

The image shows the cover of the MSDC 2018 Annual Report. The cover is white with a black border and is placed on a laptop keyboard. The text 'MSDC' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, serif font, with 'MS' in red and 'DC' in black. Below it, the full name 'MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the cover, the title '2018 ANNUAL REPORT' is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The background of the image includes a silver laptop, a black stethoscope, a black mouse, and several pieces of crumpled white paper.

**MSDC**

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

# HELLO AND WELCOME!

*This annual report is a snapshot of the work done by MSDC on behalf of our member physicians and their patients in 2018. MSDC physician leaders and members were active in a range of issues and endeavors including state and federal advocacy, and boosting the physician community. Legislative victories included access to care, women's health and behavioral health, and reducing opioid and tobacco use. Throughout the change and progress of this year, the Medical Society has remained the primary physician champion, community builder, practice problem-solver and money-saver for Washington area physicians.*

*See the video message below from MSDC's new executive vice president, Robert Hay Jr., CAE, highlighting the change and progress in medicine in the District over the past year. On the following pages, scan MSDC by the numbers and letters and read about the Medical Society's vigorous physician advocacy to advance the profession of medicine and increasing member resources and community. MSDC exists to serve its members and we urge you to share your thoughts on the change and progress necessary to achieve our vision to make the District of Columbia the best place to practice medicine. **We look forward to hearing from you!***



*(Click above to view video message)*

## MISSION

### MSDC:

- dedicates our effort to the well being of physicians in metropolitan Washington and their patients;
- advocates on behalf of our member physicians of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds;
- promotes high standards of character and professionalism;
- ensures that physicians are and are recognized as the primary professionals who define and guarantee high quality, appropriate, and cost-effective medical care.
- aggressively defends the highest principle of all: the integrity of the physician-patient relationship.

## 2018-19 Board of Directors

**Susanne Bathgate, MD**

Chair of the Board, At-large

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**J. Desiree Pineda, MD**

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**Daniel I. Perlin, MD**

At-large

**Marc Rankin, MD**

At-large

**Carla C. Sandy, MD**

At-large

**Robert Hay Jr.**

Executive Vice President

## MSDC Staff

**Robert Hay Jr.,**

Executive Vice President

**Rose Smith**

Controller

**Pia Duryea**

Director of Membership and Communications

Medical Society of the District of Columbia

1250 23rd Street NW, Ste 270

Washington, DC 20037

# BY THE NUMBERS AND LETTERS

## MSDC By the Numbers

2,665	Total members (12/31/18)
591	Resident/fellow/student members (12/31/18)
20%	increase in resident/fellow/student members
98	License renewal inquiries fielded by MSDC staff and telemedicalsociety
13,102	Top tweet – see below (# of impressions)

MSDC: MedicalSocietyofDC  
@MedSocDC

DC: For a healthy job market, you can count on physicians. For every physician, there is a support system filled with good-paying jobs, says @AmerMedicalAssn.  
[msdc.org/8billiondollars](https://msdc.org/8billiondollars) #PhysiciansImpact

2018 AMA ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY  
Physicians bring 34,349 jobs to the District of Columbia's communities.  
#PhysiciansImpact

## MSDC By the Letters

### District of Columbia Issues

**MSDC letter on “Breast Density Screening and Notification Act of 2018”** | Councilmember

Vincent Gray, Chair, Committee on Health

**MSDC letter on “Department of Health Smoking Cessation Fund Amendment Act of 2017”** |

Councilmember Jack Evans, Chair, Committee on Finance and Revenue

**Coalition letter on “Department of Health Smoking Cessation Fund Amendment Act of 2017”** | Councilmember Jack Evans, Chair,

Committee on Finance and Revenue

**Coalition letter on the “Health Insurance Marketplace Improvement Amendment Act of 2018”** | Councilmember Vincent Gray, Chair,

Committee on Health

**MSDC letter on “Optometry Practice Amendment Act of 2018”** | Councilmember

Vincent Gray, Chair, Committee on Health

**MSDC letter on “Opioid Abuse Prevention Amendment Act of 2018”** | Councilmember

Vincent Gray, Chair, Committee on Health

**MSDC letter on Providence Hospital transition** | Ken Van Der Kolk, President and CEO, Ascension Health (Baltimore/Washington Market)

