



Greetings Rhode Island ACP members!

I tried to find a picture of a slushy wave for the picture this month's newsletter (see New York Times story at [this link](#)), but I couldn't find one! Hopefully we'll be back to nice blue (and warm) water eventually!

In this issue:

- RI ACP Doctor's Dilemma competition (a.k.a. "Medical Jeopardy") this week
- Registration now open for RI ACP Annual Scientific meeting
- New chronic opioid regulations to go into effect soon from Rhode Island health Department, are you ready?
- Rhode Island Medical Society Council update

Excellent opportunity this week to test your knowledge of medical facts and trivia against the best and brightest of Rhode Island's medical residents! On Thursday this week (March 5) at 6:30 at the Alpert Medical School, residents from each of the Rhode Island medical residencies will face off for the **Doctor's Dilemma** (a.k.a. "Medical Jeopardy") competition. Winners not only get bragging rights, the winning team will have a chance to represent Rhode Island at the College's Centennial Annual Meeting **IM2015** in Boston at the end of April. Please **mark your calendar** and join us if you are able!

Thanks to Program Committee co-chairs Rebekah Gardner and Jennifer Jeremiah for putting together a terrific **Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting**, scheduled for Thursday afternoon May 7, once again at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston. Now is the time to clear your schedule for that afternoon for an opportunity to get some quality medical education in a pleasant setting while catching up with colleagues. More information about the program and a registration link are available [here](#), we will be welcoming College Regent Bob Centor as our keynote speaker: "Learning (and teaching) to think like a Clinician." We are all so busy with day-to-day demands, battling our EMRs too often into the evenings, the Chapter Scientific Meeting is designed to be a helpful resource for you to recharge and reconnect! As we did last year, we are also offering a SEP Maintenance of Certification module at 10 AM before the meeting starts. Thanks to Louis Rubenstein and Iris Tong for again serving as faculty.

As you will recall, we have been actively involved with the Rhode Island Medical Society in the effort to make regulations proposed by the Health Department for the **treatment of chronic pain with opioids** practical for both patients and providers. The bad news is that these regulations may require some significant changes to your standard practices. The good news is that they are generally in line with standards and guidelines put forward by the College in recent publications.

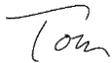
We will be sending a "how to" mailing dedicated to this issue with a number of active links in the near future. In the meantime, College sanctioned best practices can be found at [Opioid Prescribing: A Systematic Review and Critical Appraisal of Guidelines for Chronic Pain](#) and at [Prescription Drug Abuse: Executive Summary of a Position Paper from the American College of Physicians](#). More to follow.

As Governor for the RI ACP Chapter, I have had the opportunity to be more active with the **Rhode Island Medical Society**, serving as a member of the RIMS Council. (If you are not currently a RIMS member, I strongly encourage you to consider it; more on that to follow!) The Medical Society is active in advocacy work at the State level. As this is both important work and not historically a strength of the Rhode Island ACP Chapter, working together is important. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out with this effort. For the coming legislative season, the RIMS legislative priorities include a provision for transparency in the Prior Authorization process by insurers who do business in Rhode Island, a requirement that EHR vendors who have business in the state provide a ready mechanism for information transfer *between* medical records systems, and a stipulation that network directories are both readily available and accurate. Please let me know if you are interested in getting involved as an RI ACP member with the RIMS legislative advocacy efforts.

That is all for now. Don't forget:

1. Join us for "Medical Jeopardy" on
2. Register now for the RI ACP Chapter Scientific Program on May 7
3. Look over the chronic pain best practices resources to get ready for new RI Health Department Regulations expected soon
4. Let me know if you can help out with local RIMS legislative efforts

Stay warm!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom".