

Incipit

History of the Health Sciences Section Newsletter — Medical Library Association

Volume XXIV Issue 2 Spring 2013

Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to the Spring 2013 issue of *Incipit*, the Newsletter of the History of the Health Sciences Section of the Medical Library Association. Melissa Nasea, newsletter editor has prepared her last issue of the *Incipit* before assuming her new duties as Chair-Elect of the Section. She has done a fine job of corralling officers and members for interesting and informative articles. It may be interesting to note that this issue concludes the 24th volume of *Incipit*, the 32nd year of the History of the Health Sciences Section and the 47th year of a “history of medicine libraries group” within MLA. We should begin planning the 50th anniversary of History of Health Sciences celebration!

The 2013 MLA meeting will be held in Boston MA, May 3-8 at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, adjacent to both the Sheraton Boston Hotel and Hilton Back Bay Hotel. Our annual business meeting will be Tuesday May 7th from 7:30-9:00am in Room 202 of the Convention Center. We welcome any and all health sciences librarians to our meeting. Our program will be that afternoon at 3:00 in Room 301 at the Convention Center where Pat Gallagher will moderate our panel “The Role of Alternative and Indigenous Medicine in Global Health: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives”. Susan Sanders worked long and hard with the Section Program Committee to bring this to life. She has provided much more information in a separate article. Thank you, Susan for two terrific years of programming efforts.

Congratulations to our 2013-2015 Chair-Elect Melissa Nasea and our Secretary-Treasurer Deidra Woodson. They will each serve two years beginning at the conclusion of the annual meeting. Jim Shedlock will be the History of the Health Sciences Section representative on the ballot for the 2014 MLA Nominating Committee. And, finally, a big “thank you” to Mike Flannery, Past-Chair and Section Council Representative who will be stepping down after six years of leadership in the Section. Mike was instrumental in bringing the Symposium: “Librarians recovering our professional memory: enriching the past, present and future” to the *JMLA*, by editing eight articles and writing the Introduction, *JMLA* 2011, Jan 99(1):5-7. He also played a big part in bringing the Advocacy Committee position paper to MLA membership entitled “Advocating for history of the health sciences libraries and librarians: a position paper by the History of the Health Sciences Section, Medical Library Association” [comment and opinion] *JMLA* 2010, Jan 98(1):9-11. Thank you, Michael.

Finally, remember that you have opportunities to participate in future History of the Health Sciences activities and events. The 2014 meeting with the theme “Building Our Information Future” will be held in Chicago on May 16-21 and papers will be solicited for the programs there. There is also the Murray Gottlieb Prize for an unpublished essay on the history of medicine and the allied health sciences written by a health sciences librarian. The winner receives a complimentary registration to the annual meeting, a certificate, and a cash award



Joan Stoddart

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History of the Health Sciences Section

<http://www.mla-hhss.org/>

of \$100 after the annual meeting. Please consider submitting your entry. Visit the MLA Awards and Honors web site and click on "nomination form" for more information <http://www.mlanet.org/awards/honors/>.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Section Chair. It has been a pleasure, and I look forward to serving as HHSS Section Council Representative next year.

The Role of Alternative and Indigenous Medicine in Global Health: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

You are cordially invited to Program #16, *The Role of Alternative and Indigenous Medicine in Global Health: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* on Tuesday, May 7th from 3:00-4:30 in Room 301 at the Hynes Convention Center. HHSS is the lead sponsor, and the co-sponsors are Chiropractic Libraries Section (Marcia Thomas, Janet Tapper), Corporate Information Services Section (Sherrill Olsen), Complementary and Alternative Medicine SIG (Mariana Lapidus), and Osteopathic Libraries SIG (Shelly Warwick). Patricia Gallagher of HHSS will moderate.

Integrative therapies and traditional medicine, based on theories, beliefs, and experiences that are indigenous to different cultures, are practiced worldwide. Traditional medicines and therapies have been adopted by other populations outside of indigenous cultures as complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Four speakers will present a historical and contemporary overview of practices to adopt traditional medicine and therapies (CAM) and look at roles for librarians in this field. Librarians' roles vary from information discovery and expert searching to historical and contemporary collection building and research team collaboration and education. We will also examine the history of education about natural products and, using an example of one contemporary health care educational program, discuss effective teaching practices that are used to teach conventional health care providers information skills in the subject of natural products.

Stephen Greenberg, NLM historian, librarian, and member of HHSS, will introduce the program and connect all the speakers' topics from a historical perspective in his presentation, *Complementary and Alternative Medicine: From Ancient to Modern Times*. He will speak about culture, health, and illness, and draw on the National Library of Medicine's exhibit "Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness". Julia Whelan, Reference and Education Librarian, Harvard University, Countway Library of Medicine, will present *New Growth from Old Roots: The Evolving Role of Librarians in the Traditional and Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Communities*. She will speak about exciting and varied roles for librarians in the areas of traditional and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), such as information discovery and expert searching, collection building (historical and contemporary), research team collaboration, and education. Lana Dvorkin-Camiel, Director of the Applied Natural Products Programs, School of Pharmacy, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences will present on *Natural Product Education: Past and Present*. Using an example of a contemporary healthcare educational program, Dr. Camiel will discuss some effective teaching practices in a natural products elective course that is offered to future conventional healthcare providers, as they develop information seeking skills on the subject of natural products. Paula Gardiner, Assistant Director, Program for Integrative Medicine and Healthcare Disparities, Boston Medical Center, will present *The Prevalence of Herb Usage among Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the United States*. She will draw on her research and writing about CAM therapies in non-Western countries, and in the United States among immigrant groups, and racial/ethnic minorities. She will also discuss her collaboration with a librarian who is a coauthor in the writing and research process.

The prospect of hearing these four fine speakers will surely put attendance at Program #16 at the top of your list. Please plan to come!

Susan Sanders, HHSS 2013 Program Chair

Looking for a Few Good Members: *Incipit* Editor, Membership Chair, Bylaws Chair

The History of the Health Sciences Section is always looking for volunteers to fill its positions. We currently need people to assume the positions of *Incipit* newsletter editor and chairmanship of two Committees: Membership and Bylaws. This is a great opportunity to meet people in MLA, help our Section, and lengthen your CV.

I've been the *Incipit* editor for 3 years and, as incoming Chair-Elect, would like to pass on the responsibility. It requires some organization, editing ability, and time, and but also the patience to remind (or cajole) people that you need their input. The officers and committee chairs are the Editorial Board and the authors of most of the articles. If desired, I'd be happy to co-edit the fall 2013 issue and/or serve as your mentor.

Details about the positions of Membership and Bylaws Committee Chairs can be found in the HHSS "Procedure Manual" at the bottom of the officers and chairs page <http://www.mla-hhss.org/officers.html>. The current Membership Committee Chair Susan Sanders sanderssu@umkc.edu and Bylaws Committee Chair Pat Gallagher patri-cia.gallagher@nih.gov are also happy to mentor anyone interested in those positions.

Please contact Chair-Elect Susan Sanders sanderssu@umkc.edu or Chair Joan Stoddart joan.stoddart@utah.edu to volunteer for any of these three positions or for membership on any of the committees listed on the officers and chairs page.

Melissa Nasea, *Incipit* editor

Incoming Chair-Elect

History of Medicine Society Lecture Series, University of Iowa

At the University of Iowa, the History of Medicine Society and its Lecture Series are coordinated through the John Martin Rare Book Room of the Hardin Library. Six lectures are held a year with topics as wide ranging as medical history of the University, civil war medicine, medicine in ancient Greece, and treatment of menopause over the past 100 years.

