

MSSNY THIRD DISTRICT REPORT

JUNE

- **CDPHP PROPOSES TAKEOVER BY ROCHESTER COMPANY**

A Rochester-based insurer could soon be the parent company of CDPHP. CDPHP and the Lifetime Healthcare Companies have plans to form an affiliation that will allow the health insurers to maintain their local brands and identities while sharing resources. Lifetime is already the parent company of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and Univera Healthcare. CDPHP is one of the largest health insurance companies in Upstate New York. The affiliation will need to be approved by state and federal regulators. MSSNY has been invited to an informational meeting on June 28th to discuss the proposal. County societies potentially affected by the proposal were invited by Dr. Lee to participate. CDPHP, formally known as the Capital District Physicians' Health Plan, was formed by the Medical Society of the County of Albany, Inc. in 1984. MSSNY has expressed its concern about the consolidation of these plans.
- **ALBANY MED RECEIVES GRANT FOR NERVE STUDY**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded scientists at Albany Medical College a five-year, \$2.6 million grant to study the role of a specific protein in peripheral nerve disorders. The study will focus on peripheral demyelinating neuropathies, which affect approximately three million people worldwide. Symptoms occur most often in the hands and feet and include numbness, muscle weakness, fatigue, and chronic pain. Foot ulcers and amputation can result in the most severe cases.
- **TRANSCATHETER REPAIR A FIRST FOR ST. PETER'S**

St. Peter's Health Partners is advancing heart care at St. Peter's Hospital with its first-ever transcatheter closure of a ventricular septal defect (VSD). The complex cardiac surgical procedure repaired a hole in a 70-year-old woman's heart and helped her avoid open-heart surgery. A VSD is a hole in the wall that separates the lower left and right ventricles of the heart. Not everyone with the congenital defect will need surgery. If the hole is very small, it typically will not cause symptoms. However, if the hole is large, over time it can lead to elevated pressure in the blood vessels in the lungs and decreased oxygen levels in the body.