

Vermont Medical Society

2005 Annual Report



Vermont
Medical
Society
*"Not for
ourselves do we
labor."*

*O*ur *M*ission

To serve the public by facilitating and enhancing physicians' individual and collective commitments, capabilities and efforts to improve the quality of life for the people of Vermont through the provision of accessible and appropriate health care services....

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Dear Member of the Vermont Medical Society:

Looking back on 2005, it was another year of gains for both Vermont physicians and our patients. Thanks to the efforts of VMS members and staff, three health care laws were passed that will be very beneficial to Vermonters. Statutes covering the use of advance directives were updated, smoking was banned in all bars and private clubs, and cigarettes sold in the state will be required to have a fire-safe design.

We convinced legislators to reduce a proposed \$5 million cut in Medicaid physician reimbursement to \$2.4 million. The VMS continued to advocate for increased Medicaid payments, and Gov. Jim Douglas responded by proposing to increase reimbursement by \$5 million in fiscal year 2007.

We were active in the legislative study of the medical liability system, which recommended to the General Assembly that numerous reforms be enacted.

We advocated for medical liability reform in Washington, D.C., meeting with Congressman Sanders and the staffs of Senators Leahy and Jeffords.

We voiced strong opposition to the state Department of Labor's proposal to freeze physician reimbursement for workers' compensation cases at 1995 levels.

We provided education to physicians and other health care professionals around the state on the new advance directive law, opiate treatment issues, and the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

It was an exciting and rewarding year for me personally. I am proud of our many achievements, and I look forward to continuing to be actively involved in the VMS as we work to address the issues of health care reform, Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement, and medical liability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harvey Reich M.D.".

Harvey Reich, M.D.

VMS President 2004-2005

INDEX - 2005 VMS Annual Report

SECTION 1: WHAT WE ADVOCATED FOR IN 2005

Health Care System Reform	Page 6
Medical Liability Reform (State & National)	6
Increased Medicaid Funding & Higher Physician Reimb.	7
Reversing Medicare Pay Cuts/Revising Payment Formula ...	7
Fair Workers' Compensation Reimbursement	7
Increased Patient Safety	7
No Physician-Assisted Suicide Laws	8
Updated Advance Directives Legislation	8
No Smoking in Bars	8
Self-extinguishing Cigarettes	8
Funding Increase for Tobacco Control Programs	8
Non-prescription Access to Emergency Contraception	8
Increased use of Information Technology in Health Care	8

SECTION 2: ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR 2006

Nine Critical Steps to Improve Vermont's Health Care System	Page 9
Guiding Principles for Pay-for-Performance Programs	10
Enacting Legislation Establishing Pre-trial Screening Review of all Medical Liability Claims	11

SECTION 3: MEMBER BENEFITS

Group Health Insurance	Pg. 12
Group Dental Plan	12
Disability and Life Insurance	12
Continuing Medical Education	12
Weekly E-mail News Updates	12
Legislative Bulletins	13
The Green Mountain Physician Newsletter	13
Coding Assistance	13
Guide to Health Care Law	13
Technical Support	13

INDEX - Continued

SECTION 4: PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

Vermont Practitioner Health Program	Pg. 14
VMS Education & Research Foundation	14
VMS Political Action Committee	14
County & Specialty Society Chapter Support	14
Support for Other Events & Organizations	15

SECTION 5: EDUCATION & OUTREACH Pg. 15

SECTION 6: HOW TO BECOME A VMS MEMBER Pg. 16

SECTION 7: ANNUAL MEETING RECAP/AWARDS Pg. 18

SECTION 8: TREASURER’S REPORT & BUDGET Pg. 20

SECTION 9: VMS STRUCTURAL OVERVIEW

Total Membership	Pg. 21
Mission Statement	21
Organization Framework	22
Governance	22
Committees	23
Issue Teams	24
Physicians Policy Council	24

SECTION 10: VMS COUNCIL Pg. 25

SECTION 11: PAST PRESIDENTS/AWARD WINNERS Pg. 29

SECTION 12: 2006 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION .. Pg. 35

SECTION 13: IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS Pg. 36

What We Advocated For In 2005

The Vermont Medical Society is the only organization advocating full-time on the behalf of Vermont's physicians. The VMS represents the interests of more than 1,800 physicians, residents, and medical students before the state and federal governments.

The VMS is successful in protecting the interests of physicians because it has one of the most experienced and respected advocacy staffs in Vermont. Vice President for Policy Madeleine Mongan has 15 years of experience at the Statehouse. Executive Vice President Paul Harrington served three terms in the Vermont House of Representatives, and was a board member of the state Health Care Authority. He also has served as deputy commissioner of the Vermont Department of Labor and Industry, and is the former director of health policy for the U.S. Senate Committee on Health and Education.

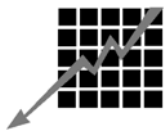
During 2005, the VMS provided an effective voice for its member physicians on these issues:

- **Health Care System Reform:** In 2005, the VMS participated in reform discussions with a wide variety of organizations. Out of those talks grew a comprehensive plan to improve Vermont's health care system, which the VMS Council adopted. This plan was sent to all members of the General Assembly, and the basic principles were outlined in a commentary published in three of the state's largest newspapers.



- **Medical Liability Reform:** The VMS actively represented physicians on the Vermont Medical Malpractice Study Committee. The panel's final report recommended that the Vermont General Assembly enact several reforms, including creating pre-trial screening panels. Through media coverage, the VMS alerted the public to the negative impact that rapidly rising medical malpractice insurance premiums are having on physician access. On the national level, the VMS met with the state's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., to advocate for nationwide reforms.

- **Increased Medicaid Funding:** The VMS surveyed its members on their recommendations for improving the state's Medicaid program. Based on comments received from more than 120 Vermont physicians, the VMS sent a letter to members of the General Assembly and the Douglas administration outlining a series of specific steps, including an increase in revenues for the Health Access Trust Fund.



- **Reversing Medicare Payment Cuts:** Payments under Medicare's sustainable growth rate formula are tied to the gross domestic product, which bears no relationship to patients' health care needs or physicians' practice costs. Because of the formula's flaws, physicians face payment reductions of approximately 5 percent a year for the next five years. During 2005, the VMS continued to advocate that Medicare's sustainable growth rate formula should be replaced with a system where updates are based on an assessment of increases in practice costs, adequacy of payment rates, and ensuring beneficiaries' access to care.

- **Fair Workers' Compensation Reimbursement:** The Vermont Department of Labor has proposed a new workers' compensation fee schedule that freezes physician payments at the same amounts set in 1995. The VMS pointed out to legislators that this is in direct violation of their directive to the department to develop a schedule which fairly reimburses physicians. The VMS urged the department to base the new fee schedule on market rates and recommended using the average amount paid under workers' compensation in the New England/New York region.



- **Increased Patient Safety:** The VMS called upon the Vermont General Assembly to establish an adverse event reporting system to enhance patient safety. The reporting would be used for root cause analysis and system improvement. The VMS also supported the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, sponsored by Sen. Jim Jeffords, which will create a nationwide confidential and voluntary system for reporting medical errors.

- **No Physician-Assisted Suicide Laws:** In 2005, the VMS continued to advocate that the Vermont General Assembly not take action on bills regarding physician-assisted suicide. The VMS does not support the passage of laws for or against physician-assisted suicide.

- **Updated Advance Directives Legislation:** The VMS supported legislation to amend the state's advance directive law, improving patients' flexibility in communicating their wishes and decisions about care during periods of incapacity and at the end of life. The law became effective Sept. 1.



- **No Smoking in Bars:** The VMS and other members of the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont successfully lobbied to end the exception in the state's Clean Indoor Air law that allowed smoking in bars and clubs. The law banning smoking in those establishments took effect Sept. 1.

- **Self Extinguishing Cigarettes:** Due to the advocacy of the VMS and other groups, Vermont will become the second state in the country to require the sale of cigarettes that are fire safe. Starting May 1, 2006, cigarettes sold in Vermont must be designed to extinguish themselves if they are left unattended.

- **Funding Increase for Tobacco Control Programs:** The VMS advocated for increased funding of the state's tobacco control programs. The General Assembly appropriated a 4 percent increase, divided between school curriculums and media campaigns.

- **Non-Prescription Access to Emergency Contraception:** The VMS supports a House bill which would allow pharmacists to voluntarily enter into collaborative practice agreements with physicians and other prescribers, and then offer emergency contraception to women without a prescription. The bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee for consideration in 2006.



- **Increased Use of Information Technology in Health Care:** The VMS is participating in the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, a multi-stakeholder organization that has developed a strategy for sharing data between hospitals and physicians. VITL will initiate a pilot project in 2006.

Advocacy Priorities for 2006



As the VMS continues to represent physicians before the Vermont General Assembly and the executive branch of state government in 2006, these initiatives will be top priorities:

1) **Nine Critical Steps to Improve Vermont's Health Care System.**

The VMS will advocate that the Legislature approve the comprehensive plan for health care reform adopted by the VMS Council. The components of the VMS plan are:

- Achieving universal coverage through a health insurance mandate;
- Designing a basic benefit plan that balances moral, ethical and economic considerations;
- Eliminating under-reimbursement in the Medicaid program;
- Maximizing the health care dollars that go directly to patient care by reducing administrative costs;
- Supporting evidence-based medicine and the adoption of information technology in health care;
- Aligning payment policies with quality improvement;
- Encouraging a collaborative, multidisciplinary process in treatment of chronic conditions;
- Creating a legal environment that fosters high quality patient care and relieves financial strain and administrative burden for physicians;
- Supporting healthier lifestyles through incentives for avoiding health risks.

(The full text of the VMS plan is available at www.vtmd.org)

2) Guiding Principles for Pay-for-Performance Programs.

As commercial and government payers create pay-for-performance programs, the VMS will advocate that a set of guiding principles be followed in designing such programs. They include:

- Evidence-based quality of care measures must be the primary metrics used in any program;
- All performance measures used must be subject to the best-available risk adjustment for patient demographics, severity of illness, and co-morbidities;
- Physicians must have the ability to review and comment on the data and analysis that the performance ratings are based on, before the ratings are used;
- Because pay-for-performance programs are largely untested, physician participation in them must be completely voluntary, and payers must ensure that nonparticipation will not harm physician practices;
- Physicians must not be financially penalized if they choose not to participate;
- Programs must be open to any physician who wants to participate;
- Pay-for-performance programs must not be designed to favor certain physician groups;
- Physicians must not be required to purchase technology to participate;
- Payments made under the program must be supplemental funds, and should not come from a redistribution of current physician reimbursement;
- Physicians must be reimbursed for any added administrative costs from collecting and reporting data;
- Results from the pay-for-performance programs must not be used against physicians in credentialing, licensure, and certification. Likewise, physicians must not be financially penalized based on factors outside of their control.

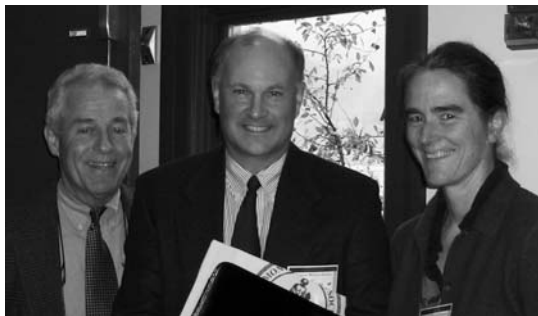
3) Enacting Legislation Establishing Pre-trial Screening Panel Review of All Medical Liability Claims.

The VMS will urge the Vermont General Assembly to pass legislation requiring pre-trial screening panel review of all medical liability claims.

The State of Maine has used such screening panels for the past 20 years. A panel consists of a retired judge or someone experienced in conducting hearings, an attorney, and a health care professional who preferably practices in the medical area at issue. After hearing each party's claims and defenses, the panel decides whether the defendant's conduct deviated from the applicable standard of care, whether such conduct proximately caused the plaintiff's injury, and whether the patient's negligence, if any, equaled or exceeded that of the defendant.

The Maine Bureau of Insurance has found that the panels have resulted in quicker recovery for those who receive awards and earlier dismissal of claims that conclude with no award. In Maine, malpractice premium insurance rates are 40 percent to 50 percent less than the rates for physicians in New Hampshire, and Maine's insurance premiums are 30 percent less than rates for an OB/GYN in Vermont.

The VMS believes that pre-trial screening panels can be effectively used in Vermont to achieve early resolution of claims that have merit and the withdrawal of those that do not.



(from left to right) Senator James Leddy, Secretary of Administration Charles Smith and Speaker of the House Gaye Symington presented a panel discussion on Health Care Reform at the VMS 192nd Annual Meeting in Killington, Vermont.

VMS Membership Benefits

Physician members of the VMS enjoy a broad array of benefits that help them practice medicine more effectively and run their practices more efficiently.



