

VITAL SIGNS



MASSACHUSETTS
MEDICAL SOCIETY

Vital Signs is the member publication of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

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The MMS Sets New Policies, Calls for Physician Independence and Self-Governance

BY TOM FLANAGAN, MMS MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER

The Massachusetts Medical Society's House of Delegates (HOD) at the 2024 Annual Meeting deliberated dozens of member-authored resolutions, with those that garnered favorable votes from the organization's governing body becoming policy.

In response to the current tenuous state of health care in Massachusetts, the HOD reaffirmed an existing policy aimed at protecting physicians' autonomy in decision-making that directly impacts employment status and the delivery of safe, accessible, and quality patient care.

The reaffirmed MMS policy states, "The MMS will continue to assess the needs of employed physicians, ensuring autonomy in clinical decision-making and self-governance . . . in order to assure and be accountable for the delivery of quality health care."

It also notes: "Physicians should be free to enter into mutually satisfactory contractual arrangements, including employment, with hospitals, health care systems, medical groups, insurance plans, and other entities as permitted by law and in accordance with the ethical principles of the medical profession. Physicians should never be coerced into employment with hospitals, health care systems, medical groups, insurance plans, or any other entities. Employment agreements between physicians and their employers should be negotiated in good faith. Both parties should obtain the advice of legal counsel experienced in physician employment matters when negotiating employment contracts."

Further, "the following 'business' or 'management' decisions and activities impact the physicians' practice of medicine and should not be made without input from the employed physicians or their designee(s): selection, hiring/firing and assessment of the clinical performance of physicians, allied health staff, and medical assistants; selection of medical equipment and medical supplies for the medical practice; and availability of and access to medical equipment and supplies for the medical practice."

These policies will guide an MMS organizational objective of improving physician well-being and addressing underlying and systemic issues that are contributing to the physician exodus and the growing physician workforce shortage in Massachusetts. A survey of Massachusetts physicians conducted by the Medical Society revealed in the March 2023 [Supporting MMS Physicians' Well-Being Report: Recommendations to Address the On-Going Crisis](#) that 50 percent of physicians have reduced their clinical effort or are "definitely" or "likely" to reduce their clinical hours, and about one in four plan to leave medicine in the next two years.

Other policies adopted by the Medical Society include the following:

Increased Transparency at For-Profit Health Care Facilities

The MMS supports requiring transparency and oversight of private equity investments, hospital mergers and acquisitions — including public disclosure of the amount of debt assumed during leveraged buyouts — and commercial insurance transactions involving physician practices. The MMS supports regulatory authorities' development and enforcement of policies

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Left: MMS member Aksel Laudon offers testimony on a resolution under debate.

Right: At the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting on May 11, policymaking in action with officers and MMS management listening from the dias.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues,

As I embark on my presidential year, I am grateful to MMS's members for the opportunity to serve. I also thank Barbara S. Spivak, MD, for all that she accomplished last year. I thought that my first months as your president might be slow, but I was wrong. Our Society has been actively working on your behalf without a summer slowdown.

In response to the Steward bankruptcy in May, the Society jumped into high gear to advocate for and provide [resources](#) for physicians navigating this situation. I recommend listening to our May 28 [Steward Health Care Bankruptcy Webinar: Important Considerations for Physicians](#) given by two experienced health care and bankruptcy lawyers.

Faced with the end of the Massachusetts legislative session, the House and the Senate have been working on health care bills. The MMS met with committees of both chambers to make them aware of the priorities and policies of the MMS. Your input via our [grassroots action center](#) is essential to our success in advocacy.

Among the many significant policies adopted at our annual HOD meeting in May, one calls for the MMS to "encourage our Massachusetts medical schools to ensure that their code of conduct includes prohibition of actions or threats that target members of any religious or ethnic group." Therefore, shortly after the HOD meeting, the Society sent a letter to the four medical school deans about this directive, stating that the MMS would notify them of any such issues brought to us by our members.

As of June 1, we have begun to implement our new 5-year Strategic Plan, [detailed on page 5](#). All Society initiatives must align with the strategic plan, including committee and section Activities Reports, to make sure we are working together.

We are fortunate that the Society has the capacity to address these and other important issues. Thank you for all that you do as members and as physicians to improve the practice of medicine and to deliver quality care to our patients. Please do not hesitate to contact me to share ideas or concerns.

Sincerely,

Hugh M. Taylor, MD
president@mms.org



The MMS Sets New Policies

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that promote fairness, and accountability in private equity transactions to safeguard adequate access and quality of health care.

The MMS supports the inclusion of physician input and/or representation in decision-making processes related to private equity investments to ensure that the needs of patients, communities, and those that provide care are adequately addressed. The MMS supports mandating public reporting of patient outcomes from private equity-owned health care entities comparable to what is expected of non-profit health care facilities.

