

MSSNY Council Report
David Jakubowicz, MD, Councilor
Manhattan and the Bronx
January 26, 2023

New York County Medical Society

- The Society has joined colleagues around the State in urging members to send letters to Governor Kathy Hochul asking her to veto Wrongful Death legislation. In addition, the Society promoted the “Call In to the Governor” campaign set up by MSSNY on January 11, 2023, between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with Society leaders, members, and staff making calls.
- Members of the leadership have been meeting with our representatives to discuss Mayor Eric Adam’s plan to use hospital emergency rooms as a depository for mentally ill homeless people (even against their will). The Society met with Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, Senator Liz Krueger, and the Legislative Director to Senator Brad Hoylman, and have a meeting set with Assemblymember Amy Paulin. Among items discussed are establishing alternatives to the ER, such as special “Mental Health Urgent Care Centers” (which were successful in California); increasing funding for these Mental Health Urgent care and homeless housing in the 2023 State Budget; and discover more about downstate funding that already exists (per Senator Krueger) that was never used for psychiatric beds.
- The Society is planning its first in–person Legislative Breakfast since COVID at the New York Academy of Medicine on Sunday, January 29, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Along with co–hosts The New York County Psychiatric Society and New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Society will host a number of invited legislators to discuss the mentally ill homeless plan; the push to shunt New York City retirees into a Medicare managed care plan; “wrongful death” and other trial–bar moves; bids for practice scope expansion by NPs, PAs, psychologists, pharmacists and other non–physicians; and reproductive health care. Any MSSNY member is invited at member price.
- The Society held its Medicare Part B 2023 Update with James D. Bavoso, Manager, Provider Outreach and Education, National Government Service, on January 18 at 8:00 a.m.
- The Society will charter a bus to Albany for Physician Advocacy Day on March 14, 2023. and is setting up afternoon visits with Manhattan legislators for members.
- The Society has begun the process of preparing resolutions for the 2023 meeting of the House of Delegate.
- The Society has formed a work group to discuss recent legislation in New York State calling for insurance reimbursement for medical marijuana.

Bronx County Medical Society

- Bronx County Medical Society was proud to support Senator Alessandra Biaggi With the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign which helps save lives by installing FREE smoke alarms in homes that don't have them, and by educating people about home fire safety. Bronx County physicians realized this was an important initiative to support as every day and every 40 minutes a fire injury is reported. To schedule an appointment with the Red Cross for a smoke detector and installation call (877) Red Cross or register online at: <http://soundthealarm.org/nyc>.
- Bronx County Medical Society celebrated with the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson our first Three Kings Day. The event was a success as she thanked us for our commitment to giving back to our residents and families. Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson gave a special thanks to Bronx County Dr. Sumir Sahgal and Essen Health Care, & with their organization support they we're able to award scholarships to three of our incredible Bronx scholars who will go on to do amazing things in our borough and beyond.
- Senator Jamaal Bailey has asked the Bronx County Medical Society in support of his bill **S3483** to protect seniors EPIC benefits. With the support and Assemblyman Robert Carroll this bill has been **signed into law**. The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program helps over 325,000 seniors pay for prescription drug costs. This bill will ensure they don't lose coverage because of an increase in retirement benefits to align with cost of living. This legislation will help seniors in this essential program retain their benefits and access affordable prescription drugs.
- Bronx County Medical Society has worked with other counties under the leadership of our MSSNY President Dr. Parag Metha in conveying to Governor Hochul how destructive passing the Grieving Family Act/ Wrongful Death Bill would be if passed. Bronx County leadership including their Executive had made calls, emails and Tweets to send our message loud in clear to the Governor. The advocacy from all physicians and exec's involved will make a difference, the time to act is now. Dr. Metha sends his gratitude and thanks to all for your leadership and empowering MSSNY.
- Bronx County Medical Society Executive Director Ronald Blount was awarded A Heroes of District 34 Proclamation from Senator Alessandra Biaggi on December 19th at the Founder's Hall College of Mount Sinai Vincent as she exited her 2nd term in office as Senator of the Bronx and Riverdale. The Heroes of District 34 Award Ceremony was to spotlight the incredible work of members of the community. Senator- Elect Nathalia Fernandez, Senator Gustavo Rivera and Bronx County leadership we're in attendance.

