

Med Society Insights



MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE COUNTY OF ERIE



November 12, 2025

Dear MSCE Members and Colleagues,

Before I turn over this space to our new President, Dr. Michael Terranova, I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead the Society over this past year. I wish Dr. Terranova, President-Elect Dr. Michael Merrill, Vice President Dr. Nataalka Stachiw, Treasurer Dr. Richard Carlson Jr., Secretary Dr. Nora Meaney-Elman, and all our hard-working board members and committee chairs all the best for the year ahead.



Iris Danziger, MD
MSCE President

Of course, I also want to thank everyone for a fabulous MSCE Gala last week. The turnout was terrific, the venue was beautiful, and Dr. Underwood's keynote address and the other remarks were inspiring. I am prouder than ever to be part of this amazing organization and the work we do for the Western New York medical community and our patients.

You can see photos from the Gala below and in the gallery linked in the article. Download, share and enjoy!

Also in this issue of *Insights*:

- In observance of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, GO2 for Lung Cancer has released a video featuring actor Tony Goldwyn, who lost his mother to lung cancer, on the importance of early detection.
- The VA WNY healthcare system offers free gun locks to physicians who complete a one-hour suicide prevention program providing guidance on how to approach offering them to patients.
- A new medical podcast from the University at Buffalo offers bold conversations, sharp insights, and a fresh local take on the biggest issues in health today. Host Allison Brashear, MD, MBA — vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences — goes one-on-one with trailblazing doctors, groundbreaking researchers and fearless voices redefining the future of health care and science.

If you have questions, comments, or ideas for future articles, don't hesitate to contact MSCE staff at the email address below.

As always, If you have colleagues who are not members of our Society, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to join us. We need every voice now more than ever.

Kind regards,

Dr. Iris Danziger, Immediate Past President
Medical Society of the County of Erie

MSCE NEWS

MSCE Gala 2025: It's a Wrap! Thanks to All



Medical students are asked to stand and be recognized as our community's physicians of the future.

MSCE welcomed more than 150 physicians, medical students and community leaders to our 2025 Gala on Thursday at The Twentieth Century Club in Buffalo.

Dr. Willie Underwood, President-Elect of the American Medical Association, MSCE Past President and recipient of the 2025 MSCE Lifetime Achievement Award, gave an inspiring keynote speech.

He discussed the importance of community engagement while supporting the next generation of physicians, and top priority items of the AMA, which include reforming Medicare payments, addressing prior authorization, and improving physician well-being.

Also honored were Dr. Gale Burstein, who received the Outstanding Service Award; and Drs. Fred Archer and Robert Perry, who received the Distinguished Mentor Award.

Dr. Iris Danziger passed the gavel to MSCE's incoming President, Dr. Michael Terranova.

Our thanks to Dr. Danziger for leading the Society through an incredible year and for her work on the 2024-2025 MSCE "Save a Life" campaign, which focused on educating the community on vital skills such as Narcan administration, EpiPen use, Hand-Only CPR, Stop the Bleed, and suicide prevention.

The Medical Society of the State of New York was represented by Dr. David Jakubowicz, President and



Dr. Willie Underwood delivers his keynote address.



Incoming MSCE President Dr. Michael Terranova and outgoing President Dr. Iris Danziger



Dr. David Jakubowicz, MSSNY President

David Jakubowicz, President, and Dr. Thomas Lee, Executive Vice President.

Dr. Thomas Rosenthal shared a virtual message with gala attendees about his second book, "Cyrenius Chapin: Buffalo's First Physician and War of 1812 Hero."

More photos from the Gala can be found [here](#). You will need to enter your email address to view the gallery.



Dr. Thomas Lee, MSCE Executive Vice President



Dr. Underwood with his Lifetime Achievement Award and MSCE Past President Dr. Stacey Watt



Dr. Gale Burstein (center) receives the Outstanding Service Award from Drs. Terranova and Danziger.



Dr. Robert Perry receives the Distinguished Mentor Award from Dr. Danziger.



Dr. Fred Archer receives the Distinguished Mentor Award from Drs. Danziger and Terranova.

Dr. Thomas Rosenthal addresses the Gala attendees via video.



Thank You, Gala Supporters

Champion for Care Supporter



Advocate for Health Supporters



Wellness Warrior Supporters



Community Contributor Supporters



PUBLIC HEALTH

Actor Tony Goldwyn Speaks Out for Lung Cancer Screening

In observance of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, [GO2 for Lung Cancer](#) has released a video featuring actor Tony Goldwyn on the importance of early detection.



The "Ghost" and "Scandal" star lost his mother, actress Jennifer Howard, to lung cancer at age 68. In the video, he explains that a low-dose CT scan is a quick, painless and effective method of detecting lung cancer in its early stages and encourages patients to talk to their doctors about getting screened.

Click the image above to view the video, and please share the link with your patients.

VA Offers Free Gun Locks, Suicide Prevention Training for Physicians

More than half of U.S. gun owners store their guns unlocked. Access to unsecured firearms increases the risk of injury and death.

Healthcare providers can help reduce this risk by offering gun locks to their patients.

The VA WNY healthcare system offers free gun locks to physicians who complete a one-hour suicide prevention program providing guidance on how to approach offering them to patients. To schedule this training, please email christopher.ramnauth@va.gov.

Did you know?

More than half of U.S. gun owners store firearms unlocked. Access to unsecured firearms increases the risk of injury and death.

Healthcare providers can reduce risks of firearm-related injuries & deaths by offering gun locks to patients.

The VA WNY healthcare system offers free gun locks to doctors who complete a one-hour suicide prevention program.



**Safe means unloaded.
Secure means locked
up in a secure place.**

Email christopher.ramnauth@va.gov to schedule this free training.

REGIONAL NEWS

Jacobs School Launches Podcast Series

Whether you're deep in the health care world or just trying to level up your well-being, the new UB Medicine podcast cuts through the noise with bold conversations, sharp insights, and a fresh local take on the biggest issues in health today.

During every episode, host Allison Brashear, MD, MBA — vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo — goes one-on-one with trailblazing doctors, groundbreaking researchers and fearless voices redefining the future of health care and science.



In **Episode 1, "Commitment to Transforming Health in WNY,"** Dr. Brashear and her guests introduce the podcast, explore where the Jacobs School is headed, and delve into how the school helps address health disparities in the Buffalo and greater Western New York area.

Guests are Heather M. Gardiner, PhD, Professor and Carl V. Granger Endowed Chair in Health Equity in the Jacobs School's Department of Family Medicine; and Timothy F. Murphy, MD, formerly a SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Jacobs School's Department of Medicine, senior associate dean for clinical and translational research, director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute and founding director of the Community Health Equity Research Institute.

In **Episode 2, "Buffalo Primary Care Initiative: Everybody Needs a Quarterback,"** Dr. Brashear and her guests — David A. Milling, MD, and Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD — highlight the need for primary care investment in Buffalo and the Jacobs School's response through curriculum redesign, policy leadership and strategic partnerships. Milling is executive director of the Office of Medical Education and senior associate dean for medical education, and Nielsen is senior associate dean for health policy.

New episodes are released on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

[Learn More and Listen](#)

EDUCATION

November 19 Livestream: Understanding Autism

What: Virtual discussion about autism with local experts and advocates

When: Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 pm

Where: Buffalo Toronto Public Media YouTube Channel

Open to: Healthcare providers, parents, educators and interested members of the public

Join the Livestream



May 14-15: Inflammatory Brain Disorders Conference

What: Inflammatory Brain Disorders Conference

When: May 14-15, 2026

Where: Online

Who: Chaired by Professor Larry Steinman (Stanford), Professor Russell Dale (University of Sydney), and Professor Sam Pleasure (UCFS)

To register, [click here](#) and request a fee waiver.



