of Pharmacy, State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the School of Medicine, SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, and was Chief Resident in the Department of Medicine from 1989-1990. In 1990, he was named a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He holds additional certifications in the areas of geriatric medicine and hospice and palliative medicine.

Active in organized medicine, Dr. Madejski has been a delegate representing New York at the American Medical Association (AMA)’s annual meeting for the past 12 years. In 2015, he was elected to the AMA’s Council of Medical Service. Additionally, Dr. Madejski is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, and past president and member of the Orleans County Medical Society.

Earlier, Dr. Madejski served MSSNY as Vice President and as Treasurer. He also has served MSSNY as Commissioner, Division of Socio-Medical Economics and as Vice-Chair, Legislative & Physician Advocacy Committee.

Dr. Madejski is an attending physician at Medina Memorial Hospital and serves on the hospital’s Medical Quality Assurance Committee. He is also a clinical instructor in medicine & pharmacy at University of Buffalo.

With a specialized focus in geriatric medicine, Dr. Madejski is the medical director of Orleans County Nursing Home, Absolute Care of Gasport Nursing Facility and the Hospice of Orleans County.

Dr. Madejski resides in Albion and practices at General Physicians Medical Practice in Medina.

Arthur C. Fougner, MD, was elected Vice President of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) at its 211th annual House of Delegates meeting in Tarrytown, NY on April 22, 2017. Board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Fougner is Chief of Gynecologic Ultrasound at Northwell Health.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Fougner earned his MD degree from Tulane University School of Medicine. He completed his postdoctoral training in OB-GYN at St. Clare’s Hospital, NYU Medical Center, Bellevue Hospital and Booth Memorial Medical Center.

An attending OB-GYN at North Shore University Hospital, Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Forest Hills Hospital, Dr. Fougner is an assistant professor of OB-GYN at the Hofstra North Shore- LIJ School of Medicine at Hofstra University and formerly an assistant clinical professor at SUNY Stony Brook and Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Fougner is a member of the International Society for Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology and of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine.

Active in organized medicine since 1979, Dr. Fougner previously served as MSSNY’s Assistant Secretary. Additionally, he was MSSNY’s Commissioner of Communications from 2012-2013, MSSNY’s Assistant Commissioner of Public Health from 2009-2010 and Commissioner of Governmental Affairs from 2010-2012. He serves as a trustee for the Medical Society of the County of Queens.

Joseph R. Sellers, MD, FAAP, FACP, took office as Treasurer at MSSNY’s 211th annual House of Delegates meeting in Tarrytown on April 22. In this position, he will help to oversee the finances of the state’s primary professional organization for physicians. Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Dr. Sellers serves as Eastern Region Medical Director for the Bassett Healthcare network.

Originally from Buffalo, Dr. Sellers earned his BA degree from the University of (Continued on page 25)
Rochester and his MD degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed a combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency Program at the Albany Medical Center. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Physicians.

An attending physician in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, NY and the Cobleskill Regional Hospital, Dr. Sellers is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he has served as a primary care clerkship preceptor for over twenty years.

Dr. Sellers serves on the Schoharie County Board of Health, the Cobleskill Regional Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Leatherstocking Council Executive Board.

An active member of organized medicine since 1990, Dr. Sellers previously served MSSNY as Assistant Treasurer and as Secretary. He served as MSSNY’s Third District Councilor from 2004-2010, and Third District President from 1998-2004. Additionally, he served as MSSNY’s Commissioner of Medical Education from 2009-2010, and is presently serving as Chair of MSSNY’s Political Action Committee. He was president of the Schoharie County Medical Society from 1990-1994.

**FRANK DOWLING, MD, SECRETARY**

Frank Dowling, MD took office as Secretary of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) at its annual House of Delegates meeting in Tarrytown, NY on April 22, 2017.

A graduate of Harvard College, Dr. Dowling received both his medical degree and his residency training from SUNY at Stony Brook School of Medicine. Since 2004, he has served as Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine. Prior to that appointment, he was Clinical Assistant Professor from 1993-2004. Board certified in both Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, Dr. Dowling has an outpatient private practice in Garden City and Islandia that focuses on treating victims of trauma and disaster, emergency responders and healthcare professionals and their families. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Dowling serves as Medical Advisor to the Police Organization Providing Peer Assistance (POPPA), an independent, confidential, non-departmental voluntary assistance program for the NYPD.

