

THE WATERMARK

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

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EDITOR:

Stephen E. Novak
Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
New York, NY
sen13@cumc.columbia.edu

LAYOUT EDITOR:

Brooke Fox
Waring Historical Library
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC
foxeb@musc.edu

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

Jack Eckert
Retired
jack.eckert1@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR:

Vacant

ASSOCIATE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR:

Arlene Shaner
New York Academy of Medicine
New York, NY
ashaner@nyam.org



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: *Bird's Eye View of Saratoga Springs (Troy: Burleigh Litho, 1888). Courtesy, Library of Congress.*

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

As spring creeps into the northern hemisphere, the return to life in the natural world somewhat mirrors our return to “normal” life as the pandemic recedes—or, at least, takes a break. For LAMPHHS this means a hybrid annual meeting that is both in-person and remote. I, for one, can hardly wait to see many of my LAMPHHS colleagues face-to-face at last. A complete program can be found inside.

I'm sorry to point out that no one has volunteered to fill the role of Book Review Editor since the former editor, Pat Gallagher, passed away last year, though I have made several appeals. I hope a LAMPHHS member will see the position as an opportunity to give back to this wonderful organization. Please contact me directly if you're interested: sen13@cumc.columbia.edu

I want to note the passing of John Erlen, who served for many years as our Associate Book Review Editor. John's article on the early years of what was then called the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences (only later was “Archivists” added to the name) was published in the summer 2021 issue of *The Watermark* (v. XLIV, n. 3). It cleared up several mysteries of the first years of what is now LAMPHHS and I'm sorry we won't receive the follow-up article he promised.

As always, a big thank you to the contributors and *Watermark* staff for making this issue possible.

Good reading!

Stephen Novak

Editor, *The Watermark*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring has sprung, and the LAMPHHS annual meeting is just around the corner. The hybrid format seems to be agreeable to our membership, and as of today there are 32 in-person registrants and 20 virtual. Following the hotel's COVID policies means we have had to cap the attendance at 50 but it doesn't look as though that will be a deterrent. Kudos to this year's annual meeting committee members for wrangling the hybrid logistics. Despite all the turmoil over the last two years everyone has stepped up and managed to adapt to necessary changes to our traditional meeting format. Take a look at the LAMPHHS website for the most current meeting information.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate Christine Ruggere who will retire this year after 30+ years at the Institute of Medical History at Johns Hopkins University. Christine has been an active member of LAMPHHS since, well, since long before it became LAMPHHS! Congratulations, Christine. I hope you will continue to join us at the annual meetings.

We received some sad news this year with the passing of two longtime members who have been instrumental in the success of this organization. Pat Gallagher passed away in December 2021. She was secretary/treasurer from 2005-07, was chair of several annual meeting committees and served as book review editor. Pat was a master at getting members to step up and claim a book! Jonathon Erlen attended a small meeting of medical history librarians in 1975 and became one of the early founders of ALHHS. He served as secretary/treasurer for six years, setting the groundwork for the organization's future success. John attended as many meetings as possible and fully intended to attend this year. John passed away in March 2022.

This is my last "From the President" column. I have had a great time working with all my fellow LAMPHHSians! What a terrific group of people you are. I have asked many questions about many things and gotten tons of great advice/feedback. It is so encouraging to witness the activities of such dedicated archivists, librarians, and museum professionals during the weirdness that has been our professional and personal lives.

Our new president, Polina Ilieva, will take up the reins at the 2022 annual meeting. Polina has some exciting plans for the next two years. She and Melissa Grafe have established an education committee that will manage educational events to be

scheduled outside of the annual meeting. Polina just sent out a call for volunteer committee members so please consider being a part of this exciting venture.

Looking forward to seeing (and “seeing”) everyone in Saratoga Springs!

Jennifer K. Nieves

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LAMPHHS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 20-21 APRIL 2022

Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences

<http://iis-exhibits.library.ucla.edu/alhhs/lamphhs2022annualmeeting.html>

All times Eastern/EDT (Eastern Daylight Time); times for hybrid (live and virtual) sessions also are shown in Central, Mountain, and Pacific.

WEDNESDAY, 20 APRIL 2022

2:30-4:00 pm

Tour: Saratoga Springs History Museum

1 East Congress Street (The Canfield Casino in Congress Park)

<https://www.saratogahistory.org/>

Capacity is limited to 25

Tour is free of charge to LAMPHHS meeting registrants and guests

2:30-4:30 pm

**Tour: New York State Military Museum and Veterans
Research Center**

61 Lake Avenue

<https://museum.dmna.ny.gov/>

Capacity is limited to 40

A museum curator will highlight medical items from the collections. Tour is free of charge to LAMPHHS meeting registrants and guests

4:00-6:00 pm	LAMPHHS Steering Committee meeting Saratoga Hilton Hotel 534 Broadway (telephone 518.584.4000) https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/albsahf-the-saratoga-hilton/ Room to be determined
6:00-9:00 pm	Reception Dinner Longfellows Hotel & Restaurant 500 Union Avenue (telephone 518.587.0108) https://www.longfellows.com/restaurant
6:00-6:30 pm	Arrival
6:30-9:00 pm	Dinner

There is space for only 60 attendees; dinner registration is first come, first served.

The dinner will be served station-style and feature a selection of Italian appetizers and entree options. There will be vegan selections.

As the Longfellows Hotel is not within walking distance of the conference hotel, LAMPHHS will provide an Uber code for a free ride to those members who don't have transportation.

THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 2022

Room to be determined, Saratoga Hilton Hotel

534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY (telephone 518.584.4000)

8:00 am - 3:15 pm **LAMPHHS 2022 Annual Meeting**

East.	Cntrl.	Mnt.	Pac.		
8:00- 8:30	7:00- 7:30	6:00- 6:30	5:00- 5:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast	
8:30- 8:40	7:30- 7:40	6:30- 6:40	5:30- 5:40	Welcome Address	Jennifer Nieves , President, LAMPHHS Dittrick Medical History Center
8:40- 9:55	7:40- 8:55	6:40- 7:55	5:40- 6:55	Presentation Session 1	<p>Danielle Glynn, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, <i>The Medical (Mis)Treatment of Women</i></p> <p>Nicholas Webb, New York Medical College, <i>Uncovering the Hidden History of Black M.D. Students at New York Medical College, 1890- 1928</i></p> <p>Nathaniel Nihart and Emma Stout, University of North Carolina, <i>Supporting and Sparking Digital Humanities Initiatives in the History of the Asylum</i></p> <p>Gabrielle Barr, Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum, <i>Taking it to Heart: Documenting and Preserving NIH's Response to COVID-19</i></p>

East.	Cntrl.	Mnt.	Pac.		
9:55- 10:00	8:55- 9:00	7:55- 8:00	6:55- 7:00	Break	
10:00- 11:00	9:00- 10:00	8:00- 9:00	7:00- 8:00	Presentation Session 2	<p><u><i>Special Panel: "Livin' on the Edge! Handling Hazardous Materials in Archival Environments</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Schult and Brooke Fox, Waring Historical Library Medical University of South Carolina, <i>Strychnine, Mercury, Picric Acid, Oh My!</i> • DiAnna Hemsath, McGoogan Health Sciences Library University of Nebraska Medical Center, <i>What's in the Bottle? Assessing Chemical Safety in Collections Prior to a Move</i> • Judith Weiner, The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library, <i>Preparing for a Hazardous Materials Discovery Within Collections</i>
11:00- 11:15	10:00- 10:15	9:00- 9:15	8:00- 8:15	Break	
11:15- 12:15	10:15- 11:15	9:15- 10:15	8:15- 9:15	Keynote	<p><i>Revolutionary Medicine: The Founding Mothers and Fathers in Sickness and in Health</i></p> <p>Jeanne Abrams, Director of the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society and Beck Archives, University of Denver</p>
12:15- 1:15	11:15- 12:15	10:15- 11:15	9:15- 10:15	Business Meeting and Lunch	<i>Agenda to be provided</i>

East.	Cntrl.	Mnt.	Pac.		
1:15- 1:45	12:15- 12:45	11:15- 11:45	10:15- 10:45	Awards and Memorials	
1:45- 2:00	12:45- 1:00	11:45- 12:00	10:45- 11:00	Break	
2:00- 3:15	1:00- 2:15	12:00- 1:15	11:00- 12:15	Presentation Session 3	<p>Aaron Jackson and Polina Ilieva, University of California, San Francisco, <i>Renovation and Reconciliation: The History of Medicine in California</i></p> <p>Michelle Marcella and Lucy Ross, Paul S. Russell, MD Museum of Medical History and Innovation at Massachusetts General Hospital, <i>History at Work: Celebrating Two Centuries of Care</i></p> <p>Gino Pasi, University of Cincinnati, <i>From Skin to Skeleton: Pulling Off, "Andreas Vesalius: Illustrated Human," Exhibit and Lecture Series</i></p> <p>Carrie Meyer and Darby Kurtz, McGoogan Health Sciences Library University of Nebraska Medical Center, <i>Pivot! (It's Not Just for Moving Furniture): Creating a Museum at the University of Nebraska Medical Center</i></p>

3:15 pm

Adjournment

4:00-5:00 pm

Tour: Saratoga Spa State Park

19 Roosevelt Avenue

<https://parks.ny.gov/parks/saratogaspaspa>

Tour is outdoors; dress appropriately

Tour is free of charge to LAMPHHS meeting registrants and guests

8:00-9:00 pm

Online Social Get-Together

To be determined

LAMPHHS 2022 Program Committee

Dan Cavanaugh, *Chair* (Historical Collections, Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia; dmc7be@virginia.edu)

Nancy Dupre Barnes (Independent Consultant)

Brooke Fox (Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina)

Brooke Guthrie (David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University)

LAMPHHS 2022 Local Arrangements Committee

Elise DeAndrea (she/her), *Chair* (Archives & Special Collections, Health Sciences Library, SUNY Upstate Medical University; deandree@upstate.edu)

Cara Howe (she/her) (Archives & Special Collections, Health Sciences Library, SUNY Upstate Medical University)

Nicole Topich (she/her) (Oskar Diethelm Library, DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine)

Gabrielle Barr, *Technology Subcommittee* (Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum) Alison Lotto, *Technology Subcommittee* (Austen Riggs Center)

Russell Johnson, *Advisor* (History and Special Collections for Medicine and the Sciences, Library Special Collections, UCLA)

Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, *Advisor* (Ebling Library for the Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin)

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MEMBER PROFILES



Name: Margaret W. (Peggy) Balch

Member of LAMPHHS since: 2016

Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama

Current Employer and Position: Assistant Professor and Curator of the Reynolds-Finley Historical Library at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Education: BA in History from Birmingham-Southern College; MLIS from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; and MA in History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Professional interests: The history of the book and its materiality and the preservation and conservation of rare books and manuscripts. I came to the history of medicine, science, and healthcare through rare book librarianship, but having worked with the Reynolds-Finley collection in a couple of roles over the past 16 years, I've had the opportunity to explore so many fascinating topics. As a result, my interests span most of the history of medicine and science, but particularly the history of surgery and anesthesia; also, the interplay of scientific thought, medicine, magic and folklore through the medieval and early modern periods; and the history of psychiatry and mental health.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: I enjoy walking at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens several times a week and hiking other nature trails and parks in the area. I also enjoy sewing and crafts, puzzles of all kinds, and going to the movies.



Name: Meredith Gozo (she/her)

Member of LAMPHHS since: 2019

Hometown: St. John, Indiana

Current Employer and Position: University of Rochester Medical Center, Miner Library, Rare Book & Manuscripts Librarian for the

History of Medicine Section

Education: BA, English Literature, Purdue University; MA, English Studies, Loyola University Chicago; MSLIS, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Certificate, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Professional interests: History of the book and text technologies, cataloging and archival description, instruction and outreach.

Other facts, interests, or hobbies: Like so many librarians, I have a strong interest in intellectual history that guides my life in both work and recreation. I like to travel, visit cultural institutions, spend time outdoors, read, and listen to podcasts.

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

History of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium to Retire

On April 15, 2022, the [History of Medicine Finding Aid Consortium](#), after 11 years of useful service, will be retired due to declining use and the technology advancements of other common web indexing services. Resources from most Consortium members can be found in [OCLC's ArchiveGrid](#). We encourage partners of the History of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium to connect with the [National Findings Aids Network](#) (NAFAN), which is working to build a national finding aids discovery service.

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](#).

[Learn about COVID-19 Web Collecting at NLM: Reflections at Two Years](#), on *Circulating Now*, the blog of the NLM History of Medicine Division

Share your research on *Circulating Now*

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](#).

Tune-In to the Next NLM History Talk

Join us on Thursday, April 28, 2022, when we welcome Rana A. Hogarth, PhD, Associate Professor of History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, who will speak on “[The Measure of Black \(Un\)Fitness: Legacies of Slavery in the Early Eugenics Movement](#).” Dr. Hogarth’s talk will be co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the [NLM/NEH partnership](#) to collaborate on research, education, and career initiatives.

NLM History Talks promote awareness and use of NLM and related historical collections for research, education, and public service in biomedicine, the social sciences, and the humanities. The series also supports the commitment of the NLM to recognize the diversity of its collections—which span ten centuries, encompass a range of digital and physical formats, and originate from nearly every part of the globe—and to foreground the voices of people of color, women, and individuals of a variety of cultural and disciplinary backgrounds who value these collections and use them to advance their research, teaching, and learning. Interviews with the speakers in this series are published in *Circulating Now*, the blog of the NLM History of Medicine Division. Explore <https://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/tag/nlmhisttalk/> on the blog and stay informed about NLM History Talks on Twitter at [#NLMHistTalk](#).

Learn more about NLM’s [2022 History Talks](#). All are free, live-streamed globally, and [archived](#) by NIH VideoCasting.

