

**Draft Minutes
MSSNY Committee on Bioethics
Friday, February 11, 2022
Via zoom**

Present

Janine Fogarty, MD Vice-Chair
Jeffrey Berger, MD Chair
Maria Basile, MD
Stanley Bukowski, MD
Arthur Cooper, MD
Loren Wissner Greene, MD
Charyl Morrow, MD
Joel Potash, MD
Edward Powers III, MD
Peter Rogatz, MD
Corinne Salanson-Lojos, MD
Rene Solomon, MD
Jane Marie Simpson, DO

Excused

Joshua Cohen, MD
Abby Chase, Student

Absent

Carol Beechy, MD
Patricia Bomba, MD
Kelly Donnelly-Meuller, DO
John O'Brien, MD
Anthony Pivarunas, DO
Robert Schloss, MD
Sally White, MD
Anna Jaysing, Student

Invited Guest

Parag Mehta, MD President-elect

Staff

Troy Oeschner, Executive Vice-President
Pat Clancy, Sr. Vice-President
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Approval of October 1, 2021 minutes – approved
- 3) Professionalism Discussion –
 - a) Dr. Jeffrey Berger – “A Brief Overview of Physician Professionalism”
(slide’s attached to minutes)

“Was there ever a golden age of professionalism?”
 - b) Dr. Jane Simpson and Dr. Joel Potash – “Professionalism during COVID

‘What does professionalism mean to us?’”

There seems to be a different set of rules for professionalism. One for males and one for females. It can be misused against certain people as a weapon. Professionalism can be weaponized in many ways – What to wear - your shoes, your dress (is it long or is it short), your physical attributes - tattoo’s (those must be covered) while in many cultures they are expected and admired, piercings again in many cultures they are expected and admired, in others the person is asked to remove the jewelry considered “excessive”. The color of your hair and how you wear it. Do you wear a head covering?

"How do you profess your professionalism?"

Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino states "The concept of professionalism can be found in the eyes of your patient. It encompasses a good and right feeling that includes truthfulness and trustworthiness." The committee members were asked to comment on what they consider professionalism to be.

- Consider professionalism to be a privilege.
- The colleague experience is important. How we deal with each other. The body of physicians should be concerned with the body of the group.
- Standards used to be upheld. As human beings that make mistakes, the medical profession is a noble one that needs to uphold a certain standard.
- The process of professionalism gives us the freedom to discuss things.
- Professionalism can also be used to manipulate. It can be used to override a patient's advanced directives.

Where in medical school do they teach professionalism? We teach ethics and professionalism in school, but don't see it out in the field.

How did the pandemic affect professionalism?

- There is a duty to our patients
- The pandemic made us realize that we have a duty to ourselves and our staff to stay safe.
- The pandemic taught us to be creative in how we see our patients. Telehealth certainly came to the forefront.
- It taught us that with telehealth comes additional responsibility in that it is imperative that we are diligent in follow up with our patients.
- We have a duty to tell the truth even though we don't always know what that is.
- We have a duty to educate.
- The physicians that are employed by larger organizations feel a lack of support from the system and employers. Expectations are high. There is a need for life balance, so that we don't find ourselves on the verge of making mistakes.

MSSNY's Peer to Peer Program was mentioned. The Committee asked Pat Clancy to invite someone from MSSNY's Peer to Peer Program to speak at the next Bioethics Committee meeting on May 13, 2022.

What do we do with physicians that recommend or speak out against vaccination? There will always be physicians that disagree on the science due to adverse reactions to vaccine.

How do you interpret a guideline that says we "should" not we "must"? This falls back on the item that physicians have a duty to educate.

One suggestion that the media should be flooded with "MSSNY supports...or the AMA supports"

Pat Clancy took the opportunity to point out that MSSNY has been clear on it's support of vaccination through podcasts, news briefs, e-blasts, webinars, etc.

MSSNY is creating a physician ambassador program that will provide physicians with news blasts that can be shared with their patients.

4) Future meeting topics:

- Updating Pandemic Guidelines
- Resource Allocations in Healthcare
- Physician Burnout Crisis not related to COVID
(This is being addressed by the physician wellness committee who will be invited to the next meeting)
- Advanced directives and their limitations
- What are the ethics regarding telehealth?

Next meeting will concentrate on Physician Burnout and the Implications on Professionalism.

Next Meeting May 13, 2022

Adjourned