



# NCIPIT

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## HISTORY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCE SECTION NEWSLETTER

January, 1999

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**Well, *That Was Interesting***  
a Letter from the (Acting) Chair  
by Steve Greenberg

It has been, I think we can all agree, a very interesting few months. The presence of my name at the top of this column should give you all an idea of how interesting it's all been. By the way, I use *interesting* in the sense of what I'm told is a traditional Oriental curse: May you live in interesting times.

Things got interesting last Fall, when Maggie Yax, Section Chair and newsletter editor, was forced to resign her dual positions for personal reasons. We will all miss Maggie, and we look forward to when she will be able to rejoin us. More immediately, however, the section was left with a rather large hole at the top.

This is, of course, why we have bylaws. In accordance with these bylaws, Maggie asked me to fill in as Acting Chair until the annual meeting in May 1999, when Chair-elect Barb Van Brimmer will take office. Since the newsletter editor position is appointed rather than elected, I decided to put out this issue by myself, and solicit for a new editor at the annual meeting. You should all consider yourself to have been solicited.

There is, of course, much more going on as well. It's election time, for a new chair-elect, and for a secretary/treasurer. This last

page of this newsletter is your ballot. Please vote and return the ballot to Pat Gallagher, our Parliamentarian, by the date shown.

It has been, all in all, a busy year. Work nears completion on the section BibKit, and section members have been very active in Continuing Education, with courses taught, courses scheduled, and new courses under development.

It has been interesting. Read this newsletter, come to Chicago, and we can be interesting together.

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**MLA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Chicago, IL 14-19 May 1999**  
**Section Sponsored Events:**

**Poster Session:**

**Monday, 17 May 1999 - 2pm to 4pm**

**Section Business Meeting:**

**Monday, 17 May 1999 - 2pm to 3:30pm**

**Section Program:**

**Monday, 17 May 1999 - 4pm to 5:30pm**

**Check your Official Program in  
Chicago for details**

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**Section Programming for the Annual Meeting:**

**"Past Perfect for Present Tense"**

**Monday, 17 May 1999 - 4pm to 5:30pm**

Barb Van Brimmer (Prior Health Sciences Library, OSU), the section Program Chair, has put together a wide-ranging panel of submitted papers for the 1999 sponsored session in Chicago. Abstracts for the papers are available on the section web page. The presenters and their papers are:

Elizabeth R. Warner,  
Scott Memorial Library, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia PA.  
"Historical Investigation as 'Scrap Craft': Teaching Research with Original Sources to Occupational Therapy Students."

helen-ann brown, Samuel J. Wood Library/C.V. Starr Biomedical Information Center, Joan and Sanford I. Weill College of Medicine and Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University, New York NY.

"Can You Get Through to MEDLINE?"

T.A. Singarella, Health Sciences Library and Biocommunications Center, University of Tennessee, Memphis TN

"From the Past to the Future: the Evolution of Electronic and Information Technology and Societal Factors Impacting on Academic Health Sciences Libraries"

Gerald (Jerry) Perry Arizona Health Sciences Library, The University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

"Desert Rheumatism: a Natural History of Valley Fever in Southern Arizona."

Stephen J. Greenberg, Moderator  
History of the Health Sciences Division,  
National Library of Medicine Bethesda, MD

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**Poster Session for the Annual Meeting:  
"That Girl There is Doctor in Medicine"  
Monday, 17 May 1999 - 2pm to 4pm**

The section, in conjunction with NLM, will be sponsoring a poster session by Carol Clausen of the History of Medicine Division of NLM. The subject is Elizabeth Blackwell, America's first female M.D. The exhibit will include reproductions of Blackwell's diploma from the Geneva (New York) Medical College; photographs, memorabilia, and quotations from her life. The title quote recalls the surprise of an elderly gentlemen upon learning that Blackwell was in fact a physician.

The poster session will be held in the Hall of Exhibits of the conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

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**Continuing Education Update**

Patricia Gallagher (New York Academy of Medicine) and Stephen Greenberg (NLM) taught their half-day CE course, "History of Medicine Resources for the Small Library" at the 1998 MAC/MLA Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh last October, and will offer the course again this April at the New York/New Jersey MLA Chapter meeting in New Brunswick, NJ. For further information, contact Pat at [pgallagher@nyam.org](mailto:pgallagher@nyam.org).

Pat and Steve are also developing a full-day survey course on the history of medicine: an eight-hour romp through 4,000 years of history (!). The course would be offered at the MLA annual meeting in Vancouver in 2000.

Section member Heidi Heilemann (Lane Library, Stanford) will be teaching a half day course entitled "Cancer Concepts and

Resources" at the 1999 MLA Annual Meeting. For registration information, see the 1999 Preliminary Program or check the MLA website at [www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org).

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**Notes and Announcements**

**"CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS": AN ARTISTIC AND HISTORIC LOOK AT DENTISTRY**

Included in the remarkable Ars Medica Collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art are a significant number of images pertaining to dentists and their profession. One hundred of these works will be featured in "Crowning Achievements: Dentistry in the Ars Medica Collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art," an exhibition that will be on view from March 28 through May 30, 1999, in the Director's Corridor on the Museum's ground floor. While tooth pulling is the procedure most frequently depicted in this distinctive artistic genre, "Crowning Achievements" will also include advertising posters for tooth drops, pastes and whiteners; chromolithographed cards for 19th-century dentifrices; comic valentines sent anonymously to insult the dentist of one's choice; images of dentists at work on the covers of popular sheet music; and even modern views of a trip to the dentist.

"Crowning Achievements" has been organized by William H. Helfand, the author of numerous books and articles on graphic medical images, and John W. Ittmann, the Museum's Curator of Prints.

For additional information, contact the Marketing and Public Relations Department of the Philadelphia Museum of Art at (215) 684-7860. The Philadelphia Museum of Art is located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway at

26th Street. For general information, call (215) 763-8100, or visit the Museum's website at [www.philamuseum.org](http://www.philamuseum.org).

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**ACOG/Ortho-McNeil Fellowship News**

The ACOG/Ortho-McNeil Fellowship in the History of Obstetrics and Gynecology has given its 1999 awards to Nancy Rose Hunt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan, whose research project is "Eclampsia as a 'Disease of Civilization and Culture?': Southern Physicians, African-American Teen Parturients, and Charity Hospital Care in the United States' 'Eclampsia Belt,' 1920-1960" and to Marie Jenkins Schwartz, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, University of Rhode Island, who will be researching the topic "Medical Men and Midwives: Managing Childbirth in the Slave South." These awards carry stipends of \$5000 each to be used to defray expenses while spending a month in the ACOG historical collection--and other medical/historical collections in the Washington, DC area--continuing research into some are of American obstetric-gynecologic history. Applications for the year 2000 award will be accepted until 1 September 1999 from Susan Rishworth, ACOG History Librarian/Archivist, 409 12th St., SW, Washington, DC 20024, 202-863-2578, [srishwor@acog.org](mailto:srishwor@acog.org)

History-related activities at the 1999 ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting at the Philadelphia Marriott and convention center include the following:

1) a clinical seminar in history on Tuesday, May 19th at 2:00-3:30 in which 1998 ACOG/Ortho-McNeil History Fellow Martha Verbrugge, PhD, will speak on "The Debate

about Exercise and Menstruation in Twentieth-Century America," and W. Benson Harer, MD, president-elect of ACOG, will speak on "A.B. Granville, 1783-1872, Pioneer Ob/Gyn."

2) the annual "History Breakfast," on Wednesday, May 20th of the Special Interest Group in the History of Obstetrics and Gynecology at which ACOG Fellow Michael Schellpfeffer, MD will speak on "N. Sproat Heaney, MD and His Place in the History of Gynecological Surgery."

3) oral history videotaping of some leaders in 20th century obstetrics and gynecology, Arthur Herbst, MD, whose research on the effect of DES alerted the medical and consumer communities to its dangers when taken during pregnancy, and the Drs. Howard W. and Georgeanna Seegar Jones, of the Institute for Reproductive Medicine named after them at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, pioneers in in-vitro fertilization and longtime editors of major ob/gyn journals and textbooks.

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#### Waring Library Lecture

The Waring Library Society will host the Waring Lecture, April 8, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 100 of the Basic Sciences Building on the campus of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. The Waring Lecturer will be Loren A. Rolak, M.D. of the Marshfield Neurosciences Clinics whose lecture is entitled: "The Doctor: The Most Famous Medical Painting." For further information, please contact: Jane Brown, Curator, Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina. Telephone is 843-792-2288; email to brownjm@musc.edu.

