



Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wherever you are, I hope you are doing as well as can be expected under the threatening pandemic storm clouds. This has been a challenging year, and for many, a devastating one. It has certainly deepened my historical appreciation of the extraordinary challenges of surviving in pandemic times. Like many of you, I hope that the storm clouds will lift soon, that the dreadful toll of sickness and mortality will begin to abate, that wiser public health practices and policies will prevail, and that we'll move through 2021 toward some new healthy normal. Perhaps, as in past pandemics, we might emerge wiser and more informed because of this experience.

Going Remote. Since I last communicated with you, the AAHM has moved quickly to plan for innovative and vibrant (albeit remote) events through 2020 and into 2021. In pivoting to this new world of online AAHM activities, our cast of all-volunteer council, officers, and membership has been simply amazing at helping our association thrive despite the adversity.

Ann Arbor Reloaded. Through support from many colleagues at several institutions, we recently announced thirteen virtual panel discussions in November and December 2020 and January 2021 of papers that were previously scheduled for the Ann Arbor annual meeting. Dubbed *Ann Arbor 2.0*, the panels are open to all members and cover a range of topics in the field -- epidemics, the architecture of health care, the politics of race and health, therapeutics, madness, poison, and so much more. I hope you'll join us over the next three months to listen in, learn, and provide feedback to our colleagues. These remote webinar sessions would not be possible without support from our member colleagues at hosting institutions across North America -- Rutgers, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University of Buffalo, Harvard, University of Michigan, the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Yale, McGill, Johns Hopkins, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of California San Francisco, and University of Minnesota. Thanks to you all!

As for the cancelled in-person Madison 2021 meeting, I am pleased to report that after concerted effort the AAHM has been released from all penalties, totaling around \$35,000, by the three Madison hotels associated with the conference. To craft our appeal to the hotels, we worked with the conference management firm Helms Briscoe and their legal advisor. They provided excellent advice. We are also grateful to Sue Lederer who worked with University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine Dean Bob Golden to compose a written case on AAHM's behalf to the two hotels and the conference center which helped settle the matter in our favor.

Planning for 2021. Because the Madison 2021 annual meeting will be remote, a Remote Arrangements/Imagining 2021 Committee has been working on an exciting plan for bringing us together (so to speak) next year. Over 200 of our membership responded to the recent survey about what you would like to see in the 2021 meeting, and the planning committee is nearing completion of a design on the scope and character of that meeting. After the committee completes its work, we will engage a virtual conference organizer to assist with the online logistics.

Stay tuned! We are planning a 2021 meeting that will be exciting, informative, innovative, and fun – regardless of the format.

I'll end as I did in my August message. I encourage you to send me and the Council members your thoughts on the road ahead, and any other suggestions for continuing to build the vitality of AAHM. Although the challenges are great, our work has never been more necessary and urgently needed, and our association has never been more vital.

I hope to see you at the Ann Arbor 2.0 sessions starting soon.

Keith Wailoo
AAHM President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>President's Message</i>	<u>1</u>
<i>AAHM News</i>	<u>3</u>
<i>AAHM Ann Arbor 2.0</i>	<u>3</u>
<i>Call for Nominations Awards</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Membership Renewal</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>News of Members</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Obituaries</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Plague Epidemic</i>	<u>9</u>
<i>Archives/Libraries/Museums</i>	<u>11</u>
<i>National Library of Medicine</i>	<u>11</u>

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AAHM Officers

Keith Wailoo, PhD., President
Barron Lerner, PhD., Vice President
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The Association's website is www.histmed.org

Address all correspondence regarding the *NewsLetter* to:

Jodi Koste
Tompkins-McCaw Library
Box 980582
Richmond, VA 23298-0582
jkoste@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9898

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.

AAHM NEWS

**AAHM Ann Arbor 2.0.
November 2020 - January 2021**

Announcing thirteen virtual panel discussions in the history of medicine! The AAHM is pleased to welcome its members to a series of discussions of new work in the field -- on topics including epidemics, the architecture of health care, the politics of race and health, therapeutics, madness, poison, and so much more. The Ann Arbor 2.0 series presents works previously scheduled for the cancelled Ann Arbor annual meeting. Join us over the next three months to listen in, learn, and provide feedback on this exciting new scholarship. The innovative series of virtual panels is hosted by our member colleagues at institutions across North America -- Rutgers, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University of Buffalo, Harvard, University of Michigan, the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Yale, McGill, Johns Hopkins, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of California San Francisco, and University of Minnesota.

Hold these dates! AAHM members-only. Please renew if you have not done so already and encourage others to join the association.

Links to these Zoom sessions will be sent out to the membership in advance and be available from the "Members Only" section of the website. www.histmed.org/member-login

AAHM Panel 1 Rethinking Epidemics and Epidemiology

Rutgers and New Jersey Institute of Technology, Friday, November 6, 2020; 1:00-2:30 pm
Hosts: Johanna Schoen and Stephen Pemberton

Emily Webster, University of Chicago
Epidemics and Professional Development in Melbourne and Bombay

Jacob Steere-Williams, College of Charleston
Everyday Epidemiology: Using 'Practice' to Rethink the History of Victorian Epidemiology

Jim Downs, Gettysburg College
Slavery, Science and the Development of Epidemiological Methods in West Africa, 1844-1852

AAHM Panel 2 Drugs, Patients, and the Architecture of Health Care

University of Buffalo, Monday, November 16, 2020;
1:00-2:30 pm
Hosts: David Herzberg and Michael Rembis

Andrea Ens, Purdue University
Selling Psychedelics: Balancing Patient Concerns, Profit Margins, and Professional Respectability at Hollywood Hospital, 1955-1973

Richard Del Rio University of Chicago
Proprietary Medicine, Cocaine and Drug War Politics in Early Twentieth-Century Chicago

Andrew Seaton New York University
Health Centres, Architecture, and Patient Opinion in the British National Health Service, 1945-1979

AAHM Panel 3 Location Matters: The importance of place in medical theory and practice

Harvard University, Friday, November 20, 2020;
1:30-3:00 pm
Hosts: David Jones and Scott Podolsky

Angela Potter, Purdue University
Prozac-oplis: Locating Serotonin Research in Indianapolis, 1945-1975

David Korostyshevsky. University of Minnesota
Excluding Drunkards: Medicine, Life Insurance, and Private Morals Regulation in Nineteenth-Century America

Eli Anders, Haverford College
From Crowded Hospitals to Climatic Hinterlands: Convalescent Homes as 'Technologies of Place' in Nineteenth-Century England

AAHM Panel 4 Disease, Ideology, and Nation in the Global 20th century

University of Michigan, Friday, December 4, 2020; 12:30-2:00 pm

Hosts: Alexandra Minna Stern and Joel Howell

Arnav Bhattacharya, University of Pennsylvania
Curing Venereal Disease and Revitalizing the Nation: History of Venereal Disease and Sexology in early Twentieth Century India

Pavel Vasilyev, HSE University St. Petersburg
Designing Clinical Trials in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century: USSR in the Global Context

Marian Moser Jones, University of Maryland
American World War I Nurses and White Supremacy, from the Imperial War Zone to the Interwar Home Front.

AAHM Panel 5 Errors, Ethics, and Professional Status from the Middle Ages to Modern Medicine

Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Friday, December 4, 2020; 3:30-5:00 pm

Hosts: Paul Theerman, David Barnes, Keith Wailoo, Nancy Tomes

Walton Schalick, III, University of Wisconsin, Madison
"Errare humanum est:" Medical Errors in the Middle Ages

Fedir Razumenko, University of Calgary
Bridging Clinical Investigation with Ethical Regulation: Four Pioneering Gynecologic Cancer Trials in Canada, 1974-1984

Andrew Hogan, Creighton University
Defining a Home for Disability in Late-20th Century Pediatrics: Specialties and Status

AAHM Panel 6 Babies, Mothers, and How They Grow

Yale University, Tuesday, December 8, 2020; 1:00-2:30 pm

Hosts: John Harley Warner and Naomi Rogers

Courtney E. Thompson, Mississippi State University
"Younger Than She Are Happy Mothers Made": Precocious Maternity in the Nineteenth Century

