



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The AAHM and the Future of Medical History Libraries

This message reflects a recent conversation I had with a long-time AAHM member from Pennsylvania who expressed grave concern about the future of medical history libraries. Although our discussion focused on two major institutional collections in the Northeast, the issue is pertinent to anyone who has used (or hopes to use) printed materials pertaining to the history of medicine. That is why I decided to create an Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Medical History Libraries. I am grateful to Charles Rosenberg for chairing the committee and to those who agreed to serve on it: Edward Atwater, Elizabeth Fee, Jennifer Gunn, Paul Kligfield, Lisa Mix, John Parascandola, Sally Romano, and Christine Ruggere.

Some of the questions the committee will address include: (1) How important is it that the few remaining major medical history libraries be preserved for the benefit of future scholarship in the history of medicine? (2) What research opportunities are lost when comprehensive collections are dispersed? (3) What types of printed materials are not being captured electronically? Charles Rosenberg and his committee will identify other questions. I asked them to develop a report for the AAHM council by September 1, 2009. The council will review the report promptly and develop a position statement. This president's message provides background on some of the challenges medical history libraries have faced in the past and confront today. An overarching theme is how important are these physical collections with respect to historical research in medicine and health-related fields in the twenty-first century.

The lead article in a 2006 issue of the *Watermark*, the newsletter of the Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS) asked: "What happened at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia?" Challenging financial circumstances and changing institutional priorities led to the abrupt closure of the library and dismissal of key staff members.¹ The library later reopened with a limited schedule and part-time staffing. As I write, their Web site proclaims: "The Historical Medical Library of the College is one of the world's premier research collections in the history of medicine." Yet, as the college (founded in 1787) continues to face economic challenges and reevaluates its mission, the site says the library is open "by appointment only, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:00am to 4pm."² Eighteen hours a week is better than none. But what of the future? Scholars residing in the area and other interested observers (especially past, present, and potential users) are concerned about access to the college's huge historical collections and their ultimate disposition.

Ninety-five miles north, a similar scenario is unfolding in New York City. “The Rare Book and History of Medicine Collections of the New York Academy of Medicine comprise one of the world’s finest research libraries in the history of medicine and public health,” boasts the academy’s Web site. The statement is self-explanatory and illustrates why such a valuable resource must be accessible. On January 12, 2009, this world-class library changed its hours. It is now “open to readers Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. **by appointment only.**” This bold font appears on the Web site and drives home the point about limited access.³ Travel and lodging are expensive, and researchers from a distance will have a lot of down time in New York (or Philadelphia) if their research requires several days. The trajectories of these two unique, society-owned medical history libraries are troubling given current conditions and long-term trends. I am not naïve and am not advocating keeping all institutional medical history collections intact regardless of whether they are accessible or used. The immediate issue relates to the fact that two of our nation’s *biggest* institutional collections are confronting uncertain futures. This has important implications for scholarship.

Medical history collections have faced challenges for two generations as patronage that was so palpable during the first half of the twentieth century waned. Secondary sources provide useful perspective on several interrelated phenomena.^{4,5,6,7} Although a few institutional collections have grown in recent decades, many more have contracted or disappeared. Several factors have strengthened the winds of change, but space constraints preclude listing them here. I have watched all this with special interest as a book collector since 1960 and a book seller since 1972. My historical research and writing have benefited from decades of bibliomania, and my knowledge of books owes much to my passion for medical history. Ironically, my first paper on the intersection of medical history research and book collecting was published three decades ago in the now-defunct *Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*.⁸ My last paper on the subject, published in 1992, did not anticipate the sea change in book collecting and literature searching that would result

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from the rapid development and diffusion of the internet shortly thereafter.⁹

During the past half-century a series of storms have swept across the medical history library landscape, dispersing book collections and leveling or transforming buildings. I am not talking about

“weeding” collections as part of a structured program to focus and strengthen them. My concern is about clearing the land completely and thoughtlessly—and repurposing it forever. Most local and state medical society libraries were eliminated in the past fifty years as usage declined and advocates could not develop compelling arguments for maintaining them. For example, the 200,000 volume library of the Medical Society of the County of Kings and Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn was dissolved in the 1970s. More recently, the library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland was dispersed. Although some books from these collections were acquired by other libraries and collectors, many (probably most) were destroyed.

Even well-conceived programs to consolidate the holdings of several libraries into a central depository with systems to make the materials available in a timely manner have fallen victim to cost concerns. A pioneering program of this sort, The Medical Library Center of New York (MLCNY), collected materials from dozens of libraries in the metropolitan area beginning half a century ago. The collection numbered more than 450,000 volumes when the decision was made in 2003 to shut down the service and disperse the holdings. Erich Meyerhoff, one of the originators of the concept, noted in the center’s obituary that some of its holdings would go to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and others would be “claimed by other academic, research, hospital, and medical society libraries, and MLCNY will be forced to dispose of the remainder.”^{10,11} Dispose is usually a euphemism for destroy in circumstances such as this. It may be that in a few decades the only comprehensive medical history collection in the United States will be at the NLM. Given the nation’s fiscal crisis, we can only hope that lawmakers fund this vital institution at a level that allows it to acquire and preserve materials and make them available to researchers. Elizabeth Fee, Chief of the NLM’s History of Medicine Division, will bring a valuable perspective to the ad hoc committee.

Collections owned by fiscally sound universities are likely to survive longer than those at societies, but the

notion of fiscally sound has been turned on its head in the past few months. As we all know, change can be sudden and severe. Although the functions of medical history libraries and art museums are different, both are tempting targets in times of economic crisis. Brandeis University officials announced in late January that its trustees voted unanimously to close their Rose Art Museum and auction off some 6,000 works of art to avoid deep budget cuts and rebuild their endowment. Surprisingly (or not), the museum’s director and board of overseers were not consulted about the plan. Outcries from donors and others dismayed by the decision forced Brandeis’s president to backpedal a bit. Although the outcome is unknown, the message is clear. The AAHM committee will make recommendations so a similar scenario does not play out in Philadelphia and New York.

Books have been vulnerable objects since Gutenberg set to work in the 15th century. Private and institutional libraries (beginning with manuscripts) have been formed, dispersed, destroyed, and recreated since antiquity. So, why all the fuss now? Medical history collections are especially vulnerable because our field of shared interest is so small. Despite its attraction to readers of this newsletter, medical history (defined broadly) is an under-populated, under-appreciated, and under-funded area. Historical scholarship relies on a wide range of published and unpublished sources, some of which are under siege as concerns about space, staff, and expenses continue to increase. Two key elements of what seems to be a perfect storm are economics and electronics. English author William Blades published an expanded edition of *The Enemies of Books* in 1888. His chapter titles were concise: Fire; Water; Gas and Heat; Dust and Neglect; Ignorance and Bigotry; Bookbinders; Servants and Children; The Bookworm; and Other Vermin. Also a printer and a scholar of typography, Blades would marvel at printing technologies developed in the twentieth century.¹² If he were alive to produce a new edition of *The Enemies of Books* for a twenty-first century audience, he would have to include chapters on the profound impact of microfilm (already obsolete) and the Internet (suddenly omnipresent).¹³

Technologies have preserved *and* posed threats to medical history collections for decades. Librarian-historian Martha Gnudi wrote in 1964, “In this atomic age when mechanized information retrieval is seen as the only solution to future bibliographic control of the wildly proliferating literature it might seem to some that the collection, preservation, and use of ‘rare books’ and historical source materials require either explanation or defense.”¹⁴ I discussed this at the 1982 ALHHS meeting. “In a given institution,” I argued, “there may be one or two faculty members or administrators who are sensitive to the needs of the history of medicine collection and those individuals charged with its care. This is obviously a precarious situation. Should the supportive dean or faculty person retire, move to another institution or expire, the history of medicine collection may lose a vital friend or patron.” I concluded, “The unique institutional resource you administer must be preserved and its value acknowledged. Administrators within your library or institution may question the relevance of historical materials in this age of financial uncertainty. By forming a coalition among interested individuals of diverse backgrounds and by heightening the awareness of those within your institution and community to the contents of your collection you can most likely survive and perhaps even thrive in this challenging decade.”¹⁵

AAHM’s immediate past president John Parascandola presented a paper on the early development of medical libraries in America at a 1986 symposium on the “Past, Present, and Future of Biomedical Information” celebrating the NLM’s 150th anniversary.¹⁶ Stanford physician and computer scientist Edward Shortliffe spoke on the emergence of the “discipline” of medical informatics. Ironically, he argued that one thing retarding the growth of the field was that it was “viewed in health science schools as a ‘fringe’ activity, the clinical relevance of which is not appreciated.”¹⁶ Medical history libraries, always considered fringy by all but a few, face the prospect of having what little fringe remains trimmed away as accountants and administrators ask legitimate questions about usage and costs. I believe the AAHM must add its voice to those of individuals concerned

about how decisions to disperse major medical history collections will affect opportunities for research and related scholarly activities. The committee chaired by Charles Rosenberg will provide the council with a script, and I thank them in advance for their effort.

