

February 2024



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845-205-2750

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February 2023



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope everyone had fantastic holidays and is enjoying a Happy New Year!

Well, another year and another attempt from Congress to decrease Medicare physician payments. A cut of 3.4% went into effect on January 1st, and that is on top of a 2% cut in 2023. This affects all reimbursement as the private insurers set their payments based on what Medicare reimburses. And more importantly this adversely affects patient care. Congress can intervene to stop these cuts moving forward by passing H.R. 6683, the Preserving

Seniors' Access to Physicians Act. I am asking you to contact your Congressional representative and urge them to quickly pass H.R. 6683. [This link](#) will allow you to tell your story and urge your Congressperson to stop these cuts from harming our patients.

On a much brighter note, we are incredibly proud of our own Medical Society Past President, Manoj Abraham, and the amazing work he does in the Ukraine, doing reconstructive surgery pro-bono, and training Ukrainian physicians, through the Face to Face program. He was featured in an article in *People Magazine*, which you can see through [this link](#). We are all honored to call you one of our own, and keep up the great work!

Finally, we are planning some social events and educational meetings for the next few months, so keep watch for future emails. So join DCMS and join us!

Adam Rubinstein, MD

## **Dutchess County Behavior & Community Health Commissioner's Corner**



Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD

Please save the date for our third (!) Annual Dutchess County Health Fair which will be held at Dutchess Community College on April 13 from 11am to 2pm. Would you or your organization like to participate? We will consider exhibits or presentations that involve public health and health-positive topics—robust content, originality, and the ability to capture the public’s attention will be prioritized. We will be preferentially selecting exhibitors who will feature engaging and original health-positive demonstrations, onsite offerings and screenings, and entertainment. The fair will feature a “scavenger hunt” to encourage the public to visit a wide variety of booths, and a raffle—perhaps your organization can donate suitable items or services as raffle prizes. There will be a sensory-friendly area as we welcome attendees of all abilities. Please note that we may not be able to accommodate all applicants based on time or space constraints. To apply to be an exhibitor, visit our website at [DutchessNY.gov/HealthFair](https://DutchessNY.gov/HealthFair).

In the wake of rising rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), expedited partner treatment (EPT) has emerged as a tool to control transmission. EPT involves writing a prescription or dispensing medication to a patient with an STI for the purpose of treating their sexual contact(s) without them having to necessarily seek care independently. In addition to treating the index patient themselves, EPT allows for them to deliver a prescription or medication to the partner(s) directly. NYSDOH is reporting that in Dutchess County, EPT is offered to less than 10 percent of STI patients on average. I urge you to [learn more about EPT](#) and offer it to your patients.

Please be aware that as we face increases in respiratory illness caused by viruses such as influenza, COVID, or RSV, we should also be looking out for presentations of bacterial illness including pertussis (whooping cough). [Outbreaks of pertussis](#), a vaccine-preventable illness caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*, have been identified in nearby Suffolk and Nassau Counties. Considering testing for pertussis in the right clinical scenario may help us gauge the degree to which transmission may be occurring locally in Dutchess County, and provide appropriate antibiotic treatment where indicated. In the first week or so of infection, [pertussis](#) is largely indistinguishable from common viral infections, but cough in pertussis tends to worsen rather than improve over the second week and can continue for 6-10 weeks. Other characteristic features include cough paroxysms, episodes of apnea, or “whooping”; post-tussive vomiting is a telltale sign. Testing consists of pertussis PCR via nasopharyngeal swab (Dacron or rayon swab only). Nasopharyngeal samples can also be sent for culture, which is more specific; however, its sensitivity is low, and worsens both over time and with antibiotic therapy. Individuals with pertussis are considered contagious from the start of the catarrhal phase through 21 days after onset of paroxysms (or 5 days after starting antibiotic therapy.)

**SPOTLIGHT ON DUTCHESS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER  
DR. MANOJ T. ABRAHAM**



Dr. Manoj T. Abraham is a double board-certified Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon who has been in practice in Poughkeepsie, Westchester, and NYC for over 20 years. His office Facial Plastic Reconstructive & Laser Surgery / Oasis MediSpa is located on the Poughkeepsie waterfront.

Dr. Abraham is a Clinical Associate Professor at the New York Medical College and Faculty for the Facial Plastic Surgery Fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai.

Dr. Abraham is a Past President of the Dutchess County Medical Society, as well as the New York Facial Plastic Surgery Society and is currently a Governor of the American College of Surgeons.

He is on the Board of Healing The Children NorthEast and leads medical mission trips 2-3 times a year all over the world. He is recent past Chair and Senior Advisor for Face To Face, the humanitarian arm of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and has spearheaded efforts to help take care of patients in Ukraine with devastating facial injuries from the war. Please take the time to read [this article](#) in *People Magazine* for more information on Dr. Abraham's mission work.

Dr. Abraham, a Past President and long-standing member of the Dutchess County Medical Society, encourages you to take part in all that the Medical Society has to offer you as a physician. [Click here](#) for membership information!

## REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES

# unitedgroup



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opportunity to invest. It consists of 87 Class A apartments and 40,000 sq ft of Class A office space. United Group has signed a lease for 20,000 sq ft and moving its headquarters there. It also is in an Opportunity Zone, so investors can use Capital Gains for tax advantages as well.

Contact Keith at (914) 456-0708, [Keith.axelrod@ugoc.com](mailto:Keith.axelrod@ugoc.com) for information!



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**BPS**

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914-475-1224

[mbtompkins1@yahoo.com](mailto:mbtompkins1@yahoo.com)

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**We Can Also Assist You with** -We can also assist you with Business Insurance (including Property & General Liability packages, Workers Compensation, Business Auto, Employment Practices Liability Insurance, Cyber Insurance, NYS Disability Benefits Law/Paid Family Leave Coverage) and Personal Insurance (including Life Insurance, Long Term Care, Home, Auto, Umbrella, Boat, etc.)



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Partner of the Dutchess County Medical Society and counts numerous physicians and medical groups as clients. Members of the Medical Society are eligible for a no charge consultation to discuss your accounting needs, make sure to mention you are a member of Dutchess County Medical Society when you call.

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for more information.

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