

# 2022-2023 Annual Report

Supporting the Practice of Medicine | Public Health | Physician Wellbeing | Leaders in Health Care



Stewardship | CME | Grassroots Physician Advocacy | Member-only Benefits



Allied Partners | Future Health: Best Conference | Physician Leadership | Professional Camaraderie | Community Coalitions | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



MASSACHUSETTS  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Every physician matters,  
each patient counts.*

# From the President and from the Executive Vice President

## From the President

My presidential year commenced with the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) continuing to help physicians and patients navigate the pandemic, and as the public health emergency ended in May 2023, we emerged in a much better place — for our physician members, patients, and the medical profession. After three long years, we returned to a number of in-person meetings and events, allowing our MMS fellowships to flourish and develop once again. Through ongoing member engagement, we worked together toward becoming a more diverse organization that is representative of the state's physicians and patients. We have taken all that we learned from the pandemic, both good and bad, to strengthen our advocacy and better serve our members and patients.



Throughout, we responded to some of the most pressing issues in health care by advocating for system-wide changes to address physician well-being, workforce challenges, and practice sustainability. Our educational programs were impactful and centered around the pursuit of health equity.

Within the MMS, our governance reform work is fortifying our organization, making it more efficient, inclusive, and poised to respond to the needs of today's and tomorrow's physicians.

In the year ahead, the MMS is fortunate to have Dr. Barbara S. Spivak at the helm. She is a leader who truly understands the pivotal issues facing patients, physicians, and the health care workforce and is focused on finding solutions that include providing high-quality, equitable care for all.

I look forward to continuing to work with all my dedicated MMS colleagues.

*Theodore A. Calianos II, MD, FACS  
President, MMS, May 2022–May 2023*

## From the Executive Vice President

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) has done extraordinary work this year. We bring value to our member physicians by providing crucial and timely information, critical advocacy, and practice support so that Massachusetts physicians can provide their best care for every patient.



This report highlights some of the Society's key activities this year on behalf of our physician members, patients, and the profession:

- Outstanding educational programming including the inaugural conference, Future Health: Best Practices for Advancing Care.
- A prominent advocacy voice for telehealth payment, for reducing proposed Medicare cuts, and for addressing prior authorization and other administrative burdens that take an enormous toll on physician well-being.
- New resources for physicians' career development including successful leadership training with Brandeis University, a pilot physician-to-physician mentorship program, and the creation of an Early Career Physicians Section in the MMS.
- NEJM Group continuing to deliver esteemed resources worldwide, providing essential medical knowledge for research, learning, and practice.

Our strategic plan has provided a path for the MMS to remain productive and true to its mission and vision over the past four years. During the year ahead, the MMS leadership will chart our next five-year plan to position the Massachusetts Medical Society for continued relevance and a vibrant future.

*Lois Dehls Cornell  
Executive Vice President, MMS*

# Highlights of the Year

Over the past year, the Massachusetts Medical Society rapidly responded to emergencies in public health, addressed the challenges of practicing medicine, and stood up for policies that support patients, physicians, and the profession of medicine. Achievements of the year included:



**Presenting the inaugural Future Health: Best Practices for Advancing Care conference** in collaboration with NEJM Group, which brought together internationally recognized faculty and participants for education and networking in person and online. The faculty informed and led thought-provoking discussions about innovations necessitated by the pandemic that are driving better, more equitable care and could enhance physician satisfaction. Participants rated the conference highly; 95 percent of learners said they would recommend it to a colleague.

**Organizing an MMS Gun Violence Prevention Initiative** and convening an **MMS Firearm Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Advisory Group** of physician experts to inform MMS policies and actions to address the crisis of gun violence. (See more on [page 5](#)).



**Averting the most severe cuts in Medicare reimbursement** through grassroots physician advocacy. The MMS sent members to Washington, DC and launched an online communication campaign through which physicians sent nearly 1,000 messages to members of Congress. Ultimately, Congress considerably reduced the 8.5 percent of payment cuts originally slated for 2023.



**Helping to draft and pass Massachusetts' Shield Law, establishing protections for patients and providers of reproductive health care** in the wake of the *Dobbs* ruling. The MMS also worked with the Healey Administration to safeguard access to medication abortion in the state.



