



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, November 4, 2021 at 9:30 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
Joshua M. Cohen, MD
Mark J. Adams, MD
Howard H. Huang, MD
William R. Latreille, 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
Thomas T. Lee, MD
Adolph B. Meyer, MD
Brian P. Murray, MD
Gregory L. Pinto, MD
David Podwall, MD
Barry Rabin, MD
Luis Seija, MD
Jocelyn C. Young, DO

TRUSTEES

Arthur C. Fougner, MD, Chair
Joseph R. Maldonado, Jr., MD
Charles Rothberg, MD

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Troy J. Oechsner

LEGAL COUNSEL

Barry Cepelewicz, MD, Esq.

MSSNY STAFF

Morris Auster, Esq.
Terrence Bedient
Sandra Bennett
Valerie Cammisso
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
Brenda Van Nest
John Vecchio
Julie Vecchione DeSimone
Jennifer Wilks

EXCUSED

Frank G. Dowling, MD
Leanna Knight
Saulius Skeivys, MD

COUNTY FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE

Aaron Kumar, MD

COUNTY SOCIETY EXECS

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

GUESTS

Louis Auguste, MD
John Kennedy, MD
John Lombardo, MD
Kathy Logano
Larry Melniker, MD
Helena Mirza
Penny Stern, MD
Susan Tucker
Luis Carlos Zapata, MD

APPROVED, the Minutes of September 23, 2021

President's Report

AMENDED & ADOPTED Resolution – Opposition to Discriminatory Treatment of Haitian Asylum Seekers (deletions lined through, additions underlined)

Whereas the U.S. has sought to provide asylum for individuals being persecuted in other countries and has instituted laws and policies to achieve this goal equitably for all peoples of the world and

Whereas Haitians seeking asylum have often experienced discrimination in seeking asylum because of the inaccurate media narrative of an association of AIDS to Haitians and

Whereas the CDC in 1990 changed its policy on AIDS and Haitians thus removing the false narrative on AIDS and Haitians and

Whereas, Haitians seeking asylum in the United States continue to experience adverse outcomes in their applications for asylum based on inaccurate narratives and media bias and

Whereas, MSSNY has policy statements on health disparities, racial discrimination and equality but no policy on this matter adversely affecting Haitian asylum seekers therefore,

Resolve, MSSNY opposes discrimination of Haitian asylum seekers which denies them the same opportunity to attain asylum status as individuals from other nations and

~~Resolve, MSSNY supports federal and state legislation which aims to remove such discrimination~~

Resolved, that a similar resolution be forwarded to our AMA.

Presidential Appointments to the 2022 Nominating Committee

AMENDED & ACCEPTED (deletions lined through, additions underlined)

Chair: Bonnie Litvack, MD
Immediate Past President

First District: ~~Joshua Cohen, MD~~ David Jakubowicz, MD

Second District: Maria Basile, MD

Third District: Brian Murray, MD

Fourth District: Myrna Sanchez, MD

Fifth District: Howard Huang, MD

Sixth District: ~~Celeste Johns, MD~~ Robert Hesson, MD

Seventh District: Janine Fogarty, MD

Eighth District: Rose Berkun, MD

Ninth District: Andrew Kleinman, MD

Members-At-Large: Malcolm Reid, MD and Bonnie Litvack, MD

New York County Medical Society (ACTION ITEM)

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

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.

MOTION: The Membership Committee and MSSNY's Membership Vice President meet with the leadership of New York County to discuss reducing MSSNY dues for full dues paying members and prepare information and data for the next Council meeting.

The following slides were submitted for Council Information

City of New York Retiree Health Plan Slides

Legislative & Physician Advocacy Committee, Paul A. Pipia, MD, Chair

APPROVED, the 2022 Legislative Program

Board of Trustees Report – Presented by Dr. Arthur Fougner

A virtual meeting of the MSSNY Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday evening, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on September 22, 2021.

Dr. Fougner's Statement:

Dr. President, Members of the MSSNY Council, Honored Guests

It has been a privilege to serve as your President and now Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The Medical Society of the State of New York is over 200 years old. Throughout its history, MSSNY has faced many challenges, not the least of which was dealing with now five pandemics. We have faced many obstacles, diverse foes in striving to represent the interest of NY's fine physicians. But the biggest foe we now face is ourselves. The internecine squabbles, the factionalism, the downright animus is simply appalling. Number 11 blades are out, awaiting any comment, any deed, even any thought which is deemed the least bit straying from the narrative of the day. Downright honest mistakes become sinister plots. Relationships built over many years are severed over what exactly? Walt Kelley's Pogo once exclaimed "We have met the enemy and he is us." We must bury this hatchet ... and not in ourselves. We must do better.

Secretary's Report – Presented by Dr. Joshua Cohen (Dr. Dowling excused)

APPROVED, unanimously the following:

- Life Membership for fifty-two physicians
- Dues Remissions for two physicians in Erie County

MLMIC Update – Presented by Dr. John Lombardo

Dr. Lombardo reported that the SILO program for employed physicians is moving along. Visit mlmic.com to find out more about the program and to contact your CEOs at your respective hospitals.

