

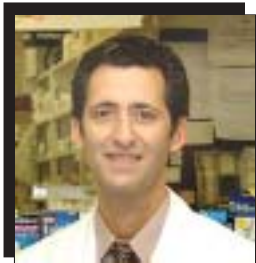


SPRING 2004

RIPA Reporter

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

From the President



Chris M. Albanese, R.Ph.

Hello All,

I know it is hard to believe, we are well into Spring which of course means our Annual RIPPF Golf Tournament and President's Diner are right around the corner. I am pleased

that once again we hosted a successful Last Chance Continuing Education Program and all who attended were pleased with our own Brett Feret's update on Bio-Terrorism, Kim McDonough's review of the Medicare Act of 2003 and Cathy Cordy's annual Law update. I want to personally thank these members of our pharmacy community for donating their time and significant talents to our effort to produce quality continuing education.

It has certainly been a busy fall and winter. We have met twice with the other New England states in what has become a quarterly meeting hosted by the Massachusetts Pharmacists Association. At these meetings we discuss problems and issues each of our states are facing and how we can learn from each other's experiences and ideas.

Once more the "Nurse Dispensing" issue (or more appropriately called "non-pharmacist dispensing") at certain health centers was raised again by these centers and brought before Dr. Nolan of RI Department of Health despite it having been rejected by the RI State Legislature last year. It was the ambition of these health centers to allow the physician to authorize ANYONE he or she saw fit to dispense medications at these centers without a final check of the dispensed medication and sign-off by the physician. Again RIPA vehemently fought against this issue as we educated those involved on the difference between dispensing and supplying prescription medication. Also supportive in the effort was URI College of Pharmacy, RISHSP, CVS

Pharmacy, Brooks Pharmacy and Independent Pharmacies. It actually came to the point that we had to hire a lawyer to solidify our position based on RI Law in our efforts to convince Dr. Nolan to abandon this dilution of the practice of pharmacy. We also met with the Governor's Office to explain our position. After much hard work we were ultimately successful in preventing the implementation of "Nurse Dispensing" at these health centers.

Reimportation of medications from Canada is another topic that has kept us busy. Although we compassionately understand a persons desire to acquire lower cost medications from out of the country, it is RIPA's position that there are potential safety concerns as well as the fact that city or state government sponsored activities in this area are against Federal law. We were able to meet with the State Attorney General Patrick Lynch and Secretary of State Matthew Brown on separate occasions to express some of our concerns regarding Canadian Reimportation. RIPA also testified against a RI House Bill that would have allowed the RI Department of Health to license any Canadian pharmacy that currently holds a valid Canadian pharmacy license. Besides the safety issues, what jurisdiction would the RI Board of Pharmacy have over these Canadian pharmacies and pharmacists if the law is to pass? Even though the landscape on this important issue continues to change, RIPA continues to express opposition to the personal importation of prescription medications as fundamentally unsafe for consumers for a variety of reasons.

RIPA was invited to the press conference at the RI State House of the "Heinz Report" which suggests ways RI can save money on state-run health plans. The Heinz Family Philanthropies provide these overviews at no charge to state and municipal

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US Senator Jack Reed: Working hard for Pharmacy

by Linda Carver, R.Ph.

Last year, the Rhode Island Pharmacist's Association awarded Senator Jack Reed with the Charles Hachadorian, Jr. Award because of the hard work that he continues to do as a healthcare advocate and a supporter of pharmacy.

Having been born in Providence in 1949 and then moving to Cranston as a baby, Mr. Reed has spent most of his life as a resident of Rhode Island. In the time that he was not in Rhode Island, he was very busy preparing himself for the work that would be ahead of him when he returned home to his state and the difficult work to come.

After graduating from LaSalle Academy he attended West Point Academy where he graduated in 1971. He retired from the U.S. Army as a Captain in 1979. During this time he was also earning his Masters Degree in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and accepting a position as Associate Professor at West Point.

In 1982 he graduated from Harvard Law School and took a job as an associate in the D.C. law firm of Sutherland, Asbill, and Brennan. He worked there for a year, before returning to Rhode Island in 1983. By 1984 he had been elected to his first of three terms in the RI State Senate and had begun his career in public service.

He moved on in 1990 to the U.S. House of Representatives and then in 1996 was elected to the U.S. Senate. As Rhode Island's senator he has worked on many bipartisan issues. He is on four important committees (the Armed Services Committee; the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; and the Joint Economic Committee) and has taken on the leadership positions of Eastern Regional Ranking Member of the Democratic Policy Committee and Deputy Whip. He has also been a sponsor of 76 bills in the Senate. Many of these bills are related to improving our healthcare system. Most recently, he was recognized for his sponsorship of the Pharmacy Education Aid Act. This bill is intended to encourage students to go into pharmacy and for pharmacists to take faculty positions at Colleges of Pharmacy throughout the country, by using loan repayment incentive programs. The bill also provides schools of pharmacy with access to federal grants to help defray the cost of

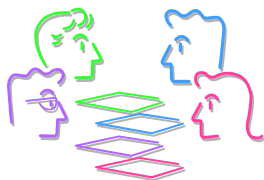
classroom upgrades and needed equipment. Reed himself understands the value and need for more pharmacists. He said, "If we do not have a sufficient number of pharmacists, the quality of healthcare for all Americans suffers, especially our older citizens".

The people of RI and the public health community are fortunate to have an advocate in their corner that works so hard and is so well respected by his peers.

When asked what had prompted the Senator to get so involved with healthcare issues, he explained that the answer was simple. These are "fundamental issues with critical challenges" which affect everyone. To the Senator, these are issues that affect his entire state and the whole nation.