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society is an informal group of students, faculty, staff, and members of the community which began in 1978. An online distribution list of over 300 individuals is maintained. A paper distribution list is maintained for those who prefer U.S. mail. The Society promotes sharing information and interest in the history of medicine and the health sciences. Lectures are sponsored monthly during the academic year and there is a spring banquet with a presentation from a well-known medical historian. There are no membership dues, and participants from the University and the general community are welcome.

Commitments from speakers for the upcoming academic year are acquired over the winter and early spring. This schedule is distributed in April or early May so people can mark their calendars. The schedule is sent to the Society and to all academic departments in the health science campus and is posted around campus and in public locations.

The History of Medicine lectures are of interest to a broad group of people. We have attendees from the various medical disciplines, but many people from the History Department, the English Department, and the School of Art and Art History also attend. Folks from the Center for the Book and various campus libraries attend. We once had a large class from Journalism attend, and each student was charged with blogging the content of the lecture as it was given.

Speakers from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds give lectures on the History of Medicine. Potential speakers are identified from likely academic departments. New faculty are often interested in presenting recent research. The History of Medicine Society has been in existence since 1978, so it is common for potential speakers to volunteer to give lectures in their area of interest.

Most of the speakers are local – especially from the University. Recent speakers have included emeritus faculty from Pharmacology, faculty in the classics, and a librarian from the Hygienic Laboratory.

Typically two lecturers a year come from farther away. Usually a speaker from the Midwest (Illinois, Minnesota, etc.) is scheduled to speak each year, and these speakers are typically delighted to take advantage of research opportunities or time to visit with colleagues.

An annual banquet features a speaker with a national reputation.

The University offers an annual writing contest for medical students with a substantial award, and winners of the writing contest are often asked to present lectures.

A sampling of recent lectures:

Wayne Richenbacher, M.D. Professor Emeritus, Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Iowa; “The Demise of Stonewall Jackson: a Civil War Case Study”; January 24, 2013.

Marquis Berrey, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Classics, University of Iowa; “Performance and Power: Medical Attitudes Toward Technology in the Hellenistic Period”; November 29, 2012.

Paul Greenough, PhD. Professor, History, University of Iowa; “Field Epidemiology Meets Occult Culture: Demonic Disease Transmission in the Final Phase of the Smallpox Eradication Campaign in India, 1975”; October 27, 2011.

Matthew Gambino, MD, PhD, Yale School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry; “These Strangers Within Our Gates: Race, Psychiatry, and Mental Illness at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, D.C., 1900-1940”; December 1, 2011.

Mark Waddell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Lyman Briggs College and the Department of History, Michigan State University; “Viper’s Flesh and Unicorn’s Horn: The Quest for a Magical Panacea”; November 19, 2010.

Donna Hirst, Curator of the John Martin Rare Book Room

Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, University of Iowa

Book Review: Jackson, Mark. *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Medicine*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Whether you are a novice or an experienced scholar in the field of medical history, *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Medicine* will take you on a fruitful path of discovery and knowledge. Recently, I had the pleasure of reading it. The handbook, edited by Mark Jackson, Director of the Centre for Medical History at the University of Exeter, is comprised of thirty-three invited papers from professors, scholars, and accomplished authors of medical histories. Collectively, the papers examine historical developments and historiographical trends and, in the process, establish some emerging challenges for medical historians.

The handbook is comprised of three sections: Periods; Places and Traditions; and Themes and Methods. The first section is organized by time periods. Roger Cooter's essay, “Medicine and Modernity,” (p. 100) is interesting because Cooter describes medical history as depicted in the 19th century and questions how medical history in the subsequent centuries will tell the story of the biosciences and biotechnology, data gathering, and the knowledge economy. Virginia Berridge's, “Contemporary History of Medicine and Health,” (p. 117) asks how media health consumerism will be explored in

the context of modern medicine. These two companion essays alone are worth reading: the former for its concern about merely tracing innovations in pursuit of history (p. 113) and the latter for positioning contemporary historians to mine the generous fields of media and consumerism in the cultural context of modern medicine (p. 128).

