

# Welcome to the Vermont Medical Society

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.
- Monitoring progress of Global Warming Solutions Act.
- 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](mailto:jbarnard@vtmd.org)



**Stephanie Winters**  
Deputy Director  
[swinters@vtmd.org](mailto:swinters@vtmd.org)



**Jill Sudhoff-Guerin**  
Policy & Communications Mgr.  
[jsudhoffguerin@vtmd.org](mailto: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 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)

