



Report on the Proceedings of the 234th Annual Meeting

November 18, 2023

Report of Elections, Proposed Budget, Resolutions, Bylaws Recommendations, and Other Actions

All reports submitted to the 2023 Council are on file at the Medical Society of Delaware office and are available to members upon request.

The 234th Annual Meeting of the Medical Society of Delaware and Council was held as an in-person meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at the Christiana Hilton in Newark, DE. There was no Inaugural Reception held this year due to the 2023 officers' intentions to serve a second term in 2024.

As part of the format of our Annual Meeting, American Medical Association (AMA) President Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH was an invited guest and provided a brief informational talk. Highlights of his presentation included the looming Medicare physician pay cut of 3.37% in 2024, alarming rates of physician burnout, and the passage of unsafe scope of practice expansions. Both physicians and patients contend with a broken health care system with the bottom line of the need for physicians to advocate for themselves to achieve a more sustainable system that preserves patients' access to high-quality physician care. Physician experiences and voices are powerful, and they must be used to shine a light on what is truly happening in our health care system. He also highlighted MSD's work to dismantle race-based algorithms the incorrectly use race correction factor in glomerular filtration rate calculations through the state of Delaware.

Sponsorship was achieved for the Annual Meeting to provide a connection with businesses and members. Many organizations welcomed the opportunity to participate. The Exhibiting Sponsor Level provided those sponsors the opportunity to be present during the day and provide a brief pre-recorded message that was then presented at the beginning of the Council Meeting. Exhibiting sponsors included Delaware First Health, Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN), MSDIS/USI, PNC, and WSFS Bank. Contributing Sponsors included: Cover & Rossiter, Curi, Grail, Highmark Delaware; Saul Ewing, and Sourcepass. Aloysius, Butler & Clark, as well as DELPAC, were Friend-level sponsors.

Recognition also included our physician members who were acknowledged for their 50 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Delaware and the medical profession. Those recognized as graduating from medical school in 1973 were: Lamberto M. Arellano, MD; Timoteo Gabriel, Jr., MD; William L. Jaffee, MD; Joseph A. Kuhn, MD; Brian W. Little, MD; Abdollah M. Malek, MD; A. Robert Masten, MD; Elizabeth F. Masten, MD; Kathleen W. McNicholas, MD; Nicholas J. Petrelli, MD; Edward R. Sobel, DO; David Sopha, DO; and Joseph A. Vitale, DO. Drs. Little, Malek, and Petrelli were on hand to personally receive their recognition and were provided a certificate by Drs. Robert J. Varipapa, MD, MSD President, and Bhavin R. Dave, MD, President-Elect.

Recognition was given to all living Past Presidents of the Medical Society of Delaware and the 2023 members of the 1789 Club. MSD thanks its Past Presidents for their service and this year's 1789 Club members for their generosity in supporting the Society's Mission Appeal. A second component of the Mission Appeal is the *Tilton Legacy Society*, which allows donors to name the Medical Society of Delaware in their estate planning. The 1789 Club Members for 2023 are: Michael J. Axe, MD; Anna Marie D'Amico, MD; Nancy Fan, MD; Suzanne J. Sherman, MD; Kirsten M. Smith, MD; Michael E. Stillabower, MD; and Robert J. Varipapa, MD.

As a memorial to the members of MSD who were lost through death during the past year, a tribute was paid to the following members: Joyce W. Anderson, MD; Basilio N. Bautista, MD; Paul E. Gorrin, MD; Kevin C. Kelley, MD; Louisa C. Mankin, MD; Otto R. Medinilla, MD; John S. Piendak, MD; R. Walter Powell, MD; Robert H. Radnich, MD; Alex M. Raney, MD; Charles S. Riegel, MD; Pietro V. Rocca, MD; and Christopher J. Whitney, MD.

AWARDS

President's Award

Senator Tom Carper was awarded the President's Award by Dr. Robert Varipapa. Unfortunately, Senator Carper was not able to be present in person to accept the award; however, the Senator provided a prerecorded video of his acceptance speech, which was played during the meeting. Senator Carper will not be seeking re-election.

The award reads as follows:

*The Medical Society of Delaware presents to
The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
The President's Award*

Serving as Delaware's State Treasurer, five term U.S. Representative, two-term Governor of Delaware, and U.S. Senator since 2001, Senator Carper's efforts have improved the quality of health care, curbed health care costs, and ensured and expanded access to affordable and reliable health care coverage for the citizens of Delaware and the nation at large. He played a crucial role in supporting and enhancing the Affordable Care Act of 2010 and his leadership and collaborative approach were instrumental in crafting and passing the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, aimed to address the economic challenges facing the nation. MSD is honored to present this award recognizing Senator Carper's outstanding contributions to health care and his unwavering commitment to the well-being of the citizens of Delaware and this great nation.

