



The Medical Society of the County of Queens

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MSSNY Council Meeting Report May 30th, 2019

Society Highlights

Meetings & Contributions

NYCDOH Physician Advisory Committee meeting with Dr. Zucker - During a NYC Reach Physician Advisory Committee meeting. On 5-22-19, Dr. Jane Zucker presented the DOH stance on measles. Later in discussions, she accepted physician comments and many were against the inequitable reimbursement of vaccine costs to physicians.

Discussion on “PEACH”, the Jewish mothers’ anti-vaccine coalition, and the NYCDOH counter informational pamphlet “PIE” was discussed. PEACH contends that vaccines contain pig & monkey cells (centering on the orthodox avoidance of pork), aborted fetal tissues, mercury, acetone, aluminum, formaldehyde, undetected viruses, and allergy-prone peanut oils. The informational booklets for parents “PIE” counter all these fake-news false claims with scientific data and references, including parental fears of autism and Mr. Wakefield’s prior claims. PIE was distributed to many family homes in endemic areas of NY State. The DOH also searched the City Immunization Registry to send mailings to all families, not in compliance (over 3,000 letters) and noted that many children exist who are not documented via the CIR. It was also noted by many Orthodox physicians at the meeting that nowhere in the Torah is their instructions to avoid the concept of vaccines & vaccination protection.

Dr. Zucker reported that so far, over 500 child measles cases have occurred in NYC and with 100 adults, 40 hospitalizations, 11 intensive care admits. She also noted that Europe in total has reported 80,000 cases. (JZUCKER@HEALTH.NYC.GOV 347-396-2471)

Councilor’s Agency Highlight

NYC Reach, founded in 2007, is an organization that supports 800 independent private practices & 1000 hospital-based practices with Meaningful Use documentation & reporting, EHR adoption & training costs, a Healthy Hearts program, Patient-Centered Medical Home applications & ongoing data collection, placement of Mental Health Counselors in independent practices free-of-charge for 3 year blocks, and training of physicians in MU, MIPS and PCMH with on-site visits and EMR data retrieval education. (NYCREACH.ORG)

Events

The 212th Annual Gala & Physician’s Expo was held on Monday, May 13th, 2019 at Russo’s on the Bay, Howard Beach, NY. The Board of Trustees and its leadership wants to thank all the financial supporters and all of those in attendance that came to welcome Liana Leung, MD – President 2019-2020, and to honor our two past presidents Allen C. Small, MD – 2018-2019, and L. Carlos Zapata, MD 2017-2018.

Announcement – The Ralph E. Schlossman MD Humanism in Medicine Award

The Dr. Ralph E. Schlossman Humanism in Medicine Award was created this year to commemorate and honor Dr. Schlossman who departed us in January. As a family physician, he touched the lives of many patients for over half a century. He was deeply admired by his colleagues who elected him as President of our county medical society and our state medical society. He also loved to teach medical students and residents. Besides his remarkable service as a physician, he served our country in the U.S. Air Force, becoming a flight surgeon in the first generation of supersonic fighter bombers. We will always remember him with love as a man of leadership, dignity, and integrity.

The criterion for this award is a physician who:

- has cared for patients in the County of Queens after residency or fellowship training for at least 10 years
- displayed the humanistic values of compassion, dedication, and professionalism during the provision of high-quality patient care
- has shown a commitment to educating our future generation of physicians by having taught medical students and/or residents

Preference will be given to physicians who are active members of the Medical Society of the County of Queens. Nominations will be requested this fall from hospitals and the community physicians. The award will be presented for the first time next year during the annual dinner. This award idea was the brainchild of our current president Liana Leung, MD.

Bylaws Committee Report- Dr. Zapata reported that the bylaws committee met via telephone conference on February 24, 2019. The committee proposed making two changes to the Bylaws and Constitution: (Bylaws) Article VI, Section 6.05 and (Constitution) Article III, Section 4 Electronic Elections instead of the paper ballots which would save thousands of dollars and voting would be done online. The committee also proposed deleting the word *secret*. A discussion followed. A motion was then made and seconded, the members voted in favor of the proposed bylaws changes. The changes will be part of the ballots to be mailed in April in order that the members can vote. **UPDATE - Passed**

Summer Projects – The Society will be working in putting together a series of programs that will be open to the public such as blood pressure screening, blood drives, skin cancer screenings, as well as some public speaking initiatives. We will also be revamping the society website with the use of Wild Apricot to make it user-friendlier for members and staff. Most importantly, the staff will be working on updating our members' database with views of having accurate contact information. This will reduce the cost of mailing materials. Lastly, the staff will be investigating the cost and functionality of electronic ballots.

Respectfully Summited by

Councilor, Saulius J. Skeivys, MD, and

Evangeline Rosado-Tripp, ED, 5/23/2019