In a year of continued healthcare changes, our CSMS physician leaders remain dedicated to protecting the practice and profession of medicine. They understand the importance of preserving the patient-physician relationship, which is at the heart of good medical care. Whether in Hartford or in Washington, DC, CSMS physician leaders serve as committed advocates for physicians and patients.

2016 – 2017 CSMS General Officers
Dr. Gordon, President
Dr. Thornquist, President-Elect
Dr. Oshman, Vice President
Dr. Hass, Secretary
Dr. McNamara, Treasurer
Dr. Okasha, Speaker
Dr. Shangold, Vice-Speaker
Dr. Jacobs, Immediate Past President

President Jeffrey Gordon, MD Woodstock
President-Elect Steven Thorquand, MD Bethany
Vice President Robin Oshman, MD, PhD Westport
Secretary David Hass, MD Hamden
Treasurer Michael McNamara, MD New Britain
Speaker of the Annual Meeting Mahmoud “Max” Okasha, MD Norwich
Vice-Speaker of the Annual Meeting Gregory Shangold, MD Willimantic
Immediate Past President Henry Jacobs, MD, JD New Britain
Chair of the Council Mahmoud “Max” Okasha, MD
Vice-Chair of the Council Steven Wolfinson, MD
Chair, Committee on Legislation Kathleen LeVergne, MD
Chair, Committee on Legislation David Emmel, MD
Chair, Committee on Quality of Care Claudia Gruss, MD
Chair, AMA Delegation Seyed Alavi, MD

The medical convention of 1792 met in Hartford while the legislature was in session in accordance with the notice that had been distributed in January; and after what appears to have been a brief and quiet discussion, the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut passed an act of incorporation of the Connecticut Medical Society in May, 1792. It is believed to be the first private charter granted by the State of Connecticut.

Barker, Creighton: The origin of the Connecticut State Medical Society. In The Heritage of Connecticut Medicine, 1942.

Leadership

The Mission of CSMS: to be the voice of all Connecticut physicians; to lead physicians in advocacy; to promote the profession of medicine; to improve the quality of care; and to safeguard the health of our patients.
This year, we celebrate 225th anniversary of the official first meeting that constituted the Connecticut Medical Society in October 1792. The Society was to educate its members on their "curious cases and obser- vations," as well as "observations on the state of the air, and epidemic and endemic diseases." The Society was actually founded in May 1792, "to con- tribute to the diffusion [sic] of true science, and particularly the knowledge of the healing art." CSMS Charter.

In the early years of its existence, CSMS was busy developing the infrastructure for the medical profession: the granting of medical licenses (degrees), determining what constituted a physician, and differentiating between physicians and those who were of not the rank of a physician, and determining what constituted the profession and protect physicians. Dr. Barker spoke not only of rules and regulations to promote the profession and protect the public. Dr. Barker spoke not only of rules and processes, but also of the need to change and evolve, to remain relevant to physicians and a benefit for and to the public.

As CSMS moves toward its 226th year, now more than ever, it must continue to evolve and reflect the times we live in and the practices of our members. As President John F. Kennedy once stated, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."

I wish to thank my predecessors Creighton Barker, MD, William R. Richards, MD, and Timothy R. Norbeck for successfully carry- ing the mantle of change. Thanks, too, to the dedicated staff and physicians who have worked on behalf of the Medical Society to further its mission. May we continue to move forward together, inspired by the triumph of the past and working to ensure that we flourish in the future.

In early 2017, two separate US District Court rulings found in favor of the US Department of Justice (DOJ) on both the Anthem-Cigna and Aetna-Humana mergers. CSMS had worked directly with the DOJ on these cases, providing information on Con- necticut's already highly-consolidated mar- ket, and arranging several DOJ discussions with Connecticut physicians who would be impacted by the mergers.

