



# Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems unbelievable to me that I am writing my final president's message here. To me, the two-year stint has flown by (although I am aware that others have found it "interminable").

One of the major challenges of a two-year gig, of course, is trying to create meaningful change in such a short period of time. Organizations such as the AAHM have their traditions and it's always easier to keep doing things the same way—especially when almost everyone involved is a volunteer.

So, in some sense, it is an accomplishment when any AAHM president "moves the needle" in several areas and I'd like to think we have done that. 2023-2024 was our first year with a paid secretary, Sarah Handley-Cousins, and she has done a spectacular job in so many areas: improving our website (stay tuned for big changes!), improving communication with membership and working with all our committees. We have also been fortunate that Jodi Koste, Sarah's predecessor, has stayed on to help with ongoing issues, mostly planning the upcoming May 9-12, 2024, meeting in Kansas City.

Speaking of Kansas City, take a look at the preliminary program [[https://histmed.org/documents/preliminary\\_program.pdf](https://histmed.org/documents/preliminary_program.pdf)] and you will see other changes engineered by Program Committee Co-Chairs Sam Roberts and Elena Conis and their team. For example, we will have twelve roundtables and six workshops on cutting-edge topics in the history of medicine that will surely engender much discussion and debate. Building on our 2022 Anti-Racism statement, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is sponsoring a workshop on publishing one's first book, with special attention being paid to promoting the work of under-represented minorities. There will also be several new events geared toward graduate students ([see page 5](#)), spearheaded by our newly vitalized Committee on Student Affairs chaired by Adam Negri and Cheyenne Pettit. Another new initiative is themed events, including a "Meet the Scholar" breakfast, which will allow younger members to chat informally with longtime AAHM members. Details to follow. Also keep an eye out for a memorial tribute to our dear colleague Ron Numbers, which will occur on Thursday, May 9 and recognize his enormous contributions to our field.

Of course, not everything in up to date is Kansas City (Groan, but you had to know that was coming!) We also will be doing a lot of what we already do well, including top-notch paper sessions, the annual Sigerist Circle meeting and the women's historian and clinician historians' breakfasts. We will have another of our very popular poster

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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](http://www.histmed.org)

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.

sessions as well. And this year's Garrison lecture will be given by everyone's favorite AAHM member: Johanna Schoen. And if I don't get to work on my presidential address very soon, I may need to learn to juggle. Or tell historiography jokes. Hmm. I better get to work! Finally, I am also very pleased that we will again be having a terrific virtual meeting, kindly organized by Carrie Meyer and her team at the University of Nebraska, on Friday, May 17 (the week after Kansas City.)

Not all of our new initiatives pertain to the Kansas City meeting. As many of you know, AAHM vice president Mary Fissell is chairing a special Committee on Annual Meetings, which, while strategizing about future meeting locations, is really exploring how small organizations like ours can continue to survive and thrive. Thanks to her committee—Mary Brazelton, Pablo Gomez, Andrew Ruis and Keith Wailoo—and all of you who have participated in Zoom calls or answered the survey from Mary's group. And there is much excitement regarding our 2025 meeting in Boston, which will commemorate the AAHM's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The self-designated "Fun Committee," chaired by Janet Golden, has many surprising and exciting ideas to make for a memorable time.

But as I leave my post, there is still lots to be done. Mostly, we are still (valiantly) trying to raise money for two funds: the Centennial Fund and the Executive Director Fund. Although Sarah is amazing, our real goal is to hire an Executive Director who can truly help transform the AAHM into a more stable and vibrant organization. Thanks to so many of you for already donating. But if you have not, please do so ASAP, even as little as \$10. It is crucial for us to show broad support from our membership in order to successfully approach large donors. Please go to <https://aahm.press.jhu.edu/membership/contribute> and look for the links to these two funds or used the convenient QR codes:

### AAHM Executive Director Endowment



### AAHM General Endowment Fund



There will also be opportunities in Kansas City to donate on the spot using these QR codes. And we are always looking for new members! One of the most amazing aspects of this group has always been its diversity and we need to keep that going. So please talk us up to fellow professors, doctors, nurses, other clinicians, librarians, archivists, antiquarians, and any and all students.

