



MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

2019 Annual Report



Greetings!

THE MSDC PHYSICIAN VOICE IS GROWING IN SIZE AND IMPACT

Serving as the primary champion for District physicians, MSDC amplifies the physician voice, fosters physician community, and solves practice problems for Washington area physicians. Today's physician voice is stronger and more vibrant than ever; the physician presence is more visible in policy discussions and the community and membership is growing -- up 12% in 2019 to **more than 3,000 members**.

Read more in this annual snapshot of the work done by MSDC on behalf of our growing physician membership and their patients in 2019 and learn about our leadership's bold vision for the future... *to make Washington, DC the best place to practice medicine.*

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.

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS | MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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VISION FOR THE FUTURE



MSDC President J. Desiree Pineda, MD, FACP, an endocrinologist with her own private practice, is MSDC's first Latina president. She encourages members to get engaged in the many [new initiatives](#) underway at the Medical Society. To learn more, contact hay@msdc.org or call 202-466-1800.

Her number one priority is the creation of a comprehensive wellbeing program for physicians.

Read her [inaugural message to physicians](#).



We also asked our inspiring 2019 Special Award Winners for their perspectives on the future of medicine in DC.

Several themes emerged:

- Medicine in the District is a challenge, but it is also amazing
- The future will be fine
- Doctors are people and they need care, too.

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|  |  | Daniel Marchalik, MD, MA Certificate of Meritorious Service |
|  |  | Colette M. Magnant, MD, FACS Dr. Charles H. Epps, III Community Service Award |
| | | Roselyn E. Epps, MD Distinguished Service Award |
| | | Jose Parungao, MD, and United Medical Center Food and Nutrition Services John Benjamin Nichols Award |

Watch [the brief, thought-provoking video](#).

ADVOCACY

A physician-led advocacy committee (PLAN) reviewed more than 30 pieces of local and national healthcare legislation to elevate the physician voice. The priorities for the current legislative period are:

- easing the practice of medicine
- improving access to quality care across the District
- promoting public health
- promoting sound medication policy, especially on opioids.

Legislative victories this year included **reduced licensure burdens, improved access to care, and reduced burden of care for our most vulnerable patients.**

Easing the Practice of Medicine

A TRIUMPH OF PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY: REMOVING LICENSURE AND REPORTING BURDENS FOR DC PHYSICIANS

- In a triumph of physician advocacy, the DC Board of Medicine overturned the 3-hour HIV/AIDS Continuing Medical Education requirement for DC physician re-licensure early in 2019.
- MSDC encouraged the Board of Medicine to modify mandated content matter by allowing physicians to select 10% of CME from a “**top ten list**” of health priorities, based on providers practice, specialty and patient population.
- MSDC objected to the creep of mandated CME topics tied to physician licensure including CME in suicide prevention, implicit bias and nutrition.
- MSDC pushed for timely implementation of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to ease licensure for physicians who practice in multiple states.
- MSDC [objected to strict healthcare reporting requirements](#) which would strain physicians facing discipline or malpractice judgements and increase burden on hospitals.
- MSDC joined a [sign-on letter](#) with the American Medical Association addressing CMS efforts directed at reforming prior authorization (PA) and paperwork overload.



HEALING FOR THYSELF: PHYSICIAN WELLBEING

- MSDC won a generous grant from the Institute for Technology in Health Care to develop a comprehensive physician wellbeing program for the physicians of our nation's capital.
- A physician-led wellbeing committee with representatives from across the District is developing a program which will be data-driven and customized to physician needs.
- MSDC's Physician Health Committee has a new Chair in Dr. Charles Samenow dedicated to expanding resources for impaired physicians.
- MSDC safeguarded physicians this year by alerting members to financial and certification scams targeting physicians.

Improving Access to Quality Care Citywide

HIGH-PROFILE PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP IN CITY HEALTHCARE

- MSDC Immediate Past President Raymond K. Tu, MD, FACR, served on the Mayor's Healthcare System Transformation Commission, as the city evaluates the emerging needs of patients without compromising quality or medical expertise.
- MSDC Past President Barry Lewis, MD, MBA, serves on DC's Health Information Exchange Policy Board, which aims to integrate and facilitate health information exchange and improve patient care.
- MSDC At-large Director Dock Winston, MD, MPH, serves on DC's Health Benefit Exchange Standing Advisory Board, which advises the District's ACA exchange on policies to connect individuals and small businesses with insurance.



PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH POLICY

- MSDC created an unconscious bias task force to be launched in early 2020. The task force will promote awareness of unconscious bias and shield physicians from blame when appropriate.
- MSDC's Board adopted a policy supporting the right of LGBTQ individuals to receive health care coverage without discrimination
- MSDC supported expansion of insurance coverage for maternal care for up to a year postpartum.

- MSDC opposed government interference with reproductive health decisions and supported legislation that protects health professionals who perform abortion or sterilization procedures from employer discrimination.
- MSDC partnered with local obstetricians, gynecologists and pediatricians to amplify physician concerns at the Mayor's Maternal Health Summit.
- MSDC objected to insurer practices that would discriminate against patients who use pre-exposure prophylaxis when issuing disability, life, or long-term care insurance policies.

INCREASING BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE FUNDING

- MSDC favored increased funding for a broader continuum of behavioral health services under a Medicaid Behavioral Health Transformation Demonstration. The funding would support expanded behavioral health services, assistance with opioid and substance use disorders, and greater coordination.

SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND FUNDING FOR ALL WARDS

- MSDC [successfully urged](#) the Council to provide funding for United Medical Center to continue to serve the patients of Wards 7 and 8.
- MSDC Immediate Past President Dr. Raymond Tu addressed Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to seek federal healthcare funding for the District.



Sound Policy on Opioids and Drugs

AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO LIFE-CHANGING DRUGS

- MSDC introduced its affordable biosimilars bill to the DC Council and secured a hearing to help DC join 49 other states in regulating biosimilars and allow physicians and patients to work together on affordable prescriptions.
- Dr. Kim Bullock represented MSDC on the US Pharmacopeia

PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY TO CURB OPIOID MISUSE

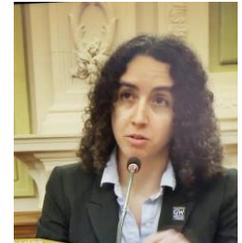
- MSDC led a push to remove prior authorization for medications to treat opioid use disorder in Medicaid patients. This victory was coordinated with the DC Department of Healthcare Finance and was recognized by the American Medical Association.
- Physician Health Committee Chair Charles Samenow, MD, participated in an opioid townhall in Ward 5, to educate the public on the opioid epidemic.
- To make Prescription Drug Monitoring Program registration as seamless as possible, MSDC provided members with one-on-one registration assistance



Promoting Public Health

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY TO TACKLE ANTI-VAXXERS

- MSDC's Call to Action on vaccines resulted in increased advocacy and press on the need for vaccines.
- MSDC testified to allow informed minors to be vaccinated without parental consent as a backlash against the measles outbreak
- A physician-written opinion piece in the [*Washington Post*](#) on the global resurgence of measles and need for vaccination.
- An op-ed was published in [*The Washington Informer*](#) about the health benefits of pneumococcal vaccine for Americans 65 and over.
- Dr. Julie Graves represented MSDC on DC Health's immunization task force, ImmunizeDC.



Medical student Liz Ghandakly delivering MSDC testimony

VIGILANCE ON VAPING AMID RISE IN ILLNESS AND DEATH IN YOUTH

- The Medical Society, a long-time advocate against tobacco smoking, has worked with partners to educate physicians and patients on e-cigarette-related health risks.
- The Medical Society joined forces with more than 60 local organizations arguing that "flavors hook kids" and submitted testimony on a bill to ban flavored tobacco products in DC.
- MSDC facilitated reporting of lung injury in the District and Maryland in response to the outbreak of lung injury associated with e-cigarettes or vaping.

COMMON-SENSE CANCER PROTECTION FOR YOUTH

- MSDC [supported youth cancer protection legislation](#) that lets students use and carry sunscreen on school property or at a school activity without a doctor's note. MSDC also supports common-sense permission for schools to stock and administer sunscreen

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY

- MSDC At-large Director Laurie Duncan, MBBS, works to reduced hospital-acquired infection (HAI) through DC Health's HAI Advisory Committee.
- MSDC supported modernizing the process for sharing patients' end-of-life or impairment planning through electronic medical order for scope of treatment (eMOST).
- MSDC [promoted the importance of nutrition in healthcare](#) and shared resources with physicians to increase their awareness.
- MSDC [opposed mandates and penalties on healthcare professionals](#) related to window blind safety education.

PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP **AND COMMUNITY**

As new physicians from across the District join the Medical Society and expand MSDC's membership ranks, MSDC launched or expanded several member groups in 2019 to better serve its members needs and foster physician community and leadership.

Women in Medicine

Bright Young Docs (early career physicians and medical students)

Medical Practice Managers

Physician Wellbeing

Strategic Planning

PLAN (Advocacy)

This is in addition to the long-standing programs and groups already in place (Task Force on Family Violence, Physician Health Program, Medical Society and Alliance Foundation) and MSDC's Annual Meeting.

WOMEN IN MEDICINE



The number of women in medicine is steadily rising and this year, for the first time ever, more women than men enrolled in medical school. To address the needs of women in medicine, the group partnered with local women-run businesses to hold several physician-led events. These included a Distillery Tour and Tasting on National Women Physicians Day and a workshop on work-life boundaries.



BRIGHT YOUNG DOCTORS

Bright Young Doctors (BYD), MSDC's early career physicians and medical student group, held several events as well. These events included a "Doctor with Dinners" to mentor inner-city youth pursuing careers in medicine and a joint event with early career physicians from the DC Chapter of the American College of Physicians.



MEDICAL PRACTICE MANAGERS

Medical practice managers play an important role in a doctor's practice. MSDC's inaugural medical practice management group roundtable convened more than eight decades of practice management experience.



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 Charles Samenow, MD, educated the medical community on impairment.
- PHC member Phil Candilis, MD, authored an important position paper on physician impairment and rehabilitation.
- Former PHC Chair Daniel Perlin, MD, contributed strategic leadership, public policy expertise, and press relations to the cause of physician health nationally.

MSDC TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Task Force is a catalyst for changing society's perspective on partner-related violence through collaborative activism. In 2019, the Task Force:



- supported and participated in the work of The World Bank, Child and Adolescent Protection Center, Children's National Health Systems, the National Health Collaborative on Violence and Abuse and various workshops advanced by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine.
- contributed to local and federal legislation critical to the rights and protection of survivors, strengthening families and communities, and supported various Congressional hearings, including Congressional Hearings on Child Trauma and the resultant DC and Maryland community roundtables.
- In the area of medical education, the Chair and medical student members presented research covering the co-occurrence of interpersonal violence, opioid misuse and mental health, new curricular innovations covering the recognition and response to abuse within the intellectual, developmental disabilities community

MEDICAL SOCIETY AND ALLIANCE FOUNDATION (MSAF)

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. MSAF awarded scholarships designated “for rising seniors in allied health fields” in the District. The recipients were honored at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the long-time leader Roselyn E. Epps, MD, received this year's Certificate for Distinguished Service in recognition of her years of service to the Medical Society.



Annual Physician Event Showcases Inspiring Health Leaders

The Medical Society hosted its premier physician community event, the Annual Meeting, with numerous physicians and other members of the medical community at the heart and soul of academic medicine, Association of American Medical Colleges. Inspiring healthcare leaders from DC's medical community were recognized with MSDC Special Awards.

Daniel Marchalik, MD: Certificate of Meritorious Service

Colette M. Magnant, MD: Dr. Charles H. Epps, III Community Service Award

Roselyn E. Epps, MD: Distinguished Service Award

United Medical Center Food & Nutrition Services and Jose Mari Parungao, MD: John Benjamin Nichols Award

MEMBER BENEFITS

Through its Corporate Partner program, MSDC provided members-only discounts and benefits that cover a range of products and services designed to support your medical practice or hospital. These include:

401(k) Multiple Employer Program: MSDC helps practices save time and money with an association-sponsored group 401k/Profit Sharing Plan. Reduce administrative costs and duties and minimize risk associated with fiduciary responsibilities.

DCRxCARD: MSDC's "DCRx Card" is 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.

ProAssurance: Negotiated a 50% discount on Physician Loss Prevention Seminar registration fee for MSDC members.

Heidarpour Law Firm: arranged for assistance eliminating junk faxes and phone calls

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine: arranged for physicians to attend complimentary dinner CME events focused on nutrition and complimentary virtual attendance at international medical conference on nutrition.

MedChi Network Services: 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 2019 came from: Gittelson Zuppas Medical Realty, Pfizer, Sunrise Medical Laboratories, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group and ZocDoc.