



## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

A virtual meeting of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of New York was convened on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The President of the Society presided: **PRESENT**

### **OFFICERS**

Bonnie L. Litvack, MD  
Joseph R. Sellers, MD  
Parag H. Mehta, MD  
Arthur C. Fougner, MD  
Frank G. Dowling, MD  
Joshua M. Cohen, MD  
Mark J. Adams, MD  
Howard H. Huang, MD  
William R. Latreille, Jr., MD  
Maria A. Basile, MD

### **COUNCILORS**

Daniel E. Choi, MD  
Stephen F. Coccaro, MD  
Janine L. Fogarty, MD  
Robert A. Hesson, MD  
Mark R. Jajkowski, MD  
David M. Jakubowicz, MD  
Thomas T. Lee, MD  
Raymond Lorenzoni, MD  
Adolph B. Meyer, MD  
Brian P. Murray, MD  
Gregory L. Pinto, MD  
Paul A. Pipia, MD  
Barry Rabin, MD  
Shireen Saxena  
Saulius J. Skeivys, MD  
Luis Carlos Zapata, MD

### **TRUSTEES**

Andrew Y. Kleinman, MD, Chair  
Jerome C. Cohen, MD  
Daniel Koretz, MD  
Thomas J. Madejski, MD  
Joseph R. Maldonado, MD  
Charles Rothberg, MD

### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Troy J. Oechsner

### **MSSNY STAFF**

Raza Ali  
Morris Auster, Esq.  
Terrance Bedient  
Sandra Bennett  
Zina Carey  
Patricia Clancy  
Miriam Hardin  
Laurel Mayer  
Regina McNally  
Michele Nuzzi Khoury  
Roseann Raia  
Suzanne Reilly  
Michael Reyes  
Kathleen Rohrer  
Jeffrey Selzer, MD  
Kim TenBroeck  
Brenda Van Nest  
Julie Vecchione DeSimone  
Jennifer Wilks

### **COUNTY FEDERATION**

#### **EXECUTIVE**

Aaron Kumar, MD

### **COUNTY SOCIETY**

#### **EXECUTIVES**

Lucia Acosta-Castillego  
Shirley Cosgriff  
Aimana ElBahtity, Esq.  
Elizabeth Harrison  
Cheryl Malone  
Janine Miller  
Evangeline Rosado-Tripp  
Stavroula Savelidis

### **GUESTS**

Barbara Ellman  
Thomas Donoghue  
Lori Hertz  
John Kennedy, MD  
Jennifer Lee  
John Lombardo, MD  
Myrna Sanchez, MD  
Jocelyn Young, MD

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

B. **APPROVAL** of the March 1, 2021 Council Minutes

C. New Business

**President's Report**

CPH Advisory Committee

**ADOPTED**, Substitute Resolution 2020-159 Discrimination Against Physicians Using Medication Assisted Treatment

Committee on Health Insurance

**ADOPTED**, Resolution 2020-64 Insurers and Vertical Integration

Continuing Medical Education Committee

**ADOPTED**, MSSNY Policy 50.992 Continuing Medical Education Application Forms

**ADOPTED**, MSSNY Policy 50.995 ACCME Standards for Commercial Support

Report of the HOD Resolution Review Committee – AMA Resolutions

The following 2020 MSSNY HOD Resolutions will be resubmitted to the AMA in June,2021:

- 106 Bundling Physician Fees with Hospital Fees
- 706 Physician Burnout is an OSHA Issue
- 110 Medicaid Tax Benefits
- 107 COBRA for College Students
- 709 Addressing Inflammatory and Untruthful Online Ratings
- 210 Prohibit Ghost Guns

The following Resolutions were adopted by MSSNY Council and will be submitted to the AMA in June,2021:

- AMA-1 Non-Physician Post-Graduate Medical Training
- AMA-2 Employed Physician Contracts
- AMA-3 Ban the Gay/Trans (LGBTQ+) Panic Defense
- AMA-4 Medical Education Debt Cancellation in the Face of a Physician Shortage During the Covid19 Pandemic

**Board of Trustees Report** – Presented by Dr. Andrew Kleinman

A virtual meeting of the MSSY Board of Trustees was held on April 14, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

The Council **APPROVED** the following actions:

The Board approved the Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting held on March 1, 2021.

The Board approved of the reauthorization of the hotel subsidy for the County Medical Society and Specialty Society delegates who attend the MSSNY Annual Meeting at the rate of \$100 per night, for up to 2 nights, for each day that the House is in session.

The Board approved that the MSSNY Board prioritize, facilitate, and work with the MSSNY President in the development of a strategic plan and its implementation beginning immediately after the installation of the new officers.

**The Council DID NOT APPROVE changes to the Empire State Foundation Bylaws.**

**A MOTION was proposed and passed to Table to the MSSNY House of Delegates in September.**

**Secretary's Report** – Presented by Dr. Frank Dowling

**APPROVED**, unanimously, the following:

Life Membership for thirty-three physicians.