The second section is organized by places, cultures, and regions of the world. Topics explore the history of medicine in previously overlooked geographical areas, such as Latin America, the Sub-Sahara, New Zealand, and Australia, where medical history can be studied anew because of political and sociological changes in the regions. Overall, authors in the second section expand the collection from one that slants toward Western Europe and the United States. They thoughtfully mention opportunities for future scholarship in countries that, up to now, have received little attention.

The third section naturally flows into current themes and epitomizes the way that history uses facts, analyses, interpretations, and an understanding of the historiographical methods. For example, Levene acknowledges that the history of childhood and adolescent health mirrors trends in the history of medicine. Early work may describe formal encounters between children and institutions or demography, while current concepts take on more reflective work that shifts to family and community care. To Levene, there is enormous research to be done on conceptualizations of childhood and adolescence and the vast social focus of health in these stages, as well as telling the story with more historical evidence from the child's voice, feelings, interpretations, and actions.

Scholars and historians of the history of medicine will find this handbook an enduring work on wide-ranging subjects. Like me, those who have limited experience may take the readings at a slower pace and may need to delve into background readings on their own to fill in their gaps, and that alone is a fascinating pursuit.

Susan Sanders, Clinical Medical Librarian

UMKC Health Sciences Library

Treasurer's Report, May 2012—March 2013

Date	Activity	Credits	Received From	Debits	Sent To
5/14/2012	Treasurer's Annual Report	\$7,016.81			
9/01/2012	Section Membership Dues	47.80	Susan Chesniak, MLA Accountant		
12/28/2012	Reimbursement for mailing HHSS pins			24.90	Susan Sanders, Membership Chair
3/01/2013	Balance	\$7,039.71			

In September 2012, the History of the Health Sciences Section (HHSS) received \$47.80 for membership dues collected from 4 members between February 1st and August 31st, 2012. In December 2012, the Membership Committee Chair was reimbursed \$24.90 for mailing HHSS pins to new members. Please note that the Section will receive \$657.25 for 2013 membership dues. This amount will be deposited in HHSS account upon receipt of the check. The Section's current balance is \$7,039.71, which will increase to \$7,696.96 when the aforementioned remittance check is deposited.

Deidra Woodson, HHSS Secretary/Treasurer

HHSS Listserv

We invite all HHSS members to join the official HHSS listserv.

The *members-only* listserv will be used to promote and communicate activities of the Section. It may also be used as a forum for its members to discuss relevant issues and concerns.

Be assured that email traffic will not overwhelm any of us. It will, however, provide a convenient means to communicate. While joining the listserv is an optional benefit of being a member, we strongly urge members to sign on.

Instructions for Signing On

- Send an email message to majordomo@mlahq.org
- Leave the subject line blank
- In the body of the text, enter: subscribe hhss@mla-hhss.org your email@place.org
- Respond to the email you receive to authenticate
- Receive confirmation and begin participating

Questions? Contact Listserv Chair Donna L. Hirst at donna-hirst@uiowa.edu

Section Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers and their terms:

Chair: [Joan Stoddart](#), 5/11-5/13

Chair-Elect: [Susan Sanders](#), 5/11-5/13

Secretary/Treasurer: [Deidra Woodson](#), 5/11-5/13

Immediate Past-Chair Chair: [Michael Flannery](#), 5/11-5/13

Section Council Representative: [Michael Flannery](#), 5/11-5/13

Committee chairs:

Bylaws: [Patricia Gallagher](#)

Continuing Education: [Stephen J. Greenberg](#) & [Patricia E. Gallagher](#)

Listserv: [Donna L. Hirst](#)

Membership: [Susan Sanders](#)

Newsletter: [Melissa Nasea](#)

Task Force on Advocacy for Staffing and Support of History of Health Sciences Programs: [Lucretia McClure](#)

Oral History Committee Liaison: [Patricia Gallagher](#)

Murray Gottlieb Prize Jury Liaison: [Stephen J. Greenberg](#)

Program: [Susan Sanders](#)

Publication Information

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