



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

A virtual meeting of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of New York was convened on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 9:00 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  
Frank G. Dowling, MD  
Joshua M. Cohen, MD  
Mark J. Adams, MD  
Howard H. Huang, MD  
William R. Latreille, MD  
Maria Basile, MD

**COUNCILORS**

Daniel E. Choi, MD  
Stephen F. Coccaro, MD  
Janine L. Fogarty, MD  
Mark J. Jajkowski, MD  
David M. Jakubowicz, MD  
Celeste A. Johns, MD  
Leanna Knight  
Thomas T. Lee, MD  
Adolph B. Meyers, MD  
Gregory L. Pinto, MD  
David Podwall, MD  
Barry Rabin, MD  
Luis Seija, MD  
Saulius Skeivys, MD  
Jocelyn C. Young, DO

**TRUSTEES**

Arthur C. Fougner, MD, Chair  
Daniel J. Koretz, MD  
Joseph R. Maldonado, MD  
Charles Rothberg, MD

**MSSNY STAFF**

Morris Auster, Esq.  
Michael Bartlett  
Terence Bedient  
Sandra Bennett  
Valerie Cammiso  
Zina Cary  
Miriam Hardin  
Heather Lopez  
Laurel Mayer  
Michele Nuzzi-Khoury  
Roseann Raia  
Suzanne Reilly  
Michael Reyes  
Kathleen Rohrer  
Stephen Sachs  
Brenda Van Nest  
John Vecchio  
Julie Vecchione DeSimone  
Michelle Vicari  
Jennifer Wilks

**EXCUSED**

Brian P. Murray, MD

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Troy J. Oechsner

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Barry Cepelewicz, MD, Esq.

**COUNTY FEDERATION**

**EXECUTIVE**

Aaron Kumar, MD

**COUNTY SOCIETY**

**EXECUTIVES**

Lucia Acosta-Castillejo  
Shirley Cosgriff  
Aimana ElBahtity, Esq.  
Cheryl Malone  
Janine Miller  
Julie Panna  
Vangie Rosado-Tripp  
Stavroula Savelidis

**GUESTS**

Rita Danielson  
Barbara Ellman  
Lori Hertz  
John Kennedy, MD  
Andrew Kleinman, MD  
John Lombardo, MD  
Leah McCormack, MD

Call to Order and Roll Call

**APPROVED**, the Minutes of November 4, 2021

New Business

President's Report

Committee on Membership - Dr. David Jakubowicz, Commissioner

**ADOPTED**, Substitute Resolution 2021-202 – IMG Membership

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York, through a three-year pilot program, revise the requirements for Post Medical Graduate (PMG) membership for IMGs by replacing the criterion of certification by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates with an attestation by the applicant to having passed Step 1 and Step 2CK of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or an equivalent pathway to licensure if there is a future change in ECFMG requirements.

**NOT ADOPTED**, 2021-204 - Promotional Period for Membership

Resolution 2021-204 asks for the elimination of the current MSSNY policy of extending membership for 1.5 years to physicians applying as of July 1, and for pro-rating dues.

The Committee agreed that granting someone who joins in July or later an extended period of membership is good business practice. Regarding pro-rating dues, we feel it would not be possible at this time due to current business procedures. A more automated structure is ideal for pro-rating and may be a consideration for the future.

Budget & Finance Committee – Presented by Dr. Andrew Kleinman, Chair

**ACCEPTED**, 2022 MSSNY Budget Statement

MSSNY Budget 2022 Summary Notes (For Council Information)

Budget 2022 for Council & Board of Trustees (For Council Information)

Board of Trustees Report – Presented by Dr. Arthur Fougner

A meeting of the MSSNY Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday evening, January 12, 2022.

- The Board Approved the Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on November 3, 2021.
- The Board approved the Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on December 8, 2021.
- The Board reviewed and approved the 2022 MSSNY Proposed Budget Statement as presented by the Budget Committee.

A motion was made to bring this before the Council for their final approval.

Upon the adjournment of the meeting, the Board of Trustees went into an Executive Session.

**The following MOTION was PROPOSED and PASSED:**

To extract from the Board of Trustees Report the sentence, *Upon the adjournment of the meeting, the Board of Trustees went into an Executive Session.* Only consider that part of the report once we have legal counsel give clarity on whether the Board of Trustees can have an executive session

that excludes the MSSNY Officers who are part of the Board of Trustees according to the MSSNY Bylaws.

The remainder Board of Trustees report was **APPROVED**,

Secretary's Report – Presented by Dr. Frank Dowling  
**APPROVED**, unanimously Life Membership for forty physicians

MLMIC Update – Presented by Dr. John Lombardo  
Dr. Lombardo reported that there are many preferred savings programs and discounts that MLMIC offers to individual physician practices. Please contact Lori Hertz for more information. On January 19 at 8:00 a.m., there will be a free social media presence webinar. The seminar is free and is available to members and do not need to be MLMIC insured to participate.

AMA Delegation Report – Presented by Dr. Charles Rothberg  
Dr. Rothberg reported that the in-person State Legislative Strategy Conference was cancelled because of the pandemic. The National Advocacy Conference will take place February 14-16.

MSSNYPAC Report – Presented by Dr. Thomas Lee  
Dr. Lee reported there are 450 donors to MSSNYPAC.  
Prior to the Council meeting, MSSNYPAC had a meeting to go over many of the legislative aspects that the governor has signed. MSSNYPAC participated in attending and supporting political events. MSSNYPAC partnered with many physician groups, specialty societies and political active physicians throughout New York State. Lastly, please pledge your 2022 donations by texting your name to 914-933-7722.

County Federation Report – Presented by Dr. Aaron Kumar  
Dr. Kumar welcomed Julie Panna, the new Executive Director of Onondaga County Medical Society. The federation continues to work continually to enhance the benefits and care for our physician members.

#### Reports of Officers

Office of the President – Joseph R. Sellers, MD

Dr. Sellers reported that we all want what is the best interest for MSSNY for our profession and patients. He thanked all the committee members, all the committee chairs and staff supporting MSSNY committees. The reports that are submitted to Council show hard work on behalf of the Society. MSSNY is working closely with the New York State Health Department, the county health departments and county medical societies. MSSNY is working with the AMA and the Physicians Foundation on the No Surprises Act. The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Power Point focuses on membership growth.

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

Dr. Mehta reported that he is grateful for attending all meetings and he is learning a great deal from the MSSNY leadership. Dr. Mehta reported that we are looking for sponsors or other forms of fundraising for the 2022 MSSNY House of Delegates. The HOD is in the planning stages, which is scheduled for mid-May. Dr. Mehta informed the Council that every week there is a call

to discuss the planning of the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates will be held at the Westchester Marriott and will be a “fun” event. Dr. Mehta reported that with the development of our new website and through the use of social media, our communications division continues to reach out to our members and non-members. Lastly, Dr. Mehta presented a power point.

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

Dr. Pipia thanked everybody who is departing off Council for all their hard work.

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

Dr. Litvack thanked the councilors, officers, trustees and MSSNY staff for their hard work. She reported that all physicians, medical students and residents need to sign up for lobby day to hear the issues that are affecting physicians and work together to advocate,

Office of the Treasurer – Mark J. Adams, MD, Financial Statement  
for the period 01/01/21-11/30/21 (***For Council Information***)

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

Dr. Latreille reported that the House of Delegates will proceed. A speaker’s letter will be coming out and will outline the way the House is organized. The deadline for credentialing for delegates is January 27.

Reports of Councilors (Informational)

Kings & Richmond Report – Adolph B. Meyer, MD

Dr. Meyer reported that Kings County Medical Society is planning their 200<sup>th</sup> year celebration, along with doctors day.

Manhattan & Bronx Report – David M. Jakubowicz, MD

Dr. Jakubowicz reported that the Membership Task Force is meeting to discuss membership issues, including dues categories and group membership.

Nassau County Report – David Podwall, MD

Dr. Podwall reported the NCMS in partnership with MSSNY worked diligently to renew the Northwell partnership for another three years.

Queens County Report – Saulius J. Skeivys, MD

Dr. Skeivys reported that Dr. Fishman, President of QCMS applied to the NYS Department of Health a grant for outreach and awareness for colon cancer, lung cancer and HPV screening.

Suffolk County Report – Daniel E. Choi, MD

Dr. Choi reported that the Suffolk County held a virtual meeting doctors of tomorrow symposium. Over 120 students registered for the event. The board approved and welcomed the new members on the board of censors, including the physicians of the New York Cancer & Blood Specialists. Dr. Choi thanked Ms. Pat Clancy & MSSNY for the collaborative COVID round table meeting with the State Department of Health to address concerns and needs of the physicians and patients.

