

## From the Mountain Top to the Sea Bottom: Training and Preparing for Wilderness, Environmental Medical Events

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GUEST EDITOR

In this issue of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* (RIMJ) we are pleased to present several wide-ranging topics in wilderness and environmental medicine. Human interaction with the natural environment has led to a burgeoning interest in wilderness medicine, a multi-specialty area of interest that requires an ability to diagnose and improvise in areas where resources may be scarce. **DOMINIC WU**, et. al. discuss dermatologic misfortunes that may impact outdoor travel. Sailing, one of the most ancient means of transport through the most vast, uninhabited regions on earth, is frequently the source of injury. **ANDREW NATHANSON** discusses the wide range of injury and illness incurred while sailing, when resources and space are limited and definitive care may be days to weeks away. **JOHN FOGGLE**, who recently toured Antarctica, reviews the modern management of hypothermia, and **DANIEL COLEMAN**, et. al. provide a fascinating discussion of the impact of wilderness medicine on medical education. **CHANA RICH**, et. al. provides a wonderful clinical contribution from the Brown University Emergency Medicine Department of a case of free diving off the coast of Rhode Island and alveolar hemorrhage.

In a slight departure from previous issues of RIMJ, we are fortunate to have a non-Rhode Island author contributing to this issue. **RENEE SALAS**, who completed her fellowship in Wilderness Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, and who was a former colleague of mine, has become increasingly involved with the Harvard Global Health Institute. Dr. Salas was the recent lead author of the *Lancet's* Countdown U.S. Brief on Health and Climate Change, and reviews the impact of climate change on health and economies here in the northeast. Her sobering discussion will help us plan for the impact of climate on the health of our patients in New England and in Rhode Island.

We hope you enjoy this RIMJ focus section issue on the rapidly developing field of wilderness medicine that is unfolding on myriad educational, research, and technical fronts across the medical, societal and global climatological spectrum as these articles outline.



### Guest Editor

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