



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2012, a thirty-year-old woman contemplating marriage and children walks into Wal-Mart and notices a machine next to the pharmacy. “Health Oracle” promises to give customers a Genomics Era risk profile. The instructions are simple: “Insert your left index finger into the sterilized slot and ten dollars into the cash slot.” Sixty seconds after an almost painless prick, out pops a sheet of paper that tells her much more than she wanted to know—in retrospect. “Cancer Risk” attracts her attention because the section fills half the page. She entered the store feeling well and optimistic, but all this changed after the finger stick started her genetic dissection.

She stares at the names of seven cancers she is *statistically* more likely to confront than the *average* person. Stunned by the impersonal report of this very personal news, she loses interest in shopping and walks outside. As she enters the crosswalk, still staring at the sheet of paper, a car doesn't stop. It lurches forward knocking her to the pavement. Unconscious and bleeding, the healthy but dying young woman is rushed to a hospital. The brain is a fragile organ. Hers doesn't tolerate the trauma caused by the car whose driver slumped over the wheel. His was suddenly deprived of oxygen from a cardiac arrest. He dies in the parking lot despite CPR. She dies in the emergency room.

I use this story to introduce a very brief discussion of three related phenomena that are transforming perceptions of illness and principles of treatment: pre-diseases, evidence-based medicine, and practice guidelines. Historians trace the origins of these concepts back years and generations, but in the past two decades they have revolutionized medical research, education, and practice. The pre-disease notion continues to gain momentum as more “risk factors” are reported to identify individuals with a greater than average chance of developing a specific disorder. The evidence-based medicine model places systematic research (usually large clinical trials) at the center of treatment decisions.

Science and technology are defining our lives and delaying our deaths to an ever greater degree. I don't want to seem reactionary or too cynical, but I do want to share some concerns I have after three decades as a clinician-historian. Risk factor modification and disease prevention are very important, but I'm skeptical about some messages conveyed in medical journals and the popular media. Genomics, a remarkable science, can tell us far more about ourselves than most want to know. For some individuals, the inevitable “Health Oracle” I describe will transform long-term potential risks into present-time anxiety-causing concerns. What does one do with the resulting emotional burden?

Potential sickness keeps sneaking up on health. Epidemiologic studies and statistics are used to justify redrawing the social and scientific boundaries negotiated between normal and disease. A blood pressure long considered healthy is now termed prehypertension. This general phenomenon may trigger new guidelines that recommend drug treatment for millions more persons with this or that pre-disease. I am not a therapeutic nihilist and marvel at all the new pills that help prevent and treat heart disease. But more and more minor variations from what used to be considered normal are medicalized every year. I complained about one compelling example of this phenomenon in an essay, "Troponin trumps common sense." Patients and pre-patients (that's almost everyone) are being buried in an avalanche of direct-to-consumer advertisements promising help. These ads promote products to lower this, raise that, shrink this, enlarge that...whatever.

Back to the eighty-six-year-old man who felt well when he drove to the store. His story provides the link between clinical trials and practice guidelines. He ran into the distracted woman after suffering sudden cardiac death. A friend said at his funeral, "I heard it shouldn't have happened." It turned out he had been hospitalized two months earlier for a heart attack. At a routine checkup a few days before the accident, technology revealed his cardiac "ejection fraction" was two-thirds normal. Current evidence-based guidelines recommend implanting an automatic defibrillator to shock the heart if it goes into this fatal rhythm (but they don't say the total cost is tens of thousands of dollars). The goal is to reduce the *risk* of cardiac arrest, but most patients with this man's scenario will not have that fatal problem. From a *statistical* point of view, it's safer to have the device implanted. Still, that's a lot of money (and some discomfort) for technology that may never be needed. Meanwhile, tens of millions of Americans have no health insurance.

The driver of the care was asymptomatic when he saw his doctor and had no abnormal heart rhythms while in the hospital. After discussing the options, *he* decided he didn't want a defibrillator. It seems like a reasonable decision to me, but some cardiologists

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News items of 250 words or less are invited and may be submitted by e-mail, fax, or regular mail. Deadlines: 15 February, 1 July, and 1 October.

would disagree. I was president of the American College of Cardiology in 2002 when a *New England Journal of Medicine* article provided powerful ammunition for industry representatives and others advocating for more defibrillator implantations in situations such as this. Several constituencies demanded that this new article's findings be reflected in the guidelines almost ready to go to press. After all, they argued, clinical trials like the one just published were at the center of evidence-based medicine and guidelines must be up-to-date. The rallying cry is "living guidelines." Importantly, the government and private insurers look to authoritative guidelines to decide whether to pay for a service or device. The financial implications of guideline decisions can be enormous.

One problem that is increasingly apparent is that tomorrow's clinical trial results can contradict today's. Where does it end? There are other problems. Clinical trials are a vital source of new knowledge, but most are industry-funded, raising questions of self-interest. I found the dynamics unsettling in 2002 and decided to tackle some touchy issues in my presidential address, "The Power of Clinical Trials and Guidelines, and the Challenge of Conflicts of Interest." Today, conflict of interest is discussed more openly, and the financial aspects of each part of what I term the "trial-guideline-education process" are being scrutinized more carefully. I wove history into the fabric of my talk, and other historians have addressed these and related issues. See, for example, Bill Rothstein's *Public Health and the Risk Factor*, Jeremy Greene's *Prescribing by Numbers: Drugs and the Definition of Disease*, and Jeanne Daly's *Evidence-Based Medicine and the Search for a Science of Clinical Medicine*. Charles Rosenberg's insightful essay "Managed Fear" will appear soon in *Lancet*. I would welcome feedback. wbfye@aol.com

