



RIMS hosts Convivium 2026, celebrating 214 years of advocacy and achievement, honoring medical pioneers and pathfinders

EAST PROVIDENCE — The 214th Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) took place on September 24th at the historic Squantum Association in the Riverside section of East Providence.

In celebration of Rhode Island's 250th anniversary, former Rhode Island Medical Society Executive Director **Newell E. Warde, PhD**, guest speaker of the evening, reflected on the Society's history, highlighting the physicians, milestones, and defining moments that helped shape medicine in Rhode Island for more than two centuries.



Newell E. Warde, PhD, Convivium guest speaker and former RIMS Executive Director, and **Steven R. DeToy**, recipient of the Dr. John Clarke Award, and former RIMS Director of Government & Public Affairs.



Dina T. Himelfarb, MD, passes the RIMS Presidential Medallion to newly inaugurated President **Mariah H. Stump, MD, MPH**.

The evening marked important leadership transitions, including the inauguration of incoming RIMS President **Mariah H. Stump, MD, MPH**, alongside the 2026–2027 officers: President-elect **Christopher DiMarco, MD**; Vice President **Tanuja Gandhi, MD**; Treasurer **Matthew J. Smith, MD, MHL**, and Secretary **Steven Schechter, MD**.

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 medical care, to the rising stars recognized with the "4 Under 40" award, each honoree is a testament to the profound impact physicians have in shaping the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders.



[PHOTOS BY TYLER NADEAU]

2026 Award Recipients

The Society honored the following nine recipients of this year's awards.



Caroline Troise, MD, received the Halifax Award, presented by RIMS Immediate Past President **Dina T. Himelfarb, MD** (left) and RIMS President **Mariah H. Stump, MD, MPH**.

Halifax Award

Caroline Troise, MD

*Anchor Medical Associates;
Rhode Island Free Clinic*

Given in recognition of outstanding medical volunteerism, the Halifax Award is named in commemoration of the Rhode Island medical and nursing communities' swift and generous response to the catastrophic explosion that devastated the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the morning of December 6, 1917, causing 11,000 instantaneous casualties, including 2,000 deaths. Recipients of this award demonstrate outstanding citizenship and medical volunteerism, a commitment to serving the public good, and engagement and fostering involvement of physicians in community activities.

Dr. Charles L. Hill Award

Kenneth A. Williams, MD

*Adult Medical Director,
LifePACT Transport Team*

Established in 1981, this award recognizes a RIMS member physician for leadership and service. Dr. Charles L. Hill, for whom this award is named, was president of the Medical Society in 1979–1980. As one of the highest honors bestowed by

RIMS, this award celebrates a physician who has made significant contributions to science, education, and/or patient care in Rhode Island, and has substantially advanced the goals of the medical profession. Recipients must demonstrate a significant impact on the medical community, strong character, and leadership with equity and inclusion.

Recognition for Humanism in Medicine Award

Leslie Robinson-Bostom, MD

Brown Health Dermatology

This award was established in 2015 and is given for humanism in medicine, in recognition of a career and calling that medicine is at once the most scientific of the humanities in the most humanistic of the sciences. This award honors recipients who exemplify the qualities of care and compassion in the pursuit of patient care and/or teaching and mentorship. Recipients demonstrate the humanistic qualities of the patient-provider relationship and serve as an example to others.



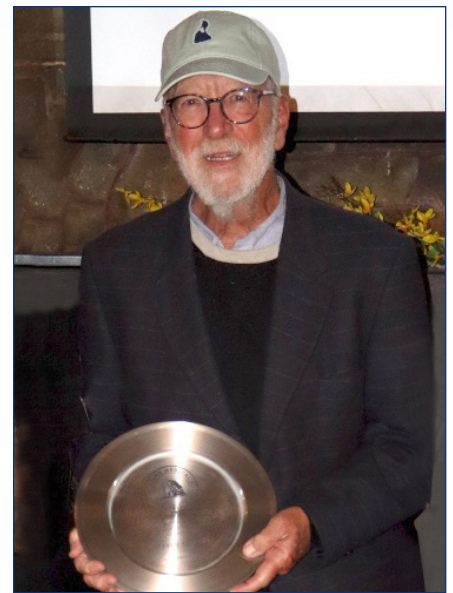
Leslie Robinson-Bostom, MD, was presented with the Humanism in Medicine award.

