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WATERMARK

Newsletter of the Librarians, Archivists & Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences

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Submissions for the Watermark:

The Watermark encourages submissions of news and stories about events, collections, catalogues, people, awards, grants, publications, and anything else of professional interest to the members of LAMPHHS. Please submit your contributions in a timely way to Stephen Novak, as e-mail attachments. Visuals should be submitted as jpegs with a resolution of at least 300 dpi if possible. Copyright clearance for content and visuals are the responsibility of the author.

Cover Image: The recently opened Wigton Heritage Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. See page 40 for story.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

It was wonderful “seeing” so many of you during our second consecutive Zoom’d Annual Meeting. I’m not a fan of remote meetings but I thought the LAMPHHS meeting was one of the most successful I’ve attended since the pandemic hit – both in its technological and content aspects. Kudos to all involved!

And kudos as well to the many members who contributed articles to this issue. It’s more than we’ve had in a while which I attribute, at least in part, to the return to on-site work that many of us are experiencing. There are reports of activities at places we’ve not heard from in a while as well as John Erlen’s reminiscences of the early days of ALHHS, when that acronym still stood for Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and I wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable summer.

Stephen Novak

Editor, *The Watermark*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is having a safe and healthy summer. It has only been two months since our annual meeting but it seems like it was so long ago! We have seen a lot of change even in this short time. Our facilities are reopening, many academic institutions are planning for an in-person fall semester, and now it is time to think about our 2022 annual meeting in Saratoga Springs, New York!

But first, I would like to recognize LAMPHHS members who have or will be retiring this year. Their combined 138 years in the library/archive/museum fields is a testament to their dedication to

and passion for the art of providing access to some of this country's most important history of medicine collections.

Judy Chelnick, associate curator, retired in June after 33 years in the Division of Medicine and Science, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Pat Gallagher retired in June after 8 years as librarian with the National Library of Medicine. Before that Pat was with the New York Academy of Medicine for 15 years as a user services librarian.

Steve Greenberg retired in June after 29 years with the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine.

Shannon O'Dell, Curator of the Sindecuse Museum of Dentistry, School of Dentistry, University of Michigan retired in June after 18 years.

Barbara Niss, is retiring after 35 years with the Mt Sinai Medical Center. Her most recent position being Director of The Aurthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives and Mt Sinai Records Management Program, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Many congratulations to our retirees! We hope you will continue to be active in LAMPHHS and encourage new members to participate.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey sent out in June. Your opinions and suggestions will be very helpful in planning for next year. It looks like we will offer a hybrid meeting with in-person and virtual sessions. More on the logistics to come. Right now we need to work on getting our Local Arrangements Committee established. This is a second call for volunteers. I have a few but need several more to fill the Program, Nominating, and Recognition Awards committees. As we will be offering a virtual component we will also need assistance with the techie side of things. Please consider volunteering on the LAC. It's a great way to be more involved with our organization and to get acquainted with fellow LAMPHHS members.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the LAC or any other questions you may have about LAMPHHS. If I can't give you an answer I will refer you to someone who can.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Jennifer K. Nieves

President

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MINUTES OF THE LAMPHHS ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences, 2021 Virtual Business Meeting, May 4, 2021, 1:00 PM EST

Welcome (Jennifer Nieves)

Jennifer welcomed everyone to the second Virtual LAMPHHS Business Meeting and reminded everyone about Zoom etiquette.

Adoption of Agenda (Jennifer Nieves)

Phoebe Evans Letocha motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Russell Johnson. Agenda adopted.

Adoption of 2020 Business Meeting minutes (Jamie Rees)

Minutes from the 2020 Business Meeting were distributed via email to the membership on May 3, 2021. No questions or comments were raised. Cassie Nespor motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Phoebe Evans Letocha and Russell Johnson. Minutes adopted.

President's Report (Jennifer Nieves)

I am honored to be the first president of LAMPHHS and have had a great experience working with my LAMPHHS colleagues. Throughout this unusual period in our lives LAMPHHS has remained stable and the membership has proven its dedication. There has been no lack of meaningful discussion among members on the LAMPHHS listserv, and submissions to *The Watermark* have not faltered. The merger of ALHHS and MeMA was seamless due to the hard work of our former president Melissa Grafe. Our treasury is in good shape as we've not had to spend money on the annual meeting for two years.

After the success of our first virtual meeting it seemed as though we might return to an in-person gathering. Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, chair of what has become known as the Remote Arrangements Committee, got the wheels rolling and made many of the necessary arrangements for meeting and dining venues. In September, after discussions

with the AAHM local arrangements committee we decided to follow their lead and hold another virtual meeting. A survey was sent to the membership asking for reviews of the 2020 meeting and suggestions for the 2021 meeting. I also sent out an appeal for volunteers to staff the various committees that would plan the meeting and was not disappointed! Right away volunteers stepped forward, and before long we were on track. I am humbled by the enormous amount of work that the members of the RAC have put into organizing this year's annual meeting. In 2021 we are focusing on the ways we have accomplished so much within our organizations, the new methods of delivering information to our patrons, and how, by necessity, our workflows have changed. I am delighted to see that one panel discussion is devoted to the presentations by former MeMA members.

Other topics of discussion throughout the year have included the new website and logo. Sarah Alger and Beth DeFrancis Sun have been working with VisFire and we are getting closer to completion of the logo. The website will be active in the coming year.

In 2021 we are electing a new treasurer and two new officers at large. Many thanks to Phoebe Evans Letocha who has served as treasurer since 2017. Her first term ended in 2019 but she graciously agreed to a second term. Tegan Kehoe, who is running uncontested, will be the new treasurer. Also, thank you to the outgoing officers at large, Melanie Sorsby and Joel Klein. The ballot of candidates for the 2021-2023 term was sent to the membership via the listserv, and the election results will be announced during the annual meeting.

Again, many thanks to the dedication of our members and those who volunteered to serve on the Remote Arrangements Committee. I am looking forward to an exciting annual meeting that will provide us with information, networking and fun social events. When all is wrapped up this year, be on the lookout for an announcement asking for volunteers for next year.

Stay safe and healthy!

Jennifer K. Nieves

Discussion: No questions or comments.

Treasurer's Report (Phoebe Evans Letocha)

See accompanying spreadsheet.

The 2020 fiscal year was unusually short due to the shift from fiscal year (April 1-March 30) to calendar year (January 1-December 31). This will make future recordkeeping much easier. LAMPHHS started the year with slightly over \$50K. Some membership renewals came in early. Expenses were low and expected—PayPal fees, website fees, *Watermark* publishing fees, etc. The website redesign and new logo were also expected expenses. Though we start lower than last year, our income still exceeds expenses (which remain low largely due to the virtual meeting). In 2021 we will have 2 years' worth of awards to pay for.

Discussion: No questions or comments.

Membership Report (Phoebe Evans Letocha)

5/4/2021 as of 8AM Eastern time:

For 2021

Membership renewals for 2021 (October 1, 2020-May 4, 2021): 187

New Members who joined in 2021 (October 1, 2020-May 4, 2021): 21

Total members for 2021 through May 4, 2021: 208 (187 renewing, 21 new members)

2020 members who have not yet renewed in 2021 as of May 4, 2021: 45

For 2020

Membership renewals for 2020 (October 1, 2019-March 31, 2020): 175

ALHHS/MeMA Members whose 2019 dues payment was credited to 2020: 11

New members who joined in 2020 (October 1, 2019-March 31, 2020): 19

Total members at end of ALHHS/MeMA fiscal year, 3/31/20: 205

2019 members who had not yet renewed in 2020 as of December 31, 2020: 26

Total 2020 members at end of LAMPHHS fiscal year, 12/31/20: 236 (191 renewing, 11 MeMA transfers, 35 new members, - 1 death)

The W a t e r m a r k**Volume XLIV****Number 3 (Summer 2021)**For 2019:

Membership renewals for 2019 (October 1, 2018-March 31, 2019): 145

New members who joined in 2019 (October 1, 2018-March 31, 2019): 26

Total members at end of fiscal year, 3/31/19: 171

Total members for 2019 through April 15: 191 (162 renewing, 29 new members)

2018 members who have not yet renewed in 2019 as of April 15th: 24

MeMA members transferred to ALHHS in June 2019: 28

MeMA members who were also 2019 ALHHS members: 11*

*Members who had paid dues to both ALHHS and MeMA in 2019 had their 2nd dues payment credited for 2020

Total 2019 membership as of 12/31/2019 is: 230 (166 renewing, 28 MeMA transfers, 36 new members)

For 2018:

Membership renewals for 2018 (October 1, 2017-March 31, 2018): 144

New members who joined in 2018 (June* 1, 2017-March 31, 2018): 17

Total members at end of fiscal year, 3/31/18: 161

Total members for 2018 through April 30: 170

2017 members who have not yet renewed in 2018 as of April 30th: 21

Total 2018 membership as of 12/31/2018 is: 192 (153 renewing, 39 new members)

*New members who joined after June 2017 were credited to 2018 membership

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

Communications Committee Report

a. Committee (Jamie Rees)

Members: Jamie Rees (Chair); Andy Yamazaki, Tara Wink, Anna Schuldt (Social Media); Gabrielle Barr (Social Media Coordinator, rotating off); Stephen Novak (Watermark); Russell Johnson (Website).

The Communications Committee was created in March 2021 to help coordinate communication between *The Watermark*, the LAMPHHS website, and the various LAMPHHS social media accounts. Ideally, it is chaired by the sitting LAMPHHS Secretary.

In February 2021, discussion surrounding the social media coordinator identified the need for coordination between the social media coordinator(s), *Watermark* editor, and website editor. In March, an ad hoc (see Bylaws 3.22(c)) Social Media Committee was created. As this committee's Chair must sit on the LAMPHHS Steering Committee (composition of Steering Committee: 3.22(a)), the Secretary was tapped to be the ideal chairperson. Members are appointed to various roles by the chairperson.

The full committee met in March 2021 to discuss the adoption of the Steering Committee's Charge and a communications plan. The committee agreed that in addition to the chair, 3 social media committee members, *Watermark* editor, and website editor, 2 additional non-embedded members should be appointed to the committee. These positions have yet to be filled.

The social media committee members have been working on a list of holidays and observance days to be highlighted in social media posts. We also want to reach out to the membership for upcoming anniversaries, celebrations, and events that we could signal boost. We hope to finalize a list of observances for 2021 and launch the plan after the 2021 virtual LAMPHHS meeting. Below is the charge developed by the Steering Committee:

The purpose of the committee is to manage the publicity activities of the organization as a way to share information among current LAMPHHS members and the public.

The Committee is responsible for the following activities:

- Manage and assess the ongoing development of LAMPHHS's use of social media.
- Manage and assess LAMPHHS's existing and future publications, including *Watermark*, and publications that may result from conference sessions.
- Seek and implement new means of communicating with members and non-members as needed.
- Solicit feedback as needed on LAMPHHS communication and outreach initiatives.
- Oversee LAMPHHS's branding, including reviews as needed and any necessary refreshing.
- Ensure that content on the LAMPHHS website is accurate and current.
- Work with the LAMPHHS Treasurer on joint marketing initiatives and general communications with members.
- Advise Steering Committee on matters related to communications.

The Committee consists of up to **7** members appointed by the LAMPHHS Secretary. The committee members should have experience with or an interest in outreach activities and should reflect the diversity of the LAMPHHS membership. Committee members shall serve two-year terms, and they may be reappointed for a second term.

The communications plan developed by the Communications Committee is available either in the LAMPHHS Google Drive or by request via email.

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

b. Website Administrator and Listserv Report (Russell Johnson)

Since various kerfuffles led to our previous alhhs.org name being poached in 2019, we have operated the LAMPHHS website under the unaliated, "actual" URL on a hobbling-along server at UCLA: <http://iis-exhibits.library.ucla.edu/alhhs/index.html>

We load plenty of metadata tags into the HTML coding of our web pages, so a Google search of the term "LAMPHHS" (without quotes) favors links to our website.

Older, pre-LAMPHHS components of the website were not deleted. Some documents (such as lists of past officers and pages for annual meetings) are linked from the LAMPHHS pages. Others were not deleted, just hidden from public view and available for archiving.

The LAMPHHS Website Task Force, chaired by Sarah Alger and Beth DeFrancis Sun, was formed in 2019 during the ALHHS/MeMA merger to secure a new domain name (lamphhs.org), select a host utility, hire a designer, and appoint members to a management group for LAMPHHS. Once the new website is activated on a commercial server, it will replace the one hosted by UCLA, and I will step down as website administrator.

As the current website administrator (until the new site is activated), I served on the new LAMPHHS Communications Committee, chaired by Jamie Rees.

Please stand by after the meeting to be part of a group screenshot, if you are comfortable.

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

c. Social Media Report (Gabrielle Barr)

As of May 5, 2021, the LAMPHHS Facebook page has been liked 308 times and has received 1 unlike. There are 96 members of the LAMPHHS Facebook group, a marked uptick from last year. To ensure better security, a series of questions was put in place in March for those who want to join. There has been an increase in the participation of members in the group due to the Google sign up in the late summer meant to encourage the involvement of LAMPHHS members in highlighting content from their own repositories as well as the number of virtual speaker events across the country as a result of COVID, and more involvement is desired.

With the Twitter account, there are 118 followers, and we follow 21 health-related cultural organizations. This year more activity and attention has been dedicated to this platform, and therefore there have been more likes and resharing of posts.

Last summer, Dawne Lucas, Jamie Reese, and I met to discuss maintaining both the Facebook Page and the Facebook group, which was mentioned in last year's meeting, and it was decided that we continue to do so as they serve different functions--the page

being a portal for those interested in the organization who may not necessarily belong and the group being a place for members to converse and showcase their collections. I have no doubt that the new Communications Committee will further delineate and expand upon LAMPHHS' social media accounts next year.

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

d. *The Watermark* Editor's Report (Steve Novak)

Publication: Since our last meeting in Columbus, four issues of *The Watermark* (v.43, n.3-v.44, n.2) have been published electronically. Issues have ranged from 29 to 46 pages with an average of 34 pages per issue. The reason for the lower number of pages this year than has been usual is no doubt the lack of local arrangements articles relating to the annual meeting.

Personnel: Stephen Novak, Editor; Jack Eckert, Associate Editor; Brooke Fox, Layout Editor; Pat Gallagher, Book Review Editor. Sharon Butcher who served several years as Associate Book Review Editor has stepped down. We are happy that Arlene Shaner has volunteered to replace her. Tegan Kehoe who had served as our MeMA Notes Editor, stepped down when that feature was discontinued due to the merger of ALHHS and MeMA. We thank Sharon and Tegan for their service.

Russell Johnson, as webmaster, has been responsible for the timely inclusion of each issue on the LAMPHHS website.

Lastly, though not "personnel," it is LAMPHHS members who make *The Watermark* possible through their timely submission of articles.

Advertisers: The number of advertisers remains at four. The financial aspects of this will be found in the Treasurer's Report.

New Business: The editor is serving ex-officio on the LAMPHHS Communications Committee. He looks forward to working with the committee to determine how *The Watermark* fits in with the organization's over-all communications plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Novak

Editor, *The Watermark*

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

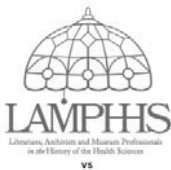
Website Task Force Report (Sarah Alger)

In August of 2020, LAMPHHS signed a contract with VisFire for the design of a new website and logo. The total cost of the web design work will be \$5,000, paid in three installments. The logo design is being provided pro-bono.

Using the Basecamp project management website, Sarah and Beth shared ideas with VisFire and provided links to sites with elements that might work well on the new site. And both parties continue to use Basecamp as a communication tool.

In November, Sarah Alger and Beth DeFrancis Sun met online with Cory Rowan and Guy Haynie to review and discuss the initial website concept and logo options. This was *after* ALHHS and MeMA had selected LAMPHHS as the organization's new name, making it easier for VisFire to conceptualize the new site. Here is a link to the website design mock-up presented by VisFire: <https://xd.adobe.com/view/c829240f-2210-4e7d-97ec-77647cd8228d-9d7a/>

VisFire crafted four logo concepts, all of which included a type of lamp (Tiffany, genie-bottle, and Florence Nightingale):



In December, Sarah and Beth reached out to members of the website task force to get their feedback on VisFire's initial website concept(s) and various logo options. Everyone was pleased with the overall website concept, but the task force couldn't reach a consensus on which type of lamp best reflected the organization. A lamp that better reflected "medical history" was suggested, but finding such a lamp proved challenging. After playing around with iterations of logos, LAMPHHS ultimately decided on a logo that simply *hints* at a lamp:



Now that the logo has been finalized, VisFire will proceed with its work on the website. Lamps of different styles can be incorporated into the new site to reflect different aspects of health history.

As agreed upon by the Website Task Force members, the new site will retain much of the content featured on the earlier ALHHS and MeMA pages, combining/collapsing information as needed and adding pages on the history of the individual and combined organizations. Information on upcoming annual meetings, including preliminary information (accommodations, getting around, experiencing the host city, etc.) will be posted, along with the final program and schedule of events. In addition, a brief summary of previous meetings (including the location, date, and theme) will be retained on the new site.

All pages will be updated to reflect the ALHHS and MeMA merger and name change to LAMPHHS. The membership form (for both new and renewing members) will be available online, with payment options (PayPal or credit card provided).

Information on current and previous officers and committees will remain, although the historical information will be collapsed into a single page. The Awards page will also remain, and anchors will be added to make the content more accessible (currently there is a good amount of information that's not immediately apparent unless you scroll all the way down the page). This section will also include the award application form in both PDF and Word formats (and possibly an online submission utility on the page itself).

All issues of *The Watermark* and guidelines for authors will be posted on the new site, along with the Constitution and Bylaws (modified to reflect the merger); Blue Book (modified and updated); and Procedures Manual (also modified and updated). The HIPAA Resource Page (STHC-ALHHS) will remain, (although this joint project could also use some refreshing).

The “Affiliated Resources” section will be folded into the Internet Resources section, and resources of interest to current ALHHS and MeMA members will be included here. ALHHS and MeMA presentation slides will be posted on the site (in PDF and/or a new format to be determined).

The Old News section will be removed; however, if a blog is added to the new site at a future date, any dated “news” presented as a blog posting would remain on the site, with new items appearing at the top tier.

A listing of current members will NOT appear on the new site since there are concerns about privacy and security. However, the membership roster will continue to be sent to current members.

Each committee will be responsible for updating its own respective pages on the website.

That’s it for now.

Beth DeFrancis Sun & Sarah Alger

Co-chairs, Website Task Force

Discussion: Dawne Lucas, Lucy Ross, Tegan Kehoe, Nicole Milano, Cassie Nespor, Shelly McKellar, Sheri McCaskill, Gabrielle Barr, and Shannon O’Dell express approval of the new logo. Russell Johnson asks if we need to include “in the” as part of the design. Several members (Russell Johnson, Shelley McKellar, Phoebe Evans Letocha, Alan Hawke, Dawne Lucas, and Lisa Mix) agree that the abstract nature of logos may make the omission less of an issue. Sarah can take the request back to VisFire if desired.

Remote Local Arrangements-Social and “Touring” Events (Michaela Sullivan-Fowler)

Though the preference would have been a face-to-face meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, the pandemic derailed our ability to hold our annual meeting at UW-Madison. This did not dilute our enthusiasm for “meeting” with one another through an online (Zoom) platform. My task was to coordinate the social events and three virtual “tours” to be held during the meeting from Tuesday, May 4th through Wednesday, May 5th. Three colleagues, Russell Johnson, Christine Ruggere, and Arlene Slater agreed to present 15

minute remote guides to their collections on Tuesday. There will be a social hour on the first night and breakfast and lunch scenarios for the second day. I will host all three gatherings (from Ebling Library or my kitchen) and sent out the detailed information so that members would know what to expect. The social hour will include the sharing of completed coloring pages; the breakfast, shared recipes; and the lunch, shared arts and crafts as produced during the pandemic. These organized distractions are meant as conversation starters, though we have no doubt that, since we all relish our time together, there will not be a quiet moment! Enjoy the conference.

Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, RLA Chair
UW-Madison

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

RAC Technology Sub-committee Report (Tegan Kehoe)

Based on discussion within our two-person subcommittee and with the larger group of people planning the meeting, our main priorities for a platform were literal and figurative accessibility. We wanted to use a platform that many attendees would already be familiar with, has a small learning curve, and is affordable to us. We also wanted the platform we chose to be as inclusive as possible without requiring attendees to disclose their access needs, which meant at minimum that it would be screen-reader accessible and offer closed captioning. For the meeting itself, we chose Zoom plus the computer-generated caption service Otter which plugs into Zoom, because this met all these requirements. We discussed using a service that uses avatars to simulate a "mingling" experience for one or more of the meeting's social activities, such as Remo or Gather, but could not find any service that met our minimum requirements in terms of removing barriers to access.

The subcommittee offered an optional meeting for presenters and moderators to ask questions and rehearse screen sharing and any other technical issues, which eight people attended. The technology on the two days of the LAMPHHS meeting went smoothly.

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

Program Committee Report (Emily Gustainis)

The 2021 Program Committee includes: Brandon Pieczko (Ruth Lilly Medical Library, Indiana University School of Medicine); Ashlynn Rickord (Public Health Museum); Paula A. Summerly (University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston); and Emily R. Novak Gustainis (Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library, Harvard University) as Chair.