Education Program

MSD provided a much anticipated education program with the topic "Food as Medicine – Recipes for Healthy Living: Empowerment, Nutrition, Longevity." The program was complemented with two amazing speakers: Tia Trivisonno, ND, Lac, MSOM who presented "Food as Medicine – Ancient Wisdom, Modern Times," and Katerina Tsapos Parmele, MD, FACEP, IFMCP who presented "Heart Healthy Burrito Bowl" and included a live cooking demonstration with audience participation by Drs. Stephen J. Kushner and Matthew J. Burday.

Council Meeting

A report of the actions adopted by the Council follows.

ELECTIONS FOR 2024 (effective January 1, 2024)

Officers (2024)

President – Robert J. Varipapa, MD
President-Elect – Bhavin R. Dave, MD
Vice President – Brian J. Galinat, MD
Secretary – James Monihan, MD
Treasurer – Shalini B. Shah, MD
Speaker of the Council – Stephanie Guarino, MD

At-Large Representatives on Executive Board (1/1/24-12/31/25)

New Castle County – Michael T. Vest, DO
Sussex County – William M. Chasanov II, DO

American Medical Association

Delegate (1/1/2024-12/31/2025) – Janice E. Tildon-Burton, MD

Resident/Fellow Section Representative (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Dakota J. Degenstein, DO
Senior Physicians Section Representative (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Nicholas O. Biasotto, DO
Minority Affairs Section Representative (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Cedric T. Barnes, DO
Private Practice Physician Section Representative (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Shalini B. Shah, MD

At-Large Representatives on MSD Holding Company Board of Directors

MSDIS (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Dorothy M. Moore, MD
MedNet (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Michael J. Bradley, DO
Health Hub (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Bhavin R. Dave, MD
At Large seat, One Year Term (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) – Joyce Robert, MD
Young Physician Representative (1/1/2024-12/31/2025) – Mushmoom Khan, MD

Delaware Foundation for Medical Services Board of Directors (1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026)

Dorothy M. Moore, MD
Mr. Lawrence Zutz

Judicial Committee (1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026)

New Castle County – Joseph J. Straight, MD

Elected Committee – Budget and Finance Committee Members (1/1/2024-12/31/2024)

Michael Alexander, MD	Ali Hameli, MD	Shalini B. Shah, MD (Treasurer/Chair)
Bhavin R. Dave, MD (Pres-Elect)	Randeep Kahlon, MD	Cindy W. Siu, MD
John F. DeCarli, DO	Dorothy M. Moore, MD	

Elected Committee – Committee on Ethics (1/1/2024-12/31/2024)

Mehdi Balakhani, MD	John Goodill, MD (Chair)	Brian W. Little, MD
Cedric T. Barnes, DO	Mary V. Iacocca, MD	Stuart Septimus, MD
Louis E. Bartoshesky, MD	Stephen J. Kushner, DO	Carol A. Tavani, MD
Andrea C. DeSimone, DO	Marvin J. H. Lee, PhD	Avani K. Virani, MD

Elected Committee – Committee on Membership (1/1/2024-12/31/2024)

Raghda Bchech, MD	John Kehagias, MD	Sangeetha Satyan, MD
Jay J. Dave, DO (Chair)	John O'Neill, DO	Cydney Teal
JoAnn Fields, MD		

NOTE: The Specialty Representative and Resident/Fellow Section Representative seats remain vacant.

Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline

(2) New Castle County Practicing Physician Seats Available (no one nominated)

(1) Sussex County Practicing Physician Seat Available (Garrett Colmorgen, MD was nominated by the 2022 Council at the November 2022 Annual Meeting and his name was recently submitted for consideration by the Governor since he was ineligible for nomination until such time that he was off the BMLD for at least 12 consecutive months.)

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MSD HOLDING COMPANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Board and MSD Holding Company Board submitted reports of their annual activities since the last Annual Meeting of the Council. The reports were accepted and filed.

REPORT OF THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The MSD Bylaws Committee proposed the following changes to be considered by the Council. The suggested changes were adopted as presented. Only the areas of the Bylaws pertaining the adopted changes are published below. Text in red font and underlined indicate additions, while a ~~strike through~~ indicates a deletion from the Bylaws. The MSD Bylaws have since been revised to reflect these adopted changes.

The Bylaws Committee recommended the following changes to the Bylaws in support of the addition of allowing additional members on the Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

ARTICLE XI – Committees of the Society

Section 13 – Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be composed of not ~~less~~ more than eight ~~eleven~~ members to include up to eight members from the Society's membership and no more than three lay voting members appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Executive Board. A quorum for this committee will be based on the number of Society members appointed to the committee ~~requires at least the presence of five members of the Medical Society participating in a meeting~~. The committee is charged with working to mitigate health disparities and propose effective strategies for improvement for equality. The committee will also work to build a culture of belonging by actively inviting the contribution and participation of all people; promoting physician and community awareness; and providing education, support, and mentoring programs for health care professionals, patients, community partners, and the public.

With the sale of the MSD Building and Conference Center in 2022, the description of the MSD Historical subcommittee was inaccurate. While MSD does not currently have the space for the Historical Subcommittee to continue to develop a collection of medical historical items for display, it continues to have a role in Delaware's medical history and, therefore, should remain as a viable committee. The Bylaws Committee recommended modifying the current language in the Bylaws to be broad and not to eliminate the committee.

ARTICLE XI – Committees of the Society

Section 14 – Historical Subcommittee

The Historical Subcommittee ~~encourages members and others to contribute relevant historical medical items and information to develop a perspective of the practice of medicine and surgery in Delaware over the years. Members will determine items to accept into the historical collection of the Society, maintaining an inventory of such items, and develop the displays in the Society's building.~~ endeavors to preserve the history of medicine in Delaware.

2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

The proposed 2024 budget was adopted by the Council as presented. Key factors of influence contributing to the proposed budget that can positively or negatively impact the MSD Consolidated 2024 budget are: Membership (no dues increase for 2024), MedNet (new contract with Cigna effective October 1, 2023 and ongoing relationship with AmeriHealth Caritas and Delaware First Health, as well as adding an additional FTE effective March 1, 2024), Education Revenue, MSDIS Joint Venture Revenue, Highmark Blueprints Primary Care Grant (MSD retains a 10% administrative fee), Annual Mission Appeal/Planned Giving Campaign, Personnel and Staff (3% wage increase for current staff). Of note, annual membership dues rates will remain unchanged for the 2024 dues amount compared to

2023. Renewal invoices are being prepared for mailing and dues paying members will receive invoices either via mail or email (if opted in to receive via email).

RESOLUTIONS

Four resolutions were presented to the Council for consideration. A fifth resolution was submitted and considered a late resolution. The Council, by at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote, accepted the late resolution as an item of business. The resolves of each resolution and any adopted amendments to them are incorporated as follows. Resolutions were numbered and presented in the order in which they were received.

Artificial Intelligence in Health Care – (Resolution 01-A2023)

Adopted as amended

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware collaborates with other medical societies and health care organizations to advocate for the appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence in health care; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware continues to work to be aware of the AI evidence-based medical literature as data and information are released and continue to provide medical education relevant to evidence-based AI in the State of Delaware; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware continues to review the role of AI in health care with a focus on patient safety and the equitable delivery of health care in the State of Delaware; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the review of the artificial intelligence data be done on an annual basis with a report back to the Executive Board to include the cost of such review.

MSD Response to the Obesity Epidemic – A Chronic Disease – (Resolution 02-A2023)

Adopted as amended

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware declare that obesity is a chronic medical disease; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware declare that obesity is an epidemic affecting the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware advocates for resources including practice guidelines, payment assistance, legislative action, improved patient access to care, and other efforts to address this epidemic.

Support for Refugees in Delaware – (Resolution 03-A2023)

The resolution was adopted as amended.

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware pledges to support the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and its contracted community-based organizations in the humane treatment of refugee individuals and families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware supports actions to continue to provide funding by the federal government and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to provide access to food, clean water, vaccines, medical and mental health care, and safe dwellings; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware work with the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and its contracted community-based organizations to assist refugees by providing information to Medical Society of

Delaware members and citizens of the State of Delaware on such issues as volunteering at a resettlement agency, becoming an English tutor, a tour guide, a mentor to an individual or family, donating money and household items, encouraging local businesses to employ refugees, and urging elected officials to support refugee resettlement.