W. Bruce Fye, AAHM President

AAHM NEWS

MacArthur Award

Nancy Siraisi, an eminent Renaissance historian, was named as a 2008 MacArthur Fellow. Siraisi's work continues to sharpen and enlarge our understanding of medicine and medical practice within Renaissance intellectual history and Renaissance society. The American Association for the History of Medicine takes special pleasure in celebrating Siraisi's achievement. As an influential member of the Association, Siraisi has made major contributions to scholarly and institutional life, serving on the organization's most important committees and carrying off its most prestigious awards. Her first book, *Taddeo Alderotti and His Pupils* (1981), secured the Association's Welch Medal in 1985; and in 2003 she delivered the Garrison Lecture in Boston on "Medicine and the Renaissance World of Learning." The MacArthur Fellowships acknowledge the efforts of extraordinary individuals, including scientists, artists, scholars, entrepreneurs, and teachers, for their original and transforming contributions. This year the MacArthur Foundation gave \$12.5 million through these "genius grants" to support especially talented and creative individuals. It is a special delight to note Nancy Siraisi's recent recognition by the Foundation.

Shryock Medal Essay Contest, 2009

Graduate students in the United States and Canada are invited to enter the Shryock Medal Essay Contest. The medal honors Richard Harrison Shryock (1893–1972), a pioneer among historians interested in the history of medicine. The award is given for an outstanding, unpublished essay by a single author on any topic in the history of medicine. The essay (maximum 9,000 words, including endnotes) must be the result of original research or show an unusual appreciation and understanding of problems in the history of medicine. In particular, the committee will judge essays on the quality of writing, appropriate use of sources, and ability to address themes of historical significance.

The winner will be invited to attend the 2009 meeting of the Association, 23–26 April, in Cleveland, Ohio, where the medal will be conferred.

Reasonable travel expenses for the winner will be provided, as will a two-year complimentary membership in the AAHM. If the Shryock Medal Committee also selects an essay for honorable mention, its author will receive a certificate and a two-year complimentary membership in the AAHM.

This competition is open to students enrolled in a graduate program in any discipline, including medicine, in the United States or Canada at the time of submission. Medical students who have been enrolled in such a program should submit their essays to the Shryock competition; medical students who have not done such graduate work should submit their essays to the Osler competition. No student should submit an essay to both competitions in the same year. Essays that have been awarded an Honorable Mention are not eligible for resubmission.

Complete contest information may be viewed on the AAHM Web site <www.histmed.org/Awards> or obtained from the Shryock Medal Committee chair: Beth Linker, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 365 S. Logan Hall, 249 S. 36th St., Philadelphia, PA, 19104; linker@sas.upenn.edu). Essays must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) no later than *15 January 2009*.

**Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Career Development Award in 20th Century
History of Medicine or Science.**

This award honors Jack D. Pressman, Ph.D., a distinguished historian of medicine and Associate Professor of the History of the Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco at the time of his early and unexpected death in June 1997. The award, with a stipend of \$1,000, is given yearly for outstanding work in twentieth-century history of medicine or medical science, as demonstrated by the completion of the Ph.D. and a proposal to turn the dissertation into a publishable monograph. The Ph.D.

must have been completed and the degree granted within the last five years (i.e., 2004–2008). The application must include a curriculum vitae, the dissertation abstract, a one-page summary of the proposed book; a description (not exceeding two pages) of the work to be undertaken for publication; and two letters of support from faculty members knowledgeable about the applicant's dissertation.

The Award will be presented at the 2009 meeting of the Association, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, 23–26 April. The award also includes a ticket to the annual banquet of the Association. The application, including all supporting materials, must be postmarked by 31 December 2008 and addressed to the Chair of the Pressman–Burroughs Wellcome Committee, Conevery Bolton Valencius, Ph.D., 218 Harvard St., Quincy, MA 02170-2523; cvalencius@post.harvard.edu. More information may be obtained from the AAHM Web site or from the Committee Chair.

AAHM Web Site

Members who have not already noticed the new Web site for the Association may want to take a minute to surf that way. The URL remains the same: www.histmed.org. The content and functions have grown. The “History of Medicine Guide” has a new structure for organizing the many listings of jobs, conferences, libraries and archives, programs and events. The site also includes an extensive new section for graduate and medical students created by the Committee on Student Affairs, chaired by Kristen Ehrenberger and Niki Nibbe. The membership functions have been streamlined. We hope to be able to offer more information and functions as we move ahead. Please send suggestions (and thanks!) to the new Webmaster, Matthew Scanlon, mscanlon@kumc.edu.

AAHM Cleveland 2009

**Cleveland's Saga: From Frontier Outpost to
Industrial Boom Town, and from Decaying
Rust Belt Metropolis to Medical and Cultural
Mecca.**

Our city's origins date to 1796, when Moses Cleaveland first landed at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River along the banks of Lake Erie. Lands in the transappalachian west had been reserved for the state of Connecticut by Congress, and hence took on the name first as "New Connecticut" and later as the Western Reserve of Connecticut. The state sold the land for \$1,200,000 to developers who engaged Cleveland to lead a land survey of the region that now comprises the northeastern corner of Ohio. As a result, there ensued a transfer of Connecticut culture, religion, institutions, architecture, town plans, and, of course, people to the Western Reserve. Drive from Cleveland today to Oberlin College in the west, or the village of Burton toward the east, or south to Hale Farm and Village, near Richfield, and you will encounter much of this Connecticut legacy in the Western Reserve. In Cleveland proper some remnants also survive, although much has been effaced by the burgeoning commercial and industrial growth that transformed frontier outpost to a major industrial city in the next century. Those seeking local vestiges of early Cleveland will be hard pressed, but persistence pays. Dunham Tavern, down Euclid Avenue from our conference hotel, the Intercontinental, was once a stagecoach stop and is today a museum offering a glimpse into the lifestyles of early Cleveland; it is the oldest building still on its original site in the city.

