

**MSSNY Council Report**  
**Joshua M. Cohen, MD, MPH, Councilor**  
**Manhattan and the Bronx**  
**January 19, 2019**

**New York County Medical Society**

- É The Society held a Medicare Update session on December 20 for almost 100 members and their staffs. MACRA issues were also discussed. On January 12, the 2017 Medicare Update session with National Government Services was held.
- É The Society's Legislative Breakfast, held jointly with the New York County Psychiatric Society and the New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry will be held at the New York Academy of Medicine on Sunday, January 29. A number of legislators have already responded and members are excited about this popular event..
- É The Society continues to work on benefits for members and is helping members with practice marketing options through Practice Builders, and discounts for their family members on SAT, MCAT, LSAT, and GRE preparation courses with Kaplan.
- É The Society's Board of Directors has voted to sponsor a bus for the trip to Albany for MSSNY's Legislative Advocacy Day on March 8.
- É Society staff continues to help members with MACRA questions, accessing Medicare fee schedules, re-certifying for e-prescribing waivers, and other practice issues.

**Bronx County Medical Society**

- É Diane P. Miller, Executive Director, announced her retirement at our November Board Meeting that was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. She wrote, "January 13, 2017 will mark the start of 14 years as your Executive Director. It has truly been a privilege working with you. I will miss you more than I can say but it is time for me to retire, which I will do on or about February 17, 2017."

Diane provided an exit plan along with a detailed overview of her duties. Bronx County President David Jakubowicz, MD, selected a search committee. The job was posted, and interviews were held in late December.

  - É We are very pleased to announce that the search committee selects Ronald L. Blount as the next Executive Director of the Bronx County Medical Society. He will assume the position effective January 23, 2017.
- Mr. Blount demonstrates remarkable skill as a strong physician and patient advocate with over 13 years working with Bronx Physicians and Bronx Organizations. In his previous roles as Assistant Director of Business Development at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center and as Territory Developer for Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, he has served as a bridge-builder between different organizations assuring smooth care delivery. Additionally, Mr. Blount has extensive experience in organizational management, fund raising, insurance and contractual issues that can help BCMS advocate for improvements in care delivery. He brings this experience along with his extensive contacts with

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hospitals, multispecialty groups, politicians and private practices to effectively direct and represent the outstanding physicians and 1.42 million citizens of the Bronx.

Please welcome Ronald L. Blount as our Executive Director as he helps us fulfill our mission of Providing Outstanding Leadership in Medicine by Promoting Excellence and Innovation in Clinical Care, Education & Public Policy.

Please also acknowledge the dedication that Diane Miller gave to the Society in her 14 years of service and to assure a smooth transition there will be a transitional period until her stated retirement date of 2/17/2017.

Key Events

January 5 Bronx County members attended events in support of Jeffrey Klein and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

January 24 - Comitia Meeting

January 25 - Meeting with St Barnabas Health and Medalliance re: Group Memberships

March 9 - Tentative date for Doctor's Day. Topic is Updates on Allergy and Asthma.