The Program Committee synthesized the 2020 program/member survey results and determined that fundamental changes in the way we are engaging with the following were of high interest to members:

- deprecated notions of neutrality in description;
- legacies of racism, sexism, and other forms of anti-inclusivity in our home organizations; and
- contested collections, problematic histories, and creating a cultural environment relevant to a diverse public.

The Program Committee solicited proposals via the LAMPHHS listserv on January 8, February 8, and February 22 for a February 25, 2021 deadline. The call also appeared in the Winter 2021 issue of *The Watermark* and was shared via the LAMPHHS Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as the Medical Heritage Library's blog.

Proposals were collected via Google Forms. Ten proposals were received; nine were accepted. Throughout the process, the Committee consulted with both the Remote Arrangements and Remote Technology Committees.

Program planning as it evolved was shared with the Steering Committee via a Google doc to communicate progress. Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, Chair, Remote Arrangements, contributed tour and social event programming. The final program was posted to the LAMPHHS website on April 9, 2021.

The Program Committee was excited to offer two keynote speakers this year. Dr. Stephen Kenny, Senior Lecturer, 19th and 20th century North American History, University of Liverpool University, UK, will open the conference with his talk, *Racism, Power and the Culture of Medicine under American Slavery and Jim Crow Segregation*, which will "examine the routine use of Black subjects for demonstration, experimentation, profit, and prestige that characterized medicine in the slavery and Jim Crow eras." Dr. Sabine Hildebrandt, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Lecturer on

Global Health and Social Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, will close the program with her talk *The Changing Faces of the Pernkopf Atlas: Reactions to the History of Anatomy in Nazi Germany*, which "places the Pernkopf atlas in its historical background and describes its evolution from anatomical knowledge source to "tainted masterwork," to interdisciplinary case study in medical history and ethics."

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

Nominating Committee (Gabrielle Barr)

Gabrielle Barr (Chair) and Lois Hendrickson constituted the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee. This year we recruited for the social media coordinator, treasurer, and two officers-at-large positions. In January, we began advertising these open positions through LAMPHHS' social media accounts, the listserv, and *The Watermark*. After some clarification and deliberation, the social media coordinator position ended up becoming part of a greater Communications Committee, which all three of the candidates for this post agreed to serve on. A ballot with the one candidate for treasurer and the three candidates for two Officer-at-Large positions along with a link with the candidate statements was sent out on Tuesday, April 20th. From my understanding, this was the first contested election in many years. Voting ended on May 3rd. Tegan Kehoe was confirmed as treasurer, and Mary Hague-Yearl and Megan Keller Young were elected as officers-at-large. Emails were sent to all of the candidates prior to the results being announced at the annual meeting. Congratulations!

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

Publications Awards Committee Report (Christine Ruggere)

The 2019-20 LAMPHHS Publication Awards Committee included the following members:

Christine Ruggere (chair, Institute of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University), Su-Shan Chin (Medical Archives and Special Collections, Medical Library at NYU Grossman School of Medicine), Christopher R. Ryland (History of Medicine Collections and Archives, Biomedical Library, Vanderbilt University)

Getting off to a delayed start, the announcement requesting nominations for nominations on the LAMPHHS and CADUCEUS-L listservs was sent on February 19th. Russell Johnson updated the announcement on the LAMPHHS website. In keeping with the

policy established last year, as responses were received, Christine checked with Phoebe Evans Letocha to verify the membership status of each nominee. Phoebe responded very quickly to these requests and in only one case was a membership renewal required. This system worked smoothly.

The deadline for nominations was March 5, 2021. Since this would be a virtual annual meeting, we were able to use a later than normal date (no awards needed to be ordered for presentation at the actual meeting). At first there were few entries, but after a second appeal for nominations was sent out in early March, we matched the total of 5 entries received last year. Though not numerous, we received nominations in all three categories: journal articles (1 nomination) and books (1 nomination), and online resource (3 nominations).

PDFs of the book were sent individually to the committee members, and the Chair shared with them the URLs of the websites and the article received in the nomination emails. The committee discussed submissions and selected award recipients over two conference calls, on Apr 19th & 24th. We selected the following LAMPHHS publications award recipients for this year:

& Books published by academic or trade publishers: Megan Rosenbloom, *Dark Archives: A Librarian's Investigation into the Science and History of Books Bound in Human Skin*. NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020.

3 Articles published in journals, trade or private periodicals of recognized standing: Erin J. Torell, (with Tyler S. Pistone, MD, and Andrew P. Gard, MD). "The History of Neurosurgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center," *Journal of Neurosurgery*, Online Publication Date: 19 Feb 2021.

: Online resources produced predominantly by LAMPHHS members: Micaela Sullivan-Fowler. "Investigating the Pandemic of 1918 and its Relationship to Today's Coronavirus: A History of the Health Sciences Guide"

<https://researchguides.library.wisc.edu/pandemic>

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Ruggere

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

Recognition Awards Committee Report (Stephen Greenberg)

The Recognition Committee received one nomination for the Holloway Award: Micaela Sullivan Fowler. Brooke and I agree that she is a worthy candidate and recommend that she receive the award.

There were no nominations received for the Recognition of Merit award.

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

Archives (Jodi Koste)

The ALHHS/LAMPHHS Archives are safely stored and accessible if any members need access. There have been no new requests in the past year.

Discussion: Jennifer Nieves recalls that there was some question about moving the Archives at the 2020 Business Meeting. Jodi confirms this, and says the conversation stalled. The conversation can be picked up in the coming year.

Old and New Business**a. LAMPHHS 501(c)3 Status (Polina Ilieva)**

Polina Ilieva is working with LAMPHHS lawyer, Jason Cotton. The process hinges on finalizing the financial paperwork, which Phoebe Evans-Letocha is working on. Once this is done, we can wrap up the process in a couple of months. Phoebe hopes to finish up before Tegan Kehoe takes over as treasurer. Polina and Phoebe will meet with Jason to work out details.

Discussion: No questions or comments raised.

b. Next Year's Conference—Saratoga Springs, NY

Next year's conference will be held at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, NY. AAHM will hold their meeting on April 21-24, 2022. The host institution is Clarkson University and will be doing local arrangements for AAHM. LAMPHHS doesn't have any members in Saratoga Springs but will send a call out to members in upstate New York.

Transportation may be an issue for anyone not from the east coast. AAHM is looking into transportation from the Albany airport. Anyone coming through New York City can take the train directly to Saratoga Springs. Many institutions have different travel policies, which are constantly shifting as the pandemic evolves. Many things are still uncertain at

this point. The Local Arrangements Committee needs to find members as soon as possible to start planning. Russell Johnson points out that Micaela Sullivan-Fowler has done long-distance local arrangements in the past and may be able to help advise a “super coordinator” who oversees preparations. Jodi Koste will reach out to Stephen Casper, who is leading Local Arrangements for AAHM, to see if he knows of any contacts in the library, archives, and museum world who might like to work with us.

Judy Chelnik suggests a hybrid meeting with aspects of the meeting being made available remotely. Several members expressed support for this for various reasons including: meeting becomes accessible for international LAMPHHS members, allows for participation despite anxiety that may still exist around travel, and avoids institutional travel limits. Scott Grimwood points out that SAA is looking at the hybrid meeting in 2022. A hybrid meeting also poses challenges: AV issues for hybrid can be difficult in terms of amplification in room, handling questions, and making sure it all translates online. Good AV can also be expensive. Shelley McKellar suggests a compromise, offering a hybrid meeting that only some parts of the in-person meeting schedule are delivered/available remotely. Judith Robins suggests that lectures could be pre-recorded to help mitigate AV issues. Judy Wiener suggests that if we obtain space at the university, the online technology may already be integrated and much more affordable or included. Russell emphasizes that if we want to proceed with a hybrid meeting, we must have much earlier deadlines than we have had for fully virtual meetings. Jennifer Nieves raises the point about how to split meeting fees for a remote meeting. Phoebe Evans Letocha points out that we would need to review the budget and costs and base any meeting charges on that. The conclusion is that a hybrid meeting may be possible but must be mindfully managed.

Melissa Grafe and Jodi Koste suggest that we should survey the membership on the various issues raised above. Several members, including Rachel Ingold, Sarah Alger, Phoebe Evans Letocha, and Jennifer Nieves agree with this.

Melissa Grafe brings up the point that we could (respectfully) dissociate from AAHM for the 2022 meeting and meet somewhere more convenient for LAMPHHS members—New York City or Connecticut are proposed. Mary Hague-Yearl points out that moving the meeting would make things harder for those who attend both LAMPHHS and AAHM meetings. The date would probably have to be adjusted to allow for additional travel. Jennifer Nieves agrees that the meeting date would have to be moved if the meeting is moved, thus making a virtual meeting an easier choice.

Overall, there is much to consider when planning the 2022 meeting and no decisions have been made yet.

Adjournment (Jennifer Nieves)

Russell Johnson asked for permission to take screenshots of those attending the meeting. Steve Novak motioned to adjourn, seconded by Melissa Grafe. The meeting is adjourned at 2:04 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Rees

LAMPHHS Secretary

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MEMBER PROFILES



Name: Tegan Kehoe

Member of LAMPHHS since: 2016

Hometown: The greater Boston area is my adopted hometown, but I grew up in Ithaca, NY

Current Employer and Position: Exhibit and Education Specialist at the Paul S. Russell, MD Museum at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA

Education: MA in History and Museum Studies from Tufts University, BA in History and Creative Writing from Brandeis University.

Professional interests: Museum exhibits; education; material culture and healthcare; intersectional history and collective identities in history, especially within medical history; history of scientific study design and methodologies; the intersections of museums and archives. I come from the museum curatorial side of things, but LAMPHHS isn't the only

professional organization I'm involved with that includes both museum professionals and librarians and archivists; I'm also on the board of Digital Commonwealth, an online repository of materials from Massachusetts cultural institutions.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: My first book, *Exploring American Healthcare through 50 Historic Treasures*, is coming out this winter from the American Association for State and Local History Press, and many LAMPHHS members helped make it happen.

One of my hobbies is dabbling in my local community theater group that does staged radio plays – I've acted, written scripts, directed, and done live Foley sound effects. Somehow, I keep getting involved in shows that touch on 19th century concepts of physical or mental health – I've adapted both Stevenson's *Jekyll and Hyde* and Poe's *The Premature Burial* into radio plays.

Name: Shelley McKellar



Member of LAMPHHS since: MeMA member since 2004 and “beguiled into” ALHHS (& dues-paying ALHHS member since 2016)

Hometown: London, Ontario, Canada

Current Position and Employer: Professor and Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at Western University (London, Ontario, Canada) -- <https://history.uwo.ca/people/faculty/mckellar.html>

Education: PhD (History) University of Toronto; MA (History) McMaster University; BA (History/French) University of Ottawa

Professional interests: History of surgery; history of medical instruments and devices; medical biography; object study (material culture); and workshop design for hands-on learning.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies:

- During the 1990s, for 2 years before starting my graduate history training, I worked at the Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa) as a program administrative

assistant and set up the museum archives (after completing a 4-week government-paid archival training course at Library and Archives Canada).

