

Rhode Island Medical Society Council

Meeting of Monday, October 27, 2014

Meeting Highlights

Recognition of Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts RIMS presented the Dr. John Clarke Award for meritorious public service to the Lieutenant Governor.

In her acceptance remarks to the Council, Ms. Roberts praised the Medical Society and its leadership, particularly Dr. Michael Migliori and the Society's executive staff, for knowledgeable and effective engagement in public policy matters throughout the nearly two decades of her service in elective office (RI Senate 1997-2007, Lieutenant Governor 2007-2015).

Noting that she and RIMS have not always agreed, the Lieutenant Governor observed that RIMS has nevertheless been helpful to her on many occasions and is well respected at the State House as a trustworthy, constructive and responsible stakeholder.

She underscored the importance of physician engagement and participation in politics and public policy-making, particularly in this time of change in health care. She observed that state leaders need and want physicians' help in identifying good policy options. She encouraged physicians to support RIMPAC as an important tool for assuring the election of candidates to public office who are knowledgeable about health care.

Lt. Governor Roberts is term-limited and will leave office in January 2015. She is the first recipient of the Medical Society's new Clarke Award, which is named for the physician who secured Rhode Island's Royal Charter in 1663 and is therefore considered by many to be Rhode Island's founder.

Advocacy The Council received updates on RIMS' participation in a number of statewide initiatives that will directly affect physician offices and patient care, including:

- The Health Department's far-reaching proposals revising the "Rules and Regulations for Pain Management" in response to the state's opioid epidemic.
- Senator Whitehouse's new "Health Care Leaders" forum, coordinated by the Rhode Island Foundation, which is focused on controlling health insurance costs through "value-based payment reform," with a particular focus on hospitals.
- Administrative Simplification efforts, which are on-going under the auspices of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner in response to legislation promoted by RIMS.
- A new Joint Legislative Study Commission holding its first meeting this week on high-deductible health insurance plans and their impact on the economic viability of physician practices and patients' access to care. (RIMS and the Hospital Association promoted this initiative.)

2015 Membership Dues The Council voted to maintain the current membership dues structure without change for 2015.

RIMS Foundation The Council elected Drs. Karczmar, Polanco, Jones, Adrain and Damle to serve as Trustees of the RIMS Foundation for the coming year. (The Trustees subsequently met and elected Dr. Jones President of the Foundation and Dr. Polanco Secretary-Treasurer.) The RIMS Foundation, established in 1983, is a 501(c)(3) (educational, charitable, scientific, peer review) entity of RIMS.

Healthcentric Advisors The Chair of the Board of Directors of Healthcentric Advisors (HCA) and *ex officio* member of the RIMS Council, Paul F. McKenney, MD, provided an update on CMS' major reorganization of the QIO system since December 2013 and the local impact. CMS has elevated HCA to the position of lead QIO for all of New England effective August 1. The Connecticut QIO (Qualidigm) is a subcontractor to HCA.

Strategic planning for RIMS The Council considered recommendations from the Task Force on Governance, chaired by Dr. Karczmar, with attention to the powers and duties of the Council, the Executive Committee and standing committees. Dr. Karczmar will establish an ad hoc Finance Committee to support and be chaired by the Treasurer. These matters are parts of and result from a strategic planning process that Dr. Jones initiated for RIMS at the end of 2013.

Congratulations to Dr. Damle By acclamation the Council congratulated Dr. Nitin Damle (RIMS President 2011-2012) upon his elevation to national office as President-Elect of the American College of Physicians effective April 2015. Dr. Damle will serve as President of ACP 2016-2017.

Leadership Disclosure Process Members of the Council executed RIMS' conflict of interest form.