



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

A Zoom and in-person meeting of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of New York was held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Parag H. Mehta, President of the Society presided:

**OFFICERS (in-person)**

Parag Mehta, MD  
Paul Pipia, MD  
Jerome Cohen, MD  
Joseph Sellers, MD  
Howard Huang, MD  
Joshua Cohen, MD  
Mark Adams, MD  
Frank Dowling, MD  
Maria Basile, MD

**COUNCILORS (in-person)**

Daniel Choi, MD  
Daniel Gold, MD  
Celeste Johns, MD  
Adolph Meyer, MD  
David Podwall, MD  
Penny Stern, MD  
L. Carlos Zapata, MD

**TRUSTEES (in-person)**

Robert Frankel, MD  
Bonnie Litvack, MD

**Executive Vice President (in-person)**

Troy Oechsner

**MSSNY Legal Counsel (in-person)**

David Vozza, Esq.

**EXCUSED**

Janine Fogarty, MD  
Malcolm Reid, MD

**MSSNY Staff**

**(in-person)**  
Matthew Brown  
Valerie Cammiso  
Michele Nuzzi  
Michael Reyes  
Kathy Rohrer  
Jeffrey Selzer, MD  
Julie Vecchione

**VIA Zoom**

Amelia Acosta-Castillejo  
Morris Auster, Esq.  
Inderpal Chhabra, MD  
Shirley Cosgriff  
Jose David, MD  
Aimana ElBahtity  
Arthur Fougner, MD  
Miriam Hardin  
Mark Jajkowski, MD  
David Jakobowitz, MD  
Leanna Knight  
Aaron Kumar, MD  
William Latreille, MD  
Jennifer Lee  
Thomas Lee, MD  
Heather Lopez  
Thomas Madejski, MD  
Joseph Maldonado, MD  
Cheryl Malone  
Laurel Mayer  
Janine Miller  
Helena Mirza  
Gregory Pinto, MD  
Randall Porter, MD

**VIA Zoom**

Barry Rabin, MD  
Charles Rothberg, MD  
Amelia Soto  
Brenda Van Nest  
Jennifer Wilks  
Jocelyn Young, DO

**Guests (in-person)**

John Lombardo, MD  
Lori Hertz

## Call to Order and Roll Call

### A. **APPROVED** the June 23, 2022 Council Minutes with the following revisions:

Office of the Treasurer – Mark Adams, MD

First Paragraph should read MSSNY received the \$700,000 PPP Grant.

OMSS Report – Luis Carlos Zapata, MD

First paragraph should read American College of Emergency Physicians in Lake George

### B. New Business

#### 1. **President's Report**

a. DEI Video – Parag Mehta, MD

Dr. Mehta's YouTube Video consisted of the following Lessons:

- Schemas
- Attitudes & Stereotypes
- Real World Consequences
- Explicit v. Implicit Bias
- Implicit Association Test (IAT)

b. MSSNY Strategic Planning Presentation – Bonnie Litvack, MD

Dr. Litvack reported that Strategic Planning is very essential to MSSNY. Dr. Rohack, former AMA and TMA President agreed to help MSSNY with the process. Need to focus on selected issues. During this process we need a diverse group of participants. The areas we would consider addressing are Mission & Core Values, Membership, Non-Dues Revenue, Physician & Patient Advocacy, Public Health and other areas.

c. Achievements, Wrongful Death & Healthcare Worker Bonus - Mr. Morris Auster, Esq,

Mr. Auster reported that this year was very different because there were many bills that passed this year. Bills that were very positive initiatives passed the legislature and a number of negative ones. Physicians are urged to contact Governor Hochul to ask her to sign into law several bills supported by MSSNY and patient advocacy organizations. The first bill would ensure those who make "medical necessity" determinations on behalf of a health insurance company qualified to make those decisions. This bill would ensure that a health plan not deny a request for patient care unless the reviewing physician is qualified to review treatment requested or provided. Second bill would prohibit a health plan from imposing a policy that forbids a payment from a third party to count towards the patient's deductible/maximum out-of-pocket cost sharing. Third bill would ban insurance companies from applying step therapy protocols to treatments prescribed for patients with mental conditions. This would help parties receive needed medications without unnecessary pre-authorizations.

