Message from the Executive Vice President/CEO

You may not always realize it, but CSMS is working continuously on your behalf, whether we are tackling regulatory issues, building upon collaborations and partnerships, or defending your scope of practice. CSMS works vigorously to meet and surpass the demands and challenges we face, like a late afternoon release of 4,000 pages from CMS or an election that ushers in many brand-new legislators. We do this to keep you, our loyal member, informed and aware of changes – good or bad.

As we say good-bye to 2018, we look optimistically towards 2019 and know that together we can overcome any obstacle; together we are stronger. CSMS is committed to helping our members globally as well as individually, on medical practice issues and concerns; we encourage our members to reach out for guidance. Since we represent all specialties and physicians throughout the state, we remain engaged with insurers, regulators, and legislators on your behalf. Our team of experts has helped many members navigate audits, coding issues, practice management, financial and legal matters, and much more.

Thank you for being a member of the Connecticut State Medical Society. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!
CSMS Prepares for 2019 Legislative Session and Seeks Ways to Improve Conditions for Connecticut Physicians

CSMS is committed to advocating for our physician and physician-in-training members, as well as the patients you serve. While there are many unknowns about what to expect from the new leadership in Hartford, your CSMS leadership is ready to be involved in a wide range of issues that will impact our members, physician practices, patients, the health care system, public health, and the future of medicine. Since 2019 is a long legislative session, we will have additional opportunities to introduce more proactive legislation.

Here are a few key items identified:

- **Contracting, Transparency and Fairness** — our priority will be to continue our 2018 efforts in addressing reimbursement deficiencies within high deductible plans. CSMS was the first state medical society in the nation to introduce and hold public hearings on legislation to create fairness within high deductible plans.
- **Physician Workforce Issues**, including professional liability insurance reform and retaining medical students and residents. In fact, our Physicians’ Day at the Capitol on March 1 will focus on this issue — more details soon.
- **Proactive Public Health Initiatives** — including continued efforts in addressing the opioid crisis and increasing access to a comprehensive Health Information Exchange.

Member Spotlight – Shaukat Khan, MD (continued from page 1)

Just one month earlier, Dr. Khan had organized a disaster training program in conjunction with the Yale Global Mental Health Program, CSMS, and the American Red Cross. “At this program I collected the names of psychiatrists who would be willing to volunteer after a disaster… I had no idea that I would be reaching out to them so soon, and for such a devastating event.”

Dr. Khan was a mental health volunteer with the Red Cross and was able to assist the day after the attack and paved the way for CPS psychiatrists to help on site. Within hours, CPS received responses from 50 psychiatrists who were willing to help. More than 150 psychiatrists, mental health professionals, and social workers volunteered for three months after the tragedy, helping an estimated 1,400 individuals of all ages.

“It was a deeply humbling experience…one I will never forget. The trauma experienced by both children and adults was extremely heartbreaking and touching.”

Looking back, Dr. Khan says, “It was a fulfilling experience, and it was good to see so many in the mental health and medical community come together to help, as best we could.”

After Sandy Hook, CPS successfully testified and advocated for stronger gun laws in Connecticut.

Dr. Khan is currently the President of the CPS, Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine, Staff Psychiatrist at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, and Medical Director of Yale Behavioral Health Services in Hamden. He also serves on the CSMS Disaster Preparedness Committee, is a mental health volunteer with the Red Cross, and has just ended a successful year as the District Governor of District 23A of Lions Clubs International.
Physician Leadership Training Increases

With funding from The Physicians Foundation, the very first CSMS Physician Leadership Academy program was held at UCONN Health Center this month. We are thrilled to be collaborating with the UCONN School of Medicine on this important 6-month program and that there are 28 residents and 10 junior faculty members participating!

The Physician Leadership Academy offers young physicians an opportunity to develop leadership skills through educational offerings that are not traditionally available through residency and fellowship programming. The program provides participants with an in-depth background in leadership development and management dynamics.

This year, Yale-New Haven Health System is partially funding the Young Physician Leadership Curriculum which has allowed for expansion of this program to include 42 residents and fellows.

Meet iPRescribe: The Convenient Way to Prescribe

DrFirst, an e-prescribing software vendor and affinity partner of CSMS, offers a substantial discount for use of its e-prescribing smartphone application iPRescribe which allows streamlined access to patient medication data in the PDMP while in workflow and enables clinically supported e-prescribing anywhere, any time.

Participate in one of our upcoming webinars to learn more about how iPRescribe can save you time, increase accuracy, and allow access to real-time benefit information.

- Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. (Click here to register).
- Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 7:00 p.m. (Click here to register).

Did you know: CSMS members can iPRescribe for FREE for one year with a substantial discount off the retail price in subsequent years. Click here to enroll.

CSMS/County Member Networking Events

- Monday, January 28, 2019
  - 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
  - Willimantic Brewing Company/Main Street Cafe
  - with Windham County Medical Association

- Tuesday, February 5, 2019
  - 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
  - D’Amelio’s Restaurant, Waterbury
  - with New Haven County Medical Association

Attend one (or both) of our FREE networking events to learn more about CSMS membership: advocacy, education, discounts/benefits, and our HIE, CTHealthLink. Drinks & appetizers provided.

Space is limited, please RSVP: Email or call: 203.865.0587 x122.