Ensuring Equitable and Accessible Coverage for Full-Spectrum Pregnancy Care

The MMS supports removing cost-sharing for all pregnancy-related services.

The Benefits of a Plant-Based Diet on Health and Environment

The MMS supports educating physicians and the public about the health and climate benefits of adopting a whole-food, plant-predominant eating pattern and reducing meat consumption, and supports making healthy foods that are part of a balanced, plant-predominant diet more equitably accessible and affordable. The MMS encourages Massachusetts hospitals to utilize available guides and resources on offering healthy plant-based meal options, which will benefit both human and planetary health.

Expansion of Massachusetts Extreme Risk Protection Order Petitioning to Include Health Care Workers

The MMS supports extending the ability to petition directly for extreme risk protection orders to physicians and other health care providers, provided that any health care provider duly authorized as a petitioner shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability for failure to petition the court for the issuance or renewal of an extreme risk protection order.

Increasing Opioid Overdose Training and Access to Emergency Stock Naloxone in K-12 and Postsecondary Educational Institutions

The MMS will support efforts to require access to and training on use of emergency stock naloxone by clinical and nonclinical staff in all Massachusetts K-12 settings and support efforts to require developmentally appropriate education and training on opioid overdose prevention, recognition, and overdose reversal medication interventions to students in K-12 settings located in Massachusetts.

Medical Disinformation

The Massachusetts Medical Society supports reliance on peer-reviewed, evidence-based information, opposes the promulgation and spread of misinformation and disinformation, and affirms the medical profession's responsibility to share peer-reviewed, evidence-based data that remedies the harms caused by misinformation and disinformation.

Implementation of Trauma-Informed Care into Clinical Practice and Medical Education

The MMS supports the implementation of trauma-informed policies and practices into the clinical care of all patients and the training and education of health care professionals and medical students in trauma-informed care approaches.

See a [complete listing](#) of newly adopted MMS policies (with member login).

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New and Long-Time Traditions Mingle at 2024 MMS Annual Meeting Events

BY TOM FLANAGAN, MMS MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER AND KATHERINE UDDEN, MMS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

A festive evening at the Medical Society's headquarters celebrated the 2023–2024 Presidential year of Barbara S. Spivak, MD, and ushered in 2024–2025 with the inauguration of MMS President Hugh M. Taylor, MD, on May 10, 2024. The event incorporated official Society business with fellowship and camaraderie by hosting the President's Reception, the Nancy N. Caron Annual Member Art Exhibit, a members' dinner, and an Awards Ceremony.

This year, the Society celebrated 25 years of art exhibits and featured 34 art pieces from 21 MMS member artists, including three first-time exhibitors whose mediums included glasswork, sculpture, paintings, and textiles. The art exhibit booklet can be viewed [here](#). The awards ceremony included inspiring presentations of six awards given annually by the Society. To see all MMS 2024 Award recipients with photos, [please go to page 9](#).

During her farewell speech, Dr. Spivak lauded fellow MMS members, leadership, and staff and cited the importance of the Society's valuable and

sympiotic partnerships with other leading health care-related organizations, including state and federal legislators, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, hospital systems, and health plans.

In focusing on a few recent accomplishments, she enumerated "the removal of inappropriate questions about past mental health and substance use, the promotion of overdose prevention centers, the advocacy around prior authorization, workforce shortages, primary care access, climate change, and gun violence, to name a few."

"As I leave the helm of the Medical Society, I do so with a sense of hope and optimism for the future," Dr. Spivak said. "While the road ahead may be challenging, I am confident that with the dedication of our members and staff, we will overcome any obstacle. It has truly been an honor to represent the Society as your president."

Dr. Taylor, accepting the presidential medal, described a focus for the year ahead: "My vision is that the MMS will be the first stop for all Massachusetts physicians when they have concerns about our profession. Many of us already look to the Society in this way. . . . Let's make the MMS the primary

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From left to right: Immediate Past President, Barbara S. Spivak, MD, and President Hugh M. Taylor, MD. Photo by John Fox Photography.



From left to right: Olivia C. Liao, MD, FACS, President-Elect; Eli C. Freiman, MD, FAAP, Speaker of the House of Delegates; Hugh M. Taylor, MD, President; Lee S. Perrin, MD, Secretary-Treasurer; Grayson W. Armstrong, MD, MPH, Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates; Barbara S. Spivak, MD, Immediate Past President. Photo by John Fox Photography.



Members of the MMS Student Section and the MMS Resident and Fellow Section, pictured with MMS President, Barbara S. Spivak, MD, participated throughout the two-day meeting, including as resolution sponsors and voting members of the House of Delegates. Photo by John Fox Photography.

