Welcome to the Vermont Medical Society

2021 Legislative Priorities

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.
- Supporting 12 weeks of universal paid leave for all parents.
- Banning the sale of crib bumpers.

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
**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 Vermon ters and improving the environment in which Vermont physicians and physician assistants practice medicine. See our brochure at: [https://vtmd.org/join-vms](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)