



*The* **BUSY PHYSICIAN'S GUIDE**  
*to the*  
**RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY**

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• WHO WE ARE • WHAT WE DO •

The Rhode Island Medical Society is a voluntary association of physicians, physician assistants, and medical students. The Society advocates for all Rhode Island physicians and supports their efforts to provide the best possible care to their patients. RIMS is the vehicle by which the medical community in Rhode Island meets the evolving challenges of medical practice and quality patient care. The Rhode Island Medical Society represents the interests, values and needs of the medical profession and promotes enlightened public policy in the field of health care.

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**RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY**

*Physicians dedicated to the health of Rhode Islanders since 1812*

405 Promenade Street, Suite A, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-4811  
401-331-3207 Fax 401-751-8050 [www.rimed.org](http://www.rimed.org)

RIMS updates and modifies this document as needed and provides it to new RIMS members, new Council members, and others who want a quick orientation to the Society's broad scope of work.

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## RIMS OFFICERS

Officers serve one-year terms, September to September, and are eligible for re-election



### President

Russell A. Settupane, MD  
Allergy and Immunology  
(East Providence)  
president@rimed.org



### President-Elect

Sarah J. Fessler, MD  
Family medicine  
(East Providence)



### Vice President

Bradley J. Collins, MD  
Internal medicine/Hospital medicine  
(Providence)



### Secretary

Christine Brousseau, MD  
Obstetrics and gynecology  
(Providence)



### Treasurer

Jose R. Polanco, MD  
Internal medicine  
(Providence)



### Immediate Past-President

Peter Karczmar, MD  
Pulmonology/Sleep Medicine  
(East Providence)

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## COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE

Councilors-at-Large along with the Officers and AMA Delegates form the Board of Directors of the RIMS Council. Terms of office are one year.

Tom A. Bledsoe, MD, Internal Medicine (Providence)

Catherine A. Cummings, MD, Emergency Medicine  
(Providence)

Joel M. Kaufman, MD, Neurology (Providence)

Dieter Pohl, MD, Surgery (Johnston)

Patrick J. Sweeney, MD, PhD, MPH, Obstetrics and  
Gynecology (Retired)

Kenneth A. Williams, MD, Emergency Medicine  
(Providence)

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## THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATION to the American Medical Association

Two-year terms, January to December

The Council of RIMS elects the Rhode Island Delegation to the AMA House of Delegates, which meets semi-annually and is the supreme governing and policy-making body of the AMA. The RI Delegation caucuses and works cooperatively with the New England Delegation to the AMA.

### Delegates

Alyn L. Adrain, MD, Gastroenterology (Providence)  
Through December 31, 2017

Peter A. Hollmann, MD, Internal Medicine (Cranston)  
Through December 31, 2016

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## STAFF of the Rhode Island Medical Society

### Newell E. Warde, PhD

Executive Director  
nwarde@rimed.org

### Steven R. DeToy

Director, Government Relations and Public Affairs  
sdeToy@rimed.org

### Libia Rattigan

Comptroller  
lrattigan@rimed.org

### Sarah Brooke Stevens

Office Manager  
sstevens@rimed.org

### Megan Turcotte

Director of Member Services  
mturcotte@rimed.org

### Kathleen Boyd, MSW, LICSW

Director, Physician Health Program, RIMS Foundation  
kboyd@rimed.org

### Sue Silvia

Program Administrator, Physician Health Program  
ssilvia@rimed.org

### Catherine Norton

Assistant Director, Professional and Community Services  
cnorton@rimed.org

### Jane Coutu

Administrative Assistant, Member Services @ Specialty Societies  
jcoutu@rimed.org

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## RIMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A 15-member Board of Directors governs the Society and sets policy. The Board is comprised of the six officers, the AMA Delegation, the Chair of the Public Laws Committee, four Councilors-at-Large and two Adjunct Councilors. The Board customarily meets six times a year, on the first Monday of each odd-numbered month. All members of the Board also serve on the Council. The Executive Committee of the Board is comprised of the six officers; the Executive Committee meets at the call of the President.

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## RIMS COUNCIL

The Council elects officers and advises the President and the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Medical Society. The Council generally meets four times per year. Its membership encompasses the Officers of RIMS, the Councilors-at-Large, Adjunct Councilors, the AMA Delegation, the three most recent RIMS Past Presidents, one representative from each of 29 county, district and medical specialty societies, the chairs of RIMPAC and the Public Laws Committee, the Board Chair of HealthCentric Advisors, the President of RIMS Insurance Brokerage Corporation, two residents/fellows, and one medical student. A directory of the current members of the Council is available at [www.rimed.org](http://www.rimed.org): click on "Governance."

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## STANDING COMMITTEES

In addition to ad hoc committees, work groups and task forces, RIMS has the following standing committees:

(\*Peer review committee)

### Continuing Medical Education

Patrick Sweeney, MD, PhD, MPH, *Chair*

Periodically reviews and accredits hospital-run CME systems in Rhode Island. The Committee is recognized by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education as the accrediting agency for hospital CME programs in Rhode Island.

### Finance

Jose R. Polanco, MD, *Chair*

Advises the Treasurer and the Council on the stewardship and management of the Society's financial assets.

### Maternal Health\*

John Douglas Nisbet, II, MD, *Chair*

Examines each instance of maternal death in Rhode Island to determine what can be done to prevent future occurrences.

### Mediation\*

Arnold H. Herman, MD, *Chair*

Mediates written complaints lodged against individual physicians.