INFLAMMATORY BRAIN DISORDERS CONFERENCE 2026

Hosted by Neuroimmune Institute in partnership with Neuroimmune Foundation and accredited in collaboration with The Wisconsin Medical Society

MAY 14-15, 2026 A live CME event via webinar
CME details on neuroimmuneinstitute.org

500 fee waivers available for MDs/DOs/NPs/PAs!

Confirmed Speakers

	Susanne Bejerot, MD, PhD Professor of Psychiatry, Division University, School of Medical Sciences
	Kevin J. Tracey, MD — Professor, Institute of Biomedical Medicine, Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research; Zarches Family Distinguished Chair in Medical Research and Prof., Molecular Medicine and Neurosurgery, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell
	Terrence Thomas, MD, MMed (Paed), MRCPCH — Paediatric Neurologist and Head, Neurology Service, Dept. of Pediatrics, Chief Medical Information Officer, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore; Adj. Associate Professor, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University
	Alessandro Colasanti, MD, MSc, PhD, DIC Associate Professor (Visiting), Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex; Consultant Psychiatrist, Immunopsychiatry Research Clinic, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
	Rajesh Gupta, MRCP, FRCPCH Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Birmingham Children's Hospital UK; Honorary Professor, Aston University and University of Birmingham, UK
	Terry Hartvig, MD, PhD — Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Services, and Internal Medicine; Medical Director, LIA and Histocompatibility Laboratory, Medical Director, Immunogenetics and Transplantation, The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
	Lauren Breithaupt Langston, PhD Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital
	Steven A. Kushner, MD, PhD Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, Columbia University; Psychiatrist and Research Scientist, New York State Psychiatric Institute; Co-Director, Steven Warshaw Foundation (SWF) Center for Precision Psychiatry & Mental Health
	Joshua Ryan Smith, MD — Director, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical Director, MEND Clinic at Vanderbilt; Co-medical Director, Neuromodulation Service, Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital; Asst. Prof. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
	Livia De Picker, MD, PhD Assistant Professor of Clinical Immunopsychiatry, University Psychiatric Hospital Campus Duffel, Belgium; University of Antwerp, Belgium; BCNP President, ECNP Immuno-Neuropsychiatry Chair, UPT Alumnus
	Ryan Kammeier, MD Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology, Children's Hospital Colorado
	Ahmed Obeidat, MD, PhD — Assoc. Professor, Vice Chair of Academic Affairs, Chief, Section of Neuroimmunology and MS, Founding Director, Neuroimmunology and MS Fellowship, Department of Neurology, The Medical College of Wisconsin; Vice President, the Wisconsin Neurological Society
	Christopher Bartley, MD, PhD Chief of the Translational Immunopsychiatry Unit, NIMH, NIH *He is serving in his personal capacity
	Jennifer Frankovich, MD, MS — Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Rheumatology, Stanford University School of Medicine; Director, Stanford PANS Research Program
	John Flavinago, MD, PhD Physician-Scientist, Department of Neurology, UCSF
	John Guitanis, MD — Assoc. Prof. of Pediatrics, Clinician Educator, Brown University School of Medicine; Director of Child Neurology, Brown Medical School; Pediatric Neurologist, Hasbrou Children's Hospital

► www.neuroimmuneinstitute.org/2026-fee-waiver



CALENDAR

November

- **Friday, Nov. 14 - Monday, Nov. 17: AMA Interim Meeting**, National Harbor, Maryland
- **Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7 pm: MSSNY Board of Trustees Meeting**
- **Thursday, Nov. 20, 6 pm: MSSNY Council Meeting**

December

- **Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6 pm: MSCE Board Holiday Dinner and Supporter Appreciation**, Buffalo Yacht Club, 1 Porter Ave., Buffalo, NY



Questions? Please contact vandeloo@wnydocs.org.