



## Medical Society of Delaware Major Accomplishments-2017

### *“Why Membership Matters”*

#### **MSD NAMED 2nd MOST ACTIVE IN STATE**

MSD was ranked by the Delaware State News in 2017 as the second most active advocacy organization in the state using five different lobbyists on 152 reported instances on bills, resolutions, and regulations, according to data from the Public Integrity Commission. MSD’s lobbying firm, the Byrd Group, was mentioned as having the three busiest individual lobbyists. MSD’s Government Affairs Committee, lobbyists, and staff are committed to dynamic and proactive representation of Delaware physicians on vital issues. In comparison, the News Journal ranked MSD as the 4th most active advocacy organization in the state in 2015.

#### **DIMER RESTORED!**

After its sudden removal from the state budget in 2015 and one-time funding in 2016, in 2017 the Society and a grassroots membership push successfully advocated to restore the DIMER program. As Delaware is one of few states without a state-supported medical school, the DIMER program assures spots for Delawareans at nearby Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Jefferson University Hospital and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. With a nationwide physician shortage building, Delaware’s continued efforts to ensure access to necessary physician care must be continued and bolstered.

#### **MEDNET AND HEALTHEC PARTNERSHIP**

MedNet’s partnership with HealthEC supports the unification of MedNet’s nearly 900 physicians across four provider organizations through a Clinically Integrated Network (CIN). HealthEC will integrate data across multiple specialties and 50 different Electronic Medical Records systems (EMRs) onto a single platform, enabling physicians to work collectively to improve patient care, decrease cost, and demonstrate value to the market. The ability to share clinical information on common patients and collectively drive population health management initiatives positions MedNet’s members to succeed under value-based care arrangements.

#### **MEND TELEMEDICINE PARTNERSHIP**

Telemedicine is quickly proliferating in Delaware and around the nation. The Society seeks to empower its members to enter the space and connect with their own patients quickly and easily. The MEND telemedicine platform provides a potential solution for primary care, as well as specialty practices, currently attempting to stay ahead of the curve in the world of health care practice transformation, Accountable Care Organizations (ACO), and changing payment structures. Integration of telemedicine into clinical practice, rather than the alternative model of telemedicine visits via a separate physician who does not know the patient, allows for continuity of care with improved patient access, outcomes, and satisfaction.

#### **HEALTH CARE BENCHMARKING**

The face of health care is changing rapidly and years-long talks on shifting from fee-for-service to fee-for-value have found champions in Governor Carney and DHSS Secretary Walker. Faced with a structural deficit driven in part by out-pacing health care cost inflation, the state is looking hard at models like Massachusetts and Vermont that benchmark the cost of care. The Society continues to be an active participant in ensuring the physician’s voice is heard in the process as the state develops its plan for change.

#### **PHYSICIAN BURNOUT**

The data is stark and the risks are real. The Society is here to help make physicians’ lives easier. Through reforming the prior authorization process and combating maintenance of certification (MOC) to Multiple Employer Plans (MEPs), the Society seeks to relieve the administrative burdens that drive wedges between physicians and their patients.