**MSDC letter for Public Oversight Hearing on the future of Providence Hospital** |

Councilmember Vincent Gray, Chair, Committee on Health

**MSDC letter on “School Sunscreen Safety Amendment Act of 2018”** | Councilmember David

Grosso, Chair, Committee on Education

**Coalition letter on “School Sunscreen Safety Amendment Act of 2018”** | Councilmember David

Grosso, Chair, Committee on Education

**MSDC statement on behavioral health parity**

**MSDC statement on healthcare “east of the river”**

**MSDC statement on violence and physician speech**

### National Issues

**Coalition letter on Advanced Practice**

**Registered Nurse Compact** | Katherine Thomas, President, National Council of State Boards of Nursing

**Coalition letter on Open Payments Program reporting requirements for educational materials** | Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Coalition letter on increased CME accreditation fees** | Graham McMahon, President/CEO, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education

**Brief amici curiae in “Azar v. Garza”** | United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

**Brief amici curiae in “Azar v. Allina Health Services”** | Supreme Court of the United States

**Brief amici curiae in “Association for Community Affiliated Plans v. U.S. Dept. of treasury”** | United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia

**MSDC resolution on updating federal food policy to improve nutrition and health** | American Medical Association House of Delegates

**MSDC resolution on forced organ harvesting** | American Medical Association House of Delegates

# PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY, COMMUNITY & RESOURCES

## Protecting Public Health

MSDC has been improving the health of Washingtonians since its founding in 1817. This year, that work focused on access to care, the opioid crisis, women's health, behavioral health, tobacco, and social determinants of health.

## Strengthening the Practice of Medicine

MSDC empowers physicians to practice in all practice settings by minimizing administrative burdens and offering guidance on licensure, practice management and regulatory challenges.

## Advancing Physician Leadership and Community

Community and professional development are fundamental for physicians to thrive. MSDC fosters year-round social and leadership opportunities and its physician-led task forces and committees help shape the future of the profession.

## Saving Time and Money with Member-only Info and Benefits

MSDC keeps members up-to-date on regulatory and clinical developments in medicine and offers benefits and services to help physicians manage their practice and spend more time with their patients.

# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

US life expectancy dropped for the third straight year, due to increased drug overdose deaths and suicide. [The dismal trend not seen since World War I](#) highlights the importance of MSDC's advocacy to address access to care, opioid use, behavioral health and women's health. MSDC also focused attention on tobacco use and social determinants of health.

## Access to Appropriate, Affordable Care

MSDC works to ensure that DC residents have access to appropriate, affordable care regardless of location or background. This year has seen challenges across the access to care continuum, from basic access to physical facilities to more complex concerns of affordability and appropriateness. Finally, a year-end ruling by a federal judge in Texas threw the Affordable Care Act into question and has heightened concern about insurance market stability.

In response to Trump Administration regulations revising the scope of short-term, limited-duration insurance (STLDI) plans, MSDC fought to restrict STLDI and association health plans in the District and worked with health advocates to maintain high-quality, affordable coverage for all residents. MSDC also continued fighting to protect women's access to healthcare and maternal care.

## Women's Health

MSDC fought on multiple fronts to advance the full spectrum of women's health, including maternal health and contraceptive care. MSDC worked with healthcare officials and community advocates on maternal mortality as the city sought solutions to lower the maternal death rate and improve maternal health. MSDC worked on legislation to clarify findings of high breast density and cover breast density screening. MSDC also launched a breast cancer awareness campaign in October to promote education on breast cancer.



## Disruption in Access to Care Facilities



This year, the DC hospital network experienced disruption unseen since the closure of DC General Hospital, with the transition of Providence Hospital, the city's longest operating hospital, into a "health village" and uncertainty over a proposed hospital east of the river. MSDC physician leaders worked closely with numerous physician groups and advocates to oppose the lack of physician input and transparency in the hasty reshaping of the Providence campus. MSDC raised concerns over the threat to the city's neediest patients and the physician workforce, offering to work with doctors in transition. On the other side of the Potomac, a proposed healthcare facility on the campus of St. Elizabeth's was supported by the Medical Society and received popular support. However, the year ends with uncertainty over the staffing and funding of the proposed hospital.

# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH (2)

## Physician Leadership on the Opioid Epidemic

A study this year found progress in a [22% reduction in opioid prescriptions](#), but [drug overdose deaths set a record last year](#) as synthetic opioids have ushered in a more deadly phase of the epidemic. MSDC has tackled the many facets of opioid and substance abuse, from prevention, prescribing and access to treatment and stigma, working at the national, regional, local and individual levels. MSDC championed the role of physicians and specialists in pain management and addiction and called for sufficient funding in response to a series of bills aimed at the epidemic. MSDC Past President and Physician Health Committee Chair, Daniel Perlin, MD, serves as a physician voice on the opioid epidemic, speaking publicly on the topic. He moderated a session on the opioid crisis at the Atlantic Quality Information Networks' Spring quality conference in Maryland. MSDC also promoted the District's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as a voluntary preventive tool to stem the epidemic.



## Victory on behavioral health is timely and helps vulnerable DC residents

MSDC scored a victory this fall on a decades-long battle with the passage of legislation to codify behavioral health parity into DC law. The need for parity could not be more dire, MSDC argued, given that the city faces a substance use epidemic and growing need for behavioral health services. Furthermore, the legislation expands parity to the District's Medicaid program, helping the District's most vulnerable patients amid a heightened awareness of the social determinants of health.

## Progress on smoking cessation and prevention in DC as youth e-cigarette use reaches epidemic levels

This year, MSDC worked with long-standing coalition of public health advocates to successfully pass legislation to dedicate funding to implement the Tobacco 21 law, raise the tax on cigarettes by \$2 per pack, and allocate part of that tobacco tax revenue to programs proven to help adults addicted to cigarettes quit and prevent youth from becoming addicted. The timing is critical as the U.S. Surgeon General issued a year-end alert on e-cigarette use; he warned that these new tobacco products are a health risk and e-cigarette use is at an epidemic level among a tech-savvy generation.

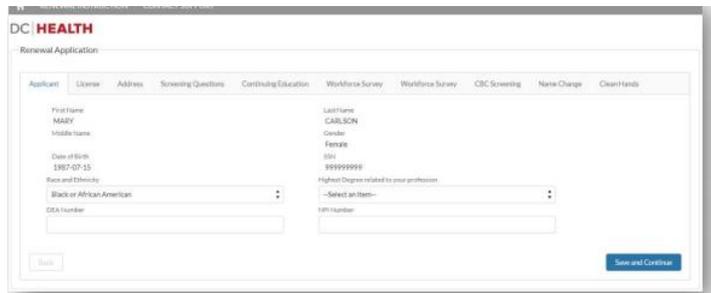
In addition, MSDC leaders and representatives are engaged in various District healthcare improvement initiatives. These include service on the DC Health Information Exchange Policy Board, DC State Health Planning and Development Agency, ImmunizeDC Advisory Committee, DC Healthcare-Associated Infections Program, and the Mayor's Commission on HIV/AIDS.

# STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

*MSDC represents the physicians and patients of the District of Columbia in discussions with the DC Council, the DC Departments of Health, Behavioral Health and Insurance, Securities and Banking, the DC Boards of Medicine and Pharmacy, and Novitas, the regional Medicare Administrative Contractor. It also works with the American Medical Association (AMA), national specialty societies, state medical associations and other medical organizations, collectively referred to as "organized medicine", to pass legislation addressing medical liability, Medicare payment reform, fair physician payment, insurer challenges, public health and other issues critical to physician practices. MSDC also participates in the U.S. Pharmacopeia, which sets medicine, food and supplement standards, and works with the DC Hospital Association to ensure physician concerns are understood by the District's hospital leadership and administration.*

## **Easing Transition to DC's New Licensure System**

MSDC helped doctors navigate 2018 licensure renewal with numerous resources, including an online webinar, multiple articles, one-on-one assistance and free CME courses. MSDC continued to explore ways to ensure ongoing education requirements align with the city's healthcare needs. MSDC advocates forcefully to ensure reasonable and appropriate medical licensure standards are in place and to streamline burdensome requirements.