- During the 2000s, I worked as a contract historian for Project Bionics: An ASAIO History Project (a collaboration initiated by the American Association for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO) with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the NLM's History of Medicine folks) at which time I met and learned a tremendous amount about archival and museum collections from kind and generous ALHHS-MeMA members!
- I love my role as curator of the Medical Artifact Collection at Western University (website: <https://medicalhistory.uwo.ca/>) and, as much as possible, I hide in the collection storage space to play with tonsil guillotines and trephines.
- In my spare time, I love visiting art museums, attending live theatre, walking my beagle dog (only sometimes inviting my husband and daughter), biking, and taking "behind-the-scenes" tours of just-about-anything!

Photo: 2017 ALHHS-MeMA meeting in Nashville – I'm in the middle of this good-looking group! Ever so grateful to be a member of LAMPHHS!

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THE ORIGINS OF ALHHS: A REMINISCENCE

By the early 1970s the Medical Library Association (MLA) had grown to several thousand members. Its annual meeting grew along with this membership expansion. Thus small specialty fields, such as the history of medicine and archives, while having a slot on the MLA program, had little if any influence to effect changes in this specialty area while working through the MLA.

The MLA annual meeting in 1974 was held in San Antonio, TX. The history of medicine and archives special interest group met for around one hour one afternoon during this meeting. At this meeting of some 15-25 MLA members, several major decisions were made that would become the origins of the Association of Librarians of the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS).

First it was decided that the current specialty field status of history of medicine librarians and archivists inside the MLA did not meet the professional needs of this emerging

specialty field within medical librarianship. Secondly this small group decided that its main patron group was not the MLA membership but, rather, the members of the American Association of the History of Medicine (AAHM), both professional history of medicine scholars and physicians/health care providers who had serious interest in the history of their health care specialty areas. Acting on these two decisions this group authorized several of its members to contact the AAHM leadership to see if they would allow this new library organization to be affiliated with future AAHM annual meetings. The answer from the AAHM leadership was “yes”, with one stipulation. The AAHM requested that the proposed librarians’ society meet the day prior to the first lecture sessions of the AAHM annual meeting. The new library organization was willing to accept this meeting time slot. Thus, in 1975 the librarians and archivists’ specialty field officially moved from the MLA to the AAHM annual meeting, although the librarians’ group continued to keep its usual slot on the MLA annual program.

The AAHM met in 1975 in Philadelphia and was hosted by The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The newly formed Librarians and Archivists group met on the Thursday afternoon prior to the AAHM annual meeting’s first lecture sessions.

Lisabeth Holloway, curator of the history collection, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia at that time, arranged a private meeting room at the College and provided sherry and sweets for those in attendance. I had just begun my history of medicine professional work as a history of medicine librarian at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Dallas (UTHSCD) and was anxious to see what this new library society was going to do for my profession.

There were some 25-30 in attendance at this meeting in Philadelphia that afternoon. We ranged from new additions to the profession to venerable senior history of medicine librarians and archivists who had years of experience in this special library field. There were also several head medical librarians who had a special interest in the history of medicine. It became apparent quickly who would be the initial leaders of this new society.

Nancy Zinn, PhD, Head of Special Collections in the School of Medicine Library, University of California, San Francisco from 1966-1993, ran this meeting and became this society’s first president. Judith Overmier, PhD, Curator, Owen H. Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, Bio-Medical Library, University of Minnesota, was elected as vice-president. A person whose name I do not remember, was elected

as Secretary/Treasurer. Lisabeth Holloway volunteered to create and serve as the first editor of *The Watermark*, the name of the newsletter as voted on at this first official meeting.

The members then discussed an appropriate name for the society. After much discussion the name Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (ALHHS) was selected as the most inclusive name; at this time museum curators, while welcome to be members, were not viewed as a separate category and so were not included in the association's title. Finances were then discussed and dues established. Committees were instituted, including one on public relations and another to work on the development of the organization's constitution. Plans were discussed for our 1976 meeting to be held in Galveston, TX, again meeting the day before the AAHM meeting's first lecture session.

The meeting in Philadelphia ended with everyone in very high spirits and having considerable optimism for our future as a new library society. Inci Bowman, Curator of Special Collections at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) located on Galveston Island volunteered to serve as host for the 1976 ALHHS annual meeting.

The second ALHHS meeting was held in 1976 on Galveston Island, with the AAHM annual meeting being hosted by the UTMB. Perhaps because of the logistical issues created by the location or the high cost of transportation to and from the AAHM and ALHHS meetings, these meetings only drew rather small audiences. Only 10-20 attended the ALHHS meeting at which the committees presented their reports on the work begun since the Philadelphia meeting. Plans were then discussed for the third annual ALHHS meeting to be held in Madison, WI, and hosted by the special collections librarian and staff of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine.

While Drs. Zinn and Overmier agreed to stay on as president and vice-president of the ALHHS, the secretary/treasurer, citing time constraints in their full time position, stepped down from his position. To fill this leadership void the members at the Galveston ALHHS meeting took an unexpected vote on a replacement for this executive position. After some minimal discussion I was nominated and elected to be the Secretary/Treasurer of the ALHHS. Little did I know what major events loomed in the Society's immediate future.

Returning from Galveston after the ALHHS and AAHM meetings I took up my history of medicine librarian duties at UTHSCD and waited for instructions to carry out my duties as the Secretary/Treasurer of the ALHHS. I had yet to receive a membership list and records on the Society's financial situation. I contacted both Drs. Zinn and Overmier who replied they did not have this material and encouraged me to contact the former Secretary/Treasurer of the ALHHS and request that I be sent this material as soon as possible.

Late August or early September, 1977, I was cutting my grass at home when my wife, Judy Erlen, came rushing out of our home with a letter in her hand. It was from the former Secretary/Treasurer of the ALHHS. This brief letter stated that all the ALHHS membership records had disappeared as well as all organization's financial statements, The ALHHS savings account was empty and had been closed. There was no explanation of how this material had vanished.

I immediately called Drs. Zinn and Overmier for advice about this serious situation for the ALHHS. They both assured me of their support but stated that their full time university positions did not give them time to get involved in trying to salvage the ALHHS.

Thus by dinner time that night the ALHHS had no membership records, no financial statements, and no bank account. For all intents and purposes, the ALHHS was no longer a viable organization. Together, my wife and I set out to create a membership list, develop financial records, and establish a bank account for ALHHS.

How was the ALHHS revived and moved to its current status as an expanding, international leader in the history of medicine librarianship, medical archives, and medical museum fields? Many leaders in these diverse fields deserve the credit for what is now the Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences' (LAMPHHS) continued growth and successes. If possible this will be partially explained in my continuing reminiscences of the early days of ALHHS.

Jonathon Erlen, PhD

History of Medicine Librarian, Retired
Health Sciences Library System
University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

W. Bruce Fye Medical History Research Travel Grant

The W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine is pleased to announce its annual W. Bruce Fye Medical History Research Travel Grant. The grant is available to physicians, historians, medical students, graduate students, faculty members, and independent scholars who wish to use archival and library resources at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The grant (up to \$1,500 in one calendar year) may be used for transportation, lodging, food, and incidental expenses relating to the research project. It is available to residents of the United States and Canada who live more than 75 miles from Rochester.

The W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine houses archival collections that contain official records of the Clinic and its administrative offices, official and unofficial publications, departmental annual reports, committee minutes, photographic and moving images, sound recordings, personal papers, and memorabilia relating to the Mayo Clinic, its mission, programs, and people. To search the archival holdings, please visit the [online catalog \(MAX\)](#).

The W. Bruce Fye History of Medicine Library is a specialized library housing important collections in the history of medicine and allied sciences. Several thousand volumes of rare medical classics (from 1479) and early journal literature (from 1665) comprise the core collection of primary literature on all aspects of medicine and allied fields. More recently published histories, biographies, facsimiles, and other support materials comprise the remainder of the collection of some 23,000 total volumes. Special strengths include anesthesiology, cardiology, dermatology, immunology, ophthalmology, and neurology. The library also has a large collection of Mayo physician bound reprints. To search the library catalog, please visit the library [website](#) (<http://librarycatalog.mayo.edu/>).

Applicants should send by e-mail as attachments the items listed below to Renee Ziemer:

- Abstract of your project (250 words) stating the general scope and purpose
- How historical resources at Mayo Clinic will further your research

- Abbreviated curriculum vitae (3 pages or less)
- One letter of reference that includes comments on your project

Timeline for 2022 grant:

Application deadline (all materials): November 1, 2021

Successful applicant(s) will be notified by December 31, 2021

Visit(s) to Rochester must be completed by December 17, 2022

Contact information:

Renee Ziemer, coordinator

W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine & Mayo Historical Suite

Mayo Clinic

200 First Street SW

Rochester, MN 55905

Telephone: (507) 284-2585

E-mail: ziemer.renee@mayo.edu

Call for Proposals: 2021 Medical Institutional Repositories in Libraries (MIRL) Symposium

The Medical Institutional Repositories in Libraries (MIRL) planning committee is now accepting proposals for the inaugural Medical Institutional Repositories in Libraries (MIRL) Symposium, a free event which will take place virtually on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 (time to be determined). MIRL is a platform-neutral conference and our goal is to gather together IR practitioners and those with an interest in IRs at hospitals, academic medical centers, and other health settings for discussions and sharing of case studies and best practices for digital archiving of institutional content.

MIRL 2021 will feature a keynote by **Kathryn Funk**, Program Manager, PubMed Central, National Library of Medicine.

We are accepting proposals for:

- Panel discussions (approximately 50 minutes including Q&A)
- Presentations (approximately 20 minutes including Q&A)
- Vendor presentations (approximately 5-10 minutes including Q&A)
- Lightning talks (approximately 5-10 minutes including Q&A)



The MIRL planning committee welcomes proposals on a variety of topics including, but not limited to:

- Unique medical/health sciences institutional repository (IR) collections, use

cases, or challenges

- Migrating repository platforms: stories, processes, and lessons learned
- IRs in a time of budget cuts: ROI and justifying the cost
- Finding your champions: marketing your IR
- Reporting out: telling your IR story with statistics and metrics
- IR harvesting and support tools, workflow
- Preprints and medical IRs
- Your IR as a journal publishing platform
- Strategies for management of faculty/researcher publications, conference posters, student collections, digital exhibits
- Promoting Green OA initiatives
- Supporting promotion and tenure using your IR
- COVID-19 and your IR
- Accessibility policies and practices
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion: adopting anti-racist and anti-oppression statements and practices, diversity and health information
- IR work beyond the pandemic: telecommuting or other changes.

Submit your proposal here: <https://forms.gle/AR7pu3qfEijsVnxu8>

Dates

- Deadline for submitting proposals: Friday, September 3, 2021
- Acceptance emails will be sent no later than September 17, 2021
- Registration is free for all attendees and will open in September

Please contact Brenda Fay at Brenda.Fay@aah.org for any questions about the proposal process or about MIRL.

MIRL 2021 planning group members:

- **Brenda Fay** (Advocate Aurora Health)
- **Sara Hoover** (Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, George Washington University)
- **Ramune Kubilius** (Galter Health Sciences Library & Learning Center, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine)
- **Steven Moore** (Henry Ford Health System)
- **Lisa Palmer** (Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School)
- **Gayle Williams** (Henry Ford Health System)


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NEWS FROM THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE DIVISION, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Division staff continue to work remotely to support YOU in your research and can be reached via the [NLM Support Center](#) via the “Write to the Help Desk” blue button. Due to COVID-19, the NLM Reading Room remains closed to the public until further notice. During this period, NLM online collection resources remain available, including [NLM Digital Collections](#) and [PubMed Central](#). NLM continues to provide interlibrary loan (ILL). For the latest NLM ILL service information please see [this web site](#). For the latest NLM Reading Room information check [here](#).

NLM launches a new exhibit:

So,



So, What's New in the Past?
THE MULTIPLE MEANINGS OF MEDICAL HISTORY

WEAPON INSPIRATION EDIFICE POLITICS PROFESSION TODAY'S NEWS

The history of medicine tells different stories and different truths depending on the questions we ask and the concerns we raise. Explore some of the multiple meanings people have found in the history of medicine within the United States. See how, during the last 200 years, people have created and used history of medicine as weapon, as inspiration, as edifice, as politics, as profession, and as today's news.

[*What's New in the Past: The Multiple Meanings of Medical History*](#) is a newly refreshed website that explores how the history of medicine has told different stories and different

truths over time, depending on the questions asked and concerns raised. The exhibit was a 1997 curatorial collaboration between Elizabeth Fee, who was newly appointed Chief of the History of Medicine Division at the time, and educator and historian of medicine Theodore M. Brown. [Visit the exhibition site.](#)

NLM is now on Instagram! This new account will showcase the beauty, variety, and relevance of the physical collections. We are excited to join the greater library community to share more about our collections, projects, and events. Follow @nlm_collections on Instagram today!

[NLM Welcomes Applications to its Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine for 2022](#) – Applications due by September 30, 2021.

[Tune-in to the next NLM History Talk](#), Thursday, September 9 at 2pm ET. Join us to welcome Angela Saward, Research Development Specialist (Moving Image & Sound), Research Development Team, Collections & Research, Wellcome Collection, and NLM's own Sarah Eilers (Archivist/Manager, Historical Audiovisuals), speaking together on *Peril in the Air: Pollution Activism on Film*. Learn more [here](#). Watch past NLM History Talks freely via the [NIH Videocast archive](#), and read interviews with speakers on our blog [Circulating Now](#).

The NLM Web Collecting and Archiving Working Group continues to [identify and select web and social media content](#) documenting the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as part of NLM's [Global Health Events web archive collection](#) (2.5 TB of data). Now including **9K+ publicly available Seed URLs** representing 2.5 terabytes of data, the collection includes federal, state, and local government COVID-19 pages, websites of aid organizations and NGOs, and content documenting life in quarantine, prevention measures, vaccine development, the experiences of healthcare workers, patients, and more. The group is actively reviewing recommended content for inclusion in the archive (**11K+ URLs nominated to date**), scoping and running crawls of content using Archive-It and Conifer (formerly Webrecorder), reviewing archived sites for quality, and adding metadata. The group continues to engage with other cultural heritage organizations archiving the history of COVID-19, including a group spearheaded by the leadership of the [Smithsonian National Museum of American History](#), as well as the group of federal agencies who meet regularly to discuss their respective initiatives. The NLM Web Collecting and Archiving Working Group also continues to engage with the Society of American Archivists Web Archiving Section, the Archive-It community, the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, and is contributing to and following the growing list of institutions collecting COVID-19 related content maintained by the [Documenting the Now](#) project. Nominations for content to include in NLM's Global Health Events collection

remain welcome via nlmwebcollecting@nlm.nih.gov. NLM also continues to participate as an institutional contributor to a broader [International Internet Preservation Consortium \(IIPC\) Novel Coronavirus outbreak web archive collection](#). Learn more about NLM's efforts in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* article "[The National Library of Medicine Global Health Events web archive, coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic collecting](#)," and the broader context of documenting the pandemic published in *Nature* on December 17 "[What are COVID archivists keeping for tomorrow's historians](#)" Moreover, *Government Executive* recently covered how [NIH is Documenting COVID-19 as Well as Responding to It](#).

The Unwritten Record blog of the National Archives featured [an overview](#) of the April virtual conference [Films of State: Moving Images Made by Governments](#), including Sarah Eilers's presentation "Do You Have That Lobotomy Film? Moving Images at the National Library of Medicine" which addressed the origins of NLM's audiovisual collection, the Public Health Service as filmmaker, how NLM's collection does or doesn't overlap with NARA's holdings, content areas in which patrons are most interested, and [Medicine on Screen](#). On her panel, Sarah was joined by colleagues from NARA, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the United States Holocaust Museum, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History, and the Smithsonian Channel.

The NIH Catalyst featured a [story about Marshall Nirenberg](#), the Nobel Prize-winning NIH scientist, NLM *Profiles in Science* [profilee](#), and [major Circulating Now subject](#).

NLM book conservators Holly Herro and Kristi Wright joined leather research colleagues from the Smithsonian Institution and Pennsylvania State University in organizing a virtual three-hour, [fifteen-member international panel](#) discussion on the causes of leather deterioration for the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) 2021 Annual Meeting titled [Leather Selection and Use: a panel discussion on the impact of conservators' choices](#). AIC members prompted the research team to create a [Leather Research Wiki](#) to collocate historic and modern leather research findings. NLM staff are now building a georeferenced database, to make the research data sets globally available. To read more about this initiative, please see this recent [Circulating Now](#) blog post, by an intern involved in the database development.

Are you undertaking and/or have you completed historical research in NLM's collections? Would you like to share it freely with a wide audience? We warmly invite you to be a guest author on our blog [Circulating Now](#). Featured in the [Washington Post](#), *Circulating Now* circulates widely, reaching more than 5,500 direct subscribers and 348,000 followers as part of the official NLM social media network. If you would like to write about your research in our collections, please send an email proposing your topic

to Beth Mullen, managing editor, at elizabeth.mullen@nih.gov. If you do not already subscribe to *Circulating Now*, please do—just look for the “Follow us via email” box on the right-side of the [homepage](#).

REPOSITORY NEWS

David Dickinson Potter Papers Open to Research at Harvard

Staff at the Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, are pleased to announce that the David Dickinson Potter papers are newly processed and open to research.

David Dickinson Potter (1930-2019), the former Robert Winthrop Professor of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School, was a founding faculty member in the School's Department of Neurobiology, the first department of its kind in the world. The papers include records from Potter's research, such as paper drafts, research data, and laboratory notebooks. Also included are films created with Potter's frequent collaborator, Ed Furshpan, that show the first demonstration of nerve impulses transmitted electrically in the synapses. Potter also had an active role in bringing students from historically excluded groups to Harvard Medical School; the records include teaching materials, correspondence, and committee records from Potter's work recruiting students from HBCUs and establishing the Native American High School Summer Program (now the Ed Furshpan and David Potter Native American High School Program) at Harvard Medical School.

The [finding aid for the Potter papers](#) is now available. While currently closed to the public, the Center anticipates reopening to the non-Harvard research community in early 2022. For more information, consult the [Center's website](#) or contact [Public Services](#).

Mount Sinai Aufses Archives Announces New Catalog

The Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, is excited to announce its new online catalog. Based in Access to Memory (AtoM), the catalog will make available records for all our archival material and provide direct access to our digital objects.

The catalog will provide the most complete view of the Archives holdings with everything described together in one place, regardless of processing status, digitization status, or

format. Archival records are keyword searchable, and the system allows for filtering and faceting by names, subjects, and genres, as well as within date ranges.

Summer 2021 project milestones include migrating digitized images and audiovisual material to the new system. Born-digital and digitized records then will be incorporated starting in Fall 2021, with a project completion date in early 2022. If you are interested in using our catalog, it is publicly available at the following address:

<https://archives.mssm.edu/>

News from the Library and Center for the History of Medicine and Public Health, The New York Academy of Medicine

Virtual Visits: Resorts, Pride, and Children



The Library's online engagement continued this spring and summer with three new Virtual Visits: "[A Change of Scenery](#)," on health resorts; "[From the LGBTQ+ Archives](#)"; and "[Health Lessons for Children](#)." Historical Collections Librarian Arlene Shaner uses our extensive collections to develop a theme. All the Library's virtual visits can be

found on our [YouTube playlist](#).

Library Events



The Library has two events planned for the summer and early fall. On August 18, UCLA Special Collections Curator Russell Johnson will speak on letters from the great influenza pandemic of 1918. Finally, on September 23, Keith Wailoo of Princeton University (featured) will continue our historical exploration of race and health with "Inequalities Unmasked: What Pandemics Reveal about Race and U.S. Society, from Yellow Fever to COVID-19." For registration, see <https://www.nyam.org/events/>;

previous events are available through the [Library YouTube playlist](#).

From the Blog



On the Library's blog, "Books, Health, and History," we look at our most [recent acquisitions](#) in the history of medicine and public health; share some of our [favorite collection items](#) for World Book Day on April 23; and hear from Angus Fletcher, a former Library Helfand research fellow, on [literature's healing powers](#), based on insights he gained in our reading room. (The image is from Peter Clemens Kronfeld et al., [The human eye in anatomical transparencies](#) (1943), featured in the World

Book Day post.)

Color Our Collections



Keep coloring! Here is the [great sea snail](#) of the "Sarmatian Sea," from the Library's copy of *Les Oeuvres d'Ambroise Paré* (Paris, 1607). In its [Color Our Collections](#) campaign, the Library collects coloring books from libraries, archives, and museums around the world and mounts them each year in the first week of February.

Library Team Changes

At the end of June, Logan Heiman joined the Academy Library team as Digital Collections Manager. Previously he had worked at the University of Virginia in its Law Library and Digital Humanities initiatives and in the Fine Arts Library and Technical Services Division of Harvard University Libraries. In early May, Andrea Byrne, Digital Technical Specialist, moved to the Center for Jewish History. Welcome, Logan, and good luck, Andrea!

