

**MSSNY Council Report**  
**Joshua M. Cohen, MD, MPH, Councilor**  
**Manhattan and the Bronx**  
**September 19, 2019**

**New York County Medical Society**

- On June 11, the Society held its Annual Meeting and thanked Doctor Naheed Van de Walle for her service as president. The Nicholas Romayne MD Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Stuart Orsher, MD, JD, for his many contributions to the Society.
- At that meeting, the Society welcomed its new president, Mimi Buchness, MD, a dermatologist in private practice. Other new officers are Arthur Cooper, MD, President-Elect, Keith LaScalea, MD, Vice President; Jessica J. Krantz, MD, MPH, Secretary; and Jill R. Baron, MD, Treasurer.
- Leaders continued meeting with Richard Gottfried, Chair, Assembly Health Committee, to discuss elements of his Single Payer bill, and will testify regarding its concerns when hearings are held in the fall in New York City.
- During the legislation session, the Society urged its Government Affairs Committee and members to address issues of collective negotiation, vaccine exemptions and on the federal level, surprise billing.
- On October 3 the Society will hold a CME program, “*Learn How to Survive a Malpractice Lawsuit.*”
- The Society’s Membership Benefit Committee continues to look at services that can be useful to members
- The Society is in the midst of a major survey on medical practice in Manhattan, looking at physicians practice models, challenges, EMR experience and more. The survey continues for the month of September.

**Bronx County Medical Society**

- Bronx County Medical Society hosted our Annual President’s Dinner that was held at the Pine Bar & Grill on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The dinner was the welcoming of our incoming President Amit Saxena, MD and a farewell to our now Immediate Past President Realba Rodriguez, MD.

We at Bronx County congratulate Doctor Realba Rodriguez for doing an exceptional job as President and for being influential in moving the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) bill out of Senator Gustavo Rivera’s committee.

- Bronx County Medical Society was contacted by Senator Gustavo Rivera to attend and provide oral testimony by Invitation Only for the Joint Senate Task Force on Opioids, Addiction & Overdose Protection. The purpose of this meeting was to hear from stakeholders on strategies for reducing overdoses, improving individual and community health, and addressing the harmful consequences of drug use. Senator Pete Harckham, Senator David Carlucci, and Senator John Liu were in attendance as Co-Chairs for this symposium.

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Bronx County had Doctor Sana Bloch to provide oral testimony from the Bronx along with Doctor Russell Kamer who is a member of MSSNY's Addiction & Psychiatric Medicine Committee. Other physicians who showed in representation were Doctor Realba Rodriguez, Doctor Alan Diaz, and Doctor Peter Wyer.

Bronx County have been contacted by Senator Gustavo Rivera last week of an upcoming hearing in Albany on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and we will be following up discussion there.

- **The Bronx County Medical** will be having our **105 Years of Service Bronx County Medical Society Annual Gala** on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Villa Barone Manor Ristorante, located at 737 Throgs Neck Expressway, Bronx, NY and all membership is encouraged to attend.