



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

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For Immediate Release:

Rhode Island Medical Society Announces Keynote Speaker, Award Honorees and Other Details for its 2023 Member Convivium

*Featured speaker is American Medical Association Immediate Past President
Dr. Jack Resneck, Jr.*

Nine Rhode Island physicians to be honored for exemplary service in the field of medicine

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (September 15, 2023) – The Rhode Island Medical Society will host its 211th Member Convivium – an annual meeting and awards dinner – on Thursday, September 28, from 6 to 10 p.m., at the Squantum Association in East Providence. The annual event is an opportunity for physicians, physician assistants and medical students to celebrate their profession; learn about health care issues critical to meeting the evolving challenges of medical practice and quality patient care; and recognize Rhode Island physicians who have made outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of patients in Rhode Island and beyond.

The keynote speaker for the upcoming Convivium is American Medical Association Immediate Past President Jack Resneck, Jr., MD. For more than 20 years, Dr. Resneck has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to organized medicine. He is a passionate advocate for physicians and patients, a prominent spokesperson for innovation, and a champion for a more equitable health care system. Dr. Resneck received his BA in public policy from Brown University.

“The Rhode Island Medical Society is especially excited about this year’s Convivium,” said Dr. Thomas A. Bledsoe, president of the Society’s board of directors. “We are so pleased to be joined by Dr. Resneck and look forward to hearing his national perspective on issues facing healthcare in America. We are also looking forward to honoring a number of physician colleagues who exemplify the best qualities of a physician in their work locally and abroad.”

“I’m excited to return to Providence and honored to join my Rhode Island physician colleagues, medical students and physician assistants at this year’s Convivium,” said AMA Immediate Past President Jack Resneck, Jr., M.D. “Being a part of organized medicine is more important now than ever. We each know first-hand how physicians have put everything into our nation’s response to COVID-19. Now it’s time the nation renews its commitment to physicians and to shoring up our health system. That’s why the AMA launched the AMA Recovery Plan for America’s Physicians—aimed at reforming Medicare payments to physicians, improving telehealth, and reducing stigma around mental health care and burnout. We will continue to make this our top priority and advocate for changes that will improve the health of everyone in the U.S.”

The nine physicians listed below are the Society’s 2023 honorees who will be recognized at the September 28 Convivium.

- **Jonathan Cahill, MD** | Humanism in Medicine Award
Associate Professor of Neurology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and staff neurologist at the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Rhode Island.

- **Sybil Cineas, MD** | Recognition of Outstanding Medical Volunteerism – Halifax Award
Associate Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Medical Science for the Brown Med-Peds Residency Program, and longtime volunteer attending physician and Medical Advisory Committee member for the Rhode Island Free Clinic.
- **Andrew Saal, MD** | Recognition of Leadership and Service – Dr. Charles L. Hill Award
Former Chief Medical Officer, Providence Community Health Centers.
- **Jane Sharp, MD** | Recognition for Exemplary Professionalism and/or Humanitarian Service – Dr. Herbert Rakatansky Award
Partner at Center for Obstetrics & Gynecology – a division of SNE Women’s Health, Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and attending physician at Women & Infants Hospital.
- Recognition of Commitment to the Profession – 5 Under 40 Award:
 - **Fahad Ali, MD**
Emergency Medicine Resident (PGY4) and first-ever Chief Resident of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Brown Emergency Medicine.
 - **Allison Heinly, MD**
Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Associate Program Director of Brown Pediatric Residency Program, and general pediatrician at Hasbro Children’s Hospital Primary Care.
 - **Anita Knopov, MD**
Medical Education Fellow at Brown Emergency Medicine, Research Fellow at Annals of Emergency Medicine, practicing physician at the Miriam Hospital, and advocate of firearm injury prevention and education.
 - **Vincent LaBarbera, MD**
Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Medical Director of the Louise Wilcox ALS Clinic at Rhode Island Hospital.
 - **Katelyn Moretti, MD**
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, co-founder of the Rhode Island Medical Society Climate Change and Health Committee, and co-investigator on the 3CRS project – Community-driven Coastal Climate Research and Solutions.

Additionally, the Society’s upcoming Convivium marks the milestone at which its inauguration of 2023-2024 officers will take place, including the ‘passing of the torch’ of presidency of the board of directors from Dr. Bledsoe to Dr. Heather A. Smith.

“Dr. Smith brings a wealth of experience from her work on the national stage with the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists,” said Dr. Bledsoe. “The Medical Society is very fortunate to have her step into the leadership role at this time. I look forward to seeing her in action but also to being on hand to support her and the other incoming officers over the coming year.”

To register for the Rhode Island Medical Society’s 2023 Annual Meeting-Convivium, please visit the Society’s News & Events website page at <https://rimedicalsociety.org/news-events/> and scroll to the bottom. Click on the ‘Annual meeting Information’ link. Tickets are \$125 each.

About the Rhode Island Medical Society

Founded in 1812, the Rhode Island Medical Society is a voluntary association of physicians, physician assistants and medical students. It supports and advocates for all Rhode Island physicians in their efforts to

provide the best possible care to their patients. The Society is the vehicle by which the medical community in Rhode Island meets the evolving challenges of medical practice and quality patient care. The Society represents the interests, values and needs of the medical profession and promotes enlightened public policy in the field of health care. It is the eighth oldest organization of its kind in the nation.

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