At Home with the NYAM Library

**At Home with the
NYAM Library**

Our monthly e-newsletter highlights our collections, digital and otherwise; Virtual Visits; and our blog, [Books, Health, and History](#). Sign up for the e-newsletter [here](#) and peruse earlier issues: [At Home with the NYAM](#)

[Library](#).

News from the New York Medical College Archives

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the first two quarters of 2021 have been a productive time for the New York Medical College Archives. College staff now have the option to return to campus, and since March the Archivist has been on campus for the majority of his scheduled work hours.

In February, the Archives hosted an online event to celebrate Black History Month. Although the scheduled keynote lecturer, Dr. Adele Alexander, was forced to cancel due to illness, the event was still held. It included virtual unveilings by members of the College chapter of the National Medical Association of permanent poster exhibits honoring four Black graduates of New York Medical College who went on to play important roles as both physicians and civil rights leaders in the New York City metropolitan area. Copies of these posters are now on permanent display on the College campus. The posters honor Eugene Percy Roberts, M.D. 1894, known as “the dean of Harlem physicians” for nearly fifty years of private practice; George Epps Cannon, M.D. 1900, a physician and civil rights leader in Jersey City, New Jersey; Henry Oswi Harding, M.D. 1913, a public health leader in Harlem and longtime president of the Harlem Tuberculosis and Health Association; and Paul Augustus Collins, M.D. 1913, the first Black chief of ophthalmology at Harlem Hospital following its desegregation, who served in 1924 as the first Black delegate to the Democratic National Convention.



In March, the Archives acquired a significant collection of material related to the history of the Metropolitan Hospital Center. Founded in 1875 as the Ward’s Island Homeopathic Hospital and located from 1894 to 1955 on Roosevelt Island, the Metropolitan Hospital Center is now located in East Harlem. It has been affiliated with New York Medical College since its founding, one of the longest-running affiliations between a

medical school and a municipal hospital. The collection contains approximately 8 linear feet of material ranging from the late 19th to early 21st century. The heart of the collection is an incomplete but extensive collection of Metropolitan Hospital Center newsletters and other periodicals from the late 1960s through late 1990s. These provide a detailed record of the activities of a major New York City municipal hospital during the changes and crises of the late twentieth century, including the 1975 city fiscal crisis and ensuing

struggle to save Metropolitan from closure, the AIDS epidemic, the fight against heroin addiction, and the rise of managed care in the municipal hospital system. The collection also includes an assortment of records related to the defunct Metropolitan Hospital School of Nursing.

In May, the Health Sciences Library celebrated a new acquisition for its rare book collection, of which the College Archivist serves as the curator. Peter Bentivegna, M.D. 1985, donated an 1827 third edition of Benjamin Rush's *Medical Inquiries and Observations on the Diseases of the Mind*, a seminal text by the signer of the Declaration of Independence and founding father of American psychiatry. This donation complements the Library's existing holdings of Benjamin Rush material, which include a set of the 1794 first edition of Rush's collected medical works. An informal event was held to celebrate the donation, during which the volume was placed on display along with other Benjamin Rush items from the library collection. The exhibit will be on display in the Health Sciences Library reading room until September.

With his full-time return to campus, the Archivist is resuming the cataloging and processing projects that were put on hold due to the pandemic, including a full inventory of the Library rare books collection. During the next few months, he hopes to expand the Archives' web presence by adding detailed finding aids to the collections and expanding the series of online faculty and alumni biographies to honor the many significant figures whose stories have come to light during the processing of the College Archives.

Nicholas Webb

Archivist & Digital Preservation Librarian
Health Sciences Library
New York Medical College

University of Pittsburgh Creates *Medical Treasures Series*



The University of Pittsburgh's Health Sciences Library System (HSL) Rare Book and Special Collections contain more than 11,000 publications and artifacts. A true gem in Falk Library, this unique collection is only accessible by appointment, but it is quite easy and convenient to schedule a visit. We are always happy to accommodate visitors.

Because of it, Health Sciences Office of Alumni Relations likes to include a short stop at the Rare Book Room in the agenda for a medical alum or a donor visit. During such an encounter, the librarian usually gives an overview of our collections and pulls several interesting items to highlight varied materials we have. The pandemic put an end to such engagements. Therefore, at the request from the Health Sciences Office of Alumni Relations, and with the help the Medical Alumni Association, Health Sciences Library System created a five-episode virtual series *Medical Treasures of the Health Sciences*

Library System. These are short (about 20 minutes) videos showcasing some of the rare and special materials from the medical library. They were done with the general audience in mind, not familiar with rare books and our collections, and they are popular in nature by focusing on imagery and common themes. After they are released for the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences alumni, the videos are available from the [HSLs YouTube channel](#). The fourth episode is ready for July 29 release.

Working on the series was challenging, because even after the library had reopened, only selected personnel was allowed in the building. Researching, creating scripts, and putting videos together was done remotely, but some of the work had to be done in the Rare Book Room. For the librarian who had to get special permissions to come to film and photograph the books for the series, it was a great comfort to be able to touch the books and interact with the collection in person. It was also a great release from being cooped up in the home office for so long.

The virtual series provides a behind-the-scene look into our historical collections, but the in-person visits to the Rare Book Room will be possible soon. HSLs reopens in August with pre-pandemics staffing and hours.

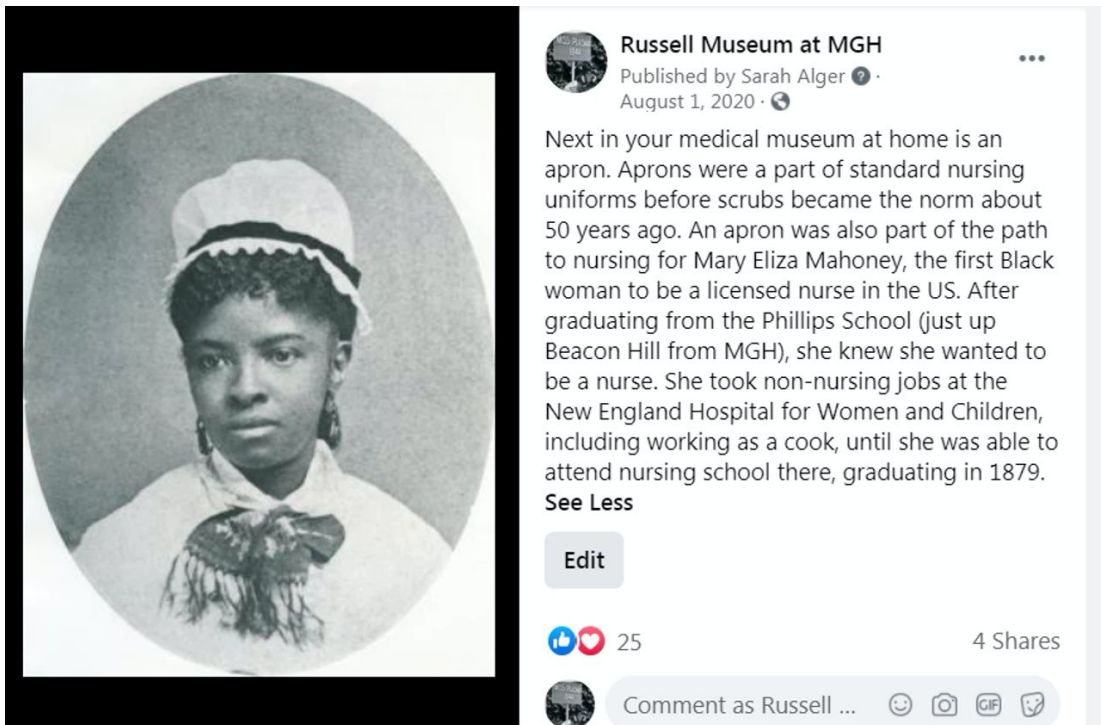
Małgorzata Fort, PhD

Head of Digital Resources Development
Health Sciences Library System
University of Pittsburgh

Russell Museum at Massachusetts General Hospital's Facebook Series Recognized

Since shortly after we began our temporary closure in March 2020, the Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation at Massachusetts General Hospital has been running a series of Facebook posts called "Your Medical Museum at Home." We wanted to ensure that we didn't lose engagement with our social media presence during

the closure and help our audience engage with medical history in an approachable way that included information about past pandemics but also other types of medical history. Each “your medical museum at home” post relates everyday objects to healthcare history, ranging from tents to connect to nineteenth-century tent wards on the hospital’s lawn to drinking straws to connect to the history of pipettes. We did keep up engagement and got some lovely comments from followers. In June, the New England Society for Healthcare Communications [awarded the series a “Lamplighter” healthcare communications award in the social media category.](#)



Tegan Kehoe

Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation
Massachusetts General Hospital

The Wigton Heritage Center: Showcasing the Health Sciences in Nebraska

On June 29th, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) unveiled a new facility designed to memorialize the medical center’s unique history, educate viewers about the rich and diverse history of the health sciences in the state of Nebraska, and serve as a campus welcome center.

The multi-level, 13,000-square-foot facility includes 11 gallery exhibitions and 10 interactive displays that allow the Leon S. McGoogan Health Sciences Library staff to

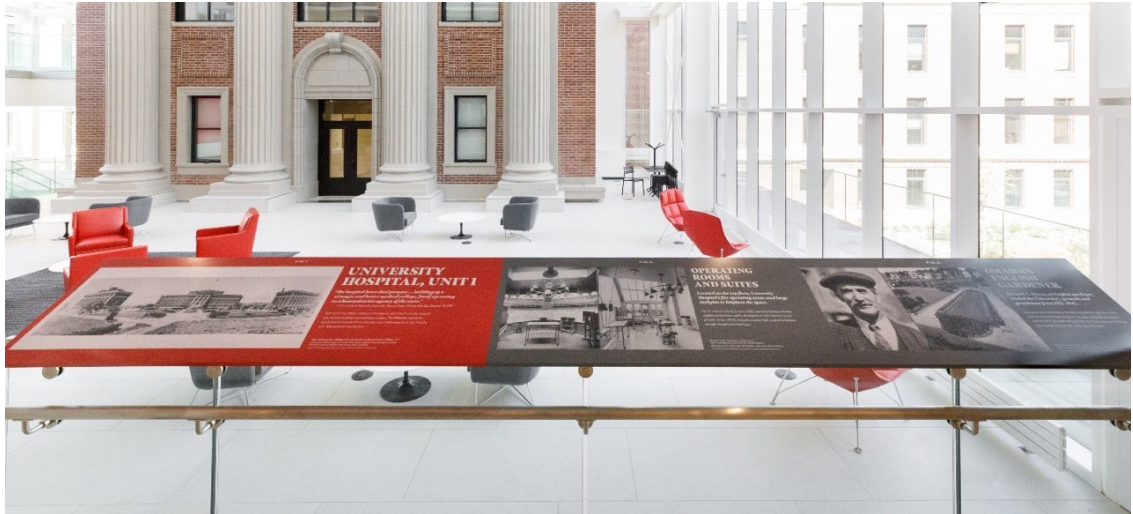


Figure 1a and b: Wigton Heritage Center Atrium enclosing the University Hospital façade and interpretative text of the hospital's history. Photo credit: Kent Sievers

showcase prized collections. University Hospital's historic façade and iconic columns are enclosed within an atrium that serves as a welcoming space for alumni, visitors, new and prospective students, and others. (Figures 1a and b)

On three floors of the Wigton Heritage Center are exhibits that serve as a catalyst for understanding, experiencing, and appreciating UNMC's history and other Nebraska health professionals. Artifacts and images are drawn from the McGoogan's Special Collections and Archives, the UNMC Colleges of Nursing and Dentistry, and cultural institutions across the state. Three additional exhibits will open in November 2021. Interactive displays throughout the Wigton Heritage Center allow visitors to view campus images and biographical information, selections from the library's rare book collection, and listen to oral histories from past UNMC leaders. (Figures 2 and 3)



Figure 2: College of Dentistry exhibition featuring over 100 objects from 1870s-1880s dental offices. Photo credit: Kent Sievers



Figure 3: : Interactive screens featuring UNMC's global healthcare initiatives. Photo credit: Kent Sievers

Carrie J. Meyer, MA

Head Special Collections and Archives
McGoogan Health Sciences Library
University of Nebraska Medical Center

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BOOK REVIEWS

Megan Rosenbloom. *Dark Archives: A Librarian's Investigation into the Science and History of Books Bound in Human Skin*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020. 274 pages. \$26.00. ISBN: 978-0-374-13470-9,

We've all heard the aphorism "Don't judge a book by its cover." For *Dark Archives*, readers may be drawn in by this book's bright, artistic cover, expecting that something dark and beautiful might reside inside. They would be correct, but the contents are not only for the morbidly curious—this book would fit just as comfortably in a university collection as at a public library. Though the subject matter is not light, Megan Rosenbloom masterfully weaves her research with intimate stories of murderers, medical mysteries, brilliant doctors, and skilled craftsmen, keeping readers entertained through both obvious levity and more scientific aspects of her work. Rosenbloom has taken a niche subject that some might find distasteful at worst or a bit odd at best and added enough narrative style to captivate almost anyone interested in the study of books as objects, medical history or, even, ethics. From the French Revolution to the printing of newspapers on Egyptian mummy wrappings to alleged human skin lamps belonging to Nazis, the book takes us on a wild romp through the ages.

Books bound in human skin, also known as anthropodermic books, have greatly varied origins and stories to go along with them. To the disappointment of many, they are usually plain and indistinguishable from any other book, but rumors of their existence abound. They aren't bejeweled or flashy; they're usually quite small. For this reason, printed in these pages is only one photograph of such a book, one the author believes is the most beautiful example: *The Dance of Death* from Brown University's John Hay Library. *Dark Archives* is a look into what they are, where they are, and the lessons and stories they might be able to teach us and why we want to know.

Megan Rosenbloom, a former medical librarian and current collection strategies librarian at UCLA, began with nothing but her curiosity about these unusual volumes and a library faculty position. Much to her astonishment, both of those opened the doors that helped her make connections and begin work on the Anthropodermic Book Project, a multi-disciplinary group of other interested researchers. The project would eventually delve deeply into all aspects of anthropodermic books from their creation to the modern analysis and compilation of confirmed examples. She has spent years traveling to seek out books and the information relating to their provenance.

With the help of Daniel Kirby, a Harvard-based analytical chemist, the modern approach of peptide mass fingerprint or PMF analysis in determining a book's material origin was born. The process involves carefully removing a small sample of the book's binding material and adding it to an enzyme solution where it is digested. It is then placed into a mass-spectrometer on a MALDI (Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization) plate to identify the peptide makeup, which is unique to different species of animals. It is the most accurate way to identify if a book is made of human skin, or more specifically primate skin, as all primates are so closely related. Determining what type of leather a book is bound in was previously done by examining the follicle pattern in the leather, a much more subjective process. Rosenbloom and Kirby, having a shared fascination for anthropodermic books, began comparing notes on other potential books to be examined using this method and created a database. However, not all institutions owning suspected anthropodermic books wish to confirm their suspicions. The books often bring unwanted and often negative attention to their owners.

These differing attitudes toward anthropodermic bibliopegy are a recurring theme. In a visit with Paul Needham, a librarian at Princeton, to discuss their alleged anthropodermic books, Rosenbloom gains another perspective. Needham is a vocal advocate of destroying the books, by removing the human parts and giving them a burial. He explained to her that he believes the intent of the creation of such books is an act of dehumanization, and therefore they should have no place in scholarly research, while Rosenbloom reserves judgment about the book-makers intended motives. Though they had strong differences of opinion, Rosenbloom expressed continued respect for Needham, calling him "erudite and interesting (p. 89)," as she recounts how he shared with her the stunning Gutenberg Bible in his collection, a rare and precious experience for any book lover.

Of the many stories within, I was fascinated by the only book that was not only bound in an author's own skin, but with his express request that it be made. That book is *Narrative of the Life of James Allen, Alias George Walton, Alias Jonas Pierce, Alias James H. York, Alias Burley Grove the Highwayman*. He was a criminal who recounted his adventures to the prison warden upon his deathbed, and surprisingly, his wish of being made into a book was fulfilled. Rosenbloom is a self-described death-positive advocate and helps promote the right to do what we wish with our remains, and later even has a chapter about people who wish to preserve portions of their own skin with tattoos after their own deaths. She asks, what if someone wanted to be bound into a book today? It is not that easy, she explains, and the laws are muddled and different from country to country. Considering how the narrative changes when one chooses to be turned into a

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post-mortem book adds a new element to the conversation, and something to think about.

Dark Archives tackles concepts of medical consent that go so much deeper than anthropodermic books and the ethics of keeping human remains in libraries and museums. Rosenbloom acknowledges the practices that we no longer agree with today while giving practical and varied perspectives on how to approach the moral ambiguity posed by keeping such objects and the practices that created them. They were practices, she concludes, that are an abhorrent affront to common decency. She says, "What we can do, and have a moral obligation to do, is examine the institutions in which these injustices were able to proceed, learn from their mistakes, and critically view the pernicious ways these mindsets might persist in our current society and fight to eradicate them (p. 223)."

I found Rosenbloom's story to be somewhat inspiring, particularly to those of us who might have unusual intellectual curiosities. She has taken a subject she is passionate about and shown us how it can have a positive impact in ways in which we might not have expected. Considering this topic through an academic lens will help keep us from repeating history and guide us in our work as stewards of knowledge. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, not only for the new information and inspiration I discovered in its pages, but for the narrative style and passion that comes through in Rosenbloom's writing. She has taken some of our darkest moments in medical history, fascinating on their own, and made them fit as a part of a larger story about where we have been and the artifacts that have resulted from the decisions and attitudes of the past. I have already recommended it to librarians, medical history buffs, and many others who I know will gain as much pleasure from reading it as I have.

Sheri McCaskill

Colorado State University

Veterinary Teaching Hospital Library

Perri Klass. *A Good Time to be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2020. 376 pages. \$28.95. ISBN: 978-0-393-60999-8

In *A Good Time to be Born*, Dr. Perri Klass provides readers with a picture of how much science and public health have proved pertinent to the survival of children beyond the first five years of life. Her book is broken into three parts – Part I: "The desolation of that empty cradle"; Part II: "The birth of a great and new idea"; and Part III: "What marvelous days." From the very beginning of her book Dr. Klass points out that "our grandparents

and great-grandparents and all the parents before...expected that children would die" (p. 1). In my family's oral history, my grandfather was the oldest of 10, but may have also been the first child to survive beyond the first year of life, and he was born in 1899. My great-grandmother is said to have lost 3 children to either miscarriage or stillbirth. They were immigrants from Italy, yet not poor, or my grandfather would never have been able to attend college and law school.

In the introduction Dr. Klass provides information on why she wrote this book; she provides statistics that help us realize that being born in the late 20th century and beyond, we all have been raised to expect to live to reach old age and to have our children grow up to be productive adults and possibly have children of their own. She relates the story of her training as a pediatrician; how "there was no such thing as "routine" or "unavoidable" infant and child mortality...." (p. 7). There still is no guarantee that every child will survive to adulthood, but without science and public health, we would not be able to defeat new diseases such COVID-19. Looking at the past may help us deal with the future and appreciate those who so diligently and purposefully worked to get us to where we can expect our children to grow up.

In Part I: "The Desolation of that Empty Cradle" Dr. Klass provides a history of how child death was memorialized in the written word of the poet or parent through postmortem poetry and comfort books. She addresses the beginnings of public health in the early 20th century when physicians finally figured out that by improving sanitation and medicine people could survive and thrive. Often child deaths were attributed to being poor, but in reality, child death at that time affected everyone. There are several famous authors, artists, and politicians who lost children to diseases that today would be very rare. Some of the people whose stories are told in this chapter are Charles Willson Peale, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Charles Dickens, Samuel Clemens, and Abraham Lincoln.

The second chapter of Part I is about the mid-19th century and how children were either lost to disease, neglect, or injury. This includes those enslaved, free, Black, white, rich, or poor. Those rich and poor died of diphtheria, smallpox, cholera, pneumonia, and typhoid. Sewage systems were poor as was hygiene. "Medical knowledge at the time of the Civil War was still without a theory of bacteriology; infectious diseases were still thought to be...caused by bad air...and sanitary precautions to prevent diarrheal disease were unknown" (p.60).

In Part II: “The Birth of a Great and New Idea”, Dr. Klass traces the history of childhood death in chapters on mortality, miasmas, and mother’s milk; educating mothers and keeping babies alive; and two chapters on the diseases that killed the majority of children—diphtheria, scarlet fever, and strep. These chapters trace the beginnings of public health through the eyes of Dr. Sara Josephine Baker and the progressive reformers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During this period, many immigrants came to the United States from Europe and settled in the urban areas of the country such as New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. Many were poor and lived in close quarters with little money and little food. It is a wonder that any child survived. The spread of infectious diseases was difficult to prevent because of these crowded conditions. Many of these diseases also affected upper-class neighborhoods and even rural areas. The beginnings of bacteriology are mentioned in this section as well as how milk, both cow and breast, played a role in saving so many lives once pasteurization was made mandatory. But education proves to be the key to keeping babies alive, and promoting breastfeeding was one of the ways that public health experts thought would save children. The two chapters on diphtheria, scarlet fever, and strep discuss the discovery of the bacteria that causes these diseases and the medicines that were discovered that were able to treat these infections. There is also discussion of the development of vaccines for diseases such as diphtheria—who hasn’t had at least one Tdap vaccine?—as well as the medicines, antibiotics, that were discovered to treat these diseases and save so many children and adults.

