



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

865 Merrick Avenue Westbury, NY 11590
518-488-6100



President Dr. Parag Mehta: Report to 2023 HOD

What is MSSNY: MSSNY is a professional organization that protects our profession and our patients. Our four pillars are Connect, Engage, Influence, and Learn.

Moments to Cherish for MSSNY: Veto of the Grieving Families Act. We cherish some moments in our life and this year's pinnacle moment was the miracle of a seemingly impossible task: the Governor's veto of the Grieving Families Act. Bipartisan and near-unanimous support for the bill could have made an override of the veto very likely. Our opponents were strong, and the prospects were gloomy. With your help, our alliances, the creation of simple action items, use of media, and organized efforts, we achieved what we will cherish for years. In the process, we found new strength, confidence, and new leaders among us. This victory made me believe in courage and confidence: The courage to believe in your dream, to believe the impossible is possible, and to work towards its attainment. To get what we want, we need the confidence to overcome obstacles – exposing ourselves to potentially humiliating, dangerous, or painful consequences. While there are many accomplishments, there were times when I was disappointed. That is where I learned acceptance: Acceptance is coming to peace with things I can't change, which takes tremendous courage. I can't change other people. I can only change myself. - Irene Latham

I am thankful to the dedicated staff, all leaders, members, the federation of executive directors, and our alliances. This year, I experienced awe and wonder; I gained courage and confidence and learned acceptance and thoughtfulness, giving me hope and optimism for our future. I also learned to survive crises and tough times by building resilience and communicating effectively. When swimming with sharks, face your fear with courage and knowledge, pay full attention to the matter, anticipate, plan, and stay calm.

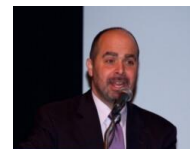
I am humbled to serve MSSNY and my gratitude to all who supported me and challenged me to do more. All accomplishments are attributed to teamwork.

MSSNY's Accomplishments

Under the leadership of MSSNY Executive Vice President Troy Oechsner, I thank the division leaders and the entire staff for their tireless work and dedication:

I. Division of Governmental Affairs

Morris Auster, Patricia Clancy, Zina Cary, Michael Bartlett, Jennifer Wilks

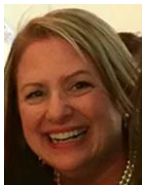


Victories Include:

1. Stopped the Wrongful Death Bill
2. Passed Telehealth Payment Parity requiring insurers to pay telehealth on parity with in-office

3. Increased Funding for Doctors Across NY's student loan forgiveness for physicians in underserved communities
4. Restored Funding for proposed cuts to Medicaid and Excess Medical Malpractice
5. Restricted Insurers' Mid-Year Drug Formulary Changes.
6. Established Regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers.
7. Stopped Pre-Judgment Interest in cases (including malpractice).
8. Expanded Insurance Coverage in the Essential Plan and Child Health Insurance Program, as well as for Medicaid post-partum care up to one year.

II. Division of Communications



Julie Vecchione, Roseann Raia, Matt Brown

Significant accomplishments include **the new MSSNY website, the new MSSNY Pulse Newsletter, and the new MSSNY Pulse App.** MSSNY leaders were featured in print, TV, radio, and social media throughout the year on many subjects that impact the medical profession and New York healthcare. Over the course of the last year, MSSNY sent [49 press releases](#) on a wide range of topics, including wrongful death, racism, vaccines, and physician burnout. **Media Training** for Physicians webinar provided training for members interested in speaking on behalf of the profession. With a grant from the AMA, MSSNY aired over **400 radio spots** on stations throughout the state to educate the public on scope of practice.

1. Wrongful-death liability bill is the wrong plan for New York
2. Medical Society Reaffirms Longstanding Policy that Supports Legalized Abortion
3. Racism is a Public Health Crisis
4. Medical Society Offers Condolences to Texas Victims' Families,
5. Supports Waiting Period and Background Checks for Firearms Purchases
6. Legislative Session Mixed Bag for Future of Healthcare in New York
7. Frustrated by Today's SCOTUS Decision Striking Down New York Gun Law
8. Applauds FDA Decision to Order Juul E-Cigarettes Off the Market
9. Physicians Condemn Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe as Misguided and Dangerous
Healthcare Decisions Should be Between Physician and Patient
10. Applaud Aetna Decision to Suspend Preauthorization for Cataract Surgery
11. Statement Supporting Legislative Efforts to Protect New Yorkers from Gun Violence
12. Vaccines are the Very Cornerstone of Public Health
13. Congratulates Rep. Jefferies
14. New York is on the Precipice of a Patient Access Disaster: the Combination of Federal Medicare Cuts and Potential Expanded Liability Costs Will Devastate Patients' Access to Care
15. Outlines Physician Priorities in Governor Hochul's Proposed Budget for FY24
16. Applauds DFS for \$80 Million in Recoveries Under Prompt Payment Law
17. Calls for Updates to the Law with Stricter Penalties for Insurers who Illegally Delay Payment for Patient Care

III. Division of Public Health and Education

Patricia Clancy, Melissa Hoffmann, Miriam Hardin, Emily Rento, Nick Hospoda
Medical Matters:

1. What's your Diagnosis? Infectious Diseases
2. Nuclear Radiation + Chemical Agents
3. Monkeypox
4. Vaccines for Adults + Children
5. When is the Flu Not the Flu?
6. Veterans Matters
7. Pain Management

8. P2P Training
9. Regular meetings with DOH.

IV. **Division of Physician Payment and Practice:**



Heather Lopez

\$7 million recovered on behalf of members; 700 consults conducted; regular meetings with CMS and physician practices.

Webinars and meetings:

1. MSSNY Credentialing and Maintenance Options Webinar
2. No Surprises Act Webinar
3. Salary Data and Contract Review: What You Need to Know with Resolve CEO Kyle Claussen
4. Cybersecurity – Locking the Backdoor Webinar
5. Be Prepared: Changes in 2023 Medical Evaluation and Management Coding
6. Revenue Cycle Management – It is Not Just Billing
7. Revenue Cycle Management – Understanding Outsourcing
8. Protect Your Practice with Cyber Insurance

V. **Division of Membership and Marketing**



Valerie Cammisio, Fran Nunez, Brenda Van Nest, Kathy Rohrer, Matt Brown, Lynette Green, Danielle Nunez, Ruzanna Arsenian, Mohini Harilall, Robyn Cangemi

Simplified old membership model; added benefits and webinars; launched new MSSNY Insider and MSSNY Buzz; continued membership recruitment & retention; created two new sections, International Medical Graduates (IMG) and Minority Affairs.

Member Benefit Webinars

1. MSSNY Credentialing and Maintenance Options Webinar
2. No Surprises Act Webinar
3. Salary Data and Contract Review: What You Need to Know with Resolve CEO Kyle Claussen
4. Cybersecurity – Locking the Backdoor Webinar
5. Be Prepared: Changes in 2023 Medical Evaluation and Management Coding
6. Revenue Cycle Management – It is Not Just Billing
7. Revenue Cycle Management – Understanding Outsourcing
8. Protect Your Practice with Cyber Insurance

Strategic Planning Meeting

With a grant from MESF, MSSNY held an in-person retreat on strategic planning. Leaders and staff participated in this two day workshop with AMA past president Dr. James Rohack.

Women’s Leadership Academy

With a grant from the Physicians Foundation, planning is underway for educational programming in the coming year for women and other interested physicians to develop leadership skills.

David Mezza Wellness Series with a grant from Empire Foundation

1. Lifelong Learning: A Look in the Rearview Mirror and a Peek Ahead
2. Less Stress, More Success: Overcoming and Preventing Healthcare Burnout
3. Supporting Well-Being Beyond the Pandemic: Suggestions for Individuals and Systems

Medicine and Government during Public Health Emergency

Implicit Bias training:

1. We shared training videos with our staff and leadership.
2. Presentation on Implicit Bias by Dr. Penny Stern

International Medical Graduate and Ethnic Medical Association (IMG EMA) Section:

1. How to write best personal statement
2. How to ace an interview for residency
3. Celebration of Diversity: Honoring healthcare Heroes

YPS RFS section

1. Connect with Empathy but Lead with Compassion
2. Advocacy

Student Section

One-on-One Advocacy

OMSS Section

AMA and Advocacy

Several grants were obtained, including:

1. David Mezza Lecture series \$10,000
2. Physician Foundation/ Women Leadership Grant \$150,000
3. Scope of Practice/AMA: \$50,000
4. Medical Matters @ \$79,000
5. Empire to MESF \$140,000

A Few Inspiring Stories from MSSNY Pulse

If Knowledge is Power, Then Knowing What We Don't Know is Wisdom. In the book "Think Again," Adam Grant explains that it pays to change your mind in a constantly changing world. Let go of knowledge and opinions that are no longer serving you well. We often prefer to hang on to old views over the difficulty of grappling with new ones. There are deeper forces behind our resistance to rethinking. It requires us to admit that the facts may have changed, that what was once right may now be wrong. Reconsidering something we believe deeply can threaten our identities, making it feel like we're losing a part of ourselves.

You're Closer than You Think: A Story of Focus, Motivation, Perseverance, Inspiration. 1952, Florence Chadwick decided to attempt the 26-mile swim between the California coastline and Catalina Island. Roughly 15 hours into her swim, a thick fog began to set in, clouding Chadwick's vision and confidence. She swam for another hour before deciding to call it quits. Sitting in the boat, she discovered that if she'd continued for another mile, she would have reached Catalina Island.

David vs. Goliath: How Can the Underdog Win Against the Giant? Three thousand years ago, on a battlefield in ancient Palestine, a shepherd boy felled a mighty warrior with nothing more than a stone and a sling. Since then, the names of David and Goliath have stood for battles between underdogs and giants. David's victory was improbable and miraculous. He shouldn't have won. We experienced nothing short of a miracle this week. The mission that once seemed impossible to achieve was accomplished when Governor Hochul vetoed the wrongful death bill late Monday night, highlighting her concerns about the impact of the legislation, as written, to the health care system.

MSSNY is where you will find wonder and awe. Wonder inspires the wish to understand. Wonder fuels our passion for exploration and learning, curiosity, and adventure. Awe inspires the wish to let shine, acknowledge, and unite. When feeling awe, we tend to simply stand back and observe "to provide a stage for the phenomenon to shine." Awe "leads people to cooperate, share resources, and sacrifice for others" and causes them "to fully appreciate the value of others and see themselves more accurately, evoking humility."