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REPOSITORY NEWS

Mass Eye and Ear's Abraham Pollen Archives Awarded Second Round of Advancing Open Knowledge Grant Funding

In 2021, the Abraham Pollen Archives (APA) of [Mass Eye and Ear](#) (MEE) was awarded a place among the inaugural cohort of Advancing Open Knowledge Grant recipients with the project "Uncovering the Diverse History of Massachusetts Eye and Ear." The grant program, offered by Harvard Library, seeks to fund initiatives that advance open knowledge and foster innovation to further diversity, inclusion, belonging, and anti-racism. For MEE, this generous support made hundreds of hours of research in MEE's collections and beyond possible, resulting in short biographies of many pioneering women and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) in medicine, dozens of newly digitized images, and critical outreach around diversity, from articles and social media posts to providing the Otolaryngology Department with material for a proposed conference room mural.

The APA is thrilled to announce that they have been awarded a second round of [Advancing Open Knowledge Grant](#) funding. In this upcoming phase, the archivist will focus on creating records in ArchivesSpace, conducting oral histories with living pioneers, and building a CURIOSity site to give the project an online home.

For more information, please contact Archivist Vanessa Formato (mailto:vanessa_formato@meei.harvard.edu).

News from the Dittrick Medical History Center, Case Western Reserve University

The Dittrick Medical History Center is thrilled to announce that we are one of the 98 institutions selected to participate in the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) / Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) [Collections Assessment for Preservation \(CAP\) program](#) this year! CAP helps museums improve the care of their collections by providing support for a general conservation assessment of the museum's collections and spaces. The museum will work with a team of preservation professionals to identify preventive conservation priorities. The final assessment report will help the museum prioritize its collections care efforts in the coming years. This highly competitive program is an exciting step towards our goal of preserving the Dittrick's collection for the next generation of students, scholars, and the curious public! The CAP program is administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation through a cooperative

agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (FAIC/IMLS). If any fellow LAMPHHS members have participated in the CAP process, we'd love to hear about your experience!

Earlier this semester, the Dittrick team hosted the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) conservation department for a discussion of the unique preservation challenges of history of medicine collections. This "field trip" was a wonderful opportunity for conservation students to examine artifacts with mixed materials and learn more about the role of artifacts in history museums.



Dittrick Archivist/Registrar Jennifer Nieves discussing the joys of maintaining historic collections within a historic building to conservators from the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA).



Dittrick Chief Curator, Amanda L. Mahoney over-explaining the purpose and function of an O'Dwyer intubation set to our horrified guests from the CMA.

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

Virtual Visit: Improving Maternal Health



Virtual visits are the Library's short video introductions to our collections. This year's virtual visits are presented as a series of short pieces narrated by and filmed with Historical Collections Librarian Arlene Shaner. The series kicked off on March 8 with "[Improving Maternal Health](#)," highlighting NYAM's 1933 landmark report on maternal mortality and some of the flap books, posters, and other educational materials that helped achieve healthy outcomes for mothers and babies.

Spring Library Events

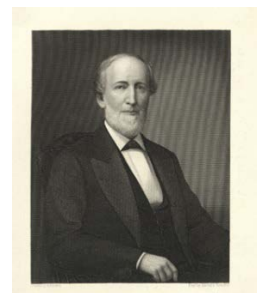


Dr. Susan Clark Ball

The Library collaborated with the Heberden Society of Weill Cornell Medicine to present Dr. Susan Clark Ball of Weill Cornell speaking on March 30 about her book *Voices in the Band: A Doctor, Her Patients, and How the Outlook on AIDS Care Changed from Doomed to Hopeful* (2015). She related her experiences as an AIDS doctor at the 40-year mark of the disease's widespread outbreak. On April 13, the Library, working with NYAM's Women's Health Research and Well-being Workgroup, presents "Maternal Health, Maternal Mortality, and its Intersection with Race," the first in its new 175th-anniversary series *Then and Now*, using history to help understand current concerns. You can register for this and all our events [here](#). All of our events—such as Andrew Curran speaking on "The Bordeaux Academy of Sciences and the Great Race Contest of 1741"—are available through the Library's [events and programs](#) page.

From the Blog

On the Library's blog, "Books, Health, and History," we profile "library luminary" [Samuel S. Purple, M.D.](#), the 19th-century NYAM president who put the Library on the path to build its outstanding collection; consider the Academy's landmark 1933 study of [maternal mortality in the city](#); read about [John Howard](#), the 18th-century reformer helping those who were "sick and in prison," the work of



**Samuel S. Purple, M.D.,
President of the New York
Academy of Medicine,
1875–1879.**

Helfand fellow Dr. Paul E. Sampson; and we celebrate [Color Our Collections](#).

Color Our Collections



The NYAM Library again hosted [Color Our Collections](#) week, February 7–11, this year with 101 coloring books from libraries, archives, and museums around the world. This image from the pamphlet, *A Letter to Expectant Mothers*, published in 1911 by the Committee for the Reduction of Infant Mortality of the New York Milk Committee, is found in our [2022 coloring book](#).

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 on [At Home with](#)

[the NYAM Library](#).