Fortunately, our membership numbers are relatively stable, but the long-term trend is negative. Meanwhile, there are many hopeful signs. The display of new books at the recent meeting in Rochester, New York demonstrated the scope and significance of scholarship in the history of medicine. In addition to these visible products of historical endeavor, much is going on behind the scenes in terms of teaching and mentoring. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the AAHM will provide valuable input to those charged with leading the association. The ultimate outcome—based on cross-talk between the committee, the officers, and the council—will be a strategic plan designed to help transform a great organization into one that is ever better. I welcome your thoughts on the present status and future prospects of the association. (fye.bruce@mayo.edu)

W. Bruce Fye,
AAHM President

Notes

1. What happened at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia? *Watermark* 29 (no. 3), 2006, 57-58.
2. www.collphyphil.org/index.asp and www.collphyphil.org/library.asp. Accessed 2 February 2009.
3. “Historical Collections,” www.nyam.org/initiatives/imhist.shtml and www.nyam.org/library/pages/hours Accessed 3 February 2009.
4. Thomas E. Keys. Representative Medical Libraries in the United States. Chapter 13. In *Applied Medical Library Practice*. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, 1958, 190-257.
5. Jack D. Key & Thomas E. Keys, eds. *Classics and Other Selected Readings in Medical Librarianship*. Huntington NY: Robert E. Krieger Pub. Co., 1980.

6. John L. Thornton. *Medical Books, Libraries, and Collectors*. 2nd ed. London: Andre Deutsch, 1966.

7. Andrew Hunter ed. *Thornton and Tully's Scientific Books, Libraries, and Collectors*. 4th ed. Brookfield VT: Ashgate, 2000.

8. W. Bruce Fye. "Collecting Medical Books: Practical and Theoretical Considerations with an Annotated Bibliography," *Trans. Stud. Coll. Physicians Phila.* 4th ser. 1 (no. 4), 1979, 305-323.

9. W. Bruce Fye. Medical books collecting: A retrospect and a forecast. *N. J. Med.* 89, 1992, 835-841.

10. Erich Meyerhof. The Medical Library Center of New York: An experiment in cooperative acquisitions and storage of medical library materials. *Bull. Med. Libr. Assoc.* 51, 1963, 501-506.

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13. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., [Dust wrapper blurb]. Nicholson Baker. *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper*. New York: Random House, 2001.

14. Martha T. Gnudi. The rare book and history of medicine section in a university medical library. *Bull. Med. Libr. Assoc.* 52, 1964, 524-544.

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16. John Parascandola. The early development of medical libraries in America. In: *Past, Present, and Future of Biomedical Information*. Bethesda, MD: National Library of Medicine, 1987, 5-15.

17. Edward H. Shortliffe. Medical informatics: The emergence of a discipline. In: *Past, Present, and Future of Biomedical Information*. Bethesda, MD: National Library of Medicine, 1987, 73-87.

AAHM NEWS

AAHM Cleveland 2009

On behalf of the 2009 Local Arrangements Committee, we would like to invite everyone to join us for the upcoming 82nd Annual Meeting of the AAHM in Cleveland, Ohio from 23-26 April 2009. Cleveland is mid-sized city situated at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River on the shores of Lake Erie. Once a colossus of heavy industry and belching smokestacks, Cleveland today is home to distinguished cultural and arts institutions ranging from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to the Cleveland Museum of Art. The city hosts two leading medical centers, the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals Case Medical Center, as well as major league sports in baseball, basketball, and football. Nearby University Circle comprises a unique array of cultural, arts, and educational institutions surrounding the campus of Case Western Reserve University.

One of the great things about Cleveland is its livability and affordability. Cleveland and Pittsburgh topped a recent list of most livable cities in the U.S., according to a survey by *The Economist*. Those of us who live and work here, particularly in University Circle, can attest to that. Many of us live in adjacent streetcar suburbs of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, communities laid out along tram lines before the automobile dictated the shape of our cities. They offer a relaxed pace with ample eateries and antique shops, and outstanding public library systems. If you have transportation, we recommend the commercial hubs of Larchmere Road., Coventry Road, and the Cedar-Lee and Cedar-Coventry areas. Favorite eateries range from down-home, but superb, bar food at Brennan's Colony Restaurant, as well as Japanese, Turkish, and Italian restaurants, all on Lee, along with the best cinema in greater Cleveland, the Cedar Lee Theater. Nearby we can also recommend the gritty

Academy Tavern on Larchmere, while Coventry is home to Japanese, Thai, Chinese, and Tommy's vegetarian, as well as sports bars, and the Cedar Lee area features LAC favorites including NightTown and Aladdins. Gosh, you'd think that all we do is eat around here! A fuller listing of Cleveland restaurants will be with the printed material in your conference bag. There you will also find information about sports, theater, concerts, and the like that will be available in Cleveland during your visit here.

The venue for the 82nd Annual Meeting will be the InterContinental Cleveland Hotel at 9801 Carnegie Avenue, just a ten-minute walk to University Circle cultural institutions. You are urged to stay at this hotel since we have reserved a block of rooms and the AAHM is financially responsible for rooms left empty. Please reserve your room as early as possible. The InterContinental has two fine restaurants, the North Coast Café and Table 45, and very ample and diverse food courts are located in Cleveland Clinic buildings H and A, accessible from the InterContinental by the third floor enclosed skyway connecting the principal Clinic facilities. See the Cleveland Clinic map for locations my.clevelandclinic.org/Documents/Corporate/Campus_Map08.pdf

Your Host: The Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum

Situated within a university setting, the Dittrick Medical History Center and Museum is today thoroughly integrated into the intellectual life and learning experience of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). It hasn't always been so. Despite being located on a university campus since 1926, the Dittrick was originally part of a separate body, the Cleveland Medical Library Association (CMLA). The Dittrick originated in 1899 the behest of the surgeon Dudley Peter Allen. A native of Oberlin, Ohio, and a graduate of Harvard Medical School, Allen wrote on the medical heritage of the Western Reserve (the northeast corner of the Ohio) as early as 1886. He developed a lifelong fascination with the history of

medicine and instituted the Historical Committee (read: decorating committee) of the CMLA in 1899.

Allen's widow, Elizabeth Severance, funded the construction of the elegant library building that is home to the CMLA collections and the Dittrick, which opened its doors in 1926. Howard Dittrick, after graduating from the University of Toronto, came to Cleveland to study with gynecologist Hunter Robb. Dittrick chose to stay in Cleveland and became active in the CMLA. He curated the nascent museum and must be credited with building up the remarkable medical artifact collections, which today rank as the largest holdings of 19th and early 20th century American surgical instruments. Dittrick did so with almost no budget or staff, and he even witnessed the occupation of the museum gallery by the rare book collection of the Surgeon General's Library (originally a wartime expediency) from 1943 to 1960.

Dittrick died in 1954 and in a few years Genevieve Miller became director and presided over the Dittrick becoming part of CWRU in 1966, when the CMLA affiliated with the university. Genevieve also taught medical history and is credited as the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in the history of medicine in America. Patsy Gerstner, a historian of science, followed Genevieve and implemented professional museum practices, and presided over a museum studies M.A. program through the CWRU History Department. But only in 1998 did the Dittrick become a department of the College of Arts and Sciences of CWRU and the baton passed from Patsy Gerstner to Jim Edmonson, a historian of technology with museum training who had joined the Dittrick in 1981.

In the past decade we have put our house in order by installing new exhibits throughout the Allen and Dittrick, which you will see when the AAHM multitude comes to the Allen for the Garrison Lecture. We have also renovated collection storage, freeing up space for a more ambitious educational program for the museum. Teaching and instruction at the Dittrick is conducted in collaboration with university faculty; their classes meet in the museum's Zverina Room and use museum resources in the form of artifacts, images, archives, and rare books. In

addition to exhibition and education, we continue to make important additions to our rare books, artifacts, images, and archives. The most notable collections added recently include the Percy Skuy Collection on the History of Contraception and the M. Donald Blafox Collection of Diagnostic Instruments. To showcase these and other collections we offer the Zverina Lecture each fall and the Handerson Lecture each spring. And like our peer institutions, the Web has played a key role in bringing our collections to wider audiences, and we encourage you to pay a visit to our site (simply Google: Dittrick).

Tips from the Local Arrangements Committee

Weather: Cleveland can be pretty unpredictable in the Spring although we generally see temperatures in the low to mid-50s accompanied by cloudy skies and rain. Nature may surprise us with warm, spring-like weather. The conference hotel is connected to the Cleveland Clinic by a skyway, so you won't have to go outside for a quick bite to eat. However, we will be traveling a short distance for the Garrison Lecture and other planned events, so think layers! And don't forget to check with the Weather Channel as we get closer to the meeting date.

Ground Transportation: Cleveland Hopkins International Airport is 15 miles from University Circle (about a 19 minute drive). For transportation from the airport to the InterContinental Hotel, please call Aqua Limo at (440) 808-2782 in advance of your travels to reserve a shuttle. Please mention that you are attending the AAHM meeting and they will give you a special conference rate.

Hotels: The conference hotel is the InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center. A small block of rooms has also been reserved at the InterContinental Suites, 8800 Euclid Avenue. Reservations for both hotels must be made online via the AAHM Web site.

Alternative hotels are available in University Circle and surrounding suburbs. Reservations can be made by calling the hotels directly.

Glidden House, 1901 Ford Drive (216) 231-8900 www.gliddenhouse.com. An impressive mansion built in 1910, Glidden House is a bed & breakfast hotel conveniently located within walking distance to all University Circle attractions.

University Circle Bed and Breakfast, 1575 East 108th Street, (216) 721-8968 www.ucbnb.com. This turn-of-the-century home features five bedrooms, whirlpools, private baths, a steam room, fireplace and beautiful living room.

Alcazar, 2450 Derbyshire Road, (216) 321-5400 www.thealcazar.com. The Alcazar is a celebrated anchor in Cleveland Heights' historic Cedar-Fairmount district, a street-scale walking neighborhood of green space; elegant, architect-designed homes of the 1920s; student apartments; new condos; and more than 100 retail establishments and professional service providers.

Baricelli Inn, 2203 Cornell Road, (216) 791-6500 www.baricelli.com. Located in the heart of Cleveland's cultural center, the Baricelli Inn is a turn of the century landmark in University Circle. This unique and beautiful brownstone mansion offers guests an award-winning dining experience and exceptional overnight accommodations.

Restaurants: These restaurants and many more are listed on the University Circle Web site www.universitycircle.org.

Near or in the Conference Hotel

Citrus Café (located in the InterContinental Suites), 8800 Euclid Avenue, (216) 707-4300. Casual dining featuring modern American cuisine.

North Coast Cafe (located in the InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center) 9801 Carnegie Avenue. The upbeat mood in the North Coast Café is a great way to start the morning or refuel in the middle of a busy day. If you can't decide what to order from the casual dining menu, you can sample the international buffet and carving station that change daily. Fresh

pasta is made every day and served with your choice of sauces, and the homemade desserts are irresistible. The Sunday brunch is a Cleveland favorite.

Table 45 (located in the InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center), 9801 Carnegie Avenue. In Table 45, Cleveland's own Zack Bruell tantalizes the senses with "world cuisine" inspired by cultures across the globe. Saigon Crab and Avocado Wrap, homemade Tandoori Naan with Three Dipping Sauces, and Vietnamese Pho are on the groundbreaking menu presented in seven diverse dining zones. At the Chef's Table for eight, you'll watch the culinary team in action in an open kitchen and even communicate with them via microphone to learn about preparation techniques, seasonings and wine pairings.

University Circle

Maxi's Bar and Grill, 12113 Mayfield Road, (216) 421-1500. Pizza, pasta, steaks, seafood, and cocktails.

Marketplace, 10900 Euclid Avenue, (216) 368-3917. Subway, soup station, salads, and grill.

Mi Pueblo, 11611 Euclid Avenue, (216) 791-8226. Mexican food.

L'Albatros Brasserie and Bar, 11401 Bellflower Road, (216) 791-7880. The newest chic eatery to hit the University Circle restaurant scene is now open for lunch and dinner. Owned by chef Zack Bruell, whose other restaurants include Parallax and Table 45, L'Albatros's menu features contemporary French cuisine.

Sergio's in University Circle, 1903 Ford Drive, (216) 231-1234. Mediterranean-inspired dishes with an emphasis on seafood. Sergio's favorite Brazilian, Asian, and classic dishes round out the menu.

Stages at The Cleveland Play House, 8501 Carnegie Avenue, (216) 795-1111. Stages at The Cleveland Play House is located on the Carnegie Avenue side of the Cleveland Play House. Newly renovated in the former Play House Club space, this exciting new restaurant features a creative menu, piano entertainment prior to

the Cleveland Play House productions, and special musical events.

Uptowne Grill, 11312 Euclid Avenue, (216) 229-9711. American, French, Spanish, Italian, and Moroccan-inspired menu.

Little Italy

Part of University Circle but has a life of its own. Little Italy is a short distance from the Conference Hotel.

Michelangelo's, 2198 Murray Hill Road, (216) 721-0300. Exquisite Italian cuisine.

Presti's Bakery, 12101 Mayfield Road, (216) 421-3060. Cannoli, doughnuts, soups, sandwiches, stromboli, bruschetta, pizza, desserts, coffee & espresso.

Mama Santa's Restaurant and Pizzeria, 12305 Mayfield Road, (216) 0231-9567. Homemade Sicilian-style pizza and pastas at inexpensive prices.

Cleveland Events in April 2009

Cleveland Orchestra: April 23rd and April 25th at 8:00 p.m. Sir Colin David, Conductor; Mitsuko Uchida, piano: Berloiz's "Beatrice and Benedict" Overture, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25, Sibelius' Symphony No. 2. To order tickets call (216) 231-1111 or (800) 686-1141, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. www.clevelandorchestra.com.

Cleveland Indians Baseball:

April 21-23 Cleveland vs. Kansas City Royals
 April 24-26 Cleveland vs. Minnesota Twins
 April 27-29 Cleveland vs. Boston Red Sox
 Call Ticketmaster at (866) 488-7423 for game times and tickets or go www.clevelandindians.mlb.com.

Cleveland Museum of Art: Call (216) 421-7340 or 877-262-4748 or go to www.clevelandart.org. Tues., Thurs., Sat., Sun. 10-5; Wed., Fri. 10-9; Closed Mon. Special Exhibitions: Art and Power in the Central African Savanna, 1 March-31 May 2009. See 60 central African sculptures whose original purpose was to

carry power between the human and spirit worlds. Admission free. Friedlander 1 March-31 May 2009. The iconic and witty American photographer Lee Friedlander is celebrated in this expansive retrospective of more than 350 images. Admission free.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History: Call (800) 317-9155 for information or go to www.cmnh.org
Special Exhibition: Making Faces: The Art and Science of Forensic Facial Reconstruction, 28 February-14 June 2009.

Cleveland Botanical Gardens and the Eleanor Strong Smith Glasshouse: Call (216) 721.1600 or (888) 853.7091 for information or go to www.cb garden.org

Cleveland Play House: Call (216) 795-7000 or go to www.clevelandplayhouse.com Thornton Wilder's "Heaven's My Destination." Adapted by Lee Blessing. Directed by Michael Bloom. Drury Theatre, 24 April-17 May 2009. The world premier adaptation of a brilliant comic novel from the author of *Our Town*.

Playhouse Square: Purchase tickets by phone (216) 241-6000 or (866) 546-1353 or go to www.playhousesquare.com. Direct from Broadway, *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy* is an exotic encounter inspired by nature's unpredictable creations that are brought to life by an international cast of 25 soaring aerialists, spine-bending contortionists, acrobats, jugglers, and musicians.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum: (216) 781-ROCK or go to www.rockhall.com. Opening 4 April: "From Asbury Park to the Promised Land: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen." This will be the first major artifact-driven exhibit about Springsteen's legendary career. It will be a comprehensive look at his music, from such early bands as Child, the Castiles and Steel Mill through his work with the E Street Band and as a solo artist.

Nominating Committee

The report of the AAHM Nominating Committee from AAHM Nominating Committee Chair Allan Brandt appears on page 23. Biographies for the nominated candidates appear below.

Christopher Crenner received a B.A. in Classics from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in the History of Science with an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He currently holds the Robert Hudson and Ralph Major Chair in the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine at the University of Kansas (KU) School of Medicine, where he is associate professor of the history of medicine and of medicine. He presently also serves as Co-Chair of the KU Hospital Ethics Committee. He has previously served as book review editor for the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*. His research examines the ways that systems of medical knowledge, especially biomedical sciences, relate to conventional medical practice. His book, *Private Practice* (2005), investigates the history of doctor-patient interactions using the daily records of private medical practice from the influential, early twentieth-century physician, Richard Cabot. Crenner became a member of the AAHM in 1990 and has served on a number of committees, including co-chairing Local Arrangements in 2002. He has recently held by appointment the position of Secretary-Treasurer from Fall 2007 through 2008 and the position of Secretary in 2009 pending the current election.