Samir Hamdoud, University of Warwick
The Caring Eye: Dr George E. Shuttleworth and the Imagining of Childhood Idiocy in Victorian and Edwardian Britain

Heather Reel, Rutgers University, Camden
The Camera Tells the Story: Dr. Arnold Gesell's "How a Baby Grows" Series

AAHM Panel 7 Decay, Affect, and Contagion: The Cultural and Racial Politics of Medicine

McGill University, Wednesday, December 9, 2020; 1:30-3:00 pm

Hosts: David Wright and George Weisz

Dacia Boyce, Tripler Army Medical Center
"A Decay, Deep and Incurable:" Medicine, Disease, and Fantasy in Jane Austen's Last Novels

Jacob Moses, Harvard University
Affect in Retrospect: Genital Surgeries and Tracking Ethical Reform in Late-20th Century Medical Practice

Jessica Hauger, Duke University
Smallpox and Sovereignty: The Racial Politics of Contagion in Indian Territory, 1898-1901

AAHM Panel 8 Disease, Disability, and Therapeutics

Johns Hopkins University, Friday, December 11, 2020; 1:30-3:00 pm

Hosts: Mary Fissell and Jeremy Greene

Kelly Urban, University of South Alabama
A Therapeutic Revolution within a Revolution: Chemotherapy and Tuberculosis in Cuba

Kieran Fitzpatrick, National University of Ireland
Working in the borderlands: tracing disability in the history of surgery through the archive of Peter Freyer, 1896-1921

Lindsay Zafir, Yale University
Mothering Denial: HIV Skepticism and the Politics of Motherhood

AAHM Panel 9 Masculinity, Race, and Health from the U.S. and Mexico to Colonial Malaya

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Monday, December 14, 2020; 3:30-5:00 pm
Hosts: David Sepkoski, Teri Chettiar, Leslie Reagan, Rana Hogart

Kasey Mosley, Mississippi Department of Archives and History
"We Will Make You Better Than Better": Cancer, Masculinity, and Popular Culture Since the 1950s

Lina-Maria Murillo, University of Iowa
"Battling Mexico's Growth": Race, Class, and Reproductive Healthcare in Northern Mexico

Pamela Maddock, University of Sydney
Approaches to Health and Justice in the Antebellum US Army: Venereal Disease at the Mexican Border, 1853

Jack Greatrex, University of Hong Kong
Pests and Human Health in Colonial Malaya, c. 1890s to 1930s

AAHM Panel 10 Experience and Expertise: Madness, Deafness, and Malaria

University of California, San Francisco, Thursday, December 17, 2020, 1:30-3:00 pm
Hosts: Aimee Medeiros, Elizabeth Watkins, Elena Conis

Michael Healey, Johns Hopkins Medical School
Madness Made Social: Political Adaptations of Diagnostic Categories in Meyerian Psychiatry

Carla Keirns, University of Kansas Medical Center
Expertise, Advocacy, and Personal Experience: How the Blind established a legal right to Braille

Sarah Runcie, Muhlenberg College
State of Emergency, State of Eradication: Malaria Campaigns in Late Colonial Cameroon

AAHM Panel 11 Medical Maps, Poison, and the Pulse

University of California, San Francisco, Thursday, December 17, 2020, 3:30-5:00 pm
Hosts: Aimee Medeiros, Elizabeth Watkins, Elena Conis

Yijie Huang, University of Cambridge
Reading the Casuistry of Pulse in Late Seventeenth-Century English Medicine: A Study on Edmund King's Medical Cases

Erin Dwyer, Oakland University
The Poison Cup: Race, Fear, and Poison in the Antebellum South

Lauren Killingsworth, University of Cambridge
"With Maps Illustrative of the Disease": Medical Cartography in Nineteenth-Century Colonial India

AAHM Panel 12 Cultured Knowledge: Biohistorical Approaches to Microbial Culture Collections

University of Minnesota, Friday, January 22, 2021; 2:30-4:00 pm
Hosts: Dominique Tobbell and Jennifer Gunn

Jacalyn Duffin, Queen's University
Culture Collections: The First International Conference

Frédéric Vagneron, Centre Alexandre-Koyre EHESS/CNRS
Cultured Knowledge: biohistorical approaches to microbial culture collections

Charles Kollmer, California Institute of Technology
Living Reagents: Culture Collections, Microbial Taxonomy, and Parasite Bioassays

AAHM Panel 13 The Medical Management of Bodies: Intersex, Inmates, and Aids to Hearing

University of Minnesota, Friday, January 22, 2021; 4:30-6:00
Hosts: Dominique Tobbell and Jennifer Gunn

Mirjam Janett, University Zurich
*Children, their families and the management of "Intersex"
 Bodies in Swiss pediatric medicine (1945-1970)*

Jessica Adler, Florida International University
*Diagnosing and Discrediting Inmates: Power and Resistance
 at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in the 1940s*

Sarah Rose, University of Texas at Arlington
*"A shattering impact": Hearing Aids, Insurance, and the
 Public Health Crisis That Wasn't, 1962-2017*

Call for Nominations, AAHM Awards, 2021

Osler Medal Essay Contest, 2021. 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. First awarded in 1942, the medal commemorates Sir William Osler, who stimulated an interest in the humanities among medical students and physicians.

All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy, or are graduates of the class of 2020, are eligible. The essay must have been written while the entrant was a student in good standing. Students are not eligible to compete for the Osler Medal if they have completed at least one full year of graduate training in history, the history of science or medicine, or the humanities or social sciences by the closing date of the competition. Medical students who have been enrolled in a graduate program in history or a related discipline should submit their essays to the Shryock competition. No student should submit an essay to both competitions in the same year. Essays that have been awarded an Honorable Mention are not eligible for resubmission.

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.

Complete contest information may be viewed on the AAHM website or obtained from the Osler Medal Committee Chair: Chris Crenner ccrenner@kumc.edu. Entries must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) by **31 January 2021**.

Shryock Medal Essay Contest, 2021. Graduate students are invited to enter the Shryock Medal Essay Contest. The medal honors Richard Harrison Shryock (1893–1972), a pioneer among historians interested in the history of medicine. 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. Medical students who have been enrolled in such a program should submit their essays to the Shryock competition. Essays must be in English. No student should submit an essay to both competitions in the same year. Essays that have been awarded an Honorable Mention are not eligible for resubmission.

Complete contest information may be viewed on the AAHM website or obtained from the Shryock Medal Committee chair: Arleen Tuchman a.tuchman@vanderbilt.edu.

Essays must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) no later than **31 January 2021**.

J. Worth Estes Award, 2021. This award was established in honor of J. Worth Estes, M.D., in recognition of his many invaluable contributions to the American Association for the History of Medicine and to scholarship in the history of medicine. The 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. The choice of topic reflects Worth Estes' long tenure as Professor of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at Boston University and his own scholarship in the history of pharmacology.

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 2019 and 2020. 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, Dominique Tobbell at dtobbell@umn.edu and must be postmarked or submitted electronically via e-mail (which is the preferred method of submission) no later than **15 January 2021**.

Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award in 20th Century History of Medicine or Biomedical Sciences, 2021

This award honors Jack D. Pressman, Ph.D., a distinguished historian of medicine and Associate Professor of the History of the Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco at the time of his early and unexpected death in June 1997. The 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., 2016–2020). 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.

Each application for the Pressman Award is evaluated for overall excellence, originality of the proposed project, the historiographic contribution of the project, the feasibility of the project plan and the potential impact of the project on the career trajectory of the applicant.

The application, including all supporting materials, must be submitted by **31 December 2020**. Submissions and/or questions should be directed to the Chair of the Pressman–Burroughs Wellcome Committee, Jacob Steere-Williams steerewilliamsj@cofc.edu. More information may be obtained from the AAHM website or from the committee chair.

The George Rosen Prize, 2021. The George Rosen Prize is awarded in odd years 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 five calendar years preceding the award's nomination deadline, i.e. from 2014 to 2019. "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 award is named in honor of George Rosen, physician, public health administrator, past-president of the AAHM, and a major contributor to the history of social medicine. The AAHM Council established the award in 2014 thanks to the generosity of the Susan Rosen Koslow. Further information is available at www.histmed.org/about/awards. The chair of the 2019-2020 Rosen Prize Committee, Charlotte Borst, welcomes suggestions of articles, films or other significant scholarly endeavors to consider for the award that are **not** singly or jointly authored historical monographs (these will **be eligible for the Rosen Prize next year**). Publishers nominating an edited volume must send a copy to each member of the committee.

To nominate books and to obtain mailing addresses of all committee members, contact Charlotte Borst, Chair of the George Rosen Prize Committee, at charlotte.borst@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions: 31 December 2020.

Membership Renewal

Members should have received a renewal notice for 2021 by email in October. In December, members will receive a printed renewal notice in the mail. Please renew your membership promptly and no later than 31 December 2020. Renewal by that date will maintain your status and continue your receipt and access to the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. You now have to option to sign-up for automatic renewal, if you wish.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Warwick Anderson and **Gabriela Soto Laveaga** have edited a forum on "Decolonizing Histories in Theory and Practice" for *History and Theory* 59, 3 (2020): 369-447. The articles focus on decolonizing histories of science and medicine.

Raúl Necochea López and **Anne-Emanuelle Birn** announced the publication of their co-edited book *Peripheral Nerve: Health and Medicine in Cold War Latin America* (Duke University Press, 2020)

OBITUARIES

David J. Rothman (1937-2020)

David J. Rothman, the Bernard Schoenberg Professor of Social Medicine, Professor of History, and Director of the Division of Social Medicine and Professionalism in the Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics at Columbia University passed away August 30, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. The internationally renowned scholar is best remembered for his works related to bioethics, health policies reform, medical humanities, and prisons. Rothman received a B.A. from Columbia University in 1958 followed by masters and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard. The newly-minted Ph.D. accepted a faculty appointment at Columbia in 1964 and rose through the ranks quickly to become a full professor just seven years later.

His seminal work, *The Discovery of the Asylum*, influenced a generation of scholars and earn him a share of the Albert J. Beveridge Award in 1971. Rothman contributed frequently to the scholarly literature and popular press where his book reviews, in particular, were valued by many. He received numerous awards and honors including serving as the 2002 Field H. Garrison Lecturer for the American Association for the History of Medicine. Rothman presented to the AAHM membership on a number of occasions and with AAHM Past President Susan Lederer organized the timely Conference on

Human Experimentation in 1995 coinciding with the work of the United States government's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

In 2003, Rothman founded the Institute on Medicine as a Profession (IMAP) at Columbia where he influenced medical students, residents, and young physicians and inspired them to advocate for change within the profession. Inquisitive, challenging, creative, and possessing a sharp wit, Rothman had a profound influence on many and leaves an extraordinary legacy. Rothman is survived by his wife, collaborator, and co-author, Sheila M. Rothman, emerita professor of public health at Columbia University, and two children.

Plague Epidemic in the Roman Ghetto in 1656

There was in 1656 an epidemic of Plague in Rome, which caused an impressive number of casualties. The Jewish Ghetto was not spared; we wish to tell your readers, in view of our ongoing experience of the way in which we react today to such an event, how public health was organized more than 360 years ago in a Jewish township. We find a detailed description of what happened in the Roman ghetto in a book, written in Hebrew, which was published in Venice in 1683, entitled *Sefer Otzar HaHayyim* ("The Treasure of Life").

Its author, Jacob Zahalon (1630-1693), was born in Rome. He earned his MD degree in the University of Rome – a very rare event for a Jew at that period. He was active in the Roman ghetto both as a Rabbi and as a physician. His book is written in 'Rashi letters', in two compact columns and comprises 193 pages (*recto-verso*). It comprises 12 chapters; an additional one was planned, but could not be printed "for lack of funds." We have in Jerusalem at least two copies of the book, one in our Medical Library (Ein Karem campus) and another at the National Library (in the Friedenwald collection). The book was addressed to young physicians (who read Hebrew), as well as to enlightened individuals who would be able to study and understand the detailed medical indications. A

very original and unusual feature of the book is that most names of diseases and of drugs are written in Italian, with bold Hebrew characters – not in Latin as was then the custom.