New York Medical College Archives Acquires George Nagamatsu, MD Papers

The New York Medical College Archives has acquired the papers of George Nagamatsu, MD (1904-2001), chair of the College's Department of Urology from 1957 to 1972. In addition to his accomplishments as a urological surgeon and medical device engineer, Dr. Nagamatsu was the first Nisei (American-born child of Japanese immigrant parents) to chair a department at a United States medical school.



Born and raised in Washington State, Dr. Nagamatsu trained as an electrical engineer at the University of Washington but was unable to find employment on the West Coast due to anti-Japanese prejudice. He relocated to New York City in 1928 and enrolled at New York Medical College the following year, graduating with his MD degree in 1933 and joining the faculty as an instructor in 1937.

Dr. Nagamatsu recalled his feelings on December 7, 1941, the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor, as “almost unbearable.” Anxious over whether he would lose the trust of his colleagues and patients, he nonetheless reported as usual for his hospital rounds that morning. During the war, he continued to practice medicine on the College faculty while serving the war effort as an attending surgeon at the Manhattan VA Hospital.

After the war, Dr. Nagamatsu rose through the ranks of the Department of Urology. In 1948 he introduced the Nagamatsu dorsolumbar flap incision, a surgical technique which is still in use today. He became department chair in 1957 and led the department for 15 years, overseeing the creation of its residency program and the expansion of its full-time faculty, before stepping down in 1972 to focus on research.



Dr. Nagamatsu brought his training as an engineer to the practice of urological surgery and developed several widely used instruments, including a fiber optic nephroscope and an electronic prostatometer. He was the founding chairman of the American Urological Society's Biomedical Engineering Committee and the founding president of the Engineering and Urology Society.

Dr. Nagamatsu's papers date primarily from the 1960s and 1970s and document his role in national and international urological research circles. Processing of the collection is ongoing and is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Nicholas Webb

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

Melnick Medical Museum: Exploring Local History Sources to Update Exhibit Text

After years of being limited to mobile presentations and small display cases, the Melnick Medical Museum at Youngstown State University received a new exhibit space in the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services over the summer of 2020. It is exciting and a bit overwhelming for a staff of one.



As I began to reassemble the exhibits, I realized that new text panels were necessary for our main exhibit about the changes in health care in the 20th century. The old text was wordy and vague, giving visitors little chance to relate to the concepts. After taking part in the 2021 LAMPHHS conference, I had so many questions about our local medical history beyond the large hospitals and major doctors I'd read about in the scant available histories. How did immigrants, women, the poor, and African Americans experience health care in the Youngstown area? What were the social and medical-related groups that helped provide care? How can I incorporate some of their stories into this small exhibit space?

About the same time, I was approached by Dr. Amy Fluker from the History Department, who was interested in partnering with the museum to use funds from the Robert W. Reeder I Memorial Endowment. The pandemic interrupted her original plan for the funds, but she decided to focus on student research projects in local history. I suggested a paid student research assistant for local medical history and pulled together some leads. We hired a student, Isabella Adkins, and last semester she started keyword searching through more than 2,300 oral history transcripts of local residents. She is compiling summaries in a spreadsheet and noticing themes about contagious diseases, home remedies, house calls, and quarantines. She is also reading through the *Buckeye Review*, a local Black newspaper, and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube newsletters on

microfilm at the Youngstown Historical Center for Industry and Labor. A graduate student is going through archival collections at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, city directories, census records, and maps. She has uncovered reports from the Social Service department of the city hospital that mention specific public health problems of the city and is using maps to locate ethnic neighborhoods.

This information will help us better understand the values of the community and the specific problems they faced in the 20th century. I hope the new exhibit text will present a more complete history that will connect to our diverse student body and local visitors. In the future, as the museum deepens its ties with the academic programs in the Bitonte College, I am hoping that what we uncover will lead to more in-depth student projects, exhibits, and presentations on some of these topics.

Cassie Nespor

Curator, Melnick Medical Museum
Youngstown State University

Vanderbilt History of Medicine Collections

Following Vanderbilt University protocol, as of March 14 the History of Medicine Collections are once again open to the public. Masks are optional.

Recent archival acquisitions

We have recently acquired several new collections, including two of Nobel laureates in medicine.

- Thanks to a kind donor, we have added five linear feet to the [Stanley Cohen papers](#), including correspondence, photographs, audio-visual materials, and scientific instruments. The collection has been processed to the folder level, and the finding aid is available at <https://collections.library.vanderbilt.edu/repositories/3/resources/3>
- Thanks to the Sutherland family, we have also added six linear feet of scrapbooks, awards, and other framed items and memorabilia to the [Earl W. Sutherland collection](#). The finding aid for this collection is available at <https://collections.library.vanderbilt.edu/repositories/3/resources/675>. Below is a photograph of Dr. Sutherland's Lasker Award, as well as some of the other medals in the collection.



