The Council of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) met on six occasions and held two conference calls since the 2014 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates, held on September 12, 2014. This report is limited to those matters which came before the Council between meetings of the House of Delegates which are felt to merit special emphasis.

In this report, there is mention of two items of business – the CSMS proposed budgets for 2016 – which are transmitted by the Council to the House of Delegates and contain the recommendations of the Council – and the Council recommendation to the House of Delegates in connection with the proposed Bylaws changes. The proposed budgets and bylaws have been published, as has this Council Report, with the Annual Meeting materials on the CSMS website at www.csms.org. In addition, also published with the Annual Meeting materials, among various and other reports, is the report of the Nominations Committee.

1. Reports of the CSMS-IPA

Dr. David D. Thompson, Jr., President of the CSMS-IPA, and Neysa Guerino, its Executive Director, provide a report at every meeting of the Council, either in person or in written form, and keep the Council informed of the current activities of the CSMS-IPA. A complete report highlighting the CSMS-IPA’s actions and activities over the past year appears in the Annual Meeting materials posted on the CSMS website, under the “Reports of Officers and Related Organizations” heading.

2. Report of the President

The President gives a report at each meeting of the Council on activities that have taken place between Council meetings. Dr. Russo’s reports included discussion on some of the following major activities:

a. His attendance at various county medical association, CSMS committee meetings and task forces, and meetings of other state medical societies, and the issues presented and discussed at those meetings.

b. His involvement with legislative activities, including attendance and testimony on numerous physician and patient issues during the legislative session, and numerous meetings with legislators not only regarding pending legislation, but also to develop closer relationships with those legislators. For example, meetings were held with the Chair of the Public Health Committee to discuss nutrition and obesity, school systems, and clean air. In addition, meetings were held with legislators to further CSMS efforts to brand physicians as experts and as caring for their patients. Doctors’ Day at the Capitol
was held on March 11, 2015, with approximately 100 physicians in attendance. It is noted that CSMS was involved with and/or tracked many pieces of legislation, as noted in the legislative report which appears in the Committee Reports posted in the Annual Meeting documents on the CSMS website.

c. His efforts in the Communications area, which included radio and print interviews on physician and patient issues. Dr. Russo indicated there is a need to create a CSMS speakers bureau to consist of a trained cadre of physicians who can provide testimony or information in particular areas where expertise is needed.

d. Ways to increase revenue, both through membership and business development, including the creation of an ACO and the CSMS Insurance Agency, which was recently launched by CSMS,

e. His review of CSMS, its financial reports and governance processes, which led to his recommendations for changes in the CSMS structure. His specific recommendations were aimed at creating a structure that would allow CSMS to more timely set and change policy and objectives as may be needed, particularly in the legislative arena. He set forth a proposal that would shift the policy-setting functions of the House of Delegates to an expanded CSMS Council and create an Operations Committee to assist in the day-to-day guidance of CSMS.

a. He spearheaded a task force of physician leaders to formulate recommendations for this structural change, after which the Council voted to task the Bylaws Committee to create the necessary revisions to effectuate those recommendations.

b. Other matters included the reduction in Medicaid funding, the SIM Grant, Department of Social Services Audit Protocols, the All Payer Claims Database, and Telemedicine.

3. **Report of the Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer**

At each Council meeting, Matthew Katz, the Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer, reports and keeps the Councilors abreast of what is currently going on locally and nationally on issues affecting medicine.

Since the last meeting of the House of Delegates, Mr. Katz reported to the Council on current issues, including the following:

a. AMA activities, including the AMA Interim and Annual Meetings as well as the AMA National Advocacy, AMA State Legislative Conferences, and New England Delegation meetings.

b. The successful negotiation of contracts to create added membership benefits through affinity programs, which are offered to all CSMS members. In addition, Mr. Katz reported on the CSMS ACO and the CSMS Insurance Agency.

c. CSMS legislative efforts and successes, including scope of practice and medical liability issues, as well as other successes attained through working with the coalition of the county medical societies and state specialty societies, as more specifically outlined in the report of the Legislative Committee included in these Annual Meeting materials.
d. Membership issues and ongoing efforts among CSMS and the county medical societies to retain and increase membership rolls.
e. Participation and attendance at County events.
f. The SIM and workgroup meetings held by CSMS, as well as updates on CSMS physician involvement.
g. Information on legislative and other physician-related events, including health care reform, telemedicine and other issues occurring outside of Connecticut, on both state and federal levels.
h. ACCME and continuing medical education, CSMS educational programs and other external engagement.
i. Ongoing grant initiatives in the areas of disparities, other grants, and pending grant applications.
j. CSMS communications instruments, including the new CSMS website, the digital Journal, the new format for the CSMS Action Newsletter, and social media such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as communications efforts on the state and national media levels which resulted in extensive media coverage.
k. Ongoing work for specialty societies and other entities.
l. Litigation and other issues involving health insurance entities.
m. Other issues, including SGR and the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, PQRS and MYQRUR, and ICD-10 readiness and resources.

4. **2016 Budgets** (As Posted in the Finance and Budget Section of the HOD Documents)

Council Recommendations to the House of Delegates:

a. Budget recommendations:
   i. Approve the operational budget for the year 2016 as presented, and that CSMS dues be set at $570, which represents no increase;
   ii. Approve the capital budget for the year 2016 as presented, in the amount of $19,400; and
   iii. Approve the Physicians’ Health & Education Fund budget for the year 2016 as presented.
b. Bylaws:
   i. Approve the proposed Bylaws revisions.

5. **Special Presentations**

The Council saw many presentations over the course of the year, including Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inbox Health, and FairHealth.

6. **Legislative Update**

A report regarding the activities of the CSMS Committee on Legislation appears in the section of Committee Reports posted in the HOD section of this website.
7. **County Reports**

The presidents of the county medical associations are invited to attend all Council meetings as non-voting guests. Several of the presidents have taken advantage of this invitation and report on the activities of their respective associations.

8. **AMA Delegation**

Michael M. Deren, M.D., Chair of Connecticut’s AMA Delegation, reported on the AMA’s Interim Meeting, held in November 2014, and its Annual Meeting held in June 2015 in Chicago. A detailed report on the AMA Delegation’s activities appears in the report which follows this one.

9. **Conclusion**

I would like to extend my thanks to the many CSMS physicians for their productive cooperative efforts during the long 2015 legislative session. In particular, we all owe a major debt of gratitude for the many hours and sincere efforts made by Drs. Russo and Emmel. They both did superior jobs. Connecticut physicians can be very proud of the results achieved this year due to the cooperation and hard work done by all involved.

In addition, I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Russo for leading and all members of the Council for their diligent and collegial efforts to transform our CSMS structure into what we all feel will be a more effective and efficient organization.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation and thanks to the CSMS staff for their diligent and hard work in continually helping us improve the practice milieu for all of Connecticut's physician's and in turn improving the care for our patients. In particular as she heads into retirement later this year, I thank Mrs. Rhonda Hawes for all her wonderful efforts for the CSMS Charitable Trust. Additionally, I thank my colleagues for their invaluable counsel and hard work on both the Council as well as our many committees.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Petit, Jr., M.D.
Chair