A Good Way to Celebrate Doctor’s Day

By: David B. Nash, MD, MBA in On The Road
Tagged: Bronx County Medical Society, Mercy College, National Doctor’s Day, Population Health

Did you know that National Doctors’ Day, the US holiday created to recognize physician service, started in 1933? I had the privilege of celebrating Doctors’ Day this year by serving as the plenary speaker for the 13th Annual National Doctors’ Recognition Day Symposium hosted by the Bronx County Medical Society in New York State. The program was held at Mercy College which has been nationally recognized as a Bright Spot in the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

This was a very sophisticated audience when it comes to practicing population health. Representatives from several large integrated delivery systems that included a federally qualified health center, Montefiore Medical Center, St. Barnabas Medical Center, and one of the largest Medicaid managed care plans in the country were among the audience. These practitioners understand, in a visceral way, how the social determinants of health impact a community. The Bronx is one of the poorest communities in the nation and this poverty drives many poor health outcomes like asthma and other illnesses. While I delivered my leadership for population health stump speech, my plenary presentation was followed by a very interactive panel, featuring representatives from some of the aforementioned delivery settings. They spoke about starting intravenous lines for patients in the office to avoid an emergency room visit, and dropping medication off to a patient’s home late at night to make sure a readmission did not occur. Local physician leaders emphasized that working in a health plan with Medicaid patients and sharing economic risk with a hospital really means a complete cultural shift in the day-to-day work of a primary care doctor. Learning to change the focus from one person, one problem, one at a time, to a panel of patients, is going to take real teamwork, for which most physicians, according to the panel, are poorly prepared.

A highlight of this program, for me, was the presence of a large number of house officers from a score of hospitals across the Bronx. Seeing young physicians participate in a leading-edge program like this one made me feel much better about our future prospects for tackling some of these seemingly intractable problems. Mercy College and its focus on educating minorities, was indeed the appropriate setting for this unique celebration of Doctors’ Day.
DOCTORS DAY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE REPORT

**Bronx County Medical Society** Wednesday, March 30 We held our 13th Annual Doctors’ Recognition Day Symposium, Expo and Poster Presentations at Mercy College, Bronx Campus at the Hutchinson Metro Center.

Timothy L. Hall, President welcomed our group to Mercy College. Shervin Mortazavi, MD, President Bronx County Medical Society presented an appreciation award to President Hall & Lenny Caro, Chief Community Relations Officer at the Bronx Campus. Lenny was our "go to person" and helped us secure this amazing meeting space.

Jitendra Barmecha, MD, MPH, FACP
Scientific Program Chairman did an excellent job securing the Panelist as well as the keynote speaker

David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Dean
Jefferson College of Population Health
Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
Symposium “Population Health” The Paradigm Shift in the Health Care Delivery System
The Panel Discussion was lead by
Amanda Parsons, MD, MBA – Moderator
Montefiore VP – Community & Population Health

**Faculty Panelists**
Amanda Ascher, MD, Anna Flattau, MD, Jay Schechtman MD., MBA, Manuel J. Vazquez, MD & Isaac Dapkins, MD

2016 Peer to Peer Excellence in Medicine Awards
In recognition of the contributions made to enrich the lives of Patients through Exemplary Care and Dedication

**Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center**
Shervin Mortazavi, MD

**Essen Medical Associates, PC**
Mohammed Erfani, MD

**Jacobi Medical Center**
Komal Bajaj, MD, FACOG, FACMG

**Jack D. Weiler Hospital**
Ellen Harrison MD - accepting the award is Joel Zonszein, MD,

**MedAlliance**
Sana Bloch, MD

**Montefiore Medical Center - Moses Campus**
Milan Kinkhabwala, MD FACS

**Montefiore Medical Center - Wakefield Campus**
Richard Lucariello MD accepting the award Dr. Dharmarjan

**North Central Bronx Hospital**
Daran Kaufman, MD

**SBH Health System**
James Croll, MD

**Urban Health Plan**
Wilfrido Castilio, MD
Highlights from Doctors Recognition Day - Visit www.bronxdocs.org for Program Abstract Book & Photos

A total of 44 posters were present during the Poster Session. The following were recognized as “best in category” and presented with a award certificate as well as a cash prize.

Out of the 44, 35 were classified as Clinical Vignette so the committee decided to award a total of 6 prizes in that category.

Research Best in Category

LIGHT-DEPENDENT RELAXATION IN BLOOD VESSELS IS MEDIATED BY NON-VISUAL OPSINS
Gautam Sikka, MD1; G. Patrick Hussmann, PhD2; Deepesh Pandey, PhD3; Solomon H. Snyder, MD PhD5; Larissa A. Shimoda, PhD3; Dan E. Berkowitz, M.B.BCh5

1 Department of Medicine, James J. Peters VA Bronx Medical Center, Bronx, NY
2 National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. 3 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Health Policy/Medical Education Best in Category

INTEGRATING FAMILY PLANNING INTO PRIMARY CARE
Matthew Kusher, MD
Family Medicine Department, Plaza Del Sol Family Health Center, Corona, Queens, NY

Population Health/PI - Best in Category

Reconciling Glycemic Control and Target HbA1c Goals in Older Long-Term Care (LTC) Residents with Diabetes Mellitus, based on American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Guidelines: A Performance Improvement (PI) Study
Joseph Mwesige MD, A Daniel MD, V Seiglie-Quinones MD, M Jovanovic MD, J Neetu MD, P Murakonda MD, AS Lebelt MD, R Russell MD, TS Dharmarajan MD, MACP
Division of Geriatrics, Montefiore Medical Center (Wakefield Campus), Bronx, NY

Clinical Best in Category

A CURIOUS CASE OF ADULT DRUG-INDUCED IGA VASCULITIS AND IGA NEPHROPATHY IN A COMPENSATED CIRRHTIC PATIENT AFTER RAPID LISINOPRIL UP-TITRATION.
Nevena Barjaktarovic, MD1,2, Konstantinos Leou, MD1,2, Emem Adolf, MD1,2, and Gustavo Carbone, MD1

1 Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Bronx VAMC, NY 2 North Central Bronx Hospital, Bronx, NY

Clinical Second Place

A FATAL CASE OF DRESS SYNDROME INDUCED BY VANCOMYCIN AND POLYMIXYN
Safeera Javed, MD; Sania Sultana, MD, Marilou Corpuz, MD
Department of Internal Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Wakefield Campus, Bronx, NY

Clinical Third Place

COSMETIC INJECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH HYPERCALCEMIA AND ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY
Sania Sultana, M.D, Colette M. Knight, M.D.
Department of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Wakefield Campus, Bronx, NY

Clinical Forth Place

UBER TRIM, CAUSES IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA; A LIFE THREATENING CASE REPORT!
Gautam Sikka, MD1,2; Aditya Gupta, MD1,2; Moses Bachan, MD1; Zinobia Khan, MD1

1 Department of Medicine, James J Peters VA Bronx Medical Center, Bronx, NY
2 Department of Medicine, North Central Bronx Hospital, Bronx, NY

Clinical Fifth Place

THINK BEFORE YOU PEG! GASTRIC PERFORATION, PERITONITIS AND SEPTIC SHOCK AFTER A PEG
Sowmya K Reddy MD, S Rangasamy MD, TS Dharmarajan MD, MACP, AGSF
Department of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center (Wakefield Campus), Bronx, NY

Clinical Sixth Place

Isolated Right Shoulder Pain: An Unusual Presentation of Angina and Multi-Vessel Coronary Artery Disease Requiring Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
James Lee MD, Jenne Manchery PA, Lekshmi Dharmarajan MD, FACP, FACC
Division of Cardiology, Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, Bronx, NY 10451
BRONX COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY UPCOMING MEETING

No charge - Please Register on or before May 12th

Wednesday, May 18th, 2016
Annual Membership Inaugural Meeting
Registration/Cocktails 6:30 PM

Portofino's Restaurant,
555 City Island Ave, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464

LAST NAME:       FIRST:

ADDRESS:       CITY:                                   ZIP CODE:

PHONE    FAX     EMAIL:

• REGISTER BY MAIL Bronx County Medical Society, 3058 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461
• REGISTER BY FAX - 718 823-4505 or 845 353-3852
• REGISTER BY EMAIL - bxcms@msn.com

Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company ("MLMIC")

I have great news to announce. While we are all too well aware of the tightening economic times facing physicians and medical practices throughout the state of New York, the plea we all hear and feel is – who will stand with us, and assist us, in these tough times? I am extremely pleased to let you know that our endorsed partner, Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company ("MLMIC"), has stood with the physicians of New York for more than 40 years and stands with you now. As you may know, MLMIC is the largest admitted medical malpractice company in the state of New York, created by MSSNY’s physicians to protect and benefit physicians. Over the past 40 years its reputation for quality, service and defense are without equal.

