



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Issue No.128

Fall 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having read all AAHM President's Messages for decades (well, maybe I skipped a few), it is an honor to write my first one as your new president. Nostalgia warning: I remember attending my first meeting in Cleveland in 1991 and hearing Allan Brandt give the opening plenary and thinking: "This is where I want to be."

I also remember giving a very flawed paper in my early days and initially being thrilled when so many hands shot up at the end of the talk. Unfortunately, the audience was not equally thrilled. But the feedback I received—from many senior scholars—was so helpful and congenial that I once again thought: "This is where I want to be." I know that so many of you also think of the AAHM as your home organization.

OK, taking off the rose-colored glasses now. AAHM, like so many other small academic organizations, faces many challenges. Some are intellectual. For example, how, as historians of medicine, do we address the racist practices that have characterized the world of medicine for centuries—and still persist? As most of you know, a special AAHM committee drafted an anti-racism statement and then shared it with the membership (You can find it on our website.) But the issues raised will and should persist. Several of our members are publishing cutting-edge work demonstrating how past racist practices need to be central to our basic understandings of the history of medicine.

Other challenges for the AAHM are organizational. For many years, our day-to-day business has been run by numerous remarkably efficient secretaries, most recently Todd Savitt, Chris Crenner and then Jodi Koste. In essence, however, these individuals were essentially volunteering to do a job that really should be paid. With Jodi planning to end her service, it is time for the AAHM to fund a position of executive director that will both enhance the organization's profile and put us in line with similar organizations. Stay tuned for more news about this exciting transition.

Related to replacing Jodi is our upcoming 100th anniversary in 2025. (We are still looking for a host city—hint, hint!). The AAHM's first meeting was held in Washington, DC in 1925. Our 100th anniversary is an exciting opportunity for celebrating our organization and what it has achieved. The scholarship produced by our members is remarkable in its breadth and insight. Our annual meeting features papers and panels that are cutting-edge. Our members contribute important insights to the public's understanding of medicine and its past. Exciting events are planned to accompany the 2025 meeting, thanks to a Centennial Committee chaired by Janet Golden.

But our anniversary is also an opportunity to ponder the future of the AAHM and its place in telling the history of medicine. For many years, we have thrived with an entirely volunteer set of officers and committees. In an era of the internet and Twitter, however, this is no longer adequate. Our 100th anniversary is an opportunity for us to rethink how we can position ourselves as a much more vibrant source of information about the history of medicine. The recent Supreme Court decision on abortion access is only one of many examples of how we—as scholars of medical history—can provide timely and accurate insights about how various medical issues have evolved historically.

Which brings me back to the position of executive director. Hiring someone who understands the importance of medical history and has the skills to make our work more accessible to both other scholars and the public is crucial. We are excited to be thinking about—and ultimately hiring—such a person.

But, as with everything, this process will require funding. In order to hire someone who can take the AAHM to the next level, we will need to fundraise—both among our membership and also donors interested in the history of medicine. Happily, Margaret Marsh is chairing another committee, the Development Committee, that is exploring options. We are hoping that you will support the sort of fundraising efforts that Margaret and her committee will be announcing in the coming months.

Lastly, our anniversary is an exciting opportunity to review our history. The AAHM began largely as a group of physicians interested in the history of their profession. Social historians challenged this model in the 1970s, arguing that “great man” physician history both ignored patients and other providers who had contributed mightily to the history of medicine as well as papered over questionable behaviors by the medical profession. More recently, scholars have performed additional crucial research, arguing that racism (as well as sexism and homophobia), have

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

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 Barron Lerner, M.D., Ph.D., President
 Mary Fissell, Ph.D., Vice President
 Jodi L. Koste, M.A., Secretary
 Scott Podolsky, M.D., Treasurer
 Keith Wailoo, Ph.D., Past 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: 15 February, 1 July and 1 October.

represented fundamental flaws in the history of medicine.

As your incoming president, I welcome this new historiography. As we all know, well-researched history provides innumerable insights. But I also remain a staunch advocate of a big tent philosophy. Clinician historians have been the life blood of the AAHM since its inception. We must continue to find ways to recruit and retain students, residents, and other practitioners wise enough to study how history informs their everyday work.

Barron Lerner
AAHM President

AAHM NEWS

Congratulations 2022 Award Winners!

Congratulations to the 2021 AAHM award winners honored on April 23, 2022 during the 95th annual meeting of the Association held in Saratoga Springs, New York.

William Osler Medal: Daniel D. Castaneda, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, “‘Vendors of Death’: Sanitary Discourses and the Stigmatization of Street Food Vendors During Peru’s Cholera Epidemic, 1991-1993”

William Osler Medal Honorable Mention: Gloria Eun Jin Yu, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA, “Solving the Puzzle: The Medicalization of Postpartum Depression through *Our Bodies, Ourselves*”

Richard H. Shryock Medal: Joseph Bishop, Department of History, New York University, “From Shadowgraphy to Radiology: How Physicians Leveraged Early Hospital X-ray Machines to Supplant Photographers”

Richard H. Shryock Medal Honorable Mention: Liana DeMarco, History of Science and

Medicine Yale University, “Time, Productivity, and Race in Plantation Management and Medicine.”

Fielding H. Garrison Lecturer for 2023: Beatrix Hoffman, Professor of History, Northern Illinois University

J. Worth Estes Prize: Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, University of Edinburgh, “Cross-cultural Transfer of Medical Knowledge in the Medieval Mediterranean: The Introduction and Dissemination of Sugar-based Potions from the Islamic World to Byzantium,” *Speculum* 96.4 (2021): 963-1008

Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century History of Medicine or Biomedical Sciences Award: Rebecca Mueller, University of Pennsylvania, “The Genome and the Biome: Cystic Fibrosis @ Six Feet Apart”

George Rosen Prize: Arleen M. Tuchman, *Diabetes: A History of Race and Disease*, Yale University Press, 2020

William H. Welch Medal: Jaipreet Viridi, *Hearing Happiness: Deafness Cures in History*, University of Chicago Press, 2020.

Genevieve Miller Lifetime Achievement Award: W. Bruce Fye

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 AAHM, as we know, is the only professional society in the United States dedicated to the history of medicine and health and to the promotion of research and teaching about a wide range of topics in these fields. As our members conduct research on the past, they also shed light on the myriad contexts in which medicine, public health, and other health professions and institutions have

developed and changed. Many of us, for example, have been deeply involved in illuminating the historical and contemporary significance of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The AAHM has grown and evolved as an organization over its first century. 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.

To raise these funds, beginning in the fall of 2022 we will be reaching out to our broad membership, to foundations, and to individuals within and beyond the organization with a commitment to our broad mission and vision. You will be hearing more from the Development Committee in the coming months. If you can't wait and 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 mmarsh@rutgers.edu



AAHM 2023

Join us for the 96th annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 11–14, 2023. If you are having déjà vu and thinking, wait — wasn't there already a meeting in Ann Arbor? — you are close. We got within 6 weeks of the 2020 meeting, but were stymied by COVID.

We are more than ready this time and have also added a bonus one-day virtual meeting a week later (May 20, 2023). We are eager to welcome you to our great town!

Program Highlights: We are excited to welcome the 2023 AAHM to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. The AAHM was last held in Michigan in 1955. This will be the association's first meeting in Ann Arbor and at the University of Michigan.



[University of Michigan Union.](#)

The meeting's busiest days—Friday and Saturday—will be held in the Michigan Union, the original student union on campus and site of presidential candidate John F. Kennedy's announcement about the formation of the Peace Corps. The Union was [recently renovated](#) and features abundant spaces for conversations outside the conference room spaces and boasts a coffee shop, several fast-food eateries, and convenience store. The building also has a lactation room and relaxation room. The book exhibit will be easily accessible on the first floor.

Attendees will have opportunities to engage with the academic community and explore the valuable collections and educational institutions across campus. We are partnering with the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA, which is across the street from the Union) to showcase highlights from collections at UM pertaining to the history of healing and health. The conference will begin and end at the Kensington Hotel, with an opening

reception on Thursday as well as Sunday's final sessions.

Accommodations: The hotel is the Kensington, with accommodations also available at the adjacent Even wellness hotel. Both of these are located about three miles south of the University of Michigan campus (with easy and abundant parking). We have also reserved a limited number of rooms at the Inn at the Michigan League and Bell Tower Hotel, which are on the main campus and within a short walking distance to the Union.

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

Ann Arbor is easily accessible by car, train, and air. There is a train station in Ann Arbor not far from the main campus. Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) is about a 30-minute drive away from Ann Arbor. The Michigan Flyer provides easy, reliable, affordable transportation to and from DTW with 12-13 round trips a day.

Experiencing Ann Arbor: We are excited to welcome you not only to the University of Michigan but also to Ann Arbor, a vibrant college town with a great deal to offer in terms of dining and other cultural attractions. It is exceptionally family friendly and there are many activities for children of all ages. To begin exploring, visit [Destination Ann Arbor](#).



"Summer Aerials: Central Campus – Burton Tower, Rackham, North Quad, Hatcher, Shapiro, UGLI, West Hall." July 15, 2015. Michigan Photography, University of Michigan.

The Michigan Union features a number of dining options within the building, from a coffee shop next to the AAHM registration area to a food court on the lower level and a convenience store with to-go food options. There are dozens of restaurants at a variety of price points within a five-minute walk of the Union in Ann Arbor's downtown and South University areas. There are also options within 10–15 minutes of walking in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown neighborhood. For those who want to dine closer to the Kensington Hotel, there is a restaurant in the hotel itself, as well as a number of options within a short walk. A comprehensive guide to restaurants and events will become available a few months before the conference.

Ann Arbor is renowned for its music scene. The Ark, now in its 58th year, presents 300 shows a year of roots and folk music in an intimate, 400-seat venue. Next door, the Blue Llama Jazz Club features jazz and fine dining, while the Kerrytown Concert House, with 110 seats, offers classical chamber music, experimental, and cabaret performances. All shows are announced a few months in advance.

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

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

Archives and the University: There are extensive archival collections related to the history of medicine and health at the University of Michigan. The [William L. Clements Library](#), which is a 2–3 minute walk from the Union, specializes in material from the fifteenth through the nineteenth century, and has papers related to colonial herbal remedies and domestic recipes and regional history. The [Bentley Historical Library](#), on the UM north campus (accessible by bus or car) contains countless personal papers and UM departmental records, as well as nineteenth-century MD theses and the papers of Thomas Francis and Eliza Mosher. Next door to the Bentley is the [Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library](#) with holdings related to domestic and foreign issues during the Cold War while Ford was in office, including materials related to women's issues in the 1970s and Betty Ford's work relating to drug and alcohol abuse. The [Joseph A. Labadie Collection at the Special Collections Research Center](#) (in the Graduate Library, about a 5 minute walk from the Union) has materials documenting social movements and marginalized political communities from the 19th century to the present, including records related to radical literature and the themes of health and sexuality.

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

On campus, in addition to UMMA be sure to check out the aforementioned Kelsey Museum as well as the [Museum of Natural History](#), which features a state-of-the-art planetarium and is the only place in the world where you can see male and female mastodon skeletons side by side. UM of course features a very active athletic scene, with campuses for soccer and lacrosse. Guided tours of the Michigan Stadium, also known as the Big House (the largest stadium in the U.S.), will be organized for AAHM attendees who wish to purchase tickets.

Our campus has played an important role in the history of medicine. The Medical School admitted its first students in 1850, and has been a leading force in medical education. It was the first medical school in the US to own and operate its own university hospital, the first major US medical school to admit women on the same basis as men, and one of a handful of leaders in the late 19th- and early 20th-century reform of medical education. The institution now sees about 2.4 million outpatient visits per year, almost 50,000 hospitalized patients, and is home to over 3,000 faculty members and 2,000 medical students and house officers.

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

UM boasts similarly renowned schools and colleges of Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, and Public Health, all of which have contributed to health training and innovations in the state and far beyond. The Law School and the School of Public Policy are also major

contributors to ongoing discussions about health policy, health equity, and patient rights.

We are looking forward to (finally) seeing you in Ann Arbor!

