



MEMORANDUM

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

99 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 408, ALBANY, NY 12210
518-465-8085 • Fax: 518-465-0976 • E-mail: albany@mssny.org

September 9, 2020

To: MSSNY Council

From: Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner, Public Health and Education
Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst. Commissioner, Public Health and Education
Pat Clancy, Sr. Vice President/Managing Director, Public Health and Education

Subject: Public Health and Education Report to MSSNY Council

1) Peer to Peer Program—On July 6, 2020, MSSNY launched its Peer to Peer Program which is comprised of trained MSSNY physicians, residents, or students as peer supporters. The MSSNY Peer 2 Peer (P2P) program is designed to assist colleagues who need help in dealing with work and family stressors. Now, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the emotional issues related to this event, may also be troubling for our colleagues. This program offers to physicians, residents, and medical students an opportunity to talk with a peer about some of life's stressors. Business cards, index cards, and flyers for the P2P Program have been sent to all councilors, trustees, county medical societies and member institutions. The intent is to have business cards kept in a wallet or pocket to handout to peers and/or colleagues that may benefit from connecting with peer supporters in the P2P programs. Index cards and flyers are meant to be placed within staff rooms and other various locations within institutions where peers can see this information in case, they would like to connect with a peer supporter in the P2P program.

2) Practice Transformation Initiative -- In late February, the Medical Society of the State of New York, the American Medical Association, and the Physicians Foundation, agreed to an initiative to improve patient care by enhancing professional well-being and reducing physician burnout. MSSNY's role was to identify 4-7 practices interested in improving both their practice operations and professional satisfaction through this comprehensive and impactful initiative. When the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, our initial plans for the Practice Transformation Initiative were put on hold as we responded to the initial needs of the outbreak. MSSNY recently reconnected with our colleagues at the AMA and Physicians Foundation and are pleased to share that we have new plans in place to re-launch the initiative this fall. Participation in the PTI will continue to include a structured burnout assessment, webinars, group coaching sessions, and one-on-one engagement opportunities with experts from the AMA. The AMA is also actively identifying new content areas that are responsive to the ever-evolving realities posed by COVID-19. MSSNY has as of this writing received three confirmed commitment letters from Northwell Health, St. Peter's Healthcare and Bassett Healthcare. MSSNY believes that there at least one additional group that will sign onto this initiative.

3) Emergency Preparedness Grant--MSSNY's contract with the NYS DOH for its Emergency Preparedness grant has been renewed and received. MSSNY's Medical Matters will kick off on September 23, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. with its webinar entitled, ***"THE IMPORTANCE OF HERD IMMUNITY - 2020 UPDATE WITH A COVID-19 TWIST"***. Dr. William Valenti will serve as faculty.

David B. Meza, III, MD Emergency Preparedness Award—The MSSNY Leadership and the chair and vice chairs of the Committee on Emergency Preparedness has selected William Valenti, MD as its first recipient of this

award. Dr. Valenti's selection was based on his unwavering commitment over the last 20 years to educate his colleagues on many of the infectious diseases that have arisen over the years –most recently the COVID 19-virus. During this time of unprecedented threat to the public health, Dr. Valenti has been a steadfast leader in providing his colleagues with up to the minute scientific information for them to best treat their patients.

4) Veterans' Grant Program—MSSNY has received its \$150,000 allocation for its Veterans Matter program and training initiative. MSSNY began its fall programming with a webinar on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. The webinar, ***"THE SPECIAL MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF WOMEN VETERANS"*** was conducted by Malene Ingram, MD. Dr. Ingram is also a Colonel, in the U.S. Army Reserves and a surgeon at Ellis Hospital. Plans are underway for additional webinars and MSSNY staff has reached out to various county medical societies to see if can have programs with them.

5) Pain Management Course--In March, MSSNY was in the midst of conducting live webinars on the three hour pain management that is required for all prescribers who hold a DEA license--MSSNY staff completed these webinars on March 24--a few days after the governor declared that NYS was shut down. The course is available now free of charge to MSSNY members. Non-members pay \$50 per 1 hour. MSSNY also obtained a delay in prescribes having to take this course -- the deadline has been extended from July 1, 2020 to October 1, 2020.

6) MSSNY Public Health and Education Committees—Are meeting throughout the fall.