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NYSACHO MEMBERS ELECT 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT

Commissioner of Onondaga County Health Department Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, MA, FACP, Elected Incoming President

(Albany, New York, June 7, 2021) The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) today announced the results of its 2021 election for Board of Directors. NYSACHO represents all 58 of New York's local health departments, serving as the collective voice of New York State's local public health system.

Newly elected board members are Patricia Schnabel Ruppert, DO, MPH, CPE, DABFM, FAAFP, Rockland County Commissioner of Health and Medical Director, and Christine Schuyler, BSN, RN, MHA, Chautauqua County Commissioner of Social Services and Public Health Director.

Rupert and Schuyler bring years of expertise and experience to the Board as they join existing NYSACHO board members, including:

- Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, MA, FACP, President, Commissioner, Onondaga County Health Department
- Nancy McGraw, LCSW, MBA, MPH, Vice President, Public Health Director, Sullivan County
- Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH, Immediate Past President, Public Health Director Cattaraugus County
- Linda Beers, MPH, Public Health Director/Director of Services for Children with Disabilities, Essex County
- Paul A. Pettit, MSL, CPH, Public Health Director, Genesee and Orleans Counties
- Heidi Bond, BSN, CPH, Public Health/Patient Services Director, Otsego County
- Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH, Commissioner, Orange County
- Emiko Otsubo, Chief Operating Officer/Executive Deputy Commissioner, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

- Michael D. Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS, FAAFP, Commissioner of Public Health, Monroe County Health Department
- Carol M. Smith, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health and Mental Health, Ulster County
- Amy E. Gildemeister, PHD, Director of Public Health, Schoharie County

DR. INDU GUPTA ELECTED NYSACHO PRESIDENT

Incoming NYSACHO President Dr. Indu Gupta was appointed as Commissioner of Health at the Onondaga County Health Department in November 2014. She completed her medical degree in India, a Master of Arts in public administration and a certificate of advanced study in health service management and policy from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, and a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Her clinical work with individual patients in private practice in Syracuse led to her further interest in population health to improve health outcomes, with special interests in epidemiology, quality and process improvement. She implemented such initiatives while working at the University of California at Los Angeles as clinical faculty before returning to Syracuse in 2014. As Commissioner of Health, Dr. Gupta focused on Community Health Assessment and Improvement plans with strong community engagement to identify health priorities in the community. She has implemented health equity, accountability, performance management and quality improvement policies to guide the work of the Health Department, and has developed strong community and health care sector partnerships to protect and improve health of the community. Dr. Gupta is board certified in internal medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. She serves on several advisory boards.

NANCY MCGRAW ELECTED NYSACHO VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Board member Nancy McGraw was elected to serve as NYSACHO's Vice-President/President Elect. Ms. McGraw was appointed as Public Health Director for Sullivan County in 2013 after having served as Deputy Director for 7 years. She has 21 years of experience in public health and holds a Master's in Public Health from the University at Albany. She completed an Executive MBA in healthcare administration from Binghamton University in 1999, and a Master of Social Work degree in 1992 from Marywood College in Scranton, PA. She also serves on the board of directors for New York State Association for Rural Health. As Sullivan County's Public Health Director, she has implemented quality improvement and performance management initiatives and has guided the Sullivan County Rural Health Network and community stakeholders to bring together broad sectors of the community to focus on improving community health, including addressing the opioid crisis and advocating for the 2017 passage of a local Tobacco 21 law — the first small rural county in NYS to do so prior to similar statewide passage. Also, in collaboration with the Department of Population Health, New York University School of Medicine, Ms. McGraw has co-authored recent publications concerning research designed to better match the limited public health resources of rural counties to the geographical areas with the highest burden of disease.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS SELECTED

Nancy McGraw will join Dr. Gupta on the Board of Directors Executive Committee, along with Dr. Kevin Watkins, immediate past president.

NYSACHO Executive Director Sarah Ravenhall said: "We welcome our new board members and leadership team as we emerge from a pandemic that has underscored the imperative to responsibly support and resource our public health system. We will continue to work with

elected officials to drive NYSACHO's legislative agenda forward, the most central element of which is increasing flexible state funding for New York's local health departments."

Dr. Gupta said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has made clearer than ever that our local public health infrastructure is critically important to the safety and well-being of our communities during and after the pandemic. It is an honor and a privilege to lead this group of extraordinary professionals and public servants, who every day not only serve on the front lines of the pandemic, but also continue to meet the challenges of numerous critical public health priorities as the chief health strategists of their respective communities."

The new board of directors and executive committee began their one-year term effective June 1, 2021. To view a listing of NYSACHO Directors and for more information, please visit: <https://www.nysacho.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>.

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