Group Health Insurance: The VMS offers its members several choices for health insurance options, including five traditional comprehensive plans, three Vermont

Freedom plans, as well as two high-deductible health plans in conjunction with a Health Savings Account, and over 65 retirement plans. Many VMS members are beginning to utilize the lower-cost, high-deductible Health Savings Account (HSA) for their health insurance coverage for both themselves and their employees. This plan offers substantially lower premiums, with the option of depositing the full amount of the deductible (\$4,500 for two person and family plans and \$2,250 for single coverage) in a HSA tax-free. The VMS was able to work with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont on the 2006 renewal to provide physicians a rate hold. This is extremely exciting news, considering most insurance renewals are seeing high single-digit or low double-digit increases. For more information concerning health insurance options, call Colleen Magne at 800-640-8767.

Group Dental Plan: VMS members and their employees can participate in the Northeast Delta Dental Benefit Program.

Disability and Life Insurance: Pinnacle Financial Group provides disability and life insurance for VMS members and their employees at discounted rates.

Continuing Medical Education: Members can request that the VMS document their fulfillment of continuing medical education requirements. The VMS provides several CME programs during its Annual Meeting.



Weekly E-mail News

Updates: VMS members receive via e-mail the weekly VMS News Scan,

a concise digest of health care news in Vermont, New England, and the nation. Each news item includes a direct link to the original source on the Internet, so that readers can readily access the full details.

Legislative Bulletins: During the legislative session, VMS members receive frequent updates keeping them informed about the progress of bills at the Statehouse. Members are alerted when they should take action to support or oppose important legislation.

The Green Mountain Physician Newsletter: Six times a year, the VMS publishes The Green Mountain Physician, a member newsletter that contains in-depth original articles about issues concerning physicians. In 2005, coverage included the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, advance directives, diabetes registries, buprenorphine treatment, and medical malpractice insurance costs.



Coding Assistance: VMS members have access to The Coding Center, a program that assists physicians with coding and reimbursement problems. VMS members can call a toll-free coding hot line, or arrange for on-site education sessions. The Coding Center also offers coding certification courses.

Guide to Health Care Law: The VMS is co-sponsoring the effort to revise and expand the Physician's Guide to Vermont Law. The guide, which covers practice issues, business issues, and regulation of health professionals, will be made available to VMS members in 2006.

Technical Support: The VMS staff is available to offer technical assistance to members on a range of non-clinical issues. Staff members regularly field inquiries regarding practice issues such as medical records, fraud and abuse, workers' compensation, debt collection, scope of practice for allied health professionals, payor administrative requirements, HIPAA, and the Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL).

An attorney on the VMS staff is available to provide technical assistance on legal issues to members and, for a small fee, to review insurer contracts for suggestions on how to make them more favorable for physicians.

Peer Support

To support physicians in practice and medical students in their education, the VMS manages several programs, and contributes to worthwhile programs run by other organizations.

Vermont Practitioner Health Program:

The VMS operates the Vermont Practitioner Health Program, a confidential service for licensed physicians, podiatrists, and physician assistants to address the disease of substance abuse, including alcoholism. The program is designed to help identify, refer to treatment, guide, and monitor the recovery of practitioners with substance use disorders. Suzanne Parker, M.D., who specializes in addiction medicine, oversees the program with a committee of trained practitioners who provide support to their colleagues who are affected by substance abuse illness.

Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation:

The VMS sponsors a nonprofit charitable organization that supports educational and research activities in the field of health. The foundation provides grants to deserving medical students at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. The intent of such grants is to provide an incentive for candidates to pursue a career in medicine and to provide motivation for graduates to practice in Vermont. All contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.

Vermont Medical Society Political Action Committee:

The PAC makes financial contributions to candidates for the Vermont General Assembly and statewide offices who understand the challenges physicians face caring for Vermont's citizens. Candidates are questioned about their positions on issues that are important to VMS members, such as health care reform and medical liability reform. Only the candidates who express support for the VMS's goals receive contributions.

County and Specialty Society Chapter Support:

The VMS offers administrative and policy support for county and specialty society chapters. VMS staff provide logistical support for planning meetings, including mailing reminders, booking locations, and helping arrange speakers. VMS staff also provide support for specialty

societies, including the Vermont Psychiatric Association, the Vermont Chapter of the American College of Physicians, and the Vermont Orthopaedic Society. VMS staff work with the specialty societies to reach their policy and advocacy goals.

Support for Other Events and Organizations:

In 2005, the VMS provided financial and/or logistical support to the following:

- Vermont Ethics Network
- Vermont Blueprint for Health
- Montpelier Downtown Community Association
- Hospice & Palliative Care Council
- Coalition for a Tobacco Free Vermont
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- Vermont Association for Mental Health

Education and Outreach

In 2005, your membership dues allowed the VMS to bring educational programs to physicians and other health care professionals around Vermont.

- Five sessions were held to update VMS members and other physicians on opiate treatment legal and clinical issues.
- Three training sessions were held on the new Advance Directive law, which went into effect Sept. 1, 2005. Two of the sessions were held over Vermont Interactive Television. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation was developed and placed on the VMS web site so that physicians can view the materials anytime they wish.
- Three sessions were held to brief physicians on the implementation of Medicare Part D, including the advice that physicians can provide to patients who wish to enroll in the program.

The VMS also provides resources for physicians on its web site, including links to formularies for all the prescription drug plans serving Vermont.

How to Become a VMS Member

When you consider all the advocacy, member benefits, peer support services, and education and outreach that the VMS provides, membership in the VMS is an investment with a guaranteed return.

THERE ARE FIVE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

ACTIVE members are practicing doctors of medicine or osteopathy with a Vermont license.

AFFILIATE members are physicians who work outside of Vermont, but live in Vermont or have a Vermont license.

RESIDENTS and **STUDENT** members are medical students or physicians in residency programs.

ASSOCIATE members are physicians who have moved out of state, retirees with a Vermont license, or former members not currently in practice and not Vermont licensed.

LIFE members are retired because of incapacity or disability with 10 or more years as a VMS member, or more than 70 years old with at least 10 years of VMS membership.

New active members receive a 50% discount for their first year of membership, and a 25% discount for their second year of membership.

A VMS member with a physician spouse receives a 25% discount on the second membership. The VMS offers a 10% discount if all members of a large group practice join the VMS.

