Onondaga County Medical Society Bulletin
Vol. 79, No. 1 March 2015

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- Scope of Practice: Must work to defeat bills to inappropriately expand scope of practice by permitting:
  - Oral and Maxillofacial Dentists to perform surgery on the head and face (S.816, Libano/A.3329, Morelle).
  - Chiropractors to form LLCs with physicians S.215 (Martin).
  - Optometrists to prescribe certain oral drugs (S.2063, Libano/A.2803, Paulin)
  - Podiatrists to provide care for cutaneous wounds including skin cancer and diabetic wounds not on foot.
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Cover photo: 2015 Lobby Day, Albany. Troy Oeschsner Deputy Supt. For Health (NYS Dept. of Finance) addresses nearly 400 physicians and staff (including a contingent from OCMS) in the Lewis Swyer Theater. On stage with Mr. Oeschsner are seated from left: MSSNY President Andrew Kleinman, MD; Philip Schuh, EVP of MSSNY; Joseph Maldonado, MD, MSSNY President Elect, and other key MSSNY leaders.

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COMING EVENTS

Medical Movie Night
Wednesday, April 1

Save the date! The Onondaga County Medical Society will once again host medical movie night at the Palace Theatre on Wednesday, April 1. Tickets are $10 each, and the featured movie will be *Something the Lord Made*, a true story about Dr. Alfred Blalock (1899-1964) and his lab technician, Vivian Thomas (who is African American), who invented bypass surgery together in their efforts to combat Blue Baby Syndrome. Before they pioneered the first heart surgery for this condition in the mid 1940’s, about 80 percent of affected children died before the age of ten. This film examines the relationship between Blalock and Thomas, as well as their struggle against racism and segregation to develop this groundbreaking procedure.

OCMS Ask the Carrier Conference
Thursday, May 21

The 2015 Ask the Carrier Conference will be held at Onondaga Community College’s SRC Arena from 8-4:00 p.m. The new location will allow us more space for our new format, which will give attendees the opportunity to participate in break-out sessions with carriers of their choice. Lunch will once again be provided, and there is no increase in price this year. Feel free to call the Medical Society offices, 424-8118, for more details.

Retired Doctors’ Lunch
Thursday, June 1

The Onondaga County Medical Society invites all retired members to join us for the spring retired luncheon Monday, June 16, 2014, at the Genesee Grande, 1060 East Genesee Street, in Syracuse. The cost to attend is $27.00 per person; however, Dr. Robert Dracker, a past president of the Medical Society, would...
like to underwrite the cost of the luncheon for those physicians who are no longer working. For more information or to register for this event, please contact Patty Corasaniti at the Medical Society, 424-8118, or email her at corasaniti@ocms.org.

NY State Fair
Thursday, August 27 – Monday, September 7

Calling all physician volunteers! We need your help at the Medical Society State Fair booth. This is a wonderful opportunity for physicians to promote their practices and raise awareness about important health issues. Please consider working a 4- or 6-hour shift at our booth. We can work with you to accommodate your schedule. Physicians who volunteer are provided with free admission for themselves and any staff member that works the booth. If you don’t wish to work a shift, another way to help out would be to donate items to the booth — stickers, plastic bags, pamphlets, wristbands, etc., are greatly appreciated. To volunteer or for more information, please call Patty Corasaniti, 424-8118, or email her at corasaniti@ocms.org.

SAVE THE DATE!
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Make plans to celebrate the start of summer! Attend with colleagues, family & friends.

Pricing & other details to follow.
You’ve Got A Friend” – Carole King

I recall a few years back when, as a delegate to the Greater Syracuse Labor Council, I had the opportunity to take up an invitation to a breakfast sponsored by the New York Trial Lawyers Association. The invitation was to all members of the labor community, as the trial lawyers wanted to let us know their support and availability to us and, I’m sure, as a goodwill gesture that they were on our side. What a way to effectively advertise their services!