**Leading a coalition with our allied partners** (the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association and Health Care for All) **to file legislation that would significantly reform prior authorization protocols** to improve access to care for patients and decrease administrative burden on physicians and practices.



**Working to indefinitely delay the state's largest private insurer from implementing a proposed reduced payment for telehealth services** to 80 percent of in-person visit reimbursement.



**Developing and training a robust pipeline of expert MMS members to represent the MMS as subject matter experts in media interviews.** They advocate for patients and for the medical profession and provide a bulwark against misinformation.



# What the MMS Does for Member Physicians

As the state's largest physician-led organization, the Massachusetts Medical Society brings together nearly 25,000 physician and student members for learning, fellowship, and to be a leadership voice in health care policy and for the medical profession, while also providing substantial member benefits.

## Lasting Professional Camaraderie, Fellowship, and Support

With the wind down of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MMS resumed its popular in-person networking events, with member gatherings from Pittsfield to Hyannis and in multiple locations in between, which brought physicians and students together to foster connection and professional camaraderie. MMS committees and sections based on shared interests and career stages also enjoyed in-person networking, education, and long-delayed award presentations and celebrations.

Recognizing the unique interests and concerns of early career physicians, the MMS this year established an Early Career Physicians Section that provides those members with a dedicated voice in MMS policies



The MMS Committee on LGBTQ Matters, gathering in person for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic, hosted the September 2022 LGBTQ Awards Ceremony and Networking event at a Natick orchard and brewery with a festive dinner and celebration of awardees from the prior three years.

and initiatives. In addition, the Society piloted a mentoring program to connect early career physicians with volunteer member mentors.

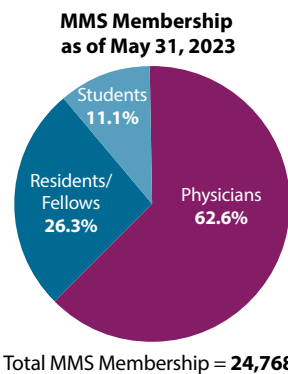
## Significant Benefits Add Up



The MMS Corporate Partnership Program, introduced in 2022, now includes nearly one dozen companies that offer member-only services, discounts, and specialized products in banking and financial management, personal travel, a prescription drug savings program for patients, a business card specifically for physician practices, and other benefits.

## Addressing Physician Needs

- The results of an MMS member survey created to assess burnout and identify specific demographics at greater risk of occupational distress, summarized in the [Supporting MMS Physicians' Well-Being Report: Recommendations to Address the On-Going Crisis](#), were recognized nationwide for their significance regarding the physician workforce.
- Responding to the administrative burden that the report identified as a significant stressor,



the MMS supported the development of prior authorization legislation in Massachusetts and worked nationally to delay a large insurer's prior authorization policy for GI services.

- The MMS successfully advocated and helped shape the state's Roadmap to Health Care Safety to ensure that physicians are not overburdened with regulations and training requirements while increasing patient safety.

## Training Physician Leaders to Advance a More Just Workplace



In early March, 21 Massachusetts physicians of diverse backgrounds and experience participated in a successful pilot program for current and future leaders. "Training Physician Leaders to Advance a More Just Workplace," a four-day course jointly provided by the MMS and the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, was directed by Brandeis Professor Jon Chilingirian, PhD, and taught by Brandeis faculty and local leaders in medicine and health equity. Photo by Heratch Ekmekjian

# What the MMS Does for Patients

To help physicians care for their patients, the MMS provides resources, guidance, education, and advocacy for areas where the MMS can have the strongest impact on access to care, with a focus on vulnerable populations and social determinants of health.

## Emerging Health Issues: As-You-Need-It Information

When Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) appeared in Massachusetts in mid-2022, the MMS convened a conference call for member physicians to hear directly from leaders of the state Department of Public Health and the National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center at The Fenway Institute. Nearly 200 physicians joined the call to hear answers to their questions about diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination.

In November 2022, as surges of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in pediatric populations caused widespread illness and placed a strain on health care systems, the MMS and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health produced a live webinar, “RSV Management Strategies: What Clinicians Need to Know,” on diagnostic testing and treatment of RSV and support practices for parents.

The MMS also created new and frequently updated webpages on [Mpox](#) and [RSV](#), accessible to all physicians and patients.

