The fall meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, October 27, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Margaret Marsh, PhD, and Wanda Ronner, MD, co-authors of *The Empty Cradle: Infertility in America from Colonial Times to the Present* (Johns Hopkins Press, 1996) will present the Seventh Annual Corporate Lecture. Their paper is entitled “Thinkin’ of Maybe Havin’ a Baby...When I’m 64: Contemporary Reproductive Technology in Historical Perspective.” Frederick C. Skvara, MD will display medical philately related to the program. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m.; the program begins at 4 p.m. A short business meeting will be held.

Business Meeting -- Helen Sheehan, PhD, President

*The Murderer and the Parasite: A Reminiscence of Nathan Leopold*
William Campbell, PhD

*Using Cold Water for Health: A Century of Shifting Paradigms in Denville, NJ*
Wolfgang Jöchle, DVM

*From Amulets to Zodiac Man: History Resources at UMDNJ*
Lois Densky-Wolff, MA

*Dr. Franklin’s Thoughts on Food, Drink, and Gout*
Frances P. Chinard, MD

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

Seventh Annual Corporate Lecture (7:30):
**Thinkin' of Maybe Havin' a Baby...When I'm 64: Contemporary Reproductive Technology in Historical Perspective**

Margaret Marsh, PhD, Professor of History, Rutgers University and Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University College and Graduate School, Camden

Wanda Ronner, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. The cost is $40/members, $50/guests. Advance registration is required. For information, contact Linda Bartolo, MHSNJ, 14 Washington Road, Suite 101, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550, (609) 275-1911.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Following the May meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), I received a letter from the AAHM president. That letter and my reply is reproduced below:

June 4, 1999

Dear Dr. Sheehan:

On behalf of the AAHM, and on my own behalf, I want to thank you and MHSNJ for sterling contributions to the annual meeting of the AAHM in New Brunswick last month. I attended two luncheons that were organized by your members, and my wife was an appreciative participant in the trip to Ellis Island. But those were only the most obvious contributions of the MHSNJ. I was recurrently aware of the ways in which your members were vital contributors. I was especially aware of the contributions of Dr. Sandra Moss and Dr. Allen Weisse, but I am sure there were other significant contributors. Please accept the AAHM's heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them.

With my best personal regards,
Stanley W. Jackson, MD, President

July 23, 1999

Dear Dr. Jackson:

Thank you for your very kind letter regarding the contributions of the Medical History Society of New Jersey to the annual meeting of the AAHM in New Brunswick. Several of our members, especially Dr. Moss and Dr. Weisse, as you noted, devoted considerable energy to ensuring the quality and interest level of the Society's activities. It was a pleasure to meet you and your wife at the meeting. I know our members will continue their interest and participation in future AAHM meetings; we hope that another meeting will take place in New Jersey in the not too distant future.

With thanks, Sincerely, Helen E. Sheehan, PhD, President, MHSNJ
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS
INCLUDING RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

On May 19 Vincent J. Cirillo received his PhD in the history of science and medicine from Rutgers University, having completed his dissertation titled 'The Spanish-American War and Military Medicine.' Dr. Cirillo recently published 'Edward Bliss Foote' in American National Biography (Oxford University Press, 1999). He is currently researching the care of the wounded in the Spanish-American War, and converting his PhD dissertation into a book.

David L. Cowen, MA and William H. Helfand have revised their book Pharmacy: An Illustrated History. The new edition is scheduled to appear in the spring. Mr. Cowen is writing an essay on 'Medicine and Health in New Jersey' for the projected New Jersey Encyclopedia. Advice and suggestions would be welcome: dlcowen@juno.com. Vin Cirillo reports that on August 22nd David Cowen celebrated his 90th birthday with 159 family members and close friends at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City. Our Congratulations, David!

Gerald N. Grob, Ph.D. presented 'Mental Health Policy in Twentieth Century America' at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, in November 1998. Dr. Grob is completing a book, Disease and Environment in America: Retrospect and Prospect, under contract to Harvard University Press. Dr. Grob has regained his strength after chairing the Local Arrangements Committee of the AAHM for the meeting last May in New Brunswick.

Wolfgang Jöchle, DVM presented 'Observations on Animals and on Animal Physiology in "Herodotus: The Histories": Facts and Fantasies' at the 30th Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine in Munich, Germany, in September 1998 (Proceedings by DVG, Giessen/Germany, pp 125-36). Dr. Jöchle is currently researching the techniques used for and cultural history of castration in humans and animals.

Frank F. Katz, PhD is researching the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and the State of New Jersey's vivisection laws.

Sandra Moss, MD recently presented 'A History of Medical Education in America' during Grand Rounds at St. Peter's University Medical Center, New Brunswick. Dr. Moss is researching the history of eclampsia.