New and Long-Time Traditions Mingle at 2024 MMS Annual Meeting Events

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resource that physicians turn to for help with their practices, with their careers, and to improve the health of their patients and the public.”

Dr. Taylor praised members who collaborated in the creation of the [Society's 2025–2029 Strategic Plan](#), which will guide the Society's initiatives to be more focused and deliberate and to map out a pathway that will keep the Society effective, dynamic, relevant, and fiscally responsible to accomplish our long-term initiatives. For more information on the new MMS strategic plan, please read the article on [page 5](#).

“With your backing,” he said, addressing MMS members and staff, “the MMS will continue our work fighting for patients’ access to care and defending the practice of medicine for all physicians through our advocacy work on Beacon Hill, in Washington, and elsewhere. I pledge to draw on my creativity, experience, and determination to benefit our patients, members, and the Society during my year as president.”

“Let’s make the MMS the primary resource that physicians turn to for help with their practices, with their careers, and to improve the health of their patients and the public.”

— Dr. Hugh M. Taylor

For information on the new MMS policies passed by the House of Delegates session on May 11, [please see the article on page 1](#).

Accredited Educational events, approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*, offered as part of the 2024 Annual Meeting included the following:

- MMS Annual Education Program — “Navigating Access, Equity, Workforce, and Costs in Primary Care.” An online version of this educational activity is [available here](#).
- Annual Meeting Ethics Forum — “Gender-Affirming Care.” An online version of this educational activity is [available here](#).



From left to right: Emily Cleveland Manchanda, MD, MPH; Dennis J. Spencer, MD, PHD; James J. O'Connell, MD; Mary Beth Miotto, MD, MPH, FAAP; Henry L. Dorkin, MD, FAAP, attend the Presidential inauguration and awards ceremony. *Photo by John Fox Photography.*



From left to right: Lois Dehls Cornell, Executive Vice President; Olivia C. Liao, MD, FACS, President-Elect; Hugh M. Taylor, MD, President; and Barbara S. Spivak, MD, Immediate Past President. *Photo by John Fox Photography.*



From left to right: Rebecca W. Brendel, MD, JD; Lynda M. Young, MD; Robert Sorrenti, MD; Olivia C. Liao, MD, FACS, enjoy the annual member art exhibit. *Photo by John Fox Photography.*



From left to right: Regan H. Marsh, MD, MPH, Gaurav Manchanda, and Emily Cleveland Manchanda, MD, MPH, celebrated 25 years of the Nancy N. Caron Annual Member Art Exhibit. *Photo by John Fox Photography.*

The Massachusetts Medical Society Launches FY 2025–2029 Strategic Plan

BY TOM FLANAGAN, MMS MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER AND KATHERINE UDDEN, MMS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) Committee on Strategic Planning, led by then President-Elect Hugh M. Taylor, MD, the Board of Trustees, the House of Delegates, and other member stakeholders, has developed and approved a strategic plan that will be crucial in guiding the organization through the 2025–2029 fiscal years.

Given the changing landscape of the practice of medicine and the greater health care ecosystem, the strategic plan aims to ensure that the Society is mindful of and respectful toward our legacy and reputation as one of the greatest medical societies in the country, but also allows us to leverage resources to make a maximum impact for patients and physicians by remaining effective, relevant, and focused on key objectives.

The strategic plan is segmented into seven key areas, five strategic imperatives, and two enablers. The term “imperatives” is significant, meaning that the Society must focus on these areas of the MMS. Several imperatives center on growing and engaging membership, which reaffirms what we have known since the Medical Society was founded: members are our primary strength and lifeblood. Importantly, we will focus our recruitment and retention strategies on attracting physician groups and early-career

