

8th District Branch Council Report
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The Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers for the Erie County Medical Society took place on May 25, 2017 at Statler City. The keynote address was presented by Congressman Michael C. Burgess, MD. Congressman Burgess is the chair of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Health. Presented with both the MSSNY Excellence in Medicine and James H. Cosgriff, MD Distinguished Leadership Awards were Timothy F. Gabryel, MD and Nancy H. Nielsen, MD. The Community Service award was presented to Paul Updike, MD and the Distinguished Service award was presented to Gregory Young, MD. All were recognized for their commitment to finding creative solutions to provide care to those 9500 individuals who were left without pain management care when the DEA closed a pain center in April 2016.

Elected to leadership positions and installed on May 25th are: Willie Underwood, MD, President; John Gillespie, MD,; President Elect; Kenneth H. Eckhert III, Vice President; Stanley Pietrak, MD . Secretary/Treasurer; Gordon Tussing DO, Chair, Practice Management; Rose Berkun, MD, Chair, Legislative Affairs; Iris Danzinger, MD, Chair, New Physician Practice; Gale Burstein, MD, Chair, Public Health. As members of the Ethics Committee: Doctors JoAnne Cobler, Richard Ruh and Irene Snow. As delegates to MSSNY: Doctors Ernie Diaz Ordaz, Richard Buckley, Eugene Kalmuk and Richard Ruh. Doctor Diaz Ordaz will serve as chair, elect. As alternate delegates to MSSNY: Doctors Jodi Ball, Todd Demmy, Eric Koch, Michael Rade. As members of the Nominating Committee: Doctors Christian Chouchani, Julie Madejski, Robert Powalski, Valerie Vullo.

Buffalo City Court has established the first opiate intervention court in the US. This new court will work like an intensive triage, putting the criminal proceeding on hold for an immediate drug intervention. Within 24 hours of an arrest, everyone in custody will be screened for an opiate addiction. Those affected who have been unsuccessful in previous treatment programs and are detoxing will be referred to inpatient care and those who haven't used in a few weeks will receive outpatient care and supervision. Buffalo is the only city in the US receiving a grant from the US DOJ to pilot the program.

The Erie County Medical Society in collaboration with the EC Opiate Task Force has scheduled two training sessions for later this summer and early fall on SBRIT. SBRIT . Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment is an evidence-based practice used to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. Another program on prescription drug abuse in conjunction with the DEA is also in the planning phase.

The MSCE and the Bar Association of Erie County will co-host another meeting on the recently enacted NYS Paid Family Leave Law. Enacted as part of the 2016-17 budget, all private employers with at least one employee must purchase insurance coverage to provide paid family leave benefits, but may fund the coverage through payroll deductions from employees. The maximum amount that employers may deduct

from employees' pay will be set by DFS by June 1, 2017; employers may begin making deductions from employees' pay on July 1, 2017. The PFL Law is an amendment to NY's Disability Benefits Law, which is a part of the Workers' Compensation Law and administered by the Workers Compensation Board. Pay for PFL will be phased in as follows, with an employee's average weekly wage (AWW) generally determined by reviewing his or her total wages during the 8 weeks immediately preceding and including his or her last day worked before the first day of PFL:

- January 1, 2018 . 50% of the employee's AWW, up to 50% of the NYS AWW.
- January 1, 2019 . 55% of the employee's AWW, up to 55% of the NYS AWW.
- January 1, 2020 . 60% of the employee's AWW, up to 60% of the NYS AWW.
- January 1, 2021 . 67% of the employee's AWW, up to 67% of the NYS AWW.

The Erie County Medical Society and the Eighth District Branch, MSSNY, mourns the death of their co-counsel, Gregory T. Miller, Esq. Greg consistently worked with the leadership and administrative staff to foster greater collaboration between the legal and medical profession. Over the years he served on the MSCE Health Law committee and during this administrative year he served as its co-chair, at the same time serving as President of the Bar Association of Erie County. He was instrumental in the development of programming under the banner of our "Breakfast at the Bar" series, and in the review and update of the "Legal Guidelines for the Medical Office". He will be deeply missed.