

Minutes of the Meeting of the
NYS Medicine Board
June 5, 2026
1411 Broadway NY, NY

Board Members Present: Dr. Roosevelt Boursiquot; Dr. Rebecca Butterfield; public member Dr. Alice Fornari EdD; Dr. Amit Garg; Dr. Martha Grayson; Dr. Elisabeth Guthrie; John Hallowell PA-C; Dr. Gregory Harvey; Dr. Krishan Kumar; Brenton LaRiccica PA-C; Dr. Audrey Murray; public member Dr. Mohammad-Zuber Nakadar MBBS; Dr. Maria Plummer; Dr. Ramanathan Raju; Dr. Najeeb Rehman; Dr. Ira Salom; Dr. Nancy Sapio; Dr. Neeta Shah; Dr. Rahul Sharma; Dr. Amit Shelat; Dr. Steven Sherman and Dr. Kristen Walker.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Louis Papa and Dr. David Wlody.

Guests Present: Frances Cain, Director of Assessment Services at the Federation of State Medical Boards; Sarah Benson, Former Deputy Commissioner of the NYSED Office of the Professions; Catherine Slattery, Director of Prosecutions at NYSED; Maureen Regan PA-C, President of NYSSPA; Cassandra Pineda, Assistant Vice President of Graduate Medical Education and Health Workforce of GNYHA; Ronaire Morris, MD.

Staff Members Present: Stephen Boese, Executive Secretary to the Board; Carla Gibbons, Education Program Assistant 2; and Lee Fitzgerald, Education Program Assistant 2.

Meeting is called to order by Dr. Shelat at 9:30 am.

Welcome and Introductions: The board has two new members who are attending their first meeting today: Dr. Kristen Walker and Dr. Rebecca Butterfield.

Dr. Kristen Walker is Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine of Primary Care at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She is also Site Director of the Olsan Medical Group. Dr. Walker is a practicing internal medicine physician and an educator in medicine. Her MD was earned at the University of Rochester where she also completed her internship and residency. Dr. Walker is Board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She is also active with the Monroe County Medical Society. Dr. Walker has been nominated and recommended by Dr. Louis Papa, Vice-Chair and long-time member of the Board for Medicine.

Dr. Rebecca Butterfield is Division Chief, Department of Pediatrics with the Albany Medical Center Pediatric Group. She is Board Certified in General Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics. She is also Professor of Pediatrics at Albany Medical Center. She earned her MD degree from Albany Medical College and completed a residency in Pediatrics at Golisano Children's Hospital, Rochester. Dr. Butterfield's CV cites numerous awards, presentations, and publications. Dr. Butterfield is one of New York State's leading pediatricians and will play an important role as a pediatric expert from upstate NY.

Motion to Accept Minutes: Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes from the March 2026 meeting.

Open Nominations for Board Leadership: Our current Chair and Vice Chair, Dr. Shelat and Dr. Papa will both be rotating off the Board in September. There will be an election at that time for both a new Chair and Vice Chair, as well as a new FSMB liaison. Dr. Raju was our previous FSMB liaison but can no longer serve this role due to a conflict of interest as he is now a voting member of the FSMB Board of Directors.

Dr. Rahul Sharma nominated himself for Board Chair. Dr. Rahul Sharma is the Barbara and Stephen Friedman Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and the Emergency Physician-in-Chief for New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center. He serves as the Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Virtual Care at Weill Cornell Medicine. He also holds dual faculty appointments as Professor of Emergency Medicine and Professor of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Dr. Ramanathan Raju also nominated himself for Board Chair. Dr. Raju previously served as President and CEO of Cook County Health and Hospital System in Chicago, and NYC Health + Hospitals. He has served on many regional and national boards such as the American Hospital Association, American Essential Hospitals, the Greater New York Hospital Association, and the Healthcare Association of New York State, among others.

Dr. Shelat has nominated Dr. Elisabeth Guthrie and Dr. Martha Grayson as Vice Chairs.

Dr. Ira Salom nominated himself for FSMB Liaison. Dr. Salom attended the 2026 FSMB Annual Meeting and is interested in continuing his involvement with the FSMB.

Dr. Shelat has also nominated Dr. Neeta Shah for FSMB Liaison.

Update from the FSMB: Dr. Shelat attended the 2026 FSMB annual meeting as the FSMB liaison to vote in the house of delegates. There are new changes in the FSMB bylaws that are currently being considered. New members of a state medical board automatically become FSMB fellows. They maintain their fellowship until 3 years after their board membership ends. The FSMB is proposing extending the terms of the FSMB fellowship from 3 years to 5 years. This proposal was not passed at the meeting and has gone back to the bylaws committee for further study.

The FSMB also proposed a new secretary position that would fall under the role of the current president and CEO Dr. Hank Chaudhry. The proposed secretary amendment was rejected, and they decided more research was needed.

The ethics and professionalism committee adopted to expand the use of subject matter experts for committee purposes. If the committee needs to bring in an expert for their opinion on a specific topic on ethics, they are now allowed to do so.

The FSMB studied alternate pathways to licensure for physicians who completed their postgraduate training outside of the United States. The FSMB, ACGME and Intealth created the Advisory Commission on Additional Licensing Models in 2023 to provide guidance on this subject for state licensing boards. NY has its own unique review process for applicants with these credentials.

Another issue discussed was corporate influence in clinical decision-making. The FSMB looked at the issues of private equity, corporate ownership, insurance companies, health systems and utilization management and the impact of these on patient care. The goal is to protect physicians and patients alike from corporate influence and maintain physicians' ability to make decisions for their patients regarding clinical care. The FSMB also considered the role of the physician and their responsibilities in a corporate structure. Physicians should still maintain professional responsibility for their decisions in patient care and they cannot lay blame for professional misconduct on the parent company (ie: "They told me to do it."). In New York State, corporate ownership of a medical practice is not allowed under the law, and a NY-licensed physician must own and assume responsibility for a practice.