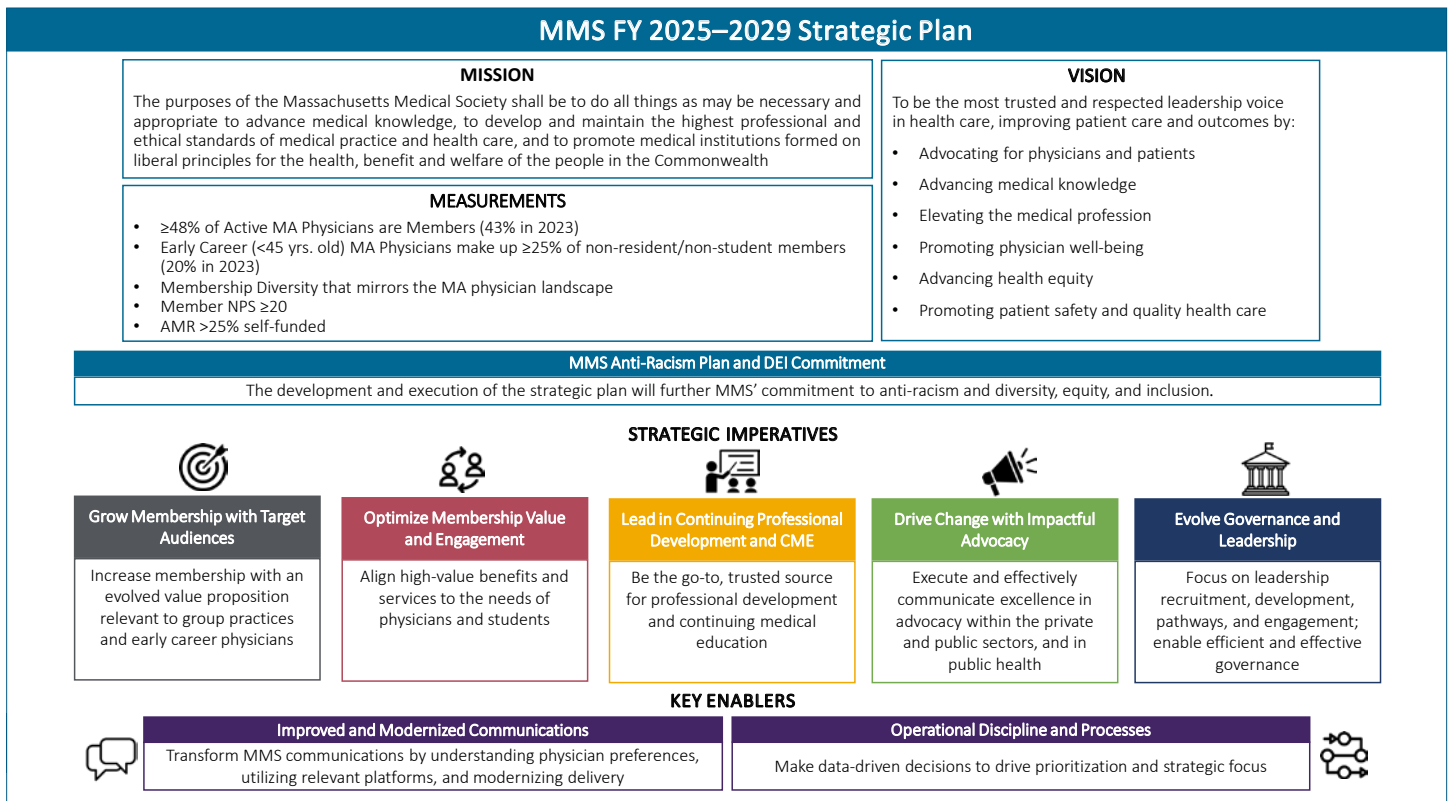
members who reflect and represent the diversity of the state’s physician workforce. The other imperatives focus on continuing professional development and continuing medical education, advocacy, governance, and leadership, while the enablers are positioned to modernize and improve communications and implement operational discipline and processes. The plan includes specific growth measurements to track progress over the next five years.

“This five-year strategic plan was built with members’ input and careful collaboration to keep the Society on the trajectory toward our long-term goals,” says MMS President-Elect Olivia C. Liao, MD, FACS. “It is essential that the MMS supports our members, from advocacy, practice support, education, to mentoring, to ensure they thrive within our Society and in their careers.”

The strategic plan will enable the organization to identify and complete key objectives by allocating resources and time to the most pressing objectives, which will yield the most impactful return when accomplished.

“I am proud of the CSP and our colleagues’ work in creating this plan,” says Dr. Taylor. “It is designed to be flexible and will allow us to make adjustments if needed in response to future changes in the health care landscape. I am confident it has the right priorities and will serve us well.”

The MMS FY 2025–2029 Strategic Plan is located [here](#).



The MMS Announces the 2024 Information Technology Awardees

BY LEON Q. BARZIN, STAFF LIAISON TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND KATHERINE UDDEN, MMS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The Massachusetts Medical Society and the MMS Committee on Information Technology (CIT) announced the recipients of two IT-focused awards on May 13, 2024.



Dr. Ted Pak

Ted Pak, MD, a second-year infectious diseases fellow at Mass General Brigham, is the recipient of the 2024 Information Technology Award for the resident and fellow category. Arya Rao from Harvard Medical School has won the student category.

The award recognizes the development of information technology that helps physicians practice, teach medicine, or pursue clinical research and provides a \$5,000 award. For the last 23 years, the CIT has bestowed this award on deserving students, residents, and/or fellows. The CIT award is sponsored by Click Therapeutics, Inc., a leading innovator of Digital Therapeutics™.

With two dozen entries submitted representing a vast array of projects, determining the winners was a challenge.

