



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The annual meeting represents the most important activity of the Association, and most of our organizational business is conducted there as well, either at the Council Meeting or the General Membership Business Meeting. However, running the Association is a year-around proposition. Throughout the year numerous issues arise that occupy the time and attention of your officers. I would like to report on the major developments since the 2002 meeting in Kansas City.

First, we are concerned about the size of our membership, which has been stable in the 1,100 to 1,200 range for many years, despite the growing interest in the history of medicine among scholars and professionals from many different fields. We will never be a large society, but an increase in our membership would only aid our work, both intellectually and financially. The Johns Hopkins Press is helping us by preparing a promotional mailing, which will be going out soon to prospective new members. I would also like to thank Susan Abrams for her work coordinating this effort. Membership in the AAHM remains a great value, and it includes a subscription to the *Bulletin*. I would encourage any of you who have a friend, colleague, or student who might find membership worthwhile to encourage that individual to join the Association.

Second, a constituency of the AAHM that has never before received formal recognition is the graduate students. This is an especially important group, for the future of our field lies with the young. At the Boston meeting this year, graduate students will meet for the first time at a breakfast session on Friday morning. Credit for organizing this event goes to graduate students Jennifer Keelan and Ryan Gregory, senior scholar Harry Marks for providing faculty advice and council, and Allan Brandt for finding hotel space to accommodate the meeting at the last moment. I hope this group will become permanent and self-sustaining. In the meantime, we welcome ideas from any of you as to what else the Association might do for graduate students.

Third, the Association has been profiting from its new membership in the American Council of Learned Societies. Todd Savitt and Judith Leavitt have been representing us at the ACLS, and they have learned much from our sibling scholarly societies that benefits our work. As one consequence of being a constituent society of the ACLS, the Association is now receiving invitations to send individuals to represent us at major academic ceremonies. Gary Ferngren was the Association's official delegate at the inauguration of the new president of Reed College last fall, and Howard Markel will be our delegate at the inauguration of a new president at the University of Michigan in March. It is likely that I shall be inviting others of you to represent us at such occasions in the year ahead.

Lastly, soon I shall be preparing committee assignments for the 2003-2004 year. I remain in awe of the talents and commitment of our members, and last year putting together the committees was an inspiring task for me. If you or someone you know has an interest in a particular committee, now is the time to let me know. I am especially interested in identifying loyal Association members who have not had the opportunity to work on committees in the past.

I hope you are looking forward to the Boston meeting as much as I am. Both the Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee have labored hard to make this an outstanding event. I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, as always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. I may be reached by e-mail "kludmere@im.wustl.edu", telephone (314.362-8073), or regular mail (Washington University; Department of Medicine; 660 South Euclid Avenue; Campus Box 8066; St. Louis, MO; 63110)

-Ken Ludmerer

AAHM NEWS

AAHM 76th Annual Meeting Boston, MA, May 1-4, 2003. All AAHM members should have already received registration information for this meeting. Non-members who are interested in receiving this information should contact Local Arrangements Co-Chair Thomas Horrocks, Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, 10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115; or e-mail "thomas_horrocks@hms.harvard.edu".

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The **Anesthesia History Association**, Eighth Annual Resident Essay Contest 2003, which has a \$500 honorarium. The winning essay will be presented at the AHA's annual dinner meeting to be held in October 2003, in San Francisco, California, during the annual meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The entrant must have written the essay either during his/her residency or within one year of completion of residency. Residents in any nation are eligible, but the essay **MUST** be submitted in English

Three typed copies of a 1000-3000 word essay, related to the history of anesthesia, pain management or critical care, should be submitted to: William D. Hammonds, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Anesthesia, Director of Pain

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

AAHM Officers

Kenneth M. Ludmerer, MD, President
Jacalyn Duffin, MD, PhD, Vice President
Todd L. Savitt, PhD, Secretary-Treasurer

The Association's website is "www.histmed.org".

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News items of 250 words or less are invited and may be submitted by e-mail (preferred), Fax, or regular mail. Deadlines: February 10, June 10, and September 10.

Outcomes Research, Department of Anesthesia, University of Iowa, 200 Hawkins Drive, 6JCP, Iowa City IA 53342-1079, U.S.A., on or before August 23, 2003. The AHA Essay Contest WWW page is at "<http://www.anes.uab.edu/aneshist/resident99.htm>".

