



WESTCHESTER PHYSICIAN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Who Do You Believe?*

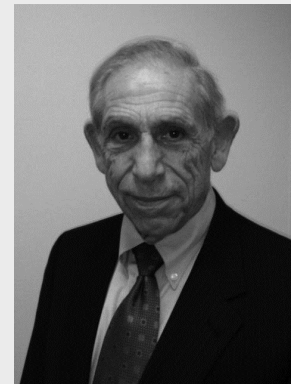
The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been largely implemented and a deadline for enrollment has passed. The web, print media, TV and radio have been full of “reports” from all kinds of organizations. So...who do you believe and what is actually going on?

Everyone acknowledges that the ACA started with a dysfunctional frustrating web site that seemed to foretell disaster. Now we learn that the enrollment targets have been exceeded with more than 8 million enrollees. Even more, the age mix of enrollees includes enough young and healthy individuals that many insurance companies that did not originally take part are now taking steps to take part in the exchanges. The Gallup Poll has reported that the percentage of individuals without insurance is at a new low. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/168821/uninsured-rate-drops.aspx>. As reported on their web site: “The uninsured rate for U.S. adults in April was 13.4%, down from 15.0% in March. This is the lowest monthly uninsured rate recorded since Gallup and Healthways began tracking it in January 2008, besting the previous low of 13.9% in September of that year.”

How is this news greeted? Skepticism...yes. Misleading statistics to make success look like failure...yes. Erroneous reports on rising premiums...yes. Predictions of disaster and failure...yes. More congressional votes to repeal ACA...yes.

Why is there no meaningful Republican alternative? Because the ACA is what the Republicans put forth in Massachusetts-it is their alternative. The Massachusetts plan was implemented over 2006 to 2007 and a scholarly analysis of its effect on mortality was just published in the Annals of Internal Medicine (<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleID=1867050>) Their conclusion: “We find a significant reduction in mortality among nonelderly adults in Massachusetts since its 2006 reform relative to a control group of similar counties in states without such reforms. Although this analysis cannot demonstrate causality, the results offer suggestive evidence that the Affordable Care Act—modeled after the Massachusetts law—may impact not only coverage and access but also mortality.”

(continued on page 8)



ROBERT G. LERNER, MD
President, WCMS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- WCMS/Academy Annual Meeting
Friday, June 20th at 6:00 P.M.
Orienta Beach Club
Mamaroneck, NY
- Academy Golf Outing
Thursday, October 2nd at 12:30 P.M.
Westchester Country Club
Rye, NY

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FROM THE EDITOR...**COLLEGE****PETER J. ACKER, MD**

My youngest daughter finished her junior year at Kenyon College in Ohio. She got a ride to New York City and my wife and I drove in to pick her up. Before driving back to Westchester, we had a leisurely brunch together. Our daughter was exhausted from the rigors of multiple papers due at once and had gotten very little sleep the previous week, but she was bright eyed and excited about the things she had learned that semester. Soon we were engaged in a conversation about political philosophy which ranged from John Locke and his notion of the social contract, to Nietzsche with his concept of the "superman," to Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*, finally Robert Putnam, a Harvard political science professor who recently spoke at Kenyon and is the author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*.

This stirred in me nostalgic memories of my own college years in which this sort of discussion was a regular thing and I tried as we talked to resurrect what I could remember from the many philosophy courses I had taken in college. It occurred to me how little of this type of talk goes on in typical suburban gatherings and I felt excited about the intellectual injection and stimulation we were getting from our daughter. It also got me thinking about the notions of community, interplay between individual rights and social obligations, the trust we have or don't have in governmental and scientific institutions.

There is, of course, a natural tension between the individual and the society at large. Freud talks of the inevitability of this, that a friction exists between an individual's quest for freedom and civilization's demand for conformity. For example, when driving a car, it is annoying to have to stop at a traffic light. Yet we do it (for the most part) because of the civilizing effect of our laws and society. Still, we grouse about the various obligations that society requires of this, such as taxes, and a few go off the grid.

In my business of pediatrics, I encounter these issues on a daily basis. Take vaccination, for example. Arguably the public health miracle of the 20th century, vaccination has been assailed by "individualists" who reject the extensive science that documents their safety and efficacy. This, of course, has led to the resurgence of disease with real life consequences, such as the recent spate of infant deaths from pertussis in California. On a world-wide basis, we are currently witnessing a resurgence of polio due in part to local social belief systems that are suspicious of the scientific and governmental institutions that advocate vaccination (i.e. the notion in rural Pakistan that polio vaccine is part of a Western plot to do harm).

Robert Putnam chronicles the decline of community groups over the last forty years and attributes at least some of this to the proliferations of screens, television early on and then computers and the like, later on. Of course, screen time is a big topic that I take up with parents on a daily basis, that television steals time not just from exercise and reading, but from social contact. Our interactions via text and email are sterile, lacking many non-verbal emotions that imbue our in-person communications (sorry, but "LOL" is not a substitute for a hearty guffaw heard in person).

I am struck, when I talk to a parent who eschews vaccination, how the notion of public good seems to fall on deaf ears, that if enough people immunize against the flu, for example, a safer environment exists for the more vulnerable in our society. There is a recoiling instead from the perceived risk to their child. I think this is emblematic of what Robert Putnam is talking about and that it has exacerbated the natural tensions between the individual and society in our country. It applies not only vaccination, but in a similar fashion to denial of global warming. Unfortunately, I don't have a solution, but witnessing the effect of the rich social and intellectual environment on my daughter makes me wonder if we should all return to college.





WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

WESTCHESTER ACADEMY OF MEDICINE



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2014-2015

The Nominating Committee of the Westchester County Medical and the Westchester Academy of Medicine met on April 28, 2014, and hereby nominates the following candidates for election at the Annual Meeting on June 20th, to take office effective **July 1, 2014**:

President-elect

Thomas J. Lester, MD

Vice President

Gino C. Bottino, MD

Treasurer

Howard S. Yudin, MD

Secretary

Daniel Zelazny, MD

President, Westchester Academy of Medicine

Thomas T. Lee, MD

Delegates to the MSSNY House of Delegates

(Five for two years; term ending 2016)

Robert G. Lerner, MD

Thomas T. Lee, MD

Stephen S. Schwartz, MD

Joseph J. Tartaglia, MD

Gino C. Bottino, MD

Delegate to the MSSNY House of Delegates

(To fill unexpired term of Abe Levy, MD; term expiring 2015)

Thomas J. Lester, MD

Alternate Delegates to the MSSNY House of Delegates

(Three for two years; term ending 2016)

Alfred A. Tinger, MD

Marshal D. Peris, MD

Jason B. Winkler, MD

Note: Per the Bylaws, the current *President-elect*, Louis F. McIntyre, MD, automatically assumes the Office of *President* and the current *President*, Robert Lerner, MD, assumes the Office of the *Immediate Past President*.

*Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the WCMS/Academy Annual Meeting, provided that each nomination is supported by a petition signed by at least 100 members, as specified in the Bylaws.

MSSNY HOUSE OF DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS

The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) conducted its 208th Annual Meeting, April 11-13, 2014 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY. The following physicians from Westchester and Putnam Counties attended and served as your elected delegates and alternates to the House of Delegates:

Delegates

Peter Liebert, MD, *White Plains*
 Louis McIntyre, MD, *White Plains*
 Robert Ciardullo, MD, *White Plains*
 Abe Levy, MD, *Pound Ridge*
 Thomas Lee, MD, *Tarrytown*
 Robert Lerner, MD, *Valhalla*
 Thomas Lester, MD, *Mount Kisco*
 Robert Soley, MD, *Scarsdale*
 William Zurhellen, MD (Putnam)
 Norma Kurtz, MD (Putnam)