2006 VMS MEMBER DUES ARE:

REGULAR MEMBERS	\$525.00
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	\$100.00
AFFILIATE MEMBERS	\$200.00
LIFE MEMBERS	\$0.00
RESIDENTS & STUDENT	\$0.00

(County dues are not included in the above dues price)

Discounts

New active members: 50% discount 1st year of membership,
25% discount 2nd year of membership.

Physician Spouse: 25% discount for physician spouse
(2nd Membership)

Active member Early payment discount of \$30.00, if
member dues paid by December 31 of
the year first dues bill is received.

**To request a VMS membership application form, please contact
Stephanie Winters at 800-640-8767 or swinters@vtmd.org.**



**Vermont
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VMS Annual Meeting

The VMS held its 192nd Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005, at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel in Killington, Vermont.

After a welcome and introductions by Harvey Reich, M.D., VMS president, and John Evans, Ph.D., dean of the University of Vermont College of Medicine, attendees participated in three continuing medical education sessions.

Chris Commichau, M.D., and Bruce Tranmer, M.D., presented a session on the latest in stroke care. Curtis Green, M.D., and Timothy F. Christian, M.D., presented a session on non-invasive cardiac imaging. Attendees also heard a panel presentation on health care reform in Vermont. Speaking were: Charles Smith, secretary of administration; Sen. Jim Leddy, chair of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee; and Rep. Gaye Symington, speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives.

At the luncheon, Dean Evans spoke about the new curriculum at the UVM College of Medicine.

In the afternoon, the VMS annual membership meeting was held. VMS members in attendance voted to adopt resolutions on the development of pay-for-performance programs, establishing pre-trial screening panels for medical liability claims, and establishing the Dr. Mildred Reardon Scholarship. A resolution to establish a fee schedule for interpreter services was tabled.

Dr. Reich presented a draft Council resolution on health care reform to the members for discussion. Several changes were suggested by members and those were incorporated into the final resolution, which was approved by the Council at its meeting on Oct. 16.

Dr. Reich addressed the members as the outgoing president of the VMS and thanked both his fellow members and the VMS staff for making his term as president very successful and rewarding. Dr. Reich presented a briefcase to Dr. Peter Dale, the incoming president. Dr. Dale presented a chair and certificate to Dr. Reich in appreciation of his work during the past year.

Dr. Dale addressed the members, outlining his view of medical practice and vision for the future. He challenged VMS members to become involved in efforts to improve the health care system. "More than ever, it is critical that a responsible physician perspective be heard as social policy decisions are made," he said. "Our day-to-day lives as bedside clinicians and educators render us credible leaders in these debates."

**At the Annual Awards Banquet that evening,
the VMS honored four outstanding individuals.**



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

J. Lorimer Holm, M.D. *(pictured with Peter Dale, M.D., right)*



PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Allan Ramsay, M.D. *(pictured with Ray Keller, M.D., right)*



PHYSICIAN AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

David Butsch, M.D. presented by Gov. Jim Douglas *(left)*



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Senator Richard Sears *(pictured with Peter Dale, M.D., left)*

Treasurers Report & Budget for 2006



At the October 15th Council meeting held at the Killington Grand Hotel in Killington, Vermont, the VMS Council approved the following budget for operation of the Society for the calendar year 2006. This budget is based on a modest 0.8 percent increase in expenditures over last year's budget.

If you would like a detailed copy of the 2006 budget or 2005 financial statements, please contact Colleen Magne our VMS Business Manager.

John Mazuzan, M.D.
Treasurer

VMS PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY 2005

Total Income \$653,300

Expenses:

Total Operating Expenses	124,400
Total Payroll Expenses	421,902
Total VPHP Expenses	65,454
Total Property Expenses	23,535
Total Other Expenses	12,000

Total Expenses 647,291

Net Projected Revenue over Expenses \$ 6,009

VMS Structural Overview

The VMS has been providing services to Vermont physicians for more than 200 years. Along with providing assistance, information, and lobbying services on legislative and regulatory matters, the VMS offers its members a host of personal and professional services.

TOTAL VMS MEMBERSHIP IN 2005 WAS: 1690

Active: 925

Associate: 51

Affiliate: 42

Life: 184

Resident: 186

Student: 296

Honorary: 3

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the VMS is to serve the public by facilitating and enhancing physicians' individual and collective commitments, capabilities, and efforts to improve the quality of life for the people of Vermont through the provision of accessible and appropriate health care services. Our purposes are these:

- To encourage and aid the progress and development of the sciences of medicine and surgery, and to encourage research in those areas;
- To promote the public health;
- To encourage cooperation among physicians in medicine and surgery, to elevate the standards of professional skill, care, and judgment;
- To promote and follow ethical standards of conduct to benefit patients, individual physicians, other health professionals, and society as a whole; and
- To advance the general social and intellectual welfare of its members.

ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The individual physician member is the base of all authority in the VMS. The decisions of our members ultimately determine the nature, direction, and goals of the society's activities.

GOVERNANCE

Each member has an equal voice at the Annual Meeting and special membership meetings. These meetings are the society's definitive governing authority. In the intervals between member meetings, the VMS Council conducts the society's affairs. The Council meets to discuss the policy, governance, operations, and finances of the VMS. The Council's membership includes VMS officers and representatives of the county medical societies, the Vermont chapters of specialty societies, the Vermont Department of Health, and the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

2005 VMS Council Meetings were held:

February 17, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Vermont Interactive Television
April 2, 10:00 - noon CVH, Berlin - Conf. Rm. 3
June 1, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Vermont Interactive Television
September 7, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Vermont Interactive Television
October 16, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Killington Grand Hotel, Killington

2006 VMS Council Meetings are scheduled for:

Saturday, April 1, 2006, 10:00 - noon CVH, Berlin - Conf. Rm. 3
Wednesday, June 7, 2006, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., VT Interactive Television
Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2006, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., VT Interactive Television
Sun., Oct. 15, 2006, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Basin Harbor Club, Vergennes

Council meetings are open to all VMS members.

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting represent member physicians. The Executive Committee is comprised of the president, the immediate past president, the vice president, the secretary, and the treasurer. The Executive Committee meets regularly and reports to the VMS Council.

The Executive Committee also reviews the operating budget of the organization and reports to the Council on the society's finances. An annual outside audit or review is conducted and is available upon request to all members.

The Investment Committee oversees the reserve and special funds of the VMS, in concert with an outside financial advisor.

COMMITTEES

Members are strongly encouraged to get involved by serving on committees. Participation enables members to have an impact on VMS programs and policy.

The following committees are comprised of officers of the VMS, as determined by the bylaws.