The rulings were a tremendous victory for CSMS, organized medicine, and patient advocacy groups who had joined together in strong opposition to the mergers. Here in Connecticut, however, the after- shocks of the mergers continued even after the federal rulings. Too may recur during last year's mega-merger frenzy from the Connecticut Insurance Department (CID) reviewed with- out objection the proposed Aetna-Humana merger. CID made the decision in January 2016, but did not inform the public until May CID did not hold any public hearings, or provide information about the merger for public review.

In response, CSMS filed a Freedom of Infor- mation Act (FOIA) request in 2016 regarding CID's failure to object to the merger. CID failed to disclose any substantial documentation, arguing that the document withholding was appropriate. CSMS then filed an appeal with the CT Freedom of Information (FOI) Commit- tee. The Commission ordered CID to provide all of the withheld records to the Commission for private inspection. CID failed to do so, in blatant disregard of the order.

In June of this year, an FOI Commission hearing officer recommended finding in favor of CSMS, as well as an unusual $1,000 civil fine for Commissioner Wade. "Commissioner Wade, acting in part through her deputy commission- ers, is the officially directly responsible for denying the complainant its right of prompt access to non-exempt public records. It is found that the exemptions claimed by Commissioner Wade were almost entirely without merit, and it also found that the Commission's refusal to submit records for in camera inspection and to provide an index of exempt records demonstrates "an unreasonable attempt to avoid a long established process of determining whether a public record is subject to disclosure."

The FOI Commission met later in the month and adopted all of the hearing officer's recom- mendations. Although the Commission re- duced Commissioner Wade's fine to $500 (on the ground that she had followed the advice of her legal counsel), the imposition of a civil fine in any amount is a rare occurrence, and re- served for instances of significant misconduct. The CID has appealed the decision in the Connecticut Superior Court, and we await the beginning of the proceeding.

CSMS continues its efforts to improve market transparency and support physicians and patients.

"As CSMS moves toward its 226th year, now more than ever, it must continue to evolve and reflect the times we live in and the practices of our members."
The 2017 long session of the General Assembly saw hundreds of bills related to health insurance coverage, prescribing, transparency, access to care, and other medical topics. Below is a summary of CSMS efforts on key health bills of the 2017 session. It takes time, patience, and focus to successfully effect legislative change – these bills are just a few examples of CSMS’ perseverance in physician advocacy.

Access the latest legislative updates at csms.org, or sign up for Legislative E-news – sent directly to your inbox each Monday when the state legislature is in session.

**Legislation & Advocacy**

Small Business Express Program – SB 820
This bill expanded eligibility under the state’s Small Business Express program to include primary care physicians and physician offices. Access to capital makes it easier for our physicians to expand services, invest in new equipment, recruit/retain physicians and other healthcare professionals, and continue to thrive as an independent practice. The final bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to work with CSMS to ensure physicians utilize the program. CSMS advocated for physician inclusion for several years, and provided legislators with detailed information about the positive impact of physicians on the state’s economy.

Medicaid Provider Audits – HB 7190
CSMS successfully prevented legislation that would allow CT Department of Social Services (CT DSS) from retroactively applying bulletins when auditing providers. In addition, the amended version of the bill adds a presumption of medical necessity when a decision is made by a physician. It also requires that any CT DSS review of an emergency service must be made by an Emergency Medicine physician.

Emotional Distress – SB 932
CSMS was among the earliest to testify against SB 932, an overly-broad bill with highly subjective legal standards. The bill also ignored the fact that Connecticut courts already have well-established case law on the cause of negligent infliction of emotional distress. Thanks to the efforts of CSMS physician leaders and members, SB 932 was successfully blocked from leaving the Judiciary Committee.

Youth Concussions – HB 7048
For many years, CSMS and members of its Sports Medicine Committee have been actively involved in actions to protect our young athletes from concussions. HB 7048 would have included chiropractors in the definition of “licensed health care professionals” who could clear a child for return to play. CSMS strongly opposed this change, and successfully removed it from the final version of the bill.

Fertility Preservation – HB 5968
For several years, CSMS has supported bills that would ensure coverage of fertility preservation services for those diagnosed with cancer or other medical conditions. HB 5968 unanimously passed both the Senate and the House; Governor Malloy does not view this bill as a mandate and is expected to sign it.