Margaret Marsh received her Ph.D. in U.S. History from Rutgers University and began her academic career at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, rising from assistant to full professor. She moved to Temple University in 1991, where she developed the Ph.D. concentration in Women's History and served as department chair. In 1998 she came to Rutgers-Camden as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School. She now serves as Interim Chancellor and is also a Professor of History. Her first two books, *Anarchist Women* (1981) and *Suburban Lives* (1990), dealt with issues of women and gender. In 1988 she began collaborating with her sister,

Wanda Ronner, M.D., in the history of reproductive medicine and technology. Together they have written two books, *The Empty Cradle: Infertility in America from Colonial Times to the Present* (1996) and *The Fertility Doctor: John Rock and the Reproductive Revolution* (2008), both funded by major multi-year grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and published by Johns Hopkins University Press. She joined the AAHM in 1990 and has been an active member ever since, serving as a member, then as chair of the Finance Committee, and as a member of the ad hoc Committee to Endow our Prizes.

Carla C. Keirns holds a B.A. in Biological Sciences from Cornell University, an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.A. and Ph.D., in History & Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania, and an M.S. in Health & Health Care Research from the University of Michigan where she is completing a fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. Her research and publications have been in the area of the history of bioethics, genetics, and asthma, and contemporary work on health disparities and disease classification. She is currently completing a book on the history and historical demography of asthma since the 1820s. She joined the AAHM in 1995, and has served as a member of the committee on meetings and as chair of the clinician-historian program.

Gerald M. Oppenheimer holds a B.A. in history from City College, City University of New York and an M.A. and Ph.D. in European history from the University of Chicago. While an NIH postdoctoral fellow in epidemiology, he earned an M.P.H. from Columbia University. He is currently a professor in the Department of History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York and a Broeklundian Distinguished Professor at Brooklyn College. In addition, he is a member of Columbia University's Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health. His research and publications have focused on the history of, and policy questions raised by, epidemiology and epidemics. He is co-author of *AIDS Doctors: Voices from the Epidemic* and *Shattered Dreams? An Oral History of the South African AIDS Epidemic*, and co-editor of *Drug Policy: Illicit Drugs in a*

Free Society. At present, he is studying the history of coronary heart disease epidemiology in the United States since 1945. Oppenheimer has been a member of the AAHM since 1997.

Heather Munro Prescott received her undergraduate degree in Comparative Religion, summa cum laude, from the University of Vermont in 1984. She received her M.A. (1989) and Ph.D. (1994) in Science & Technology Studies from Cornell University. She joined the faculty at Central Connecticut State University in that year. Prescott's teaching interests include recent U.S. history, U.S. women's history, and the history of medicine and public health. Her first book, *A Doctor of Their Own* (1998) received the Will Solimene Award of Excellence in Medical Communication from the New England Chapter, American Medical Writers Association. She recently completed her second monograph, *Student Bodies: The Impact of Student Health on American Society and Medicine*. She is working on a new project on the history of emergency contraception, which is under contract with Rutgers University Press. Prescott has been a member of AAHM since 1990 and has coordinated the women's breakfast for the past three years. She has also served on the Welch Medal committee and the Shryock Award committee.

Sarah W. Tracy holds an A.B. from Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges in History and Science and an M.A. and Ph.D. in the History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania. She held a three-year NIMH postdoctoral fellowship in the history of mental health at the Rutgers University Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, and has received research fellowships from the Francis C. Wood Institute, the National Library of Medicine, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Before assuming her position(s) at the University of Oklahoma Honors College and College of Medicine in 1999, Tracy taught at the Universities of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and at Yale. Since arriving at Oklahoma, she has built a Medical Humanities B.A./M.D. Program and created a Medical Humanities minor. She oversees both programs, while teaching courses in the history of medicine, bioethics, sociology of science, and food studies. A visiting

associate professor in the Harvard History of Science Department last spring, Tracy also served as the 2007/08 chair of the Group on Combined B.A./M.D. Programs of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Tracy's publications include a co-edited volume with Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000* (2004) and a monograph *Alcoholism in America from Reconstruction to Prohibition* (2005). Tracy is currently writing a biography of nutritional physiologist and cardiovascular epidemiologist Ancel Keys. She has been an active member of the AAHM since 1992.

Split of the AAHM Secretary/Treasurer Position

This Newsletter includes a report from the Nominating Committee that recommends a slate of candidates for consideration at our annual business meeting on 25 April 2009 in Cleveland. You will see that the positions of secretary and treasurer have been split and are held respectively by Chris Crenner and Margaret Marsh. This change represents a response to the current challenging economic conditions as well as an acknowledgment that the responsibilities had grown too large for one individual. Our By-Laws (Article III., Section 1) specify that Secretary and Treasurer are two separate positions that *may* be held by one person. The officers and council discussed the situation late last year and voted unanimously to accept my recommendation to appoint Margaret Marsh to the position of Treasurer effective 1 January 2009. Margaret is Interim Chancellor and Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers University-Camden. I was delighted that she was willing to assume this position because she has done an excellent job as chair of the AAHM Committee on Finance. Margaret's appointment as treasurer triggered a series of changes on that committee. Jim Bono accepted my invitation to become chair, and Hughes Evans accepted my invitation to fill the vacancy created by Margaret's departure from the committee. Bert Hansen will continue to serve on the committee. I want to thank Chris Crenner for his dedication during his tenure as secretary-treasurer and

am very pleased that he will continue to serve as secretary. As noted above, these positions will be brought to the members for a vote following the report of the Nominating Committee in April.

W. Bruce Fye
AAHM President

History of Psychiatry Discussion Group

The History of Psychiatry Discussion Group will meet during the annual AAHM meeting in Cleveland on Thursday, 23 April 2009 in Room 207 of the conference hotel, The Intercontinental Hotel from 7:30-9:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Phil Teigen retired from the National Library of Medicine on 31 December 2008, after twenty-four years as Deputy Chief of the History of Medicine Division. Before moving to Bethesda, he was the Osler Librarian at McGill University, Montreal. His recent article, "Legislating Fear and the Public Health in Gilded Age Massachusetts" (*J. Hist. Med.* 2007, 62:141-170), won the 2008 Stanley W. Jackson Prize.

John Parascandola has been selected to receive the George Pendleton Prize for 2008 from the Society for the History of the Federal Government for his book, *Sex, Sin, and Science: A History of Syphilis in America* (Praeger, 2008).

Ronald E. Batt, professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the University at Buffalo and a member of AAHM since 1972, has been awarded a Ph.D. in History at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. Written under the direction of Professor **James J. Bono**, his dissertation is entitled: *Emergence of Endometriosis in North America: A Study in the History of Ideas*.

Naomi Rogers has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Section of the History of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine. At Yale she teaches in the Program in the History of

Science and Medicine and in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

Richard B. Davis, Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska, has established the Richard B. Davis, M.D., Ph.D., McGoogan Library Lectureship Fund to support a significant annual lecture on the history of medicine.

Constance Putnam, an Independent Scholar in Concord, MA, gave an invited lecture at the University of Bern's Institut für Medizingeschichte (Institute for Medical History) in Switzerland, in October 2008. The title of her talk, given in German, was "Semmelweis im Kontext." In February 2009, she presented "Semmelweis's Argument with the English Contagionists" as part of this year's seminar series at the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing in Philadelphia.

OBITUARIES

Whitfield Jenks Bell, Jr., 1914-2009

Whitfield Jenks Bell, Jr., died in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on 2 January 2009, at age 94. His intellectual interests were wide, but his center was the 18th century. On more than one occasion he remarked that he discovered the 18th century in graduate school, and never left.

Graduating from Dickinson College in 1935, Whit enrolled in Dickinson School of Law, but a year later, after he found he was more interested in reading history books than law books, left law school and entered the history department at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving his Ph.D. in 1947. The title of his dissertation was *Science and Humanity in Philadelphia, 1775-1790*, and its advisor was Richard Shryock. Whit started teaching part time at Dickinson before World War II, then full time after, and was by 1950 appointed to the Boyd Lee Spahr Chair of American History. During his career he also taught at William and Mary, Yale, and Pennsylvania.

Weak eyesight kept Whit out of the military during the War, but he volunteered as an ambulance driver

for the Quaker American Field Service. In April 1945 he was with Allied troops in Germany when they liberated Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where he assisted survivors and removed the unburied dead.

