NINETEENTH ANNUAL SAFFRON LECTURE TO BE PRESENTED ON MAY 20 AT THE NASSAU CLUB

The annual meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, May 20, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. John Parascandola, PhD, Historian of the United States Public Health Service, will deliver the nineteenth annual Morris H. Saffron Lecture. Dr. Parascandola's lecture is entitled "Anchor and Caduceus: the Creation of the United States Public Health Service." The Saffron Lecture is sponsored by the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m.; the program begins at 4 p.m. The business meeting will include the election of new officers.

Business Meeting -- Murray A. Rosenberg, MD, President

Getting Certified -- Before You've Done and Died
Allen B. Weisse, MD, F.A.C.C.

Patriotic Odor: Sanitation and Typhoid Fever in the National Encampments During the Spanish-American War
Vincent J. Cirillo, MS, PhD candidate, Rutgers University

The Amazing Dr. Dinshah
Stephen Maron, MD

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 p.m.)

The Nineteenth Annual Morris H. Saffron Lecture (7:30):

Anchor and Caduceus: the Creation of the United States Public Health Service
John Parascandola, PhD.
Historian, United States Health Service
Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. The cost is $40/members, $50/guests, and $20/students and medical residents. Advance registration is required. For information, contact Claire Pabers, MHSNJ, 14 Washington Road, Suite 101, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550, 609/275-1911.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Vincent J. Cirillo, MS, will present “Patriotic Odor: Sanitation and Typhoid Fever in the National Encampments During the Spanish-American War” at the annual meeting of the American Osler Society. The Osler Society meets in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association of the History of Medicine, meeting May 5-10, in Toronto, Canada. Mr. Cirillo will deliver the same paper to members of the MHSNJ at the May 20 meeting.

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Gerald N. Grob, PhD, will deliver his presidential address at this year’s annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine. Dr. Grob’s address is entitled “Psychiatry’s Holy Grail: the Search for Mechanisms of Mental Disease.” The 1999 annual meeting of the Association will be held May 9-12 in New Brunswick.

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Sandra Moss, MD, will also present a paper at the American Osler Society annual meeting in Toronto. Dr. Moss’s paper is entitled “Youth and Probably Brains: a Young Doctor Seeks Osler’s Advice.”

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Allen B. Weisse, MD, was elected in 1997 to the American Osler Society.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Save this date -- October 28 -- for the fall meeting of the MHSNJ.
Call for Papers

The MHSNJ calls on all members to contribute abstracts of medical history papers they would like to present at upcoming Society meetings. Interested members should contact Program Chair, Sandra Moss, MD. 908/745-6642 (w).

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Election of New Officers

The MHSNJ will elect new officers at the annual meeting on May 20. The Nominating Committee, William C. Campbell (chair), Lois R. Densky-Wolff, Stephen Maron, and Sandra Moss, are pleased to submit the following slate of candidates for the 1998-2000 term:

- Helen Sheehan, PhD  
  President
- Allen B. Weisse, MD  
  Vice-President
- Frank F. Katz, PhD  
  Secretary/Treasurer

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The MHSNJ welcomes new member, David Hansen, who joined the Society in January.

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A Guide to Resources in Medical History in New Jersey:  
A Status Report on a MHSNJ Project

Frank F. Katz, PhD, Project Director

With approval of the MHSNJ Executive Committee, a grant application was submitted February 1 to the New Jersey Historical Commission. The grant proposal requested $2432 to defray the costs of printing and distributing A Guide to Resources in Medical History in New Jersey. The Guide's publication will be the culmination of a survey conducted under the auspices of the MHSNJ to identify and locate medical history resources in the state.

The MHSNJ publication will be distributed free to survey participants, now numbering thirty-eight, as well as registrants to the 1999 annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine to be held in New Brunswick. Proceeds from the sale of the Guide will benefit the MHSNJ. Availability and pricing information will be announced in a future issue of the newsletter and in other appropriate media.
"Epidemics & Epizootics: Pestilence in Soldiers and Their Horses" is the title of a Civil War Medicine Symposium held May 15-17 in Lynchburg, Virginia. During the Civil War, Lynchburg was the second largest medical complex in the Confederacy. The Old City Cemetery was the site of three important components of a medical complex: the Pest House Quarantine Hospital; the site of early research on the equine disease, Glanders, which was ravaging cavalry horses; and the final burying ground for over 2200 soldiers who died in Lynchburg’s hospitals. Today the cemetery is restored and interpreted to preserve the site and its stories.