The 26th annual conference of the **Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association** (NEPCA) will meet at Worcester State College in Worcester, MA, October 31-November 1, 2003. Proposed papers on any pop culture or American culture topics may be submitted (one page abstract & brief CV) by June 15 to the program chair. We welcome papers or presentations on medical fakes, quakes, devices and frauds. Contact Peter Holloran, NEPCA, Worcester State College, Department of History, Worcester, MA 01602; "pch@world.std.com"; "www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html".

The History of Science Society's Annual Meeting, 20-23 November 2003, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The History of Science Society is soliciting proposals for sessions and contributed papers for its annual meeting. Submissions on all topics are requested. Proposals must be submitted through the HSS Web site "www.hssonline.org" or on the annual meeting proposal forms that are available through the HSS Executive Office. All proposals must be received by 1 April 2003. History of Science Society, Box 351330, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-1330; phone: 206-543-9366; fax: 206-685-9544; e-mail: "meeting@hssonline.org".

British Association Victorian Studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, 4-6 September 2003, The Age of Experiments, 1800-1900. The BAVS invites proposals for papers (of 15-20 minutes duration) on any aspect of experimentation and/or innovation in the nineteenth century, including Victorian avant gardes, experimentation and innovation in music, literature or the visual and plastic arts, new technologies (and the responses to them), innovatory thinking or practice in the sciences (including experimentation and new developments in medical disciplines, and the emergence of 'new' sciences), innovatory forms of cultural production, social and sexual experimentation and the concern with the 'new'.

Please send proposals (300 words) to Professor Lyn Pykett, Department of English, University of Wales

Aberystwyth, Penglais, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3DY; email: "lyp@aber.ac.uk". The BAVS also welcomes the submission of postgraduate posters. Poster (which may be submitted by postgraduates who also give a paper) should outline research interests and contact details on no more than one page of preferably A3-sized paper. They will be on display throughout the conference. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPER PROPOSALS FRIDAY 18 APRIL 2003

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

The Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries are pleased to announce their **Grants-In-Aid** program. For further details see "<http://giving.library.wisc.edu/friends/grant-in-aid.shtml>" or contact Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706; (608) 265-2505; FAX: (608) 265-2754; E-mail: "friends@library.wisc.edu".

The next available deadline for proposals for **National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships** is May 1, 2003. These Fellowships support six to twelve months of individual research with stipends of \$24,000 or \$40,000 depending on the length of tenure. Eligible applicants are United States citizens and also foreign nationals who have been in residence in the United States for the three years immediately prior to the May 1, 2003 deadline.

Fellowships support individuals pursuing advanced research in the humanities that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges or universities, or of primary or secondary schools, or independent scholars or writers. Fellowships provide support for projects that can be completed during the tenure of the award, as well as for work that is part of a long-term endeavor. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools. There is a special initiative for projects in Humanities and Healthcare to include projects exploring subjects such as the history of healthcare and public health, medical ethics, disability studies, and interdisciplinary approaches to health-related humanities topics. Please note in your application if you wish to be considered under this special initiative and so be eligible for joint support from

NEH and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Last year the NEH received 1161 applications for Fellowships and offered 170 Fellowships. Several of them concerned topics in history of science, technology, and medicine. A list of awards can be found on the NEH Website "<http://www.neh.gov/news/recentawards.html>". Guidelines are available on line at "<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/fellowships.html>"

Questions can be addressed: "fellowships@neh.gov" or contact: Daniel P. Jones, Senior Program Officer, Division of Research Programs, Room 318, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 20506; Telephone: 202/606-8217.

Roy Porter Memorial Studentship Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College, London. The Centre is proud to announce the establishment, from September 2003, of the Roy Porter Memorial Studentship. This award is in memory of our much-loved former colleague Roy Porter who sadly died last year, and was made possible by the generosity of the Wellcome Trust. The award is to support a student registering for the Ph.D. in the History of Medicine at the Centre and will be tenable for three years. The value of the award will be circa 16,000 pounds per annum plus payment of fees at the 'home rate.' Anyone wishing to be considered for this award should write to the Centre Administrator setting out a research proposal, enclosing a CV. The address for all queries is: Mr Alan Shiel, Administrator, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 24 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1AD, UK; Email: "a.shiel@ucl.ac.uk"

College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, Resident Research Fellowships The Wood Institute announces its fellowship program for academic year 2003-04. Awards of up to \$1000 will be granted to historians, scholars in the other humanities fields, physicians and other health professionals, journalists and popular writers, and medical and graduate students, to support research in the historical collections of the College Library and the Mutter Museum. Applicants should submit proposals of no more than one thousand words, including necessary length of residence, historical materials to be used, and a budget (with specific

information on travel, lodging, and research expenses), along with a curriculum vitae and one letter of recommendation. We will begin reviewing applications for 2003-2004 in April 2003, and will notify applicants quarterly, beginning May 1, 2003. There are no restrictions as to prior academic achievement, academic discipline, or citizenship. Fellowship recipients will be required to submit a report on their research and may be invited to present a seminar.

For further information on the College, the Wood Institute, the Historical Medical Library, and the Mutter Museum, please consult our website: "www.collphyphil.org".

Individuals interested in applying for this program should send pertinent materials to: Gabriela Zoller, Assistant to the Director, Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, 19 South 22nd Street Philadelphia PA 19103-3097; Phone: 15-563-3737 ext. 305; Fax: 215-569-0356; E-mail: "gzoller@collphyphil.org".

The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** is accepting applications for the year 2004 for their **ACOG/Ortho-McNeil Fellowship**. Further information contact: Debra Scarborough, History Librarian/Archivist, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 409 Twelfth Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20024, (202)863-2578, (202)484-1595 (fax), email: "dscarborough@acog.org".

NEWS

Proposed New MA Program in History of Medicine
Anticipated to begin in late September 2003, the main aims of the course will be to enable graduates to 1) understand important issues in the history of medicine; 2) obtain skills essential for work in the field; and 3) conduct independent research in the field. It will introduce students to the history of medicine in Asia as well as the 'West'. Students will be able to complete it in one year, or in two years on a part-time basis. The course is designed to be a high level academic qualification in its own right, but also to serve as a preparation for students considering undertaking further research later in this or related fields.

The course will have three components: the core course (in the autumn term), options (in the autumn and spring terms), and a dissertation due in mid-September. Students

may also be able to take the equivalent two options in a related field or degree program offered by approved institutions in the University of London. Options include courses in the history of medicine in China and in India, medicine and literature, medicine and drugs in the 20th Century, madness and society, early modern medicine, and international health.

Candidates should normally have the equivalent of at least a good undergraduate degree. Applications are invited from candidates from all disciplines although a background in historical, scientific or medical studies may be advantageous.

Applications are due in by no later than 15 July 2003. Application forms may be obtained from, and initial queries should be addressed to: Adam Wilkinson, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 24 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1AD; Tel: 020 7679 8202; Fax: 020 7679 8194; Email: "a.wilkinson@ucl.ac.uk"

The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** announces that the recipient of the year 2003 ACOG/Ortho-McNeil Fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology is Ronald M. Cyr, MD, FACOG, whose research project is "From Man-midwife to Specialist: the Movement Toward "Scientific" Obstetrics in the USA: 1900-1940".

The Department of the History of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been renamed. Its new name is the department of Medical History and Bioethics. Three new faculty members, all having joint appointments in the Department of History of Science, have recently joined the department. Professor Gregg Mitman, (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin 1988) is also a faculty member in the Institute for Environmental Studies and the Science and Technology Studies Program. His research interests, in addition to environment and health, include the history of ecology and animal behavior, science and popular culture, and visual cultures in the life sciences, in particular science and film. Assistant Professor Judith Houck, (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1998) holds a joint appointment in the Women's Studies Program/Center for Women's Health and Women's Health Research. She focuses on the issues of women and race in medicine and public health, as well as sexuality and aging. Assistant Professor Richard Keller, (Ph.D., Rutgers University, 2001) focuses on the history of European and colonial medicine

and science, especially French psychiatry. His research interests include science and medicine in global development as well as the history of public health and hygiene.

Georgia Tech's School of History, Technology & Society Re-Names Graduate Degrees The School of History, Technology and Society (HTS) at Georgia Tech has changed the name of its graduate program and graduate degrees from "History of Technology" to "History and Sociology of Technology and Science," to more accurately reflect the breadth of the program and its considerable strengths in sociology and the study of science.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia recently approved changing the names of the Master's and Doctoral degrees to Master of Science in History and Sociology of Technology and Science and Doctor of Philosophy with a major in History and Sociology of Technology and Science. The first students will graduate with the new degree names this spring.

More information about the School of History, Technology and Society is available online at "<http://www.hts.gatech.edu>". Other Georgia Tech news is available at "<http://www.news-info.gatech.edu>".

