Some things have changed in 25 years.

Some things have not.

Since 1988, physicians have trusted us to understand their professional liability, property, and personal insurance needs. Working with multiple insurers allows us to offer you choice and the convenience of one-stop shopping. Call us.
20 BROWN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
KRIS CAMBRA, MA; TERRIE FOX WETLE, PhD
GUEST EDITORS

23 Educational Opportunities in
Clinical and Translational Research
PATRICK VIVIER, MD, PhD

25 The Sum is Greater than its Parts:
The Center for Evidence-Based Medicine
KRIS CAMBRA, MA; THOMAS A. TRIKALINOS, MD, PhD;
EILEEN O’GARA-KURTIS

27 Creating the Future:
Brown University’s Executive
Master of Healthcare Leadership
ELIZABETH A. KOFRON, PHD

29 Joan Teno, MD: Leader in Crusade
for Quality Hospice, Palliative Care
MARY KORR, RIMJ MANAGING EDITOR

31 Kahler’s Research Bridges Behavioral/Social
Sciences and Medical Care
MARY KORR, RIMJ MANAGING EDITOR
Establishing a Legacy: The Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Disorders
JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN, MD

Pilgrimage of an Herb Named Foxglove
STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD

‘The doing of medicine, the being of a doctor’
JONATHAN A. TREEM, MD

Orthopedic Medical Devices: Ethical Questions, Implant Recalls and Responsibility
JENNIFER RACINE, BA

Tar Wars Poster Contest
Bike Helmet Distribution
House Calls at the State House

A Tendency Toward Wordiness
STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD

50 Years Ago:
Dr. Hamolsky of Boston Joins Brown Faculty

100 Years Ago:
The Automobiles Doctors Drove
RICHARD G. ELLENBOGEN, MD 43
Speaks on head injuries in youth, the NFL, military

ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL 47
Graduates 113 new physicians

MEGAN RANNEY, MD 49
Calls for research into gun violence

BRADLEY HOSPITAL 50
Starts OCD program

KENT HOSPITAL 50
Opens ambulatory surgery center

HOME & HOSPICE CARE OF RI 51
Recognized among top 100 hospice agencies in patient care

THE MIRIAM 51
Recognized by Greenhealth for environmental efforts

HASBRO 52
Sees upsurge in all-terrain vehicle accidents

LIFESPAN, GATEWAY 52
To partner

RECOGNITION, APPOINTMENTS

TANYA L. DAILEY, MD 57
Named chair of Health Dept. Commission

DRS. CYR, KIZIRIAN 57
Recognized by RI chapter of ACP

LESLIE GORDON, MD 57
Earns ‘Early Achievement Award’

CHRISTY L. DIBBLE, DO 59
new director of W&I women’s GI health center

PETER S. MARTELLY, MD 59
Named associate medical officer of Southcoast

TODD F. ROBERTS, MD 59
To lead Roger Williams transplant unit
CASE REPORT

33 A Case of Intracranial Hemorrhage
Causing Stress-Induced Cardiomyopathy
LESLIE RUSSELL, MD; PHILIP STOCKWELL, MD

PUBLIC HEALTH

36 Health By Numbers:
Adult Suicide and Circumstances in Rhode Island, 2004–2010
YONGWEN JIANG, PhD; JEFFREY HILL, MS; BEATRIZ PEREZ, MPH;
SAMARA VINER-BROWN, MS

IMAGES IN MEDICINE

39 Epiploic Appendagitis:
An often-unrecognized cause of acute abdominal pain
LINDA RATANAPRASATPORN, LISA RATANAPRASATPORN, TERRANCE HEALEY, MD
Are you underwhelmed by the level of care and coverage you receive from your current insurance company? Maybe it’s time for a second opinion?

The Rhode Island Medical Society and Butler & Messier Insurance are offering an exclusive CONCIERGE PROGRAM for all your insurance needs. Everyone in the Rhode Island medical community is eligible for the best rates for your home and auto insurance, as well as your office policies.

For a no obligation second opinion call John Divver at 401.728.3200 or visit www.ButlerandMessier.com/RIMS

www.ButlerandMessier.com
Establishing a Legacy: The Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Disorders

JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN, MD
joseph_friedman@brown.edu

In retrospect, Stan was everywhere, although he was, in fact, “retired.” It took me many years to learn that I only knew the tip of the iceberg. Although I have a master’s degree in mathematics, it was only after a brief chat with a colleague, when I mentioned that I had recently talked with Stan, that I learned what a polymath was. The colleague mentioned, in passing, that Stan was a true polymath. Although I had studied 30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary in high school, this word eluded my memory bank. A polymath is someone who knows a lot about everything, sort of the opposite of what we encounter in doctors these days, who know less and less about more and more, myself included. Stan seems not only to know everything, but is able to put things together in ways the rest of us can only marvel at. But that is only part of his attraction.

