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Rhode Island Medical Society
235 Promenade Street, Suite 500
Providence RI 02908
Phone: 401-331-3207
Fax: 401-751-8050
Email: RIMS@rimed.org
Website: www.rimed.org

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EDITOR
Newell E. Warde, PhD

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Marianne Migliori

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.

RIMPAC NEWS

The new federal legislation raises the stakes for doctors and patients in this fall's primary and general elections

2010 is an election year in Rhode Island. That means that all statewide general offices (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State and Attorney General), as well all 113 General Assembly seats, Rhode Island's two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives (Patrick Kennedy and James Langevin are the incumbents) and many mayors, town councils, school committees, etc. will be in play on November 2. Primary elections for all the intra-party contests will take place on Tuesday, September 14.

Rhode Island must elect a new governor and a new attorney general because the current incumbents are term-limited. Rhode Island will also elect a new general treasurer because the incumbent is running for governor. The First Congressional District is an "open seat" (i.e., no incumbent is running for reelection this year) for the first time in decades, because Congressman Patrick Kennedy will be retiring from Congress when his eighth term in the House of Representatives ends this year. With more than a dozen retirements in the General Assembly and with a sharp increase in the number of candidates who have filed for offices at all levels, this year's general election promises to be one of the most interesting and momentous in memory.

The new federal health care reforms raise the stakes for this year's fall elections, because the new law places much authority for implementation in the hands of the states. The general officers and the General Assembly who assume office at the start of 2011 will bear historic responsibility for shaping the future of Rhode Island health care.

Accordingly, RIMPAC, under the leadership of its Chair, former RIMS President and former General Assembly member Nick Tsiongas, MD, MPH, is especially active this year. A full listing of candidates who have received contributions from RIMPAC is available on the homepage of RIMS' website, www.rimed.org. Below are brief notes on some of the key races this fall.

GOVERNOR The gubernatorial race became a little simpler with the withdrawal of Democratic candidate Patrick Lynch, Rhode Island's current Attorney General, but five candidates remain in the race as of this writing: Kenneth Block of the Moderate Party; current General Treasurer and former state senator Frank Caprio, a Democrat; former U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee, running as an independent; and former state representative Victor Moffit and John Robataille, both Republicans. RIMPAC has made the maximum allowed contribution of \$1,000 to the Caprio and Chafee campaigns.

LT. GOVERNOR The incumbent, Elizabeth Roberts, is seeking re-election and faces a primary challenge from Red Sox advisor Jeremy Kapstein. Several Republicans are competing in the September 14 primary for the privilege of running against Kapstein or Roberts. RIMPAC has made the maximum allowed contribution of \$1,000 to the Roberts Campaign.

ATTORNEY GENERAL This seat is an open because the incumbent is term-limited. Democrats competing in the primary are Steven Archambault, Joseph Fernandez and State Representative Peter Kilmartin. Christopher Little is running on the Moderate Party ticket. Erik Wallin is the lone Republican in the race. Two independents have filed papers: Keven McKenna and Robert Rainville. The role of the Attorney General, as the state's chief consumer protector and anti-trust enforcer, has become increasingly important to health care in the past two decades.

RIMPAC has made the maximum allowable contribution of \$1,000 to the Kilmartin campaign and a \$500 contribution to the Little campaign.

SECRETARY OF STATE and **GENERAL TREASURER** RIMPAC generally does not make contributions to candidates for these offices.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY A substantial number of new faces may grace both chambers of the General Assembly come January. Some fifteen seats are open (i.e., no incumbent is seeking reelection), and most incumbents are facing challenges – in some cases multiple challenges.

Voters in the following five districts have a chance this year to vote for a physician or a nurse to represent them in the General Assembly:

Senate District 35 (East Greenwich/North Kingstown/Warwick): The Honorable Mark Schwager, MD, a two-term member of the East Greenwich Town Council, is the endorsed Democratic candidate for this seat, which became open when the incumbent retired. Dr. Schwager faces a stiff primary battle on September 14, and whoever prevails in that contest will face a well-funded, business-supported Republican rival in November. RIMPAC has made the maximum allowed contribution of \$1,000 to the Schwager campaign. More information on this critical race is available at www.doctormarkforsenate.com. Supporters can also contact the campaign at doctormarkforsenate@gmail.com or 401-884-1388.

Senate District 11 (Bristol/Portsmouth): Christopher Ottiano, MD, is making his third run for the seat held by Senator Charles Levesque. Sen. Levesque is a member of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and has sponsored legislation on behalf of RIMS during his three terms in the Senate and previously during his eight years in the House of Representatives. RIMPAC has contributed \$250 to Senator Levesque's campaign.

House District 3 (Providence): Daniel Harrop, MD, is making another run against the incumbent, Rep. Edith Ajello. Rep. Ajello has long been a solid RIMS ally and has sponsored many bills on RIMS' behalf. RIMPAC has contributed \$300 to Rep. Ajello's campaign.

House District 49 (Woonsocket): Stuart Gitlow, MD, is making his first run for office challenging the incumbent in the Democratic primary. Supporters can contact Dr. Gitlow's campaign at drgitlow@aol.com or 401-338-0493.

House District 20 (Warwick): David Bennett, RN, is seeking to oust the incumbent in a democratic primary. Mr. Bennett narrowly lost a Senate primary in an open district in 2008. RIMPAC has contributed \$100 to the Bennett campaign. His campaign website is www.joinbennett.com.

RIMS 198th Annual Member Banquet

Saturday, October 2, 2010
Squantum Association, East Providence

Look for your invitation in the mail

The following new leadership team was duly elected by the RIMS Council on June 6, 2010, and will be installed in office on October 2:

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gary Bubly, MD | <i>President</i> |
| Nitin S. Damle, MD | <i>President-Elect</i> |
| Alyn L. Adrain, MD | <i>Vice President</i> |
| Elaine C. Jones, MD | <i>Secretary</i> |
| Jerry Fingerut, MD | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Marlene Cutitar, MD | <i>Councilor at Large</i> |
| Scott E. Wang, MD | <i>Councilor at Large</i> |
| Steven R. Fera, MD | <i>Councilor at Large</i> |
| Martin R. Papazian, MD | <i>Councilor at Large</i> |
| Joel M. Kaufman, MD | <i>Adjunct Councilor at Large</i> |
| Ira M. Singer, MD | <i>Adjunct Councilor at Large</i> |
| Michael E. Migliori, MD | <i>Delegate to AMA</i> |
| Peter A. Hollmann, MD | <i>Alternate Delegate to AMA</i> |

RIMPAC is a non-partisan medical political action committee that seeks to promote the election and re-election of state and local public officeholders who are friendly to medicine and knowledgeable about health care. Neither RIMS nor RIMPAC endorses candidates for any office. RIMPAC advises AMPAC (the American Medical Political Action Committee of the AMA) on potential support for candidates for federal office representing Rhode Island.

RIMS and RIMPAC encourage physicians to be politically engaged. RIMS routinely supports its members' involvement in political campaigns by helping physicians reach out to other physicians in support of candidates of their choosing.

While the political arena is decidedly not for everyone, political competition does affect everything and everyone (and everyone's children), for better or worse. Much is always at stake for physicians and their patients in the political arena, and even more than usual is at stake in this time of change.

It has long been a basic tenet of medical ethics that physicians' dedication to human wellbeing implies a professional responsibility for political awareness and political action. Professional associations like RIMS and the AMA, and medically-oriented political action committees like RIMPAC, AMPAC and many national and state specialty PACs, make it relatively easy and painless for physicians to fulfill this special responsibility to society. ❖