Thanks to RI Docs, McGruff the Crime Dog is on the Scent in City Schools

Visit sponsored by RI Medical Society, RI Orthopedic Society

PROVIDENCE – McGruff the Crime Dog sniffed his way into the capital city on Dec. 10, thanks to the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), the R.I. Orthopedic Society, as well as several other groups.

Nora Thurber, RN, a school nurse at the Mary Fogarty School, and Providence Police Department Lt. Mike Perez spearheaded the crime-prevention canine’s appearance. The intent was to teach students to regard police officers as members of the community who are there to help, and the duo enlisted the aid of the famed bloodhound to convey this message.

Thurber contacted RIMS for assistance in raising the money necessary to purchase the officially sanctioned National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) McGruff costume. Megan Turcotte, RIMS’ Associate Director of Member Services and Specialty Societies, went to work to raise the $1800 necessary for the purchase.

The RI Orthopedic Society and its members were major contributors. “We were thrilled to play a major role in bringing this nationally-known crime fighter to our state,” said Richard Terek, MD, president of the society. “We all want to do what we can to help children be safe in their schools and neighborhoods.”

McGruff reaches kids through commercials, songs, educational videos and booklets from the NCPC. He addresses topics such as the dangers of drug use, bullying, safety tips and the importance of staying in school. The character was conceived more than 30 years ago and has become a children’s favorite.

“Our goal is have the Providence Police Dept. and McGruff visit every neighborhood school in the city. We are so grateful to Megan and the doctors for their effort and generosity,” said Thurber.

The contributors also included the RI Academy of Family Physicians, RI Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, RI Academy of Physician Assistants, and RIM’s Insurance Brokerage Corporation.

[l–r] Robert Anderson, Director, RIMS-IBC; Richard Terek, MD, President, RI Orthopedic Society; Achyut Kamat, MD, President, RI Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians; McGruff; Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr; Megan Turcotte, RIMS Associate Director, Specialty Societies & Member Services; Peter Karczmar, MD, RIMS President-Elect; Karen Dalton, Executive Director, RI Academy of Family Physicians; Jim Carney, PA-C, President, RI Academy of Physician Assistants

McGruff with Richard Terek, MD, President, RI Orthopedic Society

McGruff with Achyut Kamat, MD, President, RI Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians

McGruff with Richard Terek, MD, President, RI Orthopedic Society

Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr; PPD; Nora Thurber, RN, school nurse, Mary Fogarty School
Why You Should Join the Rhode Island Medical Society

The Rhode Island Medical Society delivers valuable member benefits that help physicians, residents, medical students, physician-assistants, and retired practitioners every single day. As a member, you can take an active role in shaping a better health care future.

RIMS offers discounts for group membership, spouses, military, and those beginning their practices. Medical students can join for free.

**APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE**

**RIMS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Discounts on career management resources
- Insurance, collections, medical banking, and document shredding services
- Discounts on Continuing Medical Education
- InReach online CME program discounts; RIMS is an ACCME accrediting agency
- Powerful advocacy at every level
  - Advantages include representation, advocacy, leadership opportunities, and referrals
- Complimentary subscriptions
  - Publications include Rhode Island Medical Journal, Rhode Island Medical News, annual Directory of Members; RIMS members have library privileges at Brown University
- **Member Portal on www.rimed.org**
  - Password access to pay dues, access contact information for colleagues and RIMS leadership, RSVP to RIMS events, and share your thoughts with colleagues and RIMS

**SPECIAL NOTICE: 2014 AMA DUES PAYMENTS**

The American Medical Association (AMA) will direct bill its Rhode Island members for their 2014 dues. Beginning August 2013, AMA members will receive a separate dues statement from the AMA instead of paying AMA membership dues through the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) membership invoice. This is simply an operational change so that both RIMS and AMA can concentrate on their respective member satisfaction. There remains no requirement for RIMS members to join the AMA.

Please let us know if you have questions concerning this change by emailing Megan Turcotte or phoning 401-331-3207.