Executive Committee
Finance Committee
Nominating Committee
Personnel Committee
Pension Committee

The following committees are standing committees and boards established by the society's bylaws. Members of these committees are proposed by the Council and elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Judicial Board
Board on Ethics
Committee on Grievances
Committee on Investments
Jurisprudence Committee
Committee on Medical Benevolence
Committee on Medical Economics and Insurance

Other committees are formed by the Council on an ad hoc basis. The members of these committees are appointed by the president of the VMS with approval of the Council. They include:

Committee on Awards
Bylaws Revision Committee
Ethics Committee
School Health Committee
Vermont Practitioner Health Program Committee

ISSUE TEAMS

The VMS does its policy work through issue teams. Along with the Physician Policy Council, the issue teams guide all VMS policy initiatives and are the most direct voice of our physician members. It is primarily through these teams of member physicians that the VMS lobbies the Vermont General Assembly and the executive branch, as well as presents the concerns of Vermont physicians to private entities.

The issue team structure enables the VMS staff to tap into the diverse expertise of more than 1,900 member physicians, residents, and students. Team members receive copies of pending bills and are asked to forward their views to VMS headquarters by telephone, mail, fax, or e-mail. Conference calls and meetings are scheduled as necessary to discuss issues, develop positions, and design strategies that tap physicians' expertise and interests. Issue team members are not required to respond to mailings or to participate in calls or meetings, but are encouraged to do so when their schedules permit.

PHYSICIANS POLICY COUNCIL

The Physicians Policy Council (PPC) was organized by the VMS in 1994 to act as a "provider bargaining group" for Vermont physicians. The PPC is authorized by Vermont law to negotiate with state government agencies such as the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) and the Department of Labor on all matters related to reimbursement, quality, and health care regulation for Vermont physicians.

The PPC is organized by physician specialty. Each specialty society or organization in Vermont that is recognized by the VMS Council has a seat on this important negotiating body. The recognized specialties are listed below:

Anesthesiology	Orthopedics
Dermatology	Otolaryngology
Emergency Medicine	Pathology
Family Practice	Pediatrics
Internal Medicine	Psychiatry
Medical Education	Radiology
Neurology/Neurosurgery	Surgery
Obstetrics & Gynecology	Thoracic Surgery
Oncology	Urology
Ophthalmology	

VMS Council

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AMA ALTERNATE DELEGATE

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229-4434

EX OFFICIO

John Evans, Ph.D., Dean
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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Khai Nguyen - '06
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Leslie Bradford - '06
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Anne Coates - '07
UVM College of Medicine
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Burlington, VT 05405

SPECIALTY SOCIETY REPS.

Anesthesiology

Bill Roberts, M.D.
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Emergency Medicine

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Family Practice

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Internal Medicine

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Medical Education

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Neurology Neurosurgery

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Obstetrics & Gynecology

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Oncology

Johannes Nunnink, M.D.
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Ophthalmology

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paitken876@aol.com

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Psychiatry

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Surgery

Andrew Stanley, M.D.
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VMS Council

Thoracic Surgery

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Urology

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Bennington

Barbara Raskin, M.D.
Bennington FP Associates
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ber@phin.org

Caledonia

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VMS Council

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527-8189

Orleans/Essex

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Washington/Orange

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Windham

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roberttortolani@dartmouth.edu

'Alternate'

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257-8044
oltayols@sover.net

Windsor

John Leppman, M.D.
18 Old Terrace
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
463-3941
john.a.leppman@dartmouth.edu



Past Presidents and Award Winners

PAST PRESIDENTS

- 2005.....Harvey Reich, M.D.
2004.....James K. O'Brien, M.D.
2003.....Carolyn Taylor-Olson, M.D.
(Acting Aug.-Oct.)
2003.....Lloyd Thompson, M.D.
2002.....Carolyn Taylor-Olson, M.D.
2001.....Maureen K. Molloy, M.D., J.D.
2000.....John T. Chard, M.D.
1999.....David M. McKay, M.D.
1998.....John J. Murray, M.D.
1997.....Robert S. Block, M.D.
1996.....David W. Butsch, M.D.
1995.....J. Michael Schnell, M.D.
1994.....Frederick Crowley, M.D.
1993.....Edward Leib, M.D.
1992.....Keith Michl, M.D.
1991.....Richard Ryder, M.D.
1990.....James E. Thomas, M.D.
1989.....William H. Stouch, M.D.
1988.....John A. Leppman, M.D.
1987.....Mildred A. Reardon, M.D.
1986.....Richard T. Burtis, M.D.
1985.....Frederick C. Holmes, M.D.
1984.....Robert LaFiandra, M.D.
1983.....William B. Beach, Jr., M.D.
1981-2...Arthur S. Faris, M.D.
1980.....John E. Mazuzan, M.D.
1979.....William E. Allard, M.D.
1978.....C. Peter Albright, M.D.
1977.....J. Ward Stockpole, M.D.
1976.....Hugh P. Hermann, M.D.
1975.....Stanley L. Burns, M.D.
1974.....Charles C. Cunningham, M.D.
1973.....John C. Lantman, M.D.
1972.....James A. Gray, M.D.
1971.....Porter H. Dale, M.D.
1970.....Harry Rowe, M.D.
1969.....Dewees H. Brown, M.D.
1968.....Richard E. Bouchard, M.D.
1967.....Walter Buttrick, Jr., M.D.
1966.....Roy V. Buttles, M.D.
1965.....Ralph R. Jardine, M.D.
1964.....Clifford Harwood, M.D.
1963.....J. Bishop McGill, M.D.
1962.....John R. Hogle, M.D.
1961.....Roger W. Mann, M.D.
1960.....Benjamin F. Clark, M.D.
1959.....Fred Van Buskirk, M.D.
1958.....Wayne Griffith, M.D.
1957.....James P. Hammond, M.D.
1956.....Philip H. Wheeler, M.D.
1955.....W. Douglas Lindsay, M.D.
1954.....Howard J. Farmer, M.D.
1953.....Woodhull S. Hall, M.D.
1952.....Paul K. French, M.D.
1951.....Wilmer W. Angell, M.D.
1950.....Elbridge E. Johnston, M.D.
1949.....Hiram E. Upton, M.D.
1948.....Roland E. McSweeney, M.D.
1947.....Benjamin F. Cook, M.D.
1946.....Frank C. Angell, M.D.
1945.....Leon E. Sample, M.D.
1944.....Frank J. Hurley, M.D.
1943.....Charles H. Swift, M.D.
1942.....Roland E. McSweeney, M.D.
1941.....E.H. Buttles, M.D.
1940.....A.M. Cram, M.D.
1939.....C.F. Ball, M.D.
1938.....E.A. Hyatt, M.D.
1937.....F.C. Phelps, M.D.
1936.....William G. Ricker, M.D.
1935.....Lester W. Burbank, M.D.
1934.....George G. Marshall, M.D.
1933.....John H. Woodruff, M.D.
1932.....Lyman Allen, M.D.
1931.....E.J. Rogers, M.D.
1930.....William K. Johnstone, M.D.
1929.....George R. Anderson, M.D.
1928.....Charles F. Dalton, M.D.
1927.....Stanton S. Eddy, Sr., M.D.
1926.....T.S. Brown, M.D.
1925.....E.A. Tobin, M.D.
1924.....E.A. Stanley, M.D.
1923.....F.E. Farmer, M.D.