AMA Delegation Report – Presented by Dr. Charles Rothberg

Dr. Rothberg reported that the AMA Interim meeting is next week. The handbook review committee met and most of the reports have been prepared. There is a report from the resolution review committee that has identified resolutions for consideration.

MSSNYPAC Report – Presented by Dr. Thomas Lee

Dr. Lee reported that the MSSNYPAC Executive Committee meeting was postponed to a later date. Drs. Lee & Berkun are working with staff to improve the process if logistics of donation as well as accounting procedures. The MSSNYPAC is still in need of high donor support.

County Federation Report – Presented by Dr. Aaron Kumar

Dr. Kumar reported that he is working with Mr. Oechsner and the MSSNY team as discussions and negotiations continue with Impexium as the potential MSSNY Association Management Software to house membership information. Lastly, the Federation would like to thank Ms. Clancy & Mr. Oechsner for arranging a meeting with the NYSDOH, NYSACHO, the county societies and the specialty societies to discuss equity and distribution of the COVID 19 vaccines including boosters.

Reports of Officers:

Office of the President – Joseph R. Sellers, MD

Dr. Sellers reported that he officially completed his six months of serving as MSSNY's President. He thanked the officers, councilors & trustees for their hard work for all their support. Dr. Sellers reported that the weekly Office of the President calls continue and provide a great deal of insight and information. Dr. Sellers noted that MSSNY has had a great deal of exposure in the media. Dr. Sellers reported that he firmly believes that two-way communication between MSSNY and the physician community will help us to build a robust relationship that will help members practice the art and the science of medicine. MSSNY communication efforts are instrumental in keeping members informed on issues tailored to the physician community. MSSNY is the voice of New York physicians in Albany and in Washington, DC. Through MSSNY, we have an opportunity to have our voices heard in the political process. Dr. Sellers shared a slide presentation on "MSSNY Efforts on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion". The President will report to the Council at our January meeting on activities of the Executive Committee meetings.

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

Dr. Mehta began his report by thanking Dr. Sellers, the MSSNY leadership and MSSNY staff for their hard work and dedication. Dr. Mehta reported that he attended many meetings with Dr. Sellers. Dr. Mehta reported that we have begun planning the 2022 MSSNY House of Delegates, which has tentatively been set for May 21 and May 22 at the Westchester Marriott. Dr. Mehta stated that he would like this House of Delegates to be a "fun" event for everyone.

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

Dr. Pipia reported that he continues to participate on the weekly Office of the President calls. He participated on the Northwell membership call. Dr. Pipia participated on the Governor's Vaccination Seminar. He reported that for future Zoom meetings with the governor, everyone needs to stay on target.

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

Dr. Litvack participated in many MSSNY meetings during the week and Saturdays. She thanked Dr. Rothberg and Ms. Clancy for a phenomenal amount of work on the Woman Physicians Leadership program. Dr. Litvack thanked all the speakers that volunteered their time.

Office of the Treasurer – Mark J. Adams, MD

Dr. Adams referred everyone to MSSNY's Financial Statement. The Statement is through the end of September. Dr. Adams reported that operating expenses are down due to virtual meetings. Our investment earnings are doing well because the market is doing well. Dues income is down about \$300,000 that we budgeted for 2021. Dr. Adams reported that we are a little short in terms of our budgeted income, as we are awaiting receiving funds for CPH, MLMIC, CME Survey Sales and Veterans Mental Health Training Grant. Upon receiving these funds, MSSNY will be on track.

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

Dr. Latreille reported that the HOD is scheduled on the 21st of May. Events leading up to the HOD will occur on the 20th and a schedule will be forthcoming. May 22 would be reserved for spillover from the 21st. The location will be the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown. Reference committees will be virtual. Laurie is in the process of finalizing contracts. Lastly, the Lake Placid meeting will be on January 22, 2022.

Reports of Councilors (Informational)

Kings & Richmond Report – Adolph B. Meyer, MD

Dr. Meyers reported that he attended the Richmond County Society's Presidential dinner.

Manhattan & Bronx Report – David M. Jakubowicz, MD

Dr. Jakubowicz reported that New York County President Dr. Keith LaScalea is initiating the President's Membership Challenge. Board members are asked to speak to colleagues and friends to recruit one member a month. Board members will also be asked to contact those who have dropped membership. Lastly, the Bronx County Annual Gala is on November 21, 2021.

Nassau County Report – David Podwall, MD

(Report as submitted, nothing more to report)

Queens County Report – Saulius J. Skeivys, MD (Excused)

Dr. Penny Stern, MD represented Queens County
(Report as submitted)

Suffolk County Report – Daniel E. Choi, MD

Dr. Choi thanked Mr. Oechsner for attending the SCMS Board meeting and sharing the impact the medical society has had in the insurance regulatory system and the need for physician engagement. SCMS held its legislative breakfast. Many important pieces of legislation were discussed. Scope of Practice was raised during the legislative breakfast.

