

**Suffolk County Medical Society  
Councilor's Report  
November 5, 2015  
Frank G. Dowling, MD, Councilor**

- The Suffolk County Medical Society is honored to have been included as one of the supporting organizations with The New York State Practice Transformation Network, being led by The New York e-Health Collaborative and the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency. The goal is to assist in providing the technical assistance/support to help clinicians with the tools, information, and network support needed to improve quality-of-care, increase patient access to information, and spend health care dollars more wisely. A \$48.5 million CMS grant will be spread out over 4 years. SCMS immediate past-president Maria A. Basile, MD, MBA was the driving force behind this successful initiative and deserves our praise and thanks.
- We are proud to announce that classes for the first SCMS/Adelphi affiliated MD-MBA program are scheduled to begin October 22, 2015. This uniquely-designed member-only program will be held one night a week at the SCMS office will provide physicians the tools necessary to run a more cost-effective practice, as well as becoming proficient in business strategies. We wish to thank the Nassau County Medical Society for their interest in offering this program to their members.
- Dr. William Spencer, SCMS President, has initiated discussions with Huntington Hospital regarding and institutional membership initiative with their 1,000-plus medical staff physicians. Huntington is part of the North Well Health (North Shore/LIJ) System which brings additional challenges to our negotiations. We are hoping that these challenges can be remedied within the foreseeable future.
- In an effort to better communicate with our members, the SCMS has recently set up a Facebook page and will be looking into establishing a Twitter account.
- On October 1, the SCMS sponsored a legislative breakfast which was attended by 20-plus physicians and a majority of our Senate and Assembly representatives. Discussions centered around the following key issues: (1) Out-of-Network coverage; (2) Collective Negotiations; (3) Medical Liability Reform; and (4) CME Mandate on Pain Management.

We wish to express our thanks to Dr. Maldonado and Phil Schuh for their active participation in this successful event.

- The SCMS has held numerous seminars on ICD-10. Information is available on the SCMS website.
- Dr. Spencer is concerned about physician's quality of life issues. At the last SCMS Executive Committee meeting we heard a presentation of Sleep Apnea and its impact on physicians' work habits. The presentation was provided by Dr. Jagneed Bijwadia, Attending Physician at Health Partners Medical Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was the Department Head and Director of the Sleep Medicine Center. He is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the University of Minnesota.

The subject of Physician Burnout will also be explored in the coming months. Thomas Donoghue has been very helpful in providing names of qualified speakers and will be assisting us in the possible development of CME programs.

- James Tomarken, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW, FRCPC, FACP, Suffolk County Commissioner of Health, provided an update on the recent legionella outbreak in the Bronx and also explained that there have been 11 cases reported in Suffolk County.