Victor Parsonnet, MD reports that he has been "working at a 'constant low level' on a history of the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center that is now 98 years old.
The actual history is being written by two professional historians, in conjunction with the Jewish Community of MetroWest, and supported by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. A book on the subject should be ready in about two years.”

Michael Schulder, MD is currently researching the nexus of neurosurgery and psychoanalysis at the turn of the 20th century.

Kenneth G. Swan, MD reports that his book, James Bolton, MD: Reflections on an American Surgeon, will be published next month. Dr. Swan will present a paper on Dr. Bolton at the MHSNJ in May of 2000.

Allen B. Weisse, MD presented 'A Gallery of New Jersey Physicians' at a luncheon session at the May AAHM meeting. Dr. Weisse organized the very successful tour of the abandoned medical facilities on Ellis Island during the same conference. He is currently conducting an oral history of 20th century cardiology and cardiac surgery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"First, Do No Harm": The Evolution of Consent in Human Research

"First, Do No Harm": The Evolution of Consent in Human Research, a medical history/medical ethics symposium, will be held on the Newark Campus of the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) on February 7, 2000. The all-day symposium is sponsored by the MHSNJ in collaboration with the Saffron Endowment for Education in the History of Medicine, UMDNJ, and the New Jersey Medical School.

The keynote speaker is George J. Annas, JD, MPH, Utley Professor and Chair, Health Law Department, Boston University, School of Health, who will speak on 'Lessons from Nuremberg.' Both historic and current issues on medical ethics will be discussed. Helen Sheehan, PhD, and Richard P. Wedeen, MD are the symposium organizers. The program is reproduced below.

8:30-9:00 AM  Registration/Coffee
9:00-9:15 AM  WELCOME
Helen Sheehan, PhD President, MHSNJ
Stuart D. Cook, MD President, UMDNJ
Ruy V. Lourenco, MD Dean, NJMS
9:15-9:30 AM  INTRODUCTION
Richard P. Wedeen, M.D., Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ-NJMS
9:30-10:15 AM  LESSONS FROM NUREMBERG
George J. Annas, JD, MPH, Utley Professor and Chair, Health Law Department, Boston University, School of Health, Boston, MA

10:15-10:30 AM
Coffee Break

10:30 11:15 AM
WHAT WAS AND IS EUGENICS? WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM ITS HISTORY?
Garland E. Allen III, PhD, Professor of Biology, Washington University in St. Louis

11:15 AM-12:15 PM
CURRENT ISSUES
ABUSES OF MEDICAL POWER, Francis P. Chinard, MD, Emeritus Research Professor, UMDNJ-NJMS
MEDICAL INNOVATION, George J. Annas, JD, MPH
UNRELATED ORGAN DONATION, Renee C. Fox, PhD, Annenberg Professor Emerita of the Social Sciences, and Fellow at the Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania
DRUG TRIALS IN PSYCHIATRY, Thomas Craig, MD, MPH, Clinical Manager, VISN 3, Department of Veterans Affairs

12:15-1:30 PM
LUNCH

1:30-3:30 AM
IRB WORKSHOPS
INTRODUCTION, Richard P. Wedeen, MD
WHAT DOES THE IRB DO? Barbara LoDico, NJMS IRB Administrator
BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Helen Sheehan, PhD, Coordinator
Allen, Chinard, Craig, Fox, Garland, LoDico, Wedeen, Facilitators

3:30-4:30 PM
ADDRESSING THE DILEMMAS
Helen Sheehan, PhD, Introduction
Renee Fox, PhD

Membership Drive – Membership Drive – Membership Drive

The MHSNJ is calling on every valued member to join the Recruitment Team. You know the great work we do as well as the outstanding job performed by our Program Committee to turn out the best in medical history programming. Our current dinner meetings have been just super and we have even more planned for the Millennium – top speakers and top subjects. So be a pal – bring a friend to the Saffron Lecture 2000 next May or even better, come with a buddy to our Corporate Lecture meeting in October. In addition to the wonderful satisfaction of helping your Society grow, there will be a complimentary bottle of wine at your table for you and – your friend, of course!

Call for Papers and Memorabilia

The MHSNJ calls on all members to contribute abstracts of medical history papers to present at upcoming Society meetings. Interested members should contact Program Chair, Sandra Moss, MD (732) 549-5843. Members are also invited to share their collecting interests. If you have antique medical
instruments or other interesting medical artifacts to display at meetings, please contact Dr. Moss.

To Promote the Study of Medical History

Arrangements were made to send a copy of A Guide to Resources in Medical History in New Jersey to all MHSNJ members who did not register for the AAHM meeting. Due to a misunderstanding in the AMNJ office, some members who did or did not attend the AAHM were sent a second copy.

This error could be turned into a good deed if the duplicate Guide were donated to a research center or an individual with an interest in medical history. The Guide was widely distributed in the state. All 2- and 4-year colleges, medical schools, county historical societies, contributors of data, hospital libraries, and industries with a relationship to the health sciences received a copy. However, high school and local libraries, and individuals known only to you, did not.