Zahalon describes in his chapter on Fevers [Ch. 2, section 19, pp. 21 r.v.] his personal experience of the Plague [Heb. *dever*] that raged in the Roman ghetto in 1656. We shall bring up an excerpt of Zahalon's detailed evocation, translated from the Hebrew original, though not literally.

The plague began to strike the ghetto some three months after it had begun in Rome and lasted nine months. There were, according to Zahalon, 800 casualties. According to Cardinal Gastaldi, whose book was published in 1684, there were 1,400 deaths. It must be remarked that both books were published nearly thirty years later than the event. Zahalon could have consulted the note-books of the *Hevra Qadisha* – where the names of the deceased were registered. The ghetto counted then around 4000 inhabitants – as noted by Zahalon.

The plague in the ghetto was briefly documented by Girolamo Gastaldi (1616-1685), who was appointed in 1656 by Pope Alexander VII superintendent of the *lazzeretti* and of Public Health in Rome during the plague. Gastaldi was ordained Cardinal in 1673. His book on the Plague was published in 1684 – one year after the book of Zahalon. According to Zahalon, there were cases of measles [*Morbilla*] among children and many died, just before the outbreak of the plague. Nobody was then allowed to leave the ghetto. A special hospital [*Lazzeretto*] was established in several houses, close to one of the gates. A priest, Monsignor Negroni, came twice a day to the ghetto, in order to enforce the isolation rules and gallows were erected close to the gates, where anyone transgressing the rules would be hanged. We see that public health policy needs being enforced – nobody was hanged. Two Jewish physicians – father and son Gabbay – were affected to the *Lazzeretto*, the father became infected and died. One gentile physician was responsible for the ghetto on the whole.

The ghetto was parted in three, each one endowed with a Jewish physician. Zahalon was the only one who survived the plague. When a new patient was signaled, the ordeal was the following: The Jewish physician came to see him. Zahalon used to hold a big torch of tar burning – be it day or night – and to put theriak in his mouth. He does not say whether all physicians did the same. If the physician saw symptoms of the plague, such as black carbuncles [*Carbunculi*] or buboes [*Buboni*] in the groin, with fever in serious cases and a tongue white as snow, he called the Gentile colleague. If the latter agreed with the diagnosis, the patient was carried *in his bed* to the lazaret; in milder cases, the sick person was left at home till recovery. Of course, nobody was allowed to enter or go out. The dead were transported in a small boat from the lazaret to a special cemetery situated on an island in the Tiber river. Moreover, 15 inhabitants of the ghetto were chosen; they stayed outside the ghetto during the whole period of isolation and brought food and other necessities to the gate, but never entered. The food was then gathered and distributed. The ghetto had been parted into 17 sectors and there was one person responsible for each sector, who did the delivery. Poor inhabitants received food gratis, the others had to pay. Zahalon even tells us that there were then 2,600 poor people in the ghetto. Another striking event is that none of these 15 delivery men died, they never forgot this ‘miracle’ and praised the Lord repeatedly.

During the epidemic, people were only allowed to be seen outside their dwelling places at certain hours of the day and not at all at night. There were guards who patrolled at night, any ‘outsider’ was arrested and put in jail within the ghetto. Zahalon further states that the synagogues were closed. He therefore gave twice on the Sabbath-day a sermon, from the windows of two different houses, to people who were standing outside in the street. We remember that he was a Rabbi, other Rabbis most probably did the same.

Another detail deserves being mentioned. A pregnant woman was sick with plague and hospitalized in the lazaret. She gave birth to a boy, who was nursed by another woman sick with plague. The boy survived

“to this very day” (Zahalon writes, nearly 30 years later). This is where Zahalon ends his description of the plague in the Roman ghetto.