Perhaps the best news of all is that as I depart, I am handing the reins to Mary Fissell, who was a busier-than-usual vice president and now takes on presidential duties. I cannot imagine a better person to help guide us.

Thanks so much for the opportunity to have served. As I said in my first presidential message, I have belonged to many organizations during my career, but the AAHM will always be closest to my heart.



*Barron Lerner  
AAHM President*

### AAHM NEWS

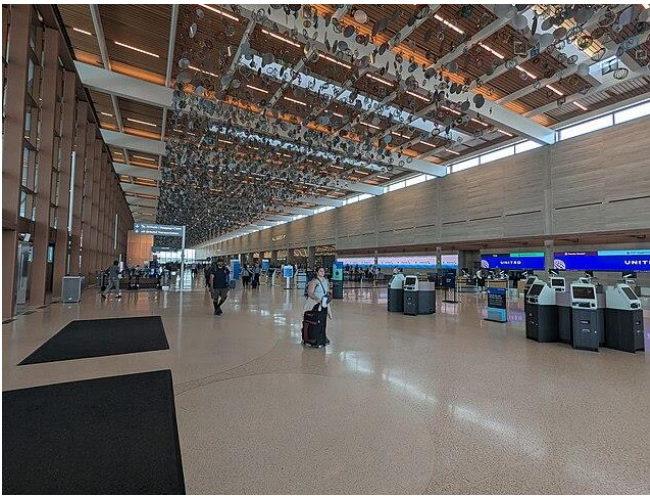
#### AAHM in Kansas City

Most folks traveling from out of town will reach Kansas City through the Kansas City International Airport (MCI), which is situated in Missouri, 20 miles northwest of downtown Kansas City. This new airport opened in February 2023 with thoroughly up-to-date facilities, naturally. MCI is served by several major airlines, including Air Canada, American



Airlines, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, and United Airlines.

There is no shuttle from the airport to the Westin Crown Center our conference hotel. The Westin suggests using a taxi or app-based ride service (\$25-\$60), or a shuttle service such as SuperShuttle (\$46-\$55). Additional options can be found at the Visit KC website. The conference hotel is the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, 1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108.



Kansas City International Airport elisfkc2, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

For those considering rail travel, both the Southwest Chief and Missouri River Runner stop at Union Station Kansas City—a 4-minute walk to the hotel. More information can be found at the Amtrak website. For those driving, on-site parking at the Westin Crown center is \$25 per day. In the interest of cost reductions, there is work underway to create list shares for roommates and shared rides from the airport. There is also a good, gratis bus system, although it does take patience and attentiveness to navigate.

The Garrison Lecture, entitled, “Glasnost and Perestroika in the NICU: Clinical care and parent activism in the history of neonatal intensive care,” will be given by Johanna Schoen of Rutgers University at the University of Kansas Medical

Center’s new Health Education Building (HEB) and known locally as The Cube.



Health Education Building, KUMC

There are several valuable graduate student programs at the meeting, including a workshop ([see page 5](#)) for mentoring and a meet-and-greet on Thursday night. Watch for more information forthcoming. We will be providing a full guide to breakfasts and dining out near Crown Center as well as in other, more exciting, venues accessible by foot, streetcar, or ride-share. The restaurant guide will be available through the Sched app, when that comes online.

I want to mention two research attractions that require advanced planning. Both institutions, The Black Archives of Mid-America and Linda Hall Library, are partners on our LAC. The Black Archives of Mid-America has extensive collections documenting the history of African Americans in the Midwest, including materials related to health and medicine. For information on visiting, finding aids etc. see <https://blackarchives.org/about-us/#historyandfounder>.



Linda Hall Library is an independent research library of science that incorporates, in part, the former library of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as the library of the Franklin Institute. More information on the collections can be found at <https://www.lindahall.org/research/collections/collections-overview/>. Scholars wishing to arrange a research visit should email [collections@lindahall.org](mailto:collections@lindahall.org) at least 48 hours in advance.



Linda Hall Library Nightryder84, CC BY-SA 4.0

[N.B. The following bullet-pointed paragraph on KC weather was created by **generative AI** for your edification. I deleted the AI's final item on proper footwear as even more pedestrian than the rest.]

Being well-prepared for the weather conditions will ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience as you explore the city. Kansas City in the second week of May typically experiences mild and pleasant weather. However, it's always wise to be prepared for any surprises that Mother Nature might throw our way. Here's a brief overview:

1. **Temperature:** During this time of the year, temperatures in Kansas City tend to range from 60°F to 80°F (15°C to 27°C). It's advisable to

bring layers, as mornings and evenings may be cooler, while the afternoons can be warmer.

2. **Rainfall:** May is not known for heavy rainfall in Kansas City, but occasional showers are possible. It's a good idea to pack a light waterproof jacket or an umbrella just in case.
3. **Sun Protection:** While the weather is generally mild, it's essential to be mindful of the sun. Bring sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat to protect yourself from the sun's rays if you plan on spending extended periods outdoors.

### **Committee on Student Affairs Workshop at the Kansas City Meeting**

**Mentorship Pods: Insights on Publishing, Funding, and Work-Life Balance from Faculty for Students:** This workshop, scheduled for May 10, 2024, at 12:15 p.m., is an opportunity for graduate and medical students to receive feedback from a variety of scholars. Sponsored by the Committee on Student Affairs, participants will have the chance to meet with faculty, editors, and professionals to hear feedback, guidance, and insight across varying fields of expertise and experience. Each "Mentorship Pod" will focus on a specific theme, including advice on publishing, the job market, work-life balance, funding, tenure, and research. This workshop also aims to interrogate what a successful mentorship relationship entails and how those relationships have changed over time. Sponsored by the Committee on Student Affairs.

### **Looking for a Roommate for Kansas City?**

Would you like to share a room with a fellow AAHMer at the upcoming annual meeting in Kansas City? AAHM will help facilitate connections. This service is open to all attending the meeting. Look for the Google sign-up form to be posted on the AAHM website soon. Thanks to the Committee on Student Affairs for suggesting this and to Sharrona Pearl for taking on this much-needed undertaking.

### AAHM Centennial

The Fun Committee (AKA the 100th Anniversary of the AAHM celebration planning group) invites everyone attending the meeting to invite someone you know, or even better, don't yet know, to stop by the interview area near the registration table and record a short Q&A about their experiences, memories, and other thoughts about the AAHM and AAHM meetings. This will be a great chance for long-time members and newcomers or relative newcomers to share their experiences. It should only take a few minutes and will be part of our exhibit in Boston in 2025 and our archive. We'll have some sample questions and equipment instructions ready for you.

### AAHM Nominations

The report of the AAHM Nominating Committee appears on [page 9](#). Biographies for the nominated candidates appear below. The election will take place at the business meeting during the annual meeting in on Saturday, 11 May.

### Candidate for President

**Mary E. Fissell** is Professor in the Department of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, with additional appointments in History and History of Science. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied with Charles Rosenberg. Before coming to Hopkins, she was a Lecturer in the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Manchester. Her scholarly work explores how ordinary people in early modern England and America understood health, healing, and the natural world. Her first book, *Patients Power, and the Poor* (Cambridge 2001), examined health care for the poor in an 18th century British city. Subsequently, in *Vernacular Bodies* (Oxford, 2004), she used cheap print to analyze how early modern people understood their reproductive bodies. She is currently completing a book about the long history of *Aristotle's Masterpiece*, a popular manual about sex and babies. She has published and podcasted widely on topics including the histories of

vermin; print and reading; midwifery; abortion; and women in medicine. She co-edited the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* for 15 years; served on a WHO Foresight Think Tank on the History of Pandemics in 2020-21; and has co-curated various exhibitions. Fissell has been a Fellow at the Shelby Cullum Davis Center at Princeton; the Folger Shakespeare Library; Clare Hall, Cambridge; and the Marie Jahoda Visiting Chair in International Gender Studies, Ruhr Universität.

