



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, September 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

The President of the Society presided:

PRESENT

OFFICERS

Joseph R. Sellers, MD
Parag H. Mehta, MD
Paul A. Pipia, MD
Bonnie L. Litvack, 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
Mark R. Jajkowski, MD
David M. Jakubowicz, MD
Celeste A. Johns, MD
Leanna Knight
Thomas T. Lee, MD
Adolph B. Meyer, MD
Brian P. Murray, MD
Gregory L. Pinto, MD
David Podwall, MD
Barry Rabin, MD
Saulius J. Skeivys, MD
Jocelyn C. Young, DO

TRUSTEES

Arthur C. Fougner, MD, Chair
Thomas J. Madejski, MD
Joseph R. Maldonado, Jr., MD
Charles Rothberg, M

MSSNY STAFF

Raza Ali
Morris Auster, Esq,
Terrence Bedient
Sandra Bennett
Valerie Cammisio
Zina Cary
Patricia Clancy
Miriam Hardin
Heather Lopez
Laurel Mayer
Michele Nuzzi Khoury
Roseann Raia
Maureen Ramirez
Suzanne Reilly
Michael Reyes
Kathy Rohrer
Stephen Sachs
Jeffrey Selzer, MD
Brenda Van Nest
John Vecchio
Julie Vecchione DeSimone
Jennifer Wilks

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Troy J. Oechsner

EXCUSED

Luis Seija, MD

COUNTY SOCIETY EXECS

Lucia Acosta-Castillego
Erika Barry
Aimana ElBahtity, Esq.
Shirley Cosgriff
Elizabeth Harrison
Cheryl Malone
Janine Miller
Stavroula Savelidis

GUESTS

Rose Berkun, MD
Lori Hertz
John Kennedy, MD
Jennifer Lee
John Lombardo, MD
Helena Mirza
Leah McCormack, MD
William Valenti, MD

COUNTY FEDERATION EXECUTIVE

Aaron Kumar, MD

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

B. **APPROVED**, the June 3, 2021 Council Minutes

C. New Business

1. **President's Report**

- a) MSSNY AD HOC Scope of Practice Committee
AMENDED & ADOPTED Resolution 112-2020
(additions bolded & underlined)

Allow Anesthesiology Assistants to be Licensed in NYS

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York advocate for legislation and with the New York State Department of Education to license and regulate Certified Anesthesiology Assistants **working under the direct supervision of physician anesthesiologists** in the State of New York.

- b) Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster and Terrorism Response
Committee on Infectious Diseases
ADOPTED, the Proposed MSSNY COVID-19 Resolution

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York strongly advocate for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination among all healthcare workers and support staff who regularly interface with the public, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York strongly advocate for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination among all school-aged children, once the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirm the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines in the pediatric population, and be it further

RESOLVED, that for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and based upon the recommendations of the CDC and/or the New York State Department of Health, that the Medical Society of the State of New York strongly advocate for mandatory facial masking among all healthcare workers and support staff who regularly interface with the public, as well as all students, teachers, and administrative and support personnel in all primary, secondary, and postsecondary educational facilities in New York State.

- c) 2021 House of Delegates Resolutions Referred to Council
ADOPTED, the 2021 House of Delegates Resolutions to the appropriate committees of jurisdiction. The Council **AGREED** to refer Resolution 2020-2 MSSNY Council Representation to the House Committee on Bylaws with input from relevant Committees on Long Range Planning and Development, Strategic Planning and Membership

2. **Board of Trustees Report** – Presented by Dr. Arthur Fougner
A virtual meeting of the MSSNY Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The Council **APPROVED** the following action items:

- The Board approved the Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 2, 2021.
- The Board approved the continuation of the MSSNY Dues Commission Program for the 2022 dues year.
- The Board chose Impexium as the company to implement the upgrade and restructure of MSSNY's database and website. Negotiations will continue and MSSNY will engage Garfunkel Wild to prepare the final contract.

3. **Secretary's Report** – Presented by Dr. Frank Dowling
APPROVED, unanimously the following:

- Life Membership for thirty-one (31) physicians
- Dues Remissions for five (5) physicians due to financial hardship

4. **MLMIC Update** - Dr. John Lombardo thanked MSSNY staff for their hard work on the House of Delegates.

5. **AMA Delegation Report** – Dr. Charles Rothberg reported that the AMA is pursuing relief of the pending Medicare cuts. The new class of delegates & alternates were elected and will be installed in 2022. The virtual AMA Interim Meeting is scheduled on November 12-16, 2021. The deadline for AMA resolutions is October 13.

6. **MSSNYPAC Report** – Dr. Thomas Lee reported that the report reflects the financial status during the period of 1/1/21-9/22/21. MSSNYPAC thanks all the donors who participated in the past year. The collections from the virtual HOD totaled \$30,000. Dr. Lee thanked the county medical societies for their donations to MSSNYPAC.

7. **County Federation Report** – Dr. Aaron Kumar welcomed Heather Lopez, the Vice President of Physician Payment & Practice and Valerie Cammiso, Vice President of Membership Services. He thanked Stav Savelidis, Executive Director of Nassau County for her efforts in planning the Executive Directors Conference that was postponed due to the cancellation of MSSNY's HOD. Dr. Kumar thanked Mr. Oechsner for involving the counties with MSSNY's new database and his continuous involvement with the Federation.

D. Reports of Officers

1. Office of the President – Joseph R. Sellers, MD

Dr. Sellers reported that he and Mr. Oechsner have been working on an Update on MSSNY Goals & Measures within the divisions of MSSNY. Dr. Sellers reported that he is looking into increasing non-dues revenue by looking into various grants. We are looking to get support for enhancing the ability of physicians to participate in telemedicine. He reported that new benefits had been added by the Member Benefits Committee and that it would continue working to identify additional benefits. We are working to improve our data management and our webpage. Dr. Sellers reported that he has had a great deal of exposure in the media representing MSSNY. Lastly, Dr. Sellers reported that he had a request from one of the councilors that if we are continuing to have virtual meetings would it be possible to hold future virtual meetings in the evening. Dr. Sellers recommended that all the members of the Council send suggestions via email to him & Mr. Oechsner and they will get back to the Council in November.

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

Dr. Mehta thanked Dr. Sellers for doing a phenomenal job keeping everyone together. He also thanked MSSNY staff for their long hours and hard work to select a vendor to improve our database. MSSNY has a tremendous staff helping us and guiding us to achieve our mission. Dr. Mehta reported that he had attended an event for Governor Cuomo and attended several other events on behalf of Kings County supporting political leaders. Dr. Mehta mentioned that this is women in medicine month, and we honor all the women who have offered their time and support.

3. Office of the Vice-President – Paul A. Pipia, MD

Dr. Pipia thanked the speakers for a great job in preparing for the HOD and all those who attended. He thanked Dr. Sellers for the information that he is learning about the Office of the Presidents call. Dr. Pipia reminded everyone that next week there is a Legislative & Physician Advocacy Zoom meeting. The committee will be looking at the resolutions referred to the committee.

4. Office of the Immediate Past President – Bonnie L. Litvack, MD

Dr. Litvack thanked the leadership for operating very efficiently. She thanked Drs. Latreille & Basile for their tremendous work on the HOD. Dr. Litvack mentioned that on October 16th, 23rd & 30th there will be a Women Leadership Conference. The conference is to promote our women in leadership and help to advance their careers.

5. Office of the Treasurer – Mark J. Adams, MD

Dr. Adams referred everyone to the Statement of Income & Expenses for the period 01/01/21 - 08/31/2021. He reported that within the expense column MSSNY has been doing a good job over the past few years. He reported that with the lease back of office

space in the Westbury office, as well as the continuation of virtual meetings, he anticipates a decrease in expenses. Dr. Adams reported that membership dues has become a very vital part of sustaining MSSNY, financially.

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

Dr. Latreille thanked everyone who helped with the HOD. We managed to get things done in a fairly judicious way. The Lake Placid meeting is currently scheduled for January 29, 2022.

E. Reports of Councilors (all reports as submitted, with additional comments)

1. Kings & Richmond Report – Adolph B. Meyer, MD

Dr. Meyer thanked the staff for the great job they did at the HOD meeting

2. Manhattan & Bronx Report – David M. Jakubowicz, MD

Dr. Jakubowicz reported that New York County & the Bronx County installed new presidents. Dr. Keith LaScalea, President of New York County and Dr. Nina Huberman, President of Bronx County. He looks forward to working with them.

3. Nassau County Report – David Podwall, MD

Dr. Podwall reported that the new officers for Nassau County are as follows: Dr. Ronald Menzin, President; Dr. David Podwall, President Elect; Dr. Robert Schreiber, Vice President; Dr. Ellen Braunstein, Secretary; Dr. Joel Portnoy, Treasurer

4. Queens County Report – Saulius J. Skeivys, MD

Dr. Skeivys reported that in June 2021, Queens County started a social media campaign called “Physician’s Highlight” which will feature a brief bio of their members and specialties.

5. Suffolk County Report – Daniel E. Choi, MD

Dr. Choi thanked Drs. Latreille, Basile & MSSNY staff for their excellent management and work towards the House of Delegates. He also reported that SCMS leadership met with the medical staff at Mather Hospital & St. Charles Hospital to discuss their membership renewals.

6. Third District Branch Report – Brian P. Murray, MD

Dr. Murray reported that Albany is working to re-engage Albany Medical College back into the general membership

7. Fourth District Branch Report – Gregory L. Pinto, MD

Dr. Pinto reported that the Lake Placid meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2022. There will be a resolution introduced to make attendance at this meeting mandatory.

8. Fifth District Branch Report – Barry Rabin, MD

Dr. Rabin reported that the Fifth District is currently in new office space in downtown Syracuse. There is a search for a new executive director.

