AHRMNY

The Association for Healthcare Risk Management of New York, Inc.

AHRMNY AND OUR SPONSORS PRESENTS

2026 Upstate New York Educational Conference

Marriott Syracuse Downtown Hotel

Monday, October 19th
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Christopher J. Ryan

Chair, Senate Cities 2 Committee

(D) 50TH Senate District

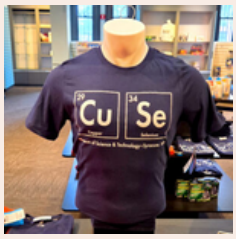
CLICK HERE FOR FULL PROGRAM FLYER AND REGISTRATION

AHRMNY invites you to join us in Syracuse for our Upstate New York Educational Conference & Reception at the Downtown Marriott Hotel on **Monday, October 19th**. This annual event brings the risk management community together to exchange knowledge, strengthen skills, and engage in meaningful connections.

To kick off the conference, AHRMNY is hosting a networking reception on **Sunday, October 18th from 5:00–8:00 PM** at the Museum of Science and Technology. Conference attendees are invited to explore the museum, enjoy the exhibits, and then connect with colleagues, meet sponsors and speakers, and set the tone for a productive program. Museum entry is complimentary and included with your conference registration fee.

MOST

MILTON J. RUBENSTEIN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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2026 Upstate New York Conference

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Conference and Registration Details

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM **NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

Visit the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (MOST) and explore exhibits from 5:00-6:00 pm. Afterwards, attendees will gather together for a networking reception where lite bites and beverages will be served. The museum is located at 500 South Franklin Street, Syracuse, New York, about an 8-minute walk from the Downtown Marriott Hotel. Free street parking and paid garage parking is available. Additional details will be provided in the registration confirmation email.

MILTON J. RUBENSTEIN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Hosted at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown Hotel. Attendees will enjoy a full day educational program starting off with breakfast, keynote address, and morning breakout sessions.

Enjoy a delightful lunch break. Network and catchup with colleagues and visits to sponsor and exhibitor tables.

Round out the afternoon with ASHRM updates and additional breakout sessions.

REGISTRATION & LODGING

TICKET FEES (includes networking reception at the Museum of Science & Technology on Oct 18th)

$150 Current AHRMNY Member

$200 Nonmember

$175 Membership/Conference Bundle - Unlock More Than Just a Seat—Join and Save!

Nonmember attendees may wish to sign up for a one-year membership today and enjoy an exclusive discount on conference registration fee. It's the perfect way to get the most value for your investment.

LODGING - The host hotel, Marriott Syracuse Downtown, is offering a discounted room rate on October 18th for $189 (not including taxes and fees) through **September 25th**. After this date, the regular daily rate will apply. After registering for the conference you will receive instructions to reserve lodging.

Read about AHRMNY's Financial Aid Policy Here

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

This program is being submitted to the American Society for Health Care Risk Management (ASHRM) and the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for review. Continuing education and legal credits are currently pending approval from these accrediting organizations.

Guest Speakers

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN

New York State Sentaor
(D) 50th Senate District

LORA GIACOMONI

RN, MSN, F-AB
Vice President, Ambulatory Quality
Northwell Health

CHRISTINE KEENAN

MS, PA-C, CPHRM
Director, Clinical Risk Management
Northwell Health Nuvance Market

WILLIAM MELCHIOR

Vice President, Marketing and
Company Relations
MLMIC Insurance Company

SHELLY KRIETE

Sr. Risk Management Consultant
MLMIC Insurance Company

MARC CRAW

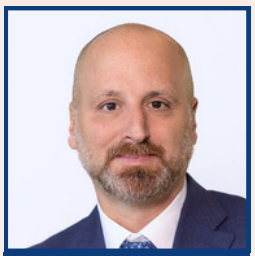
Esq., Senior Director of
Government Affairs
MLMIC Insurance Company

JOHN NEUBURGER

Vice President of Claims
MLMIC Insurance Company

CHARLES PATTON

Esq., Managing Partner
Martin, Ganotis, Brown, Mould,
and Currie



MARIO GIANNETTINO

Esq, CPHRM
Partner
Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan

ANDREA CRAWFORD

Esq, CPHRM
Consultant
MMC Risk Consultants LLC

STEPHANIE CAMPBELL

Esq., Partner
Schiavetti Corgan DiEdwards
Weinberg & Nicholson

SAMANTHA E. QUINN

Esq., Partner
Schiavetti Corgan DiEdwards
Weinberg & Nicholson

KATHLEEN SHOSTEK

RN, ARM, MBA, DFASHRM,
CPHRM, CPPS
Risk Management & Patient Safety
Professional/Consultant

DOUGLAS SHAW

Esq., Vice President
Risk Management and Insurance
RWJ/Barnabas Health

ANNA BERENT

Assistant Vice President
Allied Healthcare Claims
Hiscox USA

JENNIFER YUEN

Esq., Partner
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith

LISA GIBBONS

Esq., MA, Regional Vice
President, Risk Management
Westchester Medical Center

JENNIFER PUGLISI

Esq., Partner
Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan

KAMRIN KUCERA

MJHL-CC, BSN, BA, RN, CPHRM
Director, Risk Management
SUNY Upstate University Hospital

JULIO MARTINEZ

CPCU, AU-M, AU
Vice President, Sales Executive
Marsh

WILLIAM MCDONOUGH

MPAH, ARM, PhD, FASHRM
Managing Director
Marsh

LAURA MORAN

MBA, Senior Vice President
Analytics Client Engagement Leader
Marsh

GINA LEDDY

CPCU, RPLU
Vice President
SOMPO, Us Healthcare

JANELL FORGET

RN, BSN, JD, CPHRM, DFASHRM
Asst Vice President, Risk Management
UMass Memorial Health

Learn more about our distinguished guest speakers Read their bios here

PROGRAM AGENDA

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM **Registration and Networking Breakfast**

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM **Welcome, Announcements, Sponsor Introductions**

- **Stephanie Campbell, AHRMNY President**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Christopher J. Ryan, New York State Senator**

Senator Ryan is a dedicated public servant representing New York's 50th Senate District, which includes parts of Onondaga and Oswego counties. He proudly serves as chair of the Cities 2 Committee and is a member of the committees on Agriculture; Health; Commerce; Economic Development and Small Business; Energy and Telecommunications; Labor and Consumer Protection. Senator Ryan will discuss recent and pending legislation pertinent to the provision of healthcare and medical professional liability in New York State.