OBITUARY

Barbara Bates, MD, FACP, well known professor to medical and nursing students, author, and historian died December 18, 2002, at her home in Bryn Mawr, Pa. A native of Auburn NY, Dr. Bates earned her BA at Smith College in 1949, and then completed medical studies and residency training at Cornell University Medical College in New York City. She taught at the University of Kentucky, University of Rochester and University of Missouri, before moving to Philadelphia. Her best-known book, *A Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking*, first published in 1974, and continuing under her direction for seven editions, became, and still is, the leading text in its field, published in eleven languages. Her expertise in diagnosis, ability to help novices comprehend the skills of examination and clinical thinking, and influence on improving education for health professionals are probably her most enduring contributions. A long-standing interest in the history of medicine and health care led her to complete a master's

degree in history at the University of Kansas in 1981. She began researching the history of patients' experiences of tuberculosis, the leading cause of death at the turn of the twentieth century, thereby earning a second master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1992 she published her award winning study, *Bargaining For Life, A Social History of Tuberculosis, 1876-1938*. From 1980, until she retired in 1996, Dr Bates held faculty positions at the University of Pennsylvania Schools of Medicine and Nursing and at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University. An active member of the Section on Medical History at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, she chaired the section for three years. In 1993, the American Association for the History of Nursing awarded her the Lavinia L. Dock Award for Historical Scholarship and Research.

LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

Doctors Hood History of Medicine Library opens in Nevada. Last spring the University of Nevada, Reno, dedicated its new medical history library and museum, named in honor of a family of physicians who practiced in the state for over a century. The Library has a collection of eyeglasses, antique medical instruments and over 10,000 photographs related to the history of health care in Nevada. For those interested in alternative medicine there is a collection of herbs used by Native Americans in the Great Basin. Led by Dr. Anton Sohn, the physicians of Nevada have built an impressive monument of their commitment to the heritage of their profession; one that will benefit scholars in a variety of sub-disciplines of medical history. For further information contact Anton P. Sohn, MD, Great Basin History of Medicine Program, Department of Pathology/350, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, Nevada 89557.

The **National Library of Medicine** has funded a two-year project to edit and enrich the digital version of Lynn Thorndike and Pearl Kibre, *Catalogue of Incipits of Mediaeval Scientific Writings in Latin* (1963).

NLM has posted several New Webbased exhibits: see "<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/>".

Smallpox: A Great and Terrible Scourge, a new website based on the mini-exhibition curated by Alexandra M. Lord, was launched on October 18.

"I Swear by Apollo Physician. . .": Greek Medicine from the Gods to Galen, a new website based on a mini-exhibition curated by Michael North, was unveiled on September 18.

A preview of an exhibition opening in the fall of 2003, *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*, went live on December 19.

MEMBER NEWS

The **First Annual Foundation Lecture** was held Wednesday, October 23, 2002 at the Nassau Club in Princeton. Edward T. Morman, M.S.L.S., PhD, College Librarian at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and Director, Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, presented the First Annual Foundation Lecture, funded by the Foundation of UMDNJ. Dr. Morman's lecture was entitled, "Race and Racism in America: The View from a Medical History Library".

John Harley Warner has been named to the newly-created position of Chair of the Yale University Program in the History of Medicine and Science. Earlier in summer 2002 he was named Chair of the Section of the History of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine.

RESEARCH NEWS

The Early Modern Medicine Newsletter The Bibliotheque Interuniversitaire de Medecine (Paris) is pleased to announce the creation of the *Early Modern Medicine Newsletter*, a bibliographic and online newsletter made by the history of medicine department of the library in collaboration with the Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de la Renaissance (Tours). This project aims to collect articles, books and dissertations described in the main medical history periodicals as well as humanities. This newsletter also offers a possibility to announce conferences and seminars. It is available electronically at: "<http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr/bmtm>".

School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) Library is pleased to announce the launch of

the **Mundus Gateway**, "www.mundus.ac.uk", the on-line guide to missionary-related resources in the UK. Since the early eighteenth century missionaries have set out from Britain to evangelize the world. In so doing they have created or collected a wealth of documentation, including archives, personal papers, printed books and pamphlets, photographs, films, sound recordings and artifacts. The materials document the encounter between western missionaries and the peoples and terrain of Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and the Americas over a two-hundred-year period and are increasingly being used and appreciated by researchers from a broad range of academic disciplines. However, missionary collections are widely dispersed and difficult to locate. For the first time descriptions of these scattered resources have been brought together in a unified electronic guide. The Mundus database contains summary descriptions of more than 400 collections held in over 50 institutions in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Each description provides content and contextual information, and details of finding aids and of access conditions. The database can be accessed in a number of ways: free-text searching, browsing by name, place and subject indexes and using a clickable map. There are links to missionary-related on-line resources and other useful web sites in the British Isles and the wider world while the Mundus Gallery provides a sample of the extensive range of visual materials to be found in many missionary collections.