2020 Dues Remissions for two physicians.

2021 Dues Remissions for one physician

**MLMIC Update** – Presented by Dr. John Lombardo

Dr. Lombardo reported that there is a new SILO program at MLMIC. This program is a customized protection program for employed physicians. The plans will be flexible and be in collaboration between MLMIC and the systems which employs these physicians. Ms. Lori Hertz at MLMIC will be guiding physicians through this program. Any questions, Lori's email is [lhertz@mlmic.com](mailto:lhertz@mlmic.com).

**AMA Delegation Report** – Presented by Dr. John Kennedy

Dr. Kennedy reported that the June AMA meeting will be virtual. The AMA is considering extending it for one additional day to deal with the backlog of resolutions. It will be determined.

**MSSNYPAC Report** - Presented by Dr. Thomas Lee

Dr. Lee reported that the legislative efforts with regards to the budget were extremely successful in terms of CPH funding and medical liability excess premium restoration.

The MSSNYPAC Committee spoke about the importance of social media Internet based communication & texting. All leaders of MSSNY, all county medical society leaders and all members of MSSNY committees should support MSSYPAC at the highest level.

### **County Federation Report**– Presented by Dr. Aaron Kumar

Dr. Kumar thanked MSSNY and the Governmental Affairs team for the preparations, the legislative programs and the guidance to all the counties. He thanked Mr. Oechsner for participating on the April 1<sup>st</sup> call. The counties look forward to collaboratively, developing methods to reach, enroll and maintain memberships while enhancing the value of our physician network. The Federation will meet again on May 6, 2021.

### **Reports of Officers**

Office of the President – Bonnie L. Litvack, MD

Dr. Litvack thanked everyone for the sympathies that were extended to her by the leadership & MSSNY staff on the passing of her dad. Dr. Litvack acknowledged the Division of Governmental Affairs for their hard work on the Budget. She thanked Drs. Rothberg & Dowling for their work on the Peer-to-Peer Program & Physician Wellness Program that are progressing. The Practice Transformation Initiative is moving forward. Dr. Litvack was named to the Governor’s newly formed Essential Workers Advisory Committee to help build a monument to Essential Workers. Finally, Dr. Litvack thanked the Office of the President, MSSNY Staff and County Executives for their hard work and dedication. She stated that it was an honor to represent MSSNY as President. Dr. Litvack mentioned that on Saturday, May 1 at 8:00 p.m. there would be a brief “Special Council Meeting” solely for the election of new officers.

Office of the President-Elect – Joseph R. Sellers, MD

Dr. Sellers reported that this coming weekend is the Third and Fourth District Retreat at Lake Placid. Dr. Sellers asked everyone to support MSSNYPAC. Dr. Sellers is looking forward to another productive year to support MSSNY, but, more importantly, to support the profession and patients. Dr. Sellers thanked Dr. Litvack for her dedication, and for her guidance as he is about to “step into her shoes”.

Office of the Vice-President – Parag H. Mehta, MD

Dr. Mehta thanked all the MSSNY leaders & staff for their hard work. Dr. Mehta shared a few slides. MSSNY dues revenues are declining and we need to look at non-dues revenue. We need to look at products and build a shared purpose. Lastly, Dr. Mehta stated that we cannot predict the future, but we can create one.

Office of the Immediate Past President – Arthur C. Fougner, MD

Dr. Fougner thanked Dr. Litvack for all her hard work, dedication and support for a successful year. Dr. Fougner reported that this is his last Council meeting as a voting member.

Office of the Treasurer – Mark J. Adams, MD, **ACCEPTED**, the Preliminary Financial Statement for the period 1/1/2021 – 3/31/2021

Office of the Speaker – William R. Latreille, Jr., MD

Dr. Latreille reported that he is concerned that there are only forty delegates that have been credentialed. We need one hundred to have a quorum. Councilors and leadership need to go back to their districts and get more delegates. The Lake Placid meeting will be this coming

weekend April 16-18. Lastly, Dr. Latreille thanked MLMIC for picking up the tab for the entire evening on Friday.

**Reports of Councilors (Informational)**

**Kings & Richmond Report – Adolph B. Meyer, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Meyer thanked Dr. Litvack for her hard work throughout the year.

**Manhattan & Bronx Report – David M. Jakubowicz, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Jakubowicz thanked Dr. Litvack for a very successful year. Dr. Jakubowicz reported that physicians are having difficulty getting their prompt payments. Bronx County will be hosting its Annual Doctor’s Recognition Day event on May 17 and the topic will be “COVID-19 Vaccines”.

**Nassau County Report – Paul A. Pipia, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Pipia thanked Dr. Litvack for her hard work throughout the year. Dr. Pipia reported he will be moving up to a MSSNY Officer position and Dr. David Podwall will be replacing him.

**Queens County Report – Saulius J. Skeivys, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Skeivys thanked Dr. Litvack for her dedicated year of service.

**Suffolk County Report – Daniel E. Choi, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Choi thanked Dr. Litvack for her dedicated year of service. On March 29, former Suffolk Health Commissioner James Tomarken, MD presented an update on COVID-19 & vaccinations. On April 21 at 6:00 p.m. there is a webinar on Scams Against Licensed Medical Professionals.

**Third District Branch Report – Brian P. Murray, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Murray reported that it has been an incredible experience to work with Dr. Litvack. Dr. Murray reported that the third & fourth district retreat will be held April 16-18.

**Fourth District Branch Report – Gregory L. Pinto, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Pinto expressed gratitude to Dr. Litvack for such a successful year.

**Fifth District Branch Report – Barry Rabin, MD**  
Report as submitted. Dr. Rabin thanked Dr. Litvack for her leadership during the past year.

Sixth District Branch Report – Robert A. Hesson, MD

Dr. Hesson thanked Dr. Litvack for a successful year. He reported that there is not much going on in the sixth district. His term as councilor will be expiring.

Seventh District Branch Report – Janine L. Fogarty, MD

Report as submitted. Dr. Fogarty thanked Dr. Litvack and MSSNY officers for their support & guidance during the past difficult year.

Eighth District Branch Report – Mark R. Jajkowski, MD

Report as submitted. Dr. Jajkowski thanked Dr. Litvack for her leadership this past year. He reported that on March 16, 2021 Erie County submitted its completed book captions to Arcadia Publishing. The 200-year gala is slated for August/September 2021. There are 102 new Erie County members since July, 2020.

Ninth District Branch Report – Thomas T. Lee, MD

Report as submitted. Dr. Lee thanked Dr. Litvack for her extraordinary leadership provided to MSSNY. Westchester County participated in the virtual physician lobby day which was very successful. The WCMS/WAM plan to host the annual meeting in conjunction with the annual golf outing on June 22, 2021.

Medical Student Section Report – Shireen Saxena

Report as submitted.

Organized Medical Staff Section Report - Stephen F. Coccaro, MD

*(no written/verbal report)*

Resident & Fellow Section Report – Raymond Lorenzoni, MD

*(no written/verbal report)*

Young Physician Section Report – L. Carlos Zapata, MD

Dr. Zapata thanked Dr. Litvack for her leadership throughout the year. Dr. Zapata thanked Dr. Sellers for his presentation at their April meeting. On April 24, there will be a virtual sections meeting. Finally, the YPS approved three resolutions for the upcoming MSSNY HOD in September.

### **Commissioners (Informational Items)**

Commissioner of Communications, Maria A. Basile, MD, MBA

Report from the Division of Communications

Report as submitted. Dr. Basile thanked Dr. Litvack for her leadership and press interviews on vaccine issues.

Commissioner of Continuing Medical Education, Mark J. Adams, MD

Report from the Office of Continuing Medical Education

Report as submitted.

Commissioner of Governmental Relations, Gregory L. Pinto, MD  
Report from the Division of Governmental Affairs  
Report as submitted.

Commissioner of Membership, David M. Jakubowicz, MD  
Report from the Division of Membership  
Dr. Jakubowicz is looking forward to working with Dr. Sellers, Dr. Podwall  
& Mr. Oechsner on increasing membership.

Commissioner of Science & Public Health, Joshua M. Cohen, MD  
**The following committee minutes were submitted for information:**  
Addiction & Psychiatric Medicine Committee Minutes, 2/19/21  
Report from the Division of Public Health & Education

Commissioner of Socio Medical Economics, Brian P. Murray, MD  
Dr. Murray reported that the Division of Socio Medical Economics is working  
on the issue with United Healthcare and other insurance issues.

**Report of the Executive Vice President, Troy J. Oechsner**  
Membership Dues Revenue Schedule  
Group Institutional Dues Report

Mr. Oechsner reported that it has only been a month since he began as the MSSNY Executive Vice President and it has been a pleasure meeting and working with the MSSNY Leadership & Staff. He noted that dues membership revenue is down due to the fact that the dues notices were not sent out until October of last year. There is a decline in the Group/Institutional Membership because the North Shore group revenue came in late and is not included. His main focus is going to be an increase in dues revenue. MSSNY needs to work on grants. He reported that we are looking into a new IT system. Lastly, he noted that to help decrease expenses, MSSNY will be giving back space to the landlord at the Westbury location.

**Report of the General Counsel, Garfunkel Wild, Barry Cepelewicz, MD, Esq.**  
**APPROVED**, the Queens County Medical Society Bylaws

**Report of the Alliance, Barbara Ellman (verbal report)**  
Ms. Ellman thanked Dr. Litvack for her leadership during a tough year.  
She reported that a letter written by Cheryl Stier, Alliance Co-Chair on the  
statistics and what other state organizations are doing in regard to girls' lacrosse  
players wearing protective helmets due to an increase in injuries.

**Other Information/Announcements**  
*(no written report submitted)*

**Adjournment** – There being no further business, A Motion was made, seconded and accepted.  
The virtual meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

