



MEDICAL STAFF SOCIETY

### Mission of the LIJ Medical Staff Society

*The purpose of the Medical Staff Society is to foster and promote the welfare of all its members. In addition, the Medical Staff Society advocates, provides and supports medical education in order to maintain the highest scientific and educational standards among its medical/dental staff and house staff affiliates.*

To My Esteemed Medical, Dental and Podiatric Colleagues,

My name is Dr. Michael Ziegelbaum and I am the new President of the LIJ Medical Staff Society. I would like to take a moment to welcome you to a new medical year. Along with incoming residents, medical students and attendings, there is a new medical staff executive committee. I, along with officers Carmen Rodriguez, Nancy Zeitoun and David Zeltsman and the remaining members at large of the medical staff are here to hear your concerns, observations, and to act as your advocates.

I have been in practice for 30 years. Medicine has changed dramatically during this time. However the basics remain the same. We are all here to provide the finest care to our patients. At the same time we hope to make a good living and enjoy our time practicing as well as our time away from our practices. Increasing patient volume, insurance company policies, state and federal regulations and yes hospital system demands have made our mission that much harder.

So how can the organized medical staff be part of improving the lives and professional goals of our constituency? Today we face challenges that have made the existence of a strong medical staff organization a must. It doesn't matter whether you are employed by Northwell or other healthcare systems or even if you remain a private practitioner. I believe that the following issues will resonate with all of you:

1. Leadership - WE are the professional providers of care along with other healthcare professionals. We must be the quarterbacks for our patients. It is a team effort but all teams must have leaders. The medical staff will be granting financial assistance to those medical professionals who want to be part of leading alongside our non-medical administration. We are cognizant of the paucity of physicians in the business of medicine. We are committed to correcting this disparity. We encourage our staff to pursue MBA's, MPH's and other postgraduate degrees that contribute to our mission. We will continue our

monthly Medical Staff Affairs meeting. It allows us to interact with the non-medical leadership to understand ongoing projects and to keep our administration aware of our concerns as physicians.

2. Continuing education - while professional societies often provide adequate post graduate education in their own parochial arenas, I think it important for the medical staff to provide education in areas that transcend the specialties. Subjects such as physician burnout, genetic testing, personal medicine, use of social media and ethnic diversity training are a few of the areas that I believe are important to explore. In addition we support many departmental visiting lectureships and research projects through generous grants.
3. Global medicine - many of our staff members have donated their valuable time to help provide care to areas throughout the world that would otherwise be severely underserved. Efforts to coordinate these services would be invaluable to the providers as well as the recipients of this care. We hope to work with the health system to institutionalize these efforts.
4. Advocacy - we need to work with our politicians to educate them in areas important to the care of our patients. We must counter those forces that jeopardize the lives and health care of our patients by bringing our medical staff closer to entities such as the Medical Society of NY State can only have a positive outcome.
5. Social interaction - all work, no play makes for a very boring and burnt out physician. We will continue to have evening socials as well as our mid-winter gala. These events have been hugely successful and will continue with our first one in the fall (TBA). Talk with your colleagues in an informal setting. Have a drink, let your hair down and get to know one another outside of the clinical setting.

Our medical staff is active and is represented on a number of LIJMC committees including the Medical Board. We are also involved in groups beyond the Medical Center at the local, state and national level.

As our medical year starts, I look forward to your support and involvement in our meetings and events. I encourage you to reach out and make your concerns and needs known to me and the rest of our leadership. The members of our executive committee is quite representative of our staff, our specialties and our 5 different campuses of LIJMC. We have a monthly Executive Committee meeting to discuss important issues and to raise new topics. All members are invited to join this meeting and partake in a great Sunday brunch.

Visit your campus' medical staff lounge where a snack and a pleasant work environment are available for chart completion or simple relaxation. My email is noted below. Our Administrative Director, Jessica York will also be available to field any calls and refer issues appropriately. Her number is 718-470-8708 or you can email her at [jbimby@northwell.edu](mailto:jbimby@northwell.edu). You may also visit our website at [www.lijstaff.org](http://www.lijstaff.org).

Sincerely,  
Michael Ziegelbaum, MD  
President  
LIJ Medical Staff Society  
[ziegelbaum@gmail.com](mailto:ziegelbaum@gmail.com)