



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

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Bicentennial Committee laying plans for RIMS 200th in 2012

On Tuesday, February 25, 1812, the Rhode Island General Assembly voted to incorporate a body of forty-nine Rhode Island physicians as the "Rhode Island Medical Society." The rationale for this enactment, as stated in the legislation, was as follows: "(t)he Medical Art is important to the health and happiness of society, (and) every institution calculated to further its improvement is entitled to public attention(;)...Medical Societies, formed on liberal principles, and encouraged by the patronage of the laws, have been found conducive to this end."

Undoubtedly present in the chamber at the time of the vote that day was Dr. Amos Throop, 76, who, besides being Rhode Island's most prominent physician at the time, was a former colleague of the legislators who were voting and the president of one of Providence's first banks. Eight weeks later, on April 22, 1812, in the Senate chamber of the Old State House on Benefit Street in Providence, Dr. Throop led the founding organizational meeting of the Rhode Island Medical Society and became the Society's first president.

Early in 2010, RIMS President Vera De Palo, MD, appointed her predecessor, **DIANE R. SIEDLECKI, MD**, to chair a Bicentennial Committee. Dr. De Palo charged the Committee to plan the observance of the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Society. Other members of the Committee are **DR. STANLEY ARONSON, DR. GARY BUBLY, DR. NITIN DAMLE, DR. VERA DE PALO, DR. ARTHUR FRAZZANO, DR. MILTON HAMOLSKY** and **DR. FRANK SULLIVAN**.

A number of commemorative events and activities are being planned for the bicentennial year. The main celebration will be a banquet at Rosecliff Mansion in Newport on Saturday evening, April 21, 2012. Also planned are a symposium to be held in the new facilities of the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown and other observances to be conducted at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum and the Hay Library at Brown University. RIMS members will receive notices and invitations as the dates approach.