In 1954 Whit resigned from the professorship to work at Yale University on the Papers of Benjamin Franklin, a project developed by Yale and the American Philosophical Society. As associate editor, Whit saw the publication of the first five volumes of the series, becoming in the process a first rate Franklin scholar. It was the first of several editorial projects Whit later helped to get underway. After he moved to the American Philosophical Society, they included the Joseph Henry papers and the Darwin papers. A feature of many of Whit's projects is that they enabled other scholars to do their work: *Early American Science: Needs and Opportunities for Studies* (1955, republished 1971); *Guide to the Archives and Manuscript Collections of the American Philosophical Society* (1966, with the late Murphy Smith); "Editing a Scientist's Papers" (*Isis*, 1962).

The permanent move to the APS happened in 1961, when Whit was hired as Associate Librarian, working with Librarian Richard Shryock. At the APS, he served in every imaginable capacity, the most important being Librarian (1966-1980) and Executive Officer (1977-1983). During his tenure the library's holdings in the history of science and in 18th century material greatly increased. Elected to the APS in 1964, Whit received its Franklin Medal in 1984 for distinguished service to the Society.

To the history of medicine Whit contributed a great deal. Among his works were *John Morgan: Continental Doctor* (1965); *The Colonial Physician and Other Essays* (1975); and *The College of Physicians of Philadelphia: A Bicentennial History* (1987). He was elected an Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians in 1967. Among Whit's services to the AAHM were as editor of the *Bibliography of the History of Medicine* (1948-1953) and as President (1970-71). He delivered the Garrison Lecture in 1969 and received the Welch Medal in 1966 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996.

During the course of his career, Whit wrote dozens of articles, presented numerous talks and papers, and served on many boards and committees. He never compiled a list, in part one thinks due to his unflinching modesty, but also because, in those more informal times, he never needed a c.v. But to his profession there was no doubt about his dedication. On vacation in Europe he would visit libraries, universities, and private dwellings, arranging for the microfilming, photocopying, or donation of collection material. From his visits to booksellers he would send the library 18th-century books, buying from memory what the APS needed, rarely purchasing a duplicate.

Whit's last project was the creation of a biographical dictionary of early APS members. Conceived as far back as the 1960s, two volumes of *Patriot-Improvers* appeared in the 1990s. The third volume is slated to appear in 2009.

The APS will hold a memorial service for Whit Bell at its Spring Meeting, 23 April 2009.

Charles Greifenstein
American Philosophical Society

Renate Wilson (1930-2008)

Renate Wilson, age 78, died of cancer on 7 December 2008. Dr. Wilson, a longtime adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, was well-known for her research on the history of medicine and cross-cultural studies of health services. A graduate of Humboldt University, she had an early career as an actress in German films. In 1951, under her maiden name Renate Fischer, she played the female lead in "Der Untertan," a satirical look at nationalism in Germany based on the novel by Heinrich Mann. In 1957, she married Max William Wilson, a Haitian studying philosophy in Berlin, and immigrated to the United States almost a decade later.

Dr. Wilson received her doctorate in history from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1988. She was a Fulbright Fellow and the author of *Pious Traders in Medicine: A German Pharmaceutical Network in Eighteenth-*

Century North America (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000). This book received the 2001 Kremers Award from the Institute for the History of Pharmacy. An indefatigable researcher, Dr. Wilson was an editor of the digital resource, www.accesspadr.org/cpp/sitetemplates/about_debenneville.html

The Manuscripts of George de Benneville and Abraham Wagner, two eighteenth-century works that illuminate the therapeutic practices of two dispensing physicians in the multilingual colonial medical market of rural Pennsylvania. Dr. Wilson held the Thyssen fellowship for historical studies of cross-cultural medical care in 2008 and also co-edited with Jürgen Helm, the collection of essays entitled *Medical Theory and Therapeutic Practice in the Eighteenth Century: A Transatlantic Perspective* published by Franz Steiner in 2008.

Christine Ruggere
Johns Hopkins University

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES CORNER

The Society of Medical History and Humanities of Chicago

Spring lectures of the Society of Medical History and Humanities of Chicago start at 6:15 p.m. and are preceded by a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. Lectures are held at the Hektoen Institute, 2100 W. Harrison Street in Chicago. Free Parking. Cost: \$15 per person. Call Phyllis Wheeler to RSVP at (312) 948-2520. For further information check the Society's Web site www.hektoen.org/programs_smhhc.html.

March 3, 2009, **Suzanne Poirier**, Ph.D., Associate Professor Emerita, Medical Humanities, University of Illinois in Chicago, "Stories Out of School: Memoirs of Medical Education."

April 7, 2009, **Philip Liebson**, M.D., Rush Univ. Medical Center, "Rats, Lice, Zinsser & Rockefeller."

May 5, 2009, **Andrew Griffin**, M.D., Co-Director Pediatric Cardiology, University of Illinois Campus at Chicago, "Medical Ethics and Pediatric Cardiology."

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

Yale University invites applications for a two year postdoctoral fellowship in the Section of the History of Medicine, School of Medicine, beginning 1 July 2009. Historians working on any geographic area of the history of medicine since 1800 are encouraged to apply, but preference will be given to applicants whose primary research interests are in the history of women's health or in the history of health advocacy.

The fellow will interact with faculty and graduate students in the Yale Program in the History of Science and Medicine, and will teach a one-semester undergraduate course in Yale College each year. The fellowship provides a salary of \$44,500 plus health benefits, and an annual research stipend of \$3,000. The successful applicant must have completed the Ph.D. degree before 1 July 2009. The fellowship is open to all candidates regardless of citizenship. Yale University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and actively encourages applications from minority and women scholars.

Applications should be submitted via e-mail to ewa.lech@yale.edu with the subject heading POSTDOC. Applicants must submit (MS Word or PDF) a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and writing sample (an article for publication or section from the dissertation), and the names of three people who have agreed to write a letter of recommendation. The deadline for submission is 1 March 2009, but applications will be considered on a rolling basis as they are received, and, therefore, applicants are encouraged to submit as soon as possible.

Contact information: Professor Naomi Rogers c/o Ewa Lech, Section of the History of Medicine Yale University School of Medicine, P.O. Box 208015 L130 Sterling Hall of Medicine, 333 Cedar Street New Haven, CT 06520-8015; ewa.lech@yale.edu.

The Historical Library of the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library at Yale University is pleased to announce the second annual research travel grant for use of the Historical

Library. The award honors Ferenc A. Gyorgyey, Historical Librarian emeritus.

The Historical Library holds one of the country's largest collections of rare medical books, journals, prints, photographs, and pamphlets. It was founded in 1941 by the donations of the extensive collections of Harvey Cushing, John F. Fulton, and Arnold C. Klebs. Special strengths are the works of Hippocrates, Galen, Vesalius, Boyle, Harvey, Culpeper, Haller, Priestley, and S. Weir Mitchell, and works on anesthesia, and on inoculation and vaccination for smallpox. The Library owns over fifty medieval and renaissance manuscripts, Arabic and Persian manuscripts, and over 300 medical incunabula. The notable Clements C. Fry Collection of Prints and Drawings has over 2,000 fine prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present on medical subjects. Although the Historical Library does not house the official archives of the Medical School, it does own a number of manuscript collections, most notably the Peter Parker Collection, papers of Harvey Cushing, and the John Fulton diaries and notebooks.

The travel grant is available to historians, medical practitioners, and other researchers who wish to use the collections of the Historical Library. There is a single award of up to \$1,500 for one week of research during the academic fiscal year 2009-2010 (1 July-30 June). Applicants should send a curriculum vitae and a description of the project including the relevance of the collections of the Historical Library to the project and two references attesting to the particular project. An application form can be found at www.med.yale.edu/library/historical/travelaward.html. Applications are due by 20 March 2009. Requests for further information should be sent to: Toby Anita Appel at toby.appel@yale.edu

Application forms for the 2009-2010 **Paul Klemperer Fellowship in the History of Medicine** are posted on the New York Academy of Medicine Web site. Information about the fellowship may be found at: www.nyam.org/grants/history.shtml. Questions about the fellowship may be directed to: Arlene Shaner, Assistant Curator and Reference Librarian for Historical Collections, The New York Academy of

Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029; (212) 822-7313; (212) 423-0273; ashaner@nyam.org; www.nyam.org.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research fund highly-qualified individuals to undertake broad studies of the most challenging health policy issues facing America. We will award approximately ten grants of up to \$335,000 each to investigators from a variety of disciplines to support projects that combine creative and conceptual thinking with innovative, policy-relevant approaches.

