



INCIPIT

History of the Health Sciences Section Newsletter Medical Library Association Volume XVI Issue 1 July 2004

Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to another membership year with the History of the Health Sciences Section of MLA. For those of you who joined us at our Annual Business Meeting, thank you for coming. For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you, but look forward to meeting with you virtually throughout the year!

Thanks to the efforts of our worthy newsletter editors, Richard Nollan and Sara Hook, this issue of Incipit promises to bring you even more information about Section events at MLA, and for the rest of 2004. I appreciate all their hard work in bringing this issue of our excellent newsletter to your door.

Our section programming at the Annual meeting was exceptionally good, thanks to Chair-elect and Section Programming Chair, Anne Maria Frketitch. She is already hard at work on programming for the 2005 meeting, which I believe will be equally as good as this past meeting. The theme for next year, in keeping with the mission of our new MLA President, Joanne Gard Marshall, will be diversity. This is a theme that certainly speaks to us, as librarians with

an interest in the history of the health sciences, and will be reflected in our programming.

As many of you are aware, our Section suffered a great loss last year when Barbara Van Brimmer, former Section Chair and dedicated member, died. There are no words that we can say to express our affection for Barb and our sympathy for her family at this nearly unbearable loss. To help carry on her work and her memory, the Board voted to make a donation of \$500 to the Barbara Van Brimmer Scholarship fund at Ohio State University. This scholarship will continue Barb's work by training librarians in collection preservation.

This is an election year for our Section, so please check your mailboxes around December for the ballots. If you would like to suggest someone for a Board office, please contact Suzanne Porter, who is Chair of the Nominating Committee. And, as always, we welcome new members, or old ones, who are interested in working on Section Committees to contact any member of the Board. Even if you can't join us at the Annual Meeting, your input and contributions are appreciated. We are

especially interested in volunteers for the Membership and Newsletter committees.

Please be sure that you are subscribed to the Section Listserv! It is the best way we have to communicate with our members; be assured you will not be overwhelmed with email! And all the information you need for this, and for any of the contact information I've

mentioned before are listed on the Section webpage at <http://www.mla-hhss.org>.

Patricia E. Gallagher, MLS, MA, AHIP
Chair, History of the Health Sciences
Section



**Medical Library Association
History of the Health Sciences Section
Business Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2004**

Attendees: Ursula Ellis, Michael Flannery, Heidi Heilemann, Anne Marie Frketich, Patricia Gallagher, Stephen Greenberg, Diane McKenzie, Erich Meyerhoff, Richard Nollan, Katie Oomens, Debra Scarborough, Joan Stoddard, Sara Anne Hook

The meeting was called to order by Patricia Gallagher.

Old Business

1. Chair's Report delivered by Patricia Gallagher.

- Procedure manual was distributed. The issue of staggered terms of office was presented. After some discussion, it was decided that it would be best if all officer elections occurred on the same year. This would require the current Secretary/Treasurer to serve an additional year so as to get in sync with the rest of the terms of Chair, etc. The Secretary/Treasurer agreed. The motion to amend the procedures

manual to have elections occur in the same year was offered; the motion carried unanimously.

- Pat proposed a donation to the Barbara Van Brimmer Scholarship Fund be made on behalf of the Health Sciences Section. After some discussion, the amount of \$500 was presented for a vote of approval. The motion carried unanimously.
- Listserv: A list of currently subscribed members of the listserv was generated and checked against the list of current MLA members. As per our decision at the 2003 meeting (and subsequent email conversations), the listserv is limited to members of MLA (part of the reason being our own lack of confidence in the membership lists currently provided by MLA). Any non-MLA subscriber was contacted and invited to join MLA, and then removed from the list. Our next step is to continue to encourage members of the Section to sign onto the Section listserv.
- 2004-2005 elections: Suzanne Porter has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee, and Heidi Heilemann expressed willingness to serve as a member.

Members of the section are encouraged to volunteer to participate, either as an officer, or on a committee.

2. Treasurer's report presented by Michael Flannery covering May 2003 to May 2004.

- The beginning balance was \$4,157.89; the ending balance of \$4,462.89 reflected two Section dues payments totaling \$519.50 less a \$200 payment to the Lindberg Research Fellowship program and a \$14.50 check printing fee accrued when the bank account was transferred to Birmingham. The motion to approve the Treasurer's report as offered passed unanimously.

