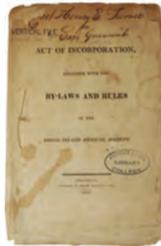


Milestones & Movers



1812

The Rhode Island General Assembly enacts a charter for the incorporation of the Rhode Island Medical Society on February 25. Amos Throop convenes the organizational meeting on April 22 and is elected president of RIMS.

1820

RIMS is one of eleven state medical societies represented at the founding of the U.S. Pharmacopeia in Washington, DC.

1825

RIMS maintains two libraries for the use its members, one in Providence for the "Northern District" and one in Newport for the "Southern District" of the Society.

1835

Dr. Caleb Fiske bequeaths his substantial library to RIMS along with monies that fund an annual Fiske Essay Prize for more than 150 years. He was RIMS' fourth president in 1823-1824.



1847

Butler Hospital opens on December 1, with Dr. Isaac Ray as its first superintendent.

1848

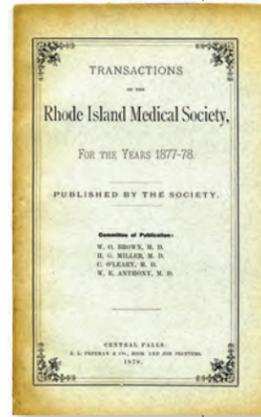
The Providence Medical Association is founded (for the third time since about 1810) on January 31.

1852

RIMS' advocacy succeeds in making Rhode Island the fourth state to collect, analyze and publish vital statistics on births, marriages and deaths on an annual basis. RIMS performs this arduous task for 26 years until the state Board of Health is created and assumes the work in 1878.

1859

RIMS begins annual publication of its own official proceedings and clinical papers in the *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society*.



1862-1865

Portsmouth Grove is the site of the largest hospital that has ever stood on Rhode Island soil. The 1400-bed military hospital receives thousands of Civil War casualties from both the North and South. Francis L. Wheaton, MD, of Providence, is the founding superintendent of the hospital.

1863

RIMS and the Providence Medical Association initiate the founding of Rhode Island Hospital, the first non-military general hospital in Rhode Island. It opened its doors to admit its first patient on October 1, 1868.



1868

RIMS gives its library collections, including books, periodicals and medical instruments, to Rhode Island Hospital.

1870

RIMS' persistent advocacy succeeds in making Rhode Island one of the first states to establish a Board of Pharmacy.

1872

Anita Tyng, MD, is admitted to membership in RIMS. She is the second woman in America to gain membership in a state medical society. The first was Dr. Francena R. Porter, who joined the Kansas Medical Society five months earlier. Both women were alumnae of the Women's Medical College of Philadelphia.



1877

Anita Tyng, MD, serves as a member of the delegation that represents RIMS at the AMA's annual meeting.

1878

Years of advocacy by RIMS lead to the establishment of the state Board of Health, which assumes responsibility for collecting, analyzing and publishing vital statistics for the state, a task RIMS had previously initiated and executed since 1852.

1882

The Newport County Medical Society is founded.

1884

RIMS' tenacious advocacy leads to passage of the Medical Examiners Act and reform of the coroner system. The Washington County Medical Society holds its first meeting on January 31 in Westerly.

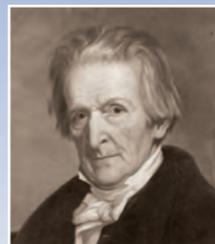
1885

Women & Infants Hospital (Providence Lying-In) opens.



1663

Dr. John Clarke "physician of Newport" secures Rhode Island's uniquely liberal Royal Charter, which guarantees freedom of conscience "in religious concerns" for the first time in world history. It was the state's constitution for 180 years.



1782

Dr. Levi Wheaton, former naval war surgeon, establishes a smallpox hospital in Providence. He was later a professor in Brown University's first medical program, a founding member of RIMS, and the Society's fifth president.



1812

On April 22 the Rhode Island Medical Society holds its organizational meeting and elects **Dr. Amos Throop** as its first president.



1813

Dr. Usher Parsons, surgeon aboard Oliver Hazard Perry's flagship, becomes a hero in the Battle of Lake Erie, performing numerous life-saving surgeries. He became RIMS' eighth president in 1837 and was a Vice President of the American Medical Association.



1818

Dr. Solomon Drowne, founding member of RIMS and professor of *materia medica* (pharmacology) at Brown University, is appointed to represent RIMS at the founding of the U.S. Pharmacopeia, which took place in Philadelphia in 1820.



1846

James W.C. Ely, MD attends the first demonstration of ether anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital. He later became a founder of the Providence Medical Association and in 1868, RIMS' 25th president.



1847

Dr. Theophilus C. Dunn and **Dr. David King** (above), both of Newport, represent RIMS in founding the American Medical Association.



1847

Dr. Isaac Ray becomes the first superintendent of the newly opened Butler Hospital. He became RIMS' 19th president in 1856.

1889

RIMS hosts the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in Newport, photographed at the Newport Casino (Tennis Hall of Fame). It is only time the AMA House has ever met in Rhode Island.



