

# A Tribute to Joan Retsinas, PhD, Managing Editor

In the closing years of the 20th Century, the monthly periodical of the *Rhode Island Medical Society*, then called "The Rhode Island Medical Journal", recruited a new managing editor, a woman of literary talent and managerial ability named Joan B. Retsinas. And for the next fifteen years this journal, renamed *Medicine & Health/Rhode Island*, was managed with skill, accuracy and great distinction.

Joan was educated at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, and was awarded a bachelor's degree in economics, *cum laude*, in 1968. After a year of graduate studies at Harvard, Joan transferred to Providence and was granted her Ph.D. in sociology by Brown University in 1981. In the next decade, Joan taught health policy at Tufts and at Brown's Department of Family Medicine as an Adjunct Assistant Professor. During her summers, Joan was a lecturer at George Washington University.

Prior to her appointment as this publication's managing editor, Joan worked for the Rhode Island Health Policy Consortium and as a staff sociologist at Aging 2000. Joan's writings on health policy have enriched numerous medical textbooks, professional journals and monthly columns. But her primary activity in these 15 years has been to supervise

our state medical periodical to a point where it is avidly read and abundantly enjoyed by its readership. And during these years, the editorial sponsorship of the Journal has been shared with The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Quality Partners of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Department of Health.

After many years of editorial management, Joan has elected to resign, partly to complete a beckoning book, partly to devote more time to her grandchildren, and partly to contemplate a world pursuing paths that were never dreamed of in her undergraduate education at Bryn Mawr.

In a world where the death of state medical journals has become endemic, we express our profound gratitude for Joan, her labors, her equanimity, her grace and her editorial skills. We, the successive editors of this publication for the past three decades, thank you, Joan, for keeping our publication alive and lively.

— STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD  
— JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN, MD

## Thank you

*Joan Retsinas, PhD*

**In health care**, "team" is over-used: many "teams" are more Byzantine than collegial. But *Medicine & Health/Rhode Island* truly is a team. After fifteen years as managing editor, I want to thank the people behind this journal.

In no particular order (since that is the nature of a team), thank you to the scores of writers and editors who contribute, revise, and resubmit the articles. The covers are wonderful: artists volunteer their works. The Rhode Island Department of Health and Quality Partners of RI contribute monthly columns. Newell Warde, director of the Rhode Island Medical Society, has consistently pledged the Society's support, both financial and emotional. In fact, for a century the Society has supported the Journal. Sarah Stevens, Libby Rattigan, and Cheryl Turcotte at the Society field the questions and handle the paperwork. Marianne Migliori, the Society's web-mistress, manages the Journal's web-presence. The typesetter, John Teehan (who will be the new managing editor), does layout, squeezing in last-minute ads, last-minute corrections. American Printing translates electronic files into the paper-journals that end up in mailboxes. Stan Aronson stepped out of emeritus status to write columns. Sun Ahn stepped in as associate editor, to review submissions. As editor-in-chief, Joe Friedman casts his cheerfulness, his competence, and his calm decisiveness over us all. This wonderful team should take a bow. I will miss them.