

**Medical Society of the State of New York
Committee on Preventive Medicine and Family Health
May 14, 2020
Draft Minutes**

Present

Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner
Nina Huberman, MD Co-chair
Sarah Nosal, MD Co-Chair
Erick Eiting, Co-Chair
Frank Dowling, MD
Joseph Maldonado, MD
Geoffrey Moore, MD
Emily Senay, MD
Jocelyn Young, DO
Moshe Bressler, Student
Beth Perenyi, Alliance

Invited Guests

Bonnie Litvack, President
Parag Mehta, Vice-President
Art Fougner, MD Past President

Absent

Sheila Bushkin, MD
Tzvi Furer, MD
Eugene Kalmuk, MD
Michael Lischak, MD
Mathew Weissman, MD

Excused

Janine Fogarty, Commissioner
Roy Korn, MD

Staff

Patricia Clancy, Sr. Vice-President
Managing Director Public Health and
Education
Maureen Ramirez, Admin Asst.

- 1 **1) Welcome**
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3 **2) Approval of February 6, 2020 minutes** – approved
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5 **3) Climate Change Paper Status Update** – Dr. Senay has been working with Dr. Moore
6 on this paper and the committee was getting the paper ready for the House of
7 Delegates. Unfortunately, there was the shutdown with COVID- 19 and things have
8 been delayed. Ms. Clancy indicated that the paper could be submitted to The MSSNY
9 Council for approval
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11 The majority of the paper has been finalized with the exception of the graphs that had to
12 be reviewed and some that needed to be deleted. Dr. Senay indicated that she had not
13 reviewed the final draft and needed to do that. Moshe Bressler volunteered to remove
14 whatever was indicated. The entire paper is on the Mediafire link for the committee to
15 access. Dr. Senay said that she and Moshe Bressler could review the paper and pull it
16 together. The editorial links should indicate where the graphs should come out. The
17 timeframe is to finalize the paper through summer and present it to the September
18 Council meeting.
19
20 **4) Discussion of COVID-19 Pandemic – Items of Importance to the Practicing**
21 **Physician** – question regarding the validity of the antibody testing. People seem to be
22 using the antibody results differently. Dr. Litvack indicated MSSN’s Infectious Disease
23 Committee discussed this as well.
24 There was discussion about infants being behind in their vaccinations as are adults. The
25 feeling is it will present problems in adults as well. Another issue is that MSSNY has
26 been pushing for a workers compensation fund for healthcare workers that may have

27 health issues in the future. In addition, to look at families that have lost lives and have
28 lost income. The 911 fund should be looked at as a good model for both are and
29 compensation.

30
31 MSSNY sends out an eblast every day with Covid updates for physicians. MSSNY has
32 been in constant contact with the New York State Department of Health.
33 MSSNY receives an enormous amount of information which gets posted in “The Daily”
34 every day. In addition, MSSNY has a weekly meeting with the Department of Health to
35 discuss matters of concern for physicians. This week MSSNY will discussing testing and
36 getting it out to the physicians in their offices.

37
38 There was discussion of insurance plans dropping patients’ families within the month of
39 the patients passing. It’s understood that the contract with employees they can lose
40 their insurance if they don’t fulfill the hourly obligation. So, if they go away for too long,
41 or they are sick for too long, they automatically lose their health insurance.

42
43 Question – wouldn’t the children automatically move on to Health Care Plus? They don’t
44 automatically move on. You have to actively take a step to make that happen. MSSNY
45 can make an inquiry to the Division of Financial Services and see if they are aware of
46 what is happening.

47
48 Dr. Moore commented on something that was said earlier regarding the lower instance
49 of COVID in health care workers. Supporting the earlier statement of Dr. Litvack that
50 PPE works, he wanted to add that health care workers are probably better at the
51 preventive measures of this virus – washing hands, social distancing and that MSSNY
52 should use its resources to stress those measures in the community. Wear your masks,
53 wash your hands, keep your distance. Education is the key. People need to know the
54 proper way to handle the masks, take off the gloves etc. The studies show that in certain
55 neighborhoods, they don’t feel obligated to adhere to the guidelines. MSSNY’s role is to
56 educate, model and inform. There was a discussion about the education on the use of
57 masks in public and physicians noted that patients needed education on how to wear
58 masks and why they should. Dr. Maldonado asked if anyone is interested in researching
59 what are the barriers to wearing face masks and how the barriers can be removed to get
60 people to wear masks and wear them properly. Drs. Nosal, Mehta, Senay offered to
61 assist Dr. Maldonado with this research.

62
63 MSSNY has been putting together a list a list of committee-based concerns during and
64 following the pandemic. Someone asked if MSSNY could put out public service
65 announcements regarding “wash your hands” or “wear your mask”. Pat Clancy noted
66 that the state is doing a “wear your mask” campaign. It was suggested that MSSNY
67 reach out to the AMA about doing a PSA because they have more resources to get the
68 message out there. Dr. Litvack indicated that it would be worthwhile to get a public
69 message out there, whether it is through social media, with the assistance of the AMA,
70 working with the Health Department – all would be a worthwhile endeavor for this
71 committee and MSSNY. A coordinated response would definitely be the way to go.

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73 **7) Adjournment – October 29, 2020 –** but in the time of this pandemic, there may be a
74 need for a meeting before October.

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