An active member of MSSNY, Dr. Dowling currently serves as Commissioner for Science and Public Health. Previously, he served as co-chair of the Addiction and Psychiatric Medicine Committee, chair of the Task Force on Alcohol and Health and vice chair of the Committee on Bioterror and Emergency Preparedness. In addition, he serves on the Advisory Committee and as faculty for the Veteran’s Mental Health Training Initiative, a collaborative effort by MSSNY, NYSPA and NASW-NY to train NY practitioners to assist warriors and veterans with post-traumatic stress and TBI.

As a member of the DOH Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement ISTOP Advisory Committee, Dr. Dowling was instrumental in helping a MSSNY led coalition obtain the right for a designee to assist a physician with mandated PMP lookups. He currently serves on the AMA’s Opioid Abuse Task Force and with the MSSNY/OASAS Planning Committee that developed a 3 hour CME program on pain management and opioid abuse, which is available free to MSSNY members to meet the New York State mandated CME requirement.

Dr. Dowling received the American Psychiatric Association’s Bruno Limo Award in 2003 for “outstanding contributions to the care and understanding of victims of disaster” for his work with emergency services personnel after the World Trade Center attacks in 2001. In addition, Dr. Dowling received a Long Island Healthcare Heroes Award from Long Island Business News for his work in support of veterans and others with chronic psychiatric illnesses. In 2015, he was awarded MSSNY’s Charles D. Sherman Award for his support of medical students. He is co-author of Disaster Psychiatry: Readiness, Evaluation, and Treatment, a text book intended to prepare psychiatrists and other mental health professionals to respond to disasters and mass casualty events.

Dr. Dowling lives in Oakdale, NY with his wife Theresa, sons Frank, Sean and Finn and daughter, Casey.

**KIRA GERACI-CIARDULLO, MD, MPH, SPEAKER**

Westchester allergist Kira A. Geraci-Ciardullo, MD, MPH, took office as Speaker at MSSNY’s 211th annual House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Tarrytown, NY on April 22. Only one other woman has achieved this honor.

Dr. Geraci-Ciardullo earned her MD degree from the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She received her residency training in pediatrics at New York Hospital, where she then completed a two-year fellowship in allergy/immunology. She subsequently earned board certification in both disciplines. Additionally, she earned a master’s degree in public health (MPH) in health care policy and management from the New York Medical College School of Public Health.

Dr. Geraci-Ciardullo has been in private practice for more than 30 years and is listed as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor Metro New York and Westchester County. She is on staff at White Plains Hospital (where she completed a five-year term as Chief of Allergy), New York Presbyterian Hospital, Westchester Medical Center, and Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital. She holds academic positions at both Weill Medical College of Cornell University and at New York Medical College. She has been a member of the Board of Directors at MLMC for the past 10 years, and serves on their Patient Safety and Education Committee.

A dedicated member of MSSNY for 30 years, Dr. Geraci-Ciardullo has held many leadership positions, including chair of MSSNY’s emergency preparedness committee and vice-chair of MSSNY’s preventative health subcommittee. She has served on MSSNY committees for quality improvement and patient safety, emergency preparedness and bioterrorism, preventive medicine and family health, and health care reform. She represented MSSNY for 10 years at the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI). In addition, Dr. Geraci-Ciardullo represents MSSNY on the Ad Hoc Committee to promote the NYS DOH Prevention Agenda.

In addition to her activities at MSSNY, Dr. Geraci-Ciardullo has served organized medicine as president of the Westchester County Medical Society, the Westchester Academy of Medicine and the Westchester Allergy Society. She has been part of MSSNY’s AMA delegation for 11 years and serves on the AMA
WILLIAM LATREILLE, MD, VICE SPEAKER

Internist William Latreille, MD, took office as Vice Speaker at MSSNY’s 211th annual House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Tarrytown on April 22. He will continue in his role as Chief Medical Officer at the Alice Hyde Medical Center and as Medical Director of Outpatient Medical Practices in Malone. Dr. Latreille will also continue his Internal Medicine practice in Malone.

A graduate of LeMoyne College in Syracuse, Dr. Latreille earned his medical degree at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. He received his first and second years of Internal Medicine residency training at the University of Missouri Medical Center in Columbia, Missouri and finished his residency training at the Robert Packer Hospital/Guthrie Clinic in Syre, Pennsylvania. He is board certified in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Latreille is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a specialist in adult and adolescent medicine. He has been designated as a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform flight physical examinations and issue aviation medical certificates for class 1, 2 and 3 pilots.