The 2023 Local Arrangements Committee

Call for Nominations, AAHM Awards, 2023

All awards will be presented at the AAHM annual meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 11-14, 2023. Additional information may be found on the AAHM website: histmed.org/about/awards

Osler Medal Essay Contest, 2023. 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 2022, 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: Jim Downs downjames@gmail.com by **31 January 2023**.

Shryock Medal Essay Contest, 2023. 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: Susan Lamb, slamb@uottawa.ca no later than **31 January 2023**.

J. Worth Estes Award, 2023. 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 2021 and 2022. 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, John Parascandola at jparascandola@verizon.net and must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) no later than **15 January 2023**.

Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century

History of Medicine or Biomedical Sciences, 2023. 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., 2018–2022). 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 2022**. Submissions and/or questions should be directed to the Chair of the Pressman–Burroughs Wellcome Committee, Stephen Pemberton at stephen.pemberton@njit.edu.

Genevieve Miller Lifetime Achievement Award, 2023. 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. Jackie Wolf, chair of the Genevieve Miller Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, welcomes nominations for the award, at the following e-mail address wolfj1@ohio.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 2022**. Electronic submissions are preferred.

The George Rosen Prize, 2023. The George Rosen Prize is awarded to one or more authors/creators of an article, essay, edited volume, museum exhibition, film, or other significant contribution to the history

of public health or the history of social medicine published or created in the six calendar years preceding the award’s nomination deadline, i.e. from 2017 to 2022. “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 2022-2023 Rosen Prize Committee, Leslie Reagan, welcomes suggestions to consider for the award at lreagan@illinois.edu. Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2022.

AAHM Committees 2022-2023

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 2023

Jessica Martucci
Rebecca Kluchin
Kavitha Simaramakrishnan
Rana Hogarth

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

Program Committee:

David Herzberg, co-chair
Sarah Rodriguez, co-chair
Seth Archer

Emily Baum
He Bian
Nancy Campbell
Merlin Chowkwanyun
Flurin Condreau
Monica Green
Antoine Johnson
Michael Rembis
Samuel Roberts
Olivia Weisser

Finance Committee

Gwen Kay, chair (2023)
Deborah Doroshow (2024)
Stephen Greenberg (2025)

Nominating Committee

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

Shryock Medal Committee

Susan Lamb, chair
Pratik Chakrabarti
Jenna Healey
Carrie Meyer
Wayne Soon

Osler Medal Committee

Jim Downs, chair
Kajol Chaurasia
Ezelle Sanford
Ned Shorter

Pressman Burroughs-Welcome Award Committee

Stephen Pemberton, chair (2023)
Jessica Adler (2023)
Wendy Kline (2025)
Nancy Tomes (2024)

Miller Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

Jackie Wolf, chair
Jeff Brosco
Arleen Tuchman

Rosen Prize Committee

Leslie Reagan, chair
Cathy Kudlick
Sarah Leavitt
Mike Sappol
Udodiri Okwandu

Welch Medal Committee

Todd Olszewski, chair
Debjani Das
Erika Dyck
Mayizar Ghiabi
Raúl Necochea López

Garrison Lecture Committee

Naomi Rogers (chair)
Janet Greenlees
Deirdre Cooper Owens
Nic John Ramos

Estes Prize Committee

John Parascandola, chair
Martha Gardner
Amy Hay
Cathy McClive

Annual Meetings

Russell Johnson chair, (2023)
Dan Fox (2025)
Sydney Halpern (2023)
Dana Landress (2025)
Todd Olszewski (2023)
Dominique Tobbell (2024)

Publications

Paul Berman, chair (2024)
Emily Bowlus-Peck (2026)
Rick Keller (2025)

Education and Outreach

Adam Biggs, chair (2023)
Justin Barr (2025)
Scottie Buehler (2025)
Tolulope Fadeyi (2025)
Mindy Schwartz (2023)
Natalie Shibley (2025)

Eva Ward (2025)
Mike Wong (2025)

Diversity and Inclusion

Catherine Mas, chair (2024)
Nicolas Fernandez-Medina (2024)
Rick Mizelle (2023)
Jeremy Montgomery (2025)
Matthew Romaniello (2025)
Jaipreet Viridi (2023)

Development

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

Committee on Student Affairs

Jonathan Sadowsky, faculty advisor
Jeremy Montgomery, chair

Travel Grant Committee

Kelly O' Donnell, chair (2024)
Elizabeth Neswald (2023)
Colin Phoon (2024)

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Ken Ludmerer received the 2022 John C. Gienapp Award for Distinguished Service to Graduate Medical Education from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The award recognizes his recent history of the residency system in the U.S., *Let Me Heal*, “for chronicling and sharing the residency experience, amplifying the message of clinician well-being, and serving as the foundation for the current ACGME Common Program Requirements” (which govern residency and clinical fellowship programs in all U.S. hospitals). His new book project is an account

of racial (in)equity in American medicine, “Medicine in Black and White,” which is being undertaken with generous support from the Gordon and Betty Moore and Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundations.

OBITUARIES

Matthew Ramsey 1949-2022

I am deeply saddened to share the news that my friend and colleague, Matthew Ramsey, passed away on September 1, 2022 at the age of 73. Many of us know Ramsey’s book, *Professional and Popular Medicine in France, 1770-1830: The Social World of Medical Practice* (1988). It is a masterful study of the rise of professional medicine around the turn of the nineteenth-century, when the French state worked together with elite physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries to erect standards, establish educational requirements, and dictate the rules of practice. What made this work exemplary was the attention Ramsey paid not only to the “winners” in this drive to professional monopoly, but also to the diverse assemblage of practitioners who were eventually excluded from the medical marketplace. Drawing on a dizzying array of archival sources from across France, Ramsey recreated the social world of French people as they became ill and sought care from oculists, dentists, bonesetters, empirics, itinerant mountebanks, faith healers, as well as witches, mountebanks, and quacks, among others. He showed that although these practitioners plied their trades on the edges of legality and respectability, they enjoyed considerable success, not least because they were available, accessible, affordable, and every bit as effective at curing as their professional counterparts. That medical historians today think in a more sophisticated way about the difficulties of distinguishing clearly between “professional” and “popular” medicine rests to some extent on Ramsey’s work, which included, in addition to this book, more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and reviews. The high quality of his work was rewarded with appointments as visiting fellow and professor at Princeton University, visiting associate at the

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in London, and visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He also received grants and fellowships from the National Institutes of Health, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the American Philosophical Society, among others.

Ramsey was born in New York City in 1948, but grew up across the river, in Leonia New Jersey. He spent almost twenty years at Harvard University, receiving his B.A. in 1969, his Ph.D. in 1978, and then holding a position as assistant professor for six years. In 1984, he joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University, where he taught until his retirement. In the decades he spent here, Ramsey left an indelible mark. Not only did he play a pivotal role in convincing Vanderbilt to establish a residential college program (Vanderbilt now has 17 residential colleges), he was almost single-handedly responsible for persuading a recalcitrant administration several decades ago to establish an interdisciplinary major in Medicine, Health, and Society. Ramsey was confident that the health challenges this country was facing would best be confronted by bringing together humanists, social scientists, and medical researchers and practitioners. When that major quickly became one of the most popular on campus, he spearheaded an effort to convince Vanderbilt to found a Center for Medicine, Health and Society, which it did in 2003. As its Founding Director, Ramsey laid the groundwork for what has since become a self-standing department with thirteen faculty lines. For this and other service he performed, Vanderbilt honored him with the Thomas Jefferson Award, for “distinguished service to Vanderbilt through extraordinary contributions as a member of the faculty in the councils and government of the University.”

I would be remiss not to mention the mark that Ramsey also left on Vanderbilt’s History Department. At a memorial service held for him on September 24, we remembered him for the breadth and depth of his knowledge, and for his kindness and

generosity toward his colleagues and friends. He was the most widely read and erudite person I have ever met, and he had an insatiable curiosity, which he shared willingly with anyone who showed any interest. His son, David, commented at the memorial service that although he had gone to college before students had easy access to the internet, he had something better: he had his dad, who had answers to almost every question he asked (or found it out in short order).