In Part III: “What Marvellous Days”, Dr. Klass discusses the strides that were made in medicine after World War II, especially in the prevention of polio through the development of the polio vaccines and the ability to treat tuberculosis. The next chapter is very interesting and rather whimsical as it discusses the “incubator show” and how physicians have strived for years to save even the smallest of babies. In the chapter on “something children always have” Dr. Klass discusses measles and chickenpox, why they were something children had and how the vaccines were developed. The last chapter of the book is on what we may consider modern day problems of pediatrics and “liberal” post-war parenting. The chapter discusses the modern development of the specialty and the proliferation of self-help/advice books such as Dr. Spock’s *Baby and Child Care*. Dr. Klass brings into focus that babies still die, but it’s not because diseases aren’t preventable, and that parents are not to be blamed. She discusses the campaign to have babies sleep on their backs rather than on their stomachs. She concludes that the world in which we live is far safer than that of our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents as well as everyone before that. Knowing that our children have a chance to live to be well-educated, productive adults makes us the luckiest people in history.

This well-researched book is definitely something to read or have in your library, especially if you have a specific interest in pediatrics or microbiology. I found it be a very good book to read for a first book review and hope you enjoy reading it too.

Mary A. Hyde, MSLS AHIP

Medical Librarian

Ascension Health Florida Ministries

Jay Yasgur. *Yasgur's Homeopathic Dictionary and Holistic Health Reference* (6th ed.; "revised and enlarged."). Terre Haute, IN: Van Hoy Publishers, 2021. 480 p. Paperback. \$24.00. ISBN: 978-1886149083

The author and compiler of Yasgur's *Homeopathic Dictionary* is Jay Yasgur—not coincidentally President of Van Hoy Publishers¹ --a pharmacist (BS, Duquesne University, 1976²) with a MSc in Allied Health (University of North Florida) who later studied homeopathy with a naturopath. Yasgur has edited, written, and/or published numerous works on homeopathic medical history, ranging from books such as the *Cumulative Index to the 'Homeopathic Physician'* (1996) and *111 Great Homeopaths* (2005) to articles on points of homeopathic terminology in homeopathic medical journals.

The *Dictionary*, however, is Yasgur's magnum opus. The first three editions, published in 1990, 1992, and 1994, all bore the title *A Dictionary of Homeopathic Medical Terminology*. Beginning with the fourth edition in 1998, the scope and the title of the volume were enlarged beyond *Dictionary* to include "holistic health reference." A fifth edition appeared in 2015. A WorldCat (FirstSearch) investigation in May 2021 reveals that only a handful of libraries have ever acquired any of these books, the most prevalent being the fourth edition, which is available in 85 OCLC member libraries. One reason for this reference work's relative rarity may be that while the text has changed with every edition, it has not always changed much, which the author candidly admits. Yasgur states that "the fourth and fifth editions of this book are essentially the same"³ and that the sixth is in fact a revision not of the fifth, but of the fourth. At 480 pages, the sixth edition is just 58 pages longer than its predecessor.

This odd reference work reminds this reviewer of nothing so much as Jorge Luis Borges' fictional taxonomy, described in Borges' essay "The Analytical Language of John Wilkins"⁴ but made famous by Michel Foucault in *The Order of Things*. In this classification system,

animals are divided into (a) those that belong to the emperor; (b) embalmed ones; (c) those that are trained; (d) suckling pigs; (e) mermaids; (f) fabulous ones; (g) stray dogs; (h) those that are included in this classification; (i) those that tremble as if they were mad; (j) innumerable ones; (k) those drawn with a very fine camel's-hair brush; (l) etcetera; (m) those that have just broken the flower vase; (n) those that at a distance resemble flies.⁵

Imagine a reference work in which content is organized according to this flexible guiding principle, and you have Yasgur's *Dictionary* from its very first edition. There is no table of contents to facilitate use, but a comparison can be made with the 4th edition available through the Internet Archive⁶ and certain elements are common between the two editions. The 6th edition includes these disparate features, all present in the 4th:

- A Glossary of Alternative and Holistic Health Care Therapies [brief dictionary]
- "Twelve Homeopaths Perish in Airline Disaster" [reflections on a tragic homeopathic loss of life in 1972]
- Appellations, Journals, and Professional Associations [acronyms, initialisms, etc. pertaining to alternative and holistic organizations]
- Memorial page with a portrait of Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) [founder of homeopathy]⁷
- Memorial page to a 21st-century homeopath
- Some Notes on Scientific Terminology as it Relates to Homeopathy [prefixes, suffixes, eponyms, etc.]
- A Selected Homeopathic Obituary [of multiple homeopaths]

However, the heart of the book, in every edition, is always the *Dictionary* itself. In alphabetical order, here are some illustrative entries:

Alcottism: "a system of diet and health maintenance devised by William Alcott." A see-also reference points to GRAHAMISM; under GRAHAMISM, a small biography describes Graham and Alcott, but only a partial citation is provided as a source for this information, and that partial citation is not available in the Reference list of this 6th edition.

BAAL [capitals original]: "1) A false God or idol. 2) a name given to local deities or Gods having dominion over soil fertility and domestic animals. A Lord, master, owner, keeper, or husband, etc." The relevance of the term to homeopathic practice is left unexplained.

Halloos: “shouts or calls of ‘halloo’, or simply to shout out to. Used to urge on hounds in a hunt.” Again, both historical and homeopathic context are missing.

Heteropathic (allopathic): “the treatment of disease by administering medications or therapies which produce different symptoms in health subjects from those of the disease being treated.” This is an example of a term that really fulfills the promise of Yasgur’s title: it gives a sense of the world of the definer.

Hysteria: This term illustrates the overall organizational flavor of Yasgur’s *Dictionary*. At this entry, there’s an extensive summary of women’s health and a list of important history of medicine texts pertaining to women, but ironically, the reader has to have looked up *Hysteria* to find it. It is also not the location in which one expects to find material on premenstrual syndrome (PMS). And yet, here it is. Neither women’s health nor PMS is cross-referenced to this entry.

Jungian: Carl Jung, the founder of analytical psychology, is discussed extensively at this entry, and a bibliography comparing Jungian thinking to that of noted homeopaths is provided. This is because “Jung’s approach has, of late, become relevant to homeopathy...”⁸

Octavo: “a book approximately 5” x 8” to 6” x 9.5”.” This term’s relevance to homeopathy, as opposed to its relevance to book collecting or librarianship, is not explained.

Overweening pride: Another term that illustrates the potential, but in the end not the actual, usefulness of this *Dictionary*. In classical homeopathy, the patient’s constitutional type—their “inherited and acquired physical, mental, and emotional composition, personality, and temperament”⁹—is as important to diagnosis and selection of the remedy as is the patient’s symptom. Yasgur’s *Dictionary* hints at this connection, reporting that “It is normal for one to have a sense of pride”, but goes on to say that “it can become exaggerated and overbearing as in the case of *Gratiola*.”¹⁰ Googling *Gratiola* reveals that this is one name for the common hedgehyssop¹¹ but readers without an Internet connection have not been well served. Again, no homeopathic context or history has been provided.

Psoriasis syphilitic: “this term may refer to the secondary stage of syphilis ... Or it may refer to psoriasis caused by syphilis...The exact meaning is difficult to ascertain.” Again, with no dates—not even a century—this is not a useful definition. Since Yasgur has

chosen to present this as a *Dictionary*, not a *Historical Dictionary*, location of terms along the space-time continuum would provide a valuable service to the reader.

Since the 4th/5th editions, sections on homeopathic organizations and pharmacies have been dropped as has a complete small article called *Woodbury's 'Dictionary of Homeopathy'* from 1921 and a reproduction of Hahnemann's astrological charts. Of these three deletions, Woodbury's *Dictionary* is the most impactful, because it is an excellent article, just 14 pages long, and reprinted from the *Journal of the American Institute of Homoeopathy*. "The idea of a volume of comprehensive and current homeopathic terminology must have occurred to many another," wrote Dr Woodbury, "yet so far as the writer's personal knowledge is concerned no such compilation has ever been made, if proposed or attempted."¹² Woodbury then went on to list 12 ½ pages of what he called "common terms": homeopathic remedies from *Agaricus Muscarius* (fly agaric, poison mushroom) to *Wood-charcoal* (Carbo ligni), as well as terms used in a homeopathic context (*Centesimal; Symptom; Treatment*).¹³

Woodbury-style content may be what readers think they are acquiring when they purchase the 6th edition of Yasgur's own *Dictionary*. Unfortunately, that is not the case. With Woodbury, the reader knows at least that it is content from 1921. Yasgur's *Dictionary* presents a portmanteau of 376 terms and micro-essays, but only erratically cited, so that historical context is only very randomly available. This is unfortunate, because some entries are interesting and potentially quite relevant to the study and/or interpretation of homeopathic thinking across the centuries. But *how* relevant, and to what centuries, the author has not given us the ability to say. This reviewer cannot recommend acquisition of this 6th edition unless your library has none of the other editions and probably not then either.

Catherine Arnott Smith, PhD

University of Wisconsin-Madison

¹Jay Yasgur [LinkedIn profile]. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jay-yasgur-30299240>

² Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Texas Pharmacist License #45403 [Jay Allen Yasgur.] https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/dbsearch/pht_zoom.asp?id=45403

³ Yasgur, J. (2021). *Yasgur's homeopathic dictionary and holistic health reference* (6th ed.) Van Hoy Publishers. Para 10.

⁴ Duszat, M. (2012). Foucault's laughter: Enumeration, rewriting, and the construction of the essayist in Borges's 'The analytical language of John Wilkins'. *Orbis Litterarum: International Review of Literary Studies*, 67(3), 193–218.

⁵ Foucault, M. 1994. *The order of things. An archeology of the human sciences*. Vintage, New York.

⁶ Yasgur, J. (1998). *Yasgur's homeopathic dictionary, and holistic reference*. <https://archive.org/details/yasgurshomeopath00yasg>

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⁷ Loudon I. (2006). A brief history of homeopathy. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 99(12), 607–610. <https://doi.org/10.1258/jrsm.99.12.607>

⁸ “Jungian.” (2021). In *Yasgur’s homeopathic dictionary, and holistic health reference* (p. 186).

⁹ “Constitutional type.” In Segen, J.C. (2018). *Dictionary of alternative medicine*. Appleton & Lange; p. 97.

¹⁰ “Overweening pride.” (2021). In *Yasgur’s homeopathic dictionary, and holistic health reference* (p. 245).

¹¹ *Gratiola officinalis*. (2021) Plants for a Future.

<https://pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Gratiola+officinalis>

¹² Woodbury, B.C. (1921). A dictionary of homeopathy. *Journal of the American Institute of Homoeopathy*, 14(3).

¹³ *Ibid.*

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