This is my last newsletter as president of the AAHM and it has been nearly two years now since Margaret Humphreys handed me the ceremonial gavel at the business meeting in Minneapolis in 2016. (The gavel currently resides in my suitcase as a preventive measure against forgetting it again this year.) It has been a great pleasure and a distinct honor to serve in this role. AAHM has been a core part of my professional life since I joined as a graduate student in 1990. And our association’s goal to promote the preservation, study, and teaching of the history of medicine seems more compelling to me than ever. I feel like we have advanced this goal in many areas over the last couple of years, while there is still clearly much to do. And it is an interesting time of transition.

Amid all the crazy and pleasant chaos of social media these days, there is an amazing variety of off-putting behaviors. This is not news. These range from fairly complex forms of subversion and mockery to brutal attempts at suppressing others’ speech. And it may be difficult on the small scale to distinguish among them. But certain disturbing incidents stand out—and are apparently growing more frequent (see a series of articles in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in June and July last year). These incidents involve concerted efforts to punish scholars for their public work through online harassment. In a brief discussion after the business meeting last year, we learned that members of the AAHM have experienced such attacks.

In response, Lara Freidenfelds has created an ad hoc committee to examine this issue and to provide advice and support for individual historians who experience it. The committee is working to assemble some simple recommendations that will be disseminated through the AAHM. In addition, they have started a group—we can call them first responders—to offer direct support for members who experience online harassment relating to their professional role. If you are interested in learning more or in joining the committee please contact Dr. Freidenfelds, Lara@post.harvard.edu.

While the challenge of responding appropriately to this new intersection of scholarly and public personas seems novel, the association’s embrace of public engagement and activism is not. Our members’ engagement with the day’s pressing questions of health and society remains a strong part of the association’s history. This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rosemary Stevens’ Garrison Lecture in Louisville, Kentucky on “The Historian as Reformer and Policy Maker.” (And yes, we could go back to Henry Sigerist and his presidency in 1936—but for a good anniversary we would have to cite his service as secretary of the association for four years subsequently, which is a tradition best honored in the breach.)
A recent successful change for AAHM is the poster sessions at the annual meeting. I hope to submit one myself soon, when I am retired into the cushy spot of immediate past president. The poster session continues to draw excellent submissions, and this year the posters have a thematic division into two full sessions. Registration for the LA meeting is now open! The program looks as rich and varied as ever. It was especially pleasing to see figuring into the program a large number of papers from assistant professors and advanced doctoral students from many different programs across the country, including among them Michigan State University, the University of Chicago, the University of South Carolina, Creighton University, the University of Pittsburgh, and our hosting institution, UCLA. I also noted papers of interest to me by a number of physicians, and soon-to-be physicians, including, I was gratified to see, a Jayhawk alumnus of my hometown institution. All will be descending this May into LAX – I will spare you further butterfly metaphors at this point and hope to see you there.

Chris Crenner
AAHM President

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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: 1 July, 1 October, and 15 February.

The American Association for the History of Medicine will hold its 91st annual meeting in Los Angeles, California, May 10-13, 2018 on the campus of UCLA. The conference website is: www.histmed.org/meetings/los-angeles-2018.

The meeting logo, designed my MJ Balvanera, is based on the cover of F.O.B. Los Angeles, a 1946 (revised 1947) promotional brochure from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power which was aimed at getting businesses to re-locate in economically-booming postwar “Forward Operating Base” Los Angeles, a gateway to the Pacific Rim.

We welcome you to Los Angeles!
Meeting Hotel

Lodging will be at the beautiful new Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center hotel (425 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles CA 90095: luskinconferencecenter.ucla.edu/about), located 12 miles from LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) and 15 miles from Burbank Airport. The hotel is located in the middle of campus, adjacent to Pauley Pavilion (home of Bruins basketball and women’s gymnastics, and one of the sites of the 1984 and 2028 Summer Olympics) and Ackerman Union (the student activities center with a department store, food courts, a post office, and permanently-installed artworks commissioned from students in annual competitions).

AAHM has negotiated a group rate of **$230 per room per night** at the Luskin. Please note that the $230 group rate will NOT be charged any additional transient occupancy tax or sales tax – it is the inclusive rate, which one pays. Attendees have until **Monday, April 9, 2018** to make their reservations and get this group rate.

The Luskin Conference Center’s reservation system is available to take accommodation reservations. Visit the website at lcc.ucla.edu/reserve or call 855-LCC-UCLA (855-522-8252) to make reservations. Use the code “**AMER0509**” (A-M-E-R-zero-five-zero-nine) to get the “American Association for the History of Medicine” rate. Please note that valid credit card information must be provided to guarantee attendee reservations.

The “AMER0509” accommodation price is good for Wednesday (May 9) through Monday (May 14), if you want to come a little early or stay a little late. Check-in time is 4:00 pm; check-out time is 12:00 noon. Wifi is included. There are no routinely-installed in-room refrigerators, but these may be requested ahead of time for special circumstances (if needed for medications, infant formula, etc.). The bar and restaurant are cashless, credit-card-only facilities; there are no cash concessions on-site.

In Spring 2018, UCLA will celebrate 5 years as a tobacco/smoke/vapor-free campus, and continues to be cannabis-free (both smoking and edibles). Please be advised that this applies to all indoor and outdoor areas, including the Luskin Conference Center patios and sidewalks. This “Breathe Well” program is part of the UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative.

Mobile App

The official conference mobile app, “Guidebook”, will be back for its third year. The guide again will include local maps, information about restaurants and places of interest, and the ability to create a personal conference itinerary. Look at the conference website in April for instructions on downloading and using the app.

Getting Here

LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) is a hub or direct-flight destination for more airlines than we can count. The advantage, coming to a conference on the west coast, is that you will have tailwinds in both directions. But, seriously – it’s not the best, but is a good airport that is getting better.

Leaving baggage claim areas on the Arrivals (lower) level, you will find taxicabs (around $40 to $50 per ride) and shared vans such as SuperShuttle and PrimeTime curbside at the closest curb. Look for color-coded signs on the outer curb (be sure to cross only in crosswalks; jaywalking tickets may be issued) for: FlyAway shuttle ($10 one-way, credit card only, arriving at Lot 32 in Westwood Village, about a 6 block walk to the Luskin); Rental Car shuttle vans and buses; and Lot C or Lot G (Green Line) shuttle. See more detailed instructions for Uber and Lyft.

The most economical transportation: take the Lot G shuttle at the LAX Courtesy Shuttle stop to the Aviation Green Line (Metro) station (its only stop). From there, ride Culver City bus #6 or #Rapid 6 ($1.00) to its final destination, one block away from the Luskin! To return to LAX, take the same Culver
City bus line to the City Bus Terminal (en route to the Green Line station); walk next door to the LAX “Lot C” Shuttle, and ride the free shuttle to the upper (Departures) level at your airline’s terminal.

If you are coming early, staying over, or have an accompanying person or family who will do sightseeing, you may want to rent an automobile from any major rental car firm at LAX or Burbank Airport. Be sure to make a reservation before you arrive in Los Angeles. Parking is at the Luskin or next door in Parking Structure 8, Level 4. See driving and parking directions for the Luskin Center.

Pre-Conference Tours and Workshops

Tour 1: *Plants, Books, and Medicine* at the Huntington Library, art Collections, and Botanical Gardens [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)
- Thursday, 8:30am-5:00pm (assemble at Luskin Center at 8:30, depart at 9:00, arrive at the Huntington by 10:30; depart Huntington at 3:00 to 3:30, returning to Luskin by 4:30 to 5:00)
- Fee: $20 (this is a small contribution to transportation and admission expenses)
- Number of participants: 40 maximum
- Admission to the Huntington will be complementary.
- Transportation: We will organize a coach bus.
- Program: Half of our group will spend the morning with Alain Touwaide (Institute for the History of Medical Traditions) on a tour of the Herb Garden; the other half will have the morning to stroll the grounds, art galleries and library exhibits. Lunch will be on your own at one of the Huntington’s dining facilities. In the afternoon, Daniel Lewis (Dibner Senior Curator, History of Science & Technology) will lead two groups, for an hour apiece, through an exhibition in the Dibner Hall of the History of Science; Alain Touwaide will reprise his Herb Garden tour for up to half our group.

Tour 2: *Anatomy* at the Getty Research Institute [www.getty.edu/research/](http://www.getty.edu/research/)
- Thursday, 2:00-4:30 pm (assemble at Luskin Center at 1:00; depart Getty at 4:30, returning to Luskin by 5:30)
- Fee: $10 (to offset transportation)
- Number of participants: 18 maximum
- Admission to the Getty is free.
- Transportation: We will organize a shuttle bus or Lyft/Uber.
- Program: Monique Kornell and institute curators will host an afternoon visit at the Getty Research Institute (GRI) to examine their lifesize Antonio Cattani anatomical engravings based on Hercules Lelli’s wax sculptures, and other anatomical works in GRI collections.

- Thursday, 2:00-4:00 pm (leave Luskin Center at 1:00; arrive Sony at 1:30; tour from 2:00-4:00; leave Sony at 4:00 to 4:30; return to Luskin by 5:30)
- Fee: $55 (includes studio tour fee and transportation; refundable if a minimum group size of 20 is not recruited by April 9)
- Number of participants: 80 maximum
- Children age 12 and older are welcome
- Transportation: We will organize shuttle buses.
- Scope of the walking tour (from the Sony tour website): “Walk through the famed gates and you’re behind the scenes at one of the most historic and exciting studio lots in the world. Our two-hour guided walking tour will give you the real experience of a working studio. Visit soundstages once home to iconic films like *The Wizard of Oz*, *Men in Black*, and *Spider-Man*. Swing by smash-hit games shows *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune*. You might even catch a glimpse of the Barbra Streisand Scoring stage or a set from the hit comedy, *The Goldbergs*. Keep your eyes open... You never know what – or who – will be around the next corner.”
Tour 4: Rarely Seen Period Rooms in the Jules Stein Eye Institute [www.uclahealth.org/eye/stein-eye-institute](www.uclahealth.org/eye/stein-eye-institute)

- Thursday, 4:00-5:00 pm (depart Luskin Center at 3:30; return to Luskin by 5:30)
- Fee: None
- Number of participants: 15 maximum
- Transportation: Walk from the Luskin Center.
- Program: The Jules Stein Eye Institute contains a number of stunning period rooms that are unknown to most of the UCLA community and little seen by people outside the Jules Stein Eye Institute. These include: a room designed by the 18th-century Scottish architect Robert Adam; a room formerly part of an 18th-century townhouse in London, once the home of the Earl of Dudley and later the British Foreign Office; a room from the Santa Monica beach home of actress Marion Davies; a room created by Walt Disney as a gift to Jules Stein designed by Mary Blair, creator of the Small World attraction at Disneyland; and Curator emerita Victoria Steele will lead a lively, fast-paced walking tour. There will be a few surprises along the way, too (sliced books! an Oscar statuette!).

Self-Guided Walking Tours

Links to the sites may be found on the AAHM 2018 meeting page: [www.histmed.org/meetings/los-angeles-2018](www.histmed.org/meetings/los-angeles-2018)

- Tour of the Mildred Mathias Botanical Garden, profiling the medicinal herbs garden and perhaps including the Herbarium. We will determine when docents are available during the conference, and have sign-ups at the AAHM registration desk.
- Self-guided walking tours of UCLA’s grounds—with specimen trees from around the world, the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden with blooming jacaranda, and architecture for every taste—may be supplemented with docent-led tours of the Fowler Museum of global arts and cultures, and the dynamic Hammer Museum (a public art unit of the School of Arts and Architecture).
- Teaching with Rare Materials in the History of Medicine: An exhibit by UCLA Library Special Collections (LSC), in the LSC lobby on the A (lower) level of the Charles E. Young Research Library.

If your attendance plans change before the conference, let the organizers know so that people on wait lists may be accommodated on tours or in workshops.

Getting Around

L.A.’s public transit systems are working to meet the needs of residents and visitors. A walk of a few blocks from the Luskin Center gets you to the stop for Los Angeles Metro Bus 234, which goes past the Getty Center and Museum stop on its way to the San Fernando Valley. Take a relatively short bus ride southbound (Culver City Bus #6 and Santa Monica/Big Blue Bus #Rapid 12 both stop directly opposite the Luskin Center in the Gateway Plaza bus turnaround) from the UCLA campus to the Westwood/Rancho Park Expo Line station on the Metro rail system, from which you may use a transfer or buy a pass to connect to go west to Santa Monica Pier, beach, and restaurants; or east to Exposition Park’s Museums (Natural History and California Science Center) and the main campus of University of Southern California (USC). Transfers on Metro rail and subway lines lead all the way to Pasadena’s Old Town, East Los Angeles, and even the Long Beach Aquarium.

We are investigating the particulars of the new campus and community bicycle renting/sharing programs and will have this information available in the Guidebook app.

A Foodie City

Food Bowl, organized by the Los Angeles Times, will return for a second year in May, 2018, as “a month-long festival celebrating the Los Angeles region’s
dynamic and influential food scene. The festival will bring together the best in local dining experiences while promoting social awareness about food waste and hunger.” Local restaurants, food trucks, farmers’ markets, and pop-up events will host special menus and cooking & tasting programs to celebrate the diversity and abundance of California produce and products. Love him or hate him, foodies use Jonathan Gold’s reviews to find interesting and unusual eating experiences. Within Westwood Village itself, the business neighborhood adjacent to UCLA, highly-rated Italian, Indian, Korean, Chinese, Brazilian, Mexican, Californian, vegetarian, sushi, and seafood restaurants offer many choices for your daily dining.

From Dudamel to Disney

From The Getty Museum and Research Institute (near UCLA) and Villa (on the coast) … to the Griffith Observatory (think Rebel Without a Cause) in the Hollywood Hills … to the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, Petersen Automotive Museum, and LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art in mid-Wilshire) … to Gustavo Dudamel’s Los Angeles Philharmonic at downtown’s Disney Hall, we hope you will enjoy some of the many venues, activities, and experiences that Los Angeles has to offer. To help you create the best itinerary for your visit, we recommend going to the online visitor’s guide website www.discoverlostangeles.com). This comprehensive guide is a great way to find out about L.A. (and Southern California) museums, cultural sites, theaters and concert halls, tours, amusement parks, restaurants, L.A. heritage neighborhoods, and so much more.

“What is the one thing a visitor must see/do while in Los Angeles/Southern California?” Consider:

• The Beach and Ocean: from the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach (accessible by metro via the Expo Line to the Blue Line) to cycling/skating the “boardwalks” of Manhattan Beach (think La La Land) and Venice Beach, to sticking a toe into the surf near Santa Monica Pier or at Paradise Cove in Malibu
• Disneyland (Anaheim)
• Universal Studios Hollywood, with a reinvigorated tram tour and the extraordinary Wizarding World of Harry Potter
• Take a super-touristy Star Tours van or bus ride
• Tickets to Jimmy Kimmel or The Late, Late Show with James Corden
• Make a pilgrimage to the hand-and footprints at Grauman’s Theatre (i.e., TCL Chinese Theater) on Hollywood Boulevard
• La Plaza de Cultura y Artes for Los Angeles history; then hit the Central Library, The Broad (a museum, pronounced “brode”), the Japanese American National Museum, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angeles, Disney Hall, and other downtown sites
• Watts Towers of Simon Rodia (Expo Line to the Blue Line)
• Art junkies may want to visit LACMA or the Norton Simon Museum, both world-famous
• Los Angeles Times columnist Charles Fleming’s Secret Stairs (“a walking and hiking guide to the hidden public staircases of Los Angeles”) and L.A. Walks
• Again, the Los Angeles Times: “36 Hours in Los Angeles”
• Parks and Gardens: Virginia Robinsons Gardens (a mansion and gardens in Beverly Hills), Self-Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine (take the #2 Metro bus on Sunset Boulevard), Will Rogers State Historic Park, Temescal Canyon State Park, … and don’t even get us started on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and the gazillion other destinations in southern California …
• Museum of Jurassic Technology: “[A]n educational institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and public appreciation of the Lower Jurassic.” Not really; perhaps not even close. An unusual museum based in a storefront in Culver City, near the Sony
Studios and numerous excellent taverns and restaurants.

- Interested in an “edgier” presentation and tour of historical Los Angeles? Check out www.esotouric.com, hosted by two of the best local historians currently in Southern California. With a wealth of knowledge of L.A. history, coupled with spicy back-stories, they provide narrated bus tours of Los Angeles and neighboring cities; or, as their website states, “Bus Adventures into the secret heart of Los Angeles.” If the unusual and sublime are more your cup of tea, then Atlas Obscura/Los Angeles is for you.

More Things to See and Do Locally

- **King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh**
  California Science Center Exhibition tickets are now on sale for the show which opens March 24th. To reach the California Science Center from the Luskin Conference Center, take Santa Monica/Big Blue Bus Rapid 12 (pay additional 50 cents for a metro transfer) from the traffic circle opposite the Luskin to the Westwood/Rancho Park stop of the Expo Line; take the Expo Line going east (Downtown) to Expo Park/USC station. Consider visiting the Natural History Museum while you are there, and heading Downtown, too!

- **“the theater is a blank page”**
  Ann Hamilton and SITI Company performance at UCLA Royce Hall, May 9, 10, 11, 12 (8:00pm) and May 12 (2:00pm) cap.ucla.edu/calendar/details/ann_hamilton_siti16

- **Rigoletto**
  L.A. Opera Performances begin on Saturday, May 12 (7:30pm) http://www.latopera.org/Season1718-Season/rigoletto. To plan your visit: <www.latopera.org/tickets/Plan-Your-Visit>

- **Los Angeles Dodgers** Home games at Dodger Stadium vs. Arizona Diamondbacks (May 8, 9, 10) and Cincinnati Reds (May 11, 12, 13). Tickets: www.mlb.com/dodgers/tickets/single-game-

tickets Getting there: www.mlb/dodgers/ ballpark/transportation>

City of Angels

Of course, the most important factor always is you, the members of AAHM. Come to the City of Angels in May, 2018, and enjoy your annual meeting!

2018 Local Arrangements Committee

AAHM Response to Trolling and Harassment of Scholars

On-line trolling and harassment have become hazards of doing scholarly work, especially if we engage with the public and publish outside academic settings. It is important that we stay safe in the face of harassment without being forced to withdraw from collegial and public engagement. To that end, AAHM offers the following resources.

Guide and Resource List

Whether or not you have been the target of harassment, everyone with an online presence should consider taking steps to protect themselves. If you do come under scrutiny, document, document, document.

It is a common practice for political websites to complain about a scholar’s work, as well as her/his sexual, racial, ethnic, or gender identity, and link to that scholar’s email and/or Twitter with encouragement to “tell her what you think.” These websites use a belligerent and threatening tone, and implicitly encourage their readers to send abusive messages. These types of attacks require no technological sophistication on the part of the participants, and are meant to chase the scholar offline by creating an emotionally disturbing and logistically overwhelming distraction.

An important first step for being prepared for this kind of attack without being forced off line is to create several separate email accounts, and set them
up to forward to your main account. If you can create a separate “public-facing” university account that is not the account you use for teaching and internal university correspondence, do. Put that email address on all websites and use it when you publish. Keep personal email in another separate account. If an attack begins, turn off forwarding so that you can keep the attack emails contained to a space that is separate from much of the rest of your business.

The next step is to document the harassment. Keep the emails in a separate folder; keep screenshots of Twitter abuse. If the situation escalates you may need the evidence.

If you think you might face more sophisticated harassers, consider taking the steps detailed in these guides to give yourself greater protection: onlinesafety.feministfrequency.com/en and yoursosteam.wordpress.com/digital-hygiene-course. If you receive serious threats, involve your institution if you are affiliated, and your local police.

**Process for helpers and requesters of help**

**EMAIL**

1. Helpers and requesters of help engage with each other at their own risk. We recommend changing your password to a temporary password during the process.

2. The requester should set the agenda; it is important that the helper confirm the details of what form of help is being requested, and get additional, specific permission for any actions that might fall outside of the scope that has been agreed upon. Someone who is under attack already feels violated and vulnerable, and our help needs to be provided sensitively.

3. Good communication is crucial. These situations evolve and are unpredictable. Keep checking in to make sure the help provided continues to be the right kind of assistance.

4. We suggest that the requester create a new folder into which the helper can sift trolling emails. The emails should be kept as documentation.

5. The requester may prefer that the helper only read subject lines, and do her best to sift on that basis. Or she may ask that the helper scan the text of all emails suspected of being attacks. The requester should clarify with the helper what kinds of attacks she should be alerted to at once (i.e., death threats, or specific mentions of family members).

6. The helper may offer a summary at the end of few hours or the day, and/or point to specific emails that she thinks the requester may want to see. Helper and requester should agree on a plan, and keep open communication.

7. If anything comes up, please do not hesitate to contact the Steering Committee.

8. Helper and requester are asked to briefly write up their experience and submit it to the Steering Committee, so that we can continue to refine the helping process.

**FACEBOOK**

1. The general guidelines of open communication, using temporary passwords to provide access, and the helper following the lead of the requester apply.

2. In particular, the requester should clarify with the helper what kinds of attacks she should be alerted to at once (i.e., death threats, or specific mentions of family members).

3. If threatening comments are being left, the helper can capture screenshots, report the attacker, and then remove the comments (if left on the requester’s page) or unfollow a post (not under the requester’s control) to prevent notifications from popping up.

4. Trolling personal messages will be reported and archived (not deleted) and the sender(s) blocked.

5. If the requester’s Facebook account has been hacked, the helper can help the requester walk through the hacked-account process, including screening the account for changes that were made while under the hacker’s control.

6. If the requester feels so threatened that s/he would like to delete the Facebook account, the helper can download an archive of the account,
which will include photos and posts the requester may not want to lose.

7. The helper may offer a summary at the end of few hours or the day, and/or point to specific emails that she thinks the requester may want to see. Helper and requester should agree on a plan, and keep open communication.

AAHM Nominations

The report of the AAHM Nominating Committee appears on page 19. Biographies for the nominated candidates appear below. The election will take place at the business meeting during the annual meeting in Los Angeles, CA, on Saturday, 12 May.

Candidate for President

Susan E. Lederer is the Robert Turell Professor of the History of Medicine and Bioethics and Chair of the Department of Medical History and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She is the author of Subjected to Science: Human Experimentation in America Before the Second World War (1995); Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature (2002), and Flesh and Blood: A Cultural History of Transplantation and Transfusion in Twentieth-Century America (2008). She has been a member of AAHM since 1985, and has served on the editorial boards of the Bulletin of the History of Medicine, the Journal of the History of Medicine, Social History of Medicine, and Isis. She is a Hastings Center Fellow and serves on the Hastings Center Fellow Council. She gave the Fielding H. Garrison Lecture in 2016. She is currently at work on a book with AAHM member Professor Susan Lawrence on the history of body donation in twentieth-century America.

Candidate for Vice President

Keith Wailoo is Henry Putnam University Professor of History and Public Affairs at Princeton University where he teaches in the Department of History and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is Chair of the History Department, and former Vice Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School. He is author of several acclaimed books, including Pain: A Political History (Johns Hopkins, 2014); How Cancer Crossed the Color Line (Oxford University Press, 2011); Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health (UNC Press, 2001), which received the William H. Welch Medal; and Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in Twentieth Century America (Johns Hopkins, 1997). He is co-author (with Stephen Pemberton) of The Troubled Dream of Genetic Medicine: Ethnicity and Innovation in Tay-Sachs, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sickle Cell Disease, and co-editor of several multidisciplinary works in history and health policy. Wailoo has written widely on such topics as the opioid crisis, pain medicine, drug policy, race, and health policy in the New York Times, New England Journal of Medicine, the Daily Beast, Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, the Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law, the Lancet, and the Bulletin of the History of Medicine.

In 2007, Wailoo was elected to the National Academy of Medicine where he currently serves as the Chair of the Interest Group on Health Policy and Health Care Systems. His research has been supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research, the James S. McDonnell Foundation’s Centennial Fellowship in the History of Science, and other grants and fellowships. Before joining the Princeton faculty in 2010, he taught in History and in the Department of Social Medicine (School of Medicine) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and he later taught in History and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University, where he was Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of History. He graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering, and worked for several years as a science writer before earning his PhD in the History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania.
Candidates for Council Member:

**Eram Alam** is a postdoctoral fellow in the Program on Race, Science, and Society at the University of Pennsylvania, where she completed her PhD in the History and Sociology of Science. Drawing from the history of medicine, postcolonial science studies, critical theory, anthropology of the state, and labor and migration studies, her research and teaching explore the way global flows of labor, capital, and knowledge permeate contemporary US healthcare. Alam’s first book project, *The Care of Foreigners: A History of Immigrant Physicians in the United States, 1965-2016*, explores the enduring consequences of postcolonial physician migration from South Asia to the United States. Her second monograph project, *Patients Without Borders: The Rise of Medical Migration*, will focus on the patient side of the doctor-patient relationship and trace US patient movement to sites outside of the country for medical services. Alam will be joining the History of Science Department at Harvard University in Fall 2018.

**Laurence Monnais** is professor of history and Director of the Center for East Asian Studies (CETASE) at Université de Montréal, Canada. Her international reputation rests on several innovative books and many articles dealing with the history of medicine in Southeast Asia, colonial medicine, global histories of health and the history of alternative medicines. She is currently working on the history of measles and measles vaccination. Monnais is the author of *Medecine et colonisation* (1999), *Medicaments coloniaux* (2014), *Medecine(s) et santé* (2016) and co-editor of *Southern Medicine for Southern People* (2012), *Global Movements Local Concerns* (2012) and *Doctors Beyond Borders* (2016). A former Canada Research Chair (2007-17) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, she is also the president of HOMSEA (History of Medicine in Southeast Asia), a pioneer association in the development of the history of health in Southeast Asia as a field of research that advocates for an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge and practice of health care since 2006.

**Janet Golden**, Ph.D. is Professor of History at Rutgers University where she specializes in the history of medicine, history of childhood, women’s history and American social history. She is the author or editor of nine books. She co-edits the Critical Issues in Health and Medicine Series at Rutgers University Press and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*’s public health blog “The Public’s Health.” Dr. Golden is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, including those awarded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Commonwealth Fund, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She is a member of the Sigerist Circle and of the Executive Council of Rutgers AAUP/AFT. Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Institutes of Health, and the Commonwealth Fund, among others. She was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Sydney, Australia, in spring 2015. Her latest book is with Cambridge University Press: *Babies Made Us Modern: How Infants Brought Americans into the Twentieth Century* (2018).

**Arlene Shaner** is the Historical Collections Librarian in the Drs. Barry and Bobbi Coller Rare Book Room of the New York Academy of Medicine Library, where she has been on the staff since January 2001. She promotes the use of the Library’s collections through collaborations with individual researchers, hosting tours and classes that connect the history of medicine and health with the humanities, and working on projects designed to make the library’s collections more visible within the digital community. Before coming to the Academy, Shaner worked for a number of other institutions, including St. Louis Community College – Forest Park, Indiana University – Bloomington, and Reed College in Portland, Oregon. She received her BA in European Studies from Franklin & Marshall College and has an MA in History from the University of Rochester and an MLS from Indiana University – Bloomington. Shaner is active in a variety of professional organizations, including the Rare Book and Manuscript Section of the Association for College and Research Libraries, a Division of the American Library Association, the American Association for the History of Medicine, and Archivists and
Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences. She was honored to receive the Lisabeth M. Holloway Award from ALHHS in 2016.

**AAHM Bylaw Change**

At the AAHM Business Meeting in Los Angeles the membership will vote on an amendment to the bylaws to allow the alternating of the Rosen Prize between published works and creative works such as museum exhibits or films. The propose change is below:

Article 8 Awards, Section 10: The Association may award the George Rosen Prize in even numbered years to one or more authors of a book, article, essay, or edited volume published in the two years preceding the award. In odd numbered years, the Association may award the creators of a museum exhibition, film, or other significant contribution to the history of public health and social medicine created in the two years preceding the award.

**Sigerist Circle**

The Sigerist Circle will hold its annual business meeting and scholarly session on Thursday, May 10, 2018, just before the opening reception of the AAHM 2018 meeting in Los Angeles and invites meeting attendees to attend. The scholarly session, entitled “Defending the Urban Health Care Safety Net,” includes the following:

“We are the hands that draw the blood’ Privatization, Cuts, & Public Hospital Workers in Late Twentieth-Century Chicago”
Amy Zanoni, Rutgers University

**NEWS OF MEMBERS**

Ellen More has just published Beating the Odds: The University of Massachusetts Medical School, a History, 1962-2012 (Cambridge, MA: TidePool Press, 2017), 666pp. Last year she became an emeritus professor and is now working to complete her book on Mary S. Calderone and the history of advocates for sex education in the U.S. from the 1950s to the 1990s.


Alain Touwaide will be again a Visiting Professor at UCLA during the spring term 2018 and will teach two courses: Department of Classics: “Food and Medicine in Antiquity” and Department of Comparative Literature: “Foundations of Western Medicine. From Hippocrates to Vesalius.”


Lisa O’Sullivan accepted a position as Executive Director, Public Libraries and Engagement, at the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Paul Theerman, formerly Associate Director of the Library, New York Academy of Medicine, became the director of the Library and the Center for the
Corinne Sutter-Brown (1951-2017)

Corinne Sutter-Brown, independent scholar and tireless activist for social justice in medical care, passed away September 6, 2017 in Rochester, New York at the age of 66.

Corinne was born in Baltimore, Maryland on January 12, 1951. When she was in her teens her father, an engineer, accepted a position at the shipyards in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The family’s abrupt departure from the Northeast to a Deep South in the throes of reaction to civil rights was a formative event in Corinne’s life. Her sympathy with the movement led to her being labeled a “carpetbagger” and “n—lover” by her white high school classmates. Following a similar fish-out-of-water experience at the University of Southern Alabama in Mobile and a short-lived marriage, Corinne joined the wave of young people heading to San Francisco in search of greater freedom and openness.

She enrolled at San Francisco State University and graduated with a major in philosophy. Caught up in the Bay Area’s countercultural upheaval, she began attending the New College of Law, the first public interest law school in the country. This experimental school, which counted Angela Davis and Tom Hayden among its faculty, sought to recruit significant numbers of working class and minority students to the legal profession and to utilize the law in the service of social justice. Here Corinne found herself at home among professors and students dedicated to becoming advocates for the poor. However, she was forced to leave law school to fight for custody of her child, who at various times over a decade was kept from her while living with his father and stepmother in locations not disclosed to Corinne or authorities. This all-consuming battle took Corinne from judges’ chambers to the halls of Congress as she testified against the practice of child kidnapping in 1979 at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Child and Human Development of the U. S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. The legal battle was ultimately decided in Corinne’s favor. This experience showcased Corinne’s tenacity and her willingness to speak out.

In 1981, Corinne met through some friends a group of anthropology graduate students who had just returned from field work in Papua New Guinea. They invited her to join them on an extended road trip through Canada to upstate New York, where they were returning to their studies at the University of Rochester. Seeking a respite from her legal battles, Corinne gladly accepted, little expecting that Rochester would hold even more than the promise of new adventure.

In her new town Corinne found herself drawn to the University of Rochester’s medical library, where she spent hours reading avidly, and got to know faculty and students affiliated with the medical school. At the holiday party of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine, over the punchbowl, she met Ted Brown, a medical historian who shared Corinne’s dedication to critical analysis, political advocacy, and speaking truth to power. They struck up a relationship that led to marriage eleven years later.

In the spring of 1984 Corinne enrolled in the Ph.D. program in History at Rochester to study legal history, but soon switched to her true passion, the history of medicine. She received her M.A. and completed several years of Ph.D. coursework, and explored possible dissertations on George Washington Goler and Mary Putnam Jacobi. After becoming a regular participant in the annual meetings of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Corinne in 1990 organized the Sigerist Circle, along with Ted Brown, Walter Lear, Liz Fee, Anne-Emmanuelle Birn, Ed Morman, Pauline Mazumdar, and others. The Sigerist Circle was founded to create a presence and a gathering place within the AAHM for historians of medicine.
who wished to combine rigorous historical scholarship with ardent political advocacy for progressive social causes, modeling their joint efforts on those of the influential historian Henry E. Sigerist.

In that same year, Corinne found her voice as a leader in the ongoing fight for health care justice. While working for former California Governor Jerry Brown’s Presidential campaign, she was chosen as delegate to 1992 Democratic Convention. Unlike fellow candidate Bill Clinton, Brown was endorsing a single-payer health care system. Plans for universal health coverage had been introduced in Congress repeatedly since the end of World War Two but were continually defeated by entrenched interests in the health care system and their political allies. Corinne threw her energies behind the movement to create a publicly-funded single-payer health system that would cover everyone in the United States. Working with the Interfaith Healthcare Coalition, she honed her public speaking skills and her expertise in health care reform by giving talks about single-payer around New York State and nationally. She became involved in Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), the preeminent single-payer advocacy organization. During a strategy session with PNHP leaders in 1998, Corinne hatched the idea of an innovative protest to take place at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting in Washington, D.C. From the convention center where the meeting was held, Corinne led a march of single-payer advocates to the Canadian embassy, where the group of several hundred asked for “health care asylum.” On the embassy steps they were met by then-Congressman Bernie Sanders, who addressed the crowd. This street theater event was prime time news in Canada, but ignored by the U.S. media.

Corinne also organized annual sessions at the APHA meetings named for physician-activist Walter Lear that combined scholarship with political activism and advocacy. Her scholarly interests began to turn to the history and contemporary applications of veterinary medicine, particularly the One Medicine Initiative promoting the interconnectedness of human, animal, and ecosystem health. Working with some Israeli colleagues on a comparative project on the history of ringworm, Ted and Corinne began making trips to the Middle East. They became strongly committed to the cause of Palestinian rights and took the often-difficult position of challenging Israeli government policy and U.S. support for those policies. The 2014 invasion of Gaza led them to join the organization Jewish Voice for Peace and to work for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions to create pressure for changes in Israeli policy toward Palestinians. The politics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict became a very important part of Corinne’s last years. In Rochester she became a leading spokesperson on this issue and worked to create links with organizations such as the Interfaith Coalition and Christians Witnessing for Palestine. She saw similarities and intersections between the Palestinian struggle and other self-determination movements, particularly Black Lives Matter of which she was a strong supporter. Her work gained her visibility and respect among local activists. At her memorial service on Sept. 26, 2017, representatives from Rochester’s Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities spoke of Corinne’s passion and dedication.

Corinne made a lasting contribution to the history of medicine community through her coordination of the Sigerist Circle. For the past decade, she maintained the group’s accounts and mailing list and created its first website, and handled all the administrative issues associated with staying in touch with members and organizing the annual scholarly session at AAHM. When she decided to step down from this role, she worked diligently to transfer her knowledge to the new coordinator and to ensure that the Sigerist Circle would continue to gain new supporters and attract large audiences to its annual sessions.

In recent years, mobility issues deterred Corinne from travelling; she last attended the AAHM in New Haven in 2015. She acquired a pair of yellow canes to assist her walking, and these became part of her public persona. At her memorial service, mourners
recalled how Corinne, at one of her last public talks in Rochester on Israeli-Palestinian politics, faced a hostile crowd that tried to shout her down, but she soldiered on, wielding her yellow cane in one hand and her sheaf of papers in the other.

As the guiding light of the Sigerist Circle, Corinne Sutter-Brown will continue to inspire historians of medicine to unite scholarship and social justice.

Beatrix Hoffman

With thanks to Ted Brown for sharing these memories

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

The Wellcome funded Unlocking the Asylum project at Denbighshire Archives began in October 2017 and is due to run until November 2019. The aim of the project is to catalogue the records of the North Wales Hospital, in order to promote the wider use of the collection.

The North Wales Hospital, Denbigh, was the main institution in North Wales for the care of the mentally ill. The institution opened in October 1848 serving the whole of North Wales and the borders. A century later, its patients numbered in excess of 1,500. The collection is varied, as well as highlighting the importance of the hospital to the economic and social life of the local area, the voluminous archives reflect developments in medical and therapeutic treatments from the late 19th century to the end of 20th century.

The hospital finally closed its doors in 1995. The resulting archive is unique in its completeness and includes management records such as minutes and annual reports, building records including some relating to the initial founding of the hospital, financial records including accounts, patient records including admission, discharge, and case books, staff records including wage books, and other material including photographs and newspaper cuttings.

We are now four months into the project and are pleased to announce the launch of a temporary catalogue for the first part of the collection. This temporary catalogue replaces the former paper list. The catalog, which includes over 500 items, features improved item descriptions, and a new structure which will make it easier for users to find records relevant to their research. The temporary catalogue can be found at archives.denbigshire.gov.uk/collections/getrecord/GB209_HD-1.

Work is now underway to catalog and repackage the remainder of the collection, and the final version of the catalogue which will include the later accessions of records will be available by the end of the project in 2019. We will continue to post regular updates of the progress of the project and details of events on our blog, which can be found at denbigshirearchives.wordpress.com.

The Smithsonian Libraries’ Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology has received a significant book collection donated by J. Bruce Beckwith, M.D., notable pediatrician, bibliographer, and book collector. The donation encompasses ca. 800 titles, most of them rare, in the field of teratology.

Teratology, the science of birth defects, pediatric anomalies, malformations in humans, animals and plants—as the main subject of a rare book collection—understandably generates some resistance in some people. Partly this is the reason why this area has historically become neglected and there are very few known special book collections on the topic. Even in large medical libraries, only incomplete holdings represent the field. This and his passionate professional interest created a splendid opportunity for Bruce Beckwith and his wife, Nancy Browning, to assemble an unparalleled private special collection on teratology.

The recent and current swift development of genomic sciences and the advancement of pre-natal diagnostic tools has drawn much interest into the
direction of studying malformations in humans and other species. In the light of new discoveries, it has become increasingly important to examine and obtain more understanding about historically recorded cases. The Beckwith-Browning Teratology Collection offers a complete picture of the—in its time—cutting-edge research about these very rare scientific occurrences. These books carried uncommon and thus very valuable scientific knowledge for physicians at the time. For modern scrutiny they provide invaluable documentation for medical researchers, social historians, historians of science, and scholars studying societal consequences of "being different."

The Beckwith-Browning collection contains several important medical books with only a chapter about teratology. These classics will successfully complement the general medical section of the Dibner Library. Thus, the Dibner Library’s collection will be enriched with the collected works of Ambroise Paré, Cruveilhier’s renowned pathological atlas with colored lithographs, Bartholin’s seventeenth-century anatomy, Ryeff’s 1554 obstetrics book, and Aldrovandi’s famous zoological tome.

The multidisciplinary aspects of the field of teratology include not only medical but religious, social, anthropological, and cultural implications as well. The manifold social and cultural interpretations of these books deserves—both historically and currently—extraordinary attention.

The Columbia University Health Sciences Library has recently acquired a manuscript by Samuel Bard (1742-1821), a founder of the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S) and a prominent early American physician. Entitled Remarks on the constitution, government, discipline & expenses[sic] of medical schools — submitted to the Regents of the University of New York in obedience to their requisition for such information, the 35-page manuscript was composed and signed by Bard in 1819 replying in his capacity as President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The manuscript provides an important insight into the educational philosophy of one of the most notable physicians of the early United States. The son of a doctor, Samuel Bard studied first at King’s (now Columbia) College before receiving his medical degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1765. He was one of the six New York City physicians who in 1767 persuaded King’s College to establish a medical school, now the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, the second oldest in the United States. Bard served as its dean and professor of medicine until its closure in 1776 due to the War for Independence and, after the newly renamed Columbia College revived the medical school in 1791, he served it first as dean and later as president until his death. In addition to his involvement with the medical school, Bard was one of the founders in 1771 of New York Hospital, now part of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, the primary teaching hospital of the medical school.

Bard writes that “the peculiar circumstances and wants of our Country” – especially that the United States was “extensive and but thinly inhabited” – meant that apart from a few physicians in large cities most American physicians were not well-paid. Therefore, he continues, “the general mass of students of medicine are poor; it is therefore very important that we provide them with the best instruction at the cheapest rate.”

Although the U.S. is no longer “thinly inhabited,” the cost of medical education is still a concern in the 21st century as witnessed by the recent donation by Dr. Roy Vagelos (P&S, 1954) and his wife Diana (Barnard, 1955) of $250 million to support scholarships at P&S. In honor of this gift, Columbia has renamed the medical school the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Bard compares and contrasts instruction at P&S with four other medical schools: the University of Edinburgh, the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard, and the University of Maryland. He asserts that instruction could be reduced to five courses: anatomy, chemistry, practice of medicine, midwifery,
and surgery. Though Bard believes that clinical medical courses “when properly delivered by a competent Teacher, are among the most useful a student can attend” he realizes that they can only be offered when there is a faculty member attached to a public hospital.

The manuscript is the second by Bard to be acquired by the Health Sciences Library in recent years. In 2013, the library purchased the autograph manuscript of his 1811 *Discourse on the Importance of Medical Education* a lecture he delivered at the medical school that year.

The new manuscript is in generally good condition though it will require treatment by conservators to prevent paper loss. Once this work is complete, the manuscript will be available for study and exhibit. For more information, please contact hslarchives@columbia.edu

**Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries** recently completed a project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to digitize approximately 65,000 pages of correspondence exchanged between important historical figures and Daniel Coit Gilman, Johns Hopkins University’s first president and one of the most important education innovators in American history. For more information about this project and to gain access to this material, please visit blogs.library.jhu.edu/2017/12/digitized-daniel-coit-gilman-correspondence/. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Jordon Steele, Hodson Curator of the University Archives, at jsteele@jhu.edu.

**The Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia** is pleased to announce that the Records of the Consumer Health Information Center (CHIC) have been fully processed and are ready for researcher use. The CHIC was a College-run community resource that provided the public with access to the latest information about medical and health concerns. Available resources included electronic information, journals, newsletters, pamphlets, videocassettes, and a circulating collection of books. It operated from 1995 to 2002 and was replaced with a health resources web portal, Philly Health Info (ended in 2012).

The records of the CHIC are a valuable resource for those interested in late 20th-century public health initiatives and their impact on communities. The finding aid for the collection is available here: cpparchives.org/repositories/2/resources/1613.

**Mount Sinai Health System’s Arthur H. Aufses, Jr. MD Archives** recently completed a METRO grant to digitize all of the St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospital’s annual reports from the establishment of each institution in the 19th century, up to 1978, the last report before the two hospitals merged. The reports, which are a wonderful source for information on both hospitals, are available online at the Internet Archive archive.org, and in our digital repository: dspace.mssm.edu/handle/123456789/31007. For additional information contact the Aufses Archives at msarchives@mssm.edu, or (212) 241-7239.

**New York Academy of Medicine Library**

Two appealing little pamphlets for use in school and at home, 125 figure ginnastiche femminili and 225 figure ginnastiche maschili, offer gymnastics exercises for girls and boys both with and without the use of equipment. Both pamphlets, wonderfully illustrated, were just two of several similar educational works issued by Daniele Marchetti (1855–1935), including Salute e forza (ca. 1898), Memoria intorno alla educazione fisica nelle scuole medie (1903), and La ginnastica e chi l’insegna nelle scuole secondarie e normali (1900). Rear cover notes list a number of prizes awarded to Marchetti, including one in Bologna in 1891, suggesting a date of publication. Marchetti was a professional gymnast, who trained professionally at the Society for Educational Gymnastics in Bologna. In 1880 he was among 25 Italian delegates sent by the Minister of Education to the Gymnastic World
Congress in Frankfurt. A teacher of physical education, he is credited with being instrumental in the establishment of football in Italy and in 1899 wrote one of the earliest manuals on the sport _Palla al Calcio: giuoco semplice._

**Digitization:** We recently launched a new digital exhibit, “Facendo Il Libro: The Making of Fasciculus Medicinae, an Early Printed Anatomy.” The Library holds five editions printed between the years of 1495 and 1522 of the Fasciculus Medicinae, which contains the earliest realistic anatomical images in print, and the earliest scenes of dissection anywhere. The digital exhibit explores full scans of these richly illustrated editions, examining each work on its own—and also in context of each other, and looking at the printing techniques that were used to create them. “Facendo Il Libro” is a major addition to the Academy’s digitization initiatives led Dr. Robin Naughton. Also included in the exhibit are curated essays by guest scholars Taylor McCall, Ph.D., and Natalie Lussey Seale, Ph.D. on each edition, noting important technical, textual, and artistic changes in each, and on the culture of Venetian print. This online exhibit was made possible by generous support from The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation.

**New from the National Library of Medicine**

Following the signing of a 2014 memorandum of understanding (MOU) to make thousands of complete back issues of historically-significant biomedical journals freely available through the National Institutes of Health life sciences repository PubMed Central (PMC), and through its European counterpart, Europe PMC, the US National Library of Medicine and the Wellcome Trust have released multiple titles—encompassing more than 45,000 individual articles and nearly a half million pages—with more to come.