- 1922.....J.A. Stevenson, M.D.
 1921.....F.A. Sears, M.D.
 1920.....S.W. Hammond, M.D.
 1919.....M.F. McGuire, M.D.
1918.....No meeting-
Influenza Epidemic
 1917.....C.W. Bartlett, M.D.
 1916.....C.H. Beecher, M.D.
 1915.....Edward H. Ross, M.D.
 1914.....William W. Townsend, M.D.
 1913.....Albert L. Miner, M.D.
 1912.....Bingham H. Stone, M.D.
 1911.....Fred T. Kidder, M.D.
 1910.....Henry C. Tinkham, M.D.
 1909.....Walter L. Havens, M.D.
 1908.....Charles W. Peck, M.D.
 1907.....George H. Gorham, M.D.
 1906.....Donley C. Hawley, M.D.
 1905.....Myron L. Chandler, M.D.
 1904.....Patrick McSweeney, M.D.
 1903.....William N. Bryant, M.D.
 1902.....Edmund M. Pond, M.D.
 1901.....John B. Wheeler, M.D.
 1900.....William Huntington, M.D.
 1899.....Mark R. Crain, M.D.
 1898.....Shailer E. Lawton, M.D.
 1897.....Lyman Rogers, M.D.
 1896.....Frederick R. Stoddard, M.D.
 1895.....C.F. Branch, M.D.
 1894.....J. Hatch Linsley, M.D.
 1893.....Arthur B. Bisbee, M.D.
 1892.....H.R. Wilder, M.D.
 1891.....Charles S. Caverly, M.D.
 1890.....James N. Jenne, M.D.
 1889.....H.S. Brown, M.D.
 1888.....John M. Clarke, M.D.
 1887.....Edward R. Campbell, M.D.
 1886.....S. Brooks, M.D.
 1885.....D.G. Kemp, M.D.
 1884.....Joseph Draper, M.D.
 1883.....S.S. Clark, M.D.
 1882.....Leroy M. Bingham, M.D.
 1881.....O.W. Sherwin, M.D.
 1880.....J. Henry Jackson, M.D.
 1879.....S.W. Thayer, M.D.
 1878.....G.B. Bullard, M.D.
 1877.....C.M. Chandler, M.D.
 1876.....George Dunsmore, M.D.
 1875.....L.C. Butler, M.D.
 1874.....L.C. Butler, M.D.
 1873.....L.C. Butler, M.D.
 1872.....Henry D. Holton, M.D.
 1871.....Edward F. Upham, M.D.
 1870.....S. Putnam, M.D.
 1869.....Henry James, M.D.
 1868.....J.S. Richmond, M.D.
 1867.....C.P. Frost, M.D.
 1866.....E.D. Warner, M.D.
 1865.....William McCollom, M.D.
 1864.....O.F. Fassett, M.D.
 1863.....P.D. Bradford, M.D.
 1862.....J.N. Stiles, M.D.
 1861.....Adrean Woodward, M.D.
 1860.....B.F. Morgan, M.D.
 1859.....A.E. Knights, M.D.
 1858.....Charles L. Allen, M.D.
 1857.....H.F. Stevens, M.D.
 1856.....Walter Carpenter, M.D.
 1855.....Joseph Perkins, M.D.
 1854.....E.D. Warner, M.D.
 1853.....G.W. Thayer, Jr., M.D.
 1852.....B.W. Palmer, M.D.
 1851.....Middleton Goldsmith, M.D.
 1850.....Charles L. Allen, M.D.
 1849.....John L. Chandler, M.D.
 1848.....John L. Chandler, M.D.
 1847.....James Spaulding, M.D.
 1846.....James Spaulding, M.D.
 1845.....Horace Eaton, M.D.
 1844.....Anderson G. Dana, M.D.
 1843.....Anderson G. Dana, M.D.
 1842.....John Burrill, M.D.
 1841.....John Burrill, M.D.
 (No meeting until 1841)
 1829.....Josiah Shedd, M.D.
 1828.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
 1827.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
 1826.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
 1825.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
 1824.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
 1823.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
 1822.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.

- 1821.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
- 1820.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
- 1819.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
- 1818.....Joseph A. Gallup, M.D.
- 1817.....Ebenezer Huntington, M.D.
- 1816.....Seelah Gridley, M.D.
- 1815.....Seelah Gridley, M.D.
- 1814.....Ezekiel Porter, M.D.



*Past Presidents (from left):
John Chard, M.D., Robert LaFiandra,
and Carolyn Taylor-Olson, M.D*

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD - *The recipient must be a non-physician resident of the state of Vermont who in the past and presently has made a significant contribution to the health of the people of Vermont.*

- 2005 Senator Richard Sears - Bennington
- 2004 Holly Miller - Burlington
- 2003 Thomas Perras, M.S. - Burlington
- 2002 June Elliott - St. Johnsbury
- 2001 Sen. Nancy Chard - Brattleboro
- 2000 Helen Riehle - Montpelier
- 1999 Cornelius Hogan - Plainfield
- 1998 Janet Stackpole - Burlington
- 1997 Karen Kitzmiller - Montpelier
- 1996 Margaret Martin - Middlebury
- 1995 No Award Given
- 1994 No Award Given
- 1993 Ann Seibert - Norwich
- 1992 Arthur Gibb - Middlebury
- 1991 Jean Mallary - Brookfield
- 1990 No Award Given
- 1989 Susan Spaulding - Montpelier

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - *The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award the Society can bestow upon on of its members. It shall be awarded on the basis of meritorious service in the science and art of medicine and of outstanding contribution to the medical profession, its organizations, and the welfare of the public.*

- 2005 J. Lorimer Holm, M.D. - Barre
- 2004 Jerold F. Lucey, M.D. - Burlington
- 2003 Jan K. Carney, M.D. - Charlotte
- 2002 Robert J. McKay, M.D. - Shelburne
- 2001 John Frymoyer, M.D. - Colchester
- 2000 No Award Given
- 1999 Richard T. Burtis, M.D. - Brattleboro
- 1998 Mildred Reardon, M.D. - Burlington
- 1997 J. Ward Stackpole, M.D. - S. Burlington
- 1996 Harry M. Rowe, M.D. - Wells River
- 1995 Roger W. Mann, M.D. - Jeffersonville

- 1994 Richard E. Bouchard, M.D. - Burlington
1993 Arthur & Elizabeth Faris, M.D. - Shaftsbury
1992 William Luginbuhl, M.D. - Vergennes
1991 Stanley L. Burns, M.D. - Burlington
1990 Charles Cunningham, M.D. - Springfield
1989 John H. Davis, M.D. - Burlington
1988 George Wolf, Jr., M.D. - Jericho
1987 Paul Stanilonis, M.D. - Williston
1986 Roy V. Buttles, M.D. - Montpelier
1985 John Lantman, M.D. - Williston
1984 Frederic Guilmette, M.D. - Springfield
1983 Philip Wheeler, M.D. - Brattleboro
1982 John F. Bell, M.D. - S. Burlington
1981 Edward French, M.D. - Hyde Park
1980 Ernest V. Reynolds, M.D. - Barre
1979 R.M.P. Donaghy, M.D. - Burlington
1978 Ralph Jardine, M.D. - Lyndonville
1977 Woodhull Hall, M.D. - Bennington
1976 John E. Mazuzan, Jr., M.D. - Burlington
1975 Elbridge E. Johnston, M.D. - St. Johnsbury
1974 Robert W. Coon, M.D. - Burlington
1973 Robert B. Aiken, M.D. - Shelburne
1972 Chester A. Newhall, M.D. - Burlington
1971 A. Bradley Soule, M.D. - Burlington
1970 John C. Cunningham, M.D. - Burlington
1969 Albert G. Mackay, M.D. - Burlington
1968 John F. Daly, M.D. - Burlington
1968 Benjamin F. Cook, M.D. - Rutland
1968 Benjamin Clark, M.D. - St. Johnsbury
1967 Bertrand F. Andrews, M.D. - Middlebury
1966 John R. Hogel, M.D. - Brattleboro
1965 Ellsworth L. Amidon, M.D. - Burlington
1964 William McFarland, M.D. - Barre
1963 George A. Russell, M.D. - Arlington
1962 F. Russell Dickson, M.D. - Concord
1961 William Huntington, M.D. - Rochester
1960 Wilhelm Raab, M.D. - Burlington
1959 Albert C. Eastman, M.D. - Woodstock
1958 Stanton Eddy, Sr., M.D. - Middlebury
1957 Nathan R. Caldwell, M.D. - Brattleboro
1956 Charles E. Griffin, M.D. - Fair Haven
1955 Lyman Allen, M.D. - Burlington
1954 Aymer S.C. Hill, M.D. - Winooski
1953 Frank C. Angell, M.D. - Randolph
1952 John H. Woodruff, M.D. - Barre
1951 Ernest H. Buttles, M.D. - Burlington
1950 Frank J. Hurley, M.D. - Bennington

1949 Clarence Beecher, M.D. - Burlington

1948 Clarence F. Ball, M.D. - Rutland

PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD - *The recipient must be a physician licensed in the state of Vermont who has: 1. Demonstrated outstanding performance in the quality of care given to his/her patients; 2. Demonstrated skillful and compassionate patient care; and 3 Demonstrated dedication to the welfare of his/her patients in accordance with accepted principles of good medical practice.*

2005 Allan Ramsay, M.D. - Burlington

2004 Joseph Haddock, M.D. - Williston

2003 Robert W. Backus, M.D. - Townshend

2002 Lewis C. Blowers, M.D. - Morrisville

2001 Don Swartz, M.D. - Burlington

2000 No Award Given

1999 No Award Given

1998 William A. Flood, M.D. - Bennington

1997 R. David Ellerson, M.D. - Montpelier

1996 Theodore Collier, M.D. - Middlebury

1995 Thomas A.E. Moseley, M.D. - Newport

1994 No Award Given

1993 Victor Pisanelli, Sr., M.D. - Rutland

1993 Ernest Tomasi, M.D. - Montpelier

1992 Deogracias Esguerra, M.D. - St. Albans

1991 William Pratt, M.D. - Rutland

1990 G. Richard Dundas, M.D. - Bennington

1989 No Award Given

1988 Eugene Bont, M.D. - Cavendish

1987 Louis J. Wainer, M.D. - Hinesburg

PHYSICIAN AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE - *1. The recipient must be a physician licensed in the state of Vermont. 2. The recipient must be living. Awards are not presented posthumously. 3. The recipient has not been a previous recipient of the Award (formerly the A.H. Robins award and more recently, Wyerth-Ayerst Laboratories award). 4. The recipient has compiled an outstanding record of community service, which, apart from his/her specific identification as a physician, reflects well on the profession.*