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#### New Location for HCHS

The Historical Center for the Health Sciences (HCHS) at the University of Michigan is proud to announce its new location in the Simpson Memorial Institute, the oldest standing building at the University of Michigan medical school. Founded in 1990, the HCHS seeks to document the rich history of medicine in Michigan and serve as a resource for scholars of American medical history. The HCHS publishes high-quality monographs, anthologies, and research guides on different aspects of medicine, public health, and nursing at the University of Michigan. Under the direction of Howard Markel, M.D., Ph.D., the HCHS is engaged in several historical endeavors including a sesquicentennial celebration of the medical school which will run through the year 2000, a large-scale research project of the history of American immigration and public health, and a study of American childhood and pediatrics. Scholars interested in learning more about the HCHS or seeking information about Michigan medical history can contact the Center at (734) 647-6914, FAX: (734) 647-6915, or visit the library's website at [www.med.umich.edu/HCHS](http://www.med.umich.edu/HCHS).

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#### News from the New York Academy of Medicine

A major exhibition entitled, "Keeping Our Words: Books and Paper Conservation at the New York Academy of Medicine," opened in the main reading room of the Academy Library on February 15, 1999. It features the types of treatment used for repairing and stabilizing, both physically and chemically, rare books and documents. The tools, materials, and techniques used for treatments are also displayed.

During 1998, Christie's auction house held a series of three sales at which one of the world's greatest private collections of medical and scientific rare books was put on the block. The Academy bid successfully on three items at the second portion of the sale in June, and are pleased to be adding Dr. Haskell Norman's copies of the following to the Rare Book collection:

*London's dreadful visitation; or a collection of all the bills of mortality for the present year* (London: E. Cotes, 1665).

William Cheselden (1688-1752). *The Anatomy of the Humane Body* (London: N. Cliff and D. Jackson, 1713).

Cotton Mather (1663-1728). *An account of the method and success of inoculating the small-pox, in Boston in New England* (London: J. Peele, 1722).

Over thirty casebooks from Roosevelt Hospital were donated to the Historical Collections by Robert Wickham, M.D. These annual ledgers, which cover over thirty years from the 1870s to the 1900s comprise an invaluable resource for the study of the history of medical care in gilded-age New York City.

Last spring, Richard Lewin, M.D., donated the manuscript recipe and casebook compiled by Dr. George M. Teeple of Schoharie County, N.Y., between 1847 and 1872. We wish to thank Mr. Nick Ferrone for facilitating the transfer of the Teeple manuscript to the Academy's collections.

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**See you in Chicago!!!**

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#### SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION 1999

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions for its 1999 prize essay competition. This prize is awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine as judged by the SSHM's assessment panel.

The winner will be awarded 200 pounds, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal, *Social History of Medicine*. The competition is open to students and recently qualified postdoctoral scholars. The deadline for submissions is 31 December 1999. Further details and an entry form can be obtained from the membership secretary, David Cantor, Department of History and Economic History, Manchester Metropolitan University, Geoffrey Manton Building, Rosamond Street West, Manchester M15 6LL England. [d.cantor@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:d.cantor@mmu.ac.uk) or [dcantor@fs4.ma.man.ac.uk](mailto:dcantor@fs4.ma.man.ac.uk) SSHM website: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~ahzwww/homesshm.htm>

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#### NYMC Essay Competition

The Department of Surgery, New York Medical College announces a \$2,000 prize for the best essay (5,000 words maximum) submitted by a student or health professional on the topic "Medicine at the Millennium: Lessons from the past, planning for the future." The deadline for submission is June 30, 1999. For details, contact Albert B. Lowenfels MD, Department of Surgery, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY 10595. Email to [Lowenfel@nymc.edu](mailto:Lowenfel@nymc.edu).

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14

## ***1999 Election Ballot***

Please enter your choices and return by 15 March 1999.

For Chair-elect: Heidi Heilemann, Lane Library, Stanford University

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

For Secretary/Treasurer: Anne Maria Baxter, National Library of Medicine

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your *signed*, completed ballot to:

Patricia E. Gallagher  
New York Academy of Medicine Library  
1216 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10029-5293

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