Omnibus Opioid Bill – HB 7052
CSMS was heavily involved in opioid bill discussions throughout the session. Although we would have liked to see more attention given to substance abuse treatment resources and education, CSMS was able to successfully amend or remove several sections of this bill that would have negatively impacted physicians’ ability to deliver care. The final version of the bill included these key provisions:

- **Requires DPH to develop a form for voluntary non-opioid agreements for patient who wish not to receive opioids.**
- **Requires pharmacies dispensing naloxone to someone without a prescription to do so under the standing order of a physician.**
- **Increases insurance coverage requirements for both inpatient and outpatient treatment options.**

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**Physicians Day at Capitol**

William A. Pietr, MD
State Representative / CSMS Member

Prasad Srinivasan, MD
State Representative / CSMS Member

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CSMS welcomed these new Affinity Partners and member benefits in 2017.

KaMMCO
KaMMCO Casualty Company, a division of KaMMCO, is a member-directed medical professional liability insurance company providing protection for physicians and other health care professionals, medical groups, hospitals, and professional associations.

Kelsey Corp.
Providing technology solutions to improve the business of healthcare while protecting patient and provider information.

National Physician Services
End-to-end technology solutions for healthcare: Managed IT, Application Support, Analytics, Workforce Automation, CIO Advisory

CSMS-IA’s New Long-Term Care Solutions
Plan for Your future with this exclusive membership benefit. Long-term care insurance pays for expenses associated with needing care for an extended period of time – either at home or in a long-term care facility. Choose between products from multiple highly-rated carriers.


For the latest information on all member benefits, go to csms.org/member-benefits.
"Remembering the Past...Looking to the Future"

1792 – Act of Incorporation for the Connecticut State Medical Society is passed by the CT General Assembly

October – First meeting of CSMS held in Middletown, CT. Colonel Leverett Hubbard elected first president

1812 – CSMS member Dr. Moses Packard helps to establish the first U.S. School for the Deaf at Hartford

1816 – CSMS member Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell helps to establish the first US School for the Deaf in Hartford

1822 – CSMS member Dr. Ely Todd serves as the first medical director of the Hartford Retreat (now the Institute of Living), the first hospital for "lunatics"

1826 – CSMS, as part of the General Hospital Society of CT, establishes a general hospital in New Haven (now Yale-New Haven Hospital). Opens in 1833

1835 – CSMS members recommend legislation to form a State Board of Health

1841 – CSMS members recommend legislation to form a State Board of Health

1847 – National medical convention, led by CSMS physician Jonathan Knight, founds the American Medical Association

1856 – Hartford Hospital was established

1860 – The AMA holds its 13th convention in New Haven

1867 – CSMS helps to establish CT Valley Hospital in Middletown

1867 – CSMS helps to establish the CSMV Cancer Registry, the world’s first cancer registry

1873 – CSMS leads efforts to establish the CT Tumor Registry, the world’s first cancer registry

1892 – CSMS Centennial Celebration

1893 – CT Medical Practice Act was passed

1899 – CSMS begins publishing Connecticut Medicine, the society’s scientific, peer-reviewed journal

1900 – CSMS incorporates Connecticut Medical Services, the forerunner of CMS-Blue Shield

1900 – UConn School of Medicine was established

1900 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Peer Review Organization – CPRO, now Qualidigm


1913 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Medical Insurance Co.

1915 – CSMS begins publishing ‘Connecticut Medical Journal’, initially a semi-annual journal

1917 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Medical Journal, the society’s scientific, peer-reviewed journal

1920 – CSMS helps to establish the CSMP Champions Fund

1924 – CSMS appears in the History of the Connecticut Medical profession

1935 – CSMS leads efforts to establish the CT Tumor Registry, the world’s first cancer registry

1947 – CSMS incorporates Connecticut Medical Services, the forerunner of CMS-Blue Shield

1950 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Peer Review Organization – CPRO, now Qualidigm

1955 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Medical Insurance Co.