d. Communications Activities & Website Update – Ms. Julie Vecchione

Ms. Vecchione reported that the MSSNY Pulse has been redesigned. Everyone should be receiving it every Friday. The MSSNY website redesign is underway. We received proposals from potential developers and Results Direct has been chosen. Results Direct is a team of trusted experts. This redesign project is a tremendous opportunity to strengthen the presentation of MSSNY's value proposition to members/nonmembers.

e. Impexium Presentation – Ms. Valerie Cammiso

Ms. Cammiso reported that MSSNY is in process of its database conversion with Impexium. Impexium allows for managing profiles, delivers personalized experiences. Choose products and services you want to receive. Automates tasks and negates manual data entry. Pay online and get automatic receipts. Impexium will be a self-service portal for everyone to use anywhere and anytime. Manages membership experience for processing orders, managing events and reporting organization's data.

2. **Board of Trustees Report** – Mr. Oechsner on behalf Dr. Malcolm Reid presented the report The Council **APPROVED** the following Board of Trustees Report:

A meeting of the MSSNY Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- The Board approved the Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 20, 2022.
- The Board approved funding for this November's AMA Interim Meeting in Hawaii at \$3,000 per participant.
- The Board reviewed progress and approved contingent funding for MSSNY Strategic Planning exercise, including approval of a contract for a Member Needs Survey, should the application for funding from the Physicians Foundation not be approved and funds from MESF or other sources not be available

3. **Secretary's Report** – Presented by Dr. Howard Huang **APPROVED**, unanimously the following:

- Life Membership for six (6) physicians

4. **MLMIC Update** – Presented by Dr. John Lombardo

Dr. Lombardo reported that there was critical legislation that recently passed both houses in the New York State Legislature. It was the "Grieving Families Act" or the Wrongful Death. This bill will have a substantial and negative impact on healthcare professionals in New York State. It would cause increase in physician medical liability premiums by expanding the types of damages awardable in a wrongful death action. Physicians are urged to contact Governor Hochul to request she veto this bill.

5. **AMA Delegation Report** – Presented Dr. Charles Rothberg

Dr. Rothberg thanked Dr. Reid and the Board of Trustees for the approval of the stipend for our delegates and alternate delegates for the November AMA Interim meeting in Hawaii. Currently, there are three MSSNY members on the AMA Board of Trustees and an individual on every Council, which is a testament to the good work of our delegation. The OPS Committee met and approved tentatively some outreach to some of the great lake states that would like to review handbooks in preparation for the resolutions at the AMA. Alternate delegates who do not wish to travel to Hawaii will be excused without penalty this year. With regard to Dr. Young's query about how the section delegates are going to be compensated that has not been determined yet, but we would like to get a sense of their needs..

6. **MSSNYPAC Report** – Presented by Dr. Thomas Lee  
Dr. Lee thanked the Governmental Affairs staff for their extraordinary effort in the political environment. MSSNYPAC is doing slightly better than last year but still lower than four years ago. Legislator scorecard and candidate questionnaire resources are now available. These resources can assist with political action and advocacy efforts. The Legislator Scorecard is a summary of the voting and co-sponsorship records of each state legislator on issues important to New York physicians during the 2022 legislative session at [www.mssnypac.org/contribute](http://www.mssnypac.org/contribute). MSSNYPAC support enables physicians to participate in the political process and keeping lines of communication open with policymakers. Membership in MSSNY and contributions to MSSNYPAC keeps us working on behalf of New York physicians.
7. **County Federation Report** – Presented by Ms. Stavroula Savelidis  
Ms. Savelidis reported that the Federation met with MSSNY and the Membership Committee and was happy to have the opportunity to hear the work being done by MSSNY and the Committee. We are looking to utilize the information to best support our local county members and societies.

**D. Reports of Officers**

1. Office of the President – Parag H. Mehta, MD  
Dr. Mehta referred everyone to the DEI YouTube video that was presented under the President’s Report
2. Office of the President-Elect – Paul A. Pipia, MD  
Dr. Pipia reported that he is committed to working on membership. Members are needed to be involved in MSSNYPAC because we don’t have enough money.
3. Office of the Vice-President – Jerome C. Cohen, MD  
Dr. Cohen reported that the transition of moving our office went very well.
4. Office of the Immediate Past President – Joseph R. Sellers, MD  
Dr. Sellers reported that he attended the Otsego Annual Meeting. He will be in attendance at the Monroe County Annual. Dr. Sellers requested that each county and district let MSSNY know when there are events because MSSNY Leadership want to be there.
5. Office of the Treasurer – Mark J. Adams, MD, Financial Statement  
Dr. Adams reported that he reviewed the financial statement with Mr. Oechsner and determined that MSSNY Financials are looking ok. There is still about \$20,000 in HOD sponsorships that we are still waiting to come in and expect them to come in soon. There were additional expenses incurred for the move in Albany. MSSNY had unexpected expenses to IT. We have changed vendors. We expect to come close to budget on meeting expenses. The \$700,000 PPP Grant will not happen in 2023. We will have to look to increase revenues and cut expenses to offset that amount.
6. Office of the Speaker – William R. Latreille, Jr., MD  
Dr. Latreille reported that there is not a great deal of work in preparing for our HOD. The work starts in November. Laurie Mayer is doing some of the foundation work on getting it started.

**E. Reports of Councilors (Informational)**

The following reports were submitted for information (with additional comments):

1. Kings & Richmond Report – Adolph B. Meyer, MD  
Dr. Meyer reported that on October 23<sup>rd</sup> marks their annual Legislative Brunch. Women in Medicine event will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. Manhattan & Bronx Report – David M. Jakubowicz, MD  
Dr. Jakubowicz reported that New York County Medical Society  
Their office to 246 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 501, NY. Phone  
number and email are the same. Dr. Erick Eiting was quoted in an article in The  
Gothamist on monkeypox, along with Dr. Parag Mehta.  
Bronx County Medical Society is having their Gala on November 6, 2022.
3. Nassau County Report – David Podwall, MD  
Dr. Podwall reported that Nassau County Medical Society (NCMS) participated  
in NYIT’s New Student Orientation and interacted with an incoming class  
of 300 new medical students. On October 12, the NCMS will be hosting a virtual  
legislative breakfast. A dinner honoring Dr. Ronald Menzin, Immediate Past President is  
scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Dr. Jerome Adams, Former Surgeon  
General.
4. Queens County Report – Penny Stern, MD  
Dr. Stern reported that the MSCQ became a member of the Queens Borough President’s  
Not-For-Profit group. Dr. Chethan Sathya will speak at our Comitia Minora Meeting on  
November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Comitia Minora will continue to host speakers and CME sessions.
5. Suffolk County Report – Daniel E. Choi, MD  
Dr. Choi reported that the SCMS newly elected officers were sworn in to start their  
official positions on July 1, 2022. SCMS had several legislators present proclamations to  
Dr. Marie Basile, our outgoing President. We are increasing our online presence with  
enhanced social media posts and engagements on LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and  
Facebook.
6. Third District Branch Report – Jose David, MD  
Dr. David reported that on October 3<sup>rd</sup> the district is having their executive committee  
meeting and making a plan for our holiday party. Members and formers members will be  
invited.
7. Fourth District Branch Report – Gregory L. Pinto, MD  
(no written report submitted)
8. Fifth District Branch Report – Barry Rabin, MD  
Dr. Rabin reported that on November 17<sup>th</sup> the Onondaga County  
Medical Society is having their annual meeting and awards dinner at  
the Collegian Hotel in Syracuse. Dr. Joseph Maldonado is now the  
Executive Director of six county medical societies in Oneida County.
9. Sixth District Branch Report – Celeste A. Johns, MD  
Dr. Johns reported that Otego County Medical Society had their 216<sup>th</sup>

Annual Meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown. Tompkins County Medical Society is in negotiations for sponsorship with Cayuga Health Partners.

10. Seventh District Branch Report – Janine L. Fogarty, MD (excused)  
(report as submitted)
11. Eighth District Branch Report – Mark R. Jajkowski, MD  
Dr. Jajkowski reported that Erie County filed for a 501(c)(3) to allow Erie County to apply for grants. Erie County is having a membership recruitment initiative at the Kaleida Health System. Thanked MLMIC for their sponsorship to an Erie County event.
12. Ninth District Branch Report – Daniel Gold, MD  
Dr. Gold reported that Westchester County held their annual meeting on June 29. This year will be the first year with an increase in the number of members. WCMS held its first in-person monthly BOT meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. WCMS will hold its virtual Biennial Legislative Update on September 29<sup>th</sup>
13. Medical Student Section Report – Leanna Knight  
**A MOTION was PROPOSED and PASSED** to give a \$1,000 cash award to the Medical Student Section for the Student of the Year Award.
14. Organized Medical Staff Section Report – Luis Carlos Zapata, MD  
The OMSS is planning their annual meeting via Zoom and will hosting it with other sections.
15. Resident & Fellow Section Report – Randall Porter, MD  
Dr. Porter reported that the RFS & YPS will have a joint meeting to discuss advocacy, importing New York Legislation. Two delegates will attend the AMA Interim Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Porter will have discussions with Drs. Reid & Rothberg regarding the funding for the RFS to attend the AMA Interim Meeting.
16. Young Physician Section Report – Jocelyn Young, DO  
Dr. Young reported that the YPS is looking forward to the joint meeting of the MSS, RFS & YPS on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, in Oyster Bay, the YPS is having a meet-up with the Young Physician Section. A member of the YPS is playing in the band on that evening.

**F. Commissioners (Informational Items)**

1. Commissioner of Communications, Maria A. Basile, MD, MBA  
Report from the Division of Communications  
(Report as submitted)
2. Commissioner of Continuing Medical Education, Daniel Choi, MD  
Report from the Division of CME  
Dr. Choi reported that ACCME sent a letter to all State Medical Society CME Accreditor CEOs to notify them of a change in ACCME's Markers of Equivalency. The letter notified SMS accreditors that on January 1, 2024, ACCME recognized SMS accreditors and will need to accredit at least 20 CME providers.

MSSNY currently accredits 38 CME providers, and are not in danger of losing their recognition

3. Commissioner of Governmental Relations, Gregory L. Pinto, MD

Report from the Division of Governmental Affairs

Dr. Pinto reported that MSSNY has been working closely with county society executives across the State to answer questions from physicians and their staffs regarding the State's Healthcare worker bonus program enacted in the State Budget earlier this year.

4. Commissioner of Membership, David M. Jakubowicz, MD

Report from the Division of Membership

Dr. Jakubowicz reported that there are 38 unique price points for individual active dues. Dr. Podwall, Dr. Jocelyn Young & Dr. Jakubowicz joined a membership staff meeting requested by county society execs and leaders. We discussed the ongoing work of the Membership Committee. A discussion on the new cloud-based database will affect our need to change business practices. Dr. Jakubowicz slide presentation focused on the organization's dues combinations. There are too many options and different combinations of dues. Simplification of this will lead to a significant cost savings. In August, there was a meeting with the county executives and it was not well attended.

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

Dr. Cohen thanked everyone for their effort to the marijuana regulations.

6. Commissioner of Physician Payment & Practice, Inderpal Chhabra, MD

Report from the Division of Physician Payment & Practice

Dr. Chhabra that Ms. Lopez is working with the North Shore Medical Staff Leadership regarding excessive medical record request project after meeting with the DFS. Ms. Lopez facilitates monthly meetings for physicians to answer Medicare questions. Recruited numerous new and former physician members to join/rejoin MSSNY.

**G. Report of the Executive Vice President, Troy J. Oechsner**

1. Goals & Measures Update
2. Membership Dues Revenue Schedule
3. Group Institutional Dues Report

Mr. Oechsner thanked Heather Lopez for job fighting insurance companies.

The key priorities are increasing membership, growing non-dues revenue and reducing expenses. Mr. Oechsner reported that the group institutional dues continue to remain stable. The Membership Committee continues to work with the counties to improve their involvement, engagement and retention. MSSNY continues its virtual meetings which is cost efficient. Mr. Oechsner projected a power point presentation on MSSNY Goals & Measures.

- H. Report of the General Counsel, David Vozza, Esq.**  
Mr. Vozza reported that there have been numerous inquiries from members. The firm is hiring another healthcare associate that will be starting soon. That individual will be disseminating information that can then be distributed to the membership and possibly posted on the new website once that is up and running.
- I. Alliance, Helena Mirza, Alliance Co-President**  
*(No written report submitted)*
- J. Other Information/Announcements**  
The following were submitted for information:
1. MSSNY letter to CMS regarding the 2023 Medicare fee schedule rule
  2. Clinical Peer Review Flyer
  3. MSSNY End of Session Report – summary version
- K. Adjournment** - There being no further business, a Motion was made, seconded, and accepted. The virtual meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.