3. CE Co-Chair Report presented by Steve Greenberg.

- Greenberg and Gallagher still have two courses in the registry. They taught their half-day course to the NY/NJ chapter in April.
- There has been some discussion about reviving the introduction to archival management course. Flannery is interested, as is Paul Theerman. It would be desirable to have MLA (and section!) members teaching such a course.
- Greenberg and Gallagher are negotiating with MLA to produce a new book: an introduction to the history of medicine for medical librarians. This would be an e-book - - - MLA's first.

4. Section Programming Report presented by Anne Marie Frketich.

- Summary of the 2004 program was presented. The Section sponsored two programs at MLA 2004 - The Power of Leadership on Sunday 5/23, co-sponsored by the Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section and Emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases: The Power of Disease on Society co-sponsored by the Veterinary Medical Libraries, Health Association Libraries, International Cooperation, and Public Health/Health Administration Sections on Tuesday 5/25. The section also co-sponsored the program Power to the Patient: New Definitions of Health Literacy. The primary sponsor for the program is the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section. Other co-sponsors are the Cancer Librarians Section and Relevant Issues Sections.
- Attended the Program Planners meeting held on Saturday, May 22, and learned the theme for the 2005 MLA Meeting in San Antonio is Diversity. The dates for MLA 2005 are May 14-19
- Ursula Scott of USUHS (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences) is the program planner for the Federal Libraries Section. She and Hope Barton, University of Iowa, Collection Development Section, would like to know if we would be interested in co-sponsoring a program on the archiving of information on the Web. She stated there is a trend in this Administration to remove material that was once available on the Web and in Document

Depositories and make it inaccessible to the public. She and Barton think it is important to archive/digitize this information. Scott said there is a government mandate to have a record of all government information and there will be a notice regarding this in possibly the October issue of the Federal Register. She was thinking of an invited papers session, but it was made clear that the section will not contribute monies toward invited speaker expenses.

- Ideas for the 2005 program presented during the HHSS Business Meeting included: Re-visit program we were going to co-sponsor at this meeting that got cancelled because of not enough submissions (It was the one we were going to co-sponsor with Dental - Power of the Past to Energize the Future) and see if it will fit into next year's theme. Health Association Libraries representative suggested something with an exhibit theme. Finding Aids on the Web; Archiving Web Info or missing info from the Internet; database info. Relationship of allopathic medicine to alternative medicine – acupuncture. Possible co-sponsors NAHRS, Chiropractic, and Relevant Issues. Possible title – Medical Diversity: Thinking out of the Box. History of handicapped persons who went on to make significant medical contributions. Expand to include Hispanic doc, black docs, Native Americans, gender label. Possible co-sponsors Health Association/ vision science

(sig)/vet med lib/ other sigs-
African American Medical
Libr(SIG)

5. Section Council Report was presented by Diane McKenzie.

- Credential Committee Report, SIG marketing, and section programming were reviewed. This year sessions were limited to 4 presentations to give more time; this will also be true in 2005. Laura Osegueda from Vet Sci will lead a task force to look at a 2-year ahead planning format. Partnering with other SIGs and Sections is encouraged; next year sponsors may be listed alphabetically. Section Council has asked that there be more coordination of the daily calendar with the Section Calendar. 2004 statistics on section programming as follows: 138 papers were submitted; 59 contributed papers given; 39 invited papers given; 1 student paper; expanded to 3 poster session because of volume of submissions. 2005 – San Antonio Meeting, begin Sunday, May 14; theme is “Futuro Magnifico.”
- Membership lists were discussed. NAHRS presented a resolution to the Board requesting changes to improve how membership lists are handled: Order for requesting a membership list will be online; online Directory will be updated more than once a year; new section members will automatically added to Section listserv; individual records online will list the sections a member belongs to MLA members will

receive only one paper renewal notification plus 2 email notifications. It was suggested that the paper renewal form have in large letters: *ONLY PRINT RENEWAL NOTICE*. There was a discussion of the problem of how renewals are timed and the timing of both Section elections (in Feb-Mar) and of the Annual Meeting.

- Section Goals and Objectives outlined by JoAnn Marshall were diversity, advocacy, lifelong learning knowledge base and recruitment
- The issue of MLA wanting all web sites to have a similar look was expressed. The general consensus was that this not a good idea.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - 2005 – San Antonio
 - 2006 – Phoenix
 - 2007 - Philadelphia
 - 2008 – Chicago
 - 2009 – Hawaii (maybe; co-sponsored with CHLA and Asian Medical Libraries)

6. Membership Committee Report was by Richard Nollan.

- There was some discussion of the MLA membership database. MLA's database is more current than the one on the web. It takes 3-5 days to process requests. Kate Corcoran maintains the list. Kurt Paul has left MLA. Richard raised the issue of the New Member/First Time breakfast. There were 180 at the breakfast out of 228 who could have attended. This year none of the

chapter or section representatives were invited to talk. The decision was based on the large number. Allowing 180 people to introduce and talk briefly was more than enough to fill up the two hours allotted for the breakfast. Richard expressed our disappointment at not being able to at least make a short presentation or to hand out brochures. I didn't receive much support from around the table, but we may be able to send brochures using the new member list. A subcommittee will decide on what and how to forward brochures.

- The issue that we are a small section, with a fairly small number of members was also brought up. Thus we are concerned with attracting new members, and the NM/FT breakfast is one way we can do that. Someone suggested that another way would be to be sure that sections member subscribe to the listserv. Richard also brought up the possibility of affiliate membership, which the organization has (<http://www.mlanet.org/joinmla/affiliate.html>). It costs \$80 but included joining sections.

7. Oral History Committee Report was presented by Heidi Heilemann.

- The brochure is ready and was at the poster session. Recruiting for a 4-year project director's position has begun with several interviews in process. The first in a series at the Medical Library Center of NY is beginning; they

sketches of four people whose contributions to health care and to health sciences librarianship are significant and lasting. The profiles of these individuals were presented in a thorough, thoughtful and compelling manner, making the audience want to embrace the leadership qualities illustrated in their stories. Michael Flannery gave an excellent presentation on Joseph Goldberger and his work to eliminate the scourge of pellagra, a disease caused by the poverty and poor nutrition that were endemic in the early 1900s. Likewise, Stephen Greenberg offered a powerful biography of Annie Goodrich and her role in army nursing during WWI and then as founding dean of the first U.S. Army School of Nursing. Interestingly, much of the presentation was drawn from Dean Goodrich's own writings and those of her colleagues, making her story come alive. In another example of women breaking barriers in health care, Patricia Gallagher gave a noteworthy paper on Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer, whose life was portrayed in a film released to the public in 1952. Dr. Barringer is significant as the first woman physician to ride an ambulance and Gallagher's presentation focused on such practical considerations as her uniform, her ability to board the ambulance modestly, her acceptance by male physicians and the public at large and the media response. Finally, Lucretia McClure gave a stunning tribute to Nina Matheson as a leader in health sciences librarianship. McClure particularly highlighted Matheson's efforts on the Integrated Academic Information Management System (IAIMS) and the publication of the Matheson-Cooper Report. From these four presentations, it was possible to discern various characteristics of true

leadership, such as vision, dedication, humility and perseverance and how these characteristics are reflected in the individual stories of real people, none of whom sought glory for themselves but who were dedicated to service, the promotion of health and welfare and the dissemination of knowledge.

The second co-sponsored program session for HHSS was entitled "*Emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases: The Power of Disease on Society.*" This program was particularly timely given the recent concerns with SARS, Mad Cow disease and bioterrorism. One might have expected this program session to be depressing, but instead it was uplifting, illustrating how access to current and appropriate information can make a significant difference in the preparation and response to these diseases. In the first presentation, Rolf H. Schafer, chief librarian, and Paul C. Smollen, a clinical nurse consultant, traveled from Australia to inform the audience on the development and utilization of pathways to locate, disseminate and store health care information about SARS. Their presentation showed the importance of a well-organized and instantly responsive plan and structure for providing the most accurate and authoritative information to practitioners dealing with a potential health care crisis. In contrast, a presentation offered by the Eskin Biomedical Library, Vanderbilt University, presented an analysis of five infectious diseases using print and electronic resources. This research is significant, in that many of the diseases we consider eradicated may still be prevalent in the developing world and have the potential to reoccur even in the United States, particularly given the

specter of bioterrorism. Finally, a most interesting presentation was given on the work being done at Yale University to build a database of animal sentinel literature. Titled "Canary in a Haystack," this presentation not only revealed the methodology being used for the work, but also gave the audience a powerful lesson in the importance of animals as early predictors of environmental health hazards. This is a complex project, made even more difficult by the task of separating from the literature those articles that truly are about sentinel animals from those that concern laboratory studies using animals, as well as the need to build a thesaurus that integrates subject headings from multiple databases.

Although not an HHSS program, the John P. McGovern Lecture, featuring Professor Harm J. de Blij, was very much a lesson in the history of climate and environmental change. Professor de Blij, a geographer, gave a lively presentation on the sober topics of global warming and the American public's lack of education in and appreciation for geography. In his presentation, Professor de Blij recommended a book "The Little Ice Age", by Brian Fagan, which HHSS members will certainly find illuminating.

Respectfully submitted,
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