9. Sixth District Branch Report – Celeste A. Johns, MD
Dr. Johns reported that the sixth district have been trying to continue to have regular meetings and hoping to do more in person.
10. Seventh District Branch Report – Janine L. Fogarty, MD
Dr. Fogarty reported that the seventh district is scheduled to have their 200th anniversary celebration event in the spring of 2022. More information will be forthcoming.
11. Eighth District Branch Report – Mark R. Jajkowski, MD
Dr. Jajkowski reported that Erie County postponed their 200th Anniversary Gala until spring of 2022. Erie County is pleased to report that they have 142 new members since July 2020.
12. Ninth District Branch Report – Thomas T. Lee, MD
Dr. Lee thanked Drs. Latreille & Basile for a successful House of Delegates. He also thanked Janine Miller, Executive Director of Westchester for her efforts in organizing the delegation meetings. Westchester continues to work on institutional memberships.
13. Medical Student Section Report – Leanna Knight
As submitted
14. Organized Medical Staff Section Report - Stephen F. Coccaro, MD
Dr. Coccaro thanked everyone who attended MSSNY's HOD for their hard work & dedication.
15. Resident & Fellow Section Report – Luis Seija, MD (*Excused*)
16. Young Physician Section Report – Jocelyn Young, DO
Dr. Young reported that the YPS continues to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom. The YPS is expanding efforts to grow social media presence. The YPS virtual meeting is October 6, 2021.

F. Commissioners (Informational Items)

1. Commissioner of Communications, Maria A. Basile, MD, MBA
Report from the Division of Communications
Dr. Basile thanked Dr. Meyer, Assistant Commissioner and Julie Vecchione, new Vice President of Communications for their hard work to communicate all MSSNY news through social media.
2. Commissioner of Continuing Medical Education, Mark J. Adams, MD
Report from the Division of CME
Dr. Adams reported that the Subcommittee on Educational Programs has approved seven provided activities. As the ACCME Recognized Accreditor in New York State, MSSNY has awarded accreditation status to 30 plus organizations across

New York State. MSSNY's Office of CME manages the accreditation of these organizations and holds a monthly web-conference with all MSSNY accredited providers to discuss CME requirements and issues.

3. Commissioner of Governmental Relations, Gregory L. Pinto, MD
Report from the Division of Governmental Affairs
Dr. Pinto called attention to a link in the report prepared by Garfunkel Wild to determine if physicians should be following federal or state infection disease employee protection standards.
4. Commissioner of Membership, David M. Jakubowicz, MD
Dr. Jakubowicz reported that MSSNY is going to have an active year in getting involved in the new database and to expand membership.
5. Commissioner of Science & Public Health, Joshua M. Cohen, MD
Bioethics & Committee on Health Equity Joint Minutes, June 4, 2021
Dr. Cohen reported that in June the Bioethics and Committee on Health Equity had a joint meeting to discuss the impact on issues of inequities in our healthcare system in terms of access to care.
6. Commissioner of Physician Payment & Practice, Brian P. Murray, MD
Dr. Murray reported that the Division of Socio-Medical Economics changed its name to the Division of Physician Payment & Practice. Heather Lopez is the new Vice President of this division. The division is working with United on access medical records request.

G. Report of the Executive Vice President, Troy J. Oechsner

1. Membership Dues Revenue Schedule
2. Group Institutional Dues Report
3. MSSNY Goals & Measures Update

Mr. Oechsner referred everyone to the Group Institutional Dues Report and pointed out that we had a gain. The Membership Dues Report reflected a decrease in dues. Dues income has been decreasing each year. He reported that with the help of MSSNY's new Vice President of Membership, Ms. Valerie Cammiso, she has a great deal of membership organization experience. She has made an impact by her suggestions to improve MSSNY's database.

Mr. Oechsner presented a PowerPoint on "Update on MSSNY Goals & Measures". Mr. Oechsner reminded everyone that our goal is to make MSSNY a major force in the state & throughout the United States. Our key priorities are to increase membership and non-dues revenue and reduce unnecessary expenses. We will be using a new database that will be better for our physician members to have access to our portal from paying dues to engaging in meetings. We are looking to revamp our website, which is linked to our member database. We are working with the Empire Foundation on funding a grant writer. Mr. Oechsner thanked Dr. Sellers for his input on the presentation.

- H. **Report of the General Counsel, Garfunkel Wild, Barry Cepelewicz, MD, Esq**
(No written report submitted)
- I. **Report of the Alliance, Helena Mirza, Alliance President**
Alliance Report – As submitted
- J. **Other Information/Announcements**
The following items were submitted for information:
1. MSSNY Comments on No Surprises Act regulation
 2. MSSNY Comments on Workers Compensation telehealth regulations
 3. MSSNY letter to Gov Hochul urging veto of liability expansion bills
 4. MSSNY letter to Gov Hochul urging signing of bill to prevent mid-year formulary changes
- K. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, a Motion was made, seconded and accepted. The virtual meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.