

MSSNY Council Report
David Jakubowicz, MD, Councilor
Manhattan and the Bronx
April 15, 2021

New York County Medical Society

- The Society's Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity, led by Gabrielle Shapiro, MD, held a meeting on April 7 with the Deans of Diversity at New York County based medical schools and their medical student guests. The agenda is focused on ways that the Society can introduce medical students to organized medicine in New York and encourage diverse medical society leadership.
- The Society's Committee on Employed Physicians, chaired by Erick Eiting, MD, is considering ways to approach physician groups in Manhattan, and focus on the value in membership. The Committee will be reaching out to MSSNY's Employed Physicians Committee as well, to determine if there are any ways the Society can promote its agenda in Manhattan.
- The Society's Committees on CME and Public Health, chaired by Michael Goldstein, MD and Peter Lombardo, MD, respectively, are planning a Grand Round series of program over the coming months, focusing on *The Impact of COVID: Specialty Updates for Non-Specialists*. The May program will focus on mental health concerns; the June program will address neurological issues.
- The Society's Single Payer Task Force, led by Scot B. Glasberg, MD, communicated with Assemblymember Richard Gottfried and Senator Gustavo Rivera on the New York Health Act. Although the Society, like MSSNY, does not support the single payer system, in light of likely passage of the bill later this legislative session, it is doing its utmost to ensure that all suggestions that would help physicians be included in the legislation. The Society in particular asked for clarification of the role of the Care Manager in the New York Health Act, among other things. A copy of the letter was shared with the MSSNY Government Affairs Division.
- The Society's Government Affairs Committee, chaired by Paul N. Orloff, MD, has asked its 100 members to keep up a steady stream of calls and emails to legislators during Albany's "Budget Season," and the group has responded to calls to action from MSSNY's Government Affairs division.
- The Society's Bylaws Committee, chaired by Arthur Cooper, MD, is reviewing its proposed amendments to the Society's Bylaws, including its mission statement and tag line.
- The Brick vs. Virtual Committee, led by President-Elect Keith LaScalea, MD, is beginning the task of envisioning the Society's future as a virtually based, office based, or hybrid organization, when the Society's current lease ends in 2022.
- Society President Arthur Cooper, MD, and the Society's Board of Directors, welcomes MSSNY EVP Troy Oechsner, Esq. to its April meeting, to meet the leadership and discuss matters of mutual endeavor.
- The Society will be hosting a program on new Workers' Compensation procedures with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board in late April and will be inviting members to programs on Telehealth and Physician Burnout in the spring.

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- The Society acknowledges the accomplishments of Steven Kaner, MD, President, First District Branch, and recent guest at a meeting of the Society's Board of Directors, as he ends his presidency in April. The Society congratulates Alan Diaz, MD, who becomes FDB President, and its own Paul N. Orloff, MD, who will become President-Elect, on April 15.
- The Society also acknowledges the service of Philip Schuh, CPA, at MSSNY's Executive Vice President, and congratulates him on his many years of outstanding contributions to the physicians of New York State and the patients for who they provide exemplary care.

Bronx County Medical Society

- Bronx County Medical Society had a very successful virtual Lobby Day on March 2nd meeting with both Assembly & Senators in the Bronx to discuss the 2021-2022 Budget Priorities and what MSSNY Supports & Opposes.
Bronx County members led by Dr. Michelle Stern have continued to have meetings with both Senator Gustavo Rivera and Senator Alessandra Biaggi who both expresses supporting us with initiatives that better serve our physicians.
Senator Alessandra Biaggi position is as follows on the following issues in budget bill S2507:

Part F: The Senate modifies telehealth proposal to maintain flexibility with distant sites, add certified peer recovery advocates as eligible providers, and create reimbursement parity.

Part K: The Senate modifies the Executive proposal to restructure the Physicians Excess Medical Malpractice Fund by rejecting the changes to how the fund reimburses doctors and insurers and instead extends the program through June 30, 2022.

Part Q: The Senate modifies the Executive proposal as follows:

- o The Senate accepts:
 - The inclusion of fingerprinting and criminal history record checks as part of the physician registration process; and
 - The requirement to add more information to the online physician proposal.
- o The Senate rejects:
 - The proposal to end lifetime physician licensure;
 - The proposal to alter the handling of misconduct complaints; and
 - The proposal to impose additional mandates on physicians.

Bronx County will continue to work with State Legislators to make sure we continue to receive support for all physicians and for better patient care assistance needed for our members in the Bronx.

- Bronx County Medical Society had partnered with R.A.I.N. Total Care and the CEO Dr. Anderson Torres to provide streaming lectures to the senior population for why it's important to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Bronx County Comitia members provided physicians to be guest speakers to Dr. Torres population of 22 Senior centers in the Bronx. Dr. Sumir Sahgal who is the CEO of Essen Health Care provided oversight of the COVID-19 vaccine and well as the importance for receiving the vaccine.

Bronx County has been tapped to do other streaming services for R.A.I.N. Total Care with some of the topics in both English and Spanish, but not limited to:

Diabetes
Hypertension
Obesity
Cardiac disease

The society has members of Bronx County available to do all topics in the upcoming weeks.

- Bronx County Medical Society will be partnering with the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr, New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera & Dr. Jane Bedell Former Assistant Commissioner for the Bronx Neighborhood Health Office to participate in The Campaign for a Healthy Bronx #Not 62.

Bronx County Medical Society selected comitia members that will be discussing the programs, policies and partnerships across multiple sectors that have collaborated to address the social determinants of health and ways we can as a borough work to improve health outcomes in the Bronx.

- Bronx County Medical Society In conjunction with the Bronx public charter schools will be hosting bilingual virtual forums with medical experts from BCMS to dispel myths about the COVID-19 vaccine and encouraged families to get it when eligible.

So far, International Leadership Charter High School, American Dream Charter School, Zeta Charter Schools, Urban Assembly Charter School for Computer Science and Public Prep Charter Schools — have participated in the new effort to boost vaccine rates and overcome any hesitancy that might exist.

“Getting the vaccine is safe — that’s our message to our school community,” said Melissa Melkonian, founder of The American Dream Charter School. “The Bronx has been deeply affected by the COVID-19 crisis, and these forums are about being part of the solution one family at a time. Vaccine hesitancy among the communities we serve is real and understandable. But we believe by sharing critical medical information, we can effectively overcome hesitancy and help all of our kids — both in public charter schools and district schools — get back to some semblance of normalcy.”

- The Bronx County will be hosting another virtual event for our 17th Annual Doctor’s Recognition Day event on May 16th and the topic will be “COVID-19 Vaccines Revisited- Uptake Status & Remaining Questions”.
Our guest speaker will be Dr. Barry Zingman who is the Clinical Director for Infectious Diseases & Professor of Medicine Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

We will also be honoring our Bronx physicians nominated by their respected healthcare Organization for which they are employed with Peer to Peer Awards for their outstanding Work during this pandemic we will also be honoring some medical students in the Bronx with awards for the winners of the best Poster Presentations and abstracts submitted. To register for the event please go to our website at www.bronxdocs.org & hit the RSVP Button.