Alternates

Howard Yudin, MD, *Purchase*
 Thomas Rechtschaffen, MD, *Yonkers*

The Westchester and Putnam Delegations, part of the Ninth District Branch and Caucus, were led by Bonnie Litvack, MD, Mount Kisco, MSSNY Ninth District Councilor, as Chair and Thomas Lee, MD as Vice Chair. The group caucused several times to consider resolutions submitted by physicians from all over the state. Caucusing with Westchester and Putnam were delegates from Orange, Dutchess and Rockland counties, as well as several physicians representing their state specialty societies. After completion of reference committee hearings and deliberation in the House of Delegates (HOD), the following actions were taken by the HOD on resolutions submitted by the Ninth District Branch:

Ninth District Resolutions – House Action

Affordable Care Act and NYS Medical Tort Reform

*****SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION ADOPTED*****

RESOLVED, that as part of its advocacy efforts to achieve comprehensive medical liability tort reform, the Medical Society of the State of New York should educate the public that patient access to necessary care is being threatened due to the confluence of decreased payment from health insurers resulting from implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the exorbitant cost of medical liability insurance.

Protection for Licensed Physicians not Participating in Government Healthcare Plans

*****SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION ADOPTED*****

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York, reaffirm MSSNY Policies 2012-60, 2013-53, and 2013-54.

MSSNY Policy 2012-60 - That the Medical Society of the State of New York adopts as policy that medical licensure in New York State shall not require participation in Medicare, Medicaid or any other governmentally sponsored health insurance program.

MSSNY Policy 2013-53 - That the Medical Society of the State of New York reaffirm MSSNY policy 2012-60; that the MSSNY adopt as policy that the ability to practice to the full extent of NYS medical licensure shall not be infringed based on enrollment and/or participation in any publicly funded or private health insurance program; that the MSSNY adopt as policy that physician participation in the Excess Medical Liability Insurance Program should not be based upon participating in Medicare, Medicaid, State Insurance Exchange, and/or any governmentally subsidized health insurance program.

(continued on page 6)



Andrew Y. Kleinman, MD

Elected President of State Medical Society

WCMS Past President Andrew Y. Kleinman, MD, was elected President of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) at its 208th Annual House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Tarrytown on April 12th. Dr. Kleinman, a plastic surgeon, is in private practice in Rye Brook and is on the plastic surgical staff of Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Kleinman earned his medical degree from the University of Rochester. He received residency training in general surgery at George Washington University in Washington, DC, and at Harvard Surgical Service in Boston. After working as a research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Kleinman completed his plastic surgery residency training at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He is certified by both the American Board of Plastic Surgery and the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Kleinman has held several leadership positions for the Westchester County Medical Society, including President, and is currently Vice President of the Ninth District Branch. He is also a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and Past President of the New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons.

A member of WCMS and MSSNY since 1992, Dr. Kleinman has served organized medicine in many capacities. He has served as Commissioner of MSSNY's Socio-Medical Economics Division, Councilor of the Ninth District Branch for six years, and currently chairs MSSNY's Professional Ethics and Medical Conduct Committee and its Long Range Planning Committee. Additionally he serves on the Long Term Care and the Legislative and Physician Advocacy committees.

At a reception honoring Dr. Kleinman held at the Marriott Hotel during the HOD, the WCMS gifted Dr. Kleinman with a framed print of an antique map of Westchester County. In presenting him the award, Bonnie Litvack, MD, Ninth DB Councilor and WCMS Past President, told Dr. Kleinman that it was to remind him that, even as he travels all over the state, Westchester is his home.



Congratulations to Dr. Kleinman on assuming the Office of President! Best Wishes for a Successful Year!

MSSNY HOUSE OF DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS *(continued from page 4)*

MSSNY Policy 2013-54 - that the Medical Society of the State of New York support federal legislation to repeal provisions in the PPACA that require physicians to enroll in Medicare, Medicaid and other governmentally sponsored health insurance programs as a condition of referring, ordering or prescribing for patients enrolled in these programs; that the Medical Society of the State of New York forward this resolution to the AMA for consideration at its next Annual Meeting.

Retirement of a Physician Medical License

*****SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION ADOPTED*****

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York seek legislation to provide non-disciplinary retirement of a physician license so long as there are no pending disciplinary matters.