### Candidate for Vice President

**Laura Hirshbein** is Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of History at the University of Michigan. She completed her M.D. and psychiatry residency at the University of Michigan, and also completed a Ph.D. in the history of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. She currently treats patients through the Medical Student and House Officer Mental Health Program and occasionally does history of medicine teaching. Her first book, *American Melancholy: Constructions of Depression in the Twentieth Century* was published by Rutgers University Press in 2009. Her second book, *Smoking Privileges: Psychiatry, the Mentally Ill, and the Tobacco Industry in America* was published January 2015 with Rutgers University Press. She is currently working on a project on the history of American child psychiatry. She has been editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* since 2018. She has been an active AAHM member since 1991 and served on the Program Committee, the Welch Prize Committee, the Education and Outreach Committee, and the Local Arrangements Committee (Ann Arbor, 2023).

### Candidates for Council Member

**Hafeeza Anchrum** is a postdoctoral fellow in the Program on Race, Science and Society at the University of Pennsylvania, where she co-manages the "Penn Medicine and the Afterlives of Slavery" project. Anchrum's research program focuses on segregated healthcare with an emphasis on African American nurses and Black women's health work and



activism. She is the author of “A New Era in the Struggle for Nursing Civil Rights: Mercy-Douglass Hospital School of Nursing, 1948-1960” (Ph.D. Diss., University of Pennsylvania, 2021), which draws on the case of Philadelphia’s Mercy-Douglass Hospital to investigate the battle waged by Black nurses to desegregate the nursing profession. Anchrum is in the process of transforming her dissertation into a book manuscript, as well as researching the connections between Penn’s Hospital Nurse Training School and Medical School. Her research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the American Nurses Foundation, and the Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, and other sources. Anchrum earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Science in Nursing from New York University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Florida State University.

**Kristen Ann Ehrenberger** is a historian of medicine and a body scholar with particular interests in food/nutrition and public health in modern Western contexts, such as Germany and the United States. She earned her M.D./Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and completed an Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency at UPMC, where she is now Director of the Progressive Evaluation & Referral Center (PERC), a unique primary care home for adults with developmental disability, intellectual disability, and/or technology dependence since childhood. Ehrenberger is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the history of medicine editor at the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. Her teaching interests include nutrition, health humanities, disability studies, and clinical communication.

**Carrie J. Meyer** is a dedicated museum curator, material culture historian, and library special collections administrator with over 17 years of combined experience. As an Assistant Professor and Head of Special Collections and Archives, she is driven by a passion for making history accessible. She

takes pride in partnering with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the Omaha community to preserve the history and legacy of the many faculty, staff, and students who have impacted the university. In addition to her primary job function, Meyer has been recognized by the Midwestern History Association for her exhibition work integrating public history with oral history and living memory. She holds two master’s degrees, museum studies (Baylor University) and history (University of Nebraska at Omaha). She resides in Gretna, Nebraska, with her husband Josh, son Owen, daughter Everly, and four fur babies. She enjoys cross-stitching, true crime documentaries, and volunteering year-round for Operation Christmas Child.

**Chris Willoughby** is a historian of Atlantic slavery, U.S. medicine, and racism, earning his Ph.D. from Tulane University. He recently joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where his work focuses on the role Atlantic slavery and scientific racism played in shaping the curriculum of medical schools in the past and present. His book, *Masters of the Health: Racial Science and Slavery in U.S. Medical Schools*, was published in 2022 by UNC Press and he served as co-editor for the collection *Medicine and Healing in the Age of Slavery*, published by LSU Press. Recently, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine and Health at Pitzer College. Willoughby has published articles in *The Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* and *The Journal of Southern History*.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

**Warwick Anderson’s** new book, *Spectacles of Waste* (Cambridge: Polity, 2024) has been published. From wastewater epidemiology and sewage snooping to fecal transplants and excremental art, our insistence on separating ourselves from our bodily waste has fundamentally shaped our philosophies, social theories, literature, and art—even the emergence of high-tech science as we understand it today.