Dr. Herbert Rakatansky Award

Fadya El Rayess, MD, MPH

*Brown Department of Family Medicine/
Care New England*

This award was established by vote of the council in 2008 to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves through exemplary professionalism and/or humanitarian service in the field of medicine. The first recipient was Herbert Rakatansky, MD, on September 27, 2008. Recipients of this award exemplify integrity, compassion, and a dedication to improving the lives of others, often in challenging environments or with underserved populations.



Steven R. DeToy received the Dr. John Clarke award

Dr. John Clarke Award

Steve DeToy

*Former Director of Government
& Public Affairs, RIMS*

This award was established in 2014 and is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Public Health through outstanding civic leadership and service. It recognizes individuals who have made a significant impact on the health-care landscape in Rhode Island through strong leadership and commitment.

**4 Under 40 Award****Gillian Chase, MD***Women & Infants Hospital***Charles Hackett, MD, FAAFP***Care New England/Brown University
Dept. of Family Medicine***Maria Koenigs, MD***University Otolaryngology***Julia Shinnick, MD***Care New England*

This award recognizes physicians practicing in Rhode Island who are early in their career journeys and demonstrate a strong commitment to the profession and impact on the community. Recipients show leadership in patient care, education, research, and/or advocacy. This award recognizes their potential and the impact they have made in Rhode Island.

**Gillian Chase, MD****Julia Shinnick, MD****RIMS staff: Matthew Lawrence, Lisa Carcieri, Executive Vice President Stacy Paterno****Past President Gary Bubly, MD; Tyler Nadeau of RIMS****Past Presidents Michael Migliori, MD; Yul Ejnes, MD; Frederic Christian, MD****Past President Sarah Fessler, MD; Immediate Past President Dina T. Himelfarb, MD****Special Recognition****Michael E. Migliori, MD, FACS**

Former Chair, RIMS Public Laws Committee
RIMS is proud to recognize Michael E. Migliori, MD, FACS, for more than 25 years of extraordinary service as Chair of the RIMS Public Laws Committee. Throughout his tenure, Mike has been a steadfast presence at the State House and a trusted voice for Rhode Island physicians and patients. His leadership helped advance landmark efforts including the creation of OHIC, harm reduction centers, protections for the Physician Health Program, primary care prior authorization reform, and Rhode Island's healthcare provider shield law—while also helping RIMS prevent countless proposals that could have negatively affected medicine and patient care. A former RIMS President and AMA delegate, Mike's dedication, judgment, and persistence have helped shape RIMS advocacy for more than a generation.



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, united in its mission to improve health for all Rhode Islanders. ❖

IT ALL STARTS HERE! JOIN OR RENEW IN 2026 **RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY**

The Rhode Island Medical Society is the statewide home for physician advocacy, education, wellness, and leadership. This past year, RIMS delivered meaningful wins for Rhode Island physicians, including:

- » **MAJOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REFORM**
- » **STRONGER CLINICIAN WELLNESS PROTECTIONS**
- » **MEDICAID RATES TO 100% OF MEDICARE**
- » **12 SPECIALTY SOCIETIES SUPPORTED AND 35+ EDUCATION PROGRAMS**
- » **CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM**

Your membership strengthens our voice at the State House and supports the future of medicine in Rhode Island.

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY AT
rimericalsociety.org/membership

Questions about individual or group membership?
EMAIL **membership@rimered.org**



**YOUR VOICE.
YOUR PATIENTS.
YOUR PROFESSION.**





RIMS gratefully acknowledges the practices who participate in our discounted Group Membership Program



BROWNHealth
UNIVERSITY

Emergency Medicine
Medicine
Miriam Hospital Hospitalists
Primary Care
Surgery



CCAP

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM
YOUR COMMUNITY'S HELPING HAND



east bay community action program
THE BRIDGE to SELF-RELIANCE

Thundermist!
HEALTH CENTER

**UNIVERSITY
ORTHOPEDICS**

Healers. Innovators. Teachers.



WellOne
Primary Medical and Dental Care



Wood River
Health Services
The Heart of South County since 1976