The SCMS would like to thank Thomas J. Madejski, MD, MSSNY Treasurer for attending our November 4, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. Dr. Madejski stressed the importance of increasing membership, especially through the development of institutional membership initiatives. Discussions also centered on the increasing number of employed physicians and MSSNY’s need to address this new demographic.

The SCMS has been successful in obtaining medical staff rosters from many Suffolk County hospitals and will be analyzing these numbers so as to determine which medical staffs should be approached during the year to begin discussion on development of an institutional membership initiative.

The SCMS is having ongoing discussions with the leadership of Huntington Hospital on an institutional membership initiative. William Spencer, MD, SCMS President is scheduled to speak at the full medical staff meeting on January 28, 2016. Since Huntington is part of the North Shore/Long Island Jewish System, further discussions with their appropriate leadership may be required.

The new president of the medical staff at Southside Hospital in Bay Shore is interested in learning more about an institutional membership initiative. He is intrigued with the concept and believes it has very tangible benefits.

The SCMS is also continuing discussions with the IPA of Nassau/Suffolk Counties (IPANS), a 800+ physician IPA based in Suffolk County regarding a group membership initiative.

SCMS President, William Spencer, MD, Chair of the Suffolk County Health Committee, has recently convened a panel of professionals to discuss the effects of neonatal abstinence syndrome, how it relates to the current drug epidemic and what can be done to move forward. The panel brought new light to this issue and opened a dialogue on a variety of perspectives, ranging from medical to social work, government and private outreach agencies. Nationally, there has been a fivefold increase in the number of babies born with NAS between 2000 and 2012, and it is estimated every 25 minutes a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal. In Suffolk, we have seen alarming increases from 93 in 2009 to 171 in 2014.

Frank Dowling, MD, SCMS Councilor participated in medical grand rounds at Southampton Hospital on the topic of PTSD with TBI in Returning Veterans. The session was also broadcast via WebEx and was attended by more than 75 physicians.