

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)  
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2013.  
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich.***

***RICHARD PIERSON, M.D.***

***HEALTH CARE REFORM AND WHAT WE DO ABOUT IT NEXT***



The United States spent \$8,233 on health per person in 2010. Norway, the Netherlands and Switzerland are the next highest spenders, at approximately \$5,200 per person. The average spending on health care among developed countries is \$3,600 per person. The U.S. devotes 17.6% of its Gross Domestic Product to health; the Netherlands is next at 12%, and the average among developed countries is 9.5%. Everyone acknowledges the concern, but agreement on a solution, or even on a direction of change, remains elusive.

Dr. Pierson's presentation is particularly timely in the context of rapidly changing developments due to the passage and current implementation of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and the political controversies swirling around it. As a Professor at Columbia University Medical School, a researcher and a practicing physician he has long had an interest in such issues as preventative services, the quality of health care, fairness, cost and availability to all. He is particularly interested in comparing our current employer and insurance company-based medical/health systems with those of other countries, especially those with single payer approaches. He will distribute handouts providing information about the changing medical scene.

A graduate of Princeton and Columbia Medical College, he has been a Clinical Professor at Columbia for the last 45 years. He has served as President of the New York County Medical Society, was a member of the House of Delegates of the AMA, and has been on the Board of Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield. For the past decade, working with the Physicians for a National Health Program, his mission has been Healthcare Reform, a single-payer system for organizing, providing, and paying for healthcare. He has been involved in innumerable peer review and quality assurance agencies in furtherance of his belief that maintaining physician competence beyond initial training and residency is the most positive and effective way to maintain physician proficiency. For relaxation, he partakes in the enjoyment of his six children and twelve grandchildren.

**RMA meetings are free and open to the public; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:30 for our social break (coffee and cake), followed by our speaker at 10:45. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.**