



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Were you moved when Marty Pernick's former students spoke about how he always went the extra mile for them and inspired their careers? Were you psyched when Antoine Johnson won the Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome award for his work on Black AIDS activism, exactly embodying the exciting type of scholarship that the late Jack Pressman championed? Were you thoroughly impressed with the carefully told histories of immigration and discrimination in Beatrix Hoffman's Garrison lecture? Were you disturbed and saddened at Vanessa Northington Gamble's and Evelyn Hammonds' powerful story of how they were belittled after a presentation on teaching race and medicine at the 1993 AAHM meeting? And, last but not least, were you pleased with high quality of papers and questions from the broad range of international scholars at this year's virtual AAHM meeting?

I answer "yes" to all of these questions.

Moreover, having attended many very excellent academic meetings during my career, I will suggest that only at AAHM do I experience this combination of emotion, bonding, intellectual inquiry and frank assessment. I suspect that many of you agree.

Yet, like all organizations, we have challenges. For years, AAHM has sustained itself through membership fees, generous donations and, most notably, a series of very devoted secretaries (most recently Jodi Koste) who essentially ran the organization for free. But this model is no longer viable. Costs, especially for meetings, have escalated. While AAHM tries to keep fees low and generously subsidizes graduate student attendance, many members of the organization still have a tough time attending meetings. As we all know, academics in a post-COVID world are underpaid and underfunded.

If this all sounds gloomy, I don't want it to. In order to meet our challenges, we have embarked on a series of strategies which, I believe, will help us keep our good work going. For the first time, the AAHM has a paid secretary, Sarah Handley-Cousins, who is building on the efforts of Jodi and her predecessors to make the organization more visible and viable. We have a major fundraising strategy in place, timed to our centennial meeting in 2025 and geared toward funding a permanent Executive Director position. Many organizations of similar size have already moved in these types of directions. I always have loved the "Mom and Pop" shop vibe of AAHM, but we need to move forward with more infrastructure.

Attracting major donors who support our mission and are willing to ensure its continuation is central to our current fundraising campaign. Dues and members' contributions alone can no longer keep organizations like ours afloat. But that is not to say that member contributions are unimportant. First, donations help us remain solvent. And second, it is these donations that are crucial in helping us to attract needed outside donor support. That is, we need to prove that our membership cares about the viability of the organization. So we need a large percentage of AAHM members to make donations—large ones if possible but also small ones. If we can get 70%, 80% or even 90% of you to chip even—even as little as 10 dollars—it is a crucial signal of AAHM's vitality.

We started this campaign in the fall of 2022 and continued it at the Ann Arbor meeting, urging attendees to use a QR code to donate. Adam Biggs' efforts to encourage on-the-spot giving were especially helpful. But we need more of you to step up to the plate. The QR code appears in this newsletter and enables you to donate quickly and easily. Or go to our website www.histmed.org and donate to either the Executive Director Endowment Fund or the General Endowment Fund. You can also send a check to Scott Podolsky, our treasurer, at 185 Horsepond Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. Our Centennial Committee, chaired by Margaret Marsh, is primed to approach major donors but must sit on its hands until a larger share of the membership demonstrates its support. Again, please consider giving what you can; no amount is too small. If you want to know more about the campaign, please contact Margaret at aahmcampaign@camden.rutgers.edu. If you want to know more about ways to give, please email Scott at scott_podolsky@hms.harvard.edu.

Lastly, I also want to say something about maintaining a "big tent" at AAHM. We are a unique academic organization in having been comprised for many years by clinical practitioners. Now, of course, things have changed. The majority of papers at our meetings and in our journals are by Ph.D.'s and

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AAHM Officers

Barron Lerner, M.D., Ph.D., President
 Mary Fissell, Ph.D., Vice President
 Sarah Handley-Cousins, Ph.D., Secretary
 Scott Podolsky, M.D., Treasurer
 Keith Wailoo, Ph.D., Past President

The Association's website is www.histmed.org

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.

others who have done graduate work in the field. And, as I noted above, the scholarship is amazing. But speaking as a longtime member of AAHM and an MD, I don't want the clinicians and students in health-related fields to go by the wayside. The dynamic of having doctors, nurses, other clinicians, PhD historians and graduate students together in the

same room has always been a unique joy of AAHM and I hope it persists.