Ramsey was also an avid birdwatcher. He loved languages and began to study Japanese when he was in his forties. He was fond of music, especially of Mozart. He was an excellent chess player, and in his younger years enjoyed a good game of squash. He is survived by his wife, Linda; sister, Judith Ramsey Ehrlich; son, David (Grace); and grandchildren, Marigold and Cosmo. We all miss him very much.

Arleen Tuchman

History of the Cardiovascular Disease Workshop (June 2010-Present)

In April 2010, at the annual meeting of the AAHM in Rochester, Minnesota, David Jones (then at MIT), Joel Howell (Michigan) and Gerald Oppenheimer (CUNY) met informally to nurture a new idea, to assemble the small number of historians interested in the history of cardiovascular disease by inviting them to an exploratory workshop. During the previous decade, scholars had begun to research the history of non-infectious diseases. Cancer, especially the politically steeped story of cigarette smoking and lung cancer and the freighted history of breast cancer, had received substantial attention from historians. But Jones, Howell, and Oppenheimer were puzzled as to why cardiovascular disease (CVD), the continuous leading cause of death in the US since 1921, had not caught the attention of historians of medicine. The absence of the historical treatment of heart disease was all the more baffling for the disease played a significant role in the development of postwar risk factor epidemiology and had served as a catalyst for profound cultural changes. The central questions

during that initial discussion were how to encourage research on the history of CVD and how to create an interested audience for that work.

In June of 2010, the inaugural workshop met at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. The three initiators invited others interested in CVD, among them historian Sarah Tracy (Oklahoma) who was working on a biography of Ancel Keys, and epidemiologist/physician Henry Blackburn (Minnesota). Then engaged in researching a history of CVD epidemiology, Blackburn was also one of the field's pioneers, having directly or indirectly participated in most of its significant studies, organizations, and meetings since the early 1950s. These five have remained the core of our workshops, which have met biannually in January and June since 2010. Over the dozen years since its inception, others have joined by invitation: Todd Olszewski (Providence), Sejal Patel (NIH/MITRE), Carla Keirns (Kansas), veteran epidemiologist Darwin Labarthe (previously of the CDC, now of Northwestern), and doctoral students, such as Cara Kiernan at Harvard and David Johns at Columbia University. Today the workshop includes international members from Brazil (historian of medicine Simone Kropf), Finland (historical sociologist Mikko Jauho) and France (historian Gaëtan Thomas and anthropologist Anne Lovell). Without any funding and entirely voluntary, the CVD workshop has succeeded in creating its own magnetic field that has drawn and retained a perennial cadre of scholars.

Since its inauguration, the central purpose of the History of Cardiovascular Disease Workshop has been to provide a forum for members to present their work-in-progress. Because papers are sent and read prior to the workshop, each presenting member receives a thorough and careful, albeit challenging, review of his or her work, most often consisting of a granular analysis, recommended scholarly references, advice on the style and organization of the paper and suggestions for further work. What has always marked these sessions is a sense of camaraderie, the supportive criticism we each receive and give, the

chance to resubmit drafts for additional input, and, especially appreciated, the good will of the group toward each participant. The force that has bound the seminar for so long is in part the feeling of community and emerging friendship and the advantage of the perceptive, highly useful and non-judgmental guidance.

To create an audience for our work, especially during the first years of the workshop, the group organized panels or secured a place for speakers at the AAHM, the American Heart Association and other professional historical and scientific venues. Our aim when speaking either to humanistic or clinical/epidemiological audiences was to convince them of the importance of acknowledging, following, and supporting a critical history of CVD based upon archival, oral, and other primary sources.

Henry Blackburn has created and organized an invaluable archive of primary documents representing the modern field of cardiovascular disease epidemiology; included are dozens of transcribed interviews with those who created and developed the field in the twentieth century. While the physical archive is accessible by request to the "The Henry Blackburn Collection on the History of Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology" at the Andersen Collection (johns976@umn.edu) at the University of Minnesota, a significant proportion of these source materials (plus commentary) is available online at the home page of the History of CVD Epidemiology website at www.epi.umn.edu/cvdepi/.