We welcome applications from investigators in the health, social and behavioral sciences, as well as other fields. We seek a diverse group of applicants, including minorities, early-career investigators, and individuals who work in nonacademic settings such as research firms and policy organizations. Applicants must be affiliated either with educational institutions or with 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located in the United States or its territories. Past Investigator Awardees are ineligible to apply. Letter of Intent Deadline: 25 March 2009. The complete call for applications is available at www.investigatorsaward.org.

The U.S. Health Left History Center is pleased to announce the availability of the **Lear Fellowship for Medical History Students** to further the investigation of the history of U.S. health activism using the U.S. Health Activism History Collection at the University of Pennsylvania Rare Book and Manuscript Library as well as other relevant resources. Two fellowships of \$1,000 will be awarded. If the fellow is not in commuting distance of Philadelphia, the documented costs of travel and two weeks residence will also be defrayed (maximum \$2,000). In addition to conducting research, fellows will submit a report of the research completed no later than one year after receipt of the fellowship.

Applicants must have been or be enrolled in a college/university degree program. Deadline for the receipt of applications is 1 July. Applications (both

PDF and hard copy) must include: a project description of no more than three double-spaced pages in 12-point font indicating the purpose and methodology of the research and historical materials to be consulted; preference will be given to projects that are likely to be useful to current and future U.S. health activists; a curriculum vitae of no more than two pages; a proposed budget for travel and residence (two weeks maximum); the name of one reference who has agreed to send a supporting letter directly to the History Center by 1 July. For more information please contact: Walter J. Lear, M.D., Director, The U.S. Health Left History Center, The U.S. Health Left History Center, 206 N. 35th St., Philadelphia, PA 19104-2429; (215) 386-5327; wjlear@critpath.org.

MEETINGS/CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Eleventh Ischia Summer School on the History of the Life Sciences with the theme "From Generation to Reproduction: Knowledge and Techniques from the Renaissance to the Present Day" will be held in Villa Dohrn, Ischia, Italy, 28 June - 5 July 2009. Directors for this program are: Janet Browne (Harvard), Bernardino Fantini (Geneva), Christiane Groeben (Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples), Nick Hopwood (Cambridge), Hans-Jörg Rheinberger (Berlin). Funding was provided by the Wellcome Trust, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn

Applications are invited for this week-long summer school, which provides advanced training in history of the life sciences through lectures and seminars in a historically rich and naturally beautiful setting. The faculty includes Helen King, Mary Fissell, Renato Mazzolini, Jürgen Schlumbohm, James Strick, Staffan Müller-Wille, Jean-Paul Gaudillière, Susan Lindee, Christina Brandt, and Martin Johnson. For more information, please visit www.szn.it/SZNWeb/cmd/.

The fifteenth Annual Spring Meeting of the **Anesthesia History Association** will be held in Augusta, Georgia 16-18 April 2009. The conference hotel is the Marriott Augusta Hotel and Suites, Two

Tenth Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901; (706) 722-8900; www.marriott.com/agsmc. Please call now for your hotel registration; the special rate for the AHA is \$119.00 per night. The meeting brochure is now in the final stage of editing. The registration fee will be an economical \$180.00 for registrants and \$100.00 for guests. Residents will pay \$75.00 to register. CME will be provided only to registrants who pay the full fee. This meeting will be a good value and a wonderful place to visit in the early spring! For additional information contact: William Hammonds, M.D., M.P.H., Medical College of Georgia, Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine, 1120 15th Street, Augusta, Georgia 30912; (706) 721-3871; whammonds@mcg.edu.

The Second Amphictyony of Societies of History of Medicine and Ethics in Medicine, organized by the **International Hippocratic Foundation of Kos** will take place in the Kos Island, Greece, on 30 April-3 May 2009. The main topic of the Congress will be the "Asclepieia" all around the world. Visit the Web site for more information: <http://www.amphictyony2009.gr/en/>.

The International Conference on the History of Medicine and Global Connections hosted by the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College of London will be held in Bloomsbury, London 18-20 June 2009. Full details available in April 2009, via our Web site or from Carol Bowen, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, The Wellcome Building, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE; 020 7679 8163; c.bowen@ucl.ac.uk

Call for Papers for a Themed Issue on "Medicine in a Neurocentric World"--this themed issue of the *Journal Medicine Studies* is dedicated to the endeavor of contextualizing these recent developments in neurosciences and ethics. The editors of this special issue welcome contributions reflecting the shifts of knowledge production in medicine from a historiographic, epistemological, or ethical point of view. We invite original research papers addressing the aims and scope of this themed issue. Manuscripts need to be submitted online before

1 June 2009 in order to be considered for publication. Further details for submission are available at the journal's Web site:

www.springer.com/philosophy/philosophy+of+sciences/journal/12376.

The annual conferences of the **Canadian Association for the History of Nursing** and the **Canadian Society for the History of Medicine** are being held jointly at Carleton University, Ottawa, from 29-31 May 2009. The preliminary programs are posted on each organization's Web site. Registration available at fedcan.virtuo.ca/index.php?action=artikel&lang=en&id=20.

This year's **Southern History of Science and Technology (SoHoST)** conference will be held 3-5 April 2009, at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. Combining the best traditions of other regional conferences like the Midwest Junto and the Columbia History of Science Group at Friday Harbor, the Southern HoST meeting provides a welcoming environment for graduate student presentations as well as a collegial venue for more established academics to try out new material. Southern HoST aims to showcase outstanding scholarship and cultivate community for the growing number of history of science and technology scholars and institutional programs throughout the American South. For more information see www.has.vcu.edu/sts.

LECTURES/SYMPOSIA

A prestigious History of Genetics Day will take place on 9 September 2009 at the John Innes Centre (JIC) in Norwich, UK. This will be the opening event of the "**John Innes Centenary Symposium-Genetics 100 Years On**" which runs from 9-11 September. On the History of Genetics Day we will be commemorating the 100-year history of genetics at John Innes (JI), the legacy of our founder William Bateson, who coined the term "genetics" and played a central role in the development of early genetics in Britain. An international line-up of science historians will cover topics including the background behind the founding of the John Innes Horticultural Institution

in 1909, the role of women in the John Innes workforce in the early years, Bateson's contributions to evolutionary theory, and JI's place in the history of genetics from the inter-war years to the atomic age. They will be joined by scientists Mike Gale and Keith Chater, and science philosopher Sabina Leonelli, who between them will cover JIC's contribution to the modern sciences of crop genetics, bacterial genetics and Arabidopsis research—history in the making! This event will be accompanied by a major historical exhibition drawing on the John Innes Foundation Historical Collections. Program for the day together with registration details can be found at: www.jic.ac.uk/centenary/events/historyofgenetics/programme.htm.

The C. F. Reynolds Medical History Society will co-sponsor with the Health Sciences Library System the following lectures in Lecture Room #5, Scaife Hall, University of Pittsburgh, at 6:00 p.m. A dinner for members and their guests in the 11th floor Conference Center, Scaife Hall will follow each of the five individual lectures. Please refer all questions on the Society and its programming to Dr. Jonathon Erlen, (412) 648-8927; erlen@pitt.edu.

April 2, 2009, Twentieth First Annual Mark M. Ravitch History of Medicine Lecture, **Arnold G. Diethelm**, M.D., Professor Emeritus, former Chair, Department of Surgery, University of Alabama School of Medicine, "Renal Transplantation: Historical Perspectives."

September 24, 2009, **Jan Herman**, M.A., Historian of the Naval Medical Department, Special Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General, "Navy Medicine in the Last Campaigns: Iwo Jima and Okinawa."

November 5, 2009, 16th Annual Sylvan E. Stool History of Medicine Lecture, **Laurel Drevlow**, M. D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota, "Dr. David Livingstone and the 'Open Sore of the World'."

The Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, will host its fourth annual History of Women's Health Conference on 22 April 2009. The theme of this year's conference is "Traveling Knowledge: How

Women Gathered, Dispensed, and Gendered Medical Knowledge." This year's keynote speakers will be Margaret Marsh, Ph.D., Rutgers University Camden and Wanda Ronner, M.D., Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Marsh is a Distinguished Professor of History and Interim Chancellor at Rutgers University's Camden, campus. Dr. Ronner is a Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and a gynecologist at Pennsylvania Hospital. She also serves as the Medical Student Director for the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Drs. Marsh and Ronner will speak about their newest book, *The Fertility Doctor: John Rock and the Reproductive Revolution* (Johns Hopkins University Press).

For a look at the 2009 program, please visit: www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/. The conference is sponsored by the Professional Staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital Historic Collections, and the OB/GYN Department of the Pennsylvania Hospital. Any questions may be directed to: Stacey C Peebles, Curator-Lead Archivist, Pennsylvania Hospital, (215) 829-5434; peepless@pahosp.com.

