

**Draft Minutes**  
**Medical Society of the State of New York**  
**Heart, Lung, Cancer Committee**  
**October 14, 2020**

**Present**

Joshua Cohen, MD Commissioner  
Janine Fogarty, MD Asst. Commissioner  
Robert Dracker, MD Chair  
Clauden Louis, MD Co-Vice-Chair  
Clare Bradley, MD  
Donna D'Alessio, MD  
Amy Early, MD  
Alan Klitze, MD  
Raymond Lorenzoni, MD  
Bonnie Libers, Alliance

**Excused**

Marco Lawandy, Student

**Absent**

Brian Strizik, MD Co-Vice-Chair  
David Fishman, MD

**Invited Guest**

Bonnie Litvak, MD President

**Staff**

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

**1) Welcome**

**2) Adoption of May 6, 2020 Minutes – Approved**

**3) MSSNY Support for School-based flu vaccination** – a copy of a memo from the MSSNY Emergency Preparedness and Disaster/Terrorism Response Planning Committee to MSSNY Council supporting requiring influenza vaccination for all children prior to them attending school. The memo indicates that it has the support of MSSNY's Infectious Diseases Committee as well as the support of this committee per discussion at our meeting of May 6, 2020. The resolution went before MSSNY Council in September 2020 and was successfully approved. This resolution was sent to the NYS Department of Health. It is under discussion at the Department of Health and it has acknowledged MSSNY's adoption of the resolution. There was concern that this needs to be moved through the DOH, since the school year is well underway.

**4) Recommendations for Post COVID cardiology evaluation for adult patients (over 18 years of age) for anyone who has had a known COVID positive test, regardless of symptomatology** – should the physicians consider post COVID evaluations because of heart and lung issues? There has been increasing information coming out regarding post COVID cardiac complications also neurological and pulmonary. Specifically, cardiac complications after even a mild case of COVID have been noted. There has been consideration that physicians should be doing specific screenings for issues, not just in children but adults who have had post COVID infections, whether they are aware of it or not. The literature is demonstrating that post COVID infections, even if asymptomatic, have caused significant complications with myocarditis or some form of cardiomyopathy. There have been cases of post COVID patients who have had significantly reduced cardiac function but have recovered after a significant period of time. Children are affected when they get the Inflammatory Syndrome. Over 25% have had some

type of cardiac dysfunction. It is recommended by the ACC for pediatrics, that everyone be evaluated before returning to sports or strenuous activity. At this time asymptomatic pediatric patients who are asymptomatic but have tested positive for COVID are being screened with a physical exam. Perhaps an EKG. The other significant population that should be looked at are those with recognized cardiac disease. Those who have sustained COVID infections and fully recover always have some residual dysfunction associated with the prior infection. It was recommended that the idea of screening for post COVID cardiac issues should be put out for the cardiologists on the committee lists, check with the American College of Cardiology. It will then be passed on to members of the Preventive Medicine and Family Health Committee.

**5) Discussion of HPV malignancies and the importance of vaccinations** – there has been research into the HPV vaccine and how it could or could not affect squamous cell carcinoma. Patients who found to have cutaneous squamous carcinoma that was too diffuse to treat locally, were given HPV. There are three cases that have actually been resolved. This was brought to the attention of the committee that a vaccine was actually used as therapy. It reinforces how important this vaccine can be. There is value in improving long term outcomes. It is possible to be preventive and therapeutic. Pat Clancy mentioned it should be brought to MSSNY's Infectious Disease committee.

**6) Materials to Promote Lung Cancer Screening** – MSSNY received informational materials from Astra Zeneca regarding the important of lung cancer screening. It's good information to have to encourage patients to continue cancer screening even during the COVID crisis. These materials were distributed to all members via MSSNY's e-news. It is a good reminder for patients to continue to get screened and vaccinated. Another screening topic was brought up that there is an attempt to get a bill passed in Albany for screening and all methods of treatment for color rectal cancer. The Heart Lung Cancer committee has been asked to look it over once it has been rewritten. Screening guidelines have changed and the American Cancer Society suggests screening begin at 45 and this bill urges mandated insurance coverage. The committee agree to review it once they have the needed documents.

**7) Future topics for discussion** – members were encouraged to think about topics for future meetings.

**8) 2021 Heart Lung Cancer Meeting Dates:** February 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Outlook invitations for these dates and an email will be sent out.