[https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book\\_slug=spectacles-of-waste--9781509557400](https://www.politybooks.com/bookdetail?book_slug=spectacles-of-waste--9781509557400)

## ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

### New from the National Library of Medicine

A collection of reproduced documents from the 1932 study by the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) on the effects of untreated syphilis in Black men at Tuskegee Institute is now available as a digitized collection through the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The [USPHS Untreated Syphilis Study at Tuskegee](#) was conducted without informed consent and led to major reforms to protect participants in biomedical research. The digitized collection, which can be viewed as part of [NLM's Digital Collections](#), was made possible through permission from Fisk University, Nashville, a historically Black university, which holds a portion of original documents at the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives. NLM is part of the National Institutes of Health. NIH has worked with Fisk University to make these important documents, previously only available in their physical form, more broadly available to ensure this chapter in history is never repeated and build greater trust in current biomedical research through transparency. The USPHS is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS and its divisions, including NIH, take very seriously our responsibility to ensure the ethical conduct of the studies we support. Additionally, HHS established the Office for Human Research Protections to provide leadership in the protection of the rights, welfare, and wellbeing of those involved in HHS-conducted or -supported human research. HHS and its divisions have built mechanisms into our review, funding, and management of projects to ensure that research participants are protected and that a study like the USPHS Untreated Syphilis Study at Tuskegee will never happen again.

The collection, which consists of more than 3,000 reproduced copies of correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes, reports, and scientific articles, constitutes a distinct historical record that has

informed research led by historians, medical ethicists, and many others across a variety of disciplines. NLM's stewardship of this collection supports its mission to enable biomedical research and support health care and public health through free online access to scholarly biomedical literature.

NLM announces 4 new web archive collections:

[Women's Health web archive](#) includes web resources related to issues in women's health, including reproductive rights and reproductive health, maternal health, mental health, woman-specific disease issues, aging, cancer, health disparities, and advocacy work on a national scale.

[Violence as a Public Health Issue web archive](#) includes web resources focusing on the intersection of violence and public health, including topics such as domestic violence, gun violence, adverse childhood experiences, abuse, mental health, teen violence, and gender-based violence, among others. NIH identifies violence as "a significant public health problem that has profound impacts on lifelong health, opportunity, and well-being," and supports "scientific research to increase understanding of public health interventions to prevent different forms of violence and the trauma, injuries, and mortality resulting from them."

[Health Equity web archive](#) includes web resources of government and non-government organizations that focus their work on reducing health disparities, achieving health justice, addressing the health needs of underserved or marginalized communities, and advocacy at the state and national level.

[Rare Diseases web archive](#) includes web resources related to rare diseases as a public health concern. The collection includes websites of government and non-government organizations with topics including rare disease research, advocacy work, drug and treatment development, patient experiences, and support networks. The collection focuses on rare diseases broadly and does not contain resources about individual diseases.



The AAHM Nominating Committee is pleased to provide you with the 2024 slate for AAHM Officers and Council--for circulation in advance to the AAHM membership through the AAHM *NewsLetter* and for voting at the annual AAHM Business Meeting on 11 May 2024, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Officers

President: Mary Fissell (two-year term)

Vice-President: Laura Hirshbein (two-year term)

Council Members (three-year terms beginning after the 2024 annual meeting)

Hafeeza Anchrum

Kristen Ann Ehrenberger

Carrie J. Meyer

Chris Willoughby

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

Aparna Nair, Sharrona Pearl, and Lauren MacIvor Thompson (Chair)

