

## **Committee on Education and Outreach (Mindy Schwartz)**

Education and Outreach Committee

April 2009

submitted by Mindy A. Schwartz

The Education and Outreach Committee met at the Annual Meeting in Rochester, New York in April 2008 and arranged for a routinely scheduled time to meet during future busy meetings, on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:15 am. This routine will allow committee members to have face to face contact to establish the agenda for the coming year.

At the Sunday meeting in Rochester the participants raised several the important issues. The leading discussion was how to grow the membership. The group shared a number of ideas. One suggestion was to discount the registration fee for the meeting for all students who submitted papers for the Osler or Shryock Prizes. While this may seem like picking a small number of low hanging fruit, these talented students have strong potential to find an intellectual home in our organization. They have demonstrated a commitment to scholarship with essays that are often excellent. As a former member of the Osler committee, I recall the struggle we faced in finding a clear prize winner. Many years, the honorable mention winner's papers have been outstanding. Supporting and nurturing these junior colleagues would be a worthwhile investment.

The committee member raised the issue also of a poster session where students present projects and research. This venue might appeal especially to medical students. Many medical schools have incorporated a "scholarly project" requirement for graduation. PowerPoint and poster presentations are a familiar part of undergraduate medical education. This innovation would necessitate new arrangements at the annual meeting. The Committee would like to investigate the possible logistics and the level of interest.

At the meeting in Rochester, the Committee also spoke with Jennifer Gunn about the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Survey the Teaching of History in Medical Schools in the US. For 2009-2010 year, the committee plans to contact interested faculty members at unaffiliated medical schools to increase our visibility and potentially our membership. This may be coupled with a workshop on how to teach history in medical schools -- an exploration of practices and projects that work.

Finally, the group explored the possibility of arranging formal representation for the AAHM at professional historian and medical meetings. Among the organizations discussed were Public History of Medicine, The Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, National History Day, Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, The American College of Physicians and the Society for General Internal Medicine -- to name a few. How to set up a meaningful formal-institutional presence at these meetings remains to be worked out.

As the Education and Outreach Committee plans for the upcoming meeting in Cleveland, we hope to help facilitate the move to make CME, and potentially CNE, credit easily and painlessly integrated with the process of meeting registration. We appreciate the hard work of previous committees and many individuals including Jacalyn Duffin, Paul Berman, and Stephanie Clark Brown in effectively setting up this important

contribution. It is our hope that this will be valuable to present physician members and allow the expansion of the organization among practicing physicians.

The AAHM is an extraordinary, interdisciplinary group of historians, scholars, nurses, archivists, librarians, researchers, students and physicians. It is the hope of this committee to expand our reach and to increase the opportunity for those who are just developing an interest to find fellowship, mentorship and an intellectual home here.