The image shows a screenshot of the 'DC HEALTH Renewal Application' form. The form is titled 'Renewal Application' and has a navigation bar with tabs for 'Applicant', 'License', 'Address', 'Screening Questions', 'Continuing Education', 'Workforce Survey', 'Workforce Survey', 'CBC Screening', 'Name Change', and 'Client Info'. The 'Applicant' tab is active. The form contains several input fields: 'First Name' (MADEY), 'Last Name' (CARLSON), 'Middle Name', 'Gender' (Female), 'Date of Birth' (1987-07-15), 'SSN' (99999999), 'Race and Ethnicity' (Black or African American), 'Highest Degree related to your profession' (Select an item...), 'DEA Number', and 'NPI Number'. There is a 'Save and Continue' button at the bottom right.

## **Fighting for Fair Physician Payment**

MSDC helped physicians avert potentially severe Medicare reimbursement cuts proposed at the start of the year in Congress' FY 2018 spending bill. MSDC, working with the AMA and numerous other health care advocates, helped revise language that threatened to reduce Medicare payments to below 2015 levels in 2020.

MSDC and organized medicine succeeded in delaying by two years implementation of evaluation and management (E/M) coding consolidation that could cut payment for physicians, especially those who care for Medicare patients with complicated health conditions. MSDC will work to ensure that the coding reforms accurately reflect and reimburse physicians.

Nationally, MSDC continues to monitor the transition to value-based Medicare payment, ensuring that the rollout is not overly hasty or rigid and addresses real-world patient needs. It also works with medical litigation experts to argue for meaningful tort reform. Locally, MSDC represented District physicians in claims disputes with private insurers, such as CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, and UnitedHealthcare, and with Medicare.

## **Advancing Healthcare Quality and Safety**

Once again, allied health professionals attempted to loosen patient safety guardrails. Challenges to the physician-patient relationship came from optometrists, athletic trainers, naturopaths, audiologists, physician assistants, and nurses, among others. MSDC took a strong stand against a DC bill that would allow optometrists to prescribe Schedule II through V controlled substances and helped to prevent this extreme scope expansion. MSDC also helped to block federal maneuvers that would create a roadmap to independent practice for physician assistants and would redefine audiologists as physicians.

# ADVANCING PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

*Community and professional development are fundamental for physicians to thrive. MSDC fosters year-round social and leadership opportunities and its physician-led task forces and committees help advance the profession of medicine.*

## **Annual Meeting Showcases Inspiring Health Leaders**

The Medical Society hosted its premier physician event, the Annual Meeting and Reception, with over 150 physicians and other members of the medical community at the Cosmos Club.



The meeting featured a physician panel which examined disruptive forces in healthcare and forward-looking trends. Inspiring healthcare leaders from DC's medical community were recognized with MSDC awards, including the creation of the President's Award for exceptional merit.

### **Damani McIntosh-Clarke:**

President's Award

**Daniel I. Perlin, MD:** Dr. Charles H. Epps, III Community Service Award

### **Neal Barnard, MD:**

Distinguished Service Award

**Anthony Ibe, MD:** Certificate of Meritorious Service

**The GW University Hospital & The GW Medical Faculty**

**Associates:** John Benjamin Nichols Award

**Nicole Mullings, Theresa Thomas, Ishmael Williams:**

MSAF Scholarship



Numerous businesses and vendors supported the Annual Meeting, including:

ProAssurance, American College of Radiology, AmeriGroup, BridgePoint Hospital, Cerner, Howard University Hospital, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, Sibley Memorial Hospital, United Medical Center

## **Physicians Jump at Chance to Meet and Network**

As part of its new vision, MSDC launched groups to advance the profession in Washington, DC. Groups dedicated to women physicians, young physicians and political action were launched to expand physician networks and collaborate on shared passions. Each group held at least one meeting and more are planned for 2019.



This is in addition to already active physician-led programs and committees highlighted on the following page.

# ADVANCING PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY (2)

## Physician Health Program

Since 1980, the MSDC Physician Health Program has been a resource for physicians who experience burnout and/or career-threatening impairment from substance use and other disorders. The program is overseen by a physician-led Physician Health Committee (PHC) whose members are recognized physician health leaders. PHC Chair Daniel Perlin, MD, has educated the medical community on impairment during lectures or grand rounds at Washington MedStar Hospital Center, George Washington University School of Medicine and St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Dr. Perlin recently served as the Northeast Regional Director to the Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP), the national professional coalition. A tireless FSPHP volunteer, Dr. Perlin contributes strategic leadership, public policy expertise, and press relations to the cause of physician health nationally. Another PHC member, Philip Candilis, MD, spoke at a FSPHP conference on ethical and legal matters, emphasizing the toll medicine takes on practitioners and their families.

## MSDC Task Force on Family Violence

The Task Force is a catalyst for changing society's perspective on partner-related violence through collaborative activism. This is achieved through cultivating professional partnerships at the local and national level, by influencing health policy, supporting and generating educational programs about the impact of abuse and empowering survivors. The Task Force speaks out vigorously through participation in Congressional briefings, House and Senate meetings, federal interagency workgroups and the DC Superior Court. It educates the public through programs



at the World Bank Group local agencies. The reach of its efforts encompasses cyberbullying, violence, physical and mental health and addiction. It has partnered with the National Collaborative on Violence and Abuse to lobby Congress and advocate for funding for projects tying social determinants to survivors of violence.

## Medical Society and Alliance Foundation

The Medical Society and Alliance Foundation (MSAF) is the Medical Society's charitable nonprofit. The foundation provides annual support for a variety of programs in support of District public health. This year, MSAF arranged for members to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture and awarded scholarships designated "for rising seniors in allied health fields" in the District. The recipients were honored at the Annual Meeting.



Finally, MSDC leadership and staff reached out to hospital-based physicians through active attendance at medical staff quarterlies.



# MEMBER BENEFITS AND RESOURCES

*In addition to the benefits already highlighted, MSDC offers benefits and services and keeps members current on regulatory and commercial developments in medicine, practice deadlines and public health alerts to help physicians manage their practice and spend more time with their patients.*

## **New ways to communicate with the Medical Society and the DC medical community**

MSDC's benefits were enhanced in 2018 as MSDC produced a licensure how-to webinar and launched telemedicalsociety, an online platform to facilitate remote collaboration and troubleshooting.

MSDC has increased its social media presence so members can better share their thoughts and successes and connect with the physician community. Connect with MSDC on

Facebook ([www.facebook.com/MedSocDC](http://www.facebook.com/MedSocDC))  
Twitter ([twitter.com/MedSocDC](https://twitter.com/MedSocDC)) or  
Instagram ([www.instagram.com/medsocdc](http://www.instagram.com/medsocdc)).

## **DCRxCARD**

MSDC supported and distributed the "DCRx Card," a prescription discount program for patients in the District of Columbia. The program helps to alleviate the burden of high drug costs on patients and promotes patient compliance.

## **401(k) Multiple Employer Program**

MSDC launched a new benefit to help practices save time and money. The association-sponsored group 401k/Profit Sharing Plan reduces administrative costs and duties and minimizes risk associated with fiduciary responsibilities.

Among the benefits that MSDC provided members through its Corporate Partners are:

**ProAssurance:** negotiated a 50% discount on Physician Loss Prevention Seminar registration fee for MSDC members. MSDC also supported ProAssurance-insured members through participation on the ProAssurance Claims and Underwriting Committee.

**MYidealDoctor:** hiring opportunity for family medicine, emergency medicine and pediatric physicians

**MedChi Network Services:** discounted physician leadership training, plus free practice assessments and discounted practice services.

**Professional Risk Associates:** Full evaluation and service for MSDC members' medical liability and cyberliability insurance, plus access to ThinkHR.

**Atlantic Health Partners:** Discounted vaccine purchasing program for MSDC members only

**SunTrust Banks:** Free evaluation and consult of financial needs of physicians and their practices.

Other Corporate Partner support for MSDC members in 2018 came from:

Amerigroup  
Gittelsohn Zuppas Medical Realty  
Pfizer  
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine