



MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD & NECK SURGERY **NEWSLETTER**

February 2024

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Message from the President

Greetings! We wish all our members a happy and healthy 2024! This year brings with it significant medical milestones, including the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking discovery of insulin, when Dr. Banting successfully treated the first diabetic patient. Additionally, in 1824, the inaugural issue of *The Lancet* heralded a new era in medical research and surgical innovations, shaping what many consider the most compelling period of modern medicine. As we step into the new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the rich history of medical advancements that form the foundation of the healthcare practices we rely on today.

The MSO is poised to carry forward the momentum gained in the previous year. We've enhanced the MSO logo and have exciting plans to revamp our website, which is currently in the works. The website refresh will feature an online community bulletin board, facilitating direct communication within our membership, alongside a dedicated calendar highlighting Otolaryngology-related conferences and events. Our dedicated MSO board continues to tirelessly work on your behalf, seeking to enhance our collective ability to deliver exceptional patient care. The myriad of activities MSO is actively engaged in are detailed on the following page.

In the season of new year's resolutions, I extend a humble request to our members. Your support means the world to us. Whether it's participating in our educational and social events, or promptly remitting membership dues, every contribution furthers our shared mission and strengthens our community. Let's stand together in advancing the goals and initiatives of the MSO. Thank you!



Advocacy

- Met with representatives from both BC/BS and Point 32 representing the interests of Otolaryngologists and discussing updates regarding procedural codes, certification/prior authorization process and reimbursement policies.
- Participated in the Massachusetts Medical Society's House of Delegates, Committee on Interspecialty and the Medicare Contractor Advisory Council.
- Continued efforts to pass the Hearing Aid Bill through the Massachusetts State Legislature. The bill was reported out of the Consumer Protection Committee and is now pending before the Health Care Financing Committee (HCFC). MSO members met with chair of the HCFC this week with the hope they will act favorably on the bill.
- The proposed Modifier-25 Bill would prohibit insurers from inappropriately reducing physician reimbursement when this modifier is used. The MSO provided written testimony in support of this bill at the public hearing and submitted a letter of support to the Health Care Finance Committee. Currently this Bill is sponsored in both the House and Senate and is in a favorable position.
- MSO strongly supports the new Bill S.1249, An Act Relative to Reducing Administrative Burden which will put in place comprehensive legislative protections for patients and providers to reduce and streamline prior authorization processes uniformly across all commercial insurance carriers.

Education

- The MSO sponsored its annual educational seminar for our members at the Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge on November 2nd. The theme was "Does Common Practice Translate to Best Practice?" We had 3 exceptional panels dedicated to a field within Otolaryngology including Head & Neck Cancer, Pediatric Otolaryngology and Otology/Neurotology.
- Special thanks to our moderators Pratik Pradhan and Ted Mason and to all of our experts including Drs. Derrick Lin, Miriam O'Leary, Jagdish Dhingra, Michael Cunningham, Mark Vecchiotti, Leila Mankarious, Jonathan Sillman, Daniel Lee and Aaron Remenschneider.

Networking

- Please mark you calendars for the **MSO Spring Social on Sunday, April 28th from 1-4pm** at Kings Boston Seaport! This will be a great opportunity to connect with the MSO family! More details soon!
- We do hope you can join us for the **MSO Annual Business Meeting** which will be held virtually on **Thursday evening at 6pm on May 2nd**. Details will be shared soon.
- The Board has proposed the addition of an Advisory Council, which will be voted on during the annual meeting on May 2nd. Council members would serve as advisors and contributors to MSO activities in a non-voting capacity. The Nomination Committee is tasked with designating nominees for open positions on the MSO board and on the Advisory Council. If you wish to nominate a member, please contact Gayle Sommer at MSO@mms.org.

Save the Date for the 2024
MSO Spring Social!

APRIL 28, 2024
KING'S SEAPORT