BREAK & TRANSITION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

1A) A Blueprint for Proactive Risk Management and Optimized Resource Allocation

- **Lora Giacomoni and Christine Keenan**

Northwell Health is shifting ambulatory oversight from reactive problem-solving to a proactive, data-driven risk model. Using the Ambulatory Practice Clinical Profile (APCP) Framework, 800+ practices were objectively stratified to identify elevated-risk sites and target quality improvement. Attendees will learn a practical, scalable approach for strengthening outcomes, reducing liability, and improving performance across diverse outpatient settings.

1B) Nuclear Deterrence Panel: Mitigating the Risk of Excessive Verdicts

- **William Melchior (Moderator), Shelly Kriete, Marc Craw, John Neuburger, and Charles Patton**

Healthcare providers are increasingly facing nuclear verdicts across all specialties, driven by social inflation, shifting juror attitudes, and aggressive plaintiff strategies. These catastrophic awards can significantly impact operations and patient access to care. This panel of experts will review data on excessive verdicts, examine their impact on New York providers, and share practical strategies to reduce organizational exposure.

BREAK & TRANSITION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS #2

10:45 AM - 11:00AM

BREAKOUT SEESIONS #2

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

2A) Healing the Healers: A Risk Management Approach to Second Victims

- **Mario Giannettino and Andrea Crawford**

Adverse events affect not only patients and families but also the clinicians involved. These "second victims" may experience acute distress, self-doubt, burnout, and long-term psychological impact. This session highlights risk-management strategies, early-identification approaches, and structured, compassionate support models that strengthen safety culture and workforce resilience.

2B) Mitigation of Future Economic Damages in Catastrophic Injury Cases Part II: The Collateral Source Hearing

- **Samantha E. Quinn and Stephanie Campbell**

Future care costs represent one of the largest components of damages in serious injury cases. Plaintiff life-care plans frequently rely on flawed life-expectancy projections and inflated cost estimates which disregard available insurance coverage, including Medicaid and Medicare. Building on the discussion from 2024 of challenging these plans pre-trial, this session shifts to strategies for reducing damages in a post-trial collateral source hearing. Presenters will review a recent hearing, outline key preparation steps, and highlight practical approaches to facilitate limiting exposure and supporting reasonable case resolution.

PROGRAM AGENDA (continued)

LUNCH BREAK
VISIT SPONSOR & EXHITOR TABLES

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
ASHRM Updates and other Announcements

- **Katie DuFresne, ASHRM President**

BREAK & TRANSITION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS #3

1:30 PM - 1:45 PM

BREAKOUT SEESIONS #3

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

3A) Aligning Communication & Disclosure: Turning Training into System-Wide Practice

- **Kathleen Shostek and Douglas Shaw**

The CMS Patient Safety Structural Measures require hospitals to demonstrate consistent prioritization of safety, including an effective Communication and Resolution Program (CRP) with transparent communication after adverse events. RWJBarnabas Health developed a systemwide approach to align disclosure practice, support compliance, and strengthen readiness for positive attestation. This session outlines RWJBH's pathway from policy to reliable practice—covering assessment, compassionate disclosure training, CRP activation, train-the-trainer implementation, and facilitator tools for local leaders—supported by case-based learning and post-training results.

3B) Our Relationship is Tender: Working with Vendors and Indemnity Clauses in Litigation

- **Anna Berent, Jennifer Yuen, and Lisa Gibbons**

Hospital systems rely on numerous vendors—from food services to clinical groups—making contract clarity essential when litigation arises. This session outlines best practices for reviewing vendor agreements, understanding when and how to tender, and weighing the pros and cons of tendering or impleading. Speakers will also highlight effective internal communication strategies and how to identify the right organizational partners to help navigate vendor relationships during complex claims.

BREAK & TRANSITION TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS #4

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

BREAKOUT SEESIONS #4

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

4A) Balancing AI Efficiency, Practitioner Judgment, and Liability in Healthcare

- **Jennifer Puglisi and Kamrin Kucera**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly expanding in healthcare, improving diagnostic accuracy, documentation, and access to care. Yet its success depends on accuracy, appropriate use, and the continued judgment of clinicians who remain accountable for outcomes. This session highlights how an Upstate NY health system is applying AI to address financial, workforce, and geographic challenges while underscoring the irreplaceable role of practitioner oversight in both patient care and legal risk.

4B) Beyond the Application: Positioning Your Organization for Success in Today's Insurance Market

- **Julio Martinez, William McDonough, Laura Moran, Gina Leddy, and Janell Forget**

Healthcare organizations face a challenging insurance market. A strong narrative—supported by clear data on safety, quality, loss prevention, cybersecurity, and workforce protection—helps influence underwriting, improve pricing and coverage, and strengthen long-term resilience. Presenters will walk attendees through the essential elements of a strong renewal submission, demonstrate how risk initiatives and data analytics influence underwriting decisions, and share practical strategies for strengthening collaboration with brokers and underwriters during the renewal process.

WRAP UP
END OF CONFERENCE

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM