MSSNY WORKS FOR YOU!

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

LEARN MORE INSIDE about how membership benefits you!
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 Panacea, 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 delivery of quality medical care, and we work 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
Advancing Your Interests on a Global Scale

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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’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.

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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 pharmacopoeia, in order to combat the chaotic state in which drugs and medications are compounded.

1819
Salutation 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 McColl 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 P.C., 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 both routine and more complex audits, investigations, and reimbursement appeals, and to protect your license before governmental licensing boards.

For legal questions, members may contact Barry B. Cepelewicz, MD, at 516-393-2200 bcepelewicz@garfunkelwild.com. The firm’s website is at www.garfunkelwild.com.

PAYER PROBLEM ASSISTANCE
Socio-Medical Economics (x332)
MSSNY’s SME 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.

1846 Nathan Davis, a state society delegate from Broome County, leads the formation of the AKA 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.

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. MSSNY maintains the documents and can later make short updates at no extra charge. Cost is $50 base fee for MSSNY members, $100 non-members.

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 Ch act Auditor (CPMA). 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.

DISCOUNTED DEFIBRILLATORS
Simple to use, maintenance free.

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

NEWS SERVICES
Communications (x350) 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 Capital 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.

MEDICAL DIRECTORY OF NEW YORK STATE
On the Web at www.mssny.org. Membership (x369)

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.

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)

* 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.

ALTFEST 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
Effective 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@premierglassconcierge.com.

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

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 interoperable health information technology infrastructure in New York State.
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 SYMPOSIUM
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.

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
Our younger members to display their research at the MSSNY House of Delegates meetings

RESIDENT/FELLOW/MEDICAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
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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 entrée 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.

MSSNY wants to encourage. MSSNY wants to encourage.

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 achieve 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.

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.

MSSNY moves its Downstate Headquarters to Westbury.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

2007
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2008
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2011
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2016
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2016
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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.
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
- **Executive Headquarters**: 516-488-6100
- **Toll Free**: 800-523-4405
- **Lobby Fax**: 516-282-7098
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## Albany MSSNY
- **MSSNY Albany Headquarters**: 518-465-8085
- **Fax**: 518-465-0976
- **Accreditations for CME**: 518-465-8085 x317
- **Continuing Medical Education**: 518-465-8085 x317
- **Committee for Physician Health**: 518-436-4723 x222
- **Committee for Physician Health (Fax)**: 800-338-1833
- **FAX CPH Albany**: 518-436-7943
- **Governmental Affairs**: 518-465-8085 x319
- **MSSNYPAC**: 518-465-8085 x314/339
- **Public Health and Education**: 518-465-8085 x311

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The Medical Society of the State of New York

[www.mssny.org](http://www.mssny.org)