Insurance News that’s Beneficial for Medical Professionals

Medical professionals now save on their business and personal insurance through the Rhode Island Medical Society’s exclusive partnership with Butler & Messier.

Contact Robert A. Anderson, AAI at 401.272.1050 – randerson@rimsibc.com
Drs. Feller, Binder named incoming editors of RIMJ

MARY KORR
RIMJ MANAGING EDITOR

PROVIDENCE – Drs. Edward Feller and William Binder will assume the editorial leadership of the Rhode Island Medical Journal (RIMJ) in 2019 as Co-Editors-in-Chief. They succeed JOSEPH H. FRIEDMAN, MD, who has held the position for two decades.

During its 101-year history, the Journal has had just eight editors. They shared a commitment to the Journal’s purpose as stated by inaugural editor Dr. Roland Hammond in January 1917:

“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 [formerly the bi-monthly Providence Medical Journal], we bespeak for her a hearty support, believing that her sphere of usefulness is to be greatly increased.”

In advance of their tenure, RIMJ asked the incoming editors to share their perspective and vision for the Journal as it enters its 102nd year at the start of their terms.

Q. What has been your background in publications?

Dr. Feller: I have served as a longtime chairman and member of the RIMJ Editorial Board from 1983 to the present, and as a peer reviewer for multiple medical journals.

I have also co-authored more than 100 scholarly publications and more than 100 presentations at scientific meetings with Alpert Medical School (AMS) students, and have collaborated on 26 papers in the Rhode Island Medical Journal with Brown medical students as first authors.

Dr. Binder: I’ve been the director of emergency medicine and editor for the past three years at Relias Learning, an online medical education company, and have been a peer reviewer for Epidemiology and Infection. In addition, I created the case records of the Department of Emergency Medicine series in RIMJ upon coming to Brown in 2014.

Q. What unique perspective will you bring to your new position at RIMJ?

Dr. Feller: I left clinical practice in 2002 to concentrate exclusively on my career-long passion of teaching and mentoring Brown medical students. My collaborations focus on scholarly writing and editing for publication, especially on issues of the poor and underserved, health policy, cognitive diagnostic reasoning and biases, medical error, scientific misconduct and issues of media literacy.

I’m an experienced medical writer and editor passionate about excellence in diverse scholarly writing. My hope is to expand the Journal’s content to include issues related to scientific publishing for all our constituents.

Dr. Binder: I think as an emergency physician and internist [boarded in both IM and EM], I have a global view of medicine and hope to bring my perspective...
regarding the interconnectedness of each discipline in medicine to the fore. I think I can help break down the silo approach that has dominated medicine for so many years as we have retreated into our specialties. I think there is much more that links us together in this field. Medicine is now more than ever a team sport – no one has an encyclopedic knowledge of medicine any longer, as much as we may pine for the “old” days. I am hoping to do my part in converting us to this new paradigm.

Q. What do you see as the primary function of the state’s medical journal?

Dr. Feller: To me, the Journal’s primary function is to be a repository of record for the depth and breadth of scholarly work by Rhode Island physicians and physicians in training. My talented Co-Editor-in-Chief and I are both committed to increased involvement of medical students and other trainees with multiple planned initiatives. We are formulating strategies to facilitate involvement of physicians in clinical practice.

Dr. Binder: My vision of RIMJ is to nudge it to lead the changing paradigm as I noted above. I think medicine is increasingly interdisciplinary in nature – successfully caring for a patient requires a holistic approach that is not limited to strictly traditional beliefs about the nature of medicine. Health care is about 18% of the GDP, and with its growth there is a lot of expertise in different fields. Perspectives from academics, social scientists, economists, and clinicians all inform how we practice. I hope we can bring this approach to the Journal.

Additionally, while we have traditionally had only Rhode Island writers, it might be interesting to add alumni of Rhode Island programs to the mix. I think this could create cross-pollination and allow us to be less insular, which, while safe, is not always the best approach for our patients and ourselves.

Q. Coincidently, both of you have done medical volunteer work in the Himalayas, and have blended your avocations with your professional vocations. Can you briefly speak about these experiences?

Dr. Feller: I once spent eight weeks in the Himalayas at a high-altitude camp as a subject in multiple studies to assess the medical effects of altitude on ultra-endurance-trained athletes. My passion has always been running non-stop, 100-mile mountain races. I also have helped a number of AMS students participate in Himalayan Health Exchange trips as sub-interns. I’ve also collaborated with med students on published projects involving sports medicine, as well as taught an undergraduate seminar on endurance athletes – for the final exam, all 11 students finished their first marathon.

Dr. Binder: I was doing my residency in internal medicine and found an opportunity with the Himalayan Rescue Association (HRA) based out of Kathmandu. Without question, it was an incredible adventure. I met some amazing individuals, some of whom went on to continue climbing, and some who later died in climbing accidents. I treated cases ranging from cerebral malaria to peritonsilar abscesses to delivering a baby (triple nuchal cord, labor lasting 18 hours), and just about everything in between. I evacuated 6 patients due to altitude sickness – high-altitude pulmonary edema – and carried a Nepali porter from 14,000 feet down to 9,000 feet so that he could recover.

After residency I reflected upon my experiences and took another leap into the nascent emergency medicine program at Brown. After I finished my boards, I began working at the MGH and became one of the members of the section in Wilderness Medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine. I became particularly interested in arthropod-borne diseases and continue to write and publish on these topics.
At a Glance:
RIMJ’s Editors of Yesteryear

MARY KORR
RIMJ MANAGING EDITOR

The Rhode Island Medical Journal (RIMJ) was 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.
FREDERICK N. BROWN, MD
(1863–1942)
YEARS AS EDITOR: 1920–1936
MEDICAL SCHOOL: Dartmouth Medical College, 1894
SPECIALTY: Internal Medicine. Described by a colleague as a physician of the old school who embodied “those virtues which have made medicine a noble and ennobling profession.”
TIMELINE: Born in Coventry, RI, Dr. Brown, to earn money for medical school, first worked as an oil salesman in Providence, and in poor circumstances after graduation from medical school, was employed by the Indo-American Co., in Calcutta, India, for three years.
EX MEDICO: One of the first physicians to use an automobile, rounding in his small Maxwell car.

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.

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: Dr. Chase grew up on Cape Cod. 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.’ ”
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.

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, cabinetmaker, gardener, newspaper columnist, author, medical historian.

SEEBERT J. GOLDSWOKY, 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).
WE CARE BECAUSE YOU CARE
COLLECTIONS WITHOUT ALIENATING
YOUR PATIENTS

24/7 Online Client Management System
Exclusive Collection Agency for the Rhode Island Medical Society

While National Companies are sending their collection calls overseas, all our calls to your patients are made from our local office.

Local
High Recovery
Customized Programs
Improved Patient Retention

For a free consultation call Carmella Beroth at 508-553-1916 or visit www.debtmanagementinc.com

Debt Management, Inc.
“Collecting the Uncollectible”