An international symposium, "After Freud Left: Centennial Reflections on His 1909 Visit to the United States" will be held 3-4 October at the New York Academy of Medicine. Leading scholars in the history of psychoanalysis and American intellectual history will reflect on what happened to Sigmund Freud's ideas in the United States in the century after he left New York following his only visit to the New World, a visit that became an iconic event in American history.

The symposium will last all day Saturday, and Sunday until noon, and will be free and open to the public. More details, including instructions for registration and for reserving a luncheon on Saturday, will be available in the coming months at www.nyam.org, then click on events, then conferences. Or contact the outside coordinator, John Burnham, Ohio State University, at burnham.2@osu.edu.

The eight main speakers will be: Ernst Falzeder, Universität Innsbruck and Philemon Foundation; Elizabeth Lunbeck, Vanderbilt University; George Makari, Weill Medical College of Cornell University; Louis Menand, Harvard University; Dorothy Ross, Johns Hopkins University; Sonu Shamdasani, Wellcome History of Medicine Unit, University College, London; Richard Skues, London Metropolitan University; and Hale Usak, Universität Innsbruck. Invited commentators include: Jean-Christophe Agnew, Yale University; James Anderson, Northwestern University; Raymond Fancher, York University; and James Gilbert, University of Maryland.

Medical Center Hour at the School of Medicine of the University of Virginia and the History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series of the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library present the following Spring 2009 lectures:

March 11, 2009, **Sue Wells**, Ph.D., Department of English, Temple University, Philadelphia PA, **Joanne Pinkerton**, M.D., Midlife Women's Health Center, UVA, **Miriam Bender**, J.D., Women's Health Virginia, Charlottesville VA, History of the Health Sciences Lecture, Co-presented with the History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series, UVA Women's Center, Studies in Women and Gender, and the Midlife Women's Health Center, "Our Bodies, Ourselves: Reading the Written Female Body."

April 1, 2009, **Howard Markel**, M.D., Ph.D., Center for the History of Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, History of the Health Sciences Lecture: The Crispell Memorial Lecture, Co-presented with the History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series and the Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life, "When Germs Travel: Social, Economic, Political, and Cultural Aspects of Contagious Crises Across Time."

The Hannah Chair Lectures for the History of Medicine for Winter 2009 will run from 13 February until 20 March 2009. The lectures will take place at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Roger-Guindon Hall, room 2012.

March 13, 2009, **Edward McPhedran**, "Joseph Lister: His Contribution to Obstetrics and Gynecology."

March 20, 2009, **David Barnes**, "This Place of My Captivity: Epidemics, Politics, and Quarantine in 19th Century Philadelphia."

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

The American College of Surgeons announces the launching of its first Digital Collections samples. The link to the collections is on the Archives section of the ACS Web site www.facs.org.

College founder Franklin H. Martin (1857-1935), remains an understudied figure in the history of American medicine. He and his wife Isabelle left forty-eight volumes of "Memoirs." Martin's secretary, Eleanor Grimm, compiled her recollections of the history of the College into twenty-six volumes, after her retirement in 1951, at the request of the Board of Regents.

One volume of the Martin Memoirs, and one volume of the Eleanor Grimm Notebooks, along with its index are part of the Digital Collections. Also included are photos of all the ACS Boards of Regents, from the earliest extant until 2006, and all available issues of the *Clinical Congress Daily News*, 1911-1979. Researchers can search for names, surgical techniques, diseases, issues affecting surgeons, international guest surgeons, examples of post graduate courses in surgery and much more in the *Daily News*. Feedback about use of the site will be appreciated, as well as suggestions about future additions.

Free access to the archives and its collections remains primarily a member benefit. Because of the archives' small staff and limited resources, all others need to pay a small service fee for reference assistance. Nevertheless, we welcome researchers to visit and use the collections in person. For more information about the archives, contact ACS archivist Susan Rishworth at the College headquarters in Chicago at (312) 202-5270 or srishworth@facs.org.

The McGill Library is pleased to launch The William Osler Photo Collection, a searchable and browsable Web site of 384 images drawn from the Osler Library's collection of photographs of Sir William Osler (1849-1919), who graduated from Medicine at McGill University in 1872 and, after a brief interval, taught there for ten years. He went on to the University of Pennsylvania (1884-1889), Johns Hopkins (1889-1905), and finally became Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford and one of the most famous doctors in his time. There are photographs from all stages of his life, along with pictures of Lady Osler, his son Edward Revere Osler, and other family members. The site was made possible by a generous donation from the John P. McGovern Foundation. The URL is digital.library.mcgill.ca/osler/. If you have any comments, please contact Chris Lyons at christopher.lyons@mcgill.ca.

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health is pleased to announce that the finding aid to the archives of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) – the special collection housed in the AOTF Wilma L. West Library - is now available through a unique URL aotf.institute.googlepages.com/GuidetotheArchivesoftheAOTA.htm and as a Microsoft Word document located on the AOTF Institute blog at www.aotfblog.org/.

The AOTF Institute makes the *Guide to the Archives of the AOTA* available publicly as part of its stewardship of the unique body of knowledge that is occupational therapy. To this end, the AOTF Institute warmly welcomes individuals from within and beyond the field of occupational therapy to explore the guide and consider using the archives for research and education.

As the *Guide* describes, the Archives of the AOTA date from 1917 and include correspondence of and early reprints authored by the founders of the National Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy, reports and publications from early occupational therapy schools and programs, and a

wealth of related manuscripts, texts, photographs, and films. For more information, and/or to schedule a visit to consult the collection, please contact: Jeffrey S. Reznick, Ph.D., Director, Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health, American Occupational Therapy Foundation, 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220; (301) 652.6611, x2555; jreznick@aotf.org

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Birth, the **National Museum of Health and Medicine (NMHM)** presents "A Symposium on President Lincoln's Health," 18-19 April 2009 from 1-5 p.m. This symposium, endorsed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, will feature a keynote address by Frank J. Williams, noted Lincoln scholar and former chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Symposium is free and open to the public. Limited seating, reservations are required. For more information and reservations, call (202) 782-2673 or e-mail nmhminfo@afip.osd.mil or nmhm.washingtondc.museum/events/lincoln_2009.html.

NMHM is proud to announce a new exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln: Final Casualty of the War," which opened on 12 February 2009, and features artifacts related to the assassination of President Lincoln, including the bullet that killed the president. See www.nmhm.washingtondc.museum/exhibits/nations_wounds/lincoln.html.

The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions is pleased to announce the launch of a new Web site which includes a catalog of the repository's holdings and a suite of new services for remote users. Point, click, and begin a virtual visit www.medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/.

The Medical Archives recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. To read more about the celebration go to www.jhu.edu/~gazette/2008/08dec08/08chesney.html. To read about the Medical Archives current initiative to collect clinical trial records see: www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hmn/f08/circling.cfm#5.

The Waring Historical Library and MUSC Archives announce the opening of a new Web exhibit: “Overcoming the Rejection Factor: MUSC’s First Organ Transplant” www.library.musc.edu/exhibits/kidney. Forty years ago, on 3 December 1968, the Medical College of South Carolina, now MUSC, performed the first major organ transplant in its history and the first in the state of South Carolina. The kidney transplant was performed by a team of doctors who, in the years and months preceding the operation, developed an innovative procedure that addressed the body’s acceptance or rejection of foreign matter. The new online exhibit, “Overcoming the Rejection Factor: MUSC’s First Organ Transplant,” tells the story of this extraordinary event through oral history interviews and archival records.

As part of the celebration of this anniversary, staff of the MUSC University Archives, a subunit of the Waring Historical Library, collected oral history interviews from the surviving members of the surgical team as well as from family members of the kidney recipient and donor. Drawing heavily from these collected interviews as well as the records of the MUSC University Archives, this exhibit documents the pre-operative research, the surgery, and evolution of the transplant program at MUSC.

This exhibit and celebration is a collaborative project of the Waring Historical Library, the MUSC Department of Surgery, the MUSC Transplant Center, and the Charleston County Medical Society. For more information about the Web exhibit, please contact Brooke Fox, University Archivist at foxeb@musc.edu.

Special Collections at the Health Sciences Library of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (UNC) is pleased to announce both a revamped Web site www.hsl.unc.edu/specialcollections and a new blog, “The Carolina Curator” carolinacurator.blogspot.com. The Web site features the following sections: Exhibitions; Highlights; Digital Collections; Historical Collections; Archival Collections; Oral

History; Research Resources; UNC Health Affairs History; the Bullitt History of Medicine Club; etc.