I will add that several other organizations, including the American Historical Association and the Berkshire Conference on Women's History, have recently had very public scandals in which more senior members belittled newer scholarship focused on issues such as race and disability. I was especially pleased that in one of these instances, one of our members, Deirdre Cooper Owens, helped to defuse the anger and channel it in a constructive direction. While AAHM has not been perfect in such matters, as Vanessa and Evelynn reminded us, I genuinely believe there is a desire among AAHM members to listen to—and learn from—one another.

I apologize for the preachy tone of this article. Those of you who know me know that I would much rather be making silly, self-deprecating jokes about my ineffectual AAHM presidency. But the reality is that the organization is at a crucial moment in its history. If you want it to survive and thrive as much as I do, it is time to act.

*Barron Lerner
AAHM President*

Please donate to the Centennial Campaign

Just scan and enter your credit card information to donate now!

**AAHM Executive Director
Endowment**



AAHM General Endowment Fund



AAHM NEWS

Congratulations 2023 Award Winners!

Congratulations to the 2023 AAHM award winners honored on May 13, 2023 during the 97th annual meeting of the Association held in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

William Osler Medal: Audrey Duquette, 2023 graduate of Emory University School of Medicine for her essay, "All Work and No Play: The History of Recess and Its Role in Child Development."

Richard H. Shryock Medal: Yixue Yang, University of California, San Diego, for her essay, "Revolutionary Youth: Myopia, Socialist Youth and Public Health Campaigns in China, 1960-1976."

Richard H. Shryock Medal Honorable Mention: Camden R. Elliott, Harvard University, for his essay, "A Plague on Both Their Houses?: Disease and War in the Dawnland, 1675-1765."

Richard H. Shryock Medal Honorable Mention: Madeleine Savanna Ware, Yale University, for her essay, "Gynecological Gymnastics: Assuaging Victorian Anxieties with Pelvic Floor Strengthening"

Fielding H. Garrison Lecturer for 2024: Beatrix Hoffman, Professor of History, Northern Illinois University

J. Worth Estes Prize: Melissa Reynolds, for her article, “The *Surugia* of Nicolas Neesbett: Writing Medical Authority in Later Medieval England,” published in *Social History of Medicine* 35:1 (February 2022): 144–169

Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century History of Medicine or Biomedical Sciences Award: Antoine Johnson, Ph.D University of California, San Francisco, for his book project, “More than Pushing Pills: Black AIDS Activism in the Bay Area, 1981-1996”

George Rosen Prize: Michelle Browder for The Mothers of Gynecology Monument, www.anarchalucybetsey.org/

William H. Welch Medal: Yan Liu, *Healing Poisons: Potent Medicines in Medieval China* (University of Washington Press, 2021)

Genevieve Miller Lifetime Achievement Award: Janet L. Golden

AAHM Development Committee

The Development Committee, charged with fundraising for the mission and goals of the AAHM, is currently focused on the AAHM’s “Centennial Campaign.” The purpose of the Centennial Campaign is to ensure that it remains strong and resilient for the next 100 years. To keep the AAHM thriving into the 22nd century, we aim to raise a total of \$1 Million dollars: \$500,000 for the Executive Director Fund, enabling the organization to create a durable structure with a professional executive director; and \$500,000 to create a general endowment fund to support AAHM priorities over the next century.

Please consider donating today. You can donate using the [QR Codes on page 3](#) or [online](#). Our ability to fundraise outside of the AAHM is dependent on having a large percentage of our membership as donors. All gifts, whether small or large, count towards this goal. If you would like to know more about ways to give now, you can also reach out directly to the chair of the committee, Margaret Marsh, at aahmcampaign@camden.rutgers.edu.

Call for Papers 2024

The American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) invites abstracts for papers in any area of the history of health, healing, and medicine for its 97th annual meeting, to be held in Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas, May 9 - 12, 2024. The AAHM welcomes proposals for papers, roundtables, panels, posters, and workshops on the history of medicine, disease, and health broadly defined, including the history of medical ideas, practices, institutions, and technologies; the history of healing, disability, illness, disease, pharmaceuticals, and public health; and the history of peoples’ experiences of health, illness, and disability. We invite proposals that engage with biomedical and non-biomedical therapeutic systems and traditions in all eras and regions of the world.

This year’s Program Committee, led by co-chairs Elena Conis and Samuel Kelton Roberts, encourages proposals examining relations and historical processes of power in medicine and health. We welcome the submission of proposals that address the role of medicine in reinforcing and challenging social hierarchies of race, gender, empire/nation, ability, and more; that build connections between the history of medicine and related fields and disciplines; and that expand the methodological, thematic, chronological, and geographic diversity of the history of medicine. Because this year’s meeting will take place on the border of two states with historically significant reproductive politics, we also specifically invite papers and panels on reproductive and sexual rights

and justice that include local activists, advocates, and practitioners in conversation with historians.

The AAHM Council has approved, on a continuing trial basis, a supplementary one-day virtual meeting to occur approximately one week after the annual meeting. All submissions should indicate whether they want to be considered for the in-person or the virtual meeting. Major elements of the in-person meeting, such as the Garrison lecture and the awards presentation, will be broadcast, but owing to technological and financial obstacles, regular panels will not include virtual or pre-recorded presentations.

The Program Committee will accept five kinds of submissions, listed below. Please note that submissions are limited to one per person per category. Presenters, however, can also be chairs or discussants of an organized panel, roundtable, or workshop. Submission types include:

Individual papers: All papers in this category should represent original scholarship not already published or in press. Speakers should expect to give a presentation of no more than twenty minutes followed by ten minutes of discussion. Authors wishing to publish their papers are urged to submit them for consideration to the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine (BHM)*.

Panels: Panels (ninety minutes) should consist of three to four individual papers featuring original scholarship (limited to fifteen to twenty minutes each) addressing a common topic. An appointed chair should submit a proposal for the entire panel and coordinate individual speakers. Each speaker should submit an individual abstract as well, with a note indicating their participation in the panel. Please note that both panels and individual abstracts for the papers included in them will be judged collectively, with a goal of keeping proposed panels intact as proposed; occasionally, however, the program committee may make changes. Panels may include an invited discussant, bearing in mind the time limit.

Roundtables: Roundtables (ninety minutes) should engage with pressing scholarly or political issues; bring together different disciplinary or methodological backgrounds; or address audiences or use formats not well supported by a more traditional panel format. Only one abstract need be submitted by the organizer, although a slate of four to six participants (including the chair) should be confirmed at the time of submission.

Workshops: Workshops (seventy-five minutes) should address topics of broad interest, such as historiography, teaching, research methods, and advocacy. These sessions have a flexible format and can include four to five participants (including the chair), while leaving ample space for discussion with the audience. Only one abstract need be submitted by the organizer, although all participants should be confirmed. The Program Committee will schedule several of these workshops during each lunch break.

Posters: Posters are well-suited to works that emphasize non-textual content. A limited number of them, representing original work not already published or in press, will be accepted for display in a designated area, with planned times for discussion during the meeting. A call for posters will be issued in January 2024.

The AAHM uses an online abstract submission system. Submissions must include an abstract of no more than 300 words, including title, your name and institutional affiliation, three descriptive keywords, and three Continuing Medical Education (CME) learning objectives. (The learning objectives are not considered part of the word count.) For suggestions on developing learning objectives, see www.histmed.org/learning-objectives. For examples of successful abstracts from selected past programs, see www.histmed.org/meetings.

Abstracts must be submitted by midnight, Pacific Time (US), October 2, 2024. Late submissions will not be considered. See the online

call for papers to submit an abstract:
www.histmed.org/call-for-papers-2024

Call for Nominations, AAHM Awards, 2024

All awards will be presented at the AAHM annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, May 11, 2024. Additional information may be found on the AAHM website: histmed.org/about/awards

Osler Medal Essay Contest, 2024. 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. All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy, or are graduates of the class of 2024, are eligible. 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.

Entries must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) to Osler Medal Committee Chair: Susan Lederer susan.lederer@wisc.edu by **31 January 2024**.

Shryock Medal Essay Contest, 2024. Graduate students are invited to enter the Shryock Medal Essay Contest. 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. Essays must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) to the Shryock Medal Committee chair: Justin Barr, justbarr@gmail.com no later than **31 January 2024**.

J. Worth Estes Award, 2024. This 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 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 2022 and 2023. 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, Mical Raz, at micalraz@rochester.edu and must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) no later than **31 January 2024**.

Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century History of Medicine or Biomedical Sciences, 2024. This 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., 2019–2023). 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 2023**. Submissions and/or questions should be directed to the Chair of the Pressman–Burroughs Wellcome Committee, Nancy Tomes nancy.tomes@stonybrook.edu.

Genevieve Miller Lifetime Achievement Award, 2024. The award is given annually to a member of the Association who has retired from regular institutional affiliation or practice, with a distinguished record of support for the history of medicine over many years, and who has made continuing scholarly contributions of a distinguished nature. Beatrix Hoffman, chair of the Genevieve Miller Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, welcomes nominations for the award, at the following e-mail address beatrix@niu.edu. Nominations for this award should include at least one letter of nomination outlining the nominee's continuing contributions to the field and a curriculum vitae or other biographical information. Deadline for nominations: **30 November 2023**. Electronic submissions are preferred.

The George Rosen Prize, 2024. The George Rosen Prize is awarded in even years to one or more authors of a historical monograph who make a significant contribution to the history of public health or the history of social medicine published in the six calendar years preceding the award's nomination deadline, i.e. from 2018 to 2023. "Social medicine" here refers to historical efforts to heal, relieve, or prevent diseases arising inherently from social circumstances and is intended to be distinct from the "social history of medicine." In this context, "social"

refers to the perspective of the historical actors and not to the perspective or methods of the historian.

The chair of the 2023-2024 Rosen Prize Committee, Marta Hanson, welcomes suggestions to consider for the award at mhanson4@jhmi.edu. Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2023.

The William H. Welch Medal, 2024. The William H. Welch Award is awarded to one or more authors of a book (excluding edited volumes) of outstanding scholarly merit in the field of medical history published during the five calendar years preceding the award. Hence, books published during 2018–2022 inclusively will be eligible for the Medal. Previous Welch Medal winners are ineligible. The chair of the 2023-2024 Welch Medal Committee, Pratik Chakrabarti welcomes suggestions of books to consider for the award. Publishers nominating a book must send a copy to each member of the committee. To nominate a book and to obtain mailing addresses of all committee members, contact Pratik Chakrabarti at pchakra7@central.uh.edu. Deadline for nominations: 31 October 2021. Previously nominated eligible books must be re-nominated; they will not be considered automatically.

AAHM Committees 2023-2024

Committee membership for the coming year is listed below. Term dates are listed in parentheses. If there are no dates listed member serve for just one year.

Council:

Class of 2024

Pablo Gomez
Wangui Muigai
Jacob Steere-Williams
Harry Yi-Jui Wu

Class of 2025

Adam Biggs
Mary Augusta Brazelton
Projit Bihari Mukharji
Kelly O'Donnell

Class of 2026

Pinisha Badassy
 Pratik Chakrabarti
 Deborah Doroshow
 Abena Dove Osseo-Asare

Program Committee:

Elena Conis
 Samuel Kelton Roberts
 Prinisha Badassy
 Claire Clark
 Debjani Das
 Janet Greenlees
 Lisa Haushofer
 Rebecca Kluchin
 Lan Li
 Ayah Nuriddin
 Kavita Sivaramakrishnan
 Emma Verstraete
 Chris Willoughby

Finance Committee

Deborah Doroshow, chair (2024)
 John Emrich (2026)
 Stephen Greenberg (2025)

Nominating Committee

Lauren Thompson, chair (2024)
 Aparna Nair (2024)
 Sharrona Pearl (2024)

Shryock Medal Committee

Justin Barr, chair
 David Adams
 Merlin Chowkwanyun
 Marco Ramos
 Felicity Turner
 Whitney Wood

Osler Medal Committee

Susan Lederer, chair
 Carrie Meyer
 Rachel Moran
 Aparna Nair
 Adrian Poniatowski

Pressman Burroughs-Welcome Award Committee

Nancy Tomes, chair (2024)
 Wendy Kline (2025)
 Kylie Smith (2026)

Miller Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

Beatrix Hoffman, chair
 David Courtwright
 Joshua Gustafson

Rosen Prize Committee

Marta Hanson, chair
 Emily Baum
 Donna Drucker
 Amy Fairchild
 Evan Hart

Welch Medal Committee

Prati Chakrabarti, chair
 Dana Landress
 Jaipreet Viridi
 Olivia Weisser
 Michael Yudell

Garrison Lecture Committee

Lara Freidenfelds, chair
 Chris Hamlin
 Judy Houck
 Alisha Rankin

Estes Prize Committee

Mical Raz, chair
 Jacob Appel
 Yan Liu
 Todd Olszewski
 Robin Rohrer

Annual Meetings

Dominique Tobbell, chair, (2024)
 Dan Fox (2025)
 Jennifer Gunn (2026)
 Dana Landress (2025)
 Sarah Rose (2026)
 Tess Lanzarotta (2026)

Publications

Emily Bowlus-Peck, chair (2028)
Paul Berman (2024)
Rick Keller (2025)

Education and Outreach

Adam Biggs, chair (2024)
Justin Barr (2025)
Scottie Buehler (2025)
Tolulope Fadeyi (2025)
Natalie Shibley (2025)
Eva Ward (2025)
Mike Wong (2025)

Diversity and Inclusion

Catherine Mas, chair (2024)
Ojo Afolabi (2026)
Jeanna Kinnebrew (2026)
Nicolas Fernandez-Medina (2024)
Jeremy Montgomery (2025)
Matthew Romaniello (2025)

Development

Margaret Marsh, chair
Nick Bonneau
Charlotte Borst
Julie Fairman
Amanda Mahoney
Wanda Ronner
Dale Smith
Jai Virdi

Committee on Student Affairs

Jonathan Sadowsky, faculty advisor
Adam Negri, co-chair
Cheyenne Pettit, co-chair
Jeremy Montgomery

Travel Grant Committee

Colin Phoon, chair (2024)
Kelly O'Donnell (2024)
Kelly Urban (2025)

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Warwick Anderson**, who has been awarded the Society for Social Studies of Science's prestigious Bernal Prize for having made 'distinguished contributions' to the field of Science and Technology Studies. It is the Society's life achievement award.

The British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) has awarded the 2023 Hughes Prize to **Keith Wailoo** for his book, *Pushing Cool: Big Tobacco, Racial Marketing, and the Untold Story of the Menthol Cigarette* (University of Chicago, 2021).

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

[The University of California, San Francisco-Johns Hopkins University Opioid Industry Documents Archive \(OIDA\)](https://www2.archivists.org/recipients/archival-innovator-award-opioid-industry-documents-archive), a digital archives of litigation documents relating to the opioid epidemic, is the 2023 recipient of the Archival Innovator Award. The award recognizes archivists, repositories, or organizations that show creativity in approaching professional challenges or that have an extraordinary impact on a community through archives programs or outreach. OIDA represents an expansive collaboration between libraries and health programs at the University of California, San Francisco and Johns Hopkins University. The program is a key resource in advancing the public's understanding of the causes of the opioid epidemic with the goal of preventing future harm. Read more: <https://www2.archivists.org/recipients/archival-innovator-award-opioid-industry-documents-archive>.

The New York Medical College Archives acquired several significant new collections in the spring of 2023. Of particular note is the Field Symptom-Index, a unique item from the waning days of professional homeopathic medicine in the United States. The Symptom-Index was the work of Richard Field, M.D., a 1917 graduate of the Long Island College Hospital. By the time Dr. Field began his

medical career, homeopathy had largely been displaced by modern scientific medicine. This was the case even at medical schools with homeopathic origins, such as New York Medical College, known at the time as the New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital. Conversions to homeopathy by “regular” M.D.s, common in the nineteenth century, had become increasingly rare. Dr. Field, however, became a convinced homeopath after a family member was cured by a homeopathic physician. In 1922, after several years of private study, Dr. Field publicly announced his conversion to homeopathy and published the Symptom-Index. The Symptom-Index consists of over a thousand punch cards organized numerically in two file drawers. In addition to being an artifact from the history of homeopathy, it is an early precursor of what we would now describe as medical informatics. Using the brand new (as of 1922) technology of paper punch cards, the Symptom-Index served as an automated prescription system. The operator followed the traditional homeopathic procedure of taking the patient's case history and carefully documenting their symptoms in order to prescribe a medication which would induce similar symptoms – the homeopathic principle of *similia similibus curantur*, “like cures like.” By selecting the cards corresponding to the patient’s symptoms and laying them on top of one another to line up the open punch holes, then cross-referencing the numerically labeled cards with a pamphlet listing the homeopathic remedies to which each punch hole corresponded, the operator could select the remedy which would most efficiently alleviate a particular group of symptoms.

New from the National Library of Medicine

From the very beginning of the American Medical Association (AMA) in 1847, its members felt that there was a need for a reliable medical directory of all the physicians in the United States. Although various attempts were made in the ensuing decades, it was not until the turn of the century that the AMA put this ambitious project into action. All

physicians, AMA members or not, were to be included. Initially, the AMA began a biographical index of American physicians by consulting each state’s licensing body. Later, directories, lists of medical school graduates, and other sources were used to “back-fill” the records into the nineteenth-century. After 1901, medical schools and state licensing boards began to routinely file information about physicians with the AMA. In 1905 and 1906 as the physician files grew, letters requesting biographical information were sent to approximately 90,000 physicians. Similar biographical forms were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. To obtain additional information and to verify the data, 5,000 volunteer physicians around the country were recruited to review the biographical information.

After the publication of the 1906 directory, the AMA continued its effort to obtain more complete information about the graduates of all medical colleges and lists of licensed physicians prior to 1901. The information on each individual physician was put onto 4”x6” cards. By 1910, the biographical cards contained the full name, place and year of birth, premedical education, medical school and year of graduation, all licenses, internships, special training, and the physician’s place of practice. The cards are exhaustive for physicians who died between 1906 and 1969. Alumni record cards were prepared for those physicians who graduated from a medical school after 1865. There are also cards with death notices and biography going back to the nineteenth century, but these are incomplete.

The physician biographical cards were maintained until 1969 when the use of the cards was discontinued. At this point, the AMA began to store information in a computer database. Information on physicians living at this time was entered into the database. Today, AMA continues to collect, analyze and manage physician data as a primary resource for professional medical organizations, universities and medical schools, research institutions, governmental agencies, and other health-related groups.

The approximately 350,000 cards for physicians who died prior to 1970, were retained and placed in the AMA archives as the AMA Deceased Physicians Masterfile. Realizing the historic value of this archival collection, in 1987, the AMA began to convert the cards to an electronic database with the intention of publishing. The first set of cards was published in 1993 as the two volume *Directory of Deceased American Physicians 1804–1929*. It provides concise biographical sketches of over 149,000 deceased medical practitioners and has become a “classic” reference work used by the medical profession, historians, students, and genealogists.

In 1994, the AMA sought a permanent home for the card file and contacted the National Genealogical Society (NGS) in Arlington, Virginia, which agreed to house the collection. The original cards arrived at the NGS in 1997. The NGS continued the practice of the AMA and used the cards to respond to requests concerning deceased physicians. In November 2004, because the NGS was moving its headquarters to a different location, it decided to place the cards in a repository that would ensure their preservation and continued public access. The AMA Deceased Physicians Masterfile cards were donated to the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine.

The AMA Deceased Physicians Masterfile 1906–1969 is not available online but may be consulted in the Reading Room of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine.

From Circulating Now

Other News

Pandemic Resources: “History in the Time of Pandemics: Essays and Bibliographies -- An Open Peer Review Project of the IsisCB.” <https://pandemics.isiscb.org/> This project contains nearly 20 peer-reviewed essays and bibliographies on the history of pandemics and epidemics. This will be published later this summer as a set of online essays in the journal *Isis*. I would be happy to send a short

newsletter article on this issue if you would like. Also, you might find it useful to put on your resources page. Sincerely, Stephen P. Weldon, Bibliographer, History of Science Society, and Professor of History of Science at the University of Oklahoma.

Royal Society Publishing recently launched our new history of science platform [Science in the Making](https://www.royalsocietypublishing.org/Science-in-the-Making) that allows free access to digitized versions of over 30,000 archival items related to the publication of our journals from the past 400+ years. Established in 2014, Science in the Making aims to make archival material related to the publication of the Society’s scientific journals available online to all. On this website you can discover the complex material that lies behind the published articles: peer reviews, correspondence, photographs, illustrations and early drafts. Science in the Making presents the complex material that lies behind the published articles including reviews by Darwin, doodles by Newton, astronomical observations, electrical experiments, anatomical illustrations and more, drawing from every branch of science.

The following series have been digitized including “Archived Papers,” “Classified Papers,” “Early Letters,” “Letters and Papers,” “Philosophical Transactions,” and “Register Books Originals.” Access Science in the Making here: <http://makingscience.royalsociety.org>