1890

Henry Dorr, Esq., grand-nephew of Dr. Amos Throop, presents the 1795 Ralph Earl portrait of Throop to RIMS as a gift from the family.

1895

Many years of advocacy by RIMS culminate on May 14 in the passage of a medical practice act, requiring examination and licensure by the state for the practice of medicine.

1895

The Pawtucket Medical Association is founded.

1900–1912

RIMS' library collection resides at the Providence Public Library. It had previously been housed at 54 North Main Street in Providence in the rooms of the Franklin Society, where both RIMS and the Providence Medical Association held most of their business and educational meetings.

1900

The Providence Medical Association begins bi-monthly publication of the *Providence Medical Journal*. Dr. George D. Hersey is the editor.



1904

The Woonsocket District Medical Society is founded. The Kent County Medical Society is founded on March 2. The RIMS House of Delegates meets for the first time on June 2.



1908

Dr. Mary S. Packard and Dr. Ellen A. Stone, two women Fellows of RIMS, launch a nationwide movement when they open the first fresh-air school for tubercular children in Providence.

1910

Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society is merged with the *Providence Medical Journal*; publication continues as the *Providence Medical Journal* until 1917.

1910

City Hospital opens in Providence; it is later renamed in honor of Dr. Charles V. Chapin. The building is now part of the campus of Providence College.

1911

On June 1 the cornerstone of the RIMS Library Building is laid at the corner of Francis Street and Hayes Street across from the south lawn of the Rhode Island State House.



1912

RIMS observes its centennial with the opening its new Library Building on June 12.

1917

The merged *Transactions* and *Providence Medical Journal* become the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*.

On December 7 a Red Cross train leaves Providence with about 100 Rhode Island doctors and nurses aboard, headed for Halifax, Nova Scotia. They are volunteers in an international relief effort following a massive explosion in Halifax harbor the previous day caused by the collision of two munitions ships. The disaster killed 1138 people and left thousands injured and homeless.

1919

With a quarter of the medical community and much of the RIMS' key leadership involved in the war effort, RIMS is forced to suspend publication of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* for slightly more than one year. Publication resumes with the January issue, 1920.

1931

RIMS establishes its Maternal Health Committee. Today it is the oldest such state medical society committee in the US.

1938–1939

RIMS is instrumental in establishing the Hospital Service Corporation of Rhode Island (Blue Cross).

1946

The Bristol County Medical Society is formed on October 22. (Bristol was previously included in the PMA.)

1949

RIMS founds the Rhode Island Medical Society Physicians Service (Blue Shield).

1955

RIMS' committee on child and school health initiates plans with the Department of Health to allocate and administer Salk polio vaccine.

1962

RIMS celebrates its sesquicentennial with a nine-day "Exposition of Health Progress" held in the Cranston Street Armory. 82,200 persons attend the free event. Physician volunteers inoculate thousands against polio.



1856

Edwin M. Snow, MD becomes the first superintendant of health for the city of Providence. He became RIMS' 30th president in 1876.



1872

Anita Tyng, MD becomes the first woman admitted as a Fellow of RIMS. In 1877 she represented RIMS as a delegate to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association. 1876 was the first year a woman physician served as a delegate to the AMA.



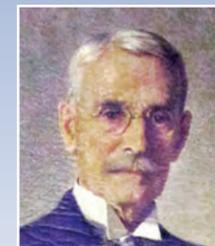
1878

Edward T. Caswell, MD becomes the first surgeon in Rhode Island and one of the first in the United States to use Joseph Lister's antiseptic techniques exclusively in all his surgeries. He became RIMS' 32nd president in 1878.



1879

George D. Hersey, MD reorganizes RIMS' library, and over 32 years, builds the collection from 130 volumes to 30,000 volumes. He was the first editor of the *Providence Medical Journal* and became RIMS' 43rd president in 1899.



1884

Charles V. Chapin, MD succeeds Edwin M. Snow, MD, as superintendant of health for the city of Providence. He became RIMS' 47th president in 1907.



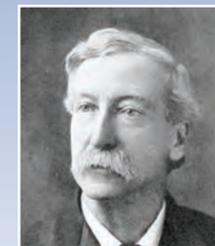
1895

Marcus Wheatland, MD is the first African-American physician to join RIMS. He was the first radiologist on Aquidneck Island and became the 11th president of the National Medical Association. A street in the center of Newport is named for him.



1896

Professor Hermon C. Bumpus, head of the biology department at Brown University, demonstrates the first x-ray machine in Rhode Island at a RIMS meeting in Brown's Rhode Island Hall. He was later made an honorary member of RIMS.



1903

Lucius F.C. Garvin, MD, a family physician from Lonsdale, is elected to the first of two terms as Governor of Rhode Island. He was the first and only physician to hold that office to date.

1963

RIMS introduces an ambitious campaign to administer oral Sabin vaccine in a series of free clinics throughout the state in an effort to eradicate polio. Nearly 2 million doses of vaccine are administered, and Rhode Island becomes the first state to immunize all its citizens.