2005 David Butsch, M.D. - Berlin

2004 Frederick Bagley, M.D. - Rutland

2003 Joan Madison, M.D. - Shelburne

2002 William Pratt, M.D. - Rutland

2001 Delight Wing, M.D. - Jericho

2000 John R. Carmola, M.D. - St. Albans

1999 John H. Elliott, M.D. - Lyndonville

1998 Edward Haak, D.O. - St. Albans

1997 Arthur Bergner, M.D. - Burlington

1996 William Hodgkin, M.D. - Hinesburg

1995 Joseph Hagan, Jr., M.D. - S. Burlington

1994 Alan Rubin, M.D. - Burlington

1993 Arnold Golodetz, M.D. - Burlington

- 1992. . . . Henry Tulip, M.D. - St. Albans
- 1991. . . . Arthur Wolk, M.D. - Rutland
- 1990. . . . No Award Given
- 1989. . . . J. Carleton Stickney, M.D. - Rutland
- 1988. . . . E. Sherburne Lovell, M.D. - Springfield
- 1987. . . . Howard Dean, M.D. - Shelburne
- 1986. . . . Ronald Ferry, M.D. - Montpelier
- 1985. . . . No Award Given
- 1984. . . . William Brislin, M.D. - Rutland
- 1983. . . . Lester Wallman, M.D. - Burlington
- 1982. . . . Walter Rath, M.D. - St. Albans
- 1981. . . . Lester Judd, M.D. - Enosburg
- 1980. . . . Samuel Eppley, M.D. - Enosburg
- 1979. . . . J. Ward Stackpole, M.D. - S. Burlington
- 1978. . . . Frederick C. Holmes, M.D. - St. Albans
- 1977. . . . Philip G. Merriam, M.D. - Rutland
- 1976. . . . Arthur Gladstone, M.D. - Burlington
- 1975. . . . Dewees H. Brown, M.D. - Bristol
- 1974. . . . Julius H. Manes, M.D. - Bennington
- 1973. . . . John D. Boardman, M.D. - Burlington
- 1972. . . . Louis G. Thabault, M.D. - Winooski
- 1971. . . . Philip H. Wheeler, M.D. - Brattleboro
- 1970. . . . Rufus C. Morrow, M.D. - Burlington
- 1969. . . . Harry M. Rowe, M.D. - Wells River
- 1968. . . . H. Bernard Levine, M.D. - Burlington
- 1967. . . . Ray W. Collins, M.D. - Middlebury
- 1966. . . . Gordon B. Smith, M.D. - Rutland
- 1965. . . . Henry M. Farmer, M.D. - Burlington
- 1964. . . . Howard J. Farmer, M.D. - St. Johnsbury
- 1963. . . . Carlos G. Otis, M.D. - Townshend
- 1962. . . . Roger W. Mann, M.D. - Jeffersonville
- 1961. . . . Clifford B. Harwood, M.D. - Manchester
- 1960. . . . Benjamin Clark, M.D. - St. Johnsbury

FOUNDERS' AWARD - *The Vermont Medical Society Founders' Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision and achievement in improving the health of Vermonters and all Americans. (In the event that no suitable candidate is nominated in a given year, the award need not be given.)*

- 2005. . . . No Award Given
- 2004. . . . Mildred Reardon, M.D. - Williston
- 2003. . . . John C. Lantman, M.D. (*Posthumously*)
- 2002. . . . Sen. James M. Jeffords - Shrewsbury
- 2001. . . . No Award Given
- 2000. . . . John Evans, PhD - Burlington
- 1999. . . . John E. Mazuzan, M.D. - Burlington
- 1998. . . . No Award Given
- 1997. . . . Hon. Howard Dean, M.D. - Shelburne

2006 Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 14, 2006



Basin Harbor Club
Vergennes, Vermont

!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!

Mark Your Calendar



OTHER GROUPS

JOINING THE MEETING THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

American College of Physicians - VT Chapter

Vermont Anesthesiology Society

Vermont Orthopaedic Society

Important Phone Numbers

CODING & BILLING INFORMATION

The Coding Center

Jana Purell, CPC

Coding & Reimbursement Specialist

(888) 889-6597

Medicare Carrier in VT - NHIC:

Provider Inquiries

Routine Medicare Part B inquiries, claim status, Automated Audio Response Unite, and routine UPIN queries

(866) 539-5595

Provider Services

Medicare Part B policy information, limiting charge, and fee schedule queries

(866) 539-5595

Provider Certification Unit

Medicare Part B physician/provider enrollment queries

(866) 539-5595

Provider Telephone Reviews

Medicare Part B claims telephone review requests

(207) 294-4322

Electronic Data Interchange Support Services

Information on Carrier Bulletin Board System (an interactive communication network supporting electronic claim submission and data exchange)

(781) 749-7745

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSURANCE

Questions regarding state funded programs such as VHAP, Dr. Dynasaur, Medicaid, VHAP Pharmacy, VScript and VScript expanded: Health Access Member Services at (800) 250-8427

Questions regarding private health insurance of managed care plans - Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities & Health Care Administration (BISHCA)

(800) 631-7788



Important Phone Numbers

SPECIFIC PRIVATE INSURANCE CONCERNS

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont

Member Services: (800) 247-2583, General: (802) 223-6131

EDS Provider Services

(800) 925-1706

CIGNA Healthcare

Member Services: (800) 345-9458, General: (800) 380-3530

MVP Health Plan - Vermont

Member Services: (888) MVP-MBRS, General: (800) 380-3530

HOSPITALS

Brattleboro Memorial Hospital: (802) 257-0341

Brattleboro Retreat Healthcare: (802) 257-7785

Central Vermont Medical Center: (802) 371-4100

Copley Hospital: (802) 888-4231

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center: (603) 650-5000

Fletcher Allen Health Care: (802) 847-0000

Gifford Medical Center: (802) 728-4441

Grace Cottage Hospital: (802) 365-7357

Mt. Ascutney Hospital & Health Center: (802) 674-6711

North Country Hospital: (802) 334-7331

Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital: (802) 748-8141

Northwestern Medical Center: (802) 524-5911

Porter Medical Center: (802) 388-4701

Rutland Regional Medical Center: (802) 775-7111

Southwestern Vermont Health Care: (802) 442-6361

Springfield Hospital: (802) 885-2151

Vermont State Hospital: (802) 241-1000

VA Medical & Regional Office Center: (802) 295-9363

MISCELLANEOUS

Vermont Department of Health: (802) 464-4343

Vermont Board of Medical Practice: (802) 657-4220, (800) 745-7371

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: (800) 311-3435

National Institutes of Health (NIH): (301) 496-4000

CMS Boston: (877) 267-2323

Health Care Ombudsman: (800) 917-7787



Harvey Reich, M.D. (left), pictured with past President James O'Brien, M.D., became President of the VMS at the 191st Annual Meeting .



Harvey Reich, M.D. (left), and Peter Dale (right) met with Governor James Douglas (center) to discuss the 2005 VMS priorities.



Dr. Reich accompanied by Paul Harrington met with the VT Delegation in Washington while attending the AMA Presidents Forum.

VMS year in Pictures.... 2005



Harvey Reich, M.D. (right), met with Representative Bernie Sanders (left) while in Washington, D.C.



From Left to Right: Speaker of the House Gaye Symington, Senate Pro Temp. Peter Welch, Secretary of Administration Charlie Smith and Peter Dale, M.D. discuss health care reform at the June 2005 Council Meeting.



Peter Dale, M.D. (right), pictured with immediate Past President Harvey Reich, M.D., became President of the VMS at the 192nd Annual Meeting .



Other Staff Members ...



Ernie & Roberta

And Introducing...



Roger...

□ *Not for ourselves do we labor* □

□ *Not for ourselves do we labor* □