

Welcome to the Vermont Medical Society

Vermont
Medical
Society



What is the Vermont Medical Society (VMS)?

VMS is the largest physician membership organization in the state, representing over 2400 physicians, physician assistants and medical students across all specialties and geographic locations. VMS is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit founded in 1784, dedicated to protecting the health of all Vermonters and improving the environment in which Vermont physicians and physician assistants practice medicine. See our brochure at: <https://vtmd.org/join-vms>.

VMS Organization

VMS is made up of 2400 members, which represents 2/3 of practicing physicians & PAs in Vermont, along with 460 medical students. Our members include primary care, specialists and all employer-types (hospital-employed, FQHC, independent practice)

VMS also operates the:

- *Vermont Specialty Societies:* Pediatrics, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, Surgeons, Orthopedics, Osteopathic Physicians.
- *Vermont Practitioner Health Program* under contract with Board of Medical Practice to serve licensees with an impaired ability to practice medicine.
- *VMS Education and Research Foundation:* independent 501(c)(3) that supports educational and charitable activities –offering physician leadership training course, student scholarship.

VMS Physician Leadership

President: **Simha Ravven, MD** (Psychiatry, Chief Medical Officer, Howard Center)

President-elect: **Patti Fisher, MD** (Chief Medical Officer, Central Vermont Medical Center)

Vice President: **Ryan Sexton, MD** (Emergency Medicine, Northeastern VT Regional Hospital)

Immediate Past-President: **Catherine Schneider, MD** (General Surgery, Mt. Ascutney Hospital)

VMS Policy Staff



Jessa Barnard
Executive Director
jbarnard@vtmd.org



Stephanie Winters
Deputy Director
swinters@vtmd.org



Jill Sudhoff-Guerin
Policy & Communications Mgr.
jsudhoffguerin@vtmd.org

Top Legislative Priorities Acted on in 2020

Critical emergency flexibilities and funding to respond to COVID-19

- Includes telehealth coverage, licensing provisions and HIPAA flexibilities (Act 140/H. 960)
- Creating the \$275 million health care provider stabilization fund (Act 136/H. 965)

Strengthening Vermont's primary care workforce

- Physician assistant licensure modernization (Act 123/S.128)
- Primary care and nursing scholarships (H. 607)

Improving the practice environment

- Requires all health insurers to have prior authorization "gold card" programs, report on streamlining prior authorizations (Act 140/H. 960)

2021 Legislative Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

- Continued financial resources, PPE, regulatory flexibilities; peer support.

Health System & Insurance Reform

- Ongoing reimbursement for audio-only telehealth.
- Providing clinician voice in implementation of All-Payer Agreement.

Reduced Administrative Burdens

- Implementation of Act 140 gold card process, reports on embedding tools into EHRs.

Ensuring a Strong Workforce

- Ongoing funding for primary care scholarships; opportunities for residencies

Supporting Public Health

- Urging adequate prevention funding, limited advertising, strong labeling in marijuana sales.
- Supporting legal protections for women's reproductive rights, minor consent to STI prevention services, access to menstrual hygiene products.
- Supporting the creation of a forensic mental health system.
- Supporting a waiting period for gun purchases.
- Supporting flavor ban for all tobacco products.
- Ensuring patients have accurate information regarding risks of unregulated Stem Cell products.
- Monitoring progress of Global Warming Solutions Act.
- Supporting 12 weeks of universal paid leave for all parents.
- Banning the sale of crib bumpers.

