

THE FIFTH DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NY

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Fifth District Report to the MSSNY Virtual Council Meeting April, 2021

The Fifth District includes Cayuga, Chenango, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and St. Lawrence Counties

Onondaga County Medical Society:

- Over the past several months, Onondaga County Medical Society (OCMS) has been an active voice in vaccine rollout in our area, participating happily with the Central New York Vaccine HUB advisory board and with the Healthcare Equity Taskforce, amplifying the local physician experience in the roll out of the vaccine (including MSSNY members in other counties and across CNY rural communities) and serving as a resource to our broader community. We have appreciated the opportunity to help with public education and outreach efforts to overcome vaccine hesitancy and inequitable access/distribution.
- OCMS continues to raise up physician voices in the media and center members in community public health efforts. We placed member Dr. Mitch Brodey on a panel put on by the Healthcare Equity Taskforce on March 25th and OCMS is partnering with Excellus around vaccine education outreach to Spanish-speaking community members (and hoping to include medical students in this effort). We are co-hosting a panel with Centerstate CEO on the vaccine, which will feature OCMS Executive Council member Dr. Matt Procopio. President Dr. Dave Page conducted [a television interview](#) on CNY Central/WSYR re: vaccine rollout, and Incoming President Dr. Bob Dracker was featured in a [Post-Standard piece](#) about the effect the pandemic has had on children's mental health. Member Dr. Stephen Thomas was just featured in [Forbes](#) discussing the variants.
- OCMS leadership continues to hold listening sessions with institutional members and key community partners to understand evolving needs and explore increased cooperation around initiatives and membership.
- OCMS Legislative Committee met to prep for Advocacy Day and discuss strategy for this year. Our first virtual Physician Advocacy Day was very successful, as the virtual format allowed for a great turnout from members (including students) in the small group meetings with our elected delegation and their staff. Members expressed their wish that the morning MSSNY session had not been in a passive webinar format but instead had allowed for members to see who else was attending and visually represent the diversity of attendees and members.

- OCMS received money in the most recent round of PPP, but we have already had to make significant cuts to programs, staffing, and services in response to this year's membership trends. We continue in regional discussions about where collaboration can occur to reduce duplication and strengthen each of the local county societies, and would hope this conversation takes places in wider circles as well.

Report for Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Chenango, Oswego and Cayuga Counties:

Four County Management moved their offices to 17 New Hartford Shopping Center, New Hartford, NY on December 18, 2020.

Four County Management received a second round PPP loan for \$30,019.00. The first round was forgiven.

Four County Management is in the process of setting up ZOOM meetings with the counties.

Membership is a concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Rabin, MD, MPH, MBA