## Mental Health

- The MMS supported the August 2022 passage of the Mental Health ABC Act to improve access to behavioral health care for patients. The Society is working with the state and other stakeholders to develop standards and billing protocols for an annual mental health wellness exam that will be covered under the new law.
- To address the mental health crisis among children and teens, the MMS Committee on Student Health and Sports Medicine and the Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use together created an online toolkit, “[Mental Health and Substance Use Resources for School Nurses and Administrators, Parents and Caregivers, and Students.](#)”

## Addressing the Public Health Crisis of Gun Violence

- With input from its newly formed Firearm Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Advisory Group, the MMS endorsed federal legislation that creates a pathway to evidence-based solutions. In the state, the Medical Society addressed with lawmakers ways to collaborate on Massachusetts gun safety legislation and with city leaders, local law enforcement, and district attorneys, the possibility of gun buyback programs.
- To educate physicians on how to talk to patients about gun violence, the MMS created a new, free educational webinar, “[Firearms: Screening, Suicide Prevention, Community Engagement.](#)”



The MMS formed a team of officers, members, and staff who participated in and raised funds for the annual [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace](#) to walk with and show solidarity with mothers, family members, and loved ones who have been impacted by firearm morbidity and mortality.

# What the MMS Does for the Medical Profession

The Massachusetts Medical Society is a resource and advocate for the medical profession in the state and nationally, providing continuing medical education (CME) and essential services to physicians and medical students. Through NEJM Group, the MMS advances medical knowledge globally.

## NEJM Group

NEJM Group creates high-quality medical resources for research, learning, practice, and professional development designed to meet the demand for essential medical knowledge. Products include the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *NEJM Evidence*, *NEJM Catalyst Innovation in Care Delivery*, *NEJM Journal Watch*, *NEJM Knowledge+*, *NEJM Resident 360*, *NEJM Healer*, and *NEJM Yi Xue Qian Yan*.



A new feature, NEJM Double Take videos, was launched in October 2022 to help teach health care providers and patients about medical and health care advances by examining their scientific, clinical, and social consequences. Within six months, the 18 videos combined had been viewed more than 212,000 times on [NEJM.org](https://www.nejm.org) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

A new publication, *NEJM AI*, coming in 2024, will identify and evaluate state-of-the-art applications of artificial intelligence to clinical medicine.

## MMS Accredited Continuing Education

The MMS offers a broad range of directly and jointly provided [accredited continuing education](#) online and in person, addressing topics that include health equity and diversity, clinical medicine, communication, COVID-19, physician wellness and burnout, public health, risk management, and more.

The MMS accredits the free [NEJM Knowledge+ Pain Management and Opioids CME/CE module](#), which helps Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registered practitioners meet the new training requirement.



## MMS Recognized Accreditor Program

The MMS is recognized by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the national organization that develops standards for quality continuing medical education, to accredit organizations and institutions providing CME in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its contiguous states.

## Specialty Management Services

Under the auspices of the MMS, Specialty Management Services provides cost-effective management and administrative assistance to specialty societies and other medical organizations. This year, with the addition of the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians, the MMS now supports 19 specialty societies.

## Physician Health Services

[Physician Health Services, Inc. \(PHS\)](#), a subsidiary of the MMS, acts on its core mission of improving the health, well-being, and effectiveness of physicians and medical students while promoting patient safety. It provides confidential support through education and prevention, as well as assessment, referral to treatment, and monitoring. During this year, PHS served 197 physicians and residents.

MMS CME Activity Data for the Year

Activities 274	Hours of Instruction 2,396
Physician Participants 155,948	Other Learners 19,399

# MMS Leadership

May 2022–May 2023

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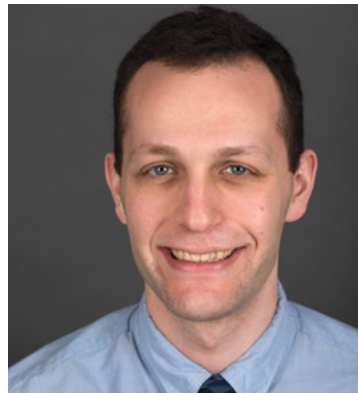
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Bennett Vogt, Student Trustee  
Jacob Cabrejas, Student Alternate Trustee

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

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

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





# MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

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