One other physician and myself decided to enter the “lion’s den” and see what this was all about. After all, to my knowledge no physician organization goes around the state to drum up support for physician services and to engage the general public in understanding our position on the issues that affect the healthcare system as a whole.

The president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association was present, as were many local trial lawyers, some of whom I recognized by their commercials on TV, newspapers and billboards. One speaker at the breakfast welcomed us and mentioned how the trial lawyers were our friends and there to help represent us if we were ever injured, not only at the workplace, but even in the operating room! As physicians, we are not accustomed to attacking other professions to promote ourselves.

“The lessons I have learned in life sometimes come from the younger generation – the need to network.”
When it was time for questions, I raised my hand and simply asked: “Are you here to represent us or to sue us?” That quickly caused a puzzled look on the speaker, although all the other members of the labor community in attendance knew what I meant. The speaker asked who I was and when I identified myself as a physician, the tone at this presentation quickly changed.

I pointed out the cost of liability insurance and defensive medicine, as well as the negative impact from the lack of tort reform in this state due to the predominance of trial lawyers elected to our state legislature.

One of my colleagues on the Labor Council, the president of the firefighters union, got up and spoke on how his membership ultimately pays for the high liability premiums doctor’s pay. Still other union leaders got up and spoke about the increased cost of healthcare affecting their negotiations with employers, and the need for tort reform to decrease defensive medicine.

It became clear this event did not turn out the way the sponsors (or I) intended. As a physician, I just started a spark, my union friends, from their various backgrounds, caused the fire. The Trial Lawyers Association president came up to me and said: “we need to talk.” The entire attitude from the Association members became more reconciliatory. In the end, the president suggested to me that it wasn’t the doctors “calling the shots” anymore, but the health insurance companies when tests and procedures are denied. Instead of suing doctors for every bad outcome, I recognized that he was proposing a new opportunity for trial lawyers to find “deeper pockets,” not solutions to a healthcare crisis.

As for better relations with health insurance companies, that will have to come through collective bargaining, which I will talk about in my next column.

All in all, the lessons I have learned in life sometimes come from the younger generation – the need to network. My labor experience taught me the value of friendships, not just inside the medical community, but outside it as well. As my experience with the Trial Lawyers Association taught me, we all need friends.
Advocacy Is In The Air

The Onondaga County Medical Society held its annual Legislative Breakfast and Roundtable Discussion with area federal and state legislators on February 28th. The following elected state representatives attended: Sen. John DeFrancisco, Sen. David Valesky, Assemblyman Gary Finch, Assemblyman Albert Stirpe, and Assemblyman Sam Roberts. Office Director Jennifer Cook represented Assemblyman Will Barclay, who was out of the area on that date.

In addition, Deputy Director Justin Sayles represented Congressman John Katko, who was unable to attend himself – the Homeland Security funding vote kept the congressman in Washington late into the previous evening.

This Legislative Breakfast and Roundtable Discussion gives members of our governing body and others an opportunity to talk with local federal and state representatives about issues of concern to the physician community.

Dr. Dennis Nave, President of OCMS, presided. After breakfast and introductions, there was discussion of the following:

On the federal level, the latest in the following areas were reviewed: the Affordable Care Act, the sustained growth rate (SGR) ‘fix’, and Medicare reimbursement rates. Dr. David Halleran mentioned to the group that the increasing shortage of residency spots within the United States adversely affect medical students who look to fill them. Ultimately, this shortage will mean
less ‘hands on’ experience and in turn less physicians available at a time when the ‘baby boomer’ generation will demand more physicians. This concern is to be taken back to Representative Katko for consideration and action.

On the state level, numerous legislative issues were discussed. Dr. Nave gave a quick overview of just some of the concerns outlined in the **2015 MSSNY Legislative Program**. (Note: For a copy of this program, visit the Onondaga County Medical Society website at www.oncms.org, and click the **2015 MSSNY Legislative Program** link on the left-hand side of the page.)

- **Retail Clinics** – MSSNY helped to hold these off the previous year and opposes them as counter to stated objective of establishing an integrated healthcare system.