So, perform a service to yourself and the Society -- present your extra copy to an organization or person who would benefit from receiving the Guide. You will have the thanks of the Society and that of the recipient.

Neomycin - Past, Present and Future: A 50th Year Anniversary

Neomycin - Past, Present and Future: A 50th Year Anniversary, is a symposium sponsored by Cook College and The Waksman Institute, Rutgers University, to be held November 18 at the New Jersey Agriculture Museum in New Brunswick. The symposium commemorates the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the antibiotic neomycin by Hubert Lechevalier and Selman Waksman in 1949.

Neomycin was one of the clinically effective antibiotics discovered in Selman Waksman’s novel screening program at the New Jersey Agricultural College and New Jersey Experiment Station (now Cook College), that inspired the international development of the antibiotic industry. This new industry and also the discovery of neomycin were spurred on through the earlier discoveries in Dr. Waksman’s laboratory of actinomycin and streptomycin.

The all-day symposium will include a number of historical and technical papers. A special exhibit at the New Jersey Agriculture Museum, ‘Medicinal Plants of New Jersey,’ will be on display. For further information, contact the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Cook College, Rutgers University, (732) 932-9763 x327, email: maguire@aesop.rutgers.edu.
What's New at UMDNJ-Special Collections

MHSNJ member, Henry R. Liss, MD, recently donated an important rare book collection to UMDNJ-Special Collections. Dr. Liss presented 269 volumes, representing 242 titles, on April 29 and his gift richly added to the department's holdings in anatomy, neurology, neurosurgery, and surgery texts of the 18th-20th centuries; some books date from the 16th and 17th centuries. Many wonderful books are included in the donation such as the first English edition of Linnaeus' fourteen volume work, *A Genuine and Universal System of Natural History* (1803), containing 425 hand-colored plates. Books by and about such distinguished physicians as Cooper, Cushing, Hahnemann, Laennec, Morgagni, Osler and von Haller, are also represented. The collection is currently undergoing cataloging. Special bookplates commemorating Dr. Liss' generous gift to University Libraries will be affixed to each volume.

Special Collections was the recent recipient of a rare book in the history of neurology. The occasion was to honor the June inauguration of Stuart D. Cook, MD as UMDNJ's second president. Dr. Cook was the former founding chair of the NJMS-Department of Neuroscience. The book is Silas Weir Mitchell's *Injuries of Nerves and Their Consequences* (1872). Dr. Mitchell introduced the term "phantom limb" to the medical vocabulary to describe the curious "ghost" limbs felt by amputees. A mini-exhibit, installed at GF Smith Library in Newark, highlights the inauguration and includes photographs, ephemera, and the Mitchell book.

For more information about these books and other medical history questions, contact Lois Densky-Wolff at (973) 972-7830 or email: densky@umdnj.edu.

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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 April 1, 2000. Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are always welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions:

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On October 24, 1994, at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Dallas, Texas, the United States Postal Service issued a 20 cent definitive stamp honoring Virginia Apgar. Only two other female physicians have appeared on U.S. postage stamps: Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman physician in the United States, was honored in 1982 with an 18 cent stamp and Mary Walker, an Army surgeon during the Civil War who received the Congressional Medal of Honor, had a 20 cent stamp issued in her honor in 1982.

Virginia Apgar was born on June 7, 1909 in Westfield, New Jersey. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1929 and in 1933 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in New York. Although she began a surgical residency at Columbia, she shortly switched to anesthesiology and in 1949 was made a full professor in the Department of Anesthesiology. She thus became the first woman to hold a full professorship at Columbia.

Her concern for a consistent method of evaluating newborns led her to develop a scoring system based on five observations that could be easily performed by nursing personnel in the delivery room. The scoring method was presented in 1952 at the 27th Annual Congress of Anesthetists and published in the July/August 1953 issue of *Current Researches in Anesthesia and Analgesia*. An acronym using her last name was published in *JAMA* ten years later: A for appearance (color), P for pulse (heart rate), G for grimace (reflex irritability), A for activity (muscle tone), R for respiratory effort. The *Apgar Score* has since become universally accepted and used around the world.

After obtaining a master’s degree in Public Health at Johns Hopkins she joined the National Foundation/March of Dimes (now called the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation) where she remained until her death in 1974 at the age of 64.

Medicine was not her only interest. She had a lifelong love of music and played chamber music on stringed instruments that she made herself. She fished, gardened and was an avid stamp collector.

The stamp was designed by Robert Anderson of Lexington, Massachusetts based on a photograph supplied by the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Martin Morck engraved the image and it was printed in brown by the Banknote Corporation of America in panes of 100. The first day cover seen on the left was produced by the Fleetwood Corporation and shows a color photograph of Virginia Apgar. Note the small inset image showing an adult holding the hand of a child.

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