If you proceed downtown (west) on the newly-opened (as of 24 October) RTA HealthLine bus route, you will arrive at Public Square, conceived as the open space of a traditional New England town plan. Public Square is today flanked by the downtown business district (including a projected Medical Mart and Trade Show Facility), by Tower City, a shopping mall and RTA rail station (with lines connecting Cleveland Hopkins Airport and University Circle), by the nearby Gund Arena and Progressive Field (home to Cleveland Cavaliers basketball and Indians baseball respectively), by the theatre district along Euclid Avenue (Allen Theater, Ohio Theater, Palace Theatre, State Theater), by the warehouse district with cast iron building facades dating to the 1850s and now crowded by bistros and bars, and to the north on the

Erie lakeshore, home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the Great Lakes Science Center, and the Cleveland Browns Stadium. Public Square witnessed such events as a stop by Lincoln's funeral train, the birthplace of Harvey Cushing (the site of his father's home now occupied by a defunct department store), the first electric street lighting with Brush's 1879 arc light, and Garrett Morgan's 1923 traffic light, not to mention being featured in Jean Shepard's touching and nostalgic *A Christmas Story* (1983).

Starting again at Dunham Tavern and heading east, you will pass the sprawling Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF), the city's largest employer. The Clinic originated out of George W. Crile's experience tending industrial injuries as well as serving as surgical head of a base hospital in Rouen, France. Starting as a group practice in 1921, the Clinic is today a driving engine of the local economy. Its patients include local Clevelanders and members of the Saudi family, all drawn by the worldclass caliber of medical and surgical care available at the Clinic. It ranks #1 nationally in heart surgery, and is in the top 20 of all American hospitals in fifteen other specialty fields. The Clinic also plays an important role in education, from wellness programming for patients to the Lerner College of Medicine, a joint CCF and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) venture opened in 2002 to train the next generation of physician investigators.

Leaving the Clinic and resuming travel east on RTA's HealthLine bus will shortly bring you to University Circle, home to a wonderful array of cultural and educational institutions. Chief among them is of course CWRU, founded in Hudson, Ohio in 1826 and moved to Cleveland in the 1880s. The School of Medicine started in downtown Cleveland in 1843 and moved to University Circle in 1924. The Cleveland Medical Library Association also started in the city in 1893 and moved to Circle in 1926. When the Allen Memorial Medical Library opened, Harvey Cushing gave the dedicatory address, *The Doctor and His Books*, in the Cushing Reading Room. Funded by Elizabeth Severance Allen Prentiss, Dudley Peter Allen's widow, the structure is today home to the Cleveland Health Sciences Library and the Dittrick Medical History

Center and Museum. The museum is named in honor of Howard Dittrick, a physician, collector, and long time member of the AAHM. The Allen Library, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be the site for the 2009 Garrison lecture and reception on Friday 24 April.

Other noted institutions in University Circle include the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Western Reserve Historical Society (which includes the Crawford Auto Aviation Museum), the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and many smaller nonprofit organizations. University Hospitals of Cleveland, second only to the Clinic in importance, includes MacDonal Hospital for Women, Rainbow Babies and Childrens Hospital, UH Case Medical Center (formerly Lakeside Hospital), and Ireland Cancer Center. Through its affiliation with CWRU's School of Medicine, dating to 1898, University Hospitals has a notable record of scientific achievement and contribution to medical education. Perhaps the curricular innovations of the early 1950s comprise the most distinguished achievement wrought by the collaboration of these two institutions. Joseph T. Wearn and T. Hale Ham, in association with head of admissions Jack Caughey, led the development of the revised curriculum launched in 1952, which was widely credited with initiating changes in medical education across the country and around the world.

Across the CWRU campus, which lies along Adelbert Road and is bisected by Euclid Avenue (traditionally Western Reserve College to the north, and Case Institute of Technology to the south), one finds the College of Arts and Sciences, home to the Dittrick Medical History Center, as well as separate schools of Engineering, Business (with its stunning Frank Gehry-designed Peter B. Lewis building), Medicine, Law, Nursing, Dentistry, Social Work, and Non-Profit Management. These schools are further supported by over 100 centers and a variety of academic alliances across campus and extending into our surrounding community.

Nearby cultural attractions and communities include Lakeview Cemetery (final resting place of Dudley Peter Allen, Harvey Cushing, James A. Garfield, and John D. Rockefeller), Little Italy adjacent to the campus along Mayfield Road, as well as shopping, dining, and cinema in Cleveland Heights Coventry, Cedar-Lee, and Cedar-Fairmount districts, and the restaurants and shops of the Shaker Square and Larchmere sections of Shaker Heights. High-end retail therapy may be obtained at Legacy Village and Beachwood Place some 5.6 mile east on Cedar Avenue.

Cleveland's history and economy have long been linked to Lake Erie, which bore commerce and trade that drove the local economy. Iron ore from the far reaches of the Great Lakes arrived in cargo vessels, to be processed in iron furnaces and subsequently used in machine manufacture beginning in the 1840s, or shipped by canal boat and rail to Pittsburgh and other steel producing centers; more iron ore came through Cleveland than through any other port on the lakes. Oil and machines soon followed as central to our local economy. John D. Rockefeller got his start here, establishing control of shipping crude oil that flowed from oilfields in western Pennsylvania. So, too, did automobile pioneers who placed Cleveland second only to Detroit by 1910. Major Cleveland marques included Winton, Peerless, and White Motor, as well as plants for Ford and General Motors (Fisher Body). Even when auto manufacture waned, Cleveland remained a national capital of auto and aerospace parts, assemblies, and systems, from Thompson Products (later TRW, maker of the valves in the engine of Charles Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*) to Eaton Corp (axles, valves, and springs). Electrical manufacture thrived here, as well, with NELA Park in nearby East Cleveland becoming the world's first industrial park in 1911 and serving as home to General Electric's Lighting Division.

This traditional industrial base suffered during the Depression, and rebounded temporarily with wartime demand for armaments, but struggled in the postwar years. The city perhaps reached its nadir in 1969, when an oil slick and debris in the Cuyahoga River caught fire. The river had caught fire several times

before, with even greater devastation, but this one made the pages of *Time* magazine (doctored photo made things look worse) and really drew national attention to environmental problems. This event prompted efforts to clean up the river and lake that have achieved great success over the intervening decades, and was memorably evoked by Randy Newman's *Burn on, Big River* in 1972.

In the subsequent revitalization of the Cleveland economy, medicine has played a leading role. The success and expansion of the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals are of course the most visible indicators of this growth. Additionally, medically-related industries filled an important void in the local economy, and have led the resurgence of the city. Medical manufacture in our region included the Reese Chemical Company (contraception), Picker X-Ray (today operated by Philips), Victoreen Instruments (radiation dosimetry), and Steris (sterilizers). Today Ohio ranks second as home to FDA-registered medical device companies in the Midwest, and in 2008 Ohio ranked as the leading state between the coasts and one of the top five in the nation for health care venture capital firms.

So, we look forward to hosting the 82nd meeting of the AAHM next April and you may rest assured that Cleveland has much to offer beyond the conference itself. We hope that you will find time to explore and enjoy its rich cultural offerings.

Jim Edmonson
Local Arrangement Committee

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Robert Martensen has been appointed Lecturer in the Department of Social Medicine in the Harvard Medical School. His new book, *A Life Worth Living: A Doctor's Reflections on Illness in a High-tech Era*, was recently published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2008.

Paul Berman will present "Prairie Doc: Medicine at the time of Lewis and Clark" at the Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies in March

of 2009. This interactive program is designed to teach 5th and 6th graders about medicine in the early 19th century.

Lynda Payne has been appointed the first Sirridge Missouri Endowed Professor in Medical Humanities and Bioethics in the School of Medicine at the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Karen Reeds was awarded a grant by the New Jersey Historical Commission for "New Jersey Medical School--The First Half-Century: An Oral History Project." Reeds, the current president of the Medical History Society of New Jersey, is the guest curator of "Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America," on view at the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, through the end of 2008. Exhibition guide available from <www.dianepublishing.net/Come_Into_a_New_World_p/1422363678.htm>.

Alan M. Kraut, American University, and Deborah A. Kraut have been awarded the 2008 New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance's Author's Award in non-fiction for their volume *Covenant of Care, Newark Beth Israel and the Jewish Hospital in America* published by Rutgers University Press in 2007.

Ellen More, Elizabeth Fee, and Manon Parry are pleased to announce a new, co-edited book from Johns Hopkins University Press, *Women Physicians and the Cultures of Medicine*, 2008.

Howard Markel, was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science, the nation's principal advisory group on health and science policy. He is the 38th professor and the first historian of medicine from the University of Michigan to be elected to the Institute.

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES CORNER

The Society for the History of Navy Medicine invites submission of papers for presentation at its Third Annual Meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, 23-26 April 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Papers on any topic concerning the history of medicine as it relates to Navies or the maritime environment will be considered. Deadline for submission is 31 January 2009. Please send your 200 - 250 word abstract and a brief writer's bio to the Society's Executive Director, Tom Snyder, at tlsnyder@history-navy-med.org.

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

Scholars and artists are invited to apply for travel fellowships and grants, which the Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis offers to encourage research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, prints, and instruments. The awards are to be used to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at the Bakken.

Visiting Research Fellowships are awarded up to a maximum of \$1,500; the minimum period of residence is two weeks, and preference is given to researchers who are interested in collaborating informally for a day or two with Bakken staff during their research visit. Research Travel Grants are awarded up to a maximum of \$500 (domestic) and \$750 (foreign); the minimum period of residence is one week.

The next application deadline for either type of research assistance is 20 February 2009. For more details and application guidelines, please contact: Elizabeth Ihrig, Librarian, The Bakken Library and Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55416; (612) 926-3878 ext. 227; (612) 927-7265 (fax); Ihrig@thebakken.org; <www.thebakken.org>.

The Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing is pleased to offer a Faculty Research Award and two fellowships to support research in the history of nursing.

The Karen Buhler-Wilkerson Faculty Research Award provides \$1,200 of support to a selected scholar based on evidence of preparation and/or productivity in historical research and/or teaching related to nursing.

Scholars are expected to present the findings of their work at the Center's seminar series.

The Alice Fisher Society Fellowship offers \$2,500 to support 4 to 6 weeks of residential study at the Center and is open to those with masters and doctoral level preparation. The Lillian Sholtis Brunner Fellowship for Historical Research in Nursing offers \$2,500 to support 6 to 8 weeks of residential study. Candidates with doctoral preparation will be preferred for the Brunner Fellowship but fellowships are open to those with pre-doctoral preparation. Both Fisher and Brunner scholars will work under the general direction of nurse historians associated with the Center and may participate in Center activities. Fisher and Brunner Scholars may be asked to present their research at Center seminars.

It is expected that the research and new materials produced by each of the awardees will help ensure the growth of scholarly work focused on the history of nursing.

The deadline for submission of applications is 31 December 2008 with a projected award date of 1 March 2009. For further information and application guidelines please visit the Center's Web site at <www.nursing.edu/history/research/htm> or call Betsy Weiss, Bates Center Administrative Assistant at (215) 898-4502.

The Reynolds Associates, in conjunction with the Historical Collections (HC) unit of the Lister Hill Library, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), are pleased to announce the availability of short-term awards of up to \$1,000 to individual researchers studying one or more aspects of the history of the health sciences during the 2009 calendar year. Intended to support research using the HC unit as a historical resource, the fellowship requires the on-site use of at least one of the unit's three components, which are the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, Reynolds Historical Library, and UAB Archives. All materials must be submitted by 31 December 2008 to receive consideration. For submission details go to: <www.uab.edu/reynolds/fellowship.htm>.

Last year two fellowships were awarded by UAB's Historical Collections Reynolds Fellowship program. David B. Hall at Mississippi State University earned a fellowship to pursue work on his dissertation, "Cultural Communities and Medical Professionalization: A Study of the Medicalization, Politicization and Socialization of Medicine in Britain, 1660-1858." Also Catherine Conner at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earned a fellowship to pursue work at UAB Archives on the Civil Rights movement and the development of a professional service economy and its impact on the political and physical landscape of Birmingham.

The Program in the History of Health Sciences, in the Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellowship from candidates with research interests in the history of alternative medicine. The fellow will be expected to make use of the California Homeopathic Institutions Records, a rich archival collection held at UCSF, during the term of the fellowship. In addition to dedicated time for research and writing, the position also offers possibilities for limited graduate-level teaching.

Applicants must hold the Ph.D. in history, preferably in the history of medicine or science. The position is for two years and offers a competitive salary and health benefits. Inquiries should include a C.V., a brief research proposal, writing samples, and three letters of recommendation from scholars familiar with the applicant's work. The application deadline is 15 January 2009; the fellowship can begin as early as 1 July 2009 and no later than 1 September 2009. For additional information contact: Professor Elizabeth Watkins, c/o Kimberly Bissell, History of Health Sciences Program, Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, 3333 California St., Suite 485, San Francisco, CA 94143-0850; bissellk@dahsm.ucsf.edu; < www.dahsm.medschool.ucsf.edu >.

The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine is pleased to offer two annual fellowships to support

research in the history of medicine. The Countway Library is the largest academic medical library in the United States, and its Center for the History of Medicine holds 250,000 books and journals published before 1920, and is strong in virtually every medical discipline and is particularly rich in popular medicine, medical education, public health, Judaica, and travel accounts written by physicians. The Countway's archives and manuscripts includes the personal and professional papers of prominent American physicians, many of whom were associated with Harvard Medical School. The printed, manuscript, and archives holdings are complemented by an extensive print and photograph collection and the collections of the Warren Anatomical Museum.

The Francis A. Countway Library Fellowships in the History of Medicine provide stipends of up to \$5,000 to support travel, lodging, and incidental expenses for a flexible period between 1 June 2009 and 31 May 2010. The fellowship proposal should demonstrate that the Countway Library has resources central to the research topic. Preference will be given to applicants who live beyond commuting distance of the Countway. The application, outlining the proposed project (proposal should not exceed five pages), length of residence, materials to be consulted, and a budget with specific information on travel, lodging, and research expenses, should be submitted, along with a curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation, by 31 January 2009. Applications should be sent to: Countway Fellowships, Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, 10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115. The appointment will be announced by 15 March 2009.

PRIZES

The Waring Library Society (WLS) and the Waring Historical Library at the Medical University of South Carolina invite entries for the W. Curtis Worthington, Jr., Undergraduate and Graduate Research Papers Competition. Papers entered in the Competition should represent original research in the history of the health sciences. They may cover any historical period

and any cultural tradition. Paper topics may include—but are by no means limited to—public health policy and the social context of disease and health; the construction of the medical profession and medical institutions; gender and medical theory or practice; learned medical practitioners as social, political, and economic agents; notions of the human body as the subject of health, disease, and therapeutic intervention; medicine and natural philosophy/science; medicine and the humanities; and the development of health science disciplines such as nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and allied health fields.

Entries may not have been published previously, nor be submitted more than once. A person may submit only one entry each year. The same person may not win first prize during two consecutive years. This competition is open to any degree-seeking individual attending an accredited college or university. Additionally, interns and residents in accredited programs are eligible in the graduate category. Entries must be not fewer than 2,500 words nor more than 5,000 words (not including notes and bibliography). Photographs or illustrations should be included whenever possible or appropriate. Manuscripts should be submitted as a Word document or as an unformatted ASCII-preferred document. Send completed application form as an attachment with your submission; do not include any personal identification information in the text of your submission. Entries must be received by 30 April in each contest year.

Winners agree to grant the Waring Historical Library and Waring Library Society both initial and subsequent publication rights in any manner or form without further compensation. Except as provided above, copyright ownership otherwise remains with the author. One first prize of \$1,500 will be awarded each year to the winner in each category: undergraduate and graduate. The winning papers will be published in the *Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association*, subject to the review and requirements of its editor. The WLS Awards Committee reserves the right to not give any or all awards in a particular year. For more information about this competition, please

contact the Waring Historical Library at 843-792-2288 or waringhl@musc.edu.

MEETINGS/CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Johns Hopkins University is pleased to host the **Fifth Laboratory History Conference**, 4-5 June 2009, in Baltimore, MD. In addition to papers on modern scientific laboratories, we welcome papers that address such topics as the early modern laboratory; the laboratory in the colonial and developing world; field stations, observatories, research vessels, and other non-traditional laboratories; testing, measuring, and quality control laboratories; biomedical laboratories and clinics; and virtual laboratories. We are also interested in papers that discuss strategies for documenting the laboratory, such as oral histories, archives, photography, and 'born digital' records. The conference will include a plenary talk and dinner, and tours of the Space Telescope Science Institute and the Carnegie Institution's Embryology Laboratory. Our style is informal, 25 minute presentations followed by commentary and discussion.