- **Urgent Care Facilities** – MSSNY is concerned about overly broad designations and definitions and that this could impact physicians who currently extend evening or weekend hours. The expected impact of anticipated accreditation fees ($10K to $30K per site) and other regulations could force access issues if found to be too costly.

- **Office Based Surgery** (OSB) – There is concern with additional requirements for conducting procedures as well as data collection requirements that would be required under EHR provisions. Presently the infection rate in OBS is low when compared to hospital rates.

- **Out-of-Network Law** – In ongoing conversations with health exchange officials and testimony before state legislators, MSSNY has been pushing for greater network adequacy and accuracy. Also, there are concerns about access to benefits through the exchange products.

- **Collective Bargaining for Physicians** – Dr. Nave would like to see this initiative advanced and addressed it with legislators when he attended Lobby Day in Albany.

- **Excess Layer of Coverage** – Although funding is extended for this coverage, a new provision links coverage availability to whether or not physicians have paid their taxes in full.

- **Clinical Clerkships** – There is concern about offshore medical schools ‘buying up’ clerkships in the U.S. because it could take practical experience opportunities away from U.S. medical students.
Marijuana – Dr. Brian Johnson opened the discussion by saying the use of marijuana is not endorsed by the Medical Society. There are respiratory ill effects due to smoking in addition to the addictive properties of the substance. That said, societal pressures have worked to allow its medical and recreational use in more than a few states. Dr. Johnson informed the legislators that the time might very well come when business concerns could get involved in marijuana’s production and distribution. An alternative to this model might be a state-controlled industry business model, thereby returning proceeds to the state to cover healthcare costs of its citizens. This would be similar to how New Hampshire deals with alcohol purchase at state-run liquor stores.

E-prescribing – Dr. Adam Bied spoke to this issue, which has many concerned about its implementation before electronics records vendors are ready. Also, a number of people are seeking waivers for many practical reasons. MSSNY and twenty other interested agencies have asked for one-year delay in implementation. This I-Stop-legislation-related provision is scheduled to take effect in late March.
(As of press time in early March, the Assembly unanimously passed legislation [S. 2486, Hannon/S. 4274, McDonald] previously passed unanimously by the Senate that would delay implementation of the e-prescribing mandate for one year. The bill awaits action by the Governor.)

• **The Upstate Medical University President Search** – Several physicians expressed concern and the desire to have more community physicians involved in this effort, greater inclusiveness, and transparency as a part of the search process for candidates to fill this position.

• **Public Health Issues** – Dr. Indu Gupta, Onondaga County Health Commissioner, briefly outlined the role of the Health Department in emergency management, water/food safety, child health, maternal wellness, and health education. She then expressed her willingness to work with the medical community in partnerships on several matters of concern in the county: health disparities, the alarming increase in heroine use, and the recent spike in the syphilis rate. She said she will continue to reach out and collaborate with physicians and the wider health community as she goes about monitoring and working to improve the public’s health.

All present felt the conversation was positive and provocative. Legislators present welcomed the dialogue and would use the information provided to inform their committee work and votes on medical related pieces of legislation.

A contingent of physicians and medical students led by President Nave traveled to the Capital on March 3rd and 4th to receive panel briefings on issues and attend meetings with elected officials.
Thank You
for Voluntary Contributions

The Onondaga County Medical Society would like to thank physicians who made a voluntary contribution to the Society this past year. Having reached the non-dues paying category of life member, these members continue to receive our publications and all other communications, and their contributions help to underwrite printing and postage.

Your continued support of the Medical Society is deeply appreciated!
Many thanks to the physicians who contributed:

Anwar S. Ahmad
Carl I. Austin
Bruce E. Baker
Allan Birnbaum
Margherite M. Bonaventura
Robert A. Bornhurst
Duane M. Cady
Brian Y. Changlai
Walter A. Charles
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Gianfranco Frittelli
Kenneth E. Gale
Joyce S. Garber
Leo V. Gould
William Harmand
Richard Hehir
E. Robert Heitzman
George C. Heitzman
John P. Hemmerlein
Kenneth Ho
David J. Honold
Kenneth Hoogs
David Hootnick
Peter Huntington
Trevor Iskander
Fathi A. Jishi
The Onondaga County Medical Society would like to welcome Dr. Alexander Banashkevich, a new attending physician in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Upstate Medical University. Dr. Banashkevich completed his undergraduate education at the University of Maryland and Simon Fraser University, and earned his medical degree from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. He obtained comprehensive postgraduate training at the Radiation Oncology programs at the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario, Queen’s University, and at the Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto. He will be seeing patients at Oswego County Radiation Oncology and the Upstate Cancer Center. He can be reached at one of the following locations: 750 E. Adams St., Syracuse, 464-5276 (fax 464-5943); 1000 E. Genesee St., Ste. 101, Syracuse, 476-3535 (fax 476-4140); or Oswego County Radiation Oncology, 105 County Rte 45A, Suite 200, Oswego, 207-9066 (fax 207-9070).
Dr. Peter Huntington, a life member of the Medical Society, began his involvement with the Rescue Mission many years ago as a regular donor and occasional volunteer at an event, or serving a meal on Thanksgiving or Christmas. He began his engagement after hearing the former Executive Director, Clarence Jordan, speak about the Mission and its services, and has enjoyed being a part of the organization ever since. “The Rescue Mission helps people who are really in trouble get back on their feet, it provides a wonderful service to people in our community,” shared Dr. Huntington.

Since his retirement in 2001, Dr. Huntington has been an active volunteer. At first, he helped out with the medical clinic at the Rescue Mission Emergency Shelter with another practitioner serving the various health needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. He continued in that role for five years.

Currently, Dr. Huntington spends his time volunteering at the main campus of the Rescue Mission in the City of Syracuse bordering the Near Westside. His main act of volunteerism is gardening; he beautifies the landscaping all around the campus, plants flowers and maintains them.

As a long-time volunteer, Dr. Huntington has watched the Rescue Mission transform over the years in terms of services provided and leadership. “Since
Alan [Thornton] has become CEO, I think it’s amazing what has happened. I am impressed with the current state of the Rescue Mission – the campus looks like an actual campus, and they have spread their services to other cities,” he stated.

Community members like Dr. Huntington make a difference in the lives of individuals and families who are served by the Rescue Mission. “Many people don’t know about the Rescue Mission, or they are afraid to come to that part of town,” Dr. Huntington reflected, “but, they always need volunteers and people who have special talents.”

People who are affected by hunger or are experiencing homelessness are uplifted by the volunteers serving the Rescue Mission, because it shows that their community truly cares about them.

To learn more about volunteering with the Rescue Mission, please contact Glenna Price at (315)701-3842 or Glenna.price@rmsyr.org.
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ONONDAGA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
2015 Pictorial Membership Directory
Health is a complex phenomenon, which is influenced by personal, genetic, and environmental factors. According to the WHO (1948), “Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” As a practicing physician, I took care of acutely ill patients in a variety of settings: my office, the hospital emergency room, the intensive care unit, and even the nursing home. Throughout this experience, I realized that once the patients left my care, I had a limited ability to understand and influence the social determinants of health that contributed to their illnesses.

As Commissioner of Health, I am now deeply involved in assessment, surveillance, health promotion, prevention and selective treatment at the population level.

The journey from a clinical provider to a public health practitioner made me realize that individual health (provider) and population health (public health) are not mutually exclusive, but rather complementary to each other, and together are essential for achieving a healthy community.

I would like to present the supporting evidence for this notion of interdependence.

Like many of you, I strongly believe in prevention. According to the Oxford English dictionary, prevention is “The action of stopping something from happening.” Most of us use the phrase “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

One example of such partnership is the success of immunization. We have a
heightened awareness of this subject today due to the multistate measles outbreak, which originated at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. It is believed that an unvaccinated foreign visitor was at the theme park during the incubation period of the disease. A large number of unvaccinated children became ill. The importance of herd immunity became very obvious and was discussed extensively in the media. Higher vaccination rates make it much less likely that a disease will take hold in a community. Providers have been at the forefront of this issue and are one of the driving forces for higher vaccination rates. Onondaga County has very high vaccination rates (99%) for school-age children. As a result we have seen only limited outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as pertussis (2010, 2012) in our community. This is possible because our community providers believe in the scientific evidence and power of immunization, thereby becoming an active partner in disease prevention at the population level.

Another example of our partnership and interdependence is in regards to the old and once nearly extinct disease syphilis. The rising rate of syphilis in Onondaga County since 2008 has become a serious public health concern. Similar trends are noted throughout the United States. We have also noted that the rates of syphilis in Onondaga County have now surpassed that of NYS (excluding NYC) and the U.S. In the past two years, the local rate has almost quadrupled, prompting the health department to launch a public health campaign. I recently sent an email update to providers, outlining three strategies to combat this disease:

(a) education about safer sex practices,

(b) screening and treatment of the case and

(c) partner notification with screening and treatment.

Education empowers your patients and is promoted through community-based organizations (CBOs) such as ACR Health, and providers like you. Education can lead to a better understanding of the disease, thus encouraging more individuals to seek early detection and treatment in your offices. As a notifiable disease, syphilis reports are made to OCHD by providers and laboratories. The OCHD staff conducts contact tracing and partner notification with goal of getting everyone in for screening and treatment in a timely manner. The combined efforts of the CBOs, providers and local health department are interdependent and complimentary to each other in reducing the rate of new infection, with the ultimate goal of elimination of syphilis in the near future. I believe this is a reflection of true partnership.
I am privileged to work with an extremely competent and dedicated staff at the health department, whose expertise could be valuable to many stakeholders in the healthcare community. The continued involvement with public health preparedness, DSRIP and RHIO will further strengthen this partnership in the future. I truly appreciate the opportunity to work with all of you to improve and protect the health of our community, which is the mission of Onondaga County Health Department.

Please visit our website

Onondaga County Health Department website: http://www.ongov.net/health/

My Health Department blog: https://ongovhealth.wordpress.com/

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Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C. is pleased and honored to be serving as General Counsel to the Onondaga County Medical Society, Inc. As General Counsel to your organization, we stand ready to meet your needs through experienced representation and you, in turn, are eligible to enjoy many benefits as a member in good standing of the Onondaga County Medical Society.

We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C. Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C., in association with its affiliate, Augustine Kern & Levens, form one of the nation’s largest Healthcare Law Firms devoted predominantly to the needs of physicians and other healthcare professionals. Our over 30 years of experience serving the medical community allows us to provide our clients with the knowledge and expertise needed to deal with a broad scope of issues faced by healthcare professionals. Unlike other Healthcare Law Firms, we believe that the interests of healthcare professionals are often different from those of Health Plans, Managed Care Organizations, Hospitals, or Medical Insurance Companies. Therefore, we have elected not to represent these entities and only to represent healthcare professionals. It is due to our firms’ exclusive dedication to representing only the interest of healthcare professionals that has enabled us to acquire the highly specialized skills that sets our firm apart. We help our clients navigate through the ever-changing maze of federal, state and local regulations that now controls nearly every aspect of their professional lives. As healthcare evolves even more in the coming years, our clients have the peace of mind in knowing that we will continue to monitor and assist them in adapting to these changes.

Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C. has been awarded Martindale-Hubbell’s highest and most coveted rating of AV, meaning that they have rated
the firm’s legal ability as very high to preeminent and its general ethics as very high. Martindale-Hubbell is the nation’s foremost attorney rating service and bases its ratings on carefully conducted investigations and peer review. We have also been endorsed by the American Medical Association’s Physician Advisory Network in nearly every field of Healthcare Law. Further, Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C. is also a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians’ Physician Assist Service. We are the only firm endorsed by the America Medical Association’s Physician Advisory Network and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C. is also one of the select few firms approved by both The Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company (MLMIC) and The Physicians’ Reciprocal insurers (PRI) to handle physician disciplinary matters for their insureds. We are the only firm to be so approved by MLMIC and PRI.

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- Medical Financial Audits;
- Healthcare Litigation;
- Criminal Matters;
- White Collar Crime;
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- Regulatory Compliance;
- Risk Prevention;
- Practice Formation;
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- Taxation;
- Contracts and Business Transactions;
- Asset Protections and Estate Planning;
- Employment and Personnel Matters;
- Impairment; and
- Arbitration.

As healthcare professionals strive to maintain and build their professional success, our firm has developed a treasure trove of resources for our clients to
keep them apprised of new legal developments, trends and issues. All leaders, physicians and employees of the Onondaga County Medical Society, Inc. will receive free access to the following services:

- Legal Grand Rounds Live Seminars and other Medical-Legal Seminars;
- Access to our ever growing Legal Resources within the Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C. website;
- Subscriptions to our publications such as *StatLaw New York* and *StatLaw Q&A* (acclaimed publications featuring the latest breaking medical/legal news);
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ELDERCARE FOUNDATION WILL HONOR

Dr. David Murray

at Gift of Age Cabaret May 2, 2015

AIDA DI PASQUA MARIANI

There are two principals that Dr. David Murray has lived by during his lifetime: Never answer a question with a question, and never say no to a reasonable request.

Each day he has held true to these, whether it be working with patients and families at SUNY Upstate, or donating his time to the countless committees and organizations in the community.

For his dedication and commitment to Central New York and to the people he has inspired throughout a 40-year medical career, the Eldercare Foundation will honor him as a “Champion” at their annual fund raising event, “The Gift of Age Cabaret,” on Saturday, May 2, 2015, at the Sheraton Syracuse University.

“Dr. Murray is a class act that has contributed so much to both medicine and the community,” said Kate Rolf, president and chief executive officer of VNA Homecare. “He is a humble man whose good deeds are done without a want or need for recognition or praise. Dr. Murray did, and continues to do his work with a true spirit of giving and for the betterment of the people he cares for.”

The Eldercare Foundation is a division of VNA Homecare, a full-service home health care agency committed to making a profound difference in the lives of its patients by providing expert, high-quality care where they want it most – in their homes. The Eldercare Foundation strives to increase the community’s
awareness of the needs of aging individuals and their families, as well as to raise funds to better serve the community’s elders.

Dr. Murray joined the SUNY Upstate faculty in 1962 and was promoted to professor in 1969. He was named chair of the Department in 1966, a position he held for 30 years. While at Upstate, he graduated more than 120 orthopedic surgeons from the Department of Orthopedic Surgery’s residency program.

He brought distinction to SUNY Upstate by building one of the premiere orthopedic surgery departments in the world and by his international recognition as a gifted surgeon, physician-scientist and service to his profession. The Eldercare Foundation also benefited from Dr. Murray’s vision and eagerness to succeed. He chaired the first event known as “The Gift of Age Cabaret” in 2008 and again the most recent event of the “Cabaret” in 2014 helping to raise thousands of dollars for the seniors in our community that wished to be cared for in the comfort of their homes. Dr. Murray retired from the Eldercare Foundation Board at the end of 2014.

“I believed in the mission of the Foundation and what it does for the elderly population,” Dr. Murray said. “When you are asked to take the lead on something so meaningful to so many, you must succeed. People are counting on you.”

“When working on this event, it was just as in his professional life – he gave his heart and soul,” said Angela Bernat, a long time Eldercare Foundation board member and Cabaret Committee member.

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Murray is recognized for his research on general bone physiology, the use of electrical current to promote bone remodeling and healing, respiratory insufficiencies resulting from fat embolism during surgery, and total joint replacement procedures. He designed, developed and patented the variable-axis knee prosthesis, which for many years was referred to as the “Syracuse knee.”