I guess there is no need to discuss this vivid description. We have skipped a rather problematic case, which led to a medical debate between Zahalon and the Gentile physician. Zahalon was called to a patient who had high fever; he had a swelling in his groin. Zahalon diagnosed an inguinal hernia; the Gentile physician, however, thought that it was a case of plague. The patient died and was sent to autopsy: Zahalon was right, it was hernia. No need to add that Zahalon felt relieved that his diagnosis had been correct!

Physicians worried in pre-modern times, for their patients and for themselves; physicians still worry while managing epidemic diseases in modern – shall we say ‘post-modern’ - times. Thoughtful reflection seems accurate.

*Prof. (emeritus) Samuel S. Kottke,
History of Medicine*

Hadassah Medical School, Hebrew University Jerusalem

References

Harry Friedenwald, *The Jews and Medicine – Essays*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1944 Vol. 1, pp. 269-271. Repr. Ktav Publ. 1967.

Hieronimus Gastaldi, *Tractatus de Avertenda et Prolificanda Peste*, Bologna, 1684. See in particular pp. 43-46 and pp. 335-337.

Joshua O. Leibowitz, “Bubonic Plague in the Ghetto of Rome (1656): Descriptions by Zahalon and by Gastaldi”, *Korot*, Vol. 14, 2000, pp.65-68 [Repr. from *Koroth* 4 (3-4), 1967].

ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS

The Oskar Diethelm Library at Weill Cornell Medical College's DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry has received a Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to rehouse and preserve its internationally significant psychiatry collections. Materials include the papers of influential figures, such as Thomas Salmon and Clifford and Clara Beers, as well as the records of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene (1909–1966). Other collections have items from mental health advocates, such as Dorothea Dix, Thomas Kirkbride, and Isaac Ray, as well as from Donald Winnicott, the British physician who was internationally recognized for his work in pediatric psychiatry and invented the term “transitional object” (e.g. blanket or teddy bear).

The Library also announces the release of a new finding aid for the Alfred Freedman M.D. Papers. Freedman was president of the American Psychiatric Association when the board of trustees changed the listing of “homosexuality” to “sexual orientation disturbance” in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders II (DSM-II) www.empireadc.org/empiresearch/ead/nnod/freedman_alfred

The New York Medical College Archives has a new website containing information about the Archives and its holdings, available at guides.library.nymc.edu/archives. This site centralizes content which had previously been scattered across multiple locations on the website of the NYMC library.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's digital teaching and learning portal *Experiencing History* perspectives.ushmm.org/category now features an enhanced web interface for increased accessibility and a new primary source, Medical Care, Nazism, and the Holocaust now available at perspectives.ushmm.org/collection/medical-care-nazism-and-the-holocaust

The University of Wisconsin Press is pleased to announce a new partnership with the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP). The institute's journal, *History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals* aihp.org/pharmacy-in-history-journal/ (formerly *Pharmacy in History*, 1959–2020) will be published by the Press beginning in January 2021. AIHP is located at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Pharmacy.

History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals publishes original scholarly articles about the history of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals, broadly defined, including (but not limited to) the history of: pharmacy practice, pharmacy science, pharmacy education, drug regulation, social and cultural aspects of drugs and medicines, the pharmaceutical industry—including the history of pharmaceuticals, drugs, and therapeutics—and facets of the related medical sciences.

New from the National Library of Medicine

NLM announces the release of four additional archival collections:

- papers of June Osborn, chair of the National Commission on AIDS, resource.nlm.nih.gov/101647507;
- papers of Joseph Kinyoun, founder of the Marine Hospital Service Hygienic Laboratory, predecessor institution of the NIH, and director of plague eradication activities in San Francisco from 1899 to 1901, resource.nlm.nih.gov/9803039;
- papers of Lawrence Kolb, pioneer in the medical approach to narcotics addiction treatment and in public health research and treatment of mental illness, and one of the first to advocate treating drug addicts as patients, not criminals, resource.nlm.nih.gov/2934112R
- letters of Florence Nightingale resource.nlm.nih.gov/101229994