Travel money is available for graduate students, \$300 for travel within the U.S. and Canada, \$500 for travel from outside the U.S. and Canada. Some housing will be available on campus.

For further information or to submit a proposal, please contact: Stuart W. Leslie, Department of the History of Science, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21286; swleslie@jhu.edu, by 1 November 2008.

The Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, will host its fourth annual **History of Women's Health Conference** on 22 April 2009. We invite interested persons to send a one to two page proposal or abstract of your topic by 7 November 2008 for consideration. The History of Women's Health Conference focuses on women's health issues from the late 18th century to the present. This conference encourages interdisciplinary work. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, obstetric and gynecology issues (fertility/infertility, birth control,

child birth options, menopause), adolescence (health, cultural influences, body image), mental health topics, geriatric concerns, overall women's health, access to health care, minority health and more.

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 are co-authors of *The Empty Cradle: Infertility in America from Colonial Times to the Present* (2004), which was named an Outstanding Academic Book by Choice Magazine. Their latest book, *The Fertility Doctor: John Rock and the Reproductive Revolution*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in October 2008. Please e-mail your one to two page proposals/abstracts to: Stacey C. Peeples, Curator-Lead Archivist, Pennsylvania Hospital; peepless@pahosp.com.

The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, joining with the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, is issuing a call for papers for a joint conference at Carleton University, Ottawa, from 29-31 May 2009. The theme of the 2009 Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities will be: "Capital Connections: nation, terroir, territoire."

Abstracts on other topics are also welcome. Please submit your abstract and one-page c.v. for consideration by 30 November 2008 to: Susanne Klausen, CSHM/CAHN Program Co-Chair with Meryn Stuart, Department of History, Carleton University, 428 Paterson Hall, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa K1S 5B6; Susanne_Klausen@carleton.ca.

Abstracts must not exceed 350 words. Submissions by e-mail are strongly encouraged. If submitting abstracts by mail, please send one original and 3 copies, typed

single-spaced on one sheet of paper. The Committee will notify applicants of its decision by 15 January 2009. If invited to present at the meeting, the author must undertake to provide a translation of the abstract for the bilingual program book.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) in association with the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, University College Dublin/University of Ulster invite proposals for papers and panels exploring aspects of the theme "Medicine and Healthcare: History and Context" in all its historical manifestations for the SSHM Postgraduate Conference, 16-18 April 2009. The aim of the SSHM postgraduate conference is to draw together students from established Wellcome Trust Centres and attract students studying the history of medicine within different academic environments. To this end, papers will contextualize the history of medicine and healthcare in political, military, and policy history, economic and social history, local, national, and global history, and the history of work and professionalization. 300-word proposals should be sent to pgconf@sshm.org before 30 November 2008. General inquiries about the conference can be directed to Catherine Cox or Rosemary Wall at pgconf@sshm.org.

This year's "Southern HoST" conference for the history of science and technology 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 (CHSG) 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.

Faculty and graduate students are invited to submit paper, session, and roundtable proposals. Graduate

students whose papers are accepted for presentation will receive one night's free lodging on campus. The 2008 meeting included papers on topics ranging from agriculture to astronomy, and sessions spanning themes from "Scientific Instruments and Tools" to "Bodies and Representations in Science and Medicine." This year we are especially interested in developing a roundtable discussion devoted to the challenges and opportunities of teaching and doing the history of science and technology in the southern context.

Please submit a 150-250 word paper proposal, or a 250-350 word session/roundtable proposal, and brief biographical sketch electronically to Karen Rader and John Powers at Virginia Commonwealth University karader@vcu.edu; jcpowers@vcu.edu by 1 February 2009. More detailed information for the conference will be posted soon at: www.has.vcu.edu/sts.

Paper proposals are invited for a conference "**Intersections: Blood, Sweet, and Tears: The Changing Concepts of Physiology from Antiquity into Early Modern Europe.**" The conference will be held at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in Wassenaar, Netherlands on 16-18 April 2009. For an e-mail attachment with more information contact: Suzanne Porter, Duke University Medical Center Library; porte004@mc.duke.edu. Submit 300 word proposals electronically to Manfred Horstmanshoff, Professor, History of Ancient Medicine, University of Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands; H.F.J.Horstmanshoff@let.leidenuniv.nl.

LECTURES/SYMPOSIA

The 2008-2009 Lecture Series, UAB Historical Collections University of Alabama at Birmingham

September 25: **Ronald C. Jones, M.D.**, Chief, Department of Surgery, Baylor University Medical Center, "The President Has Been Shot and They Are Bringing Him to the Emergency Room." This lecture is jointly sponsored with the UAB Department of Surgery.

October 23: **Christine Ruggere**, Associate Director

and Curator, Historical Collection, Institute of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, "Doctors' Ladies,' or: Another Look at Chinese Diagnostic Manikins"

November 20: **Michael Egnor, M.D.**, Professor and Vice-Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, State University of New York at Stony Brook, "Why We Got Eugenics: The Old and New Science of Evolutionary Medicine"

February 27: 30th Annual Reynolds Lecture: **W. Bruce Fye, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine/Professor of the History of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, "William Osler Leaves Johns Hopkins for Oxford: A Case Study of Physician Burnout a Century Ago"

April 9: **Richard Patterson, M.D.**, Professor Emeritus, UCLA, "Charles Thomas Jackson: The Reynolds Library Enigma"

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

The Office of Medical History and Archives at the University of Massachusetts Medical School announces the launch of a new Web-based historical exhibit, "The People's Medicine Comes to Massachusetts: Establishing a Family Medicine Residency at UMass Medical School," library.umassmed.edu/omha/fmch/index.cfm. Written by Ellen More with research assistance from Heather-Lyn Haley, Ph.D., and Web design and management by Robert Vander Hart with assistance from Julia Powell, the site describes the background and significance for health care in Massachusetts of the founding of the state's first Family Medicine residency in 1974. Using archival documents and oral history interviews, the authors recreate the challenges of bringing Family Medicine to an academic health center. The site includes audio clips, digitized documents, and a bibliography as well as text. For additional information contact Ellen More at ellen.more@umassmed.edu.

On Thursday, 6 November 2008, in honor of the 90th anniversary of the Armistice, the **University of**

Kansas (KU) Medical Center Archives, Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine, in conjunction with the National World War I Museum, presents the program “Armistice and Influenza: Base Hospital #28 Goes from Kansas City to France in 1918.”

Base Hospital No. 28, consisting of doctors and nurses from the Kansas City area—especially the KU School of Medicine—was organized in April 1917, at the Christian Church Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri, and was mobilized 21 January 1918, at Union Station, where it received its preliminary training and equipment. On 23 February 1918, the unit was transferred to Fort McPherson, Georgia, where it continued its training at General Hospital No. 6. On 2 June 1918, the unit left for Camp Merritt, New Jersey, arriving there 4 June 1918, and then sailed on the *Meganic*, 12 June 1918. The unit disembarked at Liverpool, England, on 25 June and proceeded immediately to Southampton, leaving there 28 June for Cherbourg, France, and arriving at Limoges, Department of Haute Vienne, Base Section No. 2, on 2 July 1918. Base Hospital No. 28 was the third and last medical unit to report at the Limoges Hospital Center.

The unit occupied a type-A hospital and also took over from the French a large school building, the Belaire Seminary. The normal capacity of the hospital was 1,780 beds, which in emergency was increased to 2,965. The first patients were received 23 July; the total number received was 9,954, of which 6,087 were medical and 3,867 surgical cases. Between July 1918, when the unit arrived, and February 1919, when it was relieved, out of nearly 10,000 admissions there were only 67 fatalities—including influenza patients—a remarkable record. For further information contact: Nancy Hulston, Director of Archives, University of Kansas Medical Center; (913) 588-7243; nhulston@kumc.edu

Over the past few years, the **Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University** has been making images from historical materials available online through our Digital Library Committee. Most, but not

all, of the images are from the Historical Library. The Digital Library is organized by collection. The largest and perhaps most useful collection is of our engraved portraits of physicians and scientists numbering well over 2,000. One can search by keyword, or browse by subject of the portrait, general subject, or by artists and engravers. Another collection features the 19th century oil paintings by Lam Qua of Chinese patients with huge tumors treated by medical missionary, Peter Parker. Other collections include early 20th-century medical illustrations primarily by Yale's longtime medical illustrator, Armin Hemberger; early electro-micrographs taken in the laboratories of George Palade; and postcards of Connecticut medical institutions.

All of the images may be freely used in PowerPoint lectures. We also have for a fee high quality tiff files of everything. The URL is <www.med.yale.edu/library/subjects/digital.html>.

The Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM) has obtained a significant new donation in the form of the papers of Jack H. Medalie, M.D., M.P.H. A key leader in research and early education for the specialty, Dr. Medalie was for many years the first holder of the Dorothy Jones Weatherhead Professorship in Family Medicine at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) credited with being the first endowed chair in Family Medicine in the United States.

Born in Minnesota in 1922, Medalie immigrated as a boy with his family to South Africa. He subsequently graduated with an M.D. degree from Witwatersrand University in South Africa in 1945, and an M.P.H. degree from Harvard in 1958. After practicing medicine in South Africa and Israel (where he served as a lieutenant in the Israeli Defense Forces and was a professor of Family Medicine at Tel-Aviv University), Medalie came to Cleveland in 1975. There, he established training programs for medical students and graduate programs in Family Medicine at Case Western and University Hospitals of Cleveland. With the Robert Johnson Foundation, he also established a post-graduate fellowship training program, which is

now recognized as one of the best such programs in the nation. Medalie also was recognized internationally for his research in epidemiology, particularly related to cardiovascular diseases. He died in 2006 at the age of 84.

The Jack H. Medalie, M.D. Collection consists of approximately 3 linear feet of material relating to Medalie's career and service in Family Medicine, and includes correspondence and professional papers, research, and other materials. His collection includes files related to his lectures, conferences, and research papers; elective classes he taught at CWRU; a summer fellowship he conducted at CWRU; a Family Medicine Information System that he helped to establish at CWRU; and a Community Survey of Cleveland which was conducted in the mid-1970s to determine health needs of Cleveland area residents. The survey ultimately led to the creation of a Family Medicine program, the first in the Cleveland area. For more information contact the Center at 1-800-274-2237 (ext. 4420 or 4422); (913) 906-6095 (fax); chfm@aafp.org; <www.aafpfoundation.org/historycenter.xml>.

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

The Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program for the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine is pleased to announce the release of a new finding aids search and delivery platform <oculus.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=nlmfindaid>.

Based on the University of Michigan's DLXS software, for the first time users can search and browse the content of our 190+ existing EAD encoded collection guides. Our plans are to quickly 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 according to: Entire Content, Container List, Names, Places, Subjects, Biographical/Historical Note, All Scope and Content Notes. These search features are available both across the entire set and within each individual record. 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! For further information contact: John P. Rees, Curator, Archives and Modern Manuscripts, History of Medicine Division, MSC 3819, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894; (301) 496-8953; (301)402-7034 (fax); reesj@nlm.nih.gov.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

History of Medicine. Yale University seeks a tenure-track Assistant or junior Associate Professor in the history of medicine beginning 1 July 2009. Field, region, and period are open, but preference will be given to applicants who work in the history of medicine, the biomedical sciences, or public health since 1800. Duties will include teaching in the Program in the History of Science and Medicine, the Department of History, and the Section for the History of Medicine in the School of Medicine. The search committee will begin considering applications on 15 October 2008. Yale University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and actively encourages applications from minority and women scholars. Ph.D. preferred by the time of appointment. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, graduate transcript, three letters of recommendation, a statement about their work and professional plans, and a sample of their scholarly writing such as a dissertation or book chapter or article to Professor John Harley Warner, Chair, History of Medicine Search Committee, c/o Ewa Lech, Section of the History of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, P.O. Box 208015, New Haven, CT 06520-8015, USA.

OTHER NEWS

On Saturday 21 June 2008, more than 50 people gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversaries of the **Alabama State Society of Anesthesiologists**

(ASSA) and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Department of Anesthesiology. The ASSA was founded on 8 March by Drs. Alice McNeal, Hiram Elliott, Alfred Habeeb, and E. Bryce Robinson, Jr., in Birmingham. In the same year the Department of Anesthesiology, one of fewer than twenty such autonomous academic departments in the United States at that time, was officially created on 1 August. Attendees at the 60th anniversary celebration enjoyed displays of photographs and other memorabilia, and informal stories by several individuals. All attendees received a commemorative 2-CD set containing those photographs and other memorabilia related to the two organizations. Special exhibits were devoted to the ASSA, departmental chairs, and the department's first chair, Dr. Alice McNeal. She was the first female to chair an academic anesthesia department in the United States. The event was developed and hosted by the department's History of Anesthesia Section.

“The Medical History of British India” Web site <www.nls.uk/indiapapers/index.html> is an important resource from the India Papers collection in the National Library of Scotland. You'll find a range of digitized official publications related to disease, public health, and medical research between c.1850 to 1950. There are extensive reports with keyword searching of full text and of title, author, location, subject category, publication date, and location with detailed maps, charts, and tables with easily manipulated data and zoom features. Many of the documents focus on epidemics in vivid detail that makes them a treasure-trove of regional histories of disease, providing vital insights into the role of government and the operation of colonial power. The extensive statistics accompanying these documents provide important data that would be valuable for regional histories. The Web site is aimed at medical, social, military, and colonial historians, historians of South Asia, and also genealogists. As this material traces the epidemiology of communicable diseases that cause a high mortality in the Third World even today, it is also of interest for epidemiologists and medical practitioners and researchers in this field. “The Medical History of British India” is a

partnership project between the National Library of Scotland and the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare, generously funded by the Wellcome Trust.

The Sigerist Society for the History of Medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine has started a student-run journal dedicated to the history of medicine, entitled *Historia Medicinæ*. The journal is open to all students of medical and dental students, residents/interns, health professions students (R.N., P.A., M.P.H., etc.), and also history students across the globe, and is presently seeking submissions and reviewers to take part in the first issue of *Historia Medicinæ*. Our mission is to publish articles which cover a unique topic in the history of medicine from an innovative and informed perspective. The journal will cover all periods of medical history from classical and ancient medicine to historical developments in modern medicine. It will consist of short letters written on important individuals, inventions, and developments in medicine, as well as longer analyses related to the history of medicine. For additional information visit: <www.medicinae.org> or contact editor@medicinae.org.

The Sixth Annual Joint Atlantic Seminar in the History of Medicine (JAS-Med) took place on 26-27 September at Yale University. Over forty graduate students attended the conference, which included ten paper presentations and plenty of opportunities for students to get to know one another and to build relationships. The young scholars in attendance represented over a dozen different institutions. This successful turnout highlights the important role that JAS-Med has played in nurturing the community of grad students who are pursuing dissertations in the history of medicine, health, and the body. We look forward to continuing this fine conference and thank all of the faculty who encouraged their students to attend and who have supported it.

Monica Green, Arizona State University, and Walton O. Schalick, III, University of Wisconsin, have received funding from the National Endowment for

the Humanities to run a **Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers** in London next summer, 5 July-8 August 2009. Based at the Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine at University College, London, and the Wellcome Library, the seminar "Disease in the Middle Ages" will gather scholars from across the disciplines interested in questions of health, disease, and disability in medieval Europe. A primary goal will be to explore how the new scientific technologies of identifying pathogens can inform traditional, humanistic methods of understanding cultural responses to disease and disability. A stipend of \$3,600 is provided to all participants. Deadline for applications is 2 March 2009. For further information, contact the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS), 4th Floor, Lattie F. Coor Hall, Arizona State University, P.O. Box 874402, Tempe, AZ 85287-4402; (480) 965-4661; (480) 965-1681 (fax); MedievalSeminar2009@asu.edu; <medievalseminar2009.asu.edu>

Forgotten Ellis Island, the first film to be produced about the immigrant hospital on Ellis Island, will be broadcast nationally on PBS on 2 February 2009, at 10:00 p.m. Narrated by Elliott Gould, the film is rich in exclusive footage of the once abandoned hospital, many rarely seen archival photographs, excerpts from oral histories and writings of U.S. Public Health doctors and medical staff, and interviews with former immigrant patients. *Forgotten Ellis Island* is a powerful tribute to the best and worst of America's dealings with its new citizens-to-be.