Gun Violence is a Public Health Crisis – (Resolution 04-A2023)

The resolution was adopted as amended

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware acknowledge and declare that gun-related violence is a public health crisis; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware support effective public health firearm injury reduction interventions such as community violence intervention programs, as well as clinically-driven interventions, including counseling patients and families on safe firearm storage, providing lethal means counseling, screening for patients at risk for firearm injury or death, and hospital-based violence intervention programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware support legislation, appropriately vetted by the Government Affairs Committee, including but not limited to legislation that creates an application process to obtain a handgun-qualified purchaser permit to authorize the purchase of a handgun, prohibits selling or transferring a handgun to an individual unless the individual has a handgun-qualified purchaser permit, requires that an applicant complete a firearms training course within five years before the date of application, and requires the Department of Safety and Homeland Security to develop and administer a firearms training voucher program for low-income residents.

Support of the AMA Board of Trustees Statement Regarding Physicians and Other Health Care Workers On The Frontlines Around the World – (Late Resolution Accepted by Council as Item of Business 05-A2023)

The resolution was adopted as submitted

RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of Delaware supports the AMA Board of Trustees statement dated November 9, 2023.

(The AMA Board of Trustees Statement can be accessed at: https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/statement-ama-board-trustees?utm_medium=Social_AMA&utm_campaign=amaone_shared_articles&utm_source=email.)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dr. Varipapa addressed the Council and provided an overview of the activities and meetings he has been involved with, and encouraged participation in events, the Mission Appeal, DELPAC, and to join committees.

ABSOLUTION RESOLUTION

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That each and all the resolutions, acts, and proceeding of the Executive Board of the Medical Society of Delaware heretofore adopted since the last meeting of the Council of the Medical Society of Delaware as shown by the records of the minutes and all the acts of the officers and Executive Board of the Society in carrying out and promoting the purposes, objectives, and interests of this Society since the last Council meeting are approved and ratified and hereby made the acts and deeds of the Medical Society of Delaware.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Informational reports were submitted to the Council from MSD's committees, sections, subsidiaries, and charitable foundations, as well as reports from the Delaware Delegation to the American Medical Association and Delaware medical specialty societies. The reports remain on file at the Medical Society of Delaware office.

Although there was not a formal presentation of MSD's recently adopted three-year strategic plan since it has been presented to the Executive Board, Holding Company Board and shared with the members of MSD, the strategic plan information was included in the meeting materials for reference. Those involved in the strategic plan process were thanked for their time to help in the endeavor.

MSD Holding Company Annual Meeting

The MSD Holding Company Board of Directors held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2023. The Holding Company Board of Directors for 2024 are as follows:

Bhavin R. Dave, MD -MSD President-Elect and HC Chair
Joseph J. Straight, MD – MSD Prior Past President, HC Vice President, and HC Rep to Executive Board
Matthew J. Burday, DO - MSD Immediate Past President
Brian J. Galinat, MD - MSD Vice President and HC Secretary
Robert J. Varipapa, MD – MSD President
James Monihan, MD - MSD Secretary
Shalini B. Shah, MD - MSD Treasurer and HC Treasurer
Stephanie Guarino, MD -MSD Speaker of the Council
Mark Thompson-Executive Director
Mushmoom Khan, MD - YPS At-Large Representative
Randeep Kahlon, MD – At-Large Representative, 2 yr term
Joyce Robert, MD – At-Large Representative, 1 yr term
Michael J. Bradley, DO – MedNet Representative
Dorothy M. Moore, MD – MSDIS Representative
Bhavin R. Dave, MD – Health Hub Representative

Along with review and adoption of subsidiary board minutes, the Holding Company Board elected the members of the subsidiary boards for the 2024 term. The following are the members of the three subsidiary boards for 2024:

Health Hub Board of Directors

Bhavin R. Dave, MD (Chair)
Beth Duncan, MD
Awele Maduka-Ezeh, MD
Patt E. Panzer, MD
Hersh Patel, MD
Isabella Slaby, DO
Mark A. Thompson

Medical Society of Delaware Insurance Services (MSDIS) Board of Directors

Cedric T. Barnes, DO	Joseph F. Hacker, MD (Chair)	Janice E. Tildon-Burton, MD
William M. Chasanov, DO	Joseph F. Kestner, Jr., MD	Robert J. Varipapa, MD
Bhavin R. Dave, MD	Dorothy M. Moore, MD	Mr. Lawrence Zutz
James M. Fletcher, DO	Mark B. Thompson	

MedNet of Delaware Board of Directors

Nicholas O. Biasotto, DO

Michael J. Bradley, DO (Chair)

Matthew J. Burday, DO

Andrew W. Dahlke, MD

Bhavin R. Dave, MD

James Fletcher, DO

Richard P. Simons, DO

Mark B. Thompson

Robert J. Varipapa, MD