The titles now available include:


- **Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology** (London), which began publication in 1848. The archive for this journal includes: _Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology_ (1875-1883); _Medical Critic and Psychological Journal_ (1861-1863); and _Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology_ (1848-1860)

- **Mental Health**, which began publication in 1920 and ran until the early 1970s. The archive for this journal includes: _Mind and Mental Health Magazine_ (1971-1972); _Mental Health_ (London) (1940-1971); _Mental Welfare_ (1925-1939); and _Studies in Mental Inefficiency_ (1920-1924)

- **The Psychological Clinic**, which began publication in 1907 and ran until 1935.

- **The Indian Medical Gazette**, which began publication in 1866 and ran until 1955.

The NLM/Wellcome collaboration to make these titles and others publicly available builds on the Medical Journal Backfiles Digitization Project of 2004-2010 and contributes to the current PMC archive of over 4 million articles from medical journals. The content from these titles is free to read, and also to download, text mine, and reuse via the PMC Text Mining Collections, which includes the PMC Open Access Subset and the Historical OCR Collection. License terms vary by title; see PMC Back Issue Digitization for more details.

The terms of the 2014 MOU between the NLM and the Wellcome Trust included a gift of £750,000 ($1.2 million) to the NLM which—combined with substantial support from the NLM—initiated this three-year project to scan articles from these and
other selected titles from NLM’s collection, as well as the Wellcome’s work to secure copyright clearances and permissions for electronic deposit from publishers. Also per the MOU, the NLM conserved the original titles to ensure their preservation for future generations.

OTHER NEWS

Report on History of Medicine Southeast Asia (HOMSEA) 7th Conference

Access to medicine, as an expert on women’s health in Laos noted, remains one of the most challenging roadblocks in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic’s pursuit of its 2025 Sustainable Development Goals. And history, lamented a Lao college student, is one of the most interesting subjects, but with a scarcity of academic interest in her country. Regrettably, the history of medicine in Southeast Asia can seem almost as understudied in the region as it is neglected in the Euro-American academy.

It was an encouraging sign, then, to see Lao scholars beginning to write their own history of medicine at the seventh meeting of the History of Medicine in Southeast Asia (HOMSEA) conference, which took place in Vientiane over three days this January, in “Visit Laos” year, according to official sources. Organized by Laurence Monnais and others, HOMSEA offered an impressive diversity of subjects and approaches: historians and anthropologists from Indonesia, the Philippines, and elsewhere explored the development of “leper” colonies and pandemic responses; officials and medical practitioners from Lao PDR connected historical issues to contemporary concerns about hospital care; and scholars from British, American, and Australian universities brought their own perspectives and concerns.

Africanists and medical anthropologists joined the fray, generating wonderful moments of transdisciplinarity in action: Nancy Rose Hunt explored the possibility of anthropologically studying disease through the colonial archive with an emphasis on the “vernacular,” while Celia Lowe’s ethnography of the H5N1 pandemic brought a critical eye to an Indonesian Minister of Health’s comments on viral sovereignty. Céline Corderey and Elizabeth Elliott drew on fieldwork in Southeast Asia to look at different cosmologies of health and religion in Myanmar and rural Laos, respectively.

The significance of animals for medicine (veterinary and otherwise) was on clear display: Arleigh Ross Dela Cruz explored the unique challenges of veterinary vaccinations campaigns in the presence of the lovable Philippines Carabao, while C. Michele Thompson showed the challenges of vaccination in the absence of cows.

Many papers also dealt with one of the seeming constants of history in Southeast Asia: immigration and movement. Por Heong Hong argued that so-called “decrepit houses” in Colonial Malaya were often ways of controlling aged immigrant workers, while Ravando Lie explored the paradoxical ways that Chinese minority populations in Java used independent hospitals to build a space for themselves inside an often hostile society.

The cross-pollination of topic, style, and focus, as well as a warm and collegial environment that encouraged early career scholars to connect with more established professors, generated a great deal of provocative discussion among the nearly seventy conference participants. Brad Bolman’s exploration of “salvage biochemistry” in Metformin’s mixed Filipino-Moroccan origins was taken up in a discussion of colonial medical travel boxes by Nandina Bhattacharya to think critically about “salvage biomedicine” on the Indian subcontinent.

We hope that eagerly anticipated future meetings—the next likely in 2020, though an interim HOMSEA meeting will be held together with the Asian Society of the History of Medicine (ASHM), in Jakarta, Indonesia, June 27-29, 2018—will fill some of the gaps at HOMSEA 7. Although Jialin Christina Wu’s
paper on “koro,” the shrinking-penis syndrome which struck Singapore in epidemic form in 1967 before televised pork-eating by medical professionals calmed the public, and Robert Aldrich’s analysis of the “madness” of Vietnamese emperor Thanh Thai offered tantalizing glimpses, much work remains to be done on mental health issues in Southeast Asia. Missing, too, were detailed analyses of the history of surgery and hospital care throughout the region, although Jenna Grant’s ethnographic report from Cambodia on the development of friendship hospitals and orphan machines revealed a sense of the riches.

The participation of more scholars from less affluent parts of Southeast Asia in writing the region’s history of medicine is profoundly encouraging. We believe the emergence of Southeast Asia in the history of medicine (and in the history of science as well) will continue to be intellectually vibrant, as new scholars with unique perspectives and methods study this fascinating area and the multitude of historical dilemmas it has faced and remains to overcome in the coming years.

Brad Bolman (Harvard University)  
Por Heong Hong (University of Malaya)

Need to beef up your history or science trivia game? Want to try out some pandemic-themed cocktails? Check out This Podcast Will Kill You, a new podcast created and produced by two disease ecology PhD candidates, Erin Welsh and Erin Allmann Updyke. Each week, this podcast takes on one infectious disease, outlines its biology, traces its historical impacts on human culture and society, and finishes with a global status update. Free of charge and available on iTunes, Google Play, Podbean, and other podcast download spots, this podcast takes a lighthearted approach to explore infectious disease history in depth. We hope you enjoy it! Contact: thispodcastwillkillyou@gmail.com URL: thispodcastwillkillyou.podbean.com

The AAHM Nominating Committee is pleased to provide you with our slate for AAHM Officers and Council-- for circulation in advance to the AAHM membership through the Newsletter and for voting at the next Business Meeting in Los Angeles on 12 May 2018.

President: Susan Lederer (two-year term)
Vice-President: Keith Wailoo (two-year term)

Council Members (three year terms beginning after the 2018 annual meeting)

Eram Alam  
Janet Golden  
Laurence Monnais  
Arlene Shaner

Respectfully submitted and with our gratitude to all the nominees for their willingness to continue to serve AAHM in this way

David Jones, Micaela Fowler-Sullivan, and Sarah Tracy (Chair)