

# Nassau County Medical Society

Councilor's Report – March 5, 2019

Paul Pipia, MD, Councilor

- I. The Executive Director attended a policy conversation on substance use disorders and the opioid epidemic on February 6, 2019. The Lieutenant governor, local legislators, county officials, physicians, advocates, law enforcement and community representatives attended and discussed funding, public service announcements, developing several programs including those for individuals that are incarcerated and students in early education curriculums, the need and support of MAT programs, interaction with community advocates and preventative methods. It was well attended and shared positive work that Long Island is doing fighting this epidemic.
- II. NCMS was happy to help sponsor and support our Young Physicians at the Social and Annual Education Seminar focused on the use and benefits of social media, February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- III. The Executive committee met on February 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed our operational strategies, accounts and membership engagements.
- IV. The Nassau County Department of Health held a round table session addressing key factors and recommendations on recreational marijuana use. The Commissioner of Health, Lawrence Eisenstein, MD, MPH, FACP is the Chairman of the Public Health Sub-Committee Recreational Marijuana Taskforce. NCMS president, Anthony Battista, MD attended the session.
- V. NCMS is also happy to support and sponsor the February 28<sup>th</sup> MSSNY informative session on a single payer system. We are encouraging our members by word of mouth, blast emails, etc. to attend and become more involved with the Medical Societies and MSSNY PAC.
- VI. We are scheduling appointments with legislators for the March 6<sup>th</sup> Physician Advocacy Day and plan to still speak locally with local leadership in Nassau. Dr. David Podwall and our Executive Director will be meeting with State Senator Anna Kaplan in the following weeks.
- VII. March 26, 2019 NCMS will hold its membership meeting at the Westbury Manor.
- VIII. NCMS has been invited to join the LIJ medical staff meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> for their International Healthcare Symposium ó öJoining Hands Across the Globeö. We look forward to hearing the presentation and engaging with the physicians there.
- IX. The Long Island Health Collaborative, under the statewide Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) is in jeopardy. The Governor's budget prematurely terminates the PHIP program as of March 31, 2019. The organization has been a valuable hub of data and connects key players in healthcare, including those in independent practice, hospitals, the community, and legislation. We have been requested to help by speaking with Senators and Assembly members to continue the program.
- X. The Academy is revitalizing and expanding the marketing options of the building.
- XI. It with great sadness that we report Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) M. Dowling, who served at the Nassau County Medical Society and Nassau Academy of Medicine offices for over 35 years passed away on February 10, 2019.