

Suffolk County Medical Society
Councilor's Report
November 7, 2019
Linda Efferen, MD, MBA, Councilor

- On September 25th SCMS-SAM held a parent focused seminar on adolescent suicide awareness and prevention at Hauppauge High School. We were able to engage with parents and a few students on teen wellness. Our panel of members included: Rachna Sharma, MD - Child & Adolescent Psychiatry , Meryl Cassidy, ACSW, LMSW - The Crisis Response Center (Suicide Prevention), Matthew Neebe, LCSW, CASAC, CPP - Horizons Counseling & Education Center, Nancy Hemendinger - The Suffolk County Department of Health Services Office of Health Education, Christopher Cook - Principal, Hauppauge HS and our moderator William Spencer, MD - Physician/Legislator. We were joined also by Officer Kimberly Dono from the 4th Precinct C.O.P.E. Section. The session was interactive and informative. Many questions from the audience led to insightful discussions. We hope to follow up this event with similar engagements for the community.
- On September 11th, SCMS held its Bi-annual legislative Breakfast. There were both County and State Senators and members of the Assembly in attendance. We thank MSSNY's CEO Phil Schuh for attending and Senior Vice-President and Chief Legislative Counsel Moe Auster for his guidance with the legislative agenda. With eleven legislators and ten physicians, we addressed several issues including vaping, surprise billing, single payer, and wrongful death legislations. In attendance were also two residents who showed interest in the legislative process. We hope to engage with more new members via the continued efforts the medical society plays in health policies.
- As legislative work is continual, SCMS officers were able to attend events that support Suffolk based legislators on the 2nd, 22nd and 23rd of October. We thank MSSNY PAC and Jenifer Wilks, Coordinator for Political & Grassroots Action, for the support and help with these.
- October 23rd will be the next SCMS Board of Directors meeting.