LECTURES/SYMPOSIUMS

Recent Public Lectures at NLM:

October 8: Linda A. Fisher, "Early 19th-century Syphilis Treatment: One Man's Experience."

October 11: John McKiernan-Gonzales, "Rights, Recognition, and Revolution: The USPHS and the Mexican Border, 1900-1930," (Hispanic American History Month Lecture).

November 4: David Rosner and Gerald E. Markowitz, "Covering the World with Lead: The History of a Public Health Tragedy."

November 13: Eric C. Colman, "The Medical Historian and the Journalist: Fielding H. Garrison and H. L. Mencken."

December 11: John Parascandola, "Quarantining Prostitutes: VD Rapid Treatment Centers in World War II America."

March 12: Victoria Harden, "NIH History in Images."

Upcoming Lecture

May 7 : David M. Morens, "The 1832 Cholera Epidemic in Paris."

The **Center for the History of Medicine at Indiana University-Bloomington** is sponsoring a **Race in Medicine** lecture series during the Spring 2003 semester. Included are the following:

Todd L. Savitt, Department of Medical Humanities, East Carolina University. "The Hospital Herald: A Black Medical Journal in Turn of the Century Charleston."

Keith Wailoo, Department of History, Rutgers University. "The Strange Career of Race and Cancer in the Twentieth Century."

Joyce Chaplin, Departments of History and American Civilization, Harvard University. "Race and Demography in Early America: Who Counted?" April 11.

Ellen Dwyer, Department of History and Criminal Justice, Indiana University. "Psychiatry and the African-American Soldier During World War II," April 25.

Damon Freeman, Department of History, Indiana University. "The Zoot Personality: Kenneth Clark and the Dilemma of Power," April 25.

For further information, please visit the IU Center for the History of Medicine website: "<http://www.indiana.edu/~medhist>" or contact: Professor Ellen Dwyer, Center for the History of Medicine, Indiana University, Bloomington; Phone: (812) 855-7581; Email: "dwyer@indiana.edu".

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The **Department of Medical History and Bioethics** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison announces an opening for one person to teach two undergraduate level courses in the history of medicine in the fall semester of 2003: "Society and Health Care in American History" and "The Development of Public Health in America." Preferred applicants will have a Ph.D. in the history of American medicine. Salary commensurate with

experience. Send resume and a cover letter to Ronald L. Numbers, 1432 Medical Sciences Center, 1300 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1532 by May 15, 2003. Additional information may be found at "www.ohr.wisc.edu/pvl/ohrpv_xr_12_post.html", PVL No. 43536.

MEETINGS

Summer Conference of the **Society for the Social History of Medicine**, 'Innovating Medicine: Medical Technologies in Historical Perspectives.' The conference will be held July 11-13, 2003, in Manchester, UK. While thematic the papers will deal with various aspects related to the history of medical innovation and the material cultures of medicine and medical science. For details, consult the conference website at "<http://www.chstm.man.ac.uk/events/innovation.htm>" or contact Carsten Timmermann, PhD, Wellcome Research Fellow Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Manchester, Mathematics Tower, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK; Phone: +44 161 275 7950; Email: "carsten.timmermann@man.ac.uk".

8th Annual Meeting of the **International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN)** and the 9th Meeting of the **European Club for the History of Neurology (ECHN)**, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, United Kingdom, 7 -- 10 July 2003. The structure of the meeting will include platform and poster presentations as well as thematic symposia. For further information contact: Professor John T.E. Richardson, Institute of Educational Technology, The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, United Kingdom; 44-1908-658014 phone; 44-1908-654173 fax; e-mail "J.T.E.Richardson@open.ac.uk".

Science, Its Advocates and Adversaries 17th Summer Conference of the Institute of Contemporary British History at the IHR, University of London, 7-9 July 2003. Changes in science, technology and medicine have profoundly affected all aspects of British life over the past century, from the kitchen to the battlefield, at home, at work, at leisure, in town and country. The capacity to kill and the capacity to cure and to extend life have never grown faster. The conference seeks to explore how this change came about within the wider context of

discussing the production and application of scientific knowledge and its impact on British society. For further information contact: Dr Harriet Jones, ICBH, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Email: "hjones@icbh.ac.uk".

The **Midwest Junto for the History of Science** will meet April 4-5, 2003, at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. This conference encourages graduate students as well as faculty and independent scholars to attend. Further information is available from Karen Ross at "ross0199@umn.edu" or Bob Seidel at "rws@tc.umn.edu"; Program in History of Science & Technology, Tate Laboratory of Physics, University of Minnesota, 116 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

European Social Science History Conference Technology Cluster, Berlin, 24-27 March 2004, Humboldt University, offers the opportunity to explore themes where technological, social, and cultural developments interact in especially significant ways. The technology cluster is one of the ESSHC's 28 wide-ranging themes. Further information on the ESSHC can be found at "<http://www.iisg.nl/esshc>".

EDITORIAL

History and Medical Education On 26 February the University of Birmingham (England), Centre for the History of Medicine hosted a conference, "Teaching History of Medicine to Medical Students." The Learning and Teaching Support Network and the Wellcome Trust also supported the conference. It was coordinated by the History in Medical Education Working Party; a group which had its origin as a NAG (National Advisory Group) following the 1993 General Medical Council report, "Training Tomorrow's Doctors".

A total of 39 attended, including 3 medical students, one representative from Europe and one from the USA. The balance of those attending were historians teaching medical students, those who hoped to teach medical students and those who represented institutions that might be involved in teaching medical students. We discussed resources and methods as well as questions around the issue of goals and objectives. The British system of medical education is so different from ours that much of the discussion does not translate directly, but the issues which related to goals and purposes were issues very similar to ones I find in faculty meetings: how do you know that what you plan to happen is in fact happening in the pedagogical process being used.

British medical schools, like US counterparts, are afflicted with pedagogical overseers whipping the faculty with the lash of assessment tools/outcomes requirements. Considerable efforts were devoted to discussions of the skills that can be acquired by the study of history and the skills needed to be a physician. In the current environment we are all drawn to the required outcomes of medical education as justification. History can teach the "skill" of analysis of the literature, of thorough reading and reflection, but only if it is taught in certain ways designed to reach that goal. History can teach the "skill" of verification and critical record keeping, but only if it's taught with that goal in mind. It is certainly not the only way and it may not be the best way to teach such skills. In the final analysis the issue may not be one of skills.

I am not against standards in medical education - I am not opposed to measuring the measurable. But to reduce physicianship to a set of skills, measured by a simulated exercise, which a Physician's Assistant could probably pass, is just as fallacious as measuring physicianship by the ability to memorize the Krebs cycle. Skills are easy to measure, as is knowledge; understanding and attitude (or perspective) are hard to measure but are perhaps the essence of what it means to be a physician. Perhaps the central question raised was related to the issue of what history of medicine brings to medical education that is not brought equally well by other subjects. It is a question that was not answered in this first set of discussions, and may not be in the second.

It is however a question which needs an answer.

Thomas Söderqvist, visiting from Copenhagen, called the attention of the group to the fact that the only place in Europe where the phrase "to medical students" was needed in the conference title was the UK, because for everyone else history of medicine was still a medical discipline. As was noted by Professor Penelope Gouk, an early modernist from Manchester, even in the UK the history of medicine remains intimately tied to medicine; it is not a discipline which historians carry forward alone. Perhaps, one answer might be: as a meeting ground of two cultures, the history of the profession can enrich both in very specific ways. As medical education in the West and particularly in the US is "reformed," historians of medicine might repay the debt they owe the profession of medicine by speaking to the importance of professional understanding and attitudes in the education of the future professional. Not the old: "humanities education makes the scientist more humane"; anyone attending a humanities faculty meeting knows the fallacy of that argument. But there are issues – the understanding of ambiguity, the role of changing definitions of evidence, the differing responsibilities in social contracts between society and profession, the importance of cultural diversity in defining health and disease – where history can speak to the essential nature of what it means to be a

physician. In many ways this is the heritage of the profession, dating from the medieval world that chose *physicus* [one who understands the physical world] over *medicus* [one who prescribes medicine].

Is there a role for History in Medical Education in the US?

I think there is, but defining it needs work. It is work the British began in February. Even more, I believe all of us who claim knowledge of medical history need to repay our debt to the profession and society, which nurtures us, and speak to the nature of physicianship in educational circles as the occasion arises. *DCS*