1961 – UConn School of Medicine was established

1965 – CSMS forms the CSMS-IPA / M.D. Health Plan

1969 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Peer Review Organization – CPRO, now Qualidigm

1999 – CSMS promotes efforts for Workers’ Compensation Reform

2000 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Peer Review Organization – CPRO, now Qualidigm

2007 – CSMS efforts lead to passage of HAVEN, a confidential assistance program for health care professionals

2010 – CSMS creates DVD: Care in Context: The Physician’s Role in Reducing Health Disparities

2011 – CSMS incorporates the Connecticut Peer Review Organization – CPRO, now Qualidigm

2014 – CSMS establishes non-profit health insurance co-op

2017 – CSMS receives $400,000 Healthcare Disparities Grant from Connecticut Health Foundation

2017 – CSMS receives grant from Physicians Foundation to create the Young Physicians Leadership Curriculum

For 225 years, CSMS has stayed true to its mission: to be the voice of all Connecticut physicians; to lead physicians in advocacy; to promote the profession of medicine; to improve the quality of care; and to safeguard the health of our patients.
CSMS offers educational seminars and on-demand webinars throughout the year on many healthcare related topics. 2017 programs included:

Biosimilars: New Choices, New Challenges with the Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicine

Check the events calendar at csms.org for the latest educational seminars, meetings, and webinars.

CSMS hosted a special CME program in Havana, Cuba May 20-24, 2017. The group was welcomed by a host physician who provided an orientation to the Cuban healthcare system and assisted the group each day. Physicians were able to tour the Havana University – Latin American School of Medicine Hospital and the National Center for Sexual Education. They also held small-group meetings with Cuban physicians to discuss HIV/AIDS, Zika and other infectious diseases, as well as aging populations and palliative care programs. The unprecedented opportunity to visit Cuba was not limited to clinical and health policy topics. The physicians also enjoyed a full-day tour of Havana, a designated UNESCO World Heritage site, taxi rides in vintage cars, and even a show at the Tropicana.

By the Numbers: CME Activities

TOTAL NUMBER OF CME HOURS 8,910

NUMBER OF PHYSICIAN HOURS 5,032

NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES 7,947

OTHER LEARNER HOURS 1,385

“Reinvigorated the fire of why I went into medicine.”

“Reinvigorated the fire of why I went into medicine.”

“It certainly changed the way I view medicine and culture.”

“The exchange of ideas was very powerful.”
Philanthropy

The CSMS Charitable Trust enables CSMS physician members to contribute to organizations that provide, food, shelter, and services to Connecticut residents in need. This year’s recipients included Malta House of Care, AIDS Project New Haven, New Haven Diaper Bank, and Prudence Crandall Center, among many other worthy organizations. Funded exclusively by voluntary contributions from Connecticut physicians and through the CSMS Biondino Golf Classic, the Charitable Trust has awarded more than $500,000 since its inception.

Communications

CSMS physicians are respected as the “voice of medicine” in Connecticut and beyond. Our expert physicians are tapped by local and national print and broadcast media for information and opinion on many healthcare-related issues. CSMS members stay up to date throughout the year with exclusive print and digital publications, website, and social media. Visit csms.org/publications to learn more.

The Physicians’ Health and Education Fund, a separate 501(c)(3) entity, is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes. The PHEF supports activities to improve and enhance physicians’ professional knowledge and skills, to improve physician health generally, and to improve the quality of healthcare in Connecticut. As part of these efforts, the PHEF facilitated the Young Physicians’ Leadership Curriculum (YPLC) series, and provided support for Caduceus meetings.

Connecticut Medicine, the peer-reviewed journal of the Connecticut State Medical Society, publishes scientific manuscripts submitted by physicians from Connecticut and around the world.

CSMS Action News provides quarterly updates on medical legislation, events, and member information.

Find more news at csms.org, or sign up for our weekly E-news for updates delivered to your inbox.

Give today – donating is easy – go to csms.org/charitable-trust or csms.org/phef to make a secure online donation.