Notable recent activities in Special Collections include digital initiatives that have resulted in the digitization of historical North Carolina journals in public health, dentistry, and eugenics, with additional core health-related titles anticipated. A current exhibition at the Health Sciences Library traces the history and development of the newly-renamed UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. The Bullitt History of Medicine Club now offers its lecture series online as MP3s and has inaugurated an annual essay competition, the McLendon-Thomas Award in the History of Medicine.

The Carolina Curator blog is an open-ended forum for the history of the health sciences, and serves to alert readers to news and events, useful resources, and the activities of Special Collections at the UNC Health Sciences Library. For additional information, contact Daniel Smith, Special Collections Librarian, at dllsmith@unc.edu.

News from the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine

During the most recent annual meeting of the American Public Health Association 26-29 October, judges awarded first place in exhibitions to the banner version of HMD’s *Against the Odds: Making a Difference in Global Health*.

On 5 December, Johns Hopkins University Press published *Women Physicians and the Cultures of Medicine* edited by Ellen S. More, Elizabeth Fee, and Manon Parry. The book is a collection of essays from a 2005 symposium held at the National Library of Medicine in conjunction with the exhibition *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians*.

A Year of Darwin Activities at NLM

To mark the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his groundbreaking work, the National Library of Medicine and the Office of NIH History have created

a small exhibition that focuses on Darwin's books, the development of his theory, and the history of evolutionary discourse from the late eighteenth century to the early decades of the twentieth.

The exhibition, entitled "Rewriting the Book of Nature: Charles Darwin & the Rise of Evolutionary Theory," runs from 9 February -2 July 2009 and from 3 September -31 December 31, 2009. On display is the Library's rare first edition of *On the Origin of Species* (London, 1859) and other important books by Darwin, Darwin photos and letters, and works by Darwin's predecessors, contemporaries, and successors.

From 16 September-28 October 2009, in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg 38A, NLM will host "Motion Picture Evolution," a film series devoted to evolutionary movies and television programs. For over 100 years, filmmakers have imaginatively responded to the implications of evolutionary theory. This 7-week film series will show: evolutionary monsters; evolutionary morality and bestiality; evolutionary degeneration, extinction and perfection; clashes between evolutionary theory and religious belief; human meddling with the "natural" course of evolution; and lots of scientists, dinosaurs, supermen, and cavemen! Contact: Mike Sappol, sappolm@mail.nih.gov; (301) 594-0348.

NLM will host "Finished Proofs?," a symposium to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (1859) on 1 October 2009 in the Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg 38A. Leading historians and scientists will explore changing and contested understandings of Darwinian theory in the last 150 years. Contact: David Cantor, cantord@od.nih.gov; (301) 402-8915.

Retirement of Philip Teigen, Ph.D.

Philip Teigen has retired as Deputy Chief of the History of Medicine Division after 24 years of service to NLM. [editors' note: see also News of Members, page 12] Phil (as he greatly preferred to be called) received his B.S. from the University of Minnesota,

and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He worked for ten years at the Osler Library in Montreal before coming to HMD in 1984. His long list of publications include work on bibliography (in particular but not limited to William Osler), Tudor-Stuart medicine, and veterinary medicine. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

The History of Medicine Division will be performing a nationwide search for a new Deputy Chief in the coming months.

Release of Victor McKusick Papers in *Profiles in Science*

NLM has collaborated with the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions to digitize and make available over the World Wide Web a selection of the Victor A. McKusick Papers for use by educators and researchers. McKusick is widely considered to be the founding father of medical genetics. An innovative clinician, medical educator, and researcher, he established the first medical genetics program and clinic at Johns Hopkins in 1957, conceived and compiled *Mendelian Inheritance in Man*, an annually updated catalog of human phenotypes, and conducted landmark studies of hereditary disorders in the Amish. He was an early advocate of mapping the human genome, and was closely involved in the early years of the Human Genome Project, and served as founding president of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO). In 1997 in recognition of his lifelong contributions he received the Lasker Award for Special Achievement in Medical Science. Profiles in Science is available at profiles.nlm.nih.gov/.

Finding Aids Search

The Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program is pleased to announce the release of a new finding aids search and delivery platform based on the University of Michigan's DLXS software oculus.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/f/finaid/findaid-idx?c-nlmfindaid. For the first time users can search and browse the content of our 190+ existing EAD encoded collection guides. Our plans are to soon add 300+ EADs describing all

our manuscript holdings, many of which were never described before beyond their catalog records.

Users can perform Basic and Advanced Boolean searches limited by: Entire Finding Aid Content; Container List only; Names; Places; Subjects; Biographical/Historical Note; Any Scope and Content Note. These search features are available both across the entire set of finding aids and within each individual guide. Additional features include a Save to Bookbag option with an E-mail function. Users should note that some of these features are dependent on your session cache, which by federal government privacy rules are emptied once you exit the application. Look for more DLXS content beyond EAD in the near future!

OTHER NEWS

Making Visible Embryos
www.hps.cam.ac.uk/visibleembryos/ is an online exhibition by Tatjana Buklijas and Nick Hopwood, of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at University of Cambridge created with funding from the Wellcome Trust. Images of human embryos are everywhere today: in newspapers, clinics, classrooms, laboratories, baby albums and on the Internet. Debates about abortion, evolution, assisted conception and stem cells have made these representations controversial, but they are also routine. We tend to take them for granted. Yet two hundred and fifty years ago human development was nowhere to be seen. This online exhibition is about how embryo images were produced and made to represent some of the most potent biomedical objects and subjects of our time. It contextualizes such icons as Ernst Haeckel's allegedly forged Darwinist grids and Lennart Nilsson's 'drama of life before birth' on a 1965 cover of *Life Magazine*. It also interprets over 120 now little-known drawings, engravings, woodcuts, paintings, wax models, X-rays, and ultrasound scans from the fifteenth to the twenty-first century. It displays the work of making visible embryos. For further information send e-mail to hps-embryo@lists.cam.ac.uk.

A new listserv is available now for anyone interested in medieval medical history: **MEDMED-L**. Although this has been created primarily with the interests of scholars working on Europe and the Mediterranean world in mind, if people working in other areas of the world but in similar timeframes would like to participate, they are most certainly welcome—as are all working in traditions that draw on humoral theory, etc. To subscribe to MEDMED-L go to lists.asu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=MEDMED-L.

The Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) has unveiled a new logo and tagline to emphasize its renewed efforts to reach out to represent all areas of the specialty of family medicine. The new CHFM logo underscores the Center's increased commitment to represent, preserve and share all areas of the history of the specialty of family medicine. "We wanted something that highlighted the Center's own unique role in serving all of the family of family medicine," said Don Ivey, Manager of the Center. The resulting new brand incorporates a new element within the Center's logo, a stylized classical Greek column. To add to the new logo, a new tagline has also been developed: "Claim Your Heritage." Ivey explained that this statement is not just a tagline, but is a call to action to family physicians to honor their role as the traditional champions of healthcare throughout our nation's history. "We want to remind family physicians of the proud legacy and heritage of their specialty," Ivey said.

Social History of Medicine seeks a new co-editor to join Bill Luckin, co-editor, Anna Crozier, book reviews editor, and Ruth Biddiss, assistant editor, from 1 September 2009. *Social History of Medicine* is the leading international journal in its field and covers all aspects of the social, cultural and economic history of medicine. It is published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Society for the Social History of Medicine. Informal enquiries about the nature of the post can be made by e-mail to Bill Luckin billluckin@googlemail.com or Brian Dolan DolanB@dahsm.ucsf.edu.

Applicants are asked to send a c.v. and statement of interest to the chair of the Society, Dr Lutz Sauerteig,

Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, Wolfson Research Institute, Durham University, Queen's Campus, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BH, UK;: l.d.sauerteig@durham.ac.uk. The application should provide a brief account of why the candidate is attracted to the post and a synopsis of relevant experience. Expertise in all areas and/or time-periods will be considered. The Society also wishes strongly to encourage applications from outside the United Kingdom. The deadline is 31 March 2009. Further details about the journal and the Society for the Social History of Medicine can be found at www.sshm.org.

Join us in Cleveland for the Annual Meeting of the AAHM!

Report of the Nominating Committee, AAHM January 2009

The Nominating Committee of the American Association for the History of Medicine (Allan Brandt, chair; Joel Howell; Ann La Berge) nominates the following members for the positions of:

Treasurer: Margaret Marsh (two-year term)

Secretary: Christopher Crenner (two-year term)

Council Members: (three-year terms beginning 2010)
Carla Keirns, University of Michigan
Gerald Oppenheimer, Brooklyn College, CUNY
Heather Prescott, Central Connecticut State University
Sarah Tracy, University of Oklahoma

A vote on these candidates will be taken at the annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, during the business meeting beginning 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25.