



MASSACHUSETTS
MEDICAL SOCIETY

Every physician matters, each patient counts.

2021–2022 **Annual Report**

From the President and from the Executive Vice President

From the President

Assuming the presidency of the Massachusetts Medical Society during a pandemic presented unique challenges and opportunities. My astute predecessor, Dr. David Rosman, solidified the Society's commitment to advancing public health and being a leadership voice in addressing racism and related health disparities. Under the oversight of Executive Vice President Lois Cornell, the MMS pivoted to accomplishing impressive work remotely, and our members adapted to the changed environment, holding virtual meetings to advance the Society's mission. I had the good fortune to lead an incredible group of committed staff and members — running committees, working with public health officials, and making their voices heard on behalf of patients and physicians.

What emerged as an urgent priority during my tenure as president was the dramatic exacerbation of a mental health crisis that was years in the making. Outrageous emergency department boarding levels; increases in substance use; lack of available resources, especially to already marginalized communities; and practice pressures such as prior authorization and staffing shortages, all contributed to distress for our patients and burnout among our members. Under the steady guidance of my friend and successor, Dr. Ted Calianos, the MMS is well positioned to continue to address this crisis and all the challenges we face.

I am proud of the resilience exhibited by our members and our staff through the year, particularly in confronting threats to health care, to public health, and to our profession. We met the moment and raised our voices in the face of divisiveness, racism, and inequality, and condemned threats against access to reproductive and gender-affirming care. And I am so grateful to all MMS members for what you do every day to provide patient care and improve care delivery.

*Carole E. Allen, MD, MBA, FAAP
President, MMS, May 2021–May 2022*



From the Executive Vice President

During this year, the Massachusetts Medical Society moved forward with the strength and purpose that have had a great impact throughout the pandemic. The resulting accomplishments and ongoing momentum are carrying us into 2022–2023.

The Society advocated for the shared interests of patients and the medical profession, addressed our members' needs, and provided a trusted leadership voice in health care — all at a time when critically needed.

- MMS advocacy helped to avert significant Medicare payment cuts, expand telehealth, address physicians' administrative burden, and improve access to care for vulnerable populations. We championed successful legislation to address health care workforce shortages and to reduce barriers to mental health care in the state.
- We continue to build a diverse membership through innovative policies and programming. Events this year included a "Black Women in Medicine" conference and networking for medical students and physicians from backgrounds that are under-represented in medicine.
- With allied organizations, we provided timely physician forums, up-to-date information, and briefings and Q&A sessions with the state Department of Public Health. Webinar topics ranged from "Trust and Public Health" and "Prioritizing and Preserving Psychological Health" to the science behind mRNA vaccines to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the practice of medicine and in health care workplaces.

Building on the foundational strength of our mission, the Medical Society was laser-focused on the highest priorities of members and patients. Guided by our strategic plan and a vision of equitable and high-quality care, the MMS is positioned for long-term success.

*Lois Dehls Cornell
Executive Vice President, MMS*



MMS Leads with Collaboration, Compassion, Science, and Equity

MMS President Dr. Carole E. Allen, in a May 2021 collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, participated in a campaign (video below) to urge COVID-19 vaccination for children.

Throughout the year, presidential communications emphasized protecting society's most vulnerable individuals from the virus and stood up for health care workers who provide equitable, evidence-based care to all patients.



The MMS and Mass. Chapter of the AAP Make Push for Children to Get Vaccinated in Time for School

Vaccination is a safe and effective means of reducing the spread and severity of COVID-19, which can cause children to become ill or transmit infection to unvaccinated individuals. We encourage parents and guardians to schedule a vaccination and, if they or their children have concerns or questions, speak with their physician or health care provider.

— [MMS Statement](#), June 22, 2021

Massachusetts Medical Society Issues Mask Guidance

Masking is a simple step we all can take to protect ourselves, our families, our communities, and those who have not been vaccinated or whose health issues make them more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 and experiencing a poor outcome.

— [MMS Statement](#), July 30, 2021

Racist Protest “Threatened” Patient Care, Massachusetts Medical Society Says

Physicians and students that comprise the Massachusetts Medical Society are angered over the recent incident in Boston that saw an extremist group target physicians whose commitment is to care for patients and to facilitate conversations and actions that will make our health care system more just and equitable for communities of color. The Medical Society is opposed to direct confrontational racist acts and stands equally against damaging microaggressions directed at health care workers.

— [MedPage Today](#), February 11, 2022

Massachusetts Medical Society on Texas Governor’s Attack on Transgender Children and Families

Interfering with patients’ and families’ rights to seek medically appropriate gender-affirming health care and obstructing the trusted and sacred relationship between patient and physician is dangerous and can have dire consequences relative to the mental and physical well-being of transgender and questioning children. The Massachusetts Medical Society strongly supports the rights of individuals to health, happiness, and liberty regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or nationality, and urges all governments to recognize these rights.

— [MMS Statement](#), February 24, 2022

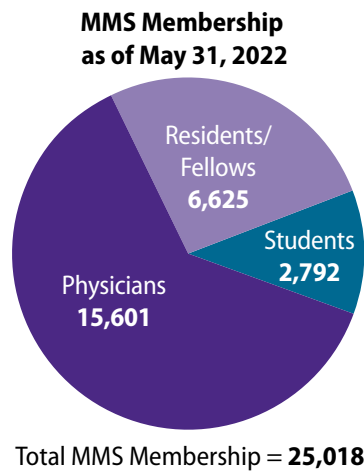
2022 Virtual Annual Meeting of the MMS House of Delegates

The voice of MMS is sometimes soft and other times loud, but it is always respected and listened to at the State House, within our congressional delegation, by the administration, in academia, and by the public.

— 2022 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates, May 20, 2022

MMS Builds Community, Value, and Opportunity for Physicians

The Massachusetts Medical Society, the state's largest physician-led organization, continued to be a source of camaraderie, education, and advocacy for physicians and patients, while maintaining a steady focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in health care and the medical profession.



Total MMS Membership = **25,018**

From among 25,018 members, hundreds this year actively participated in 40 MMS committees and seven member sections (including Residents and Fellows, Women Physicians, International Medical Graduates, and others). These groups continued to meet remotely through the fatigue and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their work resulted in dozens of MMS initiatives, activities, and new MMS policies.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

During this second year of the MMS initiative on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Medical Society continued to focus on creating a welcoming environment for all with new programs, community building, and opportunities for leadership and mentoring. Many “firsts” included the following:

- The successful [Black Women in Medicine \(BWIM\)](#) conference attended by 100+ women of all ages and career stages. Of respondents to a post-activity survey, 95% rated it excellent/good.



The two dozen speakers at the BWIM conference included MMS President Carole E. Allen, MD, MBA, FAAP (top left); conference leader Philomena Assante, MD, MPH (top right); and Simone Wildes, MD, chair of the MMS Committee on Diversity in Medicine (bottom).

- The new [Underrepresented Physicians of Tomorrow Award](#). The MMS Minority Affairs Section began this annual award to recognize exemplary advocacy, scholarship, community engagement, and leadership among medical students and trainees.
- An online student networking event, “Tips for Success During Clinical Rotations and Beyond,” presented by the MMS Committee on Diversity

in Medicine. Frank discussions among students, trainees, and faculty from diverse backgrounds included tips for finding a mentor and ways to address issues of inequity in patient care or institutional dynamics without risking one’s own career progression.

Ongoing partnership with the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association led to a second year of educational webinars focused on DHEI, including “Deracializing Kidney Diagnosis,” “The ROI of DE&I: Building the Business Case,” and a viewing of the powerful documentary *The Power to Heal*.



New Benefits for Members: Corporate Partnership Program

With oversight from the MMS Committee on Membership, the Society launched the new [Corporate Partnership Program](#). This member benefit provides access and savings for a growing list of products and services in personal travel, financial services, banking, and communications among other useful and economical services for members and their practices.



Supporting and Advocating for Physicians, Patients, and Practice

The MMS's advocacy for physicians, patients, and medical practices continues to examine the development and impact of governmental policies through the lens of equity, and with great attention to the psychological health needs of patients and physicians that has approached crisis levels.

Prioritizing and Integrating Mental Health

In May 2022, the MMS Annual Education Program, [Prioritizing and Preserving Psychological Health](#), examined practical and policy strategies needed to identify and mitigate psychological distress among our patients and our provider staff, improve availability and equitable access to mental and behavioral health services, and instill a culture in health care that prioritizes psychological well-being for all.



To help practices with the crucial work of integrating behavioral health, the MMS Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use, with the Committee on the Quality of Medical Practice, delivered the encompassing report [Integrating Mental Health and Substance Use Care in Your Practice](#). It provides information physicians can use immediately and recommendations for important next steps for policy makers, educators, and others to

improve practices and systems, physician education, payment practices, and outcomes reporting.

Successful Advocacy for Physician Practice

Other wins for MMS advocacy for physician practice and for patients include the following:

- The **prevention of Medicare payment cuts** of nearly 10% planned to begin on January 1, 2022, by using strategic, repeated engagement with congressional leaders and launching a grassroots campaign with easy-to-use tools for members to reach their legislators.
- **Addressing administrative burden** by working with the Board of Registration in Medicine to streamline initial physician licensure, which will launch in coming months.
- **Expansion of telehealth codes and parity** in payment.



- Securing delay of state notice and disclosure requirements relative to **surprise billing** that were duplicative of federal requirements.
- **Significant investments to address workforce shortages**, including loan repayment for mental health professionals and the use of federal American Rescue Plan funds for retention and recruitment programs for human service and home health workers.
- Laying groundwork for passage of the state's **Mental Health ABC Act: Addressing Barriers to Care** to promote parity between mental and physical health, mandate coverage for an annual mental health exam, and curtail the emergency room boarding crisis.

MMS Advocacy in the Statehouse

Submitted testimony on **60** pieces of legislation

Submitted comments on **4** regulatory matters

Sent **17** letters to key legislators and regulatory bodies on legislation and policy matters important to the MMS

Trusted Leadership Voice in Health Care and Continuing Education

This year, the Medical Society's own words and actions, often combined with those of community partners and experts, provided a trusted leadership voice that has never been more important. The COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations guided ongoing MMS pandemic-related efforts. Working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, other public health organizations, and specialty medical societies, the MMS prioritized advocacy, education, and communication related to prevention and mitigation that included social distancing, mask wearing, testing, vaccination, and treatment, and incorporated the issues of behavioral health.

Public Statements and Information in a Challenging Time

Through proactive media relations and social media — urging [protection to equitable access to reproductive care](#), recognizing important [work of the public health officials](#) and [workers](#) — the MMS communicated with members and the public. Online engagement with the MMS increased by more than 30% on social media platforms [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). Engagement in the MMS member e-newsletter *Vital Signs This Week* increased by 40% over the prior year.



Broad Range of MMS Education Programs Meet the Moment

A nationally recognized provider of continuing medical education (CME), the MMS continues to maintain its status of Accreditation with Commendation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), which acknowledges the Society's standard for educational quality and independence. The year's educational activities featured prominent faculty, provocative and timely topics, and strong attendance with positive feedback, including the following:



- [Nuclear Weapons — A Public Health Issue](#), co-sponsored by the MMS Committee on Occupational and Environmental Health and the Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility. It drew national expert speakers and a worldwide audience.

- [The 2021 Annual Oration, Responsiveness and Resilience: Leading through Public Health Crises](#), was delivered by Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, who was then senior advisor to the Mayor of Boston. She previously served as commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health during the first 16 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [The 132nd Annual Shattuck Lecture, Nucleoside-Modified mRNA-LNP Therapeutics](#), was delivered by Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, a physician-scientist and pioneer in the science of immunology whose work, with his colleagues, paved the way for the first mRNA vaccines, and in turn the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines.

Public Health Leadership Forum



“Trust and Public Health” was the focus of the 18th Annual Public Health Leadership Forum in October. Presentations included “Restoring Trust in Science” by Nahid Bhadelia, MD, MALD (top left); “Countering Misinformation and Disinformation in the Age of Social Media” by Kasisomayajula Viswanath, PhD (top right); and “Trust as a Prerequisite for Health Equity” by Michelle Morse, MD, MPH (bottom left). The session, moderated by Harold Cox, MSSW (bottom right), is available as an online [CME course here](#).

CME Activity Data (12 Months)

384 accredited activities offered

3,275+ hours of instruction offered

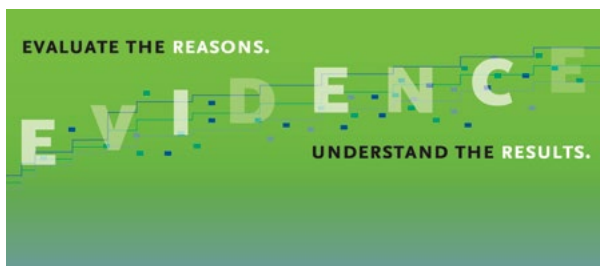
184,620+ physician interactions

36,560+ other learner interactions

NEJM Group

NEJM Evidence, a New Digital Journal from NEJM Group, Launched in January 2022

Publishing high-quality studies from the front lines of medical research, [NEJM Evidence](#) seeks to advance clinical trial research and clinical practice by challenging the medical community to take new approaches to clinical trial design, execution, and analysis that yield more powerful clinical evidence. New, unique article types include *Stats*, *STAT!* videos, *Curbside Consult*, *Morning Report*, *Tomorrow's Trial*, and *Patient Platform*. *NEJM Evidence* is receiving a healthy number of manuscript submissions and revenue is ahead of expectations.



NEJM Remains Committed to Supporting Antiracism in Medicine

The [Race and Medicine collection](#) at [NEJM.org](#) reflects our ongoing commitment to understanding and combating racism as a public health and human rights crisis. Articles published include educating the medical community about systemic racism, and supporting and improving the lives of physicians, aspiring physicians, and patients who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color. Also available for

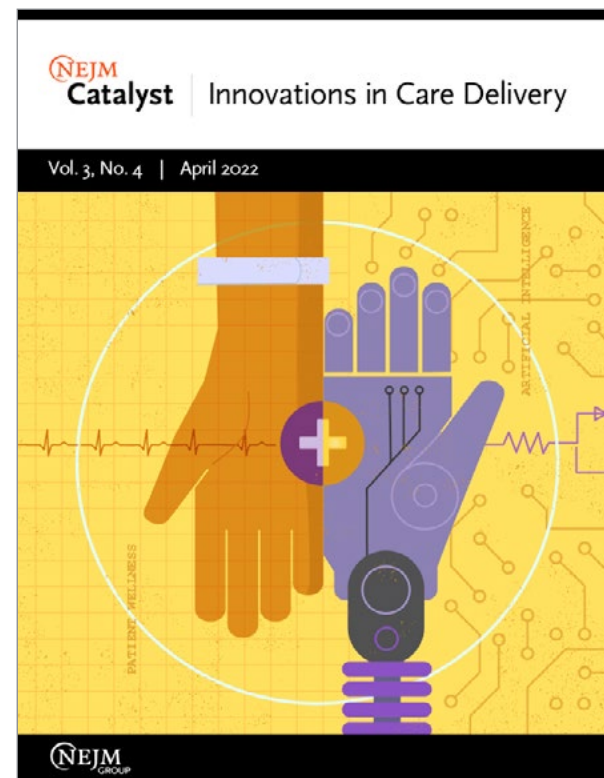
download is the [Racial Disparities in Clinical Medicine](#) e-book that includes interviews with clinician leaders, NEJM Perspective articles, and NEJM Catalyst research covering how inequity persists, how it is experienced, and how we might begin to counter it.



AI and Machine Learning for Health Care Delivery — NEJM Catalyst Delivers with Articles, Event, and Research

To help health care professionals understand AI and machine learning and how it can be used for patient care, NEJM Catalyst hosted a live virtual event in March 2022. The event offered insights into how AI is being used for primary care visits, cancer screenings, COVID-19 contact tracing, advance care planning, opioid prescribing, and more. In conjunction, [NEJM Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery](#) published a special theme issue with articles, case studies, and interviews that show AI being used at multiple institutions for real improvement in health care.

Members of the NEJM Catalyst Insights Council weighed in, sharing views that generated a robust research report.



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May 2021–May 2022

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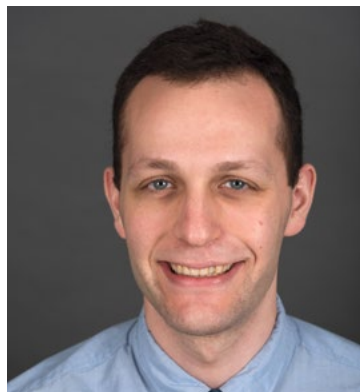
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Note: All the MMS officers and Alliance President Bonnie Dunlap, RN, are also members of the Board of Trustees.

