

**MSSNY Council Report**  
**David Jakubowicz, MD, Councilor**  
**Manhattan and the Bronx**  
**January 13, 2022**

New York County Medical Society

- The Society has been concerned about recent efforts by the City of New York to press its retirees into Medicare Advantage Plans, against the will of many, which has resulted in a court case with this transition moved from January 1 to April 1, and more legal review. The issue was also presented at a meeting of the First District Branch on November 18. As this particular matter is being settled in court, the Board of Directors noted the difficulties many Medicare recipients have in understanding the differences between Medicare Advantage and traditional Medicare plans. Accordingly, the Board is preparing an education sheet on the differences between the programs that Society members can use in educating their patients.
- The Society's Membership Task Force is meeting with MSSNY VP of Membership Valerie Cammisio to discuss membership issues, including dues categories and group membership plans.
- The Board of Directors have invited Doctors Joseph Sellers and Arthur Fougner, and MSSNY EVP Troy Oechsner, Esq. to its Board Meeting on January 10.
- The Society's Committees on CME and Public Health, chaired by Michael Goldstein, MD and Peter Lombardo, MD, respectively, are sponsoring programs on Patient Engagement and Cultural Competence on January 11, Cardiology and COVID on February 16, and Dermatology and COVID on March 2.
- The Society is holding its 2022 Virtual Advocacy Hour on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., along with the New York County Psychiatric Society and the New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The panelists are Richard Gottfried, Chair, Health Committee, New York State Assembly; Gustavo Rivera, Chair, Health Committee, New York State Senate; Linda Rosenthal, Chair, Committee on Social Services, New York State Assembly; and Rebecca Seawright, Chair, Majority Steering Committee, New York State Assembly.
- The Society's Delegation to the MSSNY House of Delegates is beginning the preparation of resolutions for the 2022 meeting of the House of Delegates in May.

## **Bronx County Medical Society**

- Bronx County Medical Society hosted via Zoom our 107th Years of Service BXCMS Educational Virtual Gala on Nov 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm. Our Guest Speaker was Dr. Mauvareen Beverley and the topic was: “Patient Engagement & Cultural Competence- The Human Experience. Dr. Beverley course included:
  - For learners to discuss and identify how changes in behavior have a beneficial effect on patient engagement, health outcomes and vulnerable populations.

- Increase empathy
- Respect and understand the patient’s cultural beliefs regarding their health
- Prevent judgmental behavior directed at patients
- Maintain patient dignity
- Perception vs reality of the individual patient

Dr. Beverley presentation was well received by the physicians that attended, we also honored our Immediate Past President Dr. Michelle Stern who have done an exceptional job in her tenure as President.

- Bronx County Medical Society and The Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee (DACC) hosted an event on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Vistamar Lounge in City Island. The politically active physicians of the MSSNYPAC, NYS Committee for Medical Eye Care PAC & NYS Psychiatric PAC we’re cordially invited to a physician-hosted reception to speak with guest attendees: NYS Assembly [Carl Heastie](#), the Assembly Codes Committee Chair Assemblymember [Jeffrey Dinowitz](#), and Assemblymember [Peter Abbate](#) who all made themselves available to meet the physicians attending our reception.

Where does the Assembly Democratic Conference stand on matters of importance to physicians and their patients? They have been instrumental in addressing health insurer abuses and blocking harmful proposals. Examples of their helpfulness include:

### **Rejecting:**

- imposition of new costs to physicians for Excess coverage
- reduction of due process rights for physicians under OPMC investigation
- cuts to Medicaid payments
- expansion of the scope of pharmacists and nurse practitioners

## Supporting:

- greater regulation of PBM practices
- removal of prior authorization for MAT
- prevention of mid-year formulary changes
- increased transparency when an insurer denies a claim

Year after year they have stood firmly against the numerous scope of practice expansion attempts by dentists, podiatrists, naturopaths, psychologists and nurse anesthetists. Countless practice mandate bills have been rejected.

It is imperative that Bronx County Medical Society continue to work to enhance our relationship with the leaders of the Assembly Democrats, three of whom are setting aside time in their personal schedules to spend an evening with physicians as part of this rapport-building happens through support of campaign events

- Bronx County Medical Society will be meeting in the upcoming weeks with the 14<sup>th</sup> Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson who historically is the first African American Female Bronx Borough President. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were not able to celebrate this historic election together.

In the coming weeks, as the Bronx Borough President prioritize issues that matters to residents in the borough, the BP will be creating a cabinet and healthcare is at the top of her blueprint and vision for making the Bronx borough great.

Bronx County executive leadership would be part of her Public Health Committee & the main focus would be helping to correct some of the healthcare disparities that has plaque the Bronx over the years through better health outcomes and this is where Bronx County Medical Society physicians would be extremely instrumental in changing the health outcomes of the borough.

- Bronx County Medical Society will be hosting our 18th Annual Doctor's Recognition Day Event, details to follow.