Part of the success and longevity of the workshop has been a shared and broad understanding of the history of cardiovascular disease sufficiently elastic to find room for papers on the epidemiology of heart disease and other chronic diseases (often related to CVD), the history of cardiology (domestic and global), surgery, laboratory questions, and the contentious science and politics of food and nutrition. To provide a sense of the breadth of scholarship that has passed through our workshops, we offer below a

sampling of the papers and website entries already published.

A chronology of publications from the History of CVD Workshop include:

Oppenheimer G.M., "Framingham: The First 20 Years," *Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases* 2010; 53: 55-61.

Oppenheimer G.M., H. Blackburn, and P. Puska, "From Framingham to North Karelia to U.S. Community Prevention Programs: Negotiating Research Agendas for Coronary Heart Disease in the Second Half of the 20th Century," *Public Health Reviews* 2011; 33: 452-486.

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Blackburn H. and D. Labarthe, "Stories from the Evolution of Guidelines for Causal Inference in Epidemiologic Associations: 1953–1965," *American Journal of Epidemiology* 2012; 176 (12): 1071–1077.

Tracy, S.W., "The Physiology of Extremes: Ancel Keys and the International High Altitude Expedition of 1935," in special issue "Modern Airs, Waters, and Places," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 2012; 86 (4): 627-660.

Jones, D.S. and J.A. Greene, "The Contributions of Prevention and Treatment to the Decline in Cardiovascular Mortality: Lessons from a Forty-Year Debate," *Health Affairs* 2012; 31: 2250-2258.

Jones, D.S., "How Much CABG Is Good for Us?" *Lancet* 2012; 380: 557-558.

Patel, S.S., "Methods and Management: NIH Administrators, Federal Oversight, and the Framingham Heart Study," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 2012; 86 (1): 94-121.

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Blackburn H. and D.R. Jacobs, Jr., "Commentary: Origins and Evolution of Body Mass Index (BMI): Continuing Saga. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 2014; 43(3): 665-669.

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Olszewski, T.M., "The Causal Conundrum: The Diet-Heart Debates and the Management of Uncertainty in American Medicine," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 2015; 70: 218-249.

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Jones, D.S., and J.A. Greene, "Is Dementia in Decline? Historical Trends and Future Trajectories," *New England Journal of Medicine* 2016; 364: 507-509.

Tracy, S.W., "Interdisciplinary Interprofessionalism at Mid-Century: Ancel Keys, Human Biology, and the Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene, 1940-1950," *Nursing History Review* 2016; 24: 81-89.

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Sarah Tracy
Henry Blackburn

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

The Wood Library-Museum Apgar Collection Digitization Project: If you were born after 1953, chances are that you were given an Apgar score in the first minutes of your life. Originated by Virginia Apgar, MD (1909-1974), an anesthesiologist and pioneer perinatologist, the score evaluates the health of newborns and has saved millions of lives around the world. In July, 2022, the **Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology (WLM)** began a project to digitize its collection of the personal papers of Virginia Apgar, MD. The work will continue into next year. The digitized collection will be made available on the WLM and other websites, including the Illinois Digital Archives. This project is supported in part by an award from the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, National Archives and Records Administration. For more information, please contact Judy Robins, Archivist, by e-mail: j.robins@asahq.org, or by telephone: 847-268-9168.

New from the National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) resumed Reading Room operations on October 3, 2022. Due

to renovations taking place in the NLM building, as well as ongoing COVID-19 considerations, NLM Reading Room services have several changes from the services provided prior to the pandemic. Reading Room users will work in a temporary Reading Room located in room B1E08, the Billings Conference Room. The Reading Room can accommodate up to four users at a time. You can find more information on using the Reading Room on the NLM [website](#). NLM will welcome users by appointment only Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm EST. To make an appointment, please call 1-888-346-3656 Monday through Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm EST.

Other News

The *Journal of Medical Regulation (JMR)* is seeking interested scholars for book reviews. Published under various titles since 1913, the *JMR* presents original scholarship and commentary to medical regulators in the U.S. and abroad. If you would be interested and willing to review a book for *JMR*, please contact our Managing Editor, Kelly Hadsell at khadsell@fsm.org. For more on *JMR* visit meridian.allenpress.com/jmr

