



# The CADUCEUS

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Dutchess County Medical Society • PO Box 496 Rhinebeck, NY 12572 • 845-452-2140

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## DCMS Treasurer Manoj T. Abraham, MD, FACS Receives Prestigious Awards

The distinguished 1887 Award, given by the American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at their Annual Meeting to an individual member who has "gone the extra mile" and "participated in activities that would not have been the same without them," was presented to Dr. Abraham in recognition of his work as "a humanitarian, researcher, teacher and staunch supporter of the Academy and the Foundation." Dr. Abraham is the incoming Chair of the Academy's FACE TO FACE Committee.

Dr. Abraham, who is regularly listed by Castle Connolly's guide to America's Top Doctors and Top Hospitals, was also named to Hudson Valley Magazine's 2016 Top Doctor's List for his expertise in Facial Plastic Reconstructive and Laser Surgery, Botox Therapy, Rhinoplasty and Facial Rejuvenation.

Dr. Abraham's practice Facial Plastic Reconstructive & Laser Surgery, PLLC is located in the Poughkeepsie Waterfront adjacent to the train station. The office features a fully accredited operating suite, and a full service Medispa (Oasis Medispa) offering massage, body treatments, and a full range of laser and medispa treatments, by a highly talented staff. Dr. Abraham also has offices in Manhattan and Westchester. For more information, please visit NYfaceMD.com, or call 845-454-8025.

- <http://www.aafprs.org/>
- <https://www.castleconnolly.com/>
- <http://www.hvmag.com/Hudson-Valley-Magazine/November-2016/Top-Doctors-2016/>
- [NYfaceMD.com](http://NYfaceMD.com)



Manoj T. Abraham, MD, FACS

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## **Dr. Michael Bassiri Joins Poughkeepsie Plastic Surgery Practice**

Michael Bassiri-Tehrani, M.D., a Manhattan facial plastic surgeon specializing exclusively in cosmetic and reconstructive procedures of the nose, face and neck has joined facial plastic surgeon Dr. Manoj T. Abraham's Poughkeepsie practice Facial Plastic Reconstructive & Laser Surgery, PLLC and Oasis Medispa.

Dr. Bassiri is Board Certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology / Head & Neck Surgery, and fellowship trained by the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Bassiri completed residency and fellowship at some of the most prestigious programs in both New York City and Beverly Hills where he perfected advanced techniques in endoscopic, minimally invasive face lifting, and rhinoplasty. He is an expert in cosmetic injectable treatments like Botox, Juvederm and Restylane.



*Michael Bassiri-Tehrani, M.D.*

Dr. Bassiri joins a world class team at Facial Plastic Reconstructive & Laser Surgery and Oasis Medispa, including aestheticians, massage therapists, physician assistant Ryan Young PA-C, Manhattan body surgeon Dr. Dana Khuthaila MD FRCSC FACS who specializes in breast and body contouring, and owner facial plastic surgeon Dr. Manoj T. Abraham MD FACS, who is regularly listed by Castle Connolly and named to Hudson Valley Magazine's 2016 Top Doctor's List.

The Practice will feature an introductory special for Dr. Bassiri including waiving all cosmetic consultation fees for interested patients to meet with Dr. Bassiri, and 15% off all cosmetic injectable treatments with Dr. Bassiri, during the month of January, 2017. For more information, please visit [NYfaceMD.com](http://NYfaceMD.com), or call 845-454- 8025.

# ***Bits & Pieces***

## **Ulster Financial Payroll Processing is Available at 20% Discount To Members**

Ulster Financial Payroll, a subsidiary of Ulster Savings Bank, is offering a 20% discount on payroll processing services to all Dutchess County Medical Society members. This service is available to all size practices. If you currently subscribe to the service, the discount is still available to you, as long as you do not already have an Ulster Financial Payroll discount. If you would like to subscribe to Ulster Financial Payroll, call the Dutchess County Medical Society at 845-452-2140 for more information.

## **Promotional Products Help Support the Dutchess County Medical Society**

You can refer your favorite company or service provider to DCMS and receive up to 15% referral fee for every vendor. Call Bess Rodgers at 845-452-2140 ext. 3 or email her at [brodgers@dcms.org](mailto:brodgers@dcms.org).

## **For Collections**

IC System's collection services are recommended by nearly 500 associations/societies nationwide. Services are effective, ethical, and certified for BEST-PRACTICES. Call 800-279-3511 for a quote or visit [www.icmemberbenefits.com](http://www.icmemberbenefits.com) for more information.

## **Did you know...**

Being a member qualifies you to take part in the MSSNY Magazine Program? Car and Driver for \$12, weekly Time Magazine for \$29.95, Bon Appetit for \$18. For more information, Just log on to [buymags.com/mssny](http://buymags.com/mssny). Enjoy!!!!

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## **DUTCHESS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	William Barrick, MD
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b>	Lobsang Lhungay, MD
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Jai Jalaj, MD
<b>TREASURER</b>	Manoj Abraham, MD
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Adele El Karah, MD
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<b>WORKERS' COMP CHAIRMAN</b>	David DiMarco, MD
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<b>DCMS STAFF</b>	Bess Rodgers, Executive Director

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS



January 26, 2017

Dear Physician Leader:

MSSNY's Physician Advocacy Day will be held on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. I am certain that as a leader in the Medical Society, you can appreciate how important it is for MSSNY to have as many physicians as possible in attendance at this event. Therefore, your participation is essential!

Beginning at 8 AM on the morning of March 8<sup>th</sup>, attendees will be able to confer with elected state health policy leaders on a wide array of issues. These include the chairs of the Health and Insurance Committees in both the Assembly and Senate. Also invited to participate are key health policy leaders within the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Financial Services. This meeting will be held in the Louis Swyer Theater in the Egg located on the Empire State Plaza. The meeting will be followed by a brief luncheon in the Kitty Carlisle Hart Lounge.

I personally believe that it is a responsibility of physicians, especially all of us in leadership positions, to avail ourselves of the opportunity to participate personally in Albany. As you know, shifts in Medicare and Medicaid payment methodologies such as the Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) are producing enormous changes within our health care delivery system that is affecting how patients receive care. These changes are already affecting the daily lives of physicians and the patients they serve in significant ways. At the same time, actions are being taken by the health insurance industry to more tightly control patient access to care, including through the narrowing of their networks at the expense of long-standing physician-patient relationships, and increasing prior authorization requirements. Adding to this uncertainty are the consequences to New York State's extensive health insurance coverage programs if proposals under consideration by Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act were to be enacted. As all these changes are occurring, bills are being advanced that would increase your medical liability premium costs, expand the scope of numerous non-physicians and impose new mandates on physician practice. It is essential that our state's hard-working and dedicated physicians be informed and actively participate in these efforts to meet with their legislators to assure that patient care is not harmed or disrupted.

Advocacy is a significant part of the Medical Society's value to its physician members. We cannot do this without your participation. Please make the time to come to Albany to join your colleagues in advocating for your profession on March 8<sup>th</sup>. To register now, click here: <https://goo.gl/forms/ngCvuYMiRcahrvtw2> i

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm D. Reid, MD, MPP". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Malcolm D. Reid, MD, MPP

# DR LAW

## Kern Augustine Article

### Aetna-Humana Deal Blocked

**Question:** Does the defeat of the Aetna-Humana deal signal the end of mega-mergers?

**Answer:** Health insurance mega-mergers were dealt a serious blow last week when a federal judge in Washington, D.C. ruled in favor of the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and blocked the proposed \$37 billion merger of Aetna and Humana due to anti-competitive effects in violation of federal antitrust laws. The focus now shifts to the DOJ’s other case, which aims to stop an even larger \$48 billion merger of two more mega-insurers: Anthem (the largest member of the Blue Cross network) and Cigna.

Some industry insiders believe the intense trend toward consolidation in the healthcare industry was driven by Obama-era policies, including the Affordable Care Act (“ACA”). The court’s ruling also mentioned Aetna’s much-publicized withdrawal from the ACA’s insurance exchanges last year, a departure widely viewed at the time as a symptom of the ACA’s weaknesses. According to the court, however, Aetna’s withdrawal was, at least in part, not a business decision about the ACA, but a strategy to “improve its litigation position.” As the DOJ that won this case was constituted of Obama appointees, it remains unclear how Trump’s DOJ, particularly the Antitrust Division, will approach these cases, including the likely appeal of this decision.

#### Weekly Charting Tip:

Ladies and Gentlemen, for this week’s Legal Brief my advice is simple- CHANGE YOUR PASSWORD!!!! We have all recently seen what can happen if you do not. You should change your password every month. It should not be made of your name or your birthday. Do NOT make it easy for the hacker. When HIPAA and HITECH kicks in, it can be very disruptive to your practice and to your wallet.

