

Medical Society of New Jersey's Successes Through The Years

From its inception, the Medical Society of New Jersey worked for the public good. The following is a partial chronology of what MSNJ has achieved publicly advocating to protect health and well-being in New Jersey:

1766 The Medical Society of New Jersey, the first state medical society in the nation, held its first meeting on July 23, 1766 at Duff's Tavern in New Brunswick, N.J. Seventeen physicians had responded to an advertisement placed in the New York Mercury "to form a Society for their mutual Improvement, the Advancement of the Profession, and the Promotion of the Public Good..."

1772 Won the first stringent law to regulate the practice of medicine in New Jersey.

1822 Warned against adulterated drugs.

1851 Began its long fight to protect children and families with recommendations that resulted in protective child-labor laws.

1855 Prompted the first charcoal, sand, and gravel filter water purification.

1860 Recommended legislation to protect industrial workers and improve working conditions.

1870 Aided in the founding of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association like MSNJ, the first such organization in the United States.

1870 Insisted that race, color, and creed should not be barriers for medical-profession membership and that certified competence and character should be the only criteria for members of a scientific body.

1890 Began fight for pure milk which became the model for every state and many foreign countries.

1899 Lobbying resulted in laws to protect New Jersey's water supplies.

1903 Made New Jersey the first state to test and license health officials and sanitary inspectors.

1904 Advocated for mosquito control, and by 1926 New Jersey had become a model for all other states, both in drainage and in restoration of millions of dollars of tax ratable land.

1908 Encouraged the first chlorination of a public water supply.

1916 Began specifying hospital standards and initiating standards for interns.

1918 Pushed for the largest allocation in America for maternal-child health and within five years New Jersey had the fifth lowest maternal death rate in the United States.

1919 Began operation of the first and only reconstruction hospital for veterans and other New Jerseyans that provided treatment for all handicapped persons.

1922 Introduced Baby-Keep-Well stations and by 1930 New Jersey had the reputation as one of the safest states for babies.

1928 Succeeded in making an eye examination a requirement for a driver's license, and thus reduced the number of driving-related injuries caused by unfit drivers.

1933 Along with members of the New Jersey Hospital Association, MSNJ began a plan for non-profit, prepaid hospital care. This plan became Blue Cross, and the non-profit plan for prepaid medical care became Blue Shield.

1942 Advised the commissioner of Motor Vehicles on the kind of disorders that would justify revoking or suspending a driver's license.

1964 Reported on "Packaging the Passenger." The report emphasized the value of panel padding, flexible steering wheels, improved door latches, and seat belts.

1964 Made New Jersey the first state to offer convicted drug addicts an opportunity to choose hospitalization for sustained treatment instead of prison.

1974 Called for the eradication of the first-14 days-of-life clause then found in most health insurance policies. This clause excluded newborns from their parents' insurance coverage until they reached the age of 15 days.

1982 Inaugurated the Impaired Physicians Program, which became the Physicians' Health Program in 1988. It became the Professional Assistance Program of New Jersey in 2005.

1995 Worked for legislation that outlawed "drive-through" deliveries by requiring a 48-hour minimum length of stay in the hospital.

1997 Worked for legislation that outlawed drive-through mastectomies by requiring a 48-hour minimum length of stay in the hospital.

2006 Won its thirty-year battle to ban indoor smoking.

2007 Initiated the CertiFlu program that addresses the inequity in flu vaccine distribution that, until now, had left New Jersey physicians and their patients without this life-saving vaccine.

2011 Joined the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to launch the "Healers and Heroes (2H)" Program designed to help service members obtain recommendations for proper healthcare treatment while providing a forum to speak with a military-experienced physician in confidence.

2012 Spearheaded Federal Drug Shortage Legislation - MSNJ was the leading state medical society advocating for what became the Food & Drug Administration Safety & Innovation Act. The act requires drug manufacturers to give advance notice of drug manufacturing cessation and interruptions.

2015 Established the Physician Quality Award. This award recognizes physicians that have made a commitment to their profession and have engaged in ongoing quality improvement.

2016 Achieved vital New Jersey Medicaid payment rate increases.

2016 On July 23, the day the society was formed, we celebrate our 250th anniversary of advocating for the rights of patients and physicians alike, for the delivery of the highest quality medical care.

