

**THE EMPIRE STATE MEDICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Leah S. McCormack, MD
President**

The Empire Foundation is one of two subsidiaries of the Medical Society of the State of New York. Originally formed to be the peer review arm of MSSNY, it became the vehicle through which MSSNY became involved in the original PSRO program and then ultimately with the New York State Department of Health Medicaid Utilization Review Program.

Over the years the organization has managed to grow, refocusing its energy into utilization review activities. For several years it was designated as the State Dispute Resolution Agency contracting directly with the New York State Department of Health. The Foundation is a registered Utilization Review Agent with the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Managed Care. The Foundation achieved URAC Certification representing a level of high-quality achievement in its utilization review programs. Currently, the Foundation is in the middle of the renewal of its URAC Certification, which involves an extensive review of the activities of the Foundation and is a process that runs for six months. If successful, and I anticipate that it will be, the Foundation will then receive URAC Certification for the next three-year period.

As a result, the URAC certification, activity under the Foundation's Dispute Resolution Review Program has increased dramatically.

Currently, the Foundation continues to perform Medicaid Utilization Review under a subcontract with the Island Peer Review Organization – IPRO. An extension to this contract concluded July 31, 2021, and we anticipate another annual renewal.

The Foundation, over its history has traditionally provided MSSNY with some level of financial support, based on its operating results. I am happy to report to you that the Foundation has concluded its 2020 operations in good financial health and will continue to support to MSSNY in 2021/2022.

The Foundation has offices both in Westbury (subleasing space from MSSNY) and in Camillus, Syracuse. Medical record coders and nurse reviewers are employed within each office. A key component to the Foundations review system is the use of Physician Reviewers, performing medical record review within their areas of specialty.

If you are interested in becoming a Physician Reviewer for the Foundation, applications can be found on the Foundation website.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring you up to date on the Foundation's activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah S. McCormack, MD
President