Physician Group Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society

Acton Medical Associates	Child Health Associates	Garden City Pediatrics
Andover Pediatrics	CHMC Otolaryngologic Foundation	Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
Asthma & Allergy Affiliates	CHMC Surgical Foundation	Greater Lowell Pediatrics
Atrius Health	Circle Health OB/GYN (formerly LGH WomanHealth)	Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
Baystate Brightwood Health Center	Codman Square Health Center	Greater Roslindale Medical & Dental Center
Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center	Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates	Hampshire Gastroenterology Associates
Baystate Medical Practice	Commonwealth Pathology Partners	Harbor Health Services
Baystate Ob/Gyn Group	Community Health Center of Cape Cod	Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center
Baystate Trauma	Community Health Center of Franklin County	Hawthorn Medical Associates — Ob/Gyn
Baystate Women's Health (formerly Wesson Women's Group)	Community Health Programs	Healthcare South
Berkshire Medical Center Physicians	Community Healthlink	Heart Center of MetroWest
Berkshire Orthopedic Associates	Congenial Health	Highland Healthcare Associates IPA
Beth Israel Deaconess OB/GYN & Midwifery	Dana-Farber Gastrointestinal Oncology	Hilltown Community Health Center
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts	Dermatology Associates of Concord	Holliston Pediatric Group
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program	Digestive Health Specialists	Holyoke Health Center
Boston IVF (formerly IVF New England)	Diva Docs (Children's Hospital)	Hyde Park Pediatrics
Boston Sports & Shoulder Center	Dowd Medical Associates	Internal Medicine Physicians of the North Shore
Bournewood Clinical Associates	Duffy Health Center	Lexington Eye Associates
Bowdoin Street Health Center	East Boston Neighborhood Health Center	Lexington Pediatrics
Brigham & Women's Hospitalist Service	Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center	LGH Merrimack Valley Cardiology Associates
Brigham & Women's Physicians Group	Emerson Emergency Physicians	Lincoln Physicians
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center	Emerson IPA	Longwood Pediatrics
Brookside Community Health Center	ENT Specialists	Lowell Community Health Center
Cambridge Health Alliance	Essex County OB/GYN Associates	Lynn Community Health Center
Cape Cod Anesthesia Associates	Fallon Health	Main Street Pediatrics
Caring Health Center	Family Doctors	Manet Community Health Center
Central Mass IPA	Family Health Center of Worcester	Mass. Eye & Ear Anesthesiology
Charles River Community Health	Family Medicine Associates of Hamilton	Mass. Gastroenterology Association
Chelmsford Pediatric Physicians	Family Medicine Associates of South Attleboro	Mass. Psychiatric Society
	Fenway Health	Mass. Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Physician Group Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society *(continued)*

Medical Associates Pediatrics	Orthopedic Care Physicians Network	South Shore Radiology Associates
Merrimack Urology Associates	Orthopedics Northeast	South Shore Skin Center
MGH Chelsea Healthcare Center	Outer Cape Health Services	South Shore Women's Health
MGH Everett Family Care	Pediatric Associates at Northwoods	South Suburban Gastroenterology
Middleton Family Medicine Associates	Pediatric Associates of Brockton	Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center
Milford Gastroenterology	Pediatric Associates of Fall River	Springfield Anesthesia Service
Mount Auburn Cardiology Associates	Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem	Springfield Health Services for the Homeless
Mount Auburn Hospital Dept. of Medicine	Pediatric Associates of Hampden County	SSTAR Family Healthcare Center
Needham Pediatrics	Pediatric Associates of Norwood and Franklin	Steward Medical Group (Brockton)
Nephrology Associates of Merrimack Valley	Pediatric Health Care Associates	Suburban Internal Medicine
New England Dermatology	Pediatric Physicians Organization at Children's	The Dimock Center
New England ENT & Facial Plastic Surgery	Pediatrics at Newton Wellesley	Truesdale Internal Medicine
New England OB-GYN Associates	Personal Physicians HealthCare	Tufts Medical Center Community Care
New England Medical Associates	Pioneer Valley Cardiology	Tufts Medical Center Endocrine Division
Newburyport Local Chapter	Pioneer Valley Pediatrics	Tufts Medical Center General Medical Associates
Newton-Wellesley Internists	Pioneer Valley Radiation Oncology	UMass Managed Care Providers
Newton-Wellesley Neurology Associates	Plymouth Bay Orthopedic Associates	UMass Memorial Medical Group
Newton-Wellesley Obstetrics & Gynecology	Point32Health (formerly Harvard Pilgrim Health Care)	Upham's Corner Health Center
Newton-Wellesley Physicians Primary Care	Prima Care Gastroenterology	Valley Women's Health Group
North End Waterfront Health	Primary Care of Wellesley	Wellesley Women's Care
North Shore Ambulatory Anesthesia Partners	Quincy Pediatric Associates	Western Mass. Gastroenterology Associates
North Shore Community Health	Radiology & Imaging	Western Mass. Pathology Services
North Shore Physicians Group	Reliant Medical Group	Westford Internal Medicine
Northampton Area Pediatrics	Schatzki Associates	Weston Pediatric Physicians
Northeast Medical Practice (Addison Gilbert Hospital Group)	SkinCare Physicians	Whittier Street Health Center
Northeast Urology Surgery	South Boston Community Health Center	Wilmington Pediatrics
Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston	South End Community Health Center	Woburn Medical Associates
Orion Emergency Services	South Shore Cardiology	Women's Health Care
Orthopedic Affiliates	South Shore Health	Women's Health of Central Massachusetts
	South Shore Internal Medicine	Worcester Recovery Center & Hospital, Dept. of Psychiatry



MASSACHUSETTS
MEDICAL SOCIETY

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