In unquestionable confirmation of MLMIC’s support, we are extremely pleased to collaborate with MLMIC in spreading the news that every physician who is insured with MLMIC as of May 1st and maintains continuous coverage through July 1st will receive a twenty percent (20%) dividend from MLMIC. So, for example, if your medical malpractice premium is $100,000, you will receive a premium credit of $20,000 from MLMIC when your policy renews on July 1st. This is an unprecedented benefit, uniquely provided by MLMIC, at a time when we all need it most.

This is a truly incredible opportunity for you to capture true savings with one of the most prestigious insurance companies in the country. We would urge you to act immediately. If you are not already insured with MLMIC, you may get a quote and/or download an application at www.mlmic.com/MSSNY. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact MLMIC at 888-412-2012.

Joseph Maldonado, M.D., Immediate Past President of Medical Society State of NY
State Budget for FY 2016-17 Finalized
The Legislature was finalizing the passage of a $147 billion budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Importantly, it rejected several proposals that had been of great concern to physicians across New York State. Moreover, the final Budget also provides additional opportunities for certain physicians to receive e-prescribing waivers and leaves open the door to further action to address unpaid Health Republic claims.

Eligibility for Excess Coverage Preserved. The Legislature rejected the programmatic changes advanced by the Executive which would have resulted in over 13,000 physicians who currently have Excess coverage being dropped from the program. Moreover, the Legislature restored the $25M cut to the appropriation for the Excess program thereby continuing funding for the program at its historical level of $127.4M. Also continued was the authority for the Superintendent to set the rate for medical liability premiums. MSSNY is thankful to leaders and members of both the Senate and Assembly for strongly supporting the restoration of funding for the Excess program and rejecting proposed programmatic changes that would have resulted in over 13,000 physicians losing Excess coverage.

Retail Clinic proposal defeated; at least for now. The final budget does not include language to enable the establishment of ‘limited service’ clinics in retail stores owned by publicly traded corporations such as CVS, Walmart and Walgreens. MSSNY worked with other primary care and specialty medical societies in the defeat of this proposal. MSSNY will remain vigilant to oppose the proposal should it resurface toward the end of session.

Changes to the Workers Compensation program rejected; role of County Medical Societies preserved! The Legislature rejected the Executive’s proposal to expand the list of providers eligible to deliver (and receive payment directly form the W/C program) to include acupuncturists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and social workers. Significantly, the Legislature also rejected the proposal to eliminate county medical society review and assistance for physicians looking to be authorized to deliver care. We thank the many county medical society leaders across New York State who took the time to contact their local Senators and Assembly members to express their concerns with this proposal.

Health Republic. The budget expressly articulated the establishment of a fund to be known as the “health republic insurance of New York fund” which “shall consist of transfers as authorized by the director of the budget, in his or her sole discretion, between April first, two thousand sixteen and March thirty-first, two thousand nineteen, from amounts collected as a result of a judgement, stipulation, decree, agreement to settle, assurance of discontinuance, or other legal instrument resolving any claim or cause of action, whether filed or unfiled, actual or potential, and whether arising under common law, equity, or any provision of law, and all other monies appropriated, credited, or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law”. Any payments to be made from this fund would be made after distribution of Health Republic’s remaining assets in a liquidation proceeding. We are seeking further clarification regarding which monies could be potentially assigned to this fund, and will continue to work with hospital associations to assure the deposit of sufficient monies to fully reimburse physicians and other providers for care provided to patients covered by the now defunct Health Republic. Despite being proposed in the Senate one-House Budget, the final Budget did not contain any provision to eliminate the DFS prior approval of health insurance rates. We thank the many State Legislators who fought to assure that the State Budget articulate a dedicated funding stream to assure these claims are paid.

No Regressive Tort Measures Included in Budget. Despite renewed attention on certain regressive tort bills including a date of discovery statute of limitations and repeal of the limitations on attorney contingency fees in medical liability cases, the measures were not included as part of the budget. MSSNY has been working collaboratively with GNYHA, HANYS and MLMIC to oppose these measures in the context of the budget. It is anticipated, however, that discussion on these issues will resume as MSSNY seeks to achieve meaningful tort reforms this legislative session.

