

MSSNY THIRD DISTRICT REPORT
MARCH
Brian P. Murray, MD

- **VNA OF ALBANY JOINS AMC:**

Following New York State approval, the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) of Albany has become a member of the Albany Med Health System. Together, the VNA and the System will enhance the continuity of care from System hospitals to homes across the Capital Region. “The VNA has a longstanding history of delivering expert post-acute care and therapies to our patients recovering from illness or injury,” said Albany Med Health System CEO Dennis P. McKenna, M.D. “We are close partners in the care plans we develop, and our core service areas fit perfectly together. By joining forces, we are redoubling our shared commitment to quality, coordinated care along a patient’s entire journey of healing, wherever they may be.” Founded in 1880, the VNA of Albany is a certified home health agency that provides skilled nursing, medical social work, home health aide services, and cardiac, infusion, diabetes, and rehabilitation therapies. Because the VNA is now a member of the System, its providers may more readily extend access to home-care resources to patients. The VNA also provides opportunities for contract nurses at the four System hospitals.

- **BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATED WITH HEALTH AND WELLNESS DISCUSSION:**

Simone Guest, DO, a family medicine practitioner with the Braverman-Panza Medical Group, a practice of St. Peter’s Health Partners Medical Associates, last week sat in on a discussion with Albany County Executive Dan McCoy and Dr. Nosa Lebarty from CentralMed Urgent Care. In recognition of Black History Month, the two physicians joined McCoy to discuss the national theme “Black Health and Wellness” and their experiences. Both doctors shared that healthcare disparities are longstanding, and noted that the COVID pandemic has brought the issue front and center. They agreed that more education is needed and community trust and prioritizing personal health must be a priority. “As county executive, I’ve always fought for health equity,” said McCoy. “After today’s discussions, I am reminded of the work we must continue to do moving forward.” Dr. Guest has been with Braverman-Panza Medical Group since 2016. She previously worked at Patchogue Family Medical Care in Patchogue, NY. Dr. Guest received her Doctor of Osteopathy degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of New York Institute of Technology; and her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Temple University, where she graduated magna cum laude. For more than 20 years, Braverman-Panza Internal Medicine, 1375 Washington Ave., Suite 202 in Albany, has provided adult and geriatric health care services to the Albany community. Services include: routine care for illness, injury and chronic medical conditions; preventive immunizations and precautionary inoculations; preventive health and wellness services, including cancer screening and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.