

RIMS journal goes green, resumes former name

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RIMS

AS OF THIS MONTH, THE VENERABLE monthly journal of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) has more readers, more pages, more color and more variety than ever before, while simultaneously sparing the environment and consuming fewer of the Society's resources. Such are some of the many advantages of electronic publishing. Starting with this January 2013 issue, the journal is readily accessible anytime, anywhere on mobile devices, laptops and desktops. Advertisers and readers now have the convenience of hypertext, live links and occasional video that expands, deepens and enriches the journal's content. And so, as the Medical Society enters its third century, its journal too enters a new, innovative era. Mindful of its mission to educate and to record, RIMS has been publishing its own clinical journal for 154 years, beginning with the *Transactions of the Rhode Island Medical Society*, which first appeared in 1859.

The family tree from which the Society's journal springs also includes *The Providence Medical Journal*, which was founded by the Providence Medical Association (PMA) in 1900 and appeared quarterly at first, becoming bimonthly in 1902. Starting in 1912, RIMS and PMA merged their two publications into one bimonthly journal under the name *The Providence Medical Journal*. In 1917, RIMS assumed full ownership of the journal, produced it monthly, and changed the name to *The Rhode Island Medical Journal*. That title endured for 75 years and returns with this January 2013 issue. (From 1992 to 1995, the Journal was published as *Rhode Island Medicine*, and from January 1996 to December 2012 it was *Medicine & Health/Rhode Island*.)

Monthly publication of the RIMS Journal has been continuous now for 96 years, except



for a hiatus of one year and three months in 1918–1919, when *The Rhode Island Medical Journal* was a temporary casualty of World War I. In announcing a pause in publication after the September 1918 issue, the Journal noted: "The Editor, the Business Manager and the members of the Publication Committee are in the service" and assured readers that "When the war is over – when the Hun has

gotten his just dues, and our brave fellows have returned to their homes, and life is again normal – *The Rhode Island Medical Journal*, rejuvenated, will again represent the medical profession of this State. God grant that it may be soon."

Now, on the occasion of the Journal's newest rejuvenation, the Society takes pleasure in expressing its deep gratitude to Dr. Joseph Friedman for the quality of vision and the continuity of leadership he has provided. Dr. Friedman has been editor-in-chief since 1999 and now leads the Journal into the digital age. Immense thanks are due as well to Dr. Stanley M. Aronson, editor emeritus, regular contributor, muse and mentor. We also salute the other six past editors of the RIMS Journal and echo Dr. George D. Hershey's words from the inaugural issue of the *Providence Medical Journal* of January 1900: "We are rather proud of the Journal, both of its appearance and its contents." ❖

THESE PHYSICIANS SERVED AS EDITORS OF THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION.

PICTURED FROM TOP ARE:
ROLAND E. HAMMOND, MD
(1917–1920)

FREDERICK N. BROWN, MD
(1921–1936) *not shown*

ALBERT H. MILLER, MD
(1937–1942)

PETER PINEO CHASE, MD
(1942–1956)

JOHN E. DONLEY, MD
(1956–1960)

SEEBERT J. GOLDOWSKY, MD
(1960–1989)

STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD
(1989–1998)

JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN, MD
(1999–PRESENT)