When Stan was a youthful 82 or so he seriously told me that he was wondering about his next career. As one of the leading neuropathologists in the world, he had been a leader in the fight against Tay Sachs disease, an inherited disease that killed babies via their nervous system. His approach to understanding this and other neurological disorders of children would not be possible today. Stan ran a hospital ward caring for babies and children with some of the world's worst neurological disorders. He not only provided comfort and care, but used these unfortunates to learn about their diseases to prevent them in future generations. He was a distinguished educator, leaving behind academic generations of “Stan’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren,” who today are some of the world’s distinguished neuropathologists. Perhaps most dear to him, he moved from running one of the world’s largest neuropathology programs to become the founding dean of the Brown medical school. He started with a secretary and a faculty of 40. Brown now has a faculty of over a thousand, and more secretaries and administrators than it had faculty when he started. His underweight baby is now a leviathan, and considered one of the best medical schools in the world.

He helped found the R.I. Parkinson’s Support Association and Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island and served on the board of directors of both The Miriam and Butler hospitals. In addition, he was editor-in-chief of our state medical journal for 10 years. These were, of course, all unpaid positions. Meanwhile, he continued to teach at Salve Regina College as well as Tougaloo College, a historically black institution in Mississippi, introducing students to broad and challenging topics such as medical ethics and epidemiology each semester. While I did introduce this essay by stating that he was the neurology consultant at Brown student health, I did
not mention that he was not a trained neurologist. He was a trained neuropathologist. They generally study people a day too late. He, however, had spent time in clinics when he trained, and accrued more experience when he ran that ward for chronic care in Brooklyn. In his spare time for the past two decades he has been writing weekly columns for the *Providence Journal*, which appear every Monday on topics related to medicine in history. His 1,000th column appeared shortly before his 90th birthday, and he still goes strong, never having missed a week. Of course, this commitment hasn’t kept him from his columns on biblical and contemporary history that run monthly in the *Jewish Voice & Herald*, or the 18th book he’s writing.

Stan’s life has been one of remarkable achievement and generosity. We in the Rhode Island community, to whom he has given so much, are now engaged in establishing a lasting tribute, one that will best honor his achievements, by helping others continue them. Butler Hospital, on whose board of directors he has served for many years, is raising funds to establish the Stanley M. Aronson, MD, Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases at the hospital as a living testimonial and legacy. Stan’s and the hospital’s focus has always been on bridging gaps. Brain diseases are neurological and psychiatric, not one or the other.

I am humbled and honored to be selected as the first recipient of The Aronson Chair, which will also establish an endowment fund to provide permanent financial support for the Movement Disorders Program and attract the best clinicians in the future to continue advancing our understanding and treatment of brain diseases, long after Dr. Aronson and I are gone.

**Author**
Joseph H. Friedman, MD, is Editor-in-chief of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*, Professor and the Chief of the Division of Movement Disorders, Department of Neurology at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and chief of Butler Hospital’s Movement Disorders Program.

**Disclosures**
Lectures: Teva, General Electric, UCB
Consulting: Teva, Addex Pharm, UCB, Lundbeck
Research: MJFox, NIH: EMD Serono, Teva, Acadia, Schering Plough
Royalties: Demos Press

**The Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Disorders**
FROM RIMJ’S MANAGING EDITOR: For more information on The Aronson Chair, click here: [http://www.butler.org/aronsonchaircampaign/index.cfm](http://www.butler.org/aronsonchaircampaign/index.cfm)

Dr. Aronson in 2007 receiving Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) at Brown in 2007.

Stan Aronson, MD, in the early years in the 1950s at Downstate Medical Center in NYC.
Local Partner, Superior Service

To understand Rhode Island medicine, patients and the standard of care, your medical professional liability insurer needs to be here, listening to you. That’s how NORCAL Mutual delivers superior service to Rhode Island physicians — we’re your neighbors.

Why NORCAL Mutual?
> endorsed by the Rhode Island Medical Society since 1994
> local risk management expert available for on-site visits
> a flexible, fresh approach to underwriting

we want to talk with you.