“As is the case every year, the selection committee received a wealth of outstanding submissions, making our process of identifying a winner both interesting and difficult,” says David Earle, MD, chair of the Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Information Technology.

Dr. Pak’s winning project is the “massive mining of clinical notes with large language models to improve antibiotic choice for sepsis.” His project adapts a rapidly advancing artificial intelligence method called large language models (LLMs) that can process thousands of notes in electronic medical records.

Dr. Pak is a New York native, completed undergraduate studies in biochemical sciences and computer science at Harvard College, and worked as a full-time software engineer for three years. He then matriculated into the MD/PhD program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai before completing an internal medicine residency at Mass General Brigham.



Arya Rao

Rao’s winning submission is “The Future Patient Persona: An Interactive, Large Language Model-Augmented Harvard Clinical Training Companion.” The project is designed to simulate patient interactions for medical students. It uses advanced language models trained on custom medical education materials to generate interactive patient scenarios for medical education.

Rao graduated from Columbia University, where she studied biochemistry and computer science.

About the Committee on Information Technology

The Massachusetts Medical Society’s Committee on Information Technology provides members with a setting to identify and evaluate major trends in information technology that impact medical practice, including policy, education, devices, guidelines, regulations, and laws. The committee makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees, the House of Delegates, and the membership on responses to technology trends.

Each year, applications for the CIT award open on September 1 and are due by the beginning of January. Finalists make presentations in early February. For more information, visit massmed.org/cit_award or contact Leon Barzin, Digital Media Manager & Health Information Technology, at lbarzin@mms.org.

Tufts Medical Student Wins MMS History of Medicine Contest for RADICAL Essay

BY LEON Q. BARZIN, MMS DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGER & HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

“Declare the past, diagnose the present, foretell the future.” — Hippocrates

Since 2007, the MMS Committee on History has offered a yearly [Medical Student Essay Award](#) to a medical student for the best original, independently researched essay on a topic related to the history of medicine or public health since the initiation of the MMS in 1781. Any topic that piques the student’s curiosity is fair game; however, students are encouraged to consider the history behind topics of current interest, such as the role of race in health care, reproductive health, discrimination, or stigma of any kind. The application process involves two steps: submission of the application with a short abstract, followed several months later by the actual essay of fewer than 3,000 words. Essays are judged on scholarship, originality, and clarity of expression.

In February, Jacob Jasper, a member of Tufts University School of Medicine’s Class of 2025, was selected as the 2024 winner for his essay, “RADICAL: Oliver Cope and the Birth of Breast Conservation Therapy.” His essay details how Oliver Cope used both personal passion and science during the 1950s to improve the lives of breast cancer patients and his struggle to move surgeons toward a more minimalist approach to breast surgery.



Jacob Jasper

“I personally learn so much from all the essays. I am encouraged by the effort and creativity of the students that the future of medicine is in good hands and the appreciation of medicine’s history lives on.”

— Dr. Eric Reines, chair of the Committee on History

“The quality and number of submissions have increased every year,” a previous committee chair, Al DeMaria, MD, notes, “which makes for lively and thoughtful committee deliberations to choose the best essay.” Adds current chair Eric Reines, MD, “I personally learn so much from all the essays. I am encouraged by the effort and creativity of the students that the future of medicine is in good hands and the appreciation of medicine’s history lives on.”

The History Committee this year received 24 initial applications representing all four medical schools. To reduce any bias, the committee staff removed names and medical school affiliations from the applications and assigned each a random number. By the deadline for the completed essay two months later, the committee had received eight essays (representing three medical schools). The essays were carefully evaluated individually by committee members before a detailed group discussion and anonymous voting.

Awarding this prize has always been a great source of pride for the MMS History Committee. The winner receives a \$1,000 unrestricted prize in the spring of each year. Read Jacob Jasper’s essay [here](#), as well as many other past essays, and learn more about the [coming year’s award program](#) and deadlines.

Massachusetts Medical Society Honors Dr. Eméfah Loccoh with the Underrepresented Physicians of Tomorrow Award

BY BISSAN BIARY, MMS PRACTICE SOLUTIONS OUTREACH MANAGER AND KATHERINE UDDEN, MMS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



Dr. Eméfah C. Loccoh

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) is proud to announce Eméfah C. Loccoh, MD, as the 2024 recipient of the Underrepresented Physicians of Tomorrow Award. This prestigious award, now in its second year, recognizes the exceptional contributions of underrepresented-in-medicine (URM) students and trainees in Massachusetts who demonstrate exemplary service, advocacy, scholarship, community engagement, leadership, and professionalism in medicine.

Dr. Loccoh is a resident physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Her impressive career trajectory includes a diverse range of accomplishments, reflecting her dedication to organized medicine, patient advocacy, and community engagement. Her involvement with organizations such as the American College of Cardiology, the Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Fellowship showcases her commitment to advancing medical knowledge and promoting inclusivity.

