

Medical Society of the State of New York

Report of the 9th District Branch
September 19, 2019

Thomas T. Lee, MD, Councilor

The Medical Society of the State of New York's 9th District Branch is comprised of the following county medical societies: Dutchess; Orange; Putnam; Rockland and Westchester.

Below is the Report of Activities within the 9th District Branch of MSSNY as reported by County:

Dutchess County Medical Society (DCMS)

- The Dutchess County Medical Society (DCMS) members as well as their guests are invited to attend an Executive Cocktail hour, planned for the 213th anniversary of the inaugural address for the DCMS on September 20, 2019. The event will be held at Shadows in the Hudson.
- DCMS annual membership meeting will take place at the end of October. The date will be announced once the venue has been secured. The Millbrook, Winery is being considered for possible availability. The event will be held from 6 to 8pm. Formal business of the Medical Society including election of the slate of officers will be followed by a discussion of the latest updates and happenings from Marist College and their new medical school. A representative from the Physician's Assistant program will be invited to attend and present any relevant information. By providing up to date local material to be discussed, it is hoped that the relevance of the medical society will be accentuated. Therefore, all members and nonmembers from all different specialties will be invited as well as any ancillary support staff or healthcare workers who might find interest in the topic.
- Future topics for discussion for future meetings will be how to approach and work with the LGBTQ community, updates and educational components from the large groups as well as possible speakers from the small groups who wish to accentuate their practice, Lyme disease topics and discussions.
- In addition to quarterly meetings, in order to gain a greater presence within the community, monthly or bi-monthly newsletter with relevant topics should be generated using a larger database of emails.

Putnam County Medical Society (PCMS)

- PCMS is currently looking for a Putnam-based physician to assume the role of President to replace Norma Kurtz, MD who has been acting President since Dr. William Zurhellen stepped down.

Westchester County Medical Society (WCMS)

- On June 13, 2019, the WCMS hosted its **Annual Meeting** at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. Over 130 people, including MSSNY Officers from Westchester, their spouses and guests were in attendance. Special guests included: Arthur Fougner, MD, President, MSSNY (via video) and Phil Schuh, CEO MSSNY. Also honored was David Gray as the Annual "Friend of Medicine" for his incredible volunteer work with the transplant patients at Westchester Medical

Center along with Robert A. Wild, Esq. as a “Friend of the Society” for his ongoing strong support of and collaboration with the medical society, the medical community of Westchester County.

- The following physicians were elected Officers of the WCMS for the 2019-20 Association Year:
 - Daniel Gold, MD, President
 - Peter Acker, MD, President-elect
 - Jeffrey Jacobson, MD, Vice President
 - Bella Malits, MD, Treasurer
 - Bruce Molinelli, MD, Secretary
- On Thursday, October 3, 2019, the Westchester Academy of Medicine will host its **Annual Golf Outing and Fundraiser** at Westchester Country Club in Rye. This event is the primary fundraiser for the Academy in support of its CME Program and philanthropic efforts.
- On Saturday, September 7 WCMS and WAM will be participating as a sponsor in the Volunteer New York 9/11 Serve and Remember event. This will be the third year participating and we will be revitalizing a trout stream at the Westmoreland Sanctuary in Mount Kisco . All members have been invited to participate.
- On August 22 the leadership of WCMS participated in a student-run panel discussion at New York Medical College. Of the topics discussed, advantages and disadvantages to owning a private practice vs. working for a hospital or medical group; what business or policy strategies could help alleviate the burden of administrative work within the practice of medicine; suggestions for the students to gain more knowledge and insight into the business and policy sides of medicine; and how the concept of a national health insurance plan, either Medicare for all or single payer, could/would affect healthcare in the US. The physician panel was able to draw on their experiences throughout their careers to offer the students some insight into these questions. We were happy to participate in such a relevant discussion and hope to continue working closely with the medical students at NYMC in the future.
- On August 27, 2019 Dr. Thomas Lee and Dr. Andrew Kleinman held a meeting with Congressman Eliot Engel (House Energy and Commerce Committee) to discuss the impending legislation on the subject of surprise medical bills. HR3502 (Ruiz Roe bill) is supported by many medical professional societies, as an alternative to the Pallone-Walden bill (HR3630), which greatly favors the insurers. Congressman Engel was sympathetic to physician community’s concerns, and promised to coordinate a NY delegation meeting and will invite Dr. Kleinman and Dr. Lee to present to the delegation. The importance of market OON benchmark, establishment of IDR, and as the last resort, leaving states with existing OON laws to govern ERISA plans, were discussed. Dr. Brisman (Nassau) and Lee also previously met with Congressman Pallone (Chair of House Energy and Commerce) and Congressman Morelli (House sub-committee on Health, Employment, Labor & Pension) to discuss these issues. Dr. Lee had previously communicated his concerns with Congresswoman Lowey, who signed on as co-sponsor of the Ruiz-Roe bill. Many other meetings have taken place over the past 2 months, and additional events/meetings will take place in September when the Congress returns to DC.
- WCMS is still currently speaking with leadership at White Plains Hospital to sign the hospital staff up for membership. WCMS will keep the MSSNY Council updated as things progress.

Rockland County Medical Society (RCMS)

Nothing to Report

Orange County Medical Society (OCMS)

- After many months of negotiations by the OCMS leadership along with MSSNY, Orange County has been unsuccessful in their efforts to incorporate institutional membership for Orange Regional Medical Center and Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital.