

Suffolk County Medical Society  
Councilor's Report,

Maria A. Basile, MD, MBA, Councilor

January 24, 2019

- On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the SCMS Executive Committee met and discussed engaging St. Catherine's Medical Staff physicians, a year end donation letter, HOD dates and resolution deadlines, our podcast and twitter handle (@Suffolk Medical), and the Sexual Harassment training and policy regulations.
- On November 14<sup>th</sup>, SCMS/ SAM held our annual Doctors of Tomorrow Symposium. As in previous years, this Symposium drew a full room of high school students interested in becoming physicians. Students were able to ask our panel of physicians, in various specialties and positions, questions on their career and life as a physician. Thanks to our panel members: Dr. Cesa, Dr. Koreen, Dr. Vomero, Dr. Jungreis, Dr. Cornetta, Dr. Choi, and Dr. Coccaro. The Assistant Dean of Admissions Stony Brook School of Medicine, Ms. Grace Agnetti, and Mr. Austin Ferrier, 2nd year Medical Student, also joined us and shared some of the challenges and successes students face in the early stages of their career path. We hope to expand the program in the future.
- On November 15<sup>th</sup>, via the invitation of MLMIC, Dr. Kumar, attended the Crain's 2018 Health Care Summit held in Manhattan. Issues were addressed concerning data collection for the tangible benefits of the community as well as the disparities in healthcare and how efficient data collecting and usage can help drive a business model to address the findings.
- For Thanksgiving, SCMS was able to donate several pies to the local food bank to help our neighbors who are struggling, especially during the season.
- The Salus Populi podcast developed by Dr. Richard Schoor for the Academy of Medicine has added five new episodes. This is a great platform to listen in on conversations that are relevant in healthcare from a variety of perspectives.
- SCMS was able to support and donate to a breast cancer mission to the Dominican Republic, led by Dr. David Mangiameli. We look forward to these opportunities to advance social causes and bring the work physicians do to a new light in the community.
- For Christmas, SCMS invited families from SCO Family Services (Foster Care and Preventative Services) to our office. It was a privilege to present toys and share smiles with kids who met Santa, ate some pizza and played with their toys. In addition, SCMS/SAM drove to and donated toys to the pediatric department at Good Samaritan Hospital.
- On December 10<sup>th</sup>, SCMS President, Dr. Ramin Rak, Dr. Charles Rothberg, Dr. Bardi Nath, Dr. Nabil Kiridly, Dr. Stephen Coccaro, Dr. Kara Kvilekval, Dr. Daniel Choi, Dr. Deborah Blenner, and Dr. Aaron Kumar, were in attendance of the St. Catherine's Medical staff meeting. It was presented to the group the benefits of being a part of the medical society, the partnerships we have as a physician network, the capability to address issues via resolutions, and the joint work we do. The presentation spoke directly to the individual physicians and then led to consider group membership. Mention of MSSNY PAC and its importance closed out the talk. There was direct, positive engagement during and post presentation. We look forward to cultivating this relationship and adding to our membership.
- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, SCMS held its Board meeting at which we had the United States NAVY, Lieutenant Michael A. Solomon, as our invited guest present to us on the benefits and opportunities for physicians, students and other allied health care professionals. The board meeting continued with reports from representatives from affiliate organizations and groups.
- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Kumar attended the Long Island Healthcare Collaborative which addressed community projects including geographic information on food access, cultural competency and health literacy, and the library asset mapping project. Progressive steps into 2019 were also shared. We hope to engage with the Collaborative and address specific topics such as the opioid epidemic. Joint efforts in the arena are our best hopes for effectively combating the problem. This was discussed with Janine Logan, Director of the Long Island Population Health Improvement Program and the Long Island Health Collaborative with Dr. Kumar the previous day.
- SCMS/SAM is collaborating with organizations to address the opioid epidemic including the Long Island Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods and with Mount Sinai to hold conferences and presentations on substance abuse, harm reduction, ending stigma and MAT training.