“Her dedication to service, advocacy, and leadership is truly inspiring, and we are confident that she will continue to make significant contributions to medicine and her community.”

— Dr. Vincent Smith, chair of the MMS Minority Affairs Section

Her dedication to organized medicine is evident through her active participation and leadership roles in various professional associations. She has been recognized for her research contributions, with awards such as the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Fellowship award and the Fulbright Research Scholarship.

Beyond her academic achievements, Dr. Loccoh has demonstrated a strong commitment to mentorship and community engagement. As a Sarnoff Fellowship Applicant Advisor and Vice President of the Landacre Research Honor Society, she has actively supported and guided aspiring medical professionals. Her leadership roles within organizations such as the Student National Medical Association further highlight her passion for promoting diversity and equity in health care.

The MMS Minority Affairs Section (MAS), responsible for selecting the award recipient, was particularly impressed by Dr. Loccoh's well-rounded profile and her potential to make a lasting impact on the medical field.

“Dr. Loccoh exemplifies the qualities we seek to recognize with this award,” said Vincent Smith, MD, MPH, chair of the MMS Minority Affairs Section. “Her dedication to service, advocacy, and leadership is truly inspiring, and we are confident that she will continue to make significant contributions to medicine and her community.”

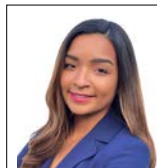
Honorable mention recipients include the following:



Dr. Lauren Alderette

Lauren Alderette, MD, MPH, a resident physician in anesthesia at Mass General Hospital (MGH), in the Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care, and Pain Medicine. Through her leadership roles on various MGH committees, she has advocated for residents and graduate medical education and training, as well as equity and inclusion initiatives. She has served as past co-president of the San Diego Chapter of the American Medical

Women's Association, among other organizations, before her residency. Dr. Alderette was honored as the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award recipient from the University of California San Diego School of Medicine graduating class of 2020 and inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Outside of clinical medicine, she is interested in medical ethics research and values mentoring and guiding aspiring physicians, particularly underrepresented individuals.

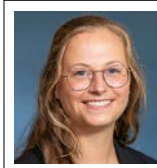


Dr. Patricia Hernández

Patricia Hernández, MD, a resident physician in emergency medicine at Mass General Brigham, is dedicated to health equity, patient advocacy, and community engagement. She researches improving discharge instructions for non-English speakers and is involved in community care initiatives. Dr. Hernandez advocates for mental health education and leadership development for at-risk youth, and has mentored students, facilitated workshops, and organized events while a member of the Latino Medical Student Association and the Society for Academic Emergency.

Learn more about MAS, how to join, and the upcoming 2024 award application process by contacting staff liaison Bissan Biary at bbiary@mms.org.

MMS Member News and Notes



Dr. Julie Hugunin

Julie Hugunin, MD, PhD, was selected by faculty members at UMass Chan Medical School to serve as the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences 2024 class speaker during commencement on June 2. Dr. Hugunin was the alternate student member for the Committee on Public Health from 2018 to 2019 and served as vice chair of the MMS Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use from 2022 to 2024 where she

contributed significantly to the MMS report [“Integrating Mental Health and Substance Use Care in Your Practice: Models, Challenges, and Recommendations.”](#) Dr. Hugunin will begin her psychiatry residency at Brown University as she furthers her intent to practice child psychiatry and research.



Dr. Simone S. Wildes

Simone S. Wildes, MD, MBA, served as commencement speaker at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University for the 2024 Executive MBA for Physicians cohort on May 20, 2024. In her commencement speech, she stated, “Let us embrace the challenges ahead with vigor and determination. Let us strive to leave an indelible mark on the world, using our knowledge and talents to create positive change in every endeavor we pursue.” She is currently the vice chair of the MMS Committee on Strategic Planning, a member of the MMS Committee on Diversity in Medicine, and an advisor to the MMS Committee on Public Health. Dr. Wildes is an infectious disease specialist at South Shore Health in Weymouth, MA, and is affiliated with South Shore Hospital in South Weymouth.

Do you have news to share about yourself or a colleague? An achievement or accomplishment? A new role? Please email vitalsigns@mms.org.

MMS LIFE MEMBERS
The Massachusetts Medical Society
Welcomes Our New Life Members

George J. Clairmont Jr., MD	Mark S. Lewis, MD
Andrew H. Fischer, MD	Anna A. Manatis, MD
Daniel C. Hagan, DO	Emily C. McPhillips, MD
Jock D. Lawrason, MD	Domenic M. Strazzulla, MD

Visit massmed.org/lifemembers
for a complete list of MMS Life Members.