Availability of Self-Injectable Epinephrine Devices in New York State Schools

*****SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION ADOPTED*****

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York support legislation that requires all schools (public and private) to stock auto-injectable epinephrine devices in standardized dosage formulations and to train personnel for the administration of this medication; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSSNY urge the State Education Department (SED) to provide information to public and private schools about the ability for nurses and other trained individuals to administer auto-injectable epinephrine devices to children or adults that have a severe allergic reaction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSSNY urge that such notification by SED include information that these trained individuals are covered by the New York State "Good Samaritan" statute; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSSNY educate its members about physicians being authorized to issue a non-patient specific regimen to a registered professional nurse under the provisions of Article 6527 (6) of the NYS Education Law.

DVT and Air Travel

*****ADOPTED*****

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York request that the AMA encourage the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the airline industry to alert passengers to the flight-associated risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSSNY request that the AMA work with the FAA and the airline industry to provide recommendations to passengers to reduce their risk of developing DVT.

Support of Athletic Trainer Legislation

*****SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION ADOPTED*****

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York support efforts to encourage athletic trainers to obtain continuing educational development.

Use of CT Scans for Early Detection of Lung Cancer

*****SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION ADOPTED*****

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York support screening for lung cancer with low dose computed tomography for patients who meet current nationally recognized guidelines.

Internet Review of Physicians

*****ADOPTED AS AMENDED*****

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York ask the American Medical Association to seek federal legislation and/or regulation to amend internet privacy laws and require that websites hosting reviews of physicians obtain the name of the person posting the review, that this information be kept on file, and that the website inform the poster that a physician requesting this information from the website in regard to a review must be provided with the name of the person writing the review; and be it further

RESOLVED, that websites hosting reviews of physicians be required to post a warning against libelous and other legally inappropriate statements.

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MSSNY HOUSE OF DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS *(continued from page 6)*

MSSNY Election Results

The following physicians were elected to serve as MSSNY Officers, Councilors, and Trustees during the 2014-15 Association Year (home county):

President - Andrew Y. Kleinman, MD (Westchester)

President-elect - Joseph R. Maldonado, Jr., MD, MBA (Oneida)

Vice President - Malcolm D. Reid, MD, MPP (New York)

Immediate Past President - Samuel L. Unterricht, MD (Kings)

Secretary - Joseph R. Sellers, MD (Schoharie)

Assistant Secretary - Arthur C. Fougner, MD (Queens)

Treasurer - Charles Rothberg, MD (Suffolk)

Assistant Treasurer - Thomas J. Madejski, MD, FACP (Niagara)

Speaker - Jerome C. Cohen, MD, FACP (Broome)

Vice Speaker - Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, MD, MPH (Westchester)

Chair, Board of Trustees - Michael Rosenberg, MD (Westchester)

Congratulations to Drs. Kleinman, Geraci-Ciardullo and Rosenberg on your elections!



Members of the 9th District Branch Delegation



Andrew Kleinman, MD, Bonnie Litvack, MD, Brian Foy, Michael Rosenberg, MD & Robert Lerner, MD



Dr. Kleinman giving his inaugural address

WHO DO YOU BELIEVE? *(continued from page 1)*

The facts are that the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land, it is working and in all likelihood it will have an effect nationwide similar to the Massachusetts law, i.e. a decrease in mortality and an increase in access to care. It is time to stop attempts to sabotage, undermine, repeal and disparage the ACA. We should recognize its shortcomings and work to improve how healthcare is delivered in our country. We should not take part in political gridlock that blocks any improvement. That we still leave millions of people uninsured and at an increased risk of death is a situation that needs correcting. I believe that an improved Medicare for all is the best corrective action available to the country.

**PUBLIC HEALTH LAW RELATED TO HIV TESTING AMENDED**

On April 1, 2014, Public Health Law Section 2781 related to HIV testing in New York State and Section 2135 related to confidentiality of HIV reports, were amended.

There are over ten thousand people living with HIV in New York State who are unaware of their HIV status. In 2010, Public Health Law Article 27-F was amended to require that HIV testing be offered to all persons between the ages of 13 and 64 receiving hospital or primary care services with limited exceptions, including a requirement for written, informed consent, except in the case of rapid testing. The CDC recommends routine HIV screen in healthcare settings. Before April 1, NYS was one of only two states to have laws inconsistent with this federal guidance. Removing the requirement for written consent eliminates a barrier to expanded testing.

Surveillance data from 2012 show that approximately 46,000 people, or 35 percent of the 132,000 persons living with diagnosed HIV infection, had no reported laboratory data documenting they received HIV care. Many of these persons have complex needs as pertains to housing, employment, substance use and mental health issues. Broader sharing of data will enable health departments and healthcare providers to work together to determine which patients are truly out of care and what kind of assistance is needed for their return. The recently enacted amendment allows local and state health department to share HIV surveillance information with healthcare providers involved in treatment, for purposes of patient linkage and retention care.

Key provisions of the legislation include:

- **Elimination of the requirement for written consent prior to ordering an HIV-related test in any circumstance outside of correctional facilities.**
- Oral notification to be provided to the individual being tested, or, if such individual lacks capacity to consent, to the person lawfully authorized to consent to healthcare for such individual.
- The individual to be tested must be told each time an HIV test will be done prior to testing and given the opportunity to decline. All HIV tests must be documented in the patient's medical record.
- Information about HIV testing will be provided via posters, brochures, videos or by providers to the patient with the opportunity to accept or refuse testing.
- When used for purposes of patient linkage and retention in care, patient-specific identifying information may be shared between local and state health departments and healthcare providers currently treating the patient.

These new provisions apply to all HIV testing in New York State and not just for testing as offered to persons between the ages of 13-64 in clinical settings.

For additional information, please visit the Department of Health's website at www.nyhealth.gov. Questions may be sent to hivtestlaw@health.state.ny.us.



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CJS 214 2/14

Exp. 2/28/16

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Academy Golf Outing,
Dinner and Fundraiser will be
held on **October 2, 2014**,
beginning at 12:30 p.m.
at **Westchester Country Club**
Rye, NY

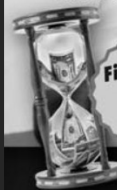


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THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

AND

THE WESTCHESTER ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014



**ORIENTA BEACH CLUB
1054 WALTON AVENUE
MAMARONECK, NY 10543**

6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

NETWORKING RECEPTION

7:00 P.M.

BUFFET DINNER

INSTALLATION OF 2014-2015 MEDICAL SOCIETY & ACADEMY OFFICERS

REMARKS OF *JOSEPH J. TARTAGLIA, MD*, OUTGOING ACADEMY PRESIDENT

AWARDS - WESEF SCIENCE FAIR HONOREES

REMARKS OF *THOMAS T. LEE, MD*, INCOMING ACADEMY PRESIDENT

REMARKS OF ROBERT G. LERNER, MD
OUTGOING WCMS PRESIDENT

REMARKS OF LOUIS F. MCINTYRE, MD
INCOMING WCMS PRESIDENT

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

2014 "FRIEND OF MEDICINE" AWARDEE

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KERN AUGUSTINE CONROY & SCHOPPMANN, P.C.

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\$125; NON-MEMBERS & GUESTS \$250/PER PERSON
TABLES OF 10 - \$2000**

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OR FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND FAX TO 914-967-9232 OR MAIL TO 333 WESTCHESTER
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WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.**

NAME: _____ GUESTS: _____

EMAIL: _____

ANNUAL REGENERON - WESTCHESTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR
JOSEPH J. TARTAGLIA, MD
PRESIDENT, WESTCHESTER ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Sitting on my desk are the letters of appreciation from many of the sixty-five high school students who won prizes sponsored by the Academy at the 14th Annual Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF) which was held on March 15th at Sleepy Hollow High School. These prizes are made possible by the generous support of the Academy and our members at the Annual Golf Outing and Holiday Party.

