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*If you would like additional information about the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians or if you have comments about any of the committee's programs, please contact Carolyn Maher, member benefit and information coordinator, at (800) 322-2303, ext. 7311, or via e-mail at [cmaher@mms.org](mailto:cmaher@mms.org).*



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# THE PHYSICIAN VOLUNTEER

## Small Group Teaching Opportunity

In cooperation with the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians offers a mentoring opportunity for physicians interested in teaching medical students. The Integrated Problems Course (IP), directed by Karen Kelly, MD, is a problem-based learning course taken by all BUSM students throughout their first and second years of school. Through discussion of clinical cases, the IP Course assists students in methods for integrating information from other courses and developing clinical reasoning skills through small-group discussion and individual research. Groups made up of six to eight students meet with a facilitator for two hours each week for 10 to 12 weeks between early September and early December. The role of the volunteer is to be a facilitator to their discussions of clinical cases.

### The Senior Volunteer Physician Newsletter Is Going Electronic!

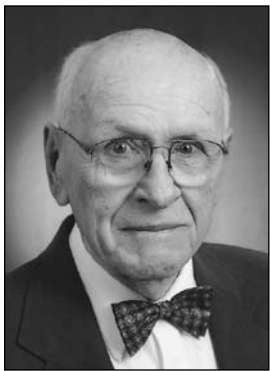
We are excited to announce that, in response to member suggestions that we "go green," this newsletter will be delivered in electronic format exclusively and e-mailed to all senior members.

In fact, some of your colleagues have already received this issue in their e-mail inboxes. If we do not have your e-mail address or your e-mail address has changed, please let us know so that you will continue to receive future issues of *The Physician Volunteer* newsletter. To update your e-mail address, you can log on to the MMS website at [www.massmed.org](http://www.massmed.org) and go to your profile. Or you can e-mail your information to [cmaher@mms.org](mailto:cmaher@mms.org).

*On Tuesday, June 29, 2010, a free information session will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at MMS Headquarters in Waltham. A complimentary lunch will be served. If you are interested in attending the session, please contact Carolyn Maher at [cmaher@mms.org](mailto:cmaher@mms.org) or (800) 322-2303, ext. 7311.*

## 2010 Senior Physician Volunteer Award

*For the past 13 years, the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians has honored a senior volunteer physician of the year. Candidates for this award are nominated by their peers and selected by the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians. To be considered for the award, candidates must be MMS members and 60 years of age or older. Additionally, they must have demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism and dedication to sharing experience and medical expertise with communities in Massachusetts. Since 2002, when the MMS House of Delegates formally recognized the Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year Award, a senior volunteer physician has been honored each year as part of the Annual Meeting proceedings at the Awards Luncheon.*



*John A. Riordan, MD*

**J**ohn A. Riordan, MD, who has distinguished himself as a tireless volunteer for over 15 years, has been chosen as the recipient of the 2010 MMS Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year Award for his exemplary dedication to volunteerism and his lifelong sharing of medical expertise.

A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, Dr. Riordan graduated from the College of the Holy Cross and Georgetown Medical College and started pediatric practice in his hometown in 1956. Dr. Riordan has volunteered his time at free health centers since his retirement — at the Green Island Medical Clinic until it closed in 2005 and is currently at St. Anne's Free Clinic in Shrewsbury, as well as at Our Lady of Providence Free Clinic held at St. Bernard's Church in Worcester, where he has volunteered since its inception in 1999. His primary activities include seeing pediatric patients. On average, Dr. Riordan volunteers four to six hours a week for nine months of the year. A colleague who works closely with Dr. Riordan said, "His devotion to the well-being of others, especially children, and his many hours of volunteer work make him an outstanding candidate for the award."

The Massachusetts Medical Society is pleased to recognize John A. Riordan, MD, as the 2010 MMS Senior Physician Volunteer of the Year.

For physicians interested in volunteering their services, the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians Health Center Program enables retired physicians and other physicians who are no longer engaged in clinical practice to provide free health care services to patients at health centers and free care clinics across the state through its provision of professional liability insurance. For more information, contact Carolyn Maher at (781) 434-7311 or [cmaher@mms.org](mailto:cmaher@mms.org).

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## Free Health Care Programs Survey

**T**he Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians conducted a survey of 19 free care centers where MMS members volunteer. The survey included questions on days and hours of services, number of providers per session, average number of patients per session, services provided, demographics of the patients, and issues for which they need help. Eleven centers responded (58 percent).

Eight of the 11 responding centers are open only in the evenings. The number of providers available ranges from one to 10, with most having four or less per session. Patient visits range from three per session at one of the clinics with the fewest open hours to 50 to 70 at one that is open eight hours a day and a couple nights a week.

Though health insurance is now mandated by law in Massachusetts, seven of the centers responded that the number of patients attending has increased or stayed the same. Many of the patients are uninsured, though four centers report that five to 40 percent of their patients are insured but prefer services at a free program for various reasons. On average, 41 percent are unemployed (ranging from five to 95 percent). One center has help from University of Massachusetts counselors to assist patients with signing up for health insurance.