Save the Date! Physicians’ Day at the Capitol – March 1, 2019

CTHealthLink LIVE Demo and Dinner

Thursday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m.

CSMS Office, 127 Washington Ave, East Bldg, 3rd Fl, North Haven

CSMS members are invited to network and see a live demonstration of CTHealthLink, the HIE of CSMS. No cost to attend, please RSVP: Barbara Levine, 203.865.0587 x107 or email (blevine@csms.org)
2018 Charitable Trust Awardees

The CSMS Charitable Trust positively impacts the lives of thousands in your community. We thank all of you who have generously donated this year! We also thank everyone who participated in our golf tournament, either on a team, as a sponsor, or a volunteer. This year we raised thousands of dollars that we have donated to local charities, such as those tackling physician wellness, addiction and recovery, child literacy, domestic violence, homelessness, and health disparities.

The CSMS Charitable Trust committee agreed recently that they would use some of the funds donated this year to start an endowment, in the hopes of giving large grants and gifts in the coming years. More details on how you can get involved and make a difference will be provided in the new year.

2018 Donation Awardees Shared $26,500

BHcare
Children in Placement
CRIS (CT Radio Information System Inc.)
Health Assistance Intervention Education Network (HAVEN)
Interval House
Project Access
Prudence Crandall Center
Reach Out and Read
Safe Futures
Caduceus Meetings

Thank you to all who donated to positively impact the lives of young physicians by supporting the CSMS Physician’s Health and Education Fund (PHEF). Your contributions will support unique opportunities for residents and young physicians to acquire a comprehensive skillset in leadership, executive decision making, negotiating skills, organizational behavior, resiliency, and advocacy. Thank you for supporting the future leaders of medicine in Connecticut!

Please consider donating today:

Charitable Trust
Seyed H. Aleali, MD
Jonathan C. Allen, MD
David I. Astrachan, MD
Mary E. Barry, MD
Jeanne S. Capasse, MD
Michael L. Carius, MD
Brett J. Gerstenhaber, MD
Jeffrey A. Gordon, MD
Candia B. Gruss, MD
Michael L. Carius, MD

PHEF
Seyed H. Aleali, MD
Jonathan C. Allen, MD
Mary E. Barry, MD
Jeanne S. Capasse, MD

Thank you to our 2018 donors who gave $100 or more:

L–R: Melissa Potter Zaitchik, Safe Futures; Dr. Carius; Darcey L. Cobbs-Lomax, Project Access

L–R: Esperina Baptiste Stubblefield, BHcare; Dr. Carius

L–R: Chris Kelly, CRIS; Meghan Blomberg, Reach Out and Read; Dr. Michael Carius, Chair, CSMS Charitable Trust

L–R: Janet Freimuth, Children in Placement; Dr. Carius; Mary Jane Foster, Interval House

L–R: James F. Passarelli, MD
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Bollepalli Subbarao, MD
Stacy J. Taylor, MD
Steven C. Thornquist, MD
Sohrab Zahedi, MD
Stephan E. Zubrowski, MD
Anonymous (4)

Thank you for giving what you can to make a lasting impact!
Residents Appointed to CSMS Committees

We’re proud to announce that the following residents were appointed to CSMS Committees:

- Will Rutland, MD - Opioid Committee
  Yale Resident

- Jade Anderson, MD - SportsMed Committee
  Yale Resident

- Gene Tekmyster, MD - SportsMed Committee
  Yale Fellow

- Mario Fahed, MD - Interim Associate Councilor for the Resident & Fellow Section
  Yale Fellow

“We are pleased to have so many talented and enthusiastic participants join our committees,” states CSMS President Claudia Gruss, MD. “It is crucial for CSMS to provide leadership opportunities to physicians at all stages of their profession.”
Health Equity Data Collection Guide, “How Do I Ask? Asking Sensitive Questions in the Quest to Reduce Health Disparities”

The Connecticut State Medical Society, with funding from the Connecticut Health Foundation and in collaboration with Community Mental Health Affiliates, has developed a training guide and toolkit to help health care professionals collect sensitive information to identify and address health disparities based on cumulative social disadvantage. The toolkit is available on our website at: https://csms.org/health-equity/ and provides information and practical training guide to prepare healthcare staff responsible for collecting equity data. Materials informing patients of the new questions are available in six languages.

Health Equity Information Exchange: A Collaboration of State Medical Societies

CSMS is proud to be part of Health-E(Quity) Network for Change (HENC), a collaboration of state medical societies with a mission to improve the health status of medically underserved populations. The representatives from CSMS – HENC Chair M. Natalie Achong, MD, Catherine Wagner, VP of Education & Health Information, and Matthew Katz, EVP/CEO – recently held a meeting outside of Washington, DC, with HENC to discuss their mission to eliminate health disparities and improve health care quality by coordinating the efficient exchange of health information. Laura McCrary, EdD, SVP, KAMMCO, and representatives from Kansas, Georgia, South Carolina, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Missouri attended. HENC’s first step is to conduct a data analysis from the data recorded in the HIE as to the number and percentage of: patients with/without race; Hispanic ethnicity; language other than English; need for spoken and/or sign language interpreter; sexual orientation; and gender identity.
Special Offer for CSMS Members – iPrescribe is free for one year with a second and third year purchase price of $120 per year. For details visit: drfirst/iprescribe and use promo code CSMS.