At a Glance:
RIMJ’s Editors of Yesteryear

MARY KORR
RIMJ MANAGING EDITOR

This edition celebrates the Centennial of the Rhode Island Medical Journal (RIMJ), first published in January 1917. It succeeded the bi-monthly Providence Medical Journal, which debuted in 1900.

In the inaugural edition, Editor Dr. Roland Hammond stated:

“The King is dead. Long live the King! …We wish all the medical interests of the state to collaborate in the production of a journal which shall truly represent the state in reality as it does in name. As our literary miss makes her bow under her new name, we bespeak for her a hearty support, believing that her sphere of usefulness is to be greatly increased.”

During RIMJ’s history, there have been just eight editors. The following is a brief look at the seven physicians who preceded the current editor-in-chief, JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN, MD. They shared a passion for their profession and the Journal’s mission as stated by Dr. Hammond.

ROLAND HAMMOND, MD
(1875–1957)
YEARS AS EDITOR: 1917–1920
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Harvard, Class of 1902
SPECIALTY: Roentgenologist, orthopedic surgeon at Rhode Island Hospital, Memorial Hospital (chief of surgery)

TIMELINE: Dr. Hammond hailed from Bellingham, Mass. A member of the U.S. Naval Reserve Force, he served in the Harvard Units in Ireland and London in WW II. The war forced the Journal, depleted of most of its editorial staff, to cease publication for 16 months, resuming in December 1920.

EX MEDICO: A Baker Street Irregular
In 1946, Dr. Hammond co-founded “The Dancing Men of Providence,” a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars (BSI), an organization dedicated “to perpetuate the myth that Sherlock Holmes is not a myth.” He was invested under the name Silver Blaze, a horse in one of Conan-Doyle’s mysteries.

Dr. Roland Hammond was present at the Baker Street Irregulars’ dinner on January 3, 1947 held at the Murray Hill Hotel in New York. One of 70 present, the bespectacled surgeon is shown here in last row, fifth from right.
PETER PINEO CHASE, MD
(1877–1956)
YEARS AS EDITOR: 1942–1956
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Harvard, Class of 1910
SPECIALTY: Surgeon, Rhode Island Hospital; served in the Harvard Units in WWI and WWII.
TIMELINE: In 1942, he became RIMJ’s editor-in-chief. Wherever Rhode Island physicians served in World War II, Dr. Chase made sure the Journal was forwarded to them. He introduced two features, “Doctors at War” and “Calling all Battle Stations,” which reported news from the front. After the war, Dr. Chase traveled to Germany with the International Refugee Organization (IRO) to participate in displaced physicians’ retraining courses.

EX MEDICO: For many years, Dr. Chase also wrote a health column in the daily press. On June 30, 1952, Time magazine described his column as “never stuffy, often irreverent, it reflects the Yankee horse sense of its author, Dr. Peter Pineo Chase. Dr. Chase’s horse sense comes out, literally, in his answer to a woman who wrote in recently about chlorophyll pills as deodorants. ‘You should have been with me in my school days, when I took my horse, Pilot, in from the field where he had been cropping chlorophyll-laden grass and drove him on a hot day until he reeked with sweat. He stank.’ ”

ALBERT H. MILLER, MD
(1872–1959)
YEARS AS EDITOR: 1937–1942
MEDICAL SCHOOL: College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia in New York City, 1898
SPECIALTY: Anesthesiologist
TIMELINE: In 1898, the Lewiston, Maine, native came to Rhode Island Hospital to intern and graduated in 1901. A Department of Anesthesia was established with the appointment of Dr. Miller, who introduced induction of anesthesia with nitrous oxide prior to etherization.

EX MEDICO: A skilled illustrator and photographer, Dr. Miller photographed surgical procedures as a medical student at “P. and S.” Devised a camera that could capture photographs at different stages of an operation without a pause by the surgeon.
JOHN E. DONLEY, MD (b. 1880)
YEARS AS EDITOR: 1956-1960
MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Pennsylvania, 1902
SPECIALTY: Neuropsychiatry; a pioneer in the field of hypnosis; medical director of the RI Curative Center for disabled workers, established in 1943 (now the John E. Donley Rehabilitation Center on Blackstone Blvd.), consulting physician to St. Joseph's Hospital, Providence City Hospital, and Pawtucket Memorial Hospital; assistant editor of the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, Boston.

TIMELINE: A Providence boy, son of a jewelry manufacturer.

EX MEDICO: Cited in 1953 by President Eisenhower's Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Campaign for his “outstanding service to the disabled” in Rhode Island.

Nervous and Mental Diseases

JOHN E. DONLEY, M.D.
Mental and Nervous Diseases
222 Broadway Providence, R. I.
24 Week Days and by Appointment

SEEBERT J. GOLDOWSKY, MD (1907–1997)
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Harvard, Class of 1932
SPECIALTY: General surgery; Rhode Island Hospital, director of peripheral vascular disease clinic; The Miriam Hospital, chief of surgery

TIMELINE: Born in Providence, the son of a detective. Attended college and medical school during the Great Depression. During World War II, Capt. Goldowsky was a surgeon in the Pacific Theater.

EX MEDICO: Author of seminal biography of Rhode Islander Usher Parsons, MD, who served as naval surgeon on a ship under Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry at the battle of Lake Erie. (Yankee Surgeon: The Life and Times of Usher Parsons, 1788–1868).

STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD (1922–2015)
MEDICAL SCHOOL: NYU College of Medicine, 1947
SPECIALTY: Neuropathologist. Key to the establishment of diagnostic laboratory test for Tay Sachs Disease and Muscular Dystrophy.

Director of Pathology, Miriam Hospital. Founding dean of Brown Medical School (1972-1981), co-founder of Hospice Care of Rhode Island and the Interfaith Health Care Ministries.

Numerous honors, awards, professorships, NIH Commissions, author of 15 textbooks and 400+ published scientific papers.


EX MEDICO: Described as a polymath. Painter, cabinet-maker, gardener, newspaper columnist, author, medical historian.

Dr. Aronson during his tenure as founding dean of Brown Medical School.

Usher Parsons

Battle of Lake Erie