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## 6th Annual Free Health Care Forum

On November 17, 2009, the committee hosted the 6th Annual Health Care Forum at the MMS headquarters in Waltham. Brian Rosman, research director for Health Care for All, was the featured speaker on the topic, “What Is the Impact of Health Care Reform on the Free Care Programs?” Physician volunteers, as well as staff from the various programs, were in attendance.

This annual forum is currently the only venue the volunteers at free medical programs have to gather to learn about the other programs in Massachusetts, exchange ideas, share experiences, and seek solutions to the problems they all share. Though every program is unique — due to location, needs and resources of the local community, demographics of the patients, range of services offered, and financial resources — there is common ground. All are volunteers, all serve the most socially vulnerable, and all are dependent on the donations of goods and moneys from local sources.

Dr. Rosman gave a brief summary of health care reform in Massachusetts, from the 1988 Dukakis Universal Health Care Law through the 2006 Health Care Reform (HCR 2006). Despite the successes that HCR 2006 has experienced, free care programs continue to see large, even increasing, numbers of patients.

So why do patients go to free care health programs and in increasing numbers?

- They don’t have access to care and/or can’t find a primary care provider (PCP).
- They may or may not have a PCP but can’t afford a prescription.
- They don’t need an appointment. It is more convenient.
- They don’t want to pay the copay or deductible.
- They are undocumented and lack other sources for medical care.
- They can’t get anyone to talk to them.

Basically, health care reform is not the answer for the population the free programs serve. Getting most people insured is not always the cure.

In 2008, phase two of the law passed, with its emphasis on a primary care workforce, educating doctors on cost-effective drugs, restriction of gifts to physicians, mandating electronic records, and hearings on costs.

The Massachusetts experience can serve as a template for national health care reform, but the details would differ. Affordability and a shared responsibility model are among the key points.

Attendees shared their own experiences with each other. A list of contact information was created and distributed in order to continue to communicate and share information about resources. The programs would like to see more media attention on the situation. However, this must be done in a way that is respectful of the patients, and they feel the press does not pick up on this topic because it is not “flashy” enough.

By the end of the evening, the participants felt it had been a productive forum and enjoyed hearing Brian Rosman’s presentation.

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## RE-SEED Program Seeks Retired Physicians

The RE-SEED (Retirees Enhancing Science Education through Experiments and Demonstrations) Program at Northeastern University recruits retired scientists, including physicians and others with science backgrounds. Seventeen new volunteers have been trained and are being placed with science teachers in the greater Boston area. One physician, Dan Kromish, is among the new volunteers. “We have had many physicians in our group since our founding in 1991, but now we are down to four including Dan,” said Paul Conroy, director of the Boston RE-SEED Center. RE-SEED currently has 93 retired scientists, engineers, and others with science backgrounds serving in Boston-area schools. The volunteers are required to take 32 hours of training before they are matched with a science teacher. They agree to spend one day a week working in the classroom for one school year. The volunteers enjoy the program, and 70 percent return the following year.

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**RE-SEED**  
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During the past year, the program lost one of its most treasured volunteers with the passing of physician Bill Rachlin. Bill had a very distinguished career before joining RE-SEED, and you can learn more about him and the program he loved on the program's website ([www.bostonreseedcenter.org](http://www.bostonreseedcenter.org)). He was so loved and respected that the teachers and his family founded a scholarship fund for Timilty Middle School graduates.

RE-SEED is eager to add to the physician ranks and invites any physicians who are retired or otherwise willing to spend a day a week in a science classroom to call Paul Conroy at (617) 373-8388 or e-mail [pa.conroy@neu.edu](mailto:pa.conroy@neu.edu) for more information and future training programs.

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## Health Center Profile

**T**he New Hope Community Health Clinic opened in 2005 to help meet the health care needs of the uninsured and underinsured in the Springfield, Massachusetts, area. Housed in the Evangelical Covenant Church at 915 Plumtree Road in classrooms that were made over into an exam room and office, the clinic is open Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

They currently see an average of three to five patients per week. Adult students come for immunizations, tuberculosis tests, and physical exams. The clinic also

performs preemployment physicals, sees people for nonacute illnesses, follows up on hypertension and diabetes cases, and refers patients as needed. Though the clinic was able to direct many former patients to insurance resources, including Commonwealth Care and Medicaid, some still fall between the cracks and have no coverage. The majority of their clients are young adults, either working or attending educational programs to get into the workforce.

The New Hope Community Health Clinic currently needs a physician to work one Tuesday evening a month or to be able to cover when another is unable to work due to illness or schedule change. If anyone is interested, please contact Linda Mumblo, RN, at [Linda.Mumblo@baystatehealth.org](mailto:Linda.Mumblo@baystatehealth.org) or Beverly Premo, RN, at [bp555p@aol.com](mailto:bp555p@aol.com).

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**FREE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS SURVEY**  
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Two of the most pressing concerns include continuity of care and referral for specialty care. Other issues needing help are fundraising and understanding and revitalizing volunteer organization. Eight of the 11 centers responded that they might be interested in an association of free health care programs.

The committee is hoping this information may prove helpful as they try to find sources for assistance with follow-up care and other needed resources.