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Dedication Held for the Peck History of Medicine Room and Bergen University Archives

Nearly seventy guests joined the UMDNJ University Libraries on March 25 to celebrate the formal dedication of the Barbara Manisty Peck History of Medicine Room and the Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, University Archives. A reception, program, and tour were held to publicly thank the donors who’s gifts made possible the transformation of the Department of Special Collections. The new rooms are located at the George F. Smith Library on the Newark campus.

MHS member, William D. Sharpe, was recognized for his family’s contribution to the Peck Room, and the UMDNJ Champions were acknowledged for the creation of Bergen University Archives. Program speakers included MHS member and University Librarian Victor A. Basile, Dr. Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., Dr. John Kostis representing the Champions, Dr. Sharpe, and MHS member Lois Densky-Wolff.

To complement the dedication, “Highlights from Special Collections: Looking Back on Exhibits Past” was installed in the Library Exhibition Gallery. The exhibit displays a selection of materials drawn from the collections in the Peck History of Medicine Room and Bergen University Archives. Materials are representative of the resources available in the department.

“Highlights from Special Collections: Looking Back on Exhibits Past” will remain on display through December 1998.

Recent Acquisitions at UMDNJ-Special Collections

UMDNJ University Libraries acquired a variety of historic medical books and archival material recently. These materials have been added to the holdings in the Barbara Mannisté Peck History of Medicine Room and the Stanley S. Bergen, Jr., MD, University Archives, both part of the Department of Special Collections.

The historic records of United HealthCare Systems, Inc., were donated by Quorum Health Resources. The records document United Hospitals, especially the former Presbyterian and Newark Babies Hospitals. The material includes minute books, annual reports, deeds and titles describing United Hospitals' property, photographs, and the “United Hospitals Archival File” -- a photocopy collection of original documents. The collection should prove to be an excellent resource on the history of some of Newark’s earliest hospitals.

A circa 1885-1890 pharmacy manuscript book was purchased with funds from an annual gift of the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. A Book of Receipts [sic] was kept by William Palmer Melcher, MD (1849-1914), an 1876 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical College. The recipe book documents Dr. Melcher’s medical practice in Mt. Holly, New Jersey.

“The Sanitary Commission Ministering to the Wounded and Dying After the Battle,” an unsigned, hand colored print, was donated by MHS President Murray A. Rosenberg, MD. The United States Sanitary Commission raised one million dollars during the Civil War for the aid and comfort of Union soldiers wounded after battle. More American soldiers died during this war than in any other military engagement fought by the United States. Dr. Rosenberg previously donated a World War II recruiting poster illustrating women of the Cadet Nurse Corp.

A fine 1970 facsimile edition of Francisco Bravo’s Opera Medicinalia (Mexico, 1570) was purchased with funding from the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. Bravo’s work was the first medical book published in the New World and includes references to indigenous drugs. A separate scholarly commentary by Francisco Guerra accompanies the book.

Three books were purchased at the auction held last February by Swann Galleries. The books are: Louis Duhring’s Atlas of Skin Diseases (1876) with 36
chromolithograph plates, David Hosack’s *An Inaugural Discourse, Delivered at the Opening of Rutgers Medical College, in the City of New-York* (1826), and Samuel Scofield’s *A Practical Treatise on Vaccina or Cowpock* (1810) with a hand-colored engraved frontispiece showing vaccinia pustules; all three works are American first editions.

Another book purchased with funds from the Academy’s gift is a rare New Jersey imprint published in Salem. The book is titled, *Wesley’s Family Physician, Revised: and Ware’s Medical Advisor* by T.E. Ware (1839). This is the second New Jersey medical imprint known to exist according to Joseph J. Felcone, antiquarian bookseller in Princeton.

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University of Michigan
Historical Health Film Collection

This is an on-site research collection of films about health and medicine made for lay audiences. The films date primarily from 1910-1930, with some materials dating from 1897-1955. Professor Martin S. Pernick, Department of History, University of Michigan, collected this visual resource. The collection includes 167 titles running almost seventy hours. A key word catalog is available on the Web. Direct your browser to the following URL: <http://www.med.umich.edu/HCHS/Files/ReferenceRoom/Catalogs/HealthFilms/healthfilms.html>.

Researchers may only view the films for research and teaching use on-site at the University of Michigan. The collection holds no rights to duplicate materials or to distribute them off-campus. Researchers will be referred to other rightsholders to obtain copies. Commercial users may be charged a fee. Use of the collection is by appointment only. To arrange a research visit or for further information contact: Prof. Martin S. Pernick, Dept. of History, University Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003, (734) 647-4876, Mpernick@umich.edu.
MEMBERS’ PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 1997


_______, Historical vignettes (various). Sem Dialysis 1997; 10(1-6).


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The Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey is published twice a year in May and October by the Society, and is a benefit of membership. Deadline for the next newsletter is September 1, 1998. Correspondence and submissions may be addressed to:

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