The FSMB also looked at emerging issues like GLP compounding, ketamine clinics and IV hydration clinics. These kinds of treatments are growing quickly in popularity and availability, and state medical boards should be aware of potential risks to patients so they can consider regulation of these treatments.

The FSMB also examined the issue of physicians re-entering the field after a break from clinical practice. The FSMB house of delegates adapted the recommendations of the FSMB workgroup on re-entry into practice. The report noted that holding a medical license alone does not necessarily demonstrate ongoing clinical competence. Skills and training can be lost with time and should be reassessed when a physician resumes practice. At the same time, the FSMB recognizes that physicians are a valuable resource and should not face undue barriers to re-entry. It is recommended that state medical boards create policies that balance patient safety with the needs of these physicians.

International Medical Graduate Workgroup Report: The IMG workgroup reviews license application materials for applicants who completed their postgraduate training in another country. The committee reviewed 40 applications since the previous meeting. There will be two vacancies in the IMG workgroup when Dr. Shelat and Dr. Papa end their board terms in September. Interested members are encouraged to join.

Executive Secretary's Report: Because we have new members, Mr. Boese takes an opportunity to remind members of the open meetings law. All board meetings must be held in-person and cannot be held remotely over a video teleconference. An exception exists for board members to attend remotely via an official NYSED remote site. Board members who decide to listen in on the meeting remotely would not count towards the quorum and cannot vote on board matters.

A lawsuit against multiple members of the NY medicine board has been dismissed. The lawsuit involved a licensure issue which does not fall under the purview of the board. Mr. Boese will distribute the decision to the concerned parties next week.

Current Legislation Update: The governor’s proposal for medical assistants to administer vaccines was not successful in the legislature. Additionally, an authorization for certified Medicaid aids to administer medications in residential healthcare facilities did not advance.

The budget would have made various changes to various laws where the authority of a licensed physician would be replaced with a “quality healthcare provider acting within their scope of practice”. This recommendation did not advance outside of the budget. The transfer of the oversight of the scope of practice of physicians, physician assistants and specialist assistants from the NYSED office of the professions to the NYS Department of Health did not advance.

A proposal allowing Physician assistants to practice without physician supervision, and a proposal allowing Physician Assistants to engage in the use of Fluoroscopy-guided procedures were not successful. A bill allowing mifepristone or misoprostol to be dispensed without names on the prescription label had passed the senate, but not the assembly.

Legislation requiring the Department of Health to create an informational pamphlet on intrauterine devices passed both houses and would now go on to either be vetoed or signed into law by the governor. The law dictates that providers must distribute the pamphlet to patients interested in contraceptives. There was concern that this requirement would be too vague or unspecific where any mention of any contraceptives would require the distribution of this pamphlet.

Legislation changing the standards of immunization practice in NY was enacted into law by the governor. The legislation removes the requirement for standards of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and replaces it with general guidance.

Chatbot liability did not advance in the legislature. This legislation would have required that chatbots giving medical advice must identify itself as an AI chatbot and cannot represent itself as a medical doctor.

Professional Committee Reports: Perfusion met on 3/13. The committee answered questions on scope of practice issues from the public. For example, the committee clarified that a licensed perfusionist can complete point of care testing. They also addressed an inquiry on ECMO – a perfusion procedure that can be performed by nurses and respiratory therapists as designated by the hospital facility. The committee determined that it would be the hospital’s responsibility to determine who is properly credentialed to perform this task. The committee determined that the use of a “cell saver machine” was not in the scope of practice of perfusion and a perfusion license would not be required to perform this task.

The Medical Physics Committee met on 6/4. The committee has immediate vacancies for physician members and needs a physician specializing in nuclear medicine, as well as a physician specializing in therapeutic radiation. The committee determined that an older licensing examination, the ABMP, was substantially equivalent to the current examination for licensure.

The committee determined that mammography was not in the scope of practice of medical health physics. They also determined that body scanners were not in the scope of practice of medical physics as they are not involved in clinical patient care.

The Path-A committee will meet on 6/11.

Report from FSMB and NBME: Frances Cain is the Director of Assessment Services at the FSMB. She gives a presentation to the Board on the SPEX (Special Purpose Examination) and PLAS (Post-Licensure Assessment System) examinations. These examinations are clinical assessments for physicians who are already licensed. They provide state medical boards with information to make decisions about a physician's ability to practice safely. The exams can be a good assessment for physicians who are re-entering the field after stepping away from practice, or for physicians who are applying for a new license in another state. They can also be used as a tool for disciplinary actions or terms for probation.

The SPEX is a general knowledge examination that uses "live" questions from the USMLE. Medical board members are allowed to "unofficially" take the test so that they can see the content for themselves. Applicants can register for the examination themselves, or they can obtain eligibility through sponsorship from a state licensing board. The examination results are only shared with a state licensing board if the applicant registers through the state board sponsorship pathway.

The PLAS is a comprehensive assessment system offered jointly by the FSMB and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). It evaluates currently or previously licensed physicians regarding their medical knowledge, clinical judgment, and patient management skills.

Next Meeting Dates:

The next meetings are set for 9/11/26, 12/4/2026, 3/5/2027 and 6/4/2027 at 9:30 am.

Executive Session:

The board entered executive session at 12pm. Former Office of the Professions Deputy Commissioner Sarah Benson provides the board members with training on the license restoration process. The medicine board also discusses an issue with a confidential application for licensure.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Draft respectfully submitted,

Lee Fitzgerald
Education Program Assistant 2