



## RIMS Convivium 2025: Celebrating 213 Years of Achievement & Advocacy

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) hosted its 213th annual meeting and awards dinner at the historic Squantum Association in Riverside, East Providence, on September 25th. The Convivium assemblage of physicians, partners, and friends from across the healthcare spectrum celebrated achievement and community in a festive fall gathering.



Stacy Paterno



Ali Walz



Steven Carreras, PhD, MSW

The evening opened with remarks from immediate RIMS Past President **Kara Stavros, MD**, followed by an inspiring keynote from Speaker of the House **K. Joseph Shekarchi**, whose steadfast support of physicians and patients has been instrumental in advancing critical healthcare reforms this year.

We also marked important leadership transitions, including the inauguration of incoming RIMS President **Dina T. Himelfarb, MD**, alongside our 2025–2026 officers and Board of Directors: President-elect **Mariah H. Stump, MD, MPH**; Vice President **Christopher DiMarco, MD**; Treasurer **Matthew J. Smith, MD, MHL**, and Secretary **Steven Schechter, MD**.

Councilors-at-large members of RIMS include **Meena Theva, MD**; **Melanie Lippmann, MD**; **Christopher Malgieri, MD**; **Tanuja Gandhi, MD**; **John Miskovsky, MD**, and **Jinen Thakkar, MD**.

The management of RIMS includes staff members Executive Vice President **Stacy Paterno** and Director of Management Services **Ali Walz**. **Steven A. Carreras, PhD, MSW**, serves as the Director of the Physician Health Program.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of nine awards honoring outstanding physicians for their leadership, innovation, and service. From lifetime contributions in civic leadership and humanitarianism, to pioneering work in primary care, cancer care, and global health, to the rising stars recognized with the “4 Under 40” award, each honoree reminded us of the profound impact physicians have in shaping the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders.

The spirit of Convivium is one of connection and gratitude – celebrating not only the achievements of individual physicians, but also the collective strength of Rhode Island’s medical community. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners, whose commitment makes our work – and our advocacy for physicians and patients – stronger every year.

Together, we look ahead with optimism and determination, united in our mission to advance medicine and improve health for all Rhode Islanders. ❖



Rhode Island Speaker of the House **K. Joseph Shekarchi** received a Special Recognition award, presented by RIMS President **Kara Stavros, MD**.



**Kara Stavros, MD**, passes the RIMS Presidential Medallion to newly inaugurated President **Dina T. Himelfarb, MD**.



EVENT PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH GRAHAM PHOTOGRAPHY





**Alyn Adrain, MD**, of Gastroenterology Associates, Inc. and RIMS Past-President, was recognized for her Leadership and Service in honor of Dr. Charles L. Hill.



**Dana Guyer, MD**, of Brown University Health Cancer Institute, received the Award for Exemplary Professionalism and Humanitarianism in honor of Dr. Herbert Rakatansky.



**Jeffrey Borkan, MD, PhD**, Chair of the Brown Department of Family Medicine, received the Distinguished Civic Leadership and Service Award in honor of Dr. John Clarke.



**Beth Cronin, MD**, of Women & Infants Hospital, received the Humanism in Medicine Award.



**Nithin Paul, MD**, of Thundermist Health Center, received the Halifax Award for Outstanding Medical Volunteerism.



**Elizabeth Lange, MD**, of Waterman Pediatrics, and RIMS Past-President, received the Special Recognition of Service Award.





Recognition of Commitment to the Profession, 4 Under 40 Awards: [L-R] **Kate de Klerk, DO**, Thundermist; **Fatima Mirza, MD, MPH**, Brown Dermatology; **Stephanie Chow Garbern, MD, MPH**, Brown Emergency Medicine, and **Alexandra Gundersen, MD**, Brown University Health Physical Medicine and Rehab.



President **Dina T. Himelfarb, MD**; President-elect **Mariah H. Stump, MD, MPH**



Barbara Sokoloff; Past-President **Herbert Rakatansky, MD**



Past-President **Frederic Christian, MD**



Past-President **Thomas Bledsoe, MD**; Cathy Bledsoe



Tracy Karasinski, MSW; RI Representative **Mia Ackerman**



**Neil Greenspan, MD**; Past-President **Brad Collins, MD**