Fifth District Report to the MSSNY Council Meeting  
May 10, 2018 (Report last updated May 1, 2018)

The Fifth District includes Cayuga, Chenango, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties.

I attended the second day of the very informative Medical Educational & Scientific Foundation (MESF) Buffalo Physicians Leadership Seminar on April 14, 2018. I would like to especially thank Thomas Donoghue, Executive Director, MESF, and Thomas J. Madejski, MD, MSSNY President, for their hospitality.

I am planning on attending several upcoming county medical society meetings within my district, with the dates of the meetings listed below. I am planning on attending the American Medical Association (AMA) Annual House of Delegates in Chicago, IL.

Among the three Republican incumbents who have announced their retirement and not planning to run for reelection in November to the New York State Senate is Senator John A. DeFrancisco. He is currently the New York State Senator for District 50, an area within the MSSNY 5th District.

The following was furnished by Mary E. Jones, Director of Membership Services, Medical Societies of the Counties of Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Chenango, Oswego, Cayuga & St. Lawrence, Four County Management Corporation:

Medical Societies annual meeting dates:

*May 23rd – Cayuga County  
*May 31st – St. Lawrence County  
*June 6th – Combined Chenango & Madison Counties  
*June 20th – Oswego County

*MSSNY President, Dr. Thomas Madejski will be the speaker at the St. Lawrence County Medical Society annual meeting to be held at 1844 House in Potsdam on May 31st. The topic will be Opioid Addiction.
*Excellus BlueCross BlueShield will be the sponsor for the Combined Oneida & Herkimer County Medical Societies annual meeting to be held on June 27th. The topic will be Medicare 101.

*Fourteen delegates from our seven counties attended the annual House of Delegates.

The following was furnished by James Coulthart, Executive Vice President of the Onondaga County Medical Society (OCMS):

**MATTERS OF NOTE**
**ONONDAGA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**
Early March 2018 to mid-May 2018

- Upon receiving final approval from our MSSNY partners in March, OCMS has started recruitment efforts for the two year pilot program at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Phase one was a letter advising all of the discount program for potential new members. This letter was jointly signed by OCMS President Brian Johnson, MD and Joseph W. Spinale, DO, MBA Chief Medical Officer of St. Joseph’s Hospital. Existing members employed through the St. Joseph’s Physician Group also received a modified letter with a partial dues remittance included as a gesture good faith asking members to assist in the recruitment of other physicians. The next phase will be internal notifications of the value of membership by hospital administration as well as a social mixer approach to interest non-members.

- The OCMS Annual Legislative Breakfast and Roundtable was held March 3rd despite post winter blizzard conditions. This program involved both Federal and State level elected officials or their designated representatives. Attending in person were State Senators Valesky and Assemblypersons Stirpe and Barclay. All other local federal & state level representatives were represented by their staff. A wide spectrum of physicians, residents and medical students addressed several areas of concern ranging from the addiction/opioid crisis to New York Health Law to physician access and shortages, to women’s health issues.

- A Successful Medical Student/Physician Beer and Chili Mixer was held on March 18 with President Brian Johnson, MD hosting this event at his home. Over 30 students and physicians participated. The purpose of this was to mentor and career counsel medical students in a relaxed venue.

- OCMS once again had a nearly full contingent attending this year’s HOD in Buffalo, March 23-25. In addition, several Upstate Medical Students & Residents participated in this year’s HOD Poster Symposium.

- A series of addiction awareness and opioid teaching programs continues for physicians monthly. Expenses are sponsored by Mass Mutual of New York throughout 2018: 3/5 – Opioid Addiction; 4/2 – Buprenorphine Bridging; 5/7 – Limited & Opioid Free Emergency Room; 6/4 – Synthetic Addictive Drugs (sponsored by HCR health); 9/10 –
Treating Chronic Pain without Opioids; 10/15 - Pregnant & Opioid Addicted; 11/5 - Opioid Maintenance.

- On May 10th, the Seventh Annual Ask the Carriers Conference will be held at the Liverpool Holiday Inn. (As of press time, 70 attendees are pre-registered). New Presenters this year include personnel from the NYS Workers Comp Board and Norris McLaughlin & Marcus law firm.

- A program on Tick and Lyme Disease is being held on May 14th with medical and science ecology presenters speaking of the impact of Lyme Disease from the medical and veterinary perspectives.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Huang, MD, Jefferson County, 5th District Councilor