

**MSSNY Council Report**  
**Parag H. Mehta, MD, Councilor**  
**Kings and Richmond Counties**  
**November 1, 2018**

**Medical Society of the County of Kings**

- The Kings County Auxiliary closed its two bank accounts and donated the combined balance of \$40,000 to The AMA Foundation, Physician's Home and the Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn as determined by its bylaws.
- Our Annual Legislative Brunch was held on Sunday, September 16 at Hunters Steakhouse. We had a turnout of seven legislators to include Congressman Dan Donovan; Senators Marty Golden, Diane Savino and Velmanette Montgomery; Assemblymembers Richard Gottfried, Peter Abbate, Rodney Bichotte

Many physicians commented that they were impressed with the legislators' understanding of and ability to discuss the issues paramount on the minds of physicians in Brooklyn. Topics included:

1. Single payer health insurance,
2. The legalization of marijuana in New York State,
3. The corporate practice of medicine by pharmacy chains and hospital systems,
4. Insurance hassles,
5. The detrimental impact of the electronic health records- particularly its contribution to physician burnout,
6. The rapid decline of independent physician medical practice.

Physician leaders in attendance were: Drs. Lee Loewinger, President, MSCK; Sal Skeivys, President, First District Branch of MSSNY; Francis Di Vito, President of the Medical Board of New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and John Lombardo, President of (MLMIC). Many members of the Board of Trustees of MSCK were also present to include MSCK President-Elect, Dr. Pardha Valluru and Kings and Richmond Counties' Councilor, Dr. Parag Mehta. .

The more than 30 attendees enjoyed the lively but civil Town Hall-like exchange between physicians and legislators. Some legislators and physicians hung around after the event to share contacts, take photos and exchange personal stories.

- Our **Annual President's Dinner** took place on October 16th at the Bay Ridge Manor in honor of Immediate Past President, Hilary Fairbrother, MD, MPH, FACEP. It was a bit smaller than usual but intimate and pleasant. The program agenda involved many of our leadership coming to the podium for several activities, one being to take turns presenting Dr. Fairbrother with legislative proclamations and citations which provided the opportunity to say a few heartfelt words about Dr. Fairbrother and along with a lot of laughs. Assemblyman Peter Abbate stopped by to present his citation and take photos. Senator Marty Golden also attended and addressed the audience for several minutes. We would like to thank Phil Schuh for attending and Dr. Arthur Fougner for partaking in the program, addressing our audience and allowing us to meet his lovely wife, Nellie.
- Discussions are currently taking place about holding a **CME program** somewhere between early December and the spring for some of our hospitals on **Physician Burnout**.
- **SAVE the DATE:** Our next **Doctors' Recognition Day** is scheduled to take place on **March 26, 2019** at the Rex Manor in Bay Ridge Brooklyn. We are looking forward to having the Richmond County Medical Society partner with us in to honor physician members from Staten Island.

**Richmond County Medical Society**

The Richmond County Medical Society is looking forward to a productive 2018-2019. Our Society anticipates a productive and positive year of growth. Our goals are always to increase the participation of our current members, as well as educate physicians about our society with hopes of them joining. The society will continue to promote the importance of organized medicine and educate our members on current medical topics and determine alternatives to enable practices to further thrive in the community. This year we will also focus on the Opioid Epidemic that has affected our county, our city, as well as our entire state. We plan to work closely with Borough Hall and the Borough President's team to help us with this crisis facing so many.

Our **October Comitia meeting** date was October 9th, 2018 @ 6:30pm. It was held in the conference room @ 900 South Avenue where we are tenants. Dr. Simon Kokkinakis led the meeting. There were many items on our agenda, and they were all presented and discussed.

**Women in Medicine Event was a huge success** - It was held @ Taste of India on September 14th, 2018. We had an amazing turn-out of 40 female physicians. FUSION our sponsor supplied flyers and we formally thanked him many times that evening. Our Speakers, Jack D'Angelo, MD & Syraj Syed, PhD were professional, informative, and their topics held the attention of all. The Q&A session was also a huge success. We always have an extravagant Raffle Table. There were 25 beautifully decorated raffles. We sold chances in order to win a prize. The evening profited \$501.00 for our society. (Photos to be posted on our website and our fb page.)

**October 26th, 2018 is the Past Presidents Dinner / Dance @ The Vanderbilt.** We expect 175 guests. Our Commemorative journal is almost completed, & we look forward to a wonderful, fun-filled evening in honor of our immediate past president Salvatore S. Volpe, MD.

**November 6th, 2018 is our November Comitia Meeting.** It will be our Thanksgiving Feast held at the Staaten at 6:30pm

**November 7th, 2018** we will host our Annual Medicare Seminar- Updates @ The Staaten from 8:30am-11:30am. We charge a nominal fee for the event. We offer a continental breakfast and we usually have about 50 guests. Our Host is Mr. James Bavaro. Seats are limited; however, we do open the registration to the entire community of Office Managers/billers and physicians.