



© RI ARA 2014
All Rights Reserved

RI ARA

*"Fighting for the future of our members,
NOW, more than ever!!!"*

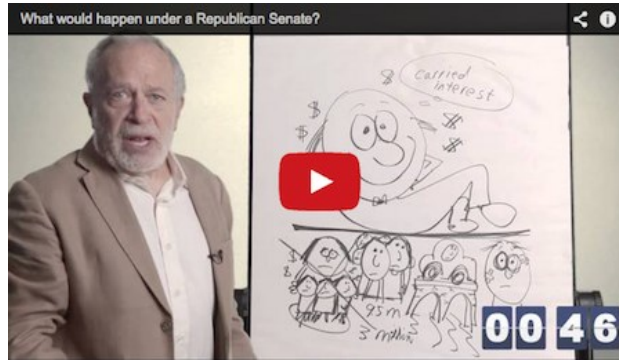
Affiliated with the Rhode Island AFL-CIO



Publication 2014 / Issue 42
Published in house by the
RI ARA

October 20, 2014 E-Newsletter

Robert Reich: A Republican Senate would wage war on working families



Yes On Question 4 - Engineering Rhode Island's Future College of Engineering building at the University of Rhode Island

Watch this great profile of URI Engineering Professor Arun Shukla and his research for the U.S. Navy



[Click to view Video of Professor Shukla](#)

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Constitutional Convention Bad for Union Workers & Rhode Island

As many of you know, our organization, the Rhode Island Alliance *for* Retired Americans, is a proud member of Citizens for Responsible Government, the coalition leading the effort to REJECT Question 3 on the November 4 ballot. A Constitutional Convention poses significant risks to our Civil Rights, and it is up to us to get our message out to the public!

On Wednesday, October 1, 2014, the Citizens for Responsible Government released a 90 second campaign video ad urging voters to reject ballot question 3, which will ask voters to approve or reject a Constitutional Convention. The video highlights the threat to Rhode Islanders' civil rights and the role that wealthy special interests can potentially play if a Constitutional Convention is approved. The coalition has also begun circulating a petition asking the people of Rhode Island to reject a Constitutional Convention and reject Question 3. You can view the ad here: <http://rejectquestion3.com/>. Please share this with everyone you know, and urge them to REJECT Question 3!



**An online petition has also been launched:
Please sign on to this petition, and share it with your family and friends!**



For more information about Citizens for Responsible Government
Contact Jennifer Norris, MSW 401-241-7413 or <http://ricfrg.org/>

✓ **REJECT Question 3 on November 4th** ✓

Medicare to Cover First Stool DNA Test for Detection of Colorectal Cancer

Cologuard the first and only FDA-approved noninvasive stool DNA screening test for colorectal cancer



Exact Sciences Corp. announced yesterday that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued its final National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Cologuard, making it the first and only Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved stool DNA test for the detection of colorectal cancer and precancer covered by Medicare. Coverage will go into effect immediately.

Exact Sciences is still awaiting a preliminary pricing determination from CMS, but investors did not wait, as the stock climbed rapidly on Friday.

Medicare to Cover First Stool DNA Test for Detection of Colorectal Cancer

Cologuard the first and only FDA-approved noninvasive stool DNA screening test for colorectal cancer

Oct. 10, 2014 – Exact Sciences Corp. announced yesterday that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued its final National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Cologuard, making it the first and only Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved stool DNA test for the detection of colorectal cancer and precancer covered by Medicare. Coverage will go into effect immediately.

Exact Sciences is still awaiting a preliminary pricing determination from CMS, but investors did not wait, as the stock climbed rapidly on Friday....[Read More](#)

Heart Valve Disease Hits One of Ten Elderly Women Warns Educational Campaign

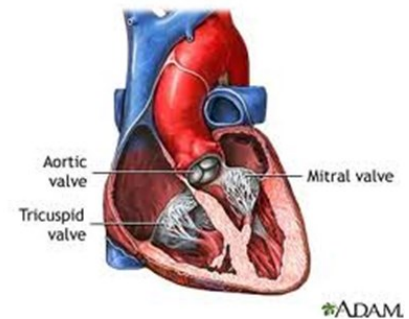
Alliance for Aging Research says it hits men and women but women tend to have worse prognosis

A new campaign has been launched aimed at educating about heart valve disease in women, a condition that causes damage to one or more of the heart's four valves and can lead to loss of independence, disability and death. It affects one in 10 women age 75 and over and one in 50 of all adult women, says the Alliance for Aging Research.