Dr. Murray was elected the 50th president of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in 1982, and the 77th president of the American College of Surgeons in 1998. In between, he served as president of the Onondaga County Medical Society, the Orthopedic Research and Education Foundation, the Knee Society, Patients Choice Inc., and the Martin Memorial Foundation.
All of these organizations benefitted from his many hands-on contributions as he served on numerous committees, councils and advisory boards before being elected as their presidents.

Dr. Murray attended Cornell University and received a medical degree from the School of Medicine of Washington University in St. Louis in 1955. He completed a surgical internship at Vancouver General Hospital in 1956. After service in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant, he resumed general surgery training at SUNY Upstate from 1958 to 1959, then completed his residency training in orthopedic surgery at the State University of Iowa at Iowa City in 1962.

Dr. Murray has three sons and six grandchildren, and resides in Syracuse with his wife Judith Sayles, who is a practicing attorney.

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**The Gift of Age Cabaret will be held 6 pm, Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Sheraton Syracuse University. Tickets are $150 per person and can be purchased by calling 315.477.9301 or emailing amariani@477home.org. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities to congratulate Dr. Murray are also available.**
Dear friends and fellow physicians,

It is a great privilege to serve as the Residency Representative for the Onondaga County Medical Society. It goes without saying that OCMS was established and continues today through the efforts of leaders distinguished for their commitment to the medical profession. I therefore take great pride in being given the privilege to serve on the OCMS Executive Council, and look forward to making continued progress on several advocacy-related issues during my tenure.

I am a native of northern New York, having had family reside in the region for over six generations. I grew up in Voorheesville, New York, a hill-town situated in the Helderberg Mountains outside of Albany. After graduating from Clayton A. Bouton High School, a public school located in my home town, I enrolled in and later graduated from Boston College, earning degrees in biology and theology. I graduated with honors, and enrolled in the St. George’s University School of Medicine, where I earned my doctorate in medicine. I am presently a psychiatry resident at the SUNY Upstate Hospital. In that capacity, I have maintained a broad focus, serving on the Residency Advisory Council and the Graduate Medical Education Committee for both the department of psychiatry and SUNY Upstate Hospital. I have also been active in several research ventures, authoring three articles in medical journals, presenting several posters, developing multiple quality improvement projects, and working on several ongoing research studies. In my spare time I enjoy distance running, having completed the Boston Marathon; conversing in Spanish, something I occasionally do with my Spanish-speaking patients and friends; and fishing, which I have now done in four different nations.

Fond of our democratic focus, our collegial President, and the goals of the OCMS, I summon the words of Abraham Lincoln who said, “If I don’t like that man… I must get to know him better.” As Residency Representative, I therefore hope to get to know my constituents better and lead a transparent, responsive, and active tenure.

Very best,

Adam Bied, M.D.
SUNY Upstate Hospital
Greetings!

First and foremost, it is an honor and privilege to serve as your Medical Student Representative for the Onondaga County Medical Society this upcoming year. I look forward to the many opportunities that are ahead and working closely between Upstate Medical University and the County Medical Society. In the mean time, I would like to share a little more about myself. I am currently a third-year medical student and enjoying all the new challenges I encounter day to day with patient care. I previously attended St. John Fisher College in my hometown of Rochester, New York, where I received a Bachelor’s in Psychology with a Sociology minor.

As interesting as all the specialties are in Medicine, I would like to specialize in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. It is such a rewarding experience to witness young people overcome adversities and learn to cope with and manage their mental health and behavioral issues. Despite the age of an individual, it is never too late to make changes towards a healthier lifestyle.

I appreciate being amongst so many individuals that have committed their lives to lending a hand in improving the quality of life of those around them, and am humbled that they take the time to add to my education.

I am excited for all the new teachings that this position will introduce me to as well!

Warm Regards,
Karla Molinero, MS3
Medical Student Representative
In Memoriam

Martin Black, MD

Martin M. Black, MD, 90, passed away on January 5, 2015. He was a life member of the Onondaga County Medical Society and a life resident of Syracuse.

