

Drs. Aronson, Hamolsky receive national honors

The Federation of State Medical Boards has honored Dr. Milton W. Hamolsky and Dr. Stanley Aronson with Lifetime Achievement Awards for distinguished leadership in medical regulation.

The two Rhode Island doctors were only the third and fourth recipients in the entire history of the award, which is presented infrequently to outstandingly meritorious individuals. The previous presentations were made in 2002 and 2008.

The Federation is the professional association of state medical boards, the authorities that license and discipline doctors in the various states. Dr. Aronson and Dr. Hamolsky received their awards at the federation's 98th annual meeting in Chicago in April.

Dr. Hamolsky had just retired in 1986 from a long and distinguished career as a pioneering endocrinologist, professor of medicine at Brown and physician-in-chief at Rhode Island Hospital, when then-Director

of Health H. Denman Scott, MD, MPH, recruited him to be the first chief administrative officer of the new Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. The BMLD officially replaced the old Board of Medical Review on January 1, 1987, with Dr. Hamolsky at the helm. Dr. Hamolsky led the new board from then until his second retirement in 2001.

Dr. Aronson served on Rhode Island's Board of Medical Licensure from 1992 to 2003. He is the Founding Dean of Brown's medical school, now the Warren Alpert School of Medicine, and served as Dean for 11 years. He is a former editor-in-chief of the Medical Society's monthly journal, *Medicine & Health Rhode Island*. His popular, erudite commentaries on medicine and medical history appear regularly in that journal and on the editorial pages of the *Providence Journal* every Monday morning. ❖

Awards for Drs. Etensohn, Troise

The Medical Society will bestow special honors upon David Etensohn, MD, and Caroline Troise, MD, in the context of the RIMS Annual Member Banquet on Saturday evening, October 2, at the Squantum Association in East Providence.

Dr. Etensohn will receive the Dr. Charles L. Hill Award in recognition of his energetic and eloquent leadership in a time of particular challenge and stress for the Rhode Island medical community. Dr. Etensohn was President of RIMS 2002–2003.

Dr. Carolyn Troise will be the third recipient of the Dr. Herbert Rakatansky Award for Professionalism in Medicine. Dr. Troise has served as the medical director of the Rhode Island Free Clinic since its inception. ❖

Members should have received invitations to the Annual Banquet by late August. Questions can be directed to Sarah Stevens at 401-331-3207. (See also p.2 of this newsletter.)

Other health-related bills that did become law include the following:

- A bill to regulate "discount medical plans," which are typically scams promoted by small signs nailed to utility poles.
- A bill adopting the AMA's 6th edition *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* in workers' compensation cases. This bill also clarifies the statutory language pertaining to workers' compensation and Preferred Provider Networks (PPNs). (See also a related article on workers' compensation page 16.)
- A bill to allow the Director of Health to grant privileges to health care professionals licensed in other states to practice in Rhode Island during a declared emergency.
- A bill to allow the health care provider of a child who has been sexually assaulted to report that information to the appropriate regulatory agency.
- A bill to expand the role of the medical examiner's office to include making recommendations to decrease the incidence of preventable child deaths.

- A bill to require school districts to work with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) to develop guidelines for coaches and players of youth sports to reduce risks associated with concussions.
- A bill changing the name of the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (MHRH) to Rhode Island Department of Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (DHDDH).

A more complete account of this year's health legislation is provided in the accompanying grid on pages 10–11.

The RIMS Public Laws Committee, chaired by Michael E. Migliori, MD, is comprised of physicians representing a full spectrum of medical specialties and subspecialties. Its meetings are open to RIMS members. Physicians are encouraged to contact RIMS' Director of Government Relations, Steve DeToy, with questions regarding the legislative process or with suggestions for potential future legislation (sdetoy@rimed.org). As usual, the Public Laws Committee invites participation and suggestions from members and specialty societies for its meeting in the autumn to formulate RIMS' legislative agenda for 2011. ❖