"Older age is a risk factor for heart valve disease," according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. "As you age, your heart valves thicken and become stiffer. Also, people are living longer now than in the past. As a result, heart valve disease has become an increasing problem." (More about heart valve disease below news report.)

"Our campaign was inspired by the need to get more information out there about the dangers of undiagnosed valve disease in women," says Lindsay Clarke, vice president of health programs for the Alliance.

"We want to educate on both the symptoms of valve disease and emphasize the importance of seeking treatment as soon as those symptoms occur. With early detection and proper treatment, we can help women avoid the potentially devastating effects of valve disease."...[Read More](#)



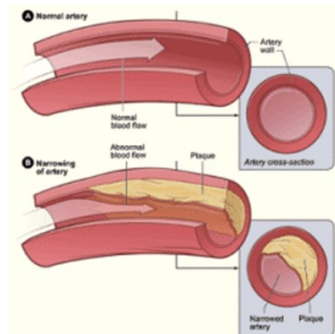
Fake 'Good' Cholesterol Wins Fight to Reduce Plaque Buildup

Points toward new method for preventing plaque buildup in the arteries that can cause heart attacks and strokes

Scientists at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) have created a synthetic molecule that mimics "good" cholesterol and have shown it can reduce plaque buildup in the arteries of animal models. The molecule, taken orally, improved cholesterol in just two weeks.

This research, published in the October issue of *Journal of Lipid Research*, points scientists toward a new method for treating atherosclerosis, a condition where plaque buildup in the arteries can cause heart attacks and strokes.

"Atherosclerosis is the number one killer in the developed world," said TSRI Professor M. Reza Ghadiri, senior author of the new study with TSRI Assistant Professor of Chemistry Luke Leman. "This research clears a big step toward clinical implementation of new therapies."...[Read More](#)



Mental Stress Impact on Heart Varies Between Men, Women

Women had greater increase in negative emotions, decrease in positive emotions



Researchers found that while men had more changes in blood pressure and heart rate in response to the mental stress, more women experienced myocardial ischemia, decreased blood flow to the heart. The women also expressed a greater increase in negative emotions and a greater decrease in positive emotions during the mental stress tests. Women also experienced increased platelet aggregation, which is the start of the formation of blood clots, more than men.

Men and women just have different cardiovascular and psychological reactions to mental stress, according to the study from the Duke Heart Center of men and women who were already being treated for heart disease.

The study, published today in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, looked at 56 women and 254 men diagnosed with heart disease enrolled in a larger REMIT study of the impact of the medication escitalopram on heart disease induced by mental stress....[Read More](#)

Hospice Providers Cheer New IMPACT Act Signed by President Obama

'This new law strengthens oversight and transparency throughout the entire hospice community'

A new law, the "Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014" (IMPACT Act), that includes provisions creating greater oversight and increased transparency within the hospice community was signed and made official yesterday by President Obama. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization push for passage of this legislation and cheered the President's final approval.



The provisions that affect hospice providers are:

1. Mandated surveys of Medicare certified hospice providers at least every three years for the next ten years at the minimum.
2. Medical reviews for hospice programs with a soon to be determined percentage/number of patients receiving care for more than 180 days. The specific patient load that would trigger this medical review will be set by CMS.
3. Hospice aggregate financial cap will be aligned with hospice reimbursement using a common inflationary index that will not change hospice reimbursement for providers....[Read More](#)

Boomers Facing Retirement Very Concerned About Health Care Cost, They Say

Most are concerned but few are taking any financial action to do anything about it



The overwhelming majority (86%) of baby boomers express concern about the affordability of health care in retirement, but very few pre-retirees admit they have taken financial steps to prepare for health care costs in retirement, according to a study released today by Ameriprise Financial.

The Health, Wealth and Retirement study, which surveyed more than 1,000 employed baby boomers ages 50-64 who are preparing for retirement with at least \$100,000 in investable assets, asked these individuals about their attitudes toward health, health care costs and the impact each may have in retirement.

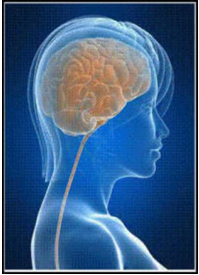
When asked what they've done to prepare for funding healthcare costs in retirement, only one in five (19%) surveyed say they've taken one or more steps to prepare. One-fourth (26%) have reviewed their options but have taken no action and another two in five (40%) have thought about it but haven't looked into it in detail. Unfortunately, 15% of respondents haven't begun to consider how they will cover health care costs in retirement.

"Boomers understand that health care costs will be a significant expense in retirement, yet many haven't planned – or simply don't know how to plan – to fund these expenses," said Pat O'Connell, executive vice president, Ameriprise Financial.

"Fortunately, the national conversation around health care is prompting people to consider their health and the choices they make, as well as the need to build health care expenses into their retirement and long-term financial plan. Pre-retirees have an opportunity to translate this awareness into tangible steps to help prepare for expected and unexpected health care costs and protect the savings they've worked so hard to accumulate."...[Read More](#)

Memory Loss Associated with Alzheimer's Reversed for First Time, Study Claims

Small trial from UCLA and Buck Institute claims success using systems approach to memory disorders



This study from the UCLA Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research and the Buck Institute for Research on Aging is the first to suggest that memory loss in patients may be reversed, and improvement sustained, using a complex, 36-point therapeutic program that involves comprehensive changes in diet, brain stimulation, exercise, optimization of sleep, specific pharmaceuticals and vitamins, and multiple additional steps that affect brain chemistry.

The findings, published in the current online edition of the journal *Aging*, "are very encouraging. However, at the current time the results are anecdotal, and therefore a more extensive, controlled clinical trial is warranted," said Dale Bredesen, the Augustus Rose Professor of Neurology and

Director of the Easton Center at UCLA, a professor at the Buck Institute, and the author of the paper... [Read More](#)

New Women's Initiative Focuses on Income Inequality, Health and Retirement Security

"Eleanor's Hope" continues Roosevelt legacy of social progress

A new national initiative, Eleanor's Hope, to help bring an end to the disparity between men's and women's income, health and retirement security, was launched this week by The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. A "press call" announcement included Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI), NOW President Terry O'Neill and Tufts Health Plan President/CEO, James Roosevelt, Jr.

"Women have a lot at stake in November's election and beyond," said Max Richtman, NCPSSM President/CEO. "Through grassroots advocacy and education in our communities and on Capitol Hill, the Eleanor's Hope project will raise awareness, recruit and train new activists, highlight female leaders who are making a difference and generate national interest in women's health and retirement security issues leading up to the 2014 and 2016 elections."... [Read More](#)



Spanish Friday Alert now Available

The *Friday Alert* will now be available each week in Spanish! To see last week's *Alerta Semanal*, go to <http://tinyurl.com/mq7gpry>. For the Alliance's Spanish language page, which includes fact sheets and other translated documents from the main site, go to <http://tinyurl.com/nllcz6n>. More outreach from the Alliance to the Hispanic elder community will be coming in the next few months.

The New England ARA state affiliates are actively pursuing these Petitions.

Petition Subject: Observation Stays: "Current Hospital Issues in the Medicare Program"

ADD
YOUR
NAME

**Get The Message Out:
SIGN THE PETITION!!!!**

Petition Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 67 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 to get power doors installed in Post Offices and other federal buildings.

ADD
YOUR
NAME

**Get The Message Out:
SIGN THE PETITION!!!!**

Petition Subject: Elimination of the Unfair GPO and WEP Provisions of the Social Security Act to make sure the Congress of the United States enacts legislation, HR 3118 & S 896

ADD
YOUR
NAME

**Get The Message Out:
SIGN THE PETITION!!!!**