Fall Mushroom Field Trip — Sat., Sept. 14, 10 AM–12 PM. Location: Laughing Brook, Hampden. Participants will look for and learn about different macro fungi species in the field. You will discuss the ecological roles that fungi perform, identification techniques, and what impact they have in the human sphere (edible, poisonous, or potentially medicinal). Discussion will include other living things in the area and their roles in the ecosystem and conservation status. The walk will be directed by a naturalist guide to encourage the interests and curiosity of the participants. Bring your interests, questions, and fascinations! [Click to Register.](#)

Shore Birds Field Trip — Sat., Sept. 21, 9 AM–1 PM. Location: Newburyport. From Wildlife Refuge Headquarters in Newburyport, you will make stops that include Salt Stage Island Pool and if time permits, Sandy Point State Reservation. You can expect to see Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher, and many more. Aids to field identification will be discussed along with review of plumage characteristics. [Click to Register.](#)

Contact Cathy Salas, West Central Regional Office at (800) 522-3112 or csalas@mms.org.

Across the Commonwealth

STATEWIDE NEWS AND EVENTS

WORCESTER — Celebrating over 230 TV programs, *Health Matters*, produced in a half-hour interview format, offers valuable information on disease prevention and treatment options. [Click here](#) for broadcast information and scroll down for a list of episodes that can be viewed online. Also, read the latest issue of *Worcester Medicine*. For more information, please email: MWright@wdms.org.

ARTS, HISTORY, HUMANISM & CULTURE MEMBER INTEREST NETWORK

Shore Birds Lecture — Wed., Sept. 4, 7–8:15 PM. Virtual Only. This discussion will include interesting facts and show photographs of shorebird species that regularly occur in New England. There will be a review of many aids to shorebird identification, discuss timing of occurrences, and provide information about where these special birds can be observed. [Click to Register.](#)

In Memoriam

James F. Dickson III, MD; 99; Provincetown, MA; Harvard Medical School; died August 12, 2023.

John D. “Ian” Gorry, MD; 90; Watertown, MA; University of Bern, Switzerland; died May 7, 2024.

Herbert J. Hansen Jr., MD; 76; East Haven, CT; New York University School of Medicine; died January 2, 2024.

James W. Winkelman, MD; 87; Chestnut Hill, MA; Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; died August 13, 2023.



LEGAL ADVISORY PLAN

Protect Your License and Your Career

Why You Might Want the LAP

A disciplinary action by the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) may have devastating professional consequences.

The MMS Legal Advisory Plan (LAP) is an exclusive member benefit offering expert legal counsel during a Massachusetts BORIM investigation.

Your professional liability policy may have monetary caps to BORIM matters.

Benefits of the LAP

- Savings of \$3,000–\$10,000 in legal fees
- Written legal responses to a complaint
- In-person legal representation in an informal BORIM conference
- Consultation on Board matters from legal experts in health care licensing and regulation
- Added legal protection



Enrollment Options

- Two enrollment options occur during the year: January and July.
- Individuals or physician groups may enroll.
- Groups of five or more receive a discount.
- You must be enrolled in the program to receive services.
- A nominal fee of \$95/year gives you access to benefits valued from \$3,000+.

Learn more: massmed.org/LAP | Email: LAP@mms.org | Call (781) 434-7311

2024 MMS AWARDS



CHARLES A. WELCH, MD
MMS Lifetime Achievement Award



HENRY L. DORKIN, MD, FAAP
Award for Distinguished Service to the MMS



MARY ELIZABETH MIOTTO, MD, MPH, FAAP
Special Award for Excellence in Medical Service



JAMES J. O'CONNELL, MD
Henry Ingersoll Bowditch Award for Excellence in Public Health



DENNIS J. SPENCER, MD, PHD
Grant V. Rodkey, MD, Award for Outstanding Contributions to Medical Education



EMILY C. CLEVELAND MANCHANDA, MD, MPH
Barbara A. Rockett, MD, Early Career Physician Leadership Award

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MASSACHUSETTS
MEDICAL SOCIETY

Every physician matters, each patient counts.