Third District Branch Report – Brian P. Murray, MD (excused)

Fourth District Branch Report – Gregory L. Pinto, MD  
Dr. Pinto reminded everyone about the meeting in Lake Placid.

Fifth District Branch Report – Barry Rabin, MD  
Dr. Rabin welcomed Julie Panna, the new Executive Director of the Onondaga County Medical Society.

Sixth District Branch Report – Celeste A. Johns, MD  
(no written/verbal report)

Seventh District Branch Report – Janine L. Fogarty, MD  
(report as submitted)

Eighth District Branch Report – Mark R. Jajkowski, MD  
Dr. Jajkowski reported that Erie County Medical Society has had the opportunity to meet with the faculty of UB Medical School, who has agreed to make their entire student body members of Erie County. Erie County will be entering into another agreement with Spectrum Reach for another television commercial encouraging doctors to join Erie County.

Ninth District Branch Report – Thomas T. Lee, MD  
Dr. Lee thanked Ms. Janine Miller for her support for both the Westchester County Society and the ninth district. Dr. Lee stated that in-person student event had to be postponed because of the new variant and will be rescheduled in the spring.

Medical Student Section Report – Leanna Knight  
(no written/verbal report)

Organized Medical Staff Section Report - Stephen F. Coccaro, MD  
Dr. Coccaro thanked Dr. Alan Klitzke for representing the OMSS at the AMA House of Delegates.

Resident & Fellow Section Report – Luis Seija, MD  
Dr. Seija reported that the RFS is looking forward to the annual meeting

Young Physician Section Report – Jocelyn Young, DO  
Dr. Young reported that the YPS continues to meet virtual the first Wednesday of the month.

Commissioners (Informational Items)  
Commissioner of Communications, Maria A. Basile, MD, MBA

**The following report was submitted for information**

Report from the Division of Communications

Dr. Basile reported that a request for web developers with proposals are being reviewed and developers are being interviewed.

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

**The following report was submitted for information**

Report from the Division of CME

Dr. Adams reported that the CME Committee discussed a new service that the ACCME is providing. It is the CME Passport (formerly CME Finder) that enables physicians to find, track, and manage their CME activities.

Commissioner of Governmental Relations, Gregory L. Pinto, MD

**The following reports were submitted for information**

Report from the Division of Governmental Affairs

Scope of Practice Committee Minutes

Dr. Pinto reported that MSSNY leadership is maintaining a position with Scope of Practice issues relating to nurse practitioners and physician assistants replacing physicians in hospitals.

Commissioner of Membership, David M. Jakubowicz, MD

**The following report was submitted for information**

Report from the Division of Membership

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

**The following report was submitted for information:**

Public Health & Education Report

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

Ms. Heather Lopez, Director of Physician Payment & Practice reported that she is very busy answering calls and emails from physicians on various coding & claims issues. Submitting formal complaints to United. United is now offering a new process to better serve providers in a more responsive and efficient way. It will expedite both the handling and accuracy of claims. They now have a dedicated team of individuals that includes claims processors assigned to handle all open claims issues. A new Modifier was accepted to describe real-time telemedicine services whether it is audio or video between a patient and a physician. Lastly, there was a webinar, "How to Identify Insurances that was attended by 170 or more people.

Report of the Executive Vice President, Troy J. Oechsner

Membership Dues Revenue Schedule

Group Institutional Dues Report

Mr. Oechsner thanked Dr. Adams, Dr. Fougner & Mr. Vecchio for all their hard work on the 2022 MSSNY Budget. Mr. Oechsner referred everyone to the Group Institutional Dues Report. He reported that income is close to where we were last year. Then he made reference to the Membership Dues Schedule and reported that MSSNY is falling behind in the general membership category. There is a decline in membership dues for the past several years. Lastly, Mr. Oechsner presented a PowerPoint update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

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

(no written/verbal report submitted)

Alliance, Barbara Ellman, Alliance President

Ms. Ellman thanked the Council for all their support to the Alliance.

Other Information/Announcements

(no written reports submitted)

Adjournment - There being no further business, a Motion was made, seconded and accepted.

The virtual meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.