

Suffolk County Medical Society
Councilor's Report
September 17, 2020
Linda Efferen, MD, MBA, Councilor

- As we have seen in every industry globally, Covid has affected operations and the activities of organizations, including ours. We have taken steps to help adjust our methods and aim to retain processes that foster growth in this new environment. Under the leadership of our President, Ani Bodoutchian, MD, MBA, we are developing a monthly webinar series for physicians, students, and the public. These sessions will be used to educate and inform attendees of the physicians' perspectives and the factors that influence our healthcare system (including finances, legislative policies, disparities in healthcare, peer support, organizational supports, etc.)
- We are developing new functionalities with our website and database. The modification and enhancements of these two allow for better membership interaction and information sharing.
- We also are sending out a letter of invitation to all hospital medical staff presidents, within Suffolk, to join us at our board meetings.
- On June 17th, our new SCMS president and outgoing president were recognized in a virtual meeting of our officers.
- SCMS participated in the 2020 year-end MSSNY membership campaign, in an attempt to retain members during this challenging time. Some memberships were retained due to the general reminder and time offered due to interruptions in normal invoice payment procedures. However, the majority of the call list were those with inaccurate information or those who were directly unreachable (moved, deceased, etc.). Of those who were reached, most members had a clear view of their decision to be a member or not.
- SCMS remains concerned with the changes and effects of the new State Workers Compensation processes. The lack of transparency, technologic glitches and mandated rules continue to threaten the County's effective participation to support physicians and protect the public.
- On August 5th, the SCMS Executive committee met virtually. Officers were updated and reminded of the HOD resolutions and deadlines. We appreciate all the hard work and efforts MSSNY has made to listen and work on the concerns of physicians expressed in these resolutions. Operational management was discussed with the committee to address costs and the effects of Covid. Our workers compensation committee also discussed the changes and challenges of the state board's policies. Adjustments and refining of our processes were made. Membership retention was discussed including the recent

campaign. Website development, membership portals and student/resident engagement was also discussed.

- On August 17th and 27th, SCMS and SAM held a joint program for the practice of medicine during Covid. This two-part session was to address physicians' views and organizational supports available. We thank our physician panel and each organizational representative (IPANS,NSHC,BNB,MLMIC,RMF) that participated. We also would like to thank NYSAFP for their support promoting this program as we also promoted their session on practicing medicine during Covid.
- On September 2nd, The SCMS Board met virtually. The Board was updated with the information shared at the Executive meeting. The resignation of our President-elect and Councilor was announced as well as the selected individuals to fill anticipated vacancies. Daniel Choi, MD was appointed to step into the role as President-elect. The new Vice-President of SCMS was announced to be William Wertheim, MD, MBA. Also, during the meeting, a short presentation was made by Kate Tian, 3rd year medical student on effective strategies (visibility, communication, and continuity) for student engagement.
- We want to express our deepest gratitude to Linda Efferen, MD,MBA for all her work, patience, and comradery here at SCMS. We wish her well in all that the future holds.
- The SCMS Executive Committee will meet again on October 7th.