



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Issue No.121

October 2019

ANN ARBOR WELCOMES THE AAHM!

Join us for the 93rd annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 7–10, 2020.

Program Highlights: We are excited to welcome the 2020 AAHM to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan! The AAHM was last held in Michigan in 1955. This will be the association's first meeting in Ann Arbor and at the University of Michigan.



Demonstration in medical school amphitheater (includes Alice Hamilton, 3rd row, 8th from left), ca. 1893; HS6237, Folder "Surgery & Anatomy Classes," Box 213, Medical School (University of Michigan) Records, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

The meeting's busiest days -- Friday and Saturday -- will be held in the [Michigan League](#), built in 1929 in the center of campus as the center for women's academic and cultural activities, and home to some of the nicest conference rooms on campus. We have spacious rooms for the presidential address and reception and for the book exhibit.



The Michigan League, Gianna May Sanchez

The Garrison lecture will be held directly across the street in the historic and recently renovated [Rackham](#) auditorium. Some AAHM members will recall that this is the venue where, in 1955, it was announced that field trials directed by Thomas Francis showed that [the Salk polio vaccine was "safe, effective, and potent."](#) (Fun fact: One of the members of the local arrangements committee was an experimental subject in that trial!)

Attendees will have opportunities to engage with the academic community and explore the valuable collections and educational institutions across campus. We are partnering with the [University of Michigan Museum of Art](#) (1/3 mile from the League) to showcase highlights from collections at UM pertaining to the history of healing and health.

The conference will begin and end at [the Kensington Hotel](#), with an opening reception on Thursday and Sunday's final sessions.

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The *AAHM NewsLetter* is edited by Jodi Koste and published three times a year by the American Association for the History of Medicine, Inc. It is distributed free of charge to the membership.

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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.

Venues: The main conference hotel is the [Kensington](#), with accommodations also available at the adjacent Even wellness hotel. Both of these hotels are located about three miles south of the University of Michigan campus (with easy and abundant parking). We have also reserved a limited number of rooms at the [Inn at the Michigan League](#) and [Bell Tower Hotel](#), which are in the immediate vicinity of the League, with hopes that these rooms will be particularly useful for attendees with mobility concerns.

Getting Around: We will have a well-organized, regularly scheduled and convenient shuttle service running every 30 minutes from the Kensington to the League. We will also provide extensive and detailed wayfinding in the form of paper and interactive maps. Our shuttles will make getting from the hotel to the League easy and fun, and AAHM-ers will have plenty of time to talk and catch up as they move around town. Wayfinder AAHM navigators will be on hand at the conference hotels and the League to help attendees find their way at the conference and on campus. In addition to our bus service, the University of Michigan has their own [campus bus and there are bus lines](#) located along the route from the hotel to the University of Michigan. Lyft and Uber are also readily available in Ann Arbor.

The [Michigan Flyer](#) provides easy, reliable, affordable transportation to and from the airport, with 12–13 round trips a day.

Experiencing Ann Arbor: We are excited to welcome you not only to the University of Michigan but also to Ann Arbor, a vibrant college town with a great deal to offer in terms of dining and other cultural attractions. To begin exploring all that is on offer, visit [Destination Ann Arbor](#).

The Michigan League (the site for Friday and Saturday events) features a coffee shop with good lunch options on the first floor. There are dozens of restaurants at a variety of price points within a five-minute walk of the League in Ann Arbor's

downtown and Kerrytown neighborhoods, all of which take reservations and walk-ins. For those who want to dine closer to the Kensington Hotel, there is a restaurant in the hotel itself as well as a number of options within a short walk. A comprehensive guide to restaurants and events will become available a few months before the conference.

Ann Arbor is renowned for its music scene. The [Ark](#), now in its 55th year, presents 300 shows a year of roots and folk music in an intimate, 400-seat venue. Next door, the [Blue LLama Jazz Club](#) features jazz and fine dining, while the [Kerrytown Concert House](#), with 110 seats, offers classical chamber music, experimental, and cabaret performances. All shows are announced a few months in advance.

For those traveling with children, the [Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum](#) can provide hours of interactive fun. On Saturday mornings, the Kerrytown neighborhood hosts the [Ann Arbor Farmer's Market](#). Kerrytown is also home to the world-famous [Zingerman's Deli](#).



Children with polio pioneers button, 1955; HS3718, Folder "Polio Vaccine Announcement," Box 137, Alumni Association (University of Michigan) Records, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

For those who want to venture a bit further, there are a number of trails along the Huron River, connecting the lovely [Nichols Arboretum](#) to a series of parks. The [Matthaei Botanical Gardens](#) also has walking paths and a [medicinal plant garden](#). Detroit, home to Motown, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Charles H. Wright African American Museum, Greektown, and more, is only 45 minutes away by car.

Archives and the University: There are extensive archival collections related to the history of medicine and health at the University of Michigan. These include holdings at the [William L. Clements Library](#), which specializes in material from the fifteenth through the nineteenth century, and has papers related to colonial herbals and domestic recipes and regional history; the [Bentley Historical Library](#), which has countless personal papers and UM departmental records, as well as nineteenth-century MD theses, and the papers of Thomas Francis and Eliza Mosher; and the [Joseph A. Labadie Collection](#) at the Special Collections Research Center, which has materials documenting social movements and marginalized political communities from the 19th century to the present, including records related to radical literature and the themes of health and sexuality.

Medical history collections include the [Sindecuse Dental History Museum](#); the Robert Thom “Great Moments in Medicine” paintings on display at the UM Medical School and Hospital; an early 20th century doctor’s office on display in the UM Hospital lobby; the [Coller Surgical Tools](#) collection; and Roman birth and healing amulets at [the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology](#). The Medical School is also home to the [Center for the History of Medicine](#).

On campus, in addition to UMMA be sure to check out the aforementioned [Kelsey Museum](#) as well as the [Museum of Natural History](#), which was relocated to a new building last year and features a state-of-the-art Planetarium, as well as being the only place in the world where you can see a male and female mastodon skeleton side by side. UM of

course features a very active athletic scene. [Guided tours](#) of Michigan Stadium, the largest stadium in the US, are available for a fee.

Our campus has played an important role in the history of medicine. The Medical School admitted its first students in 1850, and has been a leading force in medical education. It was the first medical school in the US to own and operate its own university hospital, the first major US medical school to admit women, and one of a handful of leaders in the late-19th-century reform of medical education. The institution now sees about 2.4 million outpatient visits per year, almost 50,000 hospitalized patients, and is home to over 3,000 faculty members and 2,000 medical students and house officers.

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), home to a good number of medical historians, was created in 1837, when the Michigan legislature founded UM (moving it from its original 1817 incarnation in Detroit). The Department of History was established in 1857. The first female student enrolled in 1870, graduating two years later with a degree in literature. Today, with more than 100 degree programs in over 75 academic departments and programs, LSA is the largest of U-M’s 19 schools and colleges and is central to the liberal arts mission of the University.

U-M boasts similarly renowned schools and colleges of Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, and Public Health, all of which have contributed to health training and innovations in the state and far beyond.

We are looking forward to seeing you in A²!

The 2020 Local Arrangements Committee

The University of Michigan is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people. In 1817, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadami Nations made the largest single land donation to the University of Michigan,

offered ceremonially as a gift in the text of the Treaty at the Foot of the Rapids so that their children could be educated. Through these words of acknowledgment, their contemporary and ancestral ties to the land and their contributions to the University are renewed and reaffirmed.

AAHM NEWS

Call for Nominations, AAHM Awards, 2020

All awards will be presented at the AAHM annual meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Additional information may be found on the AAHM website: histmed.org/about/awards.

Osler Medal Essay Contest, 2020. The William Osler Medal is awarded annually for the best unpublished essay on a medical historical topic written by a student enrolled in a school of medicine or osteopathy in the United States or Canada. First awarded in 1942, the medal commemorates Sir William Osler, who stimulated an interest in the humanities among medical students and physicians.

All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy, or are graduates of the class of 2019, are eligible. The essay must have been written while the entrant was a student in good standing. Students are not eligible to compete for the Osler Medal if they have completed at least one full year of graduate training in history, the history of science or medicine, or the humanities or social sciences by the closing date of the competition. Medical students who have been enrolled in a graduate program in history or a related discipline should submit their essays to the Shryock 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.

Essays may pertain to the historical development of a contemporary medical problem, or to a topic within the health sciences related to a discrete period in the past and should demonstrate either original research or an unusual appreciation and understanding of the problems discussed. The essay (maximum 9,000 words, including endnotes) must be entirely the work of one contestant.

Complete contest information may be viewed on the AAHM website www.histmed.org/about/Awards or obtained from the Osler Medal Committee Chair: Justin Barr at justbarr@gmail.com. Entries must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) by **31 January 2019**.

Shryock Medal Essay Contest, 2020. Graduate students 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 12,000 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.

This competition is open to students enrolled in a graduate program in history or a related discipline at the time of submission. Medical students who have been enrolled in such a program should submit their essays to the Shryock 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.

Questions and submissions should be directed to Shryock Medal Committee chair: Cynthia Connolly cac1@nursing.upenn.edu. Essays must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail

(which is the preferred method of submission) no later than 31 January 2020.

J. Worth Estes Award, 2020. This award was established in honor of J. Worth Estes, M.D., in recognition of his many invaluable contributions to the American Association for the History of Medicine and to scholarship in the history of medicine. The award is made annually for the best published paper in the history of pharmacology during the previous two years, whether appearing in a journal or a book collection of papers. The choice of topic reflects Worth Estes' long tenure as Professor of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at Boston University and his own scholarship in the history of pharmacology.

For the purpose of this award, the history of pharmacology will be defined broadly to include ancient and traditional *materia medica*, folk medicines, herbal medicines, the pharmaceuticals of the modern era, pharmaceuticals, and the like. It shall encompass the discovery of medicaments, basic investigations about them, their characteristics and properties, their preparation and marketing, and their therapeutic applications.

While the committee will be monitoring relevant journals and books where such papers might appear, they welcome nominations of papers that would be eligible for consideration. The nomination should consist of a letter citing the work nominated along with a copy of the paper. For the current award, candidate papers will be those published in 2018 and 2019. Papers in languages other than English should be accompanied by a translation or detailed precis.

Nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Committee, Luc Richert at lucas.richert@wisc.edu and must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) no later than 17 January 2020.

Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century History of Medicine or Biomedical Sciences,

2019. 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 and stipend of \$1,000 is given yearly for outstanding work in twentieth-century history of medicine or medical biomedical sciences, 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., 2015–2019). 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 application, including all supporting materials, must be submitted by 31 December 2019. Submissions and/or questions should be directed to the Chair of the Pressman–Burroughs Wellcome Committee, Jacob Steere-Williams at steerewilliamsj@cofc.edu.

AAHM Website

AAHM now has a members' only content section of its website where you can find useful information available only to those in the Association. After much back and forth with our membership service provider, Johns Hopkins University Press (JHUP), over the course of the last year, we are now able to provide a secure, gated space where we can post content only available to our members. To log in to the members content, go to the AAHM website www.histmed.org and click on "members" in the black navigation bar. This link will take you to the page where you may enter your user name and password. Your login is whatever you have set-up previously with JHUP while renewing your membership or registering for the annual meeting. Use the links on the login page to reset your username or password if you have forgotten either.

In the Members Content section, you will find AAHM's statement of principle on non-discrimination and sexual harassment as well as the Association's trolling response guidelines. For those of you who like to have a printed membership directory around, you will find in the Members Content, a directory of members with their institutions, email addresses, and phone numbers as of October 2019. The most up-to-date membership information can always be found in the online database maintained by our membership service provider, Johns Hopkins University Press.

AAHM Distribution List

Over the past year, we have encountered a number of difficulties in sending posting on the official AAHM distribution list. As a result, some members have missed notification about membership renewal, the annual meeting, call for papers or awards, and other important announcements. Some of the problems we can attribute to the rather antiquated mailing list software available through our web hosting provider. The dot com part of the sending address caused many messages to end up in members' junk mail or spam folders.

To avoid some of these pitfalls, we have sent up a new distribution list at the home institution of the AAHM secretary. Now you will receive official announcements and notifications from LIB-AAHM-L@lists.vcu.edu. We hope the use of the "edu" domain will allow messages to be received on a regular basis. Please contact Jodi Koste at jlkoste@vcu.edu if you believe you are still unable to receive messages from the list. Remember this is a distribution list only so you cannot reply to it or post.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

The Johns Hopkins University Press has published an updated edition of **Warwick Anderson's** *The Collectors of Lost Souls*, with an extensive afterword. The first edition was awarded the William H. Welch Medal of the AAHM; the Ludwik Fleck Prize of 4S; and the NSW Premier's award for General History. Additionally, with James Dunk, Tony Capon and **David S. Jones**, he has written a historical article on medical responses to climate change, "Human Health on an Ailing Planet," published in the *New England J. of Medicine* 381 (2019): 778-82.

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

Archives & Special Collections at Columbia University Irving Medical Center's Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library is pleased to announce the opening of the papers of Dr. Mathilde Krim (1926-2018), biomedical scientist, pioneer AIDS activist, and philanthropist.

To access information about the papers, researchers should start with the record in CLIO, the Columbia University Libraries' online public access catalog: clio.columbia.edu/catalog/14267453 from there a link connects to the finding aid.

At the outset of the AIDS epidemic Krim recognized the urgent need to meet its devastating medical and social effects. In 1983, she founded the AIDS Medical Foundation (AMF), the first private organization to support AIDS research. Two years later AMF and the National AIDS Research Foundation merged to become the American Foundation for AIDS Research, popularly known as amfAR (it is now known as amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research). It soon became the country's leading non-profit organization devoted to supporting AIDS research, prevention, and scientifically sound public health policy. Besides being amfAR's founding chair, Krim served as its Board chairman from 1990 to 2004. In these roles she became one of the country's most visible

advocates for the need to adequately fund AIDS research as well as an outspoken champion of the human rights and dignity of persons with AIDS.

Krim's papers are 65 cubic feet in extent, housed in 182 boxes. They are largely professional in nature and cover her entire career, dating from circa 1948 to 2016. Besides her AIDS activism, the papers contain much relating to her important earlier work with Interferon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The papers include printed-out email correspondence, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, minutes, meeting materials, financial statements, grant applications, photographs, speeches, interviews, congressional testimony, conference proceedings, brochures, programs, and audiovisual materials.

The bulk of the papers is open to researchers without restrictions. A small amount of material is closed for a specific period of time while access to other records is restricted under the terms of the Privacy Rule of the U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The papers were processed and the finding aid written by Jennifer Ulrich, Technical Services Archivist. For more information about the Krim Papers please contact Archives & Special Collections at hslarchives@columbia.edu.

The Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia is pleased to announce a major new addition to its digital collections with the online publication of much of our primary source material related to the life and work of Silas Weir Mitchell (1829-1914).

A Fellow and President of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Mitchell was a prominent 19th century physician and writer best remembered for his discovery and description of phantom limb syndrome and, controversially, as the inventor of the rest cure, the basis for Charlotte Perkins Gilman's book *The Yellow Wallpaper*. A complex figure, his true

impact on 19th century medicine and culture is still being uncovered.

Presented via a dedicated site, this research portal contains the fully digitized content of three major collections held at the Historical Medical Library: The Silas Weir Mitchell Papers (MSS 2/241-03), The Silas Weir Mitchell Collection (MSS 2/241-04) and the Turner's Lane Hospital case and follow-up studies of peripheral nerve disorders (Z10 40). The digitization and presentation of these materials offers unprecedented access for scholars in the history of medicine and medical humanities, as well as the simply curious.

You will find the digitized collections at mitchell.cppdigitallibrary.org.

Special Collections and University Archives, Library of the Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago is excited to announce the acquisition of the Paul Peck Collection of Medical Art. The collection contains more than 450 pieces of original medical art completed by Paul Peck for at least two medical atlases published by Merck & Co.

Paul Peck began his medical illustration career at New York University, graduating in 1929, and completed graduate training in art education at Columbia University and in gross and microscopic anatomy at the Johns Hopkins Medical School. He served as a chief medical artist in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and in the Army Institute of Pathology during World War II. He taught other medical illustrators, while in the service and as a civilian, at New York University, Hunter College, Pratt Institute and the Institute of Adult Education. Peck compiled numerous anatomy, pathology and surgery atlases over his career.

UIC is a fitting repository for Peck's medical illustrations, and students in UIC's College of Applied Health Sciences' Biomedical Visualization (BVIS) program will be able to examine hand-drawn artwork from a prominent practitioner working in the mid-20th century. BVIS, the largest and second-oldest

of four accredited programs in the U.S., now incorporates science and technology for animation, gaming and virtual and augmented reality.

The Carl W. Gottschalk Collection on the Human Kidney is housed at the Wilson Special Collections Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Libraries.

The collection contains more than 12,000 books, pamphlets, periodicals, illustrated materials, and manuscripts dating from the 16th through the 20th century. Collected by renowned nephrologist and bibliophile Carl W. Gottschalk, this is one of the many examples of the University Libraries' commitment to documenting the history of medicine. A handful of the many highlights from this distinguished collection includes Rene Descartes's *De Homine* (1662), Marcello Malpighi's *De Viscerum Structura Exercitatio Anatomica* (1666), Richard Bright's *Reports of Medical Cases* (1827), Simon Gustav's *Chirurgie der Nieren* (1871), Jean Oliver's *Architecture of the Kidney in Chronic Bright's Disease* (1939), and Willem J. Kolff's *The Artificial Kidney* (1946). The collection, which also includes Dr. Gottschalk's kidney-shaped desk and other furnishings, is on display in Wilson Library's Fearington Reading Room. Special tours are available upon request.

The Wilson Special Collections Library also owns a separate manuscript collection of Dr. Gottschalk's writings and illustrations, research materials, biographical materials, and correspondence and related materials, documenting his medical research, teaching career, university administration functions, and other interests such as book collecting.

Dr. Carl W. Gottschalk was professor of medicine and physiology at the University of North Carolina's School of Medicine, 1952-1969, and Kenan Professor of Medicine and Physiology, 1969-1992. He served as chair of the Committee on Chronic Kidney Disease, sponsored by the United States Bureau of the Budget, which issued its influential Report of the Committee on Chronic Kidney Disease in 1967. He was also known for his *Diseases of the Kidney*, first published by Little Brown in 1988.

Gottschalk was named an American Heart Association Career Investigator and won the North Carolina Medal and the O. Max Gardner Award. In 1970, he received the Homer W. Smith Award from the New York Heart Association; in 1990, the A. N. Richards Award of the International Society of Nephrology; and, in April 1993, the first Robert W. Berliner Award for Excellence from the American Physiological Society. Gottschalk was president of the American Society of Nephrology and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine. He died in Chapel Hill in 1997 at the age of 75. His widow, Dr. Susan Fellner, donated the collection to UNC shortly after his death.

One of Dr. Gottschalk's mentors was the nephrologist Jean Oliver, who bequeathed his professional papers to Gottschalk upon his death in 1976 at age 87. These materials, which include Oliver's original laboratory notebooks and photomicrographs of kidney dissections, are part of the Jean Oliver Papers, also housed at the Wilson Special Collections Library. Oliver's professional honors include the Thomas Addis Memorial Medal of the National Nephrosis Foundation, the Borden Award in Medicine, the Gold Headed Cane award of the American Association of Pathology and Bacteriology, and the Homer Smith award in renal physiology.

Sherman Grinberg Film Library seeks ways to share its historic newsreel footage with the research community. The library is the home of the Paramount and America Pathe newsreels and report having 126 historic newsreels on their website under the term "medical".

There are two options to view the newsreels: One method is to browse the footage available online (approximately 30% of their holdings). If you visit filmlibrary.shermangrinberg.com and put your search terms into the browse window using quotation marks, you can see footage that has already been digitized. Second, you can contact their manager of media archives and licensing to create a finding aid

based on your keywords. The staff will search their vault for footage and if there is any available will digitize it and send digital screeners for review. For further information, contact Lance Watsky at lwatsky.dma.grinberg@gmail.com

**The Library and Center for the History of
Medicine and Public Health, The New York
Academy of Medicine**

The Library recently partnered with Gale, a Cengage company, to digitize materials for two mass digitization projects: Public Health in Modern America, 1890-1970, launched in June 2019 and Archives of Sexuality & Gender, Part III: Sex and Sexuality, Sixteenth to Twentieth Centuries, launched in February 2019. Within the past year, the collaboration with Gale has helped the Library to digitize over 6,600 items, which represents almost a million images created.

Public Health in Modern America includes: The Committee on Public Health of the New York Academy of Medicine—a collection of correspondence, reports, minutes, and documents on the significant work of the committee with New York's health department and leading figures in public health. It is a collection about the New York Academy's contribution and role in public health at the time.

Library of Social and Economic Aspects of Medicine of Michael M. Davis—a collection of the work of Dr. Davis in the early twentieth century, covering topics such as healthcare, medical economics, social security, legislation, and more.

Selected Public Health Pamphlets—over 2,200 pamphlets on various aspects of public health from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

Archives of Sexuality & Gender includes: Monographs—over 1,500 monographs on a variety of topics dealing with sex, sexuality, and gender.

Mary Ware Dennett Case Collection—an archival collection of the court case against Dennett for writing “The Sex Side of Life,” a pamphlet about sex for young people.

Correspondence between Eugen Steinach and Harry Benjamin—a collection of over forty years of correspondence about rejuvenation, including letters, postcards, diagrams, and photographs.

National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has acquired the papers of sisters Selma DeBakey (1915-2013) and Lois DeBakey, PhD (1920-2016), pioneers in biomedical communications who used humor as one of their signature teaching techniques. These remarkable women also wrote extensively about the responsibilities of authors, editors, and reviewers and on topics such as literary ethics and etiquette.

The DeBakey sisters were born and raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana, along with their older brother, Michael, who would become a leading cardiac surgeon. Their parents actively fostered their education and encouraged them to attend college.

Selma went to work as an editor at the Alton Ochsner Foundation, then became director of medical communications at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation. Lois earned a Ph.D. in literature and linguistics from Tulane University and then joined the English department at Tulane.

For many years, the sisters helped their brother revise and abstract his medical publication drafts. Concerned that many of his fellow physicians did not write clearly,

Michael (a meticulous writer himself) urged his sisters to draft guidelines and develop courses on concise medical communication. In 1962, Selma and Lois began teaching the first curriculum-approved communications course ever offered at a medical school, at Tulane. They moved to Baylor College of

Medicine in 1968, serving as professors of scientific communications for the next 40 years.

During their distinguished careers, the DeBakey sisters taught communications courses all over the world and served as editors and consultants to many medical journals and publications, such as the American Heritage Dictionary and Encyclopedia Britannica.

Their courses and publications showed scientists and physicians how to write well-organized, coherent prose, free of the jargon and awkward grammar that often characterized medical writing.

As a regent and consultant to NLM, Lois advocated for the use of acid-free, permanent paper within the medical publishing industry to preserve medical records for future generations. She also supported NLM in planning its sesquicentennial in 1986 and helped develop a public communications program to inform the U.S. and the world about NLM's collections and resources.

The papers of Selma and Lois DeBakey encompass more than 800 boxes of materials, including correspondence, course materials, and presentations along with their awards and commendations. The collection also includes cartoons used for their courses as well as audiovisual materials such as Lois's 1981 video lecture, "Doctor, are you speaking in tongues?" now available through the NLM Digital Collections collections.nlm.nih.gov/catalog/nlm:nlmuid-101708904-vid. In this video, she argues that "an intelligent, educated reader should understand the essence of a well-written article no matter how specialized or technical the subject may be."

Rich with such observations and wisdom about biomedical communication and related subjects, the papers of Selma and Lois DeBakey join a collection of their brother Michael's papers held by NLM. Together, these papers constitute a vast public resource for researchers.