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## MSSNY Article

### **As a Result of Continued Fiscal Strength, MLMIC Declares New 20% Dividend**

We're pleased to let you know that MLMIC's board has declared a new 20% general dividend for policyholders. The dividend — which will apply to policyholders who are insured on May 1, 2017, and maintain continuous coverage through July 1, 2017 — will be based upon the annual rate of premium in effect on May 1, 2017. It will provide meaningful financial relief to policyholders.

The board's decision to declare this dividend is based on MLMIC's statutory admitted assets of approximately \$5.8 billion, a surplus of \$1.9 billion and statutory net income of approximately \$100 million. These figures, available in the company's September 30, 2016, statutory financial statement, show the company's overall financial condition remains sound.

The new dividend is separate and apart from [MLMIC's agreement to become part of the Berkshire Hathaway family of companies](#). That process takes a while and is on track to be completed by next year's end. In the meantime, MLMIC's strong financial performance enables it to offer a 20% dividend.

An overview of the September 30, 2016, statutory financial statement is available [here](#), and the full financial statement has been filed with New York State Department of Financial Services.

### **Latest Developments in NY's Medical Malpractice Marketplace**

As newly reported [here](#) by *Politico New York*, one of New York's major malpractice insurance carriers "continues to struggle financially, reporting significant losses through the end of the third quarter." This news, along with [disciplinary action from the Joint Commission on Public Ethics](#), has raised legitimate concerns.

Instability of a large provider creates some uncertainty for the entire market, of course, but we want to assure *MLMIC* policyholders that their coverage is not at risk. By adhering to responsible underwriting practices from our beginning, MLMIC continues to demonstrate [sound financial condition](#) and is able, once again, to offer a policyholder dividend (20% for those insured by May 1 and continuously insured through July 1).

We'll keep monitoring the situation in the market on your behalf and will apprise you of further developments. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call 1 (888) 488-9253.

## Commissioner's Corner

### MRC Offers Training to Enhance Interactions with Residents with Special Needs

**Poughkeepsie** ... The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Dutchess County will offer an educational presentation on how organizations can enhance their interactions with individuals with special needs on Thursday, February 2nd at 7 p.m. at the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, 392 Creek Road in Poughkeepsie. The training is free and open to the public. Seating is limited; reservations are required.

The program, presented by Taconic Resources for Independence, is designed to enhance awareness of disability etiquette and help increase a sense of confidence and tolerance when interacting with those who have physical, mental or invisible disabilities. The training will be especially useful for organizations and individuals who wish to enhance that first impression for people with special needs.

Those in attendance can also meet Toni-Marie Ciarfella, Dutchess County's Deputy Commissioner for Special Needs, who serves as an advocate for residents with special needs, helping them navigate through the system of services providers and programs to enhance their lives.

The Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County is comprised of both healthcare and non-healthcare volunteers as part of a national network of more than 200,000 volunteers dedicated to supporting public health infrastructure as well as disaster preparedness and response in the community.

The training is free, however seating is limited and registration is required. For more information about the Medical Reserve Corps, or to register, please contact MRC Coordinator Joe Ryan at (845) 486-2493 or [jryan@dutchessny.gov](mailto:jryan@dutchessny.gov). For information on upcoming trainings, visit [www.dutchessny.gov/mrc](http://www.dutchessny.gov/mrc).

# MSSNY Benefits for all members

## BILLING SERVICES

### Athenahealth

athenahealth is a cloud-based provider of **medical billing, electronic health records (EHR)** and **patient communication** services for MSSNY members. MSSNY members receive a 6% discount on an integrated suite of practice management services including:

athenaCollector® – a **medical billing** and practice management service that increases client collections by 12%.

athenaClinicals® – a Stage 1 **Meaningful Use-certified EHR** solution that guarantees eligible providers receive their federal stimulus money.

athenaCommunicator® – automated **patient communication**, live operator services, and a patient web portal that keeps your practice competitive, compliant and accessible.

Learn how MSSNY members can take advantage of a 6% discount on athenahealth's services.