JACOB JASPER
(Student)
for "Radical: Oliver Cope and the Birth
of Breast Conservation Therapy"
History of Medicine Essay Award



TED PAK, MD
for "Massive Mining of Clinical
Notes with Large Language Models to
Improve Antibiotic Choice for Sepsis"
Information Technology Award



ARYA RAO
(Student)
for "The Future Patient Persona:
An Interactive, Large Language
Model-Augmented Harvard
Clinical Training Companion"
Information Technology Award



ELLEN C. PERRIN, MD
**The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender, & Queer (LGBTQ)
Health Award**



ALICE A. COOMBS, MD
Reducing Health Disparities Award



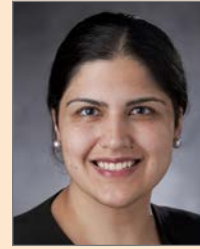
LUCY M. CANDIB, MD
**Senior Volunteer Physician
of the Year Award**



EMÉFAH C. LOCCOH, MD
**Underrepresented Physicians
of Tomorrow Award***



KATHRYN MARTIN, MD
The Women's Health Award



MANISHA BAHL, MD
**The Women's Health
Research Award**

Committee Chair Service Awards



VICTORIA J. NOBLE, MD
Committee on Bylaws



REBECCA WEINTRAUB BRENDEL, MD, JD
**Committee on Ethics, Grievances,
and Professional Standards**



JAMES A. FELDMAN, MD
Committee on Publications

* Honorable Mentions: Lauren Alderette, MD, MPH; Patricia Hernández, MD

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Community Clinician of the Year Awards



AMY G. WIEGANDT, MD
BARNSTABLE



CHERYL M.
GREENFIELD, MD
BRISTOL NORTH



ERRON S. PLOSKER, MD
BRISTOL SOUTH



JOHN DAVID
HACKETT, MD
CHARLES RIVER



RIA S. ROBERTS, MD
ESSEX NORTH



HARVEY S. ZARREN, MD
ESSEX SOUTH



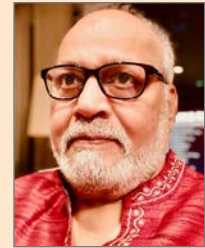
RAKESH TALATI, MD
FRANKLIN



ANAND KANJOLIA, MD
HAMPDEN



VIKRAM GREWAL, MD
HAMPSHIRE



RAJENDRA M.
TRIVEDI, MD
MIDDLESEX



AGNES VIRGA, MD
MIDDLESEX CENTRAL



JOHN A. RAGUCCI, MD
MIDDLESEX NORTH



WENDY J. PARKER, MD
MIDDLESEX WEST



NICOLE R.
MUSHERO, MD, PHD
NORFOLK



FRANCIS P.
DUGGAN, MD
NORFOLK SOUTH



THOMAS A. MORRIS, MD
PLYMOUTH



MARIELLE C.
BALDWIN, MD, MPH
SUFFOLK



KATHRYN L.
EDMISTON, MD
WORCESTER



BETH K. MAZYCK, MD
WORCESTER NORTH

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MMS Scholars Awards

Boston University School of Medicine



NATALIE NANEZ



ANDREA WANG

Harvard Medical School



ASHLEY KYALWAZI



LASHYRA NOLAN

Tufts University School of Medicine



ANNA DAOUD



NICK VERDINI

University of Massachusetts Medical School



BRIAN NICKLEY



MINA BOTROS

50-Year Members

LAWRENCE F. AUDINO, MD
LAWRENCE D. BAKER, MD
WALTER F. BARNES, MD
JAMES L. BARZUN, MD
PETER M. BREM, MD
MARILYN J. BULL, MD
DAVID H. CARLSON, MD
HENRY D. CHILDS, MD
CHRISTOS CHRISTOFORIDES, MD
WILLIAM R. COHEN, MD
RICHARD L. DALLOW, MD
JOHN D. DEWEESE, MD
RICHARD L. FABIAN, MD
LEWIS I. FEDER, MD
PAUL F. FORASTE, MD
JOSEPH J. GRECO, MD
GERALD S. HARRIS, MD
DONALD A. HILLEL, MD
MYRNA JUNOWICZ-GABBAY, MD
ROBERT J. KASPER, MD
GEORGE D. KORNITZER, MD
ISTRATI KUPELI, MD
IRA LABLE, MD

WILLIAM G. LAVELLE, MD
MICHAEL LAWRENCE, MD
DAVID L. MALTZ, MD
PETER E. MEBEL, MD
THOMAS J. MULVANEY, MD
PETER D. OLDAK, MD
CAROL A. ONEIL, MD
HYTHO H. PANTAZELOS, MD
GARY I. PORTNAY, MD
JOHN L. PRZYBYLSKI, MD
PETER A. RAVANESI, MD
ARNOLD ROBBINS, MD
JANINE T. RODRIGUES-SALDANHA, MD
JAMES W. ROSENBERG, MD
VICTOR F. SALDANHA, MD
JOHN C. SANTOS, MD
PETER G. SELLEI, MD
ROBERT M. SEYMOUR, MD
JAGDISH R. SHAH, MD
THOMAS P. SMITH, MD
IRMA O.V. SZYMANSKI, MD
MAHER NASSIF TADROS, MD

The Massachusetts Medical Society Awards Program 2025 — Nominations are now being accepted.

For additional information, please visit our website at massmed.org/awards.