Elimination of prescriber prevails rejected. The Legislature rejected proposals that would have eliminated “prescriber prevails” protections for prescribing medications to all patients insured through fee for service Medicaid, as well as for several classes of medications for patients insured under Medicaid managed care. The Executive’s proposal would have eliminated these protections for medications for patients covered in the Medicaid program, except for atypical antipsychotic and anti-depressants.

E-Prescribing Exception for Low Volume Prescribers approved. E-prescribing will not be required of prescribers who issue twenty five prescriptions or less each year provided that they submit a certification to that effect to the Department of Health. A certification may be submitted on or before July 1, 2016 and retroactively apply to March 27, 2016. A prescriber who has made a certification on or before the expiration of the current twelve month period may do so for a maximum of three twelve month certifications. While this is a very positive development for low-volume prescribers, the 3-year limit will require this issue to be revisited by MSSNY and the
The final Budget requires Medicaid managed care plans to impose prior authorization requirements for patients with more than 4 opioid analgesic prescriptions in a 30-day period.

Prior Authorization for Medicaid Opioid Prescriptions. The final Budget requires Medicaid managed care plans to impose prior authorization requirements for patients with more than 4 opioid analgesic prescriptions in a 30-day period.

Joint Ownership of LLCs by Chiropractors and MDs defeated. The final budget did not incorporate language that had been advanced by the Senate to allow chiropractors and physicians to jointly own and share revenue from their joint partnerships and businesses.

New monies allocated to MSSNY programs. MSSNY’s Committee for Physicians’ Health (CPH) was allocation $990,000 to continue its operations and MSSNY was allocated $150,000 under the Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative through which MSSNY, NYSAPA and NASW have offered training initiatives for physicians on the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and TBI in returning veterans and will offer additional training in the future on substance abuse, suicide prevention and appropriate opioid prescribing and pain management for returning veterans

Legislature in 2019. At the same time, the Legislature considered but ultimately did not include language to address concerns raised by MSSNY regarding the onerous and burdensome requirements for physicians without waivers who issue paper prescriptions through the invocation of one of three statutory exceptions and who must submit their name, contact information, patient initials and the reason for which they issued the appearance script to an email address (erx@health.ny.gov) maintained by the bureau of narcotics enforcement. Many state legislators remain interested in addressing this issue, and MSSNY will continue to strongly advocate to reduce or eliminate altogether the requirement for submission of this information.

Modifications to Doctors Across New York (DANY) Program Approved. Changes to the DANY (physician loan repayment and physician practice support) program were made to equalize awards to up to $40,000 per year, reduce the service commitment from five to three years and to allow recipients to receive one but not both awards. MSSNY has been working with other healthcare stakeholders including HANYS, GNYHA, Iroquois Hospital System and ACP to secure these legislative changes to this important program. Allocations to the program added $1M above the historical $8M to provide 25 new DANY slots at $40,000/year each.

Restoration of Medicaid Benefits 30 days Prior to Release from Prison/Jail. The Legislature authorizes the provision of Medicaid benefits for ‘high needs” inmates who were on Medicaid prior to incarceration in a state prison or local jail, for the 30 days prior to release to pay for transitional services including medical, prescription, and care coordination services. This authority is contingent on NY applying for and getting CMS approval for offer federal share Medicaid for such services.

Additional funding ($35M) to combat heroin and opioid epidemic. These funds will continue to support prevention, treatment and recovery programs targeted toward chemical dependency, residential service opportunities, and public awareness and education activities.

Prior Authorization for Medicaid Opioid Prescriptions. The final Budget requires Medicaid managed care plans to impose prior authorization requirements for patients with more than 4 opioid analgesic prescriptions in a 30-day period.

Joint Ownership of LLCs by Chiropractors and MDs defeated. The final budget did not incorporate language that had been advanced by the Senate to allow chiropractors and physicians to jointly own and share revenue from their joint partnerships and businesses.

