

**MSSNY Council Report**  
**David Jakubowicz, MD, Councilor**  
**Manhattan and the Bronx**  
**January 14, 2020**

**New York County Medical Society**

- The Society continue to encourage membership and will be participating in the Member Outreach to new members as proposed by the MSSNY Membership Committee. However, the Board noted the gap statewide between number of members and the number of dues generated. The costs of being a member for a private practice physician continues to be a matter of concern, even as the Society's Committee on Employed Physicians is working on issues for that part of the membership. The Society is asking its colleagues in the First District Branch to look at PAGNY, the affiliated physicians working at HHC hospitals, and approach them about Society membership.
- The Society is very concerned about the Info Blocking Law, provisions that would give patients almost immediate access to their own electronic health records (EHR). Although much emphasis in fighting this bill at the AMA seems to focus on ensuring that doctors are not being held responsible for the work that the EHR companies must do, the Society is equally concerned about the attack on what the EHR represents. The Society's Board affirms that the doctors' notes are meant for doctors and other clinicians, to help them work out what to do for patients and to share with others caring for the patient. Notes that are immediately turned over to the patient often prove to be confusing or even frightening to patients, who will then need to be walked through what every lab level and note means. Doctors will end up watering down what is in the record accordingly, and the EHR's real value as a diagnosis and treatment tool will diminish. The record is for the clinical team, so they remember their thinking and consideration of treatment options. The Society would like to ensure that there is work being done to help protect the sanctity of the medical record as a tool for the clinician. It should be emphasized that clinicians use many other tools for patient education but that the note itself should remain an important tool with which clinicians can communicate about the care of the patient without needing to be encumbered by considerations of immediate patient review. It is also important to note that patients already have non-immediate access to their notes via release of medical records as need be.
- The New York County Medical Society, along with the New York County Psychiatric Society and the New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, will co-host a virtual Legislative Event (Zoom format), Advocacy Hour (this year's substitution for the Legislative Breakfast). The legislators are invited to take part in a panel discussion and asked to address liability, telehealth legislation, scope of practice, and new laws they think are needed in the midst of the COVID emergency. The event will be held on February 4, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Assemblymembers Richard N. Gottfried and Linda Rosenthal have already committed. In addition, the Society will urge members to participate in Physician Advocacy Day in March.
- Society members will be receiving a brief (six question) survey as we try to assess how physician practices are coping in the pandemic and whether they will remain open.

- The Society is hosting a program on the new rules for Medicare in 2021 with Jim Bavoso, NGS, on January 27, 2021, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Other programs are being planned to educate physicians on the New York Health Act and address new developments in orthopedic surgery. The Society will also be sponsoring a CME series with The Stanford Compassionate Care Program in 2021, designed to help physicians cope with the many stresses of taking care of patients.

### **Bronx County Medical Society**

- The Bronx County Medical Society held our 106 Years of Service Virtual Annual Gala on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

This event would not only honor our Immediate Past President Dr. Amit Saxena but as we head towards the end of 2020, BCMS wanted to also celebrate and award our COVID-19 frontline heroes nominated from different healthcare organizations in the Bronx who went above and beyond during this current pandemic.

Bronx County had numerous Diamond and Gold Sponsorships from Essen Medical (Diamond), MLMIC and Montefiore to name a few.

Bronx County had one of our own Dr. Barry Zingman who is the Chief of Epidemiology and Infectious Disease at Montefiore Medical Center who was our guest speaker and gave a very well-informed presentation including power point on the COVID-19 Vaccine Trial. The presentation was well-received and many of our physicians who attended had their questions answered by one of the best in his field.

Bronx County had over 118 physicians attend the event virtually and would like to thank all the Senior Leadership that attended from both MSSNY and other Presidents from other supporting counties including Dr. Litvack, Dr. Kaner, Dr. Fougner, Dr. Metha, Dr. Valluru and Phil Schuh to name a few.

Bronx County couldn't have had a successful event without the leadership of our President Dr. Michele Stern and Dr. Jakubowicz (Councilor for Manhattan and the Bronx) who helped guide the evening for a very successful event.

- Bronx County Medical Society working with Dr. Bonnie Litvack we're able to get information regarding the on-going concerns from our Community Based Physicians and Staff on when they would be eligible to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine. Dr. Litvack was able to get the proper and accurate information so both Westchester and the Bronx community physicians knew how to go about applying as well as updating our membership on the COVID-19 Relief Package that includes helping to prevent Medicare cuts, additional rounds of PPP that would be available as well as funding for an additional 1,000 medical residency positions.
- Bronx County Medical Society will be having a free Telemedicine Webinar from WCH Service Bureau on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am for our membership. The topic is "Telemedicine the Right Way- The Insurance Way!" In this webinar membership will learn important elements that are set by insurance companies that regulate telemedicine charting, billing and audits.
- The Bronx County Medical Society will hold our 1<sup>st</sup> Comitia Meeting this year virtual on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Comitia members are always strongly urged to attend as it is an integral part to the operation of the organization.

