

**MSSNY Council Report**  
**David Jakubowicz, MD, Councilor**  
**Manhattan and the Bronx**  
**November 4, 2021**

New York County Medical Society

- The Society's Board of Directors continues to have concerns about the future of membership (not only of the Society but also the State as a whole). Accordingly, we present the following **ACTION Item**:

**Dues Reduction for Full Paying Members of MSSNY**

Whereas, Full paying dues members pay a disproportionate share of the dues collected by MSSNY. For example New York County Medical Society pays approximately 16% of the dues MSSNY collects and has only about 5% of the dues paying members of the Society; and

Whereas, High MSSNY dues has caused counties like New York to steadily lose members. This continuing loss of members will, despite steady budget cutting over the past five years, affect New York County Medical Society's ability to pay its bills; and

Whereas, An economic dissolution of any full dues paying counties would have disastrous impact on MSSNY; and

Whereas, Several years ago the MSSNY House of Delegates established a policy of equalizing dues among categories; and

Whereas, No action has been taken with regard to that policy; therefore be it

**ACTION: That the MSSNY Council on an urgent basis begin the process of reducing MSSNY dues for full dues paying members.**

- Society President Keith LaScalea, MD is initiating the President's Membership Challenge; Board members are asked to speak to colleagues and friends in an attempt to recruit one member a month. Board members will also be asked to contact those who have dropped membership.
- The Society's Committees on CME and Public Health, chaired by Michael Goldstein, MD and Peter Lombardo, MD, respectively, are continuing monthly programs, including one on *COVID Long Haulers* in September, one on "Taming the EHR," in October, COVID and Dermatology," on December 2, and "Surviving Litigation," on December 7.
- The Society's DEI Committee, chaired by Gabrielle Shapiro, MD, is working on mentoring medical students. The Physician Wellness Committee, chaired by Jill Baron, MD, is meeting to put together a CME program for members. The Society's Bylaws Committee, chaired by Arthur Cooper, MD, completed a review and proposal of Bylaws amendments, which it will present to the membership for vote at the Annual Meeting.

Results from the Society's survey on problems physicians are experiencing with United Healthcare were sent to Heather Lopez at MSSNY. Although a small group, those who answered did have significant problems and had not yet petitioned the Department of Financial Services for assistance. The survey was looking for respondents willing to share actual claims as opposed to only anecdotes, which will be sent with other respondents statewide to the New York State Department of Financial Services.

### **Bronx County Medical Society**

- Bronx County Medical Society will be meeting with Senator Gustavo Rivera in the next upcoming weeks to assist with his Bronx CAN Health Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to get Bronxites thinking about their health and making changes to develop healthier habits. As part of the initiative and as the Ranker of the Health Committee in the New York State Senate, Senator Gustavo also would like Bronx County Medical Society executive leadership to assist in engaging community health organizations and health care providers to come up with policy ideas for how to make the Bronx and New York State healthier.
- Bronx County Medical Society Dr. Nina Huberman will be participating with the BCDI organization in the Bronx. BCDI stands for Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative, it is a community-led planning and economic development organization. The Bronx remains the poorest urban county in the US and with Bronx County Medical Society assisting with other big organizations like Montefiore Medical Center, and 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East to name a few this would make a great partnership worth supporting.
- Bronx County Medical Society led by President Dr. Huberman will be working with NAN which stands for National Action Network. There are over 100 chapters in the US that deals with everything from Corporate Responsibilities & Pension Diversity to Bridging the Digital Divide of which NAN offers programs to help membership and communities bridge the gaps in the world of technology will not have a **Public Health** sector lead in the Bronx by Dr. Jordan Gates.

The meetings are monthly every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month from 1-4pm and Bronx County senior leadership including Dr. Arthur Fougner Past President of MSSNY will discuss ways on improving better health resources through educating and improving quality patient care to name a few.
- Bronx County Medical Society will be having our 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Bronx County Medical Society Annual Gala on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and it will be a virtual event from 5-7pm.

Our CME Guest Speaker of the evening will be Dr. Mauvareen Beverly and the topic will be "Healthcare Disparities and Patient Engagement" We will also be honoring our now Immediate Past President Dr. Michelle Stern who has done an exceptional job in her presidency.

Details will be on our website [www.bronxdocs.org/events](http://www.bronxdocs.org/events).

