

# The Maryland Psychiatric Society: Working Hard To Serve Our Members

## 2014-2015 MPS Initiatives

During the 2015 Maryland General Assembly, MPS members **met with over 20 key legislators** during Advocacy Days, February 4 and 5. Over 95 bills were reviewed. Testimony and written positions were provided on 12 bills that affected psychiatry. Some major successes include:

- ◆ Helped defeat legislation that would have allowed physician assisted suicide without an evaluation of the patient.
- ◆ Advocated for inclusion and received a representative on the Maternal Mental Health Task Force.
- ◆ Strongly supported legislation requiring an annual review of network adequacy for health insurance panels.
- ◆ Assisted in defeating a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program that would have proven onerous.

Launched **new website**, which will soon give members the ability to update their profile and pay dues online.

Worked actively on integration of mental health and substance abuse services into the **Maryland Behavioral Health Administration**.

Participated as a stakeholder in considering proposals for **Outpatient Civil Commitment** in Maryland.

Provided testimony regarding regulations implementing **Medical Marijuana** in our state.

Held **5 MOC trainings** and a symposium on women's mental health with mandated **opioid prescribing CME**.

Participated in the revision of Maryland's **Uniform Treatment Plan Form** and notified members of the new form.

Explained how members can review and correct **information posted online about physicians** in Open Payments, Physician Compare, Part D Prescriptions, and Health Insurer Provider Directories and Physician Rating Systems.

Added a **voting Resident-Fellow Member on MPS Council**.

### **Distributed information for practice:**

- ◆ CRISP—Maryland's Health Information Exchange
- ◆ New developments and liability considerations with telemedicine
- ◆ New Maryland Preauthorization Requirements
- ◆ ABPN and Maintenance of Certification news
- ◆ HIPAA Compliance and Risk Assessment Tools
- ◆ Medicare & Medicaid news, including rates, opting out, feedback reports, prescribing, EHRs, PQRS and PDLs
- ◆ Guidance for responding to insurance company requests for patient records

**MPS Paper of the Year Awards** given to best submissions by Resident Fellow and Early Career members.

Honored **Thomas Lynch, M.D.** with the 2015 MPS **Lifetime of Service Award**.

## Member Benefits

- ◆ Strong representation in Maryland General Assembly, with state regulators, and within the mental health community.
- ◆ Reduced rates for excellent CME programs.
- ◆ Networking and peer support through the member listserv, committees and meetings.
- ◆ Patient referral service that matches callers with member practices based on patient preferences.
- ◆ Subscription to monthly *MPS News*, which includes positions and office space available.
- ◆ Listing in and free copy of the annual MPS Membership Directory.
- ◆ Subscription to *The Maryland Psychiatrist*, the journal of psychiatry in our state.
- ◆ A place to turn for solutions to problems regarding insurance, billing, malpractice, legal needs, etc.
- ◆ Reduced rates for advertisements in *MPS News* and the annual directory.