Third District Branch Report – Brian P. Murray, MD

Dr. Murray reported that the agreement was signed for the medical staff of Ellis Hospital to become part of Trinity's network. There is a group membership for Trinity across the state. There is a pilot program package for members that would involve St. Peters and St. Josephs Hospital to bring in a large number of group members for the upstate region.

Fourth District Branch Report – Gregory L. Pinto, MD

(Nothing to report)

Fifth District Branch Report – Barry Rabin, MD

(Report as submitted, no additional information to report)

Sixth District Branch Report – Celeste A. Johns, MD

Dr. Johns reported that the AMA recognized the Bassett Healthcare Network's efforts to combat clinician burnout.

Seventh District Branch Report – Janine L. Fogarty, MD

Dr. Fogarty reported that the Monroe County Medical Society has applied for a grant through the local insurance for health equity. Also, it has partnered with the Black Physicians Network as well as two major hospital systems to focus on how biological racism is embedded in a key tool used to measure kidney function.

Eighth District Branch Report – Mark R. Jajkowski, MD

Dr. Jajkowski reported that Erie County has a new physician member service. The service will provide a free initial consult at their office after performing a diagnostic of issues in need of resolution. There is a medical student membership recruitment presentation by Erie County to

highlight the importance of organized medicine and to share the local member benefits available to them in efforts to have them join MSSNY and the AMA.

Ninth District Branch Report – Thomas T. Lee, MD

Dr. Lee reported that Westchester held its annual golf outing. It will host a wine tasting night for the student section on the campus of New York Medical College. A date has not yet been set for this event. Westchester County Medical Society was able to make a \$1,000 donation to MSSNYPAC as a county support of its efforts.

Medical Student Section Report – Leanna Knight (**Excused**)
(Report as submitted)

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

Dr. Coccaro is looking forward to representing the OMSS at the AMA meeting.

Resident & Fellow Section Report – Luis Seija, MD
(No written/verbal report)

Young Physician Section Report – Jocelyn Young, DO

Dr. Young reported that the YPS is preparing to attend the virtual AMA-YPS interim meeting.

Reports of Commissioners (Informational Items)

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

Report from the Division of Communications

The report was submitted for information. Dr. Basile thanked Ms. Julie Vecchione and the Communications staff for their hard work to communicate all MSSNY news through social media.

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

Report from the Division of CME

Dr. Adams reported that the CME Committee met last month to discuss possible candidates for the Bernstein Award.

Commissioner of Governmental Relations, Gregory L. Pinto, MD

The following Minutes were submitted for information

Report from the Division of Governmental Affairs

Long Term Care Minutes, October 7, 2021

Dr. Pinto reported that there are challenges that the healthcare system is facing as to losing workers that are not vaccinated. The most difficult thing is separating the merit of the mandate and how to apply and implement it. The mandate could decertify up to 40% of the home care delivery system. It is going to be hard to make up those losses and it will impact patient care.

Commissioner of Membership, David M. Jakubowicz, MD

Report from the Division of Membership

Dr. Jakubowicz reported that the Membership Committee met with Ms. Valerie Cammisso to discuss auditing MSSNY procedures for individuals and group institutional memberships, seeking to design a simplified dues structure and focusing on a new member database.

Commissioner of Science & Public Health, Joshua M. Cohen, MD

The following Minutes were submitted for information

Bioethics Committee Minutes, October 1, 2021
Health Equity Committee Minutes, September 24, 2021
Heart Lung Cancer Minutes, October 6, 2021
Infectious Diseases Minutes, October 14, 2021
Preventive Medicine & Family Health Minutes, September 30, 2021
Public Health & Education Report

Commissioner of Physician Payment & Practice, Brian P. Murray, MD

Dr. Murray reported that Trinity has been approved and will open its own Medicare Advantage in New York State.

Report of the Executive Vice President, Troy J. Oechsner

Membership Dues Revenue Schedule
Group Institutional Dues Report
Goals & Measures Update

Mr. Oechsner referred everyone to the Group Institutional Report and pointed out that there is a gain of \$47,000. He then referred everyone to the Membership Dues Report which reflected a shortfall of \$300,000 as compared to last year. The dues income has been decreasing each year for the past ten years. Mr. Oechsner announced that with the help of MSNY's new Vice President of Membership, Ms. Valerie Cammiso, they plan to put together a series of efforts in the hopes of reversing this trend. Ms. Cammiso has a great deal of membership experience. Ms. Cammiso has already made an impact by her input and suggestions through MSSNY's database. Lastly, Mr. Oechsner presented a PowerPoint update on MSSNY Goals & Measures

Report of the General Counsel, Garfunkel Wild, Barry Cepelewicz, MD, Esq

(No written/verbal report)

Alliance, Helena Mirza, Alliance President

Report of the Alliance
(Report as submitted, no additional information to report)

Other Information/Announcements

(No items submitted)

Adjournment- There being no further business, a Motion was made, seconded and accepted. The virtual meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.