



## Working for You: RIMS advocacy activities

### September 5, Tuesday

RIMS Physician Health Committee (PHC):  
**Herb Rakatansky, MD**, Chair

### September 8, Friday

American Association of Medical  
Society Executives State CEO Call:  
Stacy Paterno, staff

### September 11, Monday

RIMS Council meeting:  
**Thomas Bledsoe, MD**, President  
Protect our Health Care Policy Group:  
Stacy Paterno, staff

### September 12, Tuesday

Advocacy Presentation to Psychiatry  
Residents, Butler Hospital:  
Steve DeToy, staff  
Accessing Mental Health Support in  
Rhode Island Forum: Stacy Paterno, staff

### September 13, Wednesday

Rhode Island Department of Health  
(RIDOH) Board of Medical Licensure and  
Discipline (BMLD): Stacy Paterno, staff  
Governor's Overdose Intervention  
and Prevention Task Force:  
**Sarah Fessler, MD**, Past President  
Rhode Island Health Professions  
Loan Repayment Board Meeting:  
Stacy Paterno, staff

### September 14, Thursday

Rhode Island Medicaid Consumer  
Advisory Meeting: staff  
Behavioral Health Legislative Strategy  
Stakeholder Discussion: Stacy Paterno,  
staff

### September 18, Monday

Protect our Health Care Policy Group:  
Stacy Paterno, staff

### September 19, Tuesday

HHS Intergovernmental and External  
Affairs COVID Update: Stacy Paterno, staff  
Advocacy Presentation to Psychiatry  
Residents, Butler Hospital: Stacy Paterno,  
staff



RIMS 2023–2024 Officers were inaugurated at the 211th Annual Meeting on September 28, 2023. [L-R] Immediate Past President **Thomas A. Bledsoe, MD**; Secretary **Mariah H. Stump, MD, MPH**; President **Heather A. Smith, MD, MPH**; President-Elect **Kara A. Stavros, MD**; Treasurer **Matthew J. Smith, MD, MHL**; Vice President **Dina T. Himelfarb, MD**,

### September 20, Wednesday

Suicide in Healthcare & Science Forum  
at the Warren Alpert Medical School:  
Stacy Paterno, Kathleen Boyd, Rita  
Towers, staff

### September 21, Thursday

Health Information Technology Steering  
Committee: Stacy Paterno, staff  
RIMS Climate Change & Health  
Committee Meeting: **Alison Hayward,  
MD**, and **Katelyn Morretti, MD**, co-chairs

### September 22, Friday

Office of the Health Insurance  
Commissioner Public Forum on Human  
Services Rate Recommendations:  
Stacy Paterno, staff  
Tufts Health Plan Introductory Meeting  
Provider Relations: Stacy Paterno, staff

### September 26, Tuesday

CMS & New England Medical Societies  
Meeting: **Thomas Bledsoe, MD**, President;  
**Heather Smith, MD**, Incoming President;  
and **Kara Stavros, MD**, Vice President

### September 27, Wednesday

RIMS Physician Health Program  
Governance Committee Meeting:  
**Jerry Fingerut, MD**, Chair  
Brown School of Public Health 10th  
Anniversary Kickoff Event: staff  
Presentation to Lifespan Physicians  
Group: **Thomas Bledsoe, MD**, President;  
**William Corwin, MD**, Physician Health  
Program, Vice Chair; Stacy Paterno, staff

### September 28, 2023

*Rhode Island Medical Journal* Editorial  
Meeting: **William Binder, MD**, Editor  
AMA Washington Update: Staff  
Convivium: **Thomas Bledsoe, MD**,  
President; **Heather Smith, MD, MPH**,  
President-elect; and guest speaker  
**Jack Resneck, MD**, AMA Immediate  
Past President



**Alexion is proud  
to sponsor the  
211th Annual Meeting  
of the  
Rhode Island Medical Society**





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# CONVIVIUM

On September 28, the Rhode Island Medical Society held its 211th Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at the Squantum Association, and inaugurated its slate of 2023–2024 officers.

The keynote speaker was AMA Immediate Past President **Jack Resneck, Jr., MD**, who, for more than 20 years, has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to organized medicine. Dr. Resneck received his BA in public policy from Brown University.

**Herbert Rakatansky, MD**, received a special tribute delivered by **Martin Kerzer, DO**, recognizing his 45 years as founder and director of RIMS Physician Health Program.



**Thomas Bledsoe, MD**, presented a plaque of appreciation to **Herbert Rakatansky, MD**.



**Herbert Rakatansky, MD; Martin Kerzer, DO**



AMA Immediate Past President **Jack Resneck, Jr., MD**, delivered the keynote address.



**Thomas Bledsoe, MD; Sybil Cineas, MD**, recipient of the Halifax Award; **Heather Smith, MD**



**Thomas Bledsoe, MD; Andrew Saal, MD**, recipient of the Hill Award;

- RIMS 2023 Award Recipients:
- Humanism in Medicine Award**  
Jonathan Cahill, MD
  - Halifax Award**  
Sybil Cineas, MD
  - Dr. Charles L. Hill Award**  
Andrew Saal, MD
  - Dr. Herbert Rakatansky Award**  
Jane Sharp, MD
  - 5 Under 40 Award**  
Fahad Ali, MD  
Allison Heinly, MD  
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We are pleased  
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of the  
Rhode Island Medical Society



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