Dr. Black was a 1947 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Syracuse University, and a 1951 Alpha Omega Alpha graduate of Upstate Medical University. He served his internship and residency at Upstate, and in 1955 joined his brother, Asher, in private practice, specializing in cardiology.

He was a proud veteran of WWII, having served in the US Army Air Force.

Dr. Black was a former medical director at CGH, and was a member of many professional organizations for which he served in executive positions.

His family includes his loving wife Ethel of 66 years, their children Dr. Gerald (Barbara), Debbie, Dr. Michael (Rosemary), Dr. Robert (Regina); grandchildren Niki (Scott), Leah (Dr. Jason), Dr. Jonathan (Ellyn), Dr. Daniel (Jessica), Jeremy (Lindsay), Laura (Larkin), Dr. Jordan (Elizabeth), and Benjamin; their great grandchildren Sophia, Talia, Zane, Avi, Marley, Lily, and Dyllan; Brother-in-law Cyril (Ellie) Freeman; Sisters-in-law Marilyn Goldstein, and Lily Black; and a large and loving extended family.

Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to The American Heart Association, or Hospice of CNY.

George A. Shaheen M.D.

George A. Shaheen, MD, a life member of the Onondaga County Medical Society, passed away on March 3, 2015.
Dr. Shaheen’s career as a neuroradiologist in Syracuse spanned over 40 years. Throughout his career he worked at the forefront of medical imaging technology, and was until recently engaged in the development of diagnostic laser technology for detecting diabetes.

He was predeceased in 2005 by his wife, Angie (Edith A.) of 49 years. He is survived by his five sons, Mark, Damon (Ellen), Brian, Scott (Erin), George (Kathy); five grandchildren, Alexander, Sarah, Anna, Sadie and Celia; sister, Agnes of Westmorland; along with many nieces and nephews.
The Holiday Luncheon and the Alliance Day project were held on December 3 at the Genesee Grande ballroom, chaired by Julia Nosovitch and Sherry Tyler, respectively. The project benefited ARC of Onondaga/Parkside Children’s Center with over $1,000 in cash and $300 in gifts donated by vendors’ boutiques and contributions from attendees, as well as their participation in secondary raffles. (We thank members who donated raffle items.) The winner of the Basket Raffle (valued at over $1,200) was drawn and Dr. Jim and Sharon Cirincione were the lucky winners. It raised over $2,000 for the Alliance Scholarship Fund. The Holiday Ad had the lowest participation to date, but still managed to raise about $1,800 for scholarships. We encourage all physicians to take part next year in this fundraising endeavor because it is one of only two projects that we are able to undertake to raise funds for scholarships. We would like to sincerely thank those who participated this past year.

Please mark your calendars for Doctors’ Day 2015 on Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 PM at Julie’s Place/Karen’s Catering on James Street. We will have the whole restaurant to ourselves and TVs are available should there be a basketball game. Delicious food and collegial camaraderie is the order of the day! An award, given annually, will be presented to a physician for his/her support of the Alliance. This event honors our local physicians and is in tribute to their commitment and dedication to their honored profession. Please contact the Medical Society and/or Joan Cincotta for further information.

Our Spring Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at the Craftsman Inn. Scholarships will be awarded to deserving students seeking careers in a field of medicine. The Alliance is proud to announce that the OCMS has donated two scholarships valued at $750 each to be awarded in the names of Mary Alice Hughes and Gerald N. Hoffman. It is with sincere gratitude that
we thank OCMS for their thoughtful and generous gift to our Scholarship fund.

AMSSNY will hold its Annual Meeting in Saratoga, NY April 30 – May 1. All members and potential members are invited and encouraged to attend to plan for the following year 2015-2016. Joan Cincotta will serve as tri-term AMSSNY president again from May to August 2015.

The **Think! Don’t Drink or Text!** campaign will be initiated in the spring once again under the direction of Donna Lo Dolce.

A **Long Range Planning** meeting will be held in June (date to be announced). Please consider attending as we make decisions for the coming year.

Please send your dues to Regina Sheehan by March 31st. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

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