

Annual Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Student Affairs
of the American Association for the History of Medicine

The Ad-Hoc Committee experienced some changes in leadership for the 2007-2008 academic year. Co-chairs Todd Olszewski (Yale University) and Nathan Moon (Georgia Institute of Technology) stepped down from active to advisory roles. Kristen Ehrenberger (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) took over as Chair. And Faculty Advisor Walt Schalick is now of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2007 AAHM Meeting—Recap

By all accounts this was a successful meeting for student members of the AAHM. Thanks go to the Local Advisory Committee and especially to chair George Weisz for securing student-priced accommodations at the Hotel Europa just around the corner from the conference hotel. Last year we also switched from a student breakfast to a student lunch, held off-site on Saturday at the Viet-Thai Palace. Thanks go to LAC student liaison Raul Necochea (McGill University) for doing the footwork. Thirty-two students attended this in/formal event, which Kristen Ehrenberger chaired as a mixture of some business and much socializing and networking.

2007 Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine—Recap

In 2007, the Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine (JASHM) celebrated its fifth year by returning to its birthplace at the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. Abby Markoe and Christine Ruggere, both at the Institute, planned an excellent meeting, which was capped by a roundtable discussion about the use of technology in research and teaching in the history of medicine led by Pierce Salguero, also of the Institute. Thirty-seven students and seven faculty attended. Impressively, so many abstract submissions were received that the acceptance rate dropped to about one third. The Steering Committee for the Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine would like to thank the Sigerist Circle for its generous assistance and financial support in helping to underwrite this conference.

Survey of Students Studying the History of Medicine

Appended to this report is a write-up concerning the on-line survey the Ad-Hoc Committee conducted in October-November 2007. The purpose of the survey was to discern the boundaries of the known community of historians of medicine-in-training and to gauge the extent to which respondents felt connected to their peers. The survey was distributed through the AAHM Student Section and JASHM list-serves (the “known community”) and to directors of graduate study to pass on to their students. We received 57 unique responses with an 84% completion rate at 48 respondents. The write-up concludes that the Student Section’s target audience is doctoral students, mostly in history of medicine or sociology of science departments. About half of the respondents were not AAHM members, which means they are probably not connected to the Student Section. We would like to enhance our outreach to such students so

they can enjoy the benefits of intellectual development, professional networking, and peer socializing the core, “known” group already does.

Committee Mandate (reissued)—Student Section Webpage

Two years ago the Ad-Hoc Committee decided to start a webpage to enable students—especially those in general history departments—to connect with the Student Section. We have resubmitted the page, designed by Nathan Moon, to be a part of the AAHM’s website. In conjunction with the conclusions of the attached survey report, we hope it will increase our visibility.

2008 AAHM Meeting—Plans

In keeping with the venerable tradition of just one year, at the 2008 AAHM meeting in Rochester, LAC chairs Ted Brown and Stephanie Brown Clark secured student-priced accommodations at the Clarion Hotel, across the street from the conference hotel. As in past years we offered to match roommates. This information was distributed via the AAHM newsletter and the AAHM Student Section and H-SCI-MED-TECH listservs. Finally, a second annual Saturday student luncheon was planned by LAC student liaison Brian Simon at the Main Street Bar & Grill for Saturday.

2008 Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine—Announcement

We are pleased to announced that the upcoming JASHM will be held the weekend of September 26-27, 2008, hosted by the Section of the History of Medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine. Julia Irwin (Yale University) is the local arrangements coordinator. The deadline for abstracts is May 15, 2008; further information is available at <http://www.jointatlantic.org>.

Again this year, the Sigerist Circle remains a principal sponsor of the Joint Atlantic Seminar’s activities, and the committee wishes to express its gratitude to Ted Brown and the Circle for its continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Ehrenberger
Chair, AAHM Student Section

Walt Schalick
Faculty Advisor, AAHM Student Section