In December, the Rhode Island Delegation to the American Medical Association's House of Delegates introduces a resolution calling upon the AMA to deny membership to any doctor who belongs to any state society that does not accept black physicians as members. After long debate, the Rhode Island resolution is defeated.



1965

RIMS introduces an End Measles Campaign and immunizes over 35,000 children in the nation's first state-wide effort to eradicate measles.

Cartoon: Providence Sunday Journal January 23, 1966

1975

The insurance companies St. Paul, Travelers and Aetna abandon the Rhode Island medical professional liability market, precipitating a major crisis of availability. In response to the emergency, the General Assembly creates the Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association of

Rhode Island. The MMJUARI remained the sole option for most Rhode Island doctors for the next 15 years. No rated medical professional liability insurer offered insurance in Rhode Island again until 1994, when RIMS invited NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company of San Francisco (rated A+ for strength and stability by A.M. Best) to come to Rhode Island.

1979

In response to three physician suicides in Rhode Island the previous year, RIMS establishes its Physician Health Program, initiated and led by Dr. Herbert Rakatansky. The Program today serves the entire population of Rhode Island physicians, dentists, podiatrists and Physician Assistants. It also mentors the Medical Student Health Council of the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown.

1981

RIMS founds the Rhode Island Medical Society Insurance Brokerage Corporation to provide high-quality, professional service to physicians.

1983

RIMS establishes the Rhode Island Medical Society Foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity under the IRS Code.

1984

The US Supreme Court decides the "Barry Case" in favor of Rhode Island doctors, who had sued St. Paul, Aetna and Travelers for conspiracy in their precipitous departure from Rhode Island's medical liability market in 1975. The class action was spearheaded by RIMS members David Barry, MD; Paul J.M. Healey, MD; Walter Cotter, MD; and others. Attorney Leonard Decof argued the physicians' case.

1984-1986

Rapidly rising medical liability premiums create a nationwide crisis of affordability. RIMS conducts a major campaign for reforms, including several patterned after California's successful Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975.



1987

RIMS establishes its Committee on Physician Competence, which remains unique in the nation to the present day.

RIMS gives its 50,000-volume library collection to Brown University along with its collection of medical instruments.

1992

RIMS plays a leading role in transforming the state's Workers' Compensation system from a disaster to a national model. The Rhode Island Medical Journal becomes Rhode Island Medicine.

1993

RIMS acquires a third parcel of land at the corner of Hayes and Francis Streets in an advantageous DEPCO auction. (The Depositors' Economic Protection Corporation was formed to manage Rhode Island's credit union crisis.)

1994

RIMS welcomes the NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company to Rhode Island. With the advent of NORCAL, Rhode Island physicians have access to a top-rated, licensed and admitted liability carrier for the first time in 19 years.

1995

RIMS founds Rhode Island Quality Partners (renamed Healthcentric Advisors in 2011), which wins the Medicare Professional Review Organization contract and prevents that contract from going to an out-of-state entity.

RIMS establishes its Medical Review Advisory Committee as a resource for defense attorneys in defending physicians.

1996

RIMS' monthly journal, Rhode Island Medicine, becomes Medicine and Health Rhode Island.



2003-2005

Rapidly rising medical liability premiums create a second nationwide crisis of affordability. The crisis is intensified for doctors in Rhode Island by spiking health insurance premiums, stagnant fees, a Medicare cut and additional reductions threatened by other third-party payers. RIMS founds the Patients First Coalition and the Protecting Patients' Access to Care Coalition, made up of health professionals and allied institutions and organizations. On March 12, 2003, hundreds of doctors participate in a State House protest rally organized by RIMS. As a result, Blue Cross abandons plans to cut physician fees by 7 percent across the board, and other reforms for doctors gain momentum. The multi-year campaign succeeds in bringing welcome changes in the leadership and philosophy of the state's largest health insurer. In addition, ripple effects from RIMS' campaign trigger a series of state and federal investigations, resignations, fines and incarcerations of public figures. RIMS' advocacy brings about the creation of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner.



1943

John Edward Farrell, Sc.D becomes RIMS' first executive director. Dr. Farrell had been executive director of the Providence Medical Association since 1938 and held both titles from 1943 until his retirement in 1973.



1972

Stanley M. Aronson, MD, becomes Brown University's first Dean of Medicine. He served as Dean until 1981 and as editor-in-chief of RIMS' monthly journal 1989-1998.



1980

RIMS inaugurates the Dr. Charles L. Hill Award for outstanding service to medicine and the community. The award is named for RIMS' 121st president, who died in office and was the first recipient of the Award posthumously.



1991

Kathleen C. Hittner, MD, becomes RIMS' 133rd president, the first woman to hold the office. She served as president of The Miriam Hospital in 2000-2009.



1995

RIMS' 136th President David Carter, MD, completes the reorganization of the RIMS Council, incorporating major specialties and deemphasizing geographic representation. The House of Delegates voted itself out of existence two years later.



2008

RIMS inaugurates the Dr. Herbert Rakatansky Award for medical professionalism, medical ethics and humanitarian service. Dr. Rakatansky was RIMS' 127th president and is the founding chair of RIMS' 33 year-old Physician Health Program.