### Medical Review Advisory Committee\*

Peter A. Hollmann, MD, *Chair*

Provides a multi-specialty resource to attorneys and claims managers who defend Rhode Island physicians in medical professional liability cases, with specific regard to the standard of care.

### Membership

Elaine C. Jones, MD; Diane R. Siedlecki, MD; *Co-Chairs*

Communicates to physicians the value and importance of maintaining life-long membership in RIMS and the AMA.

### Physician Competence\*

Jeffrey Brody, MD, *Chair*

Assures that individual physicians consistently meet appropriate standards in the knowledge and skill with which they practice medicine.

### Physician Health\*

Herbert Rakatansky, MD, *Chair*

Martin Kerzer, DO; Robert Crausman, MD; *Vice Chairs*

Assures that instances of illness or disability in individual physicians do not compromise the effectiveness of their professional interaction with patients and colleagues.

### Public Laws

Michael E. Migliori, MD, *Chair*

Directs and monitors the positions and priorities of the Rhode Island Medical Society with respect to legislation before the Rhode Island General Assembly, with the advice and consent of the President, the Board of Directors and the Council.

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## RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (RIMPAC)

Michael A. Silver, MD, *Chair*

Elaine C. Jones, MD, *Treasurer*

As the political arm of the Rhode Island Medical Society, RIMPAC promotes the engagement and visibility of physicians in the political process. RIMPAC encourages physicians to exercise their right to vote, support candidates of their personal choice, become candidates for public office themselves, and support RIMPAC and AMPAC (the American Medical Political Action Committee).

RIMPAC contributes to the election campaigns of state-level candidates who are receptive to the public policy concerns of medicine. RIMPAC cooperates with AMPAC and advises AMPAC on federal-level candidates from Rhode Island.

Neither RIMPAC nor RIMS engages in partisan politics or endorses candidates for public office.

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## RIMS PUBLICATIONS

### *Rhode Island Medical Journal*

The monthly e-journal is published by RIMS, distributed through email, and available on [www.rimed.org](http://www.rimed.org).

**Joseph H. Friedman, MD**, Editor-in-Chief  
**Mary Korr**, Managing Editor

### *Rhode Island Medical News*

The newsletter for members of the Rhode Island Medical Society. It is published quarterly.

### *RIMS Member Directory*

RIMS publishes an annual directory of and for members, cross-referenced by medical specialty. It is available to the public for purchase and is a popular public resource for referrals. (RIMS members also receive a special listing in the comprehensive physician directory for Rhode Island and Connecticut published annually by Folio Associates.)

**RIMS Website:** [www.rimed.org](http://www.rimed.org)

**RIMS e-mail bulletins** for members appear irregularly on a timely, as-needed basis.

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## RIMS SPONSORS

Baystate Financial, Butler & Messier Insurance, Coverys, Debt Management Inc., Doctor's Choice, Favorite Healthcare Staffing, Inc., HNI Insurance, Residential Properties, Ltd., Shred-It, Webster Bank

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## THE RI MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Peter Karczmar, MD, *President*  
Jose R. Polanco, MD, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Alyn L. Adrain, MD  
Elaine C. Jones, MD  
Russell A. Settipane, MD  
Newell E. Warde, PhD, *Executive Director*

Founded in 1983, the RIMS Foundation is a charitable, scientific and educational 501(c)(3) entity under the IRS code. It includes a number of restricted and unrestricted funds.

One of the largest and most active restricted funds within the RIMS Foundation is the Physician Health Fund, which supports RIMS' Physician Health Program. This Fund depends upon support from RIMS, the RIMS Insurance Brokerage Corporation, liability insurers (Coverys, NORCAL Mutual, and the Rhode Island JUA), Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, UnitedHealthcare, and Tufts Health Plan, every hospital and hospital medical staff association in the state, the RI Dental Association, the RI Podiatric Medical Association, the RI Society of Physician Assistants, and several large physician practices.

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## DR. CHARLES L. HILL AWARD – 2015

Pater A. Hollmann, MD

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## DR. HERBERT RAKATANSKY AWARD – 2015

Charles B. "Bud" Kahn, MD

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## DR. JOHN CLARKE AWARD – 2015

US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

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## DR. STANLEY M. ARONSON AWARD – 2015

Herbert Rakatansky, MD

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## RIMS INSURANCE BROKERAGE CORPORATION

RIMS-IBC is a wholly owned, for-profit subsidiary of RIMS. It opened its doors for business in 1987. The IBC specializes in providing superior service to Rhode Island physicians through information-based, zero-pressure sales of quality insurance products to doctors and medical practices.

The staff of the RIMS-IBC are the state's leading experts in all aspects of medical professional liability insurance and place coverage for doctors with every liability insurer that does business in Rhode Island. Through co-brokerage arrangements with other quality brokers, the IBC provides a complete spectrum of insurance products and services to doctors under the same unique and physician-friendly business philosophy of the IBC itself. The IBC shares office space with RIMS and has the same postal address.

The telephone number is 401-272-1050.

*Board of Directors of RIMS Insurance Brokerage Corporation*

Peter A. Hollmann, MD, *President*  
Richard Divver, *Treasurer*  
Newell E. Warde, PhD, *COO and Secretary*  
David P. Carter, MD  
Yul D. Ejnes, MD  
Sarah J. Fessler, MD  
Arthur A. Frazzano, MD  
Russell A. Settipane, MD  
Diane R. Siedlecki, MD  
Tilak K. Verma, MD

*Staff of the RIMS Insurance Brokerage Corporation*

Robert A. Anderson, Jr., *Director* [randerson@rimed.org](mailto:randerson@rimed.org)  
Cheryl Turcotte, *Executive Assistant*