This year's winners come from many of the thirty high schools around Westchester and Putnam counties who participated in the Fair. All 370 students and their families are aware that the Academy and the physicians of the Medical Society care about furthering the ambitions of budding young scientists, many of whom have their eyes on a career in medicine or medical research. All their letters express utmost gratitude to the Society for recognizing them and their efforts. They realize that if it weren't for our support many of the students would receive no recognition for the many long hours spent over months and years dedicated to research in their particular subject matter.

The Academy presented three "Future of Medicine" prizes to the top scorers in the category of Medicine and Health. The winners of these awards are:

- Bradley Pogostin from Mamaroneck High School, whose project was *Tracking Changes in Pituitary Cyst Volumes in Patients with Growth Hormone Deficiency and Idiopathic Short Stature*. Brad plans to pursue a career in pediatric endocrinology. He became interested in studying the pituitary gland after learning he suffered from two hormonal deficiencies. He plans to attend Emory University and is already contacting possible mentors to continue his research there. His message to the Academy members is, "I would like to say thank you to all of the members who support our research and help young scientists like me challenge themselves in a professional environment."
- Jeremy Morowitz, John Jay High School for his project *Can CD99 be Used as a Therapeutic Target on Disease Stem Cells in AML and MDS?* Jeremy's goal is to become a translational researcher because it would allow him to conduct research while still practicing medicine. The concept of targeted therapies caught Jeremy's attention and he began looking at the applications of targeted therapies as the next big step in cancer treatment. Jeremy writes, "I have a very deep interest in medicine. I have barely dipped my toe in the fields of hematology, oncology and targeted therapies. In the future I plan to explore bits and pieces of every corner of medicine in order to find the one that truly captivates me. I hope that one day we find ourselves working as colleagues!"
- Brett Bell, Pelham High School, for the project *Angiopoietin-1 and GM-CSF in Mitigating Radiation-Induced Gastrointestinal Syndrome*. Brett hopes to pursue an MD/PhD and become a medical scientist. He became interested in oncology after his mother was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. He did his research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine over a period of two years. He will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the Vagelos Scholars Program in Molecular Life Sciences. Brett writes, "I would like to thank all of the physicians in Westchester who mentor high school and undergraduate students because this is an extremely worthwhile effort. It developed my interest in science and has exposed me to topics that I would never have seen in school."

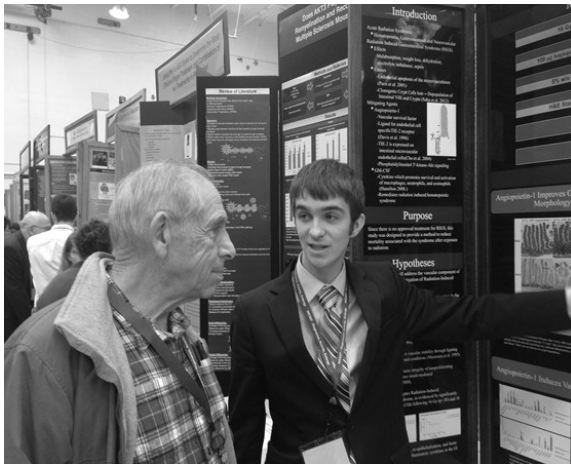
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WESTCHESTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR *(continued from page 12)*

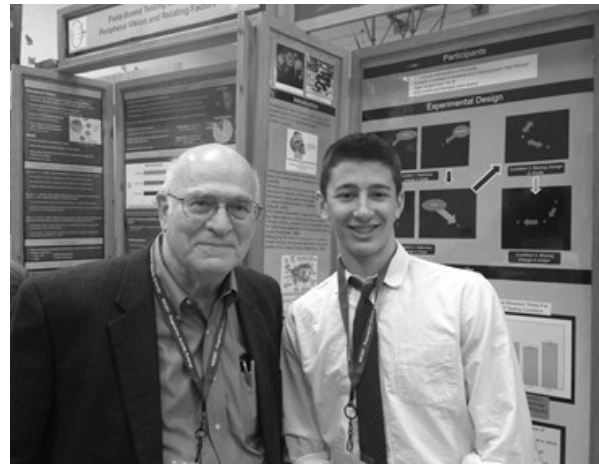
The Academy also gives prizes in Medicine and Health to the next ten top scorers in the “Excellence in Medical Research” category and the 4th place awards in all other categories: Animal Science; Behavioral Science; Biochemistry; Cell Biology; Chemistry; Computer Science; Earth & Space Science; Environmental Science; Engineering & Math; Medicine; Microbiology; and Plant Science.

The projects span a variety of interesting topics from Regulating the Immune System with TNFa by Aron Licht, Yorktown High School to studying The Effects of Anorexia on the Hippocampus in Animals by Adriana Shuster from John Jay High School.

These children are our future. Their passion to solve the same problems that intrigue us is inspiring. This was the Academy’s sixth year of participation in WESEF and it has grown into a very rewarding and fruitful relationship between the physicians who represent the Academy as judges and the communities of Westchester and Putnam counties. I hope more physicians will participate next year as judges and meet some of these prodigious young minds who are stepping up to the challenges of medicine today. **I hope you will make it a point to take a moment and see the projects and speak with the Future of Medicine award winners at our Annual Meeting on June 20th.** You will not regret it.



WCMS President, Robert Lerner, MD, listening to a student during the judging.



WCMS Past President Robert Soley, MD, also served as a judge.



Academy President Joseph Tartaglia, MD, with the winners of the “Future of Medicine” awards.



A student explaining her project to Dr. Tartaglia, who served as a judge.

REPORT OF THE BYLAWS TASK FORCE

Background

At the April 3, 2014 Board meeting, Dr. Thomas Lee, Chair, 2014-15 Nominating Committee, reported that the Academy Bylaws were in need of revision with regard to the term of Academy President as there were some inconsistencies. At the same time, Dr. Lee reported the current process of amending the bylaws (both Academy and WCMS) is cumbersome, requires two annual meetings for approval, and provides no flexibility for matters of urgency. The Board appointed the following members to a Bylaws Task Force to explore these matters further and report back to the Board in May: Thomas Lee, MD, Chair; Louis McIntyre, MD; Howard Yudin, MD, and Robert Lerner, MD, President, WCMS.

Bylaws Task Force

The Bylaws Task Force met via teleconference on April 28. Prior to this meeting, the Task Force reached out to Don Moy, Esq., Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, legal counsel to WCMS and the Academy, for advice and guidance. Mr. Moy reviewed all proposed language for accuracy and consistency.

Recommendations

The following amendments to the Academy Bylaws will be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 20th and are provided for review by the membership:

Article VI – Officers

Section 2 - The president of the Academy shall serve a one-year term, with possibility for serving a ~~maximum of three additional one-year additional~~ terms.

Section 4 - Officers shall be elected annually, ~~except the president, who is elected biennially~~ at a joint meeting of the Academy and the Medical Society, and all officers shall assume office on July 1.

Article XVII – Amendments

~~**Section 1** – Amendments or additions to the Bylaws may be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a Regular Meeting of the Academy, provided that notice of such amendments or additions shall have been provided in writing at the regular meeting preceding, and that a copy of such amendments or additions shall have been sent to each member with the notice for the meeting at which they are to be considered.~~

Section 1 - Amendments to these Bylaws, after being presented to the Bylaws Committee, and if passed by the Board of Directors at or before the Board's April meeting, will be presented to the General Membership in attendance at the Annual Meeting, and if passed by a two-thirds vote of the Members present and voting, will become effective immediately upon passage. The proposed bylaw changes must be sent to the Membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Only grammatical changes can be made to the proposed amendment without the amendment being referred back to the Bylaws Committee for review and subsequent referral to the Membership for consideration.

Proposed bylaw changes not presented at or before the April Board of Directors meeting may be presented in writing to the Membership at one Annual Meeting and may be adopted only at a subsequent Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Members present and voting. An amendment made pursuant to this process will become effective immediately upon passage.

(continued on page 17)

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Mark Fialk, MD
Medical Director
Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester



Gary Tatz, MD
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REPORT OF THE BYLAWS TASK FORCE *(continued from page 14)***Article XIII – Amendments (WCMS Bylaws)**

It is recommended that the Amendments language proposed above for the Academy Bylaws be approved for the Medical Society Bylaws.

Conclusion

The Bylaws Task Force believes that both the Academy Bylaws and WCMS Bylaws are in need of further review/revision in the future and that adoption of these recommendations will make this process more efficient. The Bylaws Task Force work is complete and is hereby disbanded.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas T. Lee, MD, Chair**

WCMS Board Highlights — May 2014

At its meeting on May 1, 2014, the WCMS Board...

Welcome Mary Spengler, MS, Executive Director, Hospice & Palliative Care of Westchester (HPCW) and her colleagues: Mark Fialk, MD, Medical Director; Gary Tatz, MD, Medical Advisor, Pediatric Program; Carol Townsend Ross, Director of Clinical Services; Daniel Beltran, Director Counseling; and Nancy Caputi, Director, Pediatric Program. Ms. Spengler gave a brief overview of the services offered by HPCW and introduced the others who discussed their areas of expertise and responded to questions from Board members. Ms. Spengler indicated that HPCW is interested in working closely with WCMS to help reach the physician community and increase awareness of HPCW services. The Board thanked Ms. Spengler and her colleagues for an excellent presentation as well as sponsorship of the Board meeting.

Heard from the President, Robert Lerner, MD, who reported that the Executive Committee met immediately prior to the Board Meeting and discussed the following:

- That WCMS Leadership has been invited to make a presentation to Hudson Valley Hospital regarding institutional membership on June 2nd.
- The 2nd Annual “Doctors of Distinction” Awards event will be held on October 23rd at a location to be determined.

Welcomed David Crane, CEO, Mobile Health One (MHO) who updated the Board on the implementation of MDChat, a cloud-based, mobile, HIPAA-secure communications platform connecting healthcare professionals and patient data from unconnected locations into a secure communication, monitoring and data sharing platform designed to improve workflow productivity. MHO recently completed a HIPAA compliance gap analysis and will soon prepare a plan for partnership with WCMS to offer MDChat to its members. This plan will be presented to the Board in the near future.

Heard from Joseph Tartaglia, MD, President, Westchester Academy of Medicine, who reported that the 2014 Westchester Academy of Medicine Golf Outing and Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, October 2nd at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. Save the Date!





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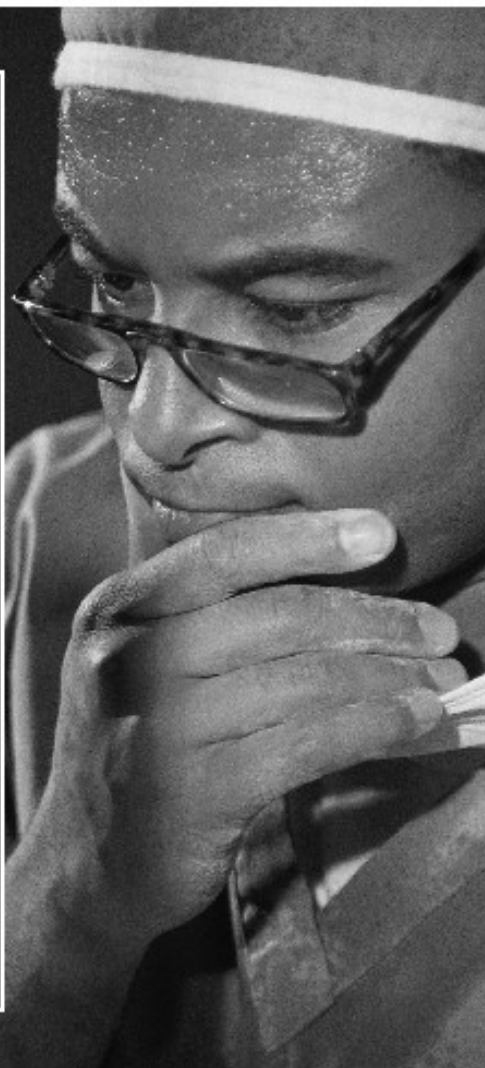
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