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The Rhode Island Medical Society  
was founded in 1812 to promote  
the art and science of medicine.  
RIMS is the eighth oldest state  
medical association in the country.

In cooperation with the Brown  
University School of Medicine,  
the Rhode Island Department  
of Health, and Quality Partners  
of Rhode Island, the Society also  
publishes a monthly magazine,  
*Medicine and Health Rhode Island*.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**



*RIMS President Vera A. De Palo, MD,  
addresses the Annual Banquet crowd  
at the Dunes Club in September*

## Moving ahead collaboratively

### Inaugural remarks of Dr. De Palo delivered at the Dunes Club on September 26, 2009

Medicine is changing. It has always been changing. In fact, change is what advances us. Sometimes, the pace of that change can be unsettling. For years, the changes have included additions to our knowledge base or to our skill set. The options of diagnostics and therapeutics in medicine and surgery are much different today than they were 30 years ago. In the last few years however, the changes really have focused on our system.

How do we deliver care? Is it the best care possible? Is it the care that has been proven to give the best outcomes? Is it efficient? Is it affordable?

Well, we stand at the edge of the precipice. To use a metaphor from this lovely location, we are riding the crest of a wave. There is much discussion of what health care will look like in the future. Many in this room and in our society have risen to the challenges through the year and have led us along the bumpy road of health care. We have collaborated for quality. We continue to do so. It is time that we collaborate for system change. It will be with the insight and wisdom of our past presidents, our health care leaders, our partners and collaborators, that we will enrich the debate and bring us to a better system of care for all.

But this will not come easily. It comes with hard work and attention to detail. Communication is key. It is with communication and collaboration that not only will we continue to bring about knowledge base, technology, and quality advancements, but together we will help to shape our health care delivery system.

During this past week, I had conversations or communications from several past presidents. I will mention two. The first was a conversation with Dr. Bud Kahn at the Medical Society Golf Tournament. He took me aside to tell me about his presidency year. He told me what a wonderful year it was and that I would get to work with an amazing staff. The second was a note from Dr. Ric Christian. Ric told me what an exciting and professionally satisfying year he had. Both told me how hard it was and were full of words of support and encouragement.

Well, I agree with them. The staff at the Rhode Island Medical Society is an amazing staff. I have gotten to know them this year. I am looking forward to working closely with them during the next year. To my colleagues, my partners, my collaborators, and to my friends, I look forward to working together with you.

The challenges will be great, and I will surely need everyone's help. This is our opportunity to contribute to the discussion which will shape the health care landscape. It will be with communication, collaboration and focus on the noble profession to which we are committed that we will make our greatest impact! Thank you. ❖