



## **MEMORANDUM**

### **MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

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**June 14, 2024**

**TO: MSSNY COUNCIL**

**FROM: JOCELYN YOUNG, DO, COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION  
PAT CLANCY, SR. VP/MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION**

**SUBJECT: MSSNY PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION REPORT**

The following is an update on various projects that fall within MSSNY's Division of Public Health and Education.

#### **GRANTS**

##### **MSSNY Emergency Preparedness and Disaster and Terrorism Response Committee**

The Medical Society's Emergency Preparedness grant from the NYS Department of Health has been renewed for the 22<sup>st</sup> year. The appropriation of \$79,135 allows MSSNY's and the Committee on Emergency Preparedness Disaster/Terrorism Response to conduct live Medical Matters throughout the year and allows MSSNY to continue to help fund the CME website. The Committee on Emergency Preparedness met with NYS DOH on May 29, 2024 to discuss programs for the upcoming 2023-24 grant cycle. The final Medical Matters of the 2023-24 grant cycle was held on June 12, 2024. Medical Matters will begin again in September 2024 and continue throughout the fall and into 2025. Further information may be obtained from Melissa Hoffman, Asst. Director, PHE, at [mhoffman@mssny.org](mailto:mhoffman@mssny.org).

##### **Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative (VMHTI)**

The Medical Society has been awarded a \$100,000 New York State grant through the NYS state budget process for 2024-25 fiscal year. The state grant enables MSSNY to continue its physicians' training initiative for programs such as PTSD, Depression and Suicide, TBI, Military Culture, Veterans and COVID, Military Sexual Trauma, and many other programs. MSSNY will be working on a new program on burn pits and the physical and psychological impact upon veterans. MSSNY partners with the New York State Psychiatric Association and the National Association of Social Workers, New York Chapter. County medical societies or member institution interested in hosting a live webinar are asked to contact Nick Hospodar, Program Coordinator, at [nhospodar@mssny.org](mailto:nhospodar@mssny.org)

##### **MESF/MSSNY Physician Leadership Grant**

The Medical, Education, and Scientific Foundation (MESF) was awarded a Physician's Foundation leadership grant for \$150,000 which will expire on February 1, 2025. MESF/MSSNY has worked together to offer a virtual Women Physician Leadership Academy, under the direction of a physicians' planning workgroup. During the Fall of 2023, Dr. Patrice Harris facilitated the fall sessions which included topics on effective

communication, advocacy and changemaking, and leadership and in Spring 2024, Dr. Julie Silver facilitated the spring session which included the importance of networking, enhancing physician wellness and belonging, and designing your medical career. Participants of the academy earned up to 18 CME credits, and all six sessions are now available on the MSSNY CME website. There were over 230 participants of the entire WPLA. All physicians, residents, and students are eligible to take these programs. The WPLA is now on the MSSNY CME site at: [MSSNY - Continuing Medical Education](https://www.mssny.org/continuing-medical-education) Discussion is underway for another Fall 2024 and Spring session 2025. Further information may be obtained from Pat Clancy at [pclancy@mssny.org](mailto:pclancy@mssny.org) or Emily Rento, Public Health Associate, at [erento@mssny.org](mailto:erento@mssny.org).

### **PHE COMMITTEES**

The **Women Physicians Section** held its inaugural meeting on May 23, 2024 and began planning for the formation of its bylaws/and/or guidance. The group did agree that the bylaws were the first priority and met this past week to begin discussion on these bylaws. It is anticipated that these bylaws/guidance will go before the MSSNY Council in September.

**MSSNY Infectious Disease Committee** and the **Preventive Medicine and Family Health Committee** this spring, heard a presentation on the NYS HCV Testing Law Requirement to require the offer of an HCV screening test to all adults and persons under 18 years of age with an identified risk. Colleen Flanagan, RN, MS, Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology, New York State Department of Health, highlighted universal screening recommendations for Hep C, with an implementation date set for May 3, 2024, to achieve elimination goals by 2030 in New York State. Provider reporting obligations under public health law were stressed for monitoring progress effectively. Brianna Norton discussed advancements in Hep C treatment, highlighting direct-acting antivirals' high cure rates. Her presentation emphasized the importance of adherence for successful outcomes, along with simplifying dosing regimens, and introducing universal screening among adults and pregnant individuals to help curb rising Hep C infections. Various elimination options were discussed, including enhanced testing protocols, timely diagnosis and treatment among Hep C susceptible individuals and advanced treatment options. Dr. Valenti will do a podcast with Colleen Flanagan and Brianna Norton for further discussion on this topic.

The **MSSNY Heart Lung Cancer Committee** and the **Preventive Medicine and Family Health Committee** heard from representatives of the NY Blood Center about MSSNY collaborating with the Center to raise awareness for bleeding disorders, particularly Von Willebrand's disease. There was discussion of various outreach programs including developing a guide to bleeding disorders to be made available at various medical facilities, a virtual program for bleeding disorders that would qualify for CME credits. It was noted that the white paper developed by the Heart, Lung, Cancer Committee—"A Return To Cancer Screening" will be finalized and placed on the MSSNY website.

Nancey P. Agard, RN, MS, Director, Bureau of Organ Donation and Transplantation, New York State Department of Health, Division of Hospitals and Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management gave a presentation to **MSSNY Bioethics Committee** at its spring meeting. Ms. Agard provided insight on the New York State Donate Life Registry, of which the DMV is currently the largest registration source. She also discussed the responsibilities of the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO), as well as organ allocation rules, living donation and the status of organ donation in New York State. The members of the Bioethics Committee also discussed MSSNY new position on Aid in Dying that was adopted at the MSSNY 2024 House of Delegates.

The **MSSNY Health Equity Committee** discussed the Health Equity by Design paper which has the goal of reducing healthcare disparities with the utilization of technology through the federal government. Committee members provided Chair, Dr. Vilma Joseph, with ideas that she could convey to on the various ways technology could be used to reduce healthcare disparities, such as ensuring patients had access to the proper language services. The committee discussed the creation of a CME program on patient engagement and cultural competency and will move forward to obtain CME credits for this program.

The **MSSNY Addiction and Psychiatric Medicine Committee** discussed a resolution that was referred to the committee by the MSSNY 2024 House of Delegates regarding MSSNY opposition to the legalization of non-prescription drugs. The committee will put together a subcommittee and work on putting forth a resolution to the full committee and eventually to MSSNY Council for consideration. The committee also began discussion on moving marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III classification.

The **MSSNY Physician Wellness Committee**, under its new chair, Dr. Donald Moore, spoke about the MSSNY P2P program and the need for enhanced marketing of the program and agreed that this program was a priority of the committee. Under the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) program, physicians may engage in a one-time confidential discussion with a peer supporter—an individual trained to share experiences, listen without judgment, and validate feelings. a confidential helpline phone number ([1-844-P2P-PEER](tel:1-844-P2P-PEER)) and an email address ([p2p@mssny.org](mailto:p2p@mssny.org)) so that physicians may be connected with a peer 24 hours a day/7days a week. In addition to offering a trained, empathetic ear, peer supporters may provide information on specific resources that can offer further support, provide positive coping skills, or connect physicians to professionals for more focused assistance.

**MSSNY Committee on Quality Improvement and Patient Safety** discussed at its meeting funding for projects for ABMS. While MSSNY Council has approved the implementation of ABMS CME programs, there is a need for funding and content to be developed. There was a document that listed potential topics for the ABMS program, including chronic kidney disease, vaccinations, substance use disorders and Artificial Intelligence. It was agreed that this topic would be prioritized and that a subcommittee begin exploring potential funding avenues.

The **Long-Term Care Subcommittee** heard a presentation on the 2024-25 New York State budget, the formation of the medical directors' directory in New York State, and on transitional care issues. The subcommittee also discussed legislation that would address the use of psychotropic medications in nursing homes and adult care facilities. The subcommittee and MSSNY are opposed to this legislation.