

**MSSNY Council Report**  
**Joshua M. Cohen, MD, MPH, Councilor**  
**Manhattan and the Bronx**  
**May 30, 2019**

**New York County Medical Society**

- É The Society held its annual breakfast meeting with Society leaders and Assembly Health Chair Richard Gottfried on May 3. Topics included the New York Health Act, marijuana legalization, medical liability costs, and pharmaceutical costs.
- É The Society held a successful CME program on distracted doctors on April 18, and its latest in "The Business Side of Medicine" series on May 23.
- É The Society's Single Payer Task Force continues to review elements of the bill so as to make suggestions if legislation were to pass to improve situations for the doctors. The Society will testify when hearings are held in New York City this summer.
- É As the legislation session nears an end, the Society continues to urge its Government Affairs Committee and the general membership to reach out to legislators on important topics such as vaccination exemptions, collective negotiation, pre-authorizations, and other important issues. Members will continue to receive notices through the session.
- É The Society's Annual Meeting and reception will take place on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at the Upper Story in Manhattan. At that time Mimi Buchness, MD will become president. Arthur Cooper, MD will be president-elect; Keith LaScalea, MD, vice president; Jessica Krant, MD, Secretary; and Jill Baron, MD, Treasurer. Thanks will go to Doctor Naheed Van de Walle on the completion of her presidency.

**Bronx County Medical Society**

- É Bronx County Medical Society Chairman of the Board of Trustees Doctor Alan Diaz and our MSSNY President Doctor Arthur Fougner have been working together to pass the MOC resolution and together were able to find an old forgotten bill S5280, introduced years ago by Senator Schimminger, stating that hospitals and/or insurances cannot use board certification status as a denial of participating/credentialing.

Bronx County Medical Society President Doctor Realba Rodriguez and Doctor Alan Diaz took the bill to present it to Senator Gustavo Rivera and his staff with our resolution and through the diligence of our committee, Senator Rivera moved the bill out of his committee - a win for physicians who were about to be denied based on board certification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC).

- É Bronx County President Doctor Realba Rodriguez and Montefiore Medical Center have been participating in ongoing collaborations with the Board of the #Not 62 campaign, headed by **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**, which has the Bronx Borough ranked last among 62 counties statewide as the unhealthiest county for the seventh straight year.

Bronx County Medical Society will be participating in their upcoming health committees to target this epidemic. We will keep you updated.

- É The Bronx County Medical will be having its **Annual Meeting** on May 28<sup>th</sup> at Sergio's Ristorante, located at 503 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, NY. It will be sponsored by Astrazenaca; all membership is encouraged to attend.