*This service is provided to MSSNY Members only.*

## COLLECTION SERVICES

### *I.C. System Inc.*

#### *To Maximize Revenue, Focus on.*

CNN Money recently revealed insights into the growing trend of medical practices being driven into bankruptcy by a perfect storm of:

increasing costs for medical technology and malpractice insurance and claims-declining reimbursement from commercial insurers and Medicare/Medicaid, and more patient out-of-pocket payment responsibility creating cash flow problems

I.C. System delivers effective and ethical solutions for collecting debts and improving cash flow. Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) members receive special pricing for I.C. System's services, the only collection services formally approved for MSSNY members. The program has been offered since 1984, and participating members have recovered over 15 million dollars.

So, what should a medical professional do to maintain a healthy, viable practice?

*This service is provided to MSSNY Members only.*



# 3 WAYS

# WE CAN HELP!

• AIDS Institute

1

## HIV guidelines online

# WWW.HIVGUIDELINES.ORG

*Access HIV clinical guidelines for adult care, prevention, mental health, post-exposure prophylaxis, and more!*



2

## CEI Line

# 1-866-637-2342

*Access to a specialist to discuss case-based HIV/HCV, STD, PEP/PrEP patient care.*



3

## Free CE online and other educational resources

# WWW.CEITRAINING.ORG

*Earn CME and CNE credit at your leisure and stay abreast of HIV/HCV, STD and PEP/PrEP clinical updates*



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# Dutchess County Medical Society

## Preferred Service Providers

### **MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company  
(MLMIC)

Contact: Gary Andelora, 716-648-5923

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### **GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAMS**

Charles J. Sellers & Co., Inc.

*Disability, Business Overhead, Hospital Indemnity,  
Accidental Death & Dismemberment &  
Term Life Insurance*

Contact: Charlie Sellers, 800-333-5440, Ext. 210

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### **BANKING SERVICES**

Ulster Savings Bank

*Banking, Loans, Investments, Tax & Payroll*

Donna A. Goodall- Vice President

dgoodall@ulstersavings.com

Commercial Lending

1315 Rte 9, Hark Plaza Suite 204

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Phone (845)-750-2166

Fax (845)-481-7266

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### **ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

D'Arcangelo & Co.

*Certified Public Accountants & Consultants*

Contact: Mike Betros, 845-473-7774

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### **LEGAL SERVICES**

Kern Augustine Conroy & Schoppmann, P.C.

*Healthcare Law, OPMC,*

*Physician Advocacy Program*

Contact: Michael Schoppmann, Esq., 516-294-5432

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### **PAYROLL PROCESSING**

**20% Discount to DCMS Members**

Ulster Payroll Services

*A subsidiary of Ulster Savings Bank*

Contact: Kelly Maroney, 845-338-6322, Ext. 3232

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### **TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES**

Datamatrix Technologies

*Provides Medical Transcription Services*

Contact: Sudeep Chaudhury, 914-948-9065

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### **COLLECTION SERVICES**

I.C. System

*Debt Collection Agency*

Contact: Carl Lavers, 607-547-9719

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### **PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS**

Streamline Promos

*Every order will help support Dutchess County  
Medical Society's programming and events*

Contact: Joe Altieri, 845-475-8402

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*Kern Augustine, P.C., Attorneys to Health Professionals, [DrLaw.com](http://DrLaw.com), is solely devoted to the representation of physicians and other health care professionals.*

## **Calendar of Events**

Executive Committee Meeting.... Feb 15

Legislative Day March 8th

House of Delegates April 21-23

DCMS Executive Elections and Annual Meeting TBA

# ARE YOU SPENDING TOO MUCH?

## **DataMatrix**

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DataMatrix Technologies, Inc. ▪ 333 Westchester Ave. Suite ET03 ▪ White Plains, NY 10604

# Why the other side hates to see us on your side.

- We go to bat for you and preserve your good name.
- We aggressively defend and resist any payment for frivolous claims.
- We are a tough team to beat and we don't give up.
- We have the finest defense attorneys in the State, respected medical experts, and the country's largest and most experienced claims staff.
- We are not just your liability insurer. We are your legal guardians.

We are MLMIC.  
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■ Exclusively endorsed by MSSNY since 1975, MLMIC is a mutual company, owned and operated by the physicians we insure. ■ For more information and an application, call 800-275-6564 (NYC), 800-356-4056 (Syracuse), 877-777-3560 (East Meadow), or 800-635-0666 (Latham). ■



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**Our defense never rests.**

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