For a premium estimate or on-site office visit, contact:

> Lynn White, Account Executive
  401-276-7523
  lwhite@norcalmutual.com

> Harry Reissman, Sales Manager
  512-289-2237
  hreissman@norcalmutual.com

NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company.
Our Passion Protects Your Practice
History unduly simplifies the sequence of meaningful contributions that lead to noteworthy discoveries. Thus texts tell us that James Watts invented the steam engine and that Benjamin Franklin discovered electricity. More often than not, however, these great discoveries represent the accumulation of many smaller discoveries and insights, each contributing to an ultimate revelation, often announced by a single author, yet representing the collective labors of his predecessors and collaborators. It is much like a competitive relay race: a team effort, yet only one runner crosses the winning line.

Consider the centuries of speculations, celebrations, reversals and trials that culminated finally in the rational use of a life-saving cardiac medication called digitalis.

Somewhere in the very distant past, someone chewed on the leaves of a perennial plant native to Europe, a plant now called the purple foxglove. He, or perhaps she, remembered its harsh taste and also its tendency to provoke vomiting. And so a botanically active substance was thus added to the tribal lore of knowledge. Experience over the centuries, some bitter, led to an understanding of many plants: some easing pain, some increasing one’s energy, some causing distress such as vomiting, and those which provided basic nutrition. And so, long before writing had been invented, a pharmacological synopsis of local plants became a part of each tribe’s heritable tradition, information shared with succeeding generations.

An early written accounting of foxglove leaves is found in the Hippocratic writings, where it is identified as a poison. A 1526-Dutch treatise on medicinal herbals mentioned foxglove’s merit for “feebleness of the heart.”

In 1542, the German physician, Leonhardt Fuchs, renamed foxglove as Digitalis purpurea and recounted its use as an agent to encourage vomiting. In an ambiguous sentence in his text, De historia stirpum, he mentions that foxglove may have some value in the treatment of dropsy.

Powdered foxglove earned some passing mention in the 1661 edition of the London Pharmacopoeia, the influential roster of recommended medications. Powdered foxglove leaves continued beyond the Middle Ages as an occasional drug of choice, but its toxic effects [including vomiting and seizures] outweighed its alleged benefits and by 1745 it was dropped from the London Pharmacopoeia and its employment to treat consumption [tuberculosis] was considered unwise.

The 1748 annals of the French Academy of Medicine carried an article indicating that feeding foxglove powder to experimental animals caused violent changes in their gastrointestinal tracts and that their use in humans was therefore hazardous. Foxglove as a prescribed medication then lapsed into history.
Withering, sometimes called “the father of digitalis,” is remembered for his scientific zeal, his passion for learning (he authored major texts in geology, botany and meteorology), and particularly for his concern for the impoverished of midland England. Most of his practice was confined to the care of the local indigent.

Withering’s attraction to the sciences led him to membership in the Lunar Society, an informal monthly gathering of local scientists [including Erasmus Darwin, Joseph Priestley, James Watts, Joseph Boulton and Isaiah Wedgewood; and by correspondence, Benjamin Franklin].

Withering took on the task of studying the effects of foxglove on the human body. And in 1785 he published his observations in a memorable text, *Account of the Foxglove*, which declared that foxglove (digitalis) “has a power over the motion of the heart, to a degree not observed in any other medicine, and that this power may be converted to salutary ends.” Withering’s immortal text included his studies on the preparation, dosage, and its effects upon heart muscle. He discussed, too, its effects of congestive cardiac failure including the collateral accumulation of body fluids, currently called edema, but formerly called dropsy [a vernacular form of the Greek word, hydropsy].

Withering, a thoughtful scientist, a shrewd observer of nature, a scholar and a compassionate physician, died of tuberculosis at age 54. His obituary, reflecting his colleague’s Anglican sense of reserved humor, declared: “The flower of English medicine is withering.” And digitalis? It remains – but only in proper dosage – the standard medication for heart failure.

One man’s poison may be another’s salvation.

**Author**
Stanley M. Aronson, MD, is Editor emeritus of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* and dean emeritus of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

**Disclosures**
The author has no financial interests to disclose.
We're not LIKE A Good Neighbor,
WE ARE
The Good Neighbor Alliance

Specializing in Employee Benefits since 1982

Health  Dental  Life  Disability  Long Term Care
Pension Plans  Section 125 Plans

The Good Neighbor Alliance Corporation
The Benefits Specialist

Affiliated with

RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY  RIMS-INSURANCE BROKERAGE CORPORATION

401-828-7800 or 1-800-462-1910

P.O. Box 1421 Coventry, RI 02816
www.goodneighborall.com