



NEWS RELEASE  
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## ***Primary Care Sports Medicine Physician Elected 176<sup>th</sup> President of Medical Society of Delaware***

**Newark, DE** – Joseph J. Straight, MD, Director of Primary Care Sports Medicine and Biologics with First State Orthopaedics, was elected the 176<sup>th</sup> President of the Medical Society of Delaware for 2020 during the organization’s 230th Annual Meeting on November 23rd. Dr. Straight, a graduate of the University of Delaware and Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, is also the Head Team Physician at Goldey Beacom College and Wilmington University, as well as numerous high school teams. He also serves on the DIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

Dr. Straight, a Delaware native and St. Elizabeth High School graduate, was raised on sports, playing baseball and football throughout his youth. A childhood knee injury that led to multiple surgeries and a lost dream of playing professional baseball introduced him to orthopaedic medicine and First State Orthopaedics.

Upon graduating from Jefferson Medical College, Straight worked in research at New York University’s Hospital for Joint Diseases, after which he returned to Delaware for his residency with ChristianaCare, later completing a Sports Medicine fellowship. During his time with ChristianaCare, Dr. Straight worked with the Medical Aid Unit and during his second year of residency was dispatched to help with Hurricane Katrina relief.

Dr. Straight has been extensively involved with the Medical Society of Delaware. Among his many positions, he is the Past Chair of the Delaware Medical Political Action Committee (DELPAC), the Past Vice President of the Government Affairs Committee, and a former member of the School Health Subcommittee. He also serves on the Workman’s Compensation Oversight Panel for the State of Delaware and is an Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Delaware. Dr. Straight has been voted a Delaware Today Magazine “Top Doc” for Sports Medicine by his peers for the past nine years, and has co-hosted, alongside some of his First State Orthopaedic colleagues, the Comcast Channel 28 weekly television program, *Youth in Sports*, filmed and produced at Wilmington University.

This year, Dr. Straight plans to focus his Presidency on continuing the momentum started in 2018 with the passage of SB 227, the *Improving Access to Primary Care* bill, as well as helping find solutions to issues with mental health care in Delaware. “We need to improve access to mental health services, decrease the stigma associated with mental health disorders, as well as improve reimbursement to the providers of these services. The Medical Society of Delaware has and will continue to stay active and engaged on the topics of prior authorization reform, opioid prescribing, as well as medical aid in dying.

We will also continue to communicate with other medical disciplines to see how we can unite to best serve our patients and the community of Delaware,” said Straight in his inaugural speech.

Dr. Straight joins his colleagues, Leo W. Rasis, MD and Randeep S. Kahlon, MD at First State Orthopaedics serving as President of the Medical Society of Delaware.

Other officers who will serve for 2020 include President-Elect, Matthew J. Burday, DO; Vice President, Robert J. Varipapa, MD; Secretary, Bhavin R. Dave, MD; Treasurer, Prayus T. Tailor, MD; Speaker of the Council, Leo W. Rasis, MD.

During the Annual Meeting, the Medical Society of Delaware honored MSD members who graduated from medical school 50 years ago: Robert Abel, Jr., MD; Chandra S. Beesam, MD; Gordon A. Bussard, MD; Steven L. Edell, DO; Brett Elliott, MD; Herbert H. Heym, MD; Zelimir Kozic, MD; Mona Lebreton, MD; Majid Mansoori, MD; Mir M. Mousavi, MD; William A. Newcomb, MD; Frank Owczarek, MD; Leslie I. Rapkin, MD; Stephen J. Rodgers, MD, JD; E.F. Joseph Siebold, DO; Donald C. Tilton, DO; Jose R. Tuma-Aid, MD; and Richard J. Wilder, MD.

Immediate Past President Richard W. Henderson, MD was honored with the *Daniel A. Alvarez, MD Distinguished Service Award*; Delaware Health and Social Services Secretary, Kara Odom Walker, MD, was awarded the *President’s Award*; and the Delaware Foundation for Medical Services (DFMS) Board of Directors was awarded a *Special Recognition Award* for their service and commitment to the practice of medicine in Delaware. The members of the DFMS Board of Directors are Michael A. Alexander, MD, Chair; Justin P. Eldridge, MD; Nancy Fan, MD; Mr. Richard E. Menkiewicz; Patt E. Panzer, MD; Suzanne J. Sherman, MD; Edward R. Sobel, DO; and Andrew A. Willet, MD.

Members also heard from the following educational speakers who presented on the topic of physician wellness: Karl Doghramji, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology, and Medicine, Director, Jefferson Sleep Disorders Center; Kathryn Godfrey, PhD, Behavioral Medicine Researcher and Clinical Psychologist, Program Manager, Care for the Caregiver, ChristianaCare; Marijane Hynes, MD, Clinical Professor, General Internal Medicine, Director, Weight Management Program, George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates.

#### **About the Medical Society of Delaware**

The Medical Society of Delaware is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the United States and rich in history. Founded in 1776 and incorporated on February 3, 1789, The Medical Society of Delaware continues its support of physicians in their vigor and spirit to advance the profession, which was the basis for its creation. Our Mission is “To guide, serve and support Delaware Physicians, promoting the practice and profession of medicine to enhance the health of our communities.”

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