Dr. Latreille served as 4th District Councilor for eight years and 4th District President for four years. He created, and continues to chair, the Lake Placid Retreat – now in its 18th year – that is designated as a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform flight physical examinations and issue aviation medical certificates for class 1, 2 and 3 pilots.

Dr. Latreille served as 4th District Councilor for eight years and 4th District President for four years. He created, and continues to chair, the Lake Placid Retreat – now in its 18th year – that is designated as a Senior Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform flight physical examinations and issue aviation medical certificates for class 1, 2 and 3 pilots.

In addition to his activities at MSSNY, Dr. Latreille is a member of the American Medical Association (AMA) and a member of the New York State Delegation to the AMA. He is also a member and past president of the Franklin County Medical Society.

MARK J. ADAMS, MD, MBA, FACR ASSISTANT TREASURER

Dr. Mark Adams took office as Assistant Treasurer at MSSNY’s 211th annual House of Delegates meeting in Tarrytown on April 22. A board-certified Radiologist, he is Professor and Associate Chair of Imaging Services at University of Rochester Medical Center.

A graduate of Lehigh University, Dr. Adams received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He completed an internship in surgery at Barnes Hospital at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, a radiology residency at Rochester General Hospital, and a fellowship at the University of Rochester. He is certified by both the American Board of Radiology and the National Board of Medical Examiners.

In addition, Dr. Adams received an MBA from the William E. Simon School of Business and Administration at University of Rochester.

An active member of MSSNY since 2000, Dr. Adams served as the 7th District Councilor from 2011-2017. He currently serves as Commissioner of the Medical Education Committee and is an alternate on the Legislative and Physician Advocacy Executive Committee.

Dr. Adams’ previous involvement with MSSNY includes service as Vice-Chair of the Professional Ethics and Medical Conduct Committee, and a member of the Nominating Committee, the Physician Disciplinary Committee and the Collective Negotiation and Implementation Committee. Dr. Adams is also an active member of the Monroe County Medical Society, where he served as President in 2010.

As an active member in several radiological societies, Dr. Adams served on the Council Steering Committee of the American College of Radiology; President of the New York State Radiological Society; and President of the Rochester Roentgen Ray Society.

In 2012, Dr. Adams received the JACR Award for Recognition of Exceptional Manuscript Review from the American College of Radiology. He has been a Reviewer for the American Journal of Radiology since 1997.

Dr. Adams currently serves as Director of Radiology at Medalliance Medical Health Service in the Bronx. He uses advanced balance testing and balance therapy to aid fall prevention; and VNG to analyze eye movements and brain waves to test for various forms of vestibular disorders.

A graduate of Yeshiva University, Dr. Bloch received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Lenox Hill Hospital and his residency in Neurology at Albert Einstein. He was Chief of Neurology for 20 years at the former Westchester Square Hospital.

Dr. Bloch holds an academic appointment at Albert Einstein College of Medicine as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurology and is a member of the Montefiore Medical Council. He was a member of Governor Pataki’s Commission on Strokes.

An active member of MSSNY since 1980, Dr. Bloch has served on many committees, including the House Committee on Bylaws, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Task Force on Residency Shortages. He is a former president of The Bronx County Medical Society.

Dr. Bloch has been married to his wife, Rhonda, for 45 years. He has 4 children and 15 grandchildren. During his spare time, Dr. Bloch enjoys gardening. He was recently granted an exclusive privilege to view ancient sacred Hebrew Scriptures in the Vatican Library.

SANA BLOCH, MD, FAAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Dr. Sana Bloch took office as Assistant Secretary at MSSNY’s 211th annual House of Delegates meeting in Tarrytown on April 22. A board-certified neurologist, he has more than 40 years of experience specializing in the medical diagnosis and treatment of head and spine dysfunction and a full range of neurological conditions such as headaches, seizures, neuropathy, brain tumors, strokes and dementia.

Dr. Bloch currently serves as Director of Neurology at Medalliance Medical Health Service in the Bronx. He uses advanced balance testing and balance therapy to aid fall prevention; and VNG to analyze eye movements and brain waves to test for various forms of vestibular disorders.

A graduate of Yeshiva University, Dr. Bloch received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Lenox Hill Hospital and his residency in Neurology at Albert Einstein. He was Chief of Neurology for 20 years at the former Westchester Square Hospital.