

Annual Report 2009

December 31, 2009

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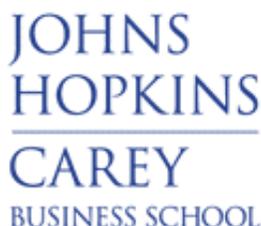
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The mission of the Medical Society of DC is to ensure the well-being of physicians in metropolitan Washington and their patients. We advocate on behalf of our member physicians of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds; we promote high standards of character and professionalism; and we make certain that physicians are and are recognized as the primary professionals who define and guarantee high quality, appropriate, and cost-effective medical care. Above all, we aggressively defend the highest principle of all: the integrity of the physician-patient relationship.

A Year in Review

1. Public Sector Advocacy

- Continue to call on Congress to repeal the woefully inadequate SGR payment formula used in Medicare
- Participated in "white coat" demonstrations on Capitol Hill in support of targeted and appropriate health system reform
- Helped coordinate an effort with the AMA for federal funding of medical liability reform pilot programs
- Led local health care reform education effort, including a town hall meeting with 7 physician members of Congress
- Ensured a 100% increase in Medicaid reimbursement
- Successfully lobbied the District's Department of Health Care Finance to add Risperdal Consta and Invega Sustenna to the Medicaid formulary, effective early 2010
- Represented MSDC members before the DC Board of Medicine, addressing licensing, disciplinary and regulatory matters
- Opposed the inappropriate expansion in the scope of practice for several allied health practitioners
- Amended the language in a bill that allowed for the dangerous practice of therapeutic substitution by pharmacists of prescription drugs
- Assisted in DC's pandemic H1N1 Influenza response with timely distribution of policies, treatments and vaccination information

2. Private Sector Advocacy

- Represented MSDC members in their reimbursement disputes with major insurers, frequently obtaining satisfactory payment of long outstanding claims
- Represented and advocated for MSDC members on the Highmark Contractor Advisory Committee

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- Represented MSDC members through participation on the ProAssurance Claims and Underwriting Committee and assisted in resolving policy issues between MSDC member insureds and the company
- Successfully defended a lawsuit filed against the Medical Society which would have overturned the District's Peer Review Statute had the plaintiff prevailed
- Filed an Amicus Brief in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals which argued for the protection of expert witness testimony in medical liability cases

3. Physician Health Program (PHP)

- The Physician Health Program continued to identify and aid physicians and medical students in their recovery from conditions that may impair their ability to practice
- PHP continued to work with the DC Board of Medicine and maintained mutual support in protecting the District's peer review statutes
- PHP is a valuable resource and MSDC members in need of assistance may take advantage of the program at any time throughout the year

4. Young Physicians' Section

- Re-established the YPS to respond to the needs of early-career MSDC members
- Obtained an advocacy grant from American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to educate MSDC members on the impact of health system reform on child and adolescent psychiatry
- Received a grant from HSBC Bank for social programs designed to develop young leadership in organized medicine
- Planned and scheduled a "Lobby Day" on February 27, 2010 to educate young physicians on the changing landscape of the practice of medicine

5. Annual Meeting

- 120 MSDC members attended our successful "Night at the Museum" social at the National Museum of Health and Medicine
- Delegate Donna Christiensen, MD, addressed our membership on the current progress of health system reform from her perspective as a physician member of Congress

6. Active MSDC Committees

- MSDC members participate on a variety of committees, which demonstrate the involvement, commitment and leadership of our members to high-quality health care in the District and their patients
- Finance Committee - Oversees financial planning of MSDC
- Physician Health Committee - Administers the Physician Health Program
- Professional Standards Committee - Mediates complaints between patients and physicians
- Leadership Development Committee - Identifies future leaders of organized medicine in the District
- Membership Committee - Develops processes and procedures for addressing Society membership and long-term growth
- Legislative Committee - Strategically advocates for physicians at

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what we're up to and
pass the report along!**



the DC Council

7. MSDC's Community Service

- Became the first State Medical Society in the nation to endorse "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve," an organization representing National Guard and Reserve members called into active duty
- Actively marketed and participated with "Operation Medical Libraries," a program designed to help educate and train physicians in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Supported and distributed the "DCRx Card," a prescription discount program for DC residents

8. Corporate Partner Programs

- MSDC members have access to a range of products and services designed to support the practice of medicine in the District through discounts and member-only benefits
- ProAssurance - Negotiated a 50% discount from Risk Loss Seminar registration fee for MSDC members
- Professional Risk Associates - full evaluation and service for MSDC members' medical liability insurance
- Johns Hopkins University Carey School of Business - New certificates in Business of Medicine programs for continuing education
- Allscripts - 11% member discounts, \$200 price reduction and \$500 rebates offered on variety of products and programs for new clients
- Solveras Payment Solutions - Free payment process evaluation
- Beale Personnel - 10% discount on job placement services
- HSBC Bank - Grant in support of Young Physicians' Section

Since 1817, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia has worked to improve health care in the District. Our 192nd year of fighting for physicians and patients is now complete, but the work is far from finished. While our accomplishments in 2009 are reason to take pride in our combined efforts, 2010 will be a year with substantial challenges, exceptional opportunities and the promise of a stronger future.

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