As a result, he realizes why the current pharmacist shortage is such a serious dilemma. He has been instrumental in getting legislation passed and programs to help the profession because of the importance he places on the job that pharmacists do. He understands the impact on care that Americans get as a result of pharmacy and it's pharmacists. "It is where the rubber meets the road", said Senator Reed. Because pharmacy is so much more involved than it was 20 years ago, he feels that now more than ever it needs his support to help meet the demands being placed on it.

Hopefully others will continue to join Senator Reed, both in words and actions, as pharmacy continues its journey. The profession of pharmacy and the whole healthcare system will be better for it.



Invest in YOUR Association! Join a Committee

Volunteers are always needed for RIPA committees. The commitment required is varied, just like the committee choices, but can be as little as one hour per month. Play a part in the direction of your association and join a committee today! Call the office at 737-2600 or email us at jhutson@ripharmacists.org

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government to help them manage their health costs. Following the press conference, I provided testimony to the Joint Legislative Committee on Health Care Oversight regarding several health care issues.

We also met with U.S. Senator Jack Reed of RI to discuss aspects of the Medicare Bill recently passed by the U.S. Congress. That meeting provided for a lively exchange and a more direct line of communication between RIPA and Senator Reed's healthcare legislative assistant. The Senator asked RIPA to keep him and his staff apprised of issues the senior patient population is facing as the Medicare Legislation is rolled out.

In February RIPA also held a very enjoyable Membership Appreciation event at the Ryan Center at URI. We were fortunate enough to enjoy the URI Men's Basketball team defeat St. Boneventure while enjoying lunch and refreshments from the vantage point and comfort of the Athletic Director's Suite.

Our CE programs are under way. We recently spent a delicious evening at the Napa Valley Grill for an Antibiotic CE sponsored by Abbott Labs. It is our continued hope to hold a CE regarding medication pricing in the United States, which should prove to be an interesting discussion.

I am thankful for the hard work of our Executive Director Jack Hutson, the RIPA Officers and Council, Committee Chairs and of course the rest of our supportive membership. Remember if you have questions, concerns or comments we would love to hear from you, so don't hesitate to call or e-mail us. Otherwise don't forget to mark your calendar for RIPA's Annual RIPA Golf Tournament on June 14, 2004 and the RIPA President's Diner on June 18, 2004. Hope to see you there!

Professionally Yours,


Chris M. Albanese, RPh.

President



**6th Annual
Rhode Island Pharmacist
Foundation Golf Outing**

Monday - June 14, 2004
Montaup Country Club, Portsmouth, RI

Registration • 11:00 am to Noon • Buffet Lunch, Noon - 12:45pm
Shotgun start 1:00 pm

Donation: \$150.00 per player
(Includes: Golf, golf cart, team and individual prizes, lunch & dinner)
\$600 per foursome
SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME!

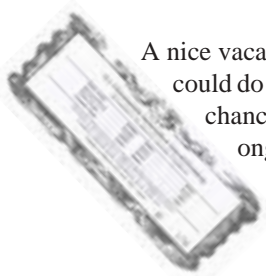
**130th Rhode Island Pharmacists
Association
President's Dinner**

Friday, June 18, 2004
6:30pm

Potowomut Country Club, Warwick, RI

Please make a point to join us for a special evening to honor out-going RIPA President Chris Albanese for his tireless efforts on behalf of every member and the profession of Pharmacy. We will also take time to recognize 9 member and non-pharmacists for their above average commitment to the profession of pharmacy as well as install Heather A. Larch as the 2004-2005 President, and the 2004-2005 Council of Administration.

RIPA RAFFLE - WHERE ELSE COULD YOU BUY A VACATION FOR \$100??



A nice vacation is only one thing you could do with and extra \$5000. ONLY 250 tickets sold so your chances are pretty good. Either way you support the ongoing efforts of YOUR association to improve the profession of Pharmacy for all. Drawing held at 10pm at President's Dinner

First Prize	\$5000
Second Prize	\$1000
Third Prize	\$500
Fourth Prize	\$250

*Fill out the attached flyer to
get yours today!*

2004 Award Winners

Michael Loomis

Wyeth-"Bowl Of Hygeia" Award

Katherine Kelly Orr

Pharmacists Mutual "Distinguished Young Pharmacists Of The Year Award"

Charles L. Haytaian

Guido L. Pettinicchio Award

Ronald P. Jordan

DuPont-Pharmaceuticals Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award

Catherine Cordy

RIPA Pharmacists Service Award

Kathy Cordiero

RIPA Pharmacy Technician Practice Award

William Z. Welsh, Jr.

RIPA Non-Pharmacist Service Award

David Dore

RIPA Student Service Award

Laura Adams

RIPA Charles Hachadorian, Jr. Award

SPRING EVENTS REGISTRATION FORM

6th Annual Golf Outing - Monday, June 14, 2004

- Golf, lunch & dinner - \$150 Tee sign - \$125
 Please send me a Corporate Sponsorship form

130th President's Dinner - Friday, June 18, 2004

- Please send me a Program Book Sponsorship form
(President's Dinner invitations to be sent separately)

RIPA Annual Drawing - Friday, June 18, 2004

- I would like _____ raffle tickets at \$100.00 each

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- CHECK VISA MASTERCARD

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: RI PHARMACY FOUNDATION, 1643 WARWICK AVENUE, PMB 113, WARWICK, RI 02889
(401) 737-2800 MAIL OR FAX FORM TO - 401-737-0989



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