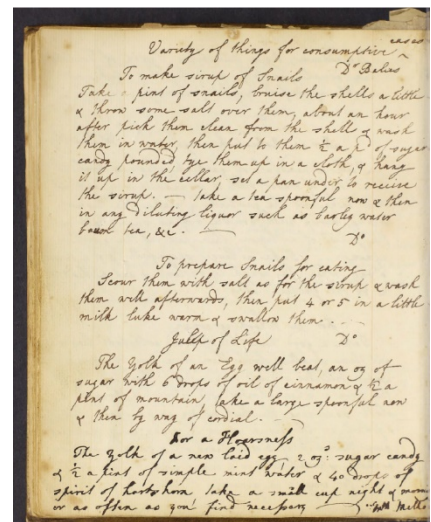
• Charles Lowe collection—Dr. Charles Lowe (1911-2003) of Lebanon, TN, maintained meticulous records over nearly four decades of practice, detailing the medical history, demographics, perinatal, and postnatal information of pregnant women and mothers in rural middle Tennessee. Because the collection consists almost entirely of personal health information of patients, we are still developing access policies that will allow for meaningful scholarship around this collection. We hope to make this collection available for research soon.

New Digital Resources

- Our digital image site *VUMC through Time* has a software update and a new look, but the URL is the same: <https://eblthroughtime.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. You can still add your own images: <https://eblthrough.time.library.vanderbilt.edu/contribution/>. We've recently published many images of medical students from the 1940s to the 1950s.



- We've added several items to our digital collections on [JSTOR](#), including
 - The full run (issues 1-30) of [Nutrition History Notes](#), published by the Vanderbilt ssicaMedical Library from 1977-1987
 - An anonymous 18th century English [cookbook, in manuscript](#)
 - "[Mrs. Bastable's Receipt Book](#)," a 19th century cookbook manuscript



- [Notes taken by James L. Thompson at Transylvania University 1821-22 and Dr. James L. Thompson's records of Obstetrical cases, 1844-45, 1849-1855.](#) Dr. Thompson kept careful records about his obstetrical patients in and around Hartsville, TN, including enslaved women (often by name).

New Books

- Poindexter, Hildrus Augustus. [*My World of Reality \(an Autobiography\)*](#). Detroit: Balamp Pub., 1973.
- Porta, Giambattista della. [*Natural Magick, by John Baptista Porta, a Neapolitane: In Twenty Books ... Wherein Are Set Forth All the Riches and Delights of the Natural Sciences*](#). London: Printed for T. Young and S. Speed, 1658.
- Falconbridge, Alexander. [*An Account of the Slave Trade on the Coast of Africa*](#). London: Printed by J. Phillips, 1788.
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Christopher Ryland, MSIS, CA

Curator, History of Medicine Collections and Archives

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BOOK REVIEWS

Jacqueline H. Wolf. *Cesarean Section: An American History of Risk, Technology, and Consequence*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2018. 320 pages. Paperback. \$24.95. ISBN: 978-1-4214-3811-5

In *Cesarean Section: An American History of Risk, Technology, and Consequence*, historian of medicine Jacqueline H. Wolf documents how cesarean section, “[o]nce among the most vilified and scrupulously avoided surgeries” in the world became “the most commonly performed surgical procedure” in the United States over the course of the twentieth century (p. 3). In the 19th century, cesarean section was a rare, dangerous procedure that was performed to save a mother’s life, but was often unsuccessful. Today, nearly one in three American women give birth via cesarean section, a rate that is one of the highest in the Western world. Wolf tells a uniquely American story, identifying the “medical, historical, cultural, social, political, and economic factors that reframed the meaning of risk in relation to both cesarean birth and vaginal birth” for both

physicians and women giving birth, leading to a sharp increase in the cesarean section rate between 1964 and 1987 (p. 3).

Medical technology and techniques play a key part in Wolf's argument, but this is not a tale of technological determinism. Rather, physicians developed technologies that led them to continually refine and redefine a 'normal' birth, which in turn helped them evaluate whether a woman was at risk for a 'dangerous' birth and would therefore require a cesarean section. Some of these technologies were lifesaving and improved a woman's quality of life after her cesarean. The introduction of antibiotics and blood transfusion in the 1940s significantly reduced the risk of infection and hemorrhage, the most common side effects of cesarean surgery. New surgical techniques, including the location of the incision into the abdomen and uterus, similarly helped women survive a cesarean section, but for most of the twentieth century, physicians discouraged women from attempting a vaginal birth for subsequent pregnancies out of fear that the incision would rupture during labor.

A number of these monitoring technologies isolated the laboring woman from her physician and gave her less agency in the labor process and the decision to perform a cesarean. Wolf describes how obstetrician Emanuel Friedman's graph describing the stages of labor and the length of time they 'normally' take changed the diagnosis of labor dystocia, or failure to progress, from a relatively rare diagnosis related to a woman's anatomy to one that was imposed on any woman whose labor did not follow the stages identified by the Friedman curve. Even though Friedman developed separate criteria for first-time mothers and had intended for his curve to be continually updated based on new data, after the 1950s the Friedman curve was literally imposed on a woman's hospital chart, and if she did not follow the progress on the chart, she would be diagnosed with dystocia. The cure for this diagnosis was always a cesarean section. Wolf similarly documents how the introduction of electronic fetal monitoring and ultrasound examinations in the 1970s allowed physicians to remotely monitor multiple laboring women at once, identifying the moment that a baby went into distress. This impersonal surveillance reinforced the message that labor and vaginal birth were hazardous for the baby, hazards that could be avoided through a timely cesarean section.

Technology alone cannot explain why cesarean rates increased so dramatically after 1964. Wolf expands her analysis to include changing social and behavioral factors that may have contributed to the increase in complicated pregnancies that required medical

intervention. For example, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy and best-selling author Marie Killilea both had high-profile experiences with pregnancy loss, birth defects, and cesarean sections in the 1960s, and their stories shaped American perceptions of the safety and necessity of cesarean birth. Wolf notes that both women were heavy smokers and suggests that their cases may be evidence that “normalizing smoking for women was probably yet another of the many factors leading to the rise in, and greater acceptance of, cesarean sections in the 1970s and 1980s” (p. 95).

By framing the history of the cesarean section as a history of negotiation over risk, rather than one driven by technical change, Wolf is able to present the perspectives and priorities of the physicians who were performing cesarean sections as well as the women who were their patients. She shows how determination of risk was a dialogue that encompassed many other actors, such as spouses, midwives, insurance companies, and hospital administrators. Not all of these participants had equal power in the debate over how to evaluate the risk of vaginal birth and cesareans, an imbalance that is reflected in the archives. Archival sources favor physician’s voices until the mid-20th century, and the procedure was so rare before the 1970s that it was difficult for Wolf to find descriptions of the experience from a mother’s point of view in published or archival sources until the 1980s. Nevertheless, Wolf gives childbearing women agency and a voice as she skillfully balances these documents with extensive evidence from oral history interviews with women in Chicago and southern Ohio who gave birth by cesarean section since the 1970s (p. 210).

Readers are warned that this book is not for the squeamish or faint-hearted—even for those who are used to reading the history of medicine, the history of childbirth can be particularly gory. In addition to vivid descriptions of challenging cases and painful experiences, Wolf includes a number of illustrations of surgical techniques that demonstrate just how risky childbirth and cesareans were and continue to be for both mother and baby. She also provides a helpful glossary of contemporary and historical medical terms for those who do not have a medical background. This well-written, accessible book is a valuable contribution to the history of American medicine, childbirth, and women’s lives and belongs in every medical library collection.

Rena Selya

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Historical Conservancy and Program in the History of Medicine

David Herzberg. *White Market Drugs: Big Pharma and the Hidden History of Addiction in America*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2020. 365 pages. \$27.50. ISBN: 978-0-226-73188-9

In *White Market Drugs*, David Herzberg provides readers with a picture of how much the United States has let the pharmaceutical industry dictate how to treat illnesses, real and imagined. This well-researched book is definitely something to have in your library. Like many historical texts this book is broken into parts—Part 1: The First Crisis: Opioids, 1870s-1950s; Part 2: The Second Crisis: Sedatives and Stimulants, 1920s-1970s; and Part 3: The Third Crisis: Opioids, Sedatives, and Stimulants, 1990s-2010s. Dr. Herzberg's premise is that the current opioid crisis is not a new tragedy for the United States, but that this is currently our third crisis. Throughout the publication, Dr. Herzberg points out how each crisis began, how it was "solved", and why it led to the next crisis, through to our current crisis.

In the introduction, Dr. Herzberg provides an overview of how the United States has been handling the current crisis by pointing out that "...American drug control was too weak to restrain Purdue Pharma, but so strong that it sent countless people to prison" (p. 1). He states that "the answer is all too obvious. In early twenty-first century America, "pharmaceuticals" were not "drugs" ..." (p. 1). He describes "'white markets" as "legal and medically approved social institutions within which the vast majority of American experiences with psychoactive drugs and addiction have taken place" (p. 2). He provides context on the three crises of this book. The first was in the late 1890s to the early 1900s which was the large increase in sales of opioids and cocaine. The second crisis occurred from the 1930s until the 1970s which introduced consumers to sedatives and stimulants. And the third and current crisis occurred because of the huge increases in the use of all three categories of substances. Dr. Herzberg provides a simple definition of medical drugs as "use that heals rather than harms" (p. 3). The rest of the introduction provides information about the people who participate in the development of legal opioids, sedatives, and stimulants. He describes the people who would like to regulate and/or control access to these drugs including the consumer who may need them to treat an illness.

Part 1—The First Crisis—has three chapters: Drug wars and White Markets; "Legitimate addicts" in the first drug war; and Preventing blockbuster opioids. The first chapter on drug wars and white markets starts with an excellent description of why we have not yet been able to solve these problems. "The distinction between 'medicines' and 'drugs' is

central to the way Americans think about, regulate, sell, and use psychoactive substances. Both law and custom are designed to promote access to medicines while prohibiting use of drugs” (p. 15). He describes how medicine and drugs are often nearly the same substance. He describes how the first crisis began and how people reacted to protecting the “innocent” consumer. Because of this crisis there were two groups who tried to organize reforms to respond to it: “The moral crusaders campaigning against racialized urban vices, and therapeutic reformers seeking to strengthen the medical and pharmacy professions” (p. 43). In chapter two Dr. Herzberg covers the period between the 1920s and 1950s that “is remembered as the ‘classic era of narcotics control’ in America—a time when authorities favored prohibition and punishment over treatment” (p. 81). Unfortunately, this meant that there were many people labeled as dope fiends and put in jail for addiction rather than being treated for their dependence. In the third chapter he describes the strong federal regulations initiated by the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN). “The FBN is remembered as a bullying agency that ignored science in favor of racist sensationalism and that used a heavy hand against consumers, physicians, and any blasphemers who dared to criticize the punitive prohibition model that justified its existence” (p. 131).

Part 2—The Second Crisis—also has three chapters: Opioids out, barbiturates in; A new crisis and a new response; and, White markets, under control. In the first chapter addiction is now defined as a psychological problem. Sedatives were “categorized variously as ‘soporifics,’ ‘somnifacients,’ or ‘hypnotics,’ they were prized for surgical anesthesia and for treating severe insomnia, but they were also highly toxic, difficult to use safely, and burdened with a range of unpleasant side effects” (p. 137). A new class of sedatives become available with the introduction of the barbiturates. However, they were not widely used at first until they were marketed for use to treat insomnia. The drug market used overlapping strategies to increase use by physicians and consumers. “First, they expanded uses for barbiturates to include milder, “everyday” versions of insomnia and related suffering—a process often labeled as ‘medicalization.’ Second, they created new market niches through product differentiation. Third, in an early campaign of “selling sickness,” they educated physicians to pay attention to and treat insomnia (p. 139-140). Unfortunately, this backfired because many people, mostly white women, became addicted to barbiturates to deal with the daily stresses of life. It was completely unfortunate that those who tried to regulate barbiturates were unable to do so during the 1950s. However, as the next chapter points out it did not get better it got worse. It was not until the 1960s that people realized that something should be done. Reforms were called for by two groups that were influenced by civil rights and feminism.

It was finally achieved by the passage of the Controlled Substances Act. “The Controlled Substances Act was a complex achievement that contained the tools to pursue contradictory agendas....some elements could be used to replace the arbitrary divide between medicines and drugs...that accepted extensive use of addictive drugs and sought to make that use safer.....many elements did the opposite, doubling down on the medicine-drug divide, and recommitting authorities to prohibiting nonmedical use and punishing nonmedical sales” (p. 204). The final chapter reminds us that even though the American drug policy has had a few successes, it is unclear if we have learned any lessons from these successes, not to mention the many failures. It is best to recognize that even the successes of that time had their flaws. It did not help that in the 1970s many reformers decided not to do it right but to again declare a war on drugs.

The third part—the Third Crisis—has only one chapter that brings us to the current crisis and how we went from sensible reforms, to again criminalizing any nonmedical drug use, to trying to do both. “Both white and informal drug markets were experiencing the most devastating episode yet in a century of drug crises. Anti-regulatory fever, renewed racialization of addiction, the reconfiguration of psychiatry, and the drug industry placing its thumb on the scale of the pain reform movement had all helped rescue white markets from the regulatory doldrums of the 1970s” (p. 181). And of course, this is not working. A recent article in the *Washington Post* states that there has been an increase in fatal opioid overdoses, and it is of concern to officials of course.

Dr. Herzberg concludes that there are several “takeaways” from his research that could help in the future. One is that “the heart of America’s never-ending drug crises—the racialized divide between medicines and drugs—is written in culture and politics, not in stone” (p. 283). Hopefully this book will end up on the desk of many policy makers, reformers, and activists who can then use it to create some commonsense policies that are not based on race and culture.

I would recommend adding this publication to your collection, especially if you have a specific interest in pharmaceuticals and medicine. I found this book to be a good book to read and hope you enjoy reading it too.

Mary A. Hyde, MSLS AHIP

Medical Librarian

Ascension Health Florida Ministries

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