

**MSSNY
Committee on Health Disparities Meeting
April 23, 2021**

Present

Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner
Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst.
Commissioner
Linda Clark, MD, MS, Co-chair
Erick Eiting, MD, Co-chair
Adolph Meyer, MD Vice-chair
Louis Auguste, MD
Mauvareen Beverley, MD
Frank Dowling, MD
Lisa Eng, MD
Indu Gupta, MD
Lynda Hohman, MD
Nina Huberman, MD
Thomas Madejski, MD
Michael Pisacano, MD
Monica Sweeny, MD

Invited Guests

Bonnie Litvak, MD, President
Art Fougner, MD, Past-President

Absent

Adwoa Baohene, MD
Maria DeJesus, MD
John Gillespie, MD
Angela Ingram, MD
Nolan Kagetsu, MD
Vijay Yanamandala, MD
Shail Maingi, MD
Anita Ravi, MD
Malcolm Reid, MD
Joseph Sellers, MD
Willie Underwood, MD
Cassandra Williams, MD
Yongsoo Joo, Student
Connor Orrico, Student

Staff

Troy Oechsner, Executive Vice-
President
Pat Clancy, Sr. Vice-
President/Managing Director/Public
Health Education
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

1) Welcome

2) Approval of January 15, 2021 minutes – approved w/corrections

3) CDC Statement on Racism—

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0408-racism-health.html>

a) 2021 HOD Resolution by Committee – discussion of the resolution draft began. The first comment is that it is important that the local medical societies get involved with this resolution, not just the state society. It is important to note that this is a policy that does not exist in MSSNY at this time. MSSNY had a grant years ago from the AMA to this committee for this type of mentoring of young people in high school. Its intent was for physicians to go to schools and encourage students to become doctors. The message should be regardless of what you look like, where you come from, you can become a doctor. A suggestion that at the HOD meeting, MSSNY members of all racial and ethnic backgrounds should record vignettes to be used at the schools – “what difficulties you ran into along the way?” “who helped you?” “who guided/mentored you?”

The committee revisited the idea of a white paper on this topic. Also, mentioned was could there be discussion regarding "how far we've come"? There was mention of an article in JAMA asking Are black patients responsible for physician burnout?" Another discussion for the committee at the next meeting.

Dr. Eiting asked that all additional thoughts and comments be sent to him by April 30th so that resolution can be finalized for presentation to MSSNY Council. It is important to get the county medical societies and the specialty medical societies on board with this resolution. There is a need to clarify what exactly the committee want this resolution to accomplish. Getting the other medical societies on board will reduce the possibility of edits and changes down the road. In addition, there was a suggestion that it might be worth getting the county health departments to collaborate on this as well.

Moving forward, the resolution must be submitted to MSSNY Council for its June meeting. A motion was made to accept this resolution pending the revisions that need to be paid. That motion was passed.

b) Information of current MSSNY policy, statements, mission, purpose

This document was used as a reference in the above committee discussion.

4) Discussion for Joint Meeting with Bioethics and Health Disparities – a joint meeting of the MSSNY Bioethics and Health Disparities Committees is scheduled for June 4, 2021 at 8AM. The committee is asked to look at joint issues that can be discussed. Concentrating on the COVID 19 pandemic and disparities that occurred. Problems with allocation of ventilators, SOFA scores, vaccine hesitancy vs vaccine access, penalties for not vaccinating by DOH guidelines and the costs involved.

5) HOD CME Programming – Dr. Eiting and Dr. Clark requested assistance from other members of the committee to help with the development of this program.

6) Dr. M. Monica Sweeney has been awarded the AMA's **Dr. Debasish Mridha Spirit of Medicine Award** -This annual awards program honor physicians who represent the highest values of altruism, compassion and dedication to patient care. The committee thanked Dr. Sweeney for all the work she has done on behalf of this committee and the Medical Society of the State of New York. As an Excellence in Medicine Awards recipient, Dr. Sweeney will be honored during an awards ceremony hosted by the AMA Foundation in 2021 (date TBD).

New business - A suggestion was made to change the name of the committee to the Committee on Health Equity. A motion was entertained and moved by the committee. The name change will go before the MSSNY Council at its June 3 meeting.

Next meeting June 4, 20201 jointly with the Bioethics Committee.

Adjourned.

