

MSSNY Council Report
David Jakubowicz, MD, Councilor
Manhattan and the Bronx
March 1, 2021

New York County Medical Society

- The Society's Committee on Government Affairs, led by Paul Orloff, MD, hosted a very successful State Legislative Advocacy Hour on February 3, 2021 in collaboration with the New York County Psychiatric Society and the New York Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Members had the opportunity to submit questions on the New York Health Act, telehealth, and mental health parity to Assemblymember Richard Gottfried, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, and Senator Brad Hoylman. The Society is hosting a number of appointments tomorrow during the afternoon of MSSNY's Physician Advocacy Day and look forward to bringing concerns about telehealth, the
- The Society's Committee on Physician Wellness, led by Jill Baron, MD, is hosting a six-week course on physician wellness. Compassionate Care Training from Stanford University is a course designed to boost emotional resilience and reframe the way we look at things. It is an eight-week group program, a two-hour live session each week, with lectures, discussions, interactive exercises and more. Using techniques from psychology, neuroscience and contemplative practice, doctors will gain tools to help you meet daily pressures with less "stress reactivity." The course runs from March 9 to April 27, 2021 each Tuesday night from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- The Society's Committee on Public Health, led by Peter Lombardo, MD, hosted a fascinating presentation for Society members on February 10, 2021, "*21st Century Coronaviruses: Coronaviruses in Humans Over the Last Three Decades — SARS, MERS and SARS-Cov-2 and the Public Health Response.*" The speaker, Stephen S. Morse, Ph.D., is Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) and Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Certificate Program, CUMC. The talk ranged from two other recent animal-transmitted diseases, SARS and MERS, to COVID; looked at how the three emerged and were dealt with by public health authorities; and then focused on the COVID vaccines. Check it out [HERE](#).
- The Society's Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity, led by Gabrielle Shapiro, MD, is planning a meeting with the Deans of Diversity at Manhattan medical schools as a way to begin a conversation on encouraging diverse medical society leadership as well as a meeting with minority medical students, residents, and potential mentors as a way to being a conversation on encouraging diverse medical society membership.
- The Society's Committees on Public Relations and Social Media, led by Michelle Zweifler, MD, and Richard Schutzer, MD, have begun work on several projects, including setting up a virtual Doctors' Lounge for members, and retaining an individual to increase the Society's social media presence both for the membership and for the public.
- The Society held a successful program with NGS on the new Medicare rules in 2021 on January 27, 2021.

PAGE TWO/March 1, 2021
Manhattan and the Bronx

- The Society is working with colleagues in the First District Branch to approach PAGNY, the affiliated physicians working at HHC hospitals, about potential membership in our societies.
- The Society joins the rest of the MSSNY community in thanking Phil Schuh for his years of service to organized medicine and welcomes new MSSNY EVP Troy Oechsner.

Bronx County Medical Society

- Bronx County Medical Society President Dr. Michelle Stern have encouraged members of the society to support the Expand Access to O&P Care Through New York Medicaid. The sign on letter is championed by Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther of District 100 and Ted Drygas of the NYS Chapter of the Academy. The goal is to get 50 of our state's Assembly members to sign in support of:
 - Updating the 30+ year old NY Medicaid O&P fee schedule to prevailing Medicaid rates.
 - Adding in missing codes to NY Medicaid fee schedule
 - Regulate Medicaid HMO third party benefit management companies to follow NY Medicaid fee schedules.

The letter seeks support to change NY Medicaid antiquated fee schedule related to orthotics & prosthetics.

The link is provided here- <https://p2a.co/JwtOau4> and you do not need to know the name of your Assembly member colleagues, simply enter the information in the boxes after clicking the link and the info will be filled in automatically.

- Bronx County Medical Society and MSSNY partnered with a campaign called "Let's Get Immunized" which is working with Senator Gustavo Rivera and on Feb 4th conducted a live webinar for Bronx community-based physicians to participate and discuss from a medical provider the overview of immunization, how vaccines work, why they are safe and effective, and to explain to the public how and why COVID-19 vaccines we're developed and approved quickly.
Bronx County own society members Dr. Barry Zingman who is the Chief Medical Director Of Epidemiology and Infectious Disease at Montefiore Medical Center & Albert Einstein College of Medicine as well as CEO of Essen Health Care Dr. Sumir Sahgal who have received numerous awards from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr gave an exceptional presentation to build public confidence in immunizations as well as the need and how individuals can best educate themselves.
- Bronx County Medical Society have partnered with R.A.I.N. Total Care Inc ran by CEO Dr. Anderson Torres who owns 22 Senior Centers in the Bronx created a live podcast streamed on multiple social media platforms bi-weekly where our physicians of the society have committed to discussing for 30 minutes about topics ranging from COVID, diabetes, obesity and HTN to educate seniors at these centers as well as the members in the Bronx.

- Bronx County Medical Society were able to partner with ANPA NY Chapter to deliver much needed PPE to community physicians in the Bronx.
We would like to thank both our President Dr. Michelle Stern and Dr. Chinyere Anyaogu Deputy CMO of North Central Bronx.
- Bronx County Medical Society and our good friends at WCH Service Bureau are providing our society members who have private practices a live webinar to “Learn How to Open Closed Insurance Panels”.
WCH has been a provider credentialing service company for over 18 years of experience and will discuss tactics that our physicians can use to open these doors.
Olga Khabinskay, Director of Operations will be hosting the live webinar.
- Bronx County Medical Society will be hosting our 17th Annual Doctor’s Day Recognition & Symposium Event (Virtual).
The board will be deciding on a date next week, In addition to our regular poster presentation event we will also be presenting the prestige Dr. Richard Izquierdo award for past members who have made extraordinary contributions to both the medical society and the Bronx.
- Bronx County Medical Society leadership and members would like to thank Phil Schuh for his exceptional tenure as EVP of MSSNY. He will be missed but never forgotten.
We welcome the opportunity in March to meet and welcome our new MSSNY EVP Troy Oechsner JD.