

**Suffolk County Medical Society
Councilor's Report
November 1, 2018
Maria A. Basile, MD, MBA, Councilor**

- Through a generous grant from the Physicians' Foundation, Suffolk County Councilor, Maria Basile, MD joined MSSNY President-elect, Art Fougner, MD in attending the Karl M Altenburger MD Physician Leadership Academy where faculty from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. The immersive program, from September 12-15, included sessions on National and State Health Care Reform, Strategic Management, Leading Change in Complex Systems, and Negotiation and Conflict Resolution in Health Care. It was a tremendous networking opportunity, as rising leaders and executive staff from state medical societies as close as Connecticut and as distant as Oregon gathered to share this experience.
- The women physicians of Suffolk County were well represented as MSSNY's new Committee on Women hosted a large planning conference call on the evening of September 17th. More than 35 interested women physicians participated in the call led by co-chairs, Maria Basile, MD and Rose Berkun, MD along with MSSNY Vice President Bonnie Litvack, MD, President Tom Madjeski, MD, and President-elect, Art Fougner. On the call, members expressed their interest in working on one or more of the areas they thought the committee might address:
 - Developing an educational program in connection with our Veterans Matters grant, to focus on women veterans
 - Creating a #MeToo video or website materials to voice and respond to concerns of women in the medical profession
 - Planning a relevant CME program for the next annual meeting of the MSSNY House of Delegates
 - Organizing a leadership development and mentorship program for women in medicine
 - Work life balance
 - CME programs on Women's health
 - Data collection
 - Social media
- Continuous efforts are being made to assist members with the new sexual harassment regulations mandated for employers. Locally, RuskinMoscouFaltischek, P.C. has developed paths to engage members and assist them in the management of this issue. As a membership benefit, this helps to validate the engagement with the medical society.
- On September 21st, our Executive Director attended the MSSNY CME Conference. The speakers were outstanding and addressed the need for relevance and the need for creative new methods for CME engagement.

- On September 26th, the SCMS bylaws committee met for the continuation of updating and amending our bylaws.
- Also, on September 26th, the SCMS Executive Committee met and discussed upcoming events and issues. The Governor's Marijuana Hearings at Nassau and Suffolk were mentioned in order to have physicians come out and testify. Special acknowledgment was made for the New York State Association of County Health Officials who penned a letter in opposition to the legalization of marijuana in New York. It was also presented that SCMS is considering relocation as the end of our leasing contract now affords us the ability to do so.
- On September 27th, Aaron Kumar, MD, MBA joined David Podwall, MD to testify at the Governor's Marijuana Hearing in Nassau County. The vocalization of opposition from physicians was a needed contribution to the overwhelming support for legalization by individuals and business focused entrepreneurs.
- On October 4th and 5th, SCMS with the Bronx County Medical Society and Monroe County Medical Society ran an Executive Director's Conference at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, NY. The event was attended by our MSSNY leadership and keynote speakers who shared valuable insight into membership, organization, partnerships, shared resources, etc. Gina Del Savio, MD joined to share the challenges in engaging physicians. Alan Cooper, Ph.D., MBA shared on Lean methodology for the Medical Society as a membership organization. Frank Gallucci, Founder and CEO of Whitestone Associates shared on business engagement and understanding value proposition. Mike Schoppmann, Esq. updated and reassured the group of MLMIC's commitment and support of the Medical Society. James Dering Esq. from Garfunkel Wild shared on the state regulations of the practice of medicine. Kathleen Sellers, JD shared the importance of insurance safeguards especially for organizational Director's and Officers Liability. Moe Auster, Esq shared the legislative work done at MSSNY and the progress we are making. Eunice Skelly shared the values and continued work we offer members. Philip Schuh, CPA shared the work that MSSNY is continuing to make progress in. Thomas Madejski, MD, MSSNY President, discussed with the County Executive Directors the strengths of our membership organization, our current work and the work ahead of us. The event was a successful in creating an environment for open dialogue and communication between the County Executive Directors.
- On October 10th, Richard Schoor, MD created and posted the first Suffolk Academy podcast entitled Salus Populi. The first episode was a dialogue between Dr. Schoor and our young physician leader, Daniel Choi, MD. The use of technology, the engagement of members, the House of delegates, some challenges physicians face, and much more were discussed in the inaugural podcast.
- The Long Island Health Collaborative held a meeting of community leaders looking to strengthen the health of the residents of Nassau and Suffolk County. Bruce Berlin, MD and Aaron Kumar, MD, MBA attended. The LI Health Collaborative shared data gathering tools and showed examples of population food access information based on geographically clustered areas.
- Also, on the 10th of October, the SCMS Board of Directors met. A report of ongoing activities from representative physician leaders were presented. Of note were the closing of the South Side Hospital Family Residency Program, the Marijuana Hearings, our Legislative Breakfast, the CVS/Aetna Merger Hearing, the election of the medical staff members from the Northwell engagement, and our treasurers report.

- On October 12th SCMS held our Legislative Breakfast. It was a well-attended event with 12 legislators and representatives in attendance. Our Legislative Committee, led by Co-Chair William Spencer, MD, addressed the issues of collective negotiations, reducing prior authorization hassles, offering proper due processing for physicians that are terminated from insurance carriers, liability reform, single payor, and marijuana legalization. In attendance was also Phil Schuh, MSSNY Executive Vice President who shared valuable insight on state level news with our representing legislators.
- Discussions with candidates seeking election were also set in order to understand their positions on healthcare issues. Mr. James Gaughran and Suffolk Legislator Monica Martinez shared their views and support of the physician's work in the community and the patients that the care for.
- On October 16th, Dr. Charles Rothberg and Dr. Aaron Kumar attended and testified at the Governor's marijuana hearing session in Suffolk County. Dr. James Tomarken and Dr. William Spencer both addressed the group and shared the need for concern with legalization. The community's testimonies were relatively balanced between opposition and support. Issues of medical use, disparities among socio-economic and racial lines, criminalization, business ventures, unintentional consequences, and adjacent state regulations were discussed.
- On October 18th, Charles Rothberg, MD testified at the NYDFS hearing of the CVS and Aetna merger. Aaron Kumar, MD, MBA was also in attendance. All but one testimony (aside CVS and Aetna) shared grave concerns of the proposed merger. The NYDFS member panel listened intently to safe guard the residents of New York. Assemblyman Gottfried also testified in opposition to this merger.
- On October 28th, the community organization, LI-CAN is recognizing the support and work SCMS/SAM provided in the fight against the opioid epidemic. A CME seminar was developed for healthcare providers on the need and use of Medication Assisted Treatment for those with opioid addiction.