



NEWS RELEASE
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Internal Medicine Physician Elected 177th President of Medical Society of Delaware

Newark, DE – Matthew J. Burday, DO, an internal medicine hospitalist with ChristianaCare was elected the 177th President of the Medical Society of Delaware (MSD) for 2021 during the organization’s 231st Annual Meeting on November 17th. Dr. Burday, a graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine is also the Director of Medical Student Education at ChristianaCare in Newark.

A strong believer in the value of education, Dr. Burday is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and has been awarded the Delaware Clinical Branch Campus Teacher of the Year recognition multiple times. He has also been distinguished as a *Delaware Today* magazine and *Philadelphia Magazine* “Top Doctor.”

Dr. Burday has been extensively involved with the Medical Society of Delaware for more than three decades. Among his many positions within the Society, he is the Chair of the Education Committee, Chair of the Delaware Medical Education Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the Education Program Planning Subcommittee, a member of the Primary Care Subcommittee, and a member of the Government Affairs Committee.

This year Dr. Burday plans to focus his Presidency on supporting primary care in Delaware and encouraging patients to utilize their primary care physicians, especially during the pandemic. “We must continue to support primary care and assist in finding ways to help patients understand the importance of follow up and help find ways of engaging patients with their physicians in these difficult times,” said Burday at the MSD Annual Meeting.

Burday is also eager to rejuvenate efforts to fight the opioid crisis and will be working to connect more resources in that battle by networking with other states’ initiatives. “The pandemic has pushed the opioid crisis into the shadows to some extent. With more people around us losing their jobs, being furloughed for long periods, or taking on many short term jobs just to make ends meet, depression, anxiety, and agitation have run rampant. Opioid use has fueled these fires and the end does not seem in sight. The need to involve the communities which we serve cannot be overemphasized for this and other issues. It is critical as we move to 2021 we work together in partnership for our physicians and patients in providing fair and equal care for all.”

Other officers who will serve for 2021 include President-Elect, Robert J. Varipapa, MD; Vice President, Bhavin R. Dave, MD; Secretary, Shalini B. Shah, MD, Treasurer, Brian J. Galinat, MD; and Speaker of the Council, Stephanie Guarino, MD.

During the Annual Meeting, the Medical Society of Delaware honored MSD members who graduated from medical school 50 years ago: S. Paul Akana, MD; Louise E. Bartoshesky, MD; Richard H. Bonder, MD; Robert W. Cox, MD; Alan J. Fink, MD; Robert L. Hickok, Jr., MD; Laura S. Inselman, MD; Janaki B. Kaza, MD; Jeffry I. Komins, MD; Gary T. Quiroga, MD; Michael Rhodes, MD; Harold Rosen, MD; Roger N. Ruckman, MD; Rafi Soofi-Siavash, MD; and Richard L. Ward, MD

Delaware Governor John Carney was honored with the *Daniel A. Alvarez, MD Distinguished Service Award*; Delaware Director of Public Health Karyl T. Rattay, MD was awarded the *President's Award*; and MSD Past President and Chair of the Delaware Health Care Commission, Nancy Fan, MD was awarded a *Special Recognition Award* for her service and commitment to the practice of medicine in Delaware.

Members also heard from the following educational speakers who presented on the topic of *Medical Implications of Climate Change*; Mona Sarfaty, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Director of the Program for Climate and Health, Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University and Associate Professor of Family Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University, and Caleb Dresser, MD, 2019-2021 Climate and Human Health Fellow at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University

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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