New monies allocated to MSSNY programs. MSSNY’s Committee for Physicians’ Health (CPH) was allocation $990,000 to continue its operations and MSSNY was allocated $150,000 under the Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative through which MSSNY, NYSAPA and NASW have offered training initiatives for physicians on the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and TBI in returning veterans and will offer additional training in the future on substance abuse, suicide prevention and appropriate opioid prescribing and pain management for returning veterans

Urge Your Legislators to Reduce Liability Insurance Costs, Not Raise Them! Now that the State Budget for FY 2016-17 has been finalized, the focus of policymakers will be on unresolved issues including legislation that would create a date of discovery statute of limitations which threatens to increase your liability premiums by 15%. In light of the huge financial pressures threatening the viability of physician practices and our health care delivery system, it is essential that you weigh in with your elected representatives to urge that no further liability increases can be tolerated. Please join your colleagues by contacting your legislators to urge that they oppose legislation (A.285-A, Weinstein/S.6596, DeFrancisco) that could drastically increase New York’s already exorbitantly high medical liability premiums by changing the medical liability statute of limitations to a “Date of Discovery” rule. MLMIC’s estimate is that this bill could increase physician liability premiums by nearly 15%! New York physicians continue to pay liability premiums that are among the very highest in the country. By way of example, a neurosurgeon practicing on Long Island must pay an astounding $338,252 for just one year of insurance coverage and an OB/GYN practicing in the Bronx or Staten Island must pay $186,639. New York far surpasses all other states in terms of total medical liability payouts, per capita payments, and medical liability awards above $1 million. MSSNY has joined the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) and Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) in an ad in the Albany Times-Union and City & State calling for reduction in these exorbitant costs. To make matters even worse, trial lawyers are aggressively pushing the Legislature to consider additional liability expansion bills such as legislation that would eliminate the statutory limitation on contingency fees in medical liability actions, legislation that MLMIC has estimated could have the effect of raising your premiums by over 10%. Please tell your legislators to enact comprehensive liability reform to bring down these costs, not legislation that increases them!
Seriously, choosing a health plan is not easy. We work hard to make it easier.

Our high quality and affordable Medicare Advantage and Long Term Care plan options include:

**Medicare Advantage Plans**  Designed to meet the needs of individuals with Medicare and those with both Medicare and Medicaid. We have a variety of plan options and a large network of quality doctors and providers in the communities where you live.

**Managed Long Term Care Plans**  Health and long term care services at home or in the community for those who are chronically ill or disabled.

Contact us for eligibility and enrollment. info@agewellnewyork.com  |  agewellnewyork.com

We’re here for your call. Toll Free 1.866.586.8044  TTY/TDD 1.800.662.1220

AgeWell New York LLC is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the New York State Medicaid Program. Enrollment in AgeWell New York depends on contract renewal. Medicare beneficiaries may also enroll in AgeWell New York LLC through the CMS Medicare Online Enrollment Center located at www.medicare.gov.

H4922_AWNY_4002_AS16_FILE & USE 04152016
SAVE 20% ON YOUR MEDICAL LIABILITY POLICY

Take advantage of MLMIC’s 2016 dividend.

MLMIC’s mission is to provide insurance at cost, without a profit motive. To offset premiums, we offer dividends to our policyholders whenever we can. This year, we’re able to offer a 20% dividend to any policyholder insured by May 1, 2016, who maintains continuous coverage through July 1, 2016.

As New York’s #1 medical liability insurance provider, we’ve been putting the interests of our policyholder owners first for more than 40 years.

See what MLMIC can do for you. Visit MLMIC.com/2016dividend or call (888) 996-1183 to learn more.
Disability Isn’t Only Physical – It’s Financial

You may not be able to prevent a disabling accident or sickness, but you can protect your financial security with your Bronx County Medical Society Sponsored:

Disability Income Insurance

For more information, contact the specialists with 95 years of insurance service:

Charles J. Sellers & Co., Inc.
Program Administrator

4300 Camp Road, P.O. Box 460, Athol Springs, NY 14010
Phone: 1-800-333-5440 - FAX: 1-800-462-1121
insurance@sellersinsurance.com - www.sellersinsurance.com

Underwritten by: Life Insurance Company of Boston & New York, Athol Springs, NY. This policy provides disability income insurance only. It does NOT provide basic hospital, basic medical or major medical insurance as defined by the New York State Insurance Department. The expected benefit ratio for this policy is 60%. This ratio is the portion of future premiums which the company expects to return as benefits, when averaged over all people with this policy. See the Product Brochure and/or Policy Form DIC-N (0900) NY for details concerning policy benefits, limitations and exclusions.

CJS297 4/15 Exp. 4/30/2017