



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most of the work of the AAHM is done by its committees, currently some nineteen of them with a collective membership of over eighty. I would like to highlight some of the work these committees are doing, and to thank our members who are serving the AAHM in this important capacity.

Some committee work is essential for us to hold our annual meetings, and is already under way. The Local Arrangements Committee (Ruth Cowen, Chair) has been at work for months preparing for our next meeting in Philadelphia. The Program Committee (Susan Lederer) and the awards committees: The Welch Medal (Keith Wailoo), Osler Medal (Joel Howell), Shryock Medal (Alexandra Stern), Estes Prize (John Swan), Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Prize (Erica Dyck), and the Lifetime Achievement (Norman Gevitz) received submissions and nominations last month and are deliberating. The Garrison Lecture Committee (John Warner) is also at work choosing our Garrison Lecturer for the 2011 meeting. The work of the ad hoc Committee on Travel Grants (Margaret Humphreys) and the ad hoc Committee on Student Affairs (Jacob Steere-Williams) will commence closer to the annual meeting.

Other committees are charged with advising the Council and the Executive Committee and helping determine AAHM policy. This is true of the Committee on Finance (Gerry Grob) and the Publications Committee (Greg Higby). It is also true of the Committee on Annual Meetings (Ted Brown), which has had a busy summer. It helped arrange our meeting site for the 2013 annual meeting in Atlanta and advised the Executive Committee on the contract with the Emory Conference Center. It is also advising the Executive Committee and Council on some recommendation for change in policy, which have been made by other committees.

Changes in policy and practice often originate in suggestions made by our ad hoc committees. I have asked the ad hoc committees on the Future of Medical History Libraries (Sally Romano), on HIPAA and Historians of Medicine (Nancy McCall), and on the Endowment (John Parascandola) to continue their work. I also have created a new ad hoc Committee on Accessibility chaired by Lisa Pruitt to study how the AAHM can make its meetings more accessible to people with disabilities. The ad hoc Committee on Accessibility has made recommendations in a report which the Council will consider when it convenes again at our next annual meeting. The ad hoc Committee on HIPAA and Historians of Medicine has prepared a statement in support of proposed changes in the federal regulation on scholarly access to patient records; this statement has been submitted on behalf of the AAHM. The ad hoc Committee on the Future of Medical History Libraries and the Publication

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Even this brief sketch makes it clear how much the AAHM depends on the hard work and judgment of the members of our committees. Thanks to every one of them.

*John Eyler,
AAHM President*

AAHM NEWS

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Join us in Philadelphia 28 April-1 May 2011 for the 84th annual meeting of the AAHM! The University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) look forward to welcoming you to the birthplace of American medicine for a busy and exciting meeting. Susan Lederer and the Program Committee are preparing another lineup chock-full of stimulating sessions, and the setting—well, the Local Arrangements Committee must apologize in advance for the dilemmas attendees will face as they decide how to divide their time among Philadelphia's unmatched archival and library collections, a plethora of nearby historic sites, and the conference sessions. Our city's many medical firsts—North America's first hospital, first medical school, first pharmacy school, and first medical society—barely scratch the surface of Philadelphia's medical history riches.

The highlight of the meeting will be the Garrison Lecture and reception at the National Constitution Center, a short walk from the conference hotel. The setting is unforgettable, with the sweeping foyer facing a lovely view of Independence Hall (illuminated at night) across the green expanse of Independence Mall. Martin Pernick of the University of Michigan will deliver the 2011 Garrison Lecture.

The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, located in the epicenter of Philadelphia's historic district, practically in the shadow of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Center. Within a few blocks of the hotel are Pennsylvania Hospital (North America's oldest), with its archives and surgical amphitheater, the museum and library

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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.

Committees have agreed to advise the Medical Heritage Digital Collaboration, a major new project of some of the nation's major medical libraries and archives, on the selection of texts to digitize and on the new interface for access to the collection. Finally, the ad hoc Committee on the Endowment is considering whether and how to restart the new endowment fund drive which the AAHM cancelled with the financial downturn.

of the American Philosophical Society, and the Chemical Heritage Foundation. (In addition to its fascinating museum exhibits on alchemy and other historical topics, CHF boasts a magnificent library of rare books and archives.) The home of Phillip Syng Physick (known as the “father of American surgery”), Christ Church Burial Ground, Elfreth’s Alley (oldest continually inhabited street in the U.S.), historic City Tavern, the First and Second Banks of the United States, Carpenters’ Hall, Franklin Court Museum and Historic Site, the Betsy Ross House, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Independence Seaport Museum, and Washington Square Park all await you within five blocks of the Sheraton!

Many AAHM members will already be familiar with the treasures of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia library and archives; a short trolley ride will take you from the hotel to this unrivaled collection in the history of medicine. Take a break from research to marvel at the “disturbingly informative” Mütter Museum of medical specimens and oddities downstairs, and relax in the College’s historic medicinal garden outside.

In 2007, Thomas Jefferson University announced plans to sell Thomas Eakins’s 1875 masterpiece *The Gross Clinic*, deemed by many art historians the most important American painting of the nineteenth century, to the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas. Philadelphia civic leaders rallied to raise \$68 million to match the sales price and keep this monument to Philadelphia’s tradition of medical innovation in its hometown. It is now shared between the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA), both easily accessible in Center City Philadelphia. During the AAHM meeting, the newly restored *Gross Clinic* will be on view at PAFA, while Eakins’s other landmark surgical painting, the University of Pennsylvania’s *Agnew Clinic* (1889), is displayed at the PMA, which will also feature “Health for Sale: Posters from the William H. Helfand Collection.”

The University of Pennsylvania’s Rare Book and Manuscript Library will be exhibiting items from its Walter Lear Collection on the history of the health left. Other noteworthy research resources nearby include Drexel University’s Archives and Special Collections (specializing in Women in Medicine and in Homeopathic Medicine), the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Hagley Museum and Library. The American Philosophical Society Museum will be showing “Of Elephants and Roses: Encounters with French Natural History, 1790-1830,” which includes fossilized mastodon teeth sent by Thomas Jefferson to the Jardin des Plantes, stunning watercolors of roses and exotic lilies painted by P.-J. Redouté for the Empress Josephine, and Sèvres porcelain decorated with an American tree named after Benjamin Franklin.

Philadelphia’s Old City, in which the Sheraton Society Hill is located, is also home to many of the city’s best restaurants and boasts an active nightlife. Dining options of every variety imaginable, live music, and many other entertainment options lie within easy walking distance.

Philadelphia is easily accessible by all major airlines, including discount carriers such as Southwest. Rail service on Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor runs very frequently, as do the very inexpensive and comfortable buses of Bolt Bus and Megabus (featuring wireless internet access).

We look forward to seeing you in Philly!

David Barnes
Ruth Schwartz Cowan
LAC Co-Chairs

Call for Nominations, AAHM Awards, 2011

All awards will be presented at the AAHM Meeting 28 April-1 May 2011 in Philadelphia, PA. Additional information may be found on the AAHM Web site www.histmed.org.

Osler Medal Essay Contest, 2011. 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. For additional information contact the Osler Medal Committee Chair: Joel Howell, jhowell@umich.edu. Entries must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (preferred method of submission) by **15 January 2011**.

Shryock Medal Essay Contest, 2011. Graduate students in the United States and Canada are invited to enter the Shryock Medal Essay Contest. For additional information contact the Shryock Medal Committee Chair: Alexandra Minna Stern, amstern@umich.edu. Essays must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (preferred method of submission) no later than **15 January 2011**.

J. Worth Estes Award, 2011. 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. For the current award, candidate papers will be those published in 2009 and 2010. Nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Committee, John Swann, jswann@ora.fda.gov and must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (preferred method of submission) no later than **15 January 2011**.

Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century History of Medicine or Science. The award and 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., 2006–2010). The application, including all supporting materials, must be postmarked by **31 December 2010** and addressed to the Chair of the Pressman–Burroughs Wellcome Committee, Erika Dyck, Erika.dyck@usak.ca.

AAHM Web Site

As part of the ongoing transition of the *AAHM NewsLetter*, calls for papers, fellowship announcements, grant opportunities, and other time-sensitive information is being posted on the Association Web site. AAHM Webmaster Matthew Scanlon has provided the guidelines listed below for posting information.

Submitting information to the AAHM Web site www.histmed.org/add_announcements.htm:

1. Please send all updates or corrections to webmaster via e-mail to mscanlon@kumc.edu
2. Please include the URL (Web address) of the page you are referring changes or additions within the requesting e-mail.
3. Please do not include information in CAPS LOCK.
4. You should expect to have a reply to your request within 7 days of submission. In most cases this process will be much faster.
5. If you do not get a responding e-mail with a note that your request could not be granted or a note stating done, within 7 days, please follow up with an e-mail or phone call to (913) 588-7042.
6. Please submit the information within the body of an email or as an attachment.
7. If your submission is approved, the AAHM twitter feed will announce the update.

Thank you!

*Matthew Scanlon,
AAHM Webmaster*

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Warwick Anderson's *The Collectors of Lost Souls: Turning Kuru Scientists into Whitemen* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008) has been awarded the 2010 Ludwik Fleck Prize at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science. *Lost Souls* also received the 2010 William H. Welch Medal and the 2009 New South Wales Premier's General History Prize.

Julie Fairman and **Patricia D'Antonio** received the 2010 M. Adelaide Nutting Award from the American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN) for their 2008 article "Reimagining Nursing's Place in the History of Clinical Practice." *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*

Winifred Connerton, Bates Nursing History Center Post-Doctoral Fellow, received the AAHN's Teresa E. Christy Award for her dissertation, "Have Cap Will Travel: U.S. Nurses Abroad 1898-1910."

Michael McVaugh has become a lifetime member of the AAHM.

CALL FOR PAPERS

In February 2012, the **Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage** will be co-sponsoring a conference with the **Western Front Association (USA)** on the medical history of WWI. It will be hosted at the Army Medical Department Museum in San Antonio, TX. Papers on all facets are sought. The deadline is February 2011. Contact: Dr Sanders Marble, Office of Medical History, U.S. Army, sanders.marble@us.army.mil

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

The **Waring Historical Library** is pleased to announce the addition of another collection to its digital library, MEDICA. Follow the link below to see more than 150 photographs of the Colleton

County Hospital in Walterboro, South Carolina. These photographs were donated to the library from the morgue of the Walterboro Press and Standard in 2006. Bloodmobiles, measles clinics, hospital construction and more! medica.library.musc.edu/mss957.php

The History of Vaccines www.historyofvaccines.org is a new informational, educational website that explores the role of immunization in the human experience and examines its continuing contributions to public health. "The History of Vaccines" was created by The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the nation's oldest professional medical organization. Contact vaccines@collegeofphysicians.org for further information.

The Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Library recently acquired the personal and professional records of noted biostatistician Stephen W. Lagakos. Lagakos (1946 -2009) was Chair of the Harvard School of Public Health Department of Biostatistics from 1999 to 2006, from 1982 to 1987 was co-director of the World Health Organization's Collaborating Center for Cancer Biostatistics Evaluation, and was the Director for the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research at the Harvard School of Public Health from 1995 to 2009. He is most widely known for his research linking poor water conditions with public health problems in Woburn, Massachusetts, in the late 1970s and for his contributions to AIDS research, such as determining when mothers with AIDS transmit the disease to their gestating fetuses.

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

MeSH was first published in 1960; in 2010 we observe 50 years of this subject control authority. The seeds of MeSH were planted in December 1947. The Army Medical Library, the NLM predecessor, sponsored a Symposium on Medical Subject Headings in 1947. Participants, who included Seymour Taine, Thelma Charen, and Eugene Garfield, considered the challenges of the

bibliographical control of publications. It was noted that the increasing complexity of scientific literature necessitated increasingly sophisticated approaches to organization and access. The participants recognized that the issue of a subject authority was not an academic exercise. Rather, subject cataloging and the subject indexing of journal articles were acknowledged as the essence of bibliographic control. The needs of the user of scientific information were to be always at the forefront in creating a set of medical subject headings that were made equally for subject description of books and for indexing of journal articles.

That first edition of MeSH represented a departure from the then usual library practice. MeSH contained 4300 descriptors, and it was designed to be used for both indexing and cataloging. It is likely the first vocabulary engineered for use in an automated environment for production and retrieval. MeSH continues to evolve and grow. The 2011 edition contains more than 26,000 subject headings in an eleven-level hierarchy and 83 subheadings. Annual revision and updating are ongoing to assure that MeSH remains useful as a way to categorize medical knowledge and knowledge in allied and related disciplines for retrieval of key information. MeSH is 50 years old and new each year.

On 18 November Dr. Robert Braude presented an overview of the origins of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), and offers some reflections on MeSH over 5 decades, from punch cards to PubMed. This lecture is available online at videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?Live=9755

NLM announces a new online and traveling exhibition, "Binding Wounds Pushing Boundaries: African American in Civil War Medicine" www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/bindingwounds/exhibition.html. Many histories have been written about medical care during the American Civil War, but the participation and contributions of African Americans as nurses, surgeons, and hospital workers have often been overlooked. "Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African Americans in Civil War

Medicine" looks at the men and women who served as surgeons and nurses and how their work as medical providers challenged the prescribed notions of race and gender. For further information or to host the traveling exhibition visit: www.nlm.nih.gov/bindingwounds/index.html.

NLM is pleased to announce the release of its prototype History of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/consortium/index.html, a search-and-discovery tool for archival resources in the health sciences that are described by finding aids and held by various institutions throughout the United States. A finding aid is a tool created by archivists to give information about the contents of archival collections. Finding aids provide contextual information about collections oftentimes with detailed inventories to help researchers locate relevant materials. NLM is the world's largest medical library and a component of the National Institutes of Health. The resource crawls existing Web content managed by several partner institutions, provides keyword search functionality, and provides results organized by holding institution. Links point to the holding institution's Web sites. Formats indexed consist of HTML, PDF, and Encoded Archival Description XML. The project does not include content held in bibliographic utilities or other database-type information.

Crawls are conducted monthly to ensure information is current and to capture new content as it is released. Current Consortium partners are: NLM History of Medicine Division, Archives and Modern Manuscripts Program; Columbia University Health Center Library Archives and Special Collections; Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions; University of California-San Francisco Library Archives and Special Collections; University of Virginia Health Sciences Library Historical Collections; Virginia Commonwealth University Tompkins-McCaw Library Special Collections and Archives

NLM's History of Medicine Division invites libraries, archives, and museums which include in

their collections archival materials related to the history of medicine and health sciences to join. For more information about the project or requests to join the Consortium, please contact John P. Rees, Archivist and Digital Resources Manager, NLM, at reesj@nlm.nih.gov.

After a long hiatus, the Office of the Public Health Service Historian was officially closed in March 2010. Materials from that office were transferred to the National Library of Medicine for integration in the collections, and should be available early in 2011.

The National Library of Medicine's History of Medicine Division is pleased to announce the release of a new Web interface www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/manuscripts/oh.html to its oral history collections, as part of its growing electronic texts program. Content includes digital editions of transcripts and any accompanying audio content when feasible. Users can browse content by title, interviewee name, and subject. Full-text searching is available across all sub-collections, across each sub-collection, and within each transcript.

Currently the site contains 107 interviews in two sub-collections consisting of over 13,000 pages and 80 hours of audio content. These interviews represent the majority of HMD's oral histories conducted by HMD staff during the 1960s when HMD had an active oral history program. HMD still conducts the occasional interview for specific projects, but the majority of our post-1970 holdings consist of interviews that are the product of external researchers or practitioners, or in our capacity as the service point for programs such as that of the Food and Drug Administration History Office.

Some of the topics covered include: the development of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine by "Big Four" members including influential surgeon William Halsted and renowned gynecologist Howard Kelly; Guy Tugwell and George Larrick discussing their roles in the 1938 and 1951 revisions to the Pure Food and Drug Act;

the practice of surgery in the United States; and medical economics in the 1930s. There is also a series of 13 interviews with homeopathy physicians, conducted in 1968. There is a separate sub-collection of interviews with primary care physicians (internists) conducted by Fitzhugh Mullan in the 1990s as part of research conducted for his book, *Big Doctoring in America: Profiles in Primary Care*.

Users can also hear Vivien Thomas, the celebrated African American surgical technician, speak about working with surgeon Alfred Blalock to develop procedures to treat blue baby syndrome, US Senator Lister Hill (a key figure in the creation and passage of the National Library of Medicine Act of 1956) discussing his family, life as a politician, and health care legislation, and a short recording of celebrated English nurse Florence Nightingale.

Future content will include interviews conducted as part of National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology's (NICHSR) History of Health Services Research project, oral histories from the FDA's active oral history program, and the Medical Library Association.

OTHER NEWS

At its 27th annual conference, entitled International Perspectives on Nursing History, held jointly with European Nursing History Group in London, England, the **American Association for the History of Nursing** awarded its distinguished Lavinia L. Dock Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing to Dr. Kara Dixon Vuic for her book *Officer, nurse, woman: The Army Nurse Corp in the Vietnam War*, published in 2010 by Johns Hopkins Press. Dr. Vuic is an assistant professor of history at Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA.