TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MORRIS H. SAFFRON LECTURE TO BE HELD MAY 16 AT THE NASSAU CLUB

The spring meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, May 16 at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Elizabeth N. Norman, Ph.D., RN will be the Twenty-second Annual Morris H. Saffron Lecturer, which is sponsored by The Academy of Medicine of New Jersey. Dr. Norman will present "We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese." 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 -- Allen B. Weisse, MD, President

The Duty to Die: Lessons from History
Michael Nevins, MD

The Bases and Evolution of Specialization in Medicine
Daniel P. Greenfield, MD, MPH, MS

The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and New Jersey's Antivivisection Laws
Frank F. Katz, PhD

Heart to Heart: A 20-Year Talk with Leaders in the 20th Century Battle against Heart Disease
Allen B. Weisse, MD
Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 p.m.)

Twenty-second Annual Morris H. Saffron Lecture (7:30 p.m.):

We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese
Elizabeth N. Norman, PhD, RN

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 Cherie Ciciarelli, MHSNJ, 2 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, (609) 896-1901.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

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Francis P. Chinard, MD has made a number of presentations. "Utopies Médicales d’Aujourd’hui et d’Avant Hier" was presented in January at the Alliance Française of Montclair. Dr. Chinard delivered the keynote address, "Aerospace Medicine Takes Off," at the New Jersey Veterans Museum's February open house. He presented "Medical Utopias, Dystopias and Ectopias" in March to the Charaka Club in New York City. For the past year, Dr. Chinard has been teaching non-credit electives courses to first and second year students at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School: "History of Medicine" last semester and "Current Issues in Medicine" this spring.

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David Cowen, MA delivered "A History of Drugs" to Fairleigh Dickinson nursing students last May at the Paterson Museum.

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Sandra Moss, MD presented "The Ups and Downs of the Floating Kidney" in April at the annual meeting of the American Osler Society held in Charleston, SC. Dr. Moss also delivered "The Floating Kidney: The Uncritical Acceptance of Medical Technology" in April at the Warren I. Susman Graduate Student Conference, Rutgers University.

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Michael Schulder, MD begins a two-year term in May as chairman of the History Section of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. He is also editing a history edition of an online neurological surgery journal.
Allen B. Weisse, MD has been busy with presentations this spring. Dr. Weisse presented "Heart to Heart: A 20-Year Talk with Leaders in the 20th Century Battle Against Heart Disease" to the American Osler Society and "On Writing Medical History" at the Clinicians Breakfast at the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine. Both meetings were held in April in Charleston, SC. Dr. Weisse was the annual lecturer in May at the Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, where he presented "Mercury Finally 'Makes It'."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save This Date!
The fall meeting of MHSNJ will be held on October 24, 2001.

Call for Papers and Memorabilia

The MHSNJ encourages its members to contribute abstracts of medical history papers for presentation at upcoming meetings and share your collecting interests with colleagues. Interested members should contact program chair, Sandra Moss, MD at (732) 549-5843.

Great News

The Medical History Society is pleased to announce the Society's new Web page created for the benefit of members and others interested medical history. The Web address is www.mhsnj.org. Among the available selections are announcements, newsletters, and membership information. Check it out! Speaking of Web sites, UMDNJ Special Collections has been greatly expanded. The homepage can be visited at: www.umdnj.edu/librweb/speccoll/speccoll.htm

Membership Directory

Members are reminded to provide the MHSNJ office with your current address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Please send revisions to Cherie Ciciarelli, MHSNJ, 2 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, (609) 896-1901, e-mail: ciciarelli@acadmed.org.
MHSNJ Education Fund

Thanks to the following members for their contribution to the MHSNJ Education Fund: Estelle Brodman, Lois R. Densky-Wolff, George Hill, Donald Kent, Richard Marfuggi, Christos B. Moschos, Sandra Moss, Karen Reeds, Fred B. Rogers, Benjamin F. Rush, Jr., William D. Sharpe, and Allen B. Weisse. The Society recently established the Education Fund to help attract significant speakers at our meetings and promote other educational programming. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please send a check to the address above and note "Education Fund" in the reference section of your check.

Letters from the Circular File, or Tidbits in Medical History

Frank F. Katz, MHSNJ Secretary/Treasurer, proposed an intriguing idea to your editor. Dr. Katz wrote, in part, the following letter,

There are times when one writes a letter to the editor of a newspaper or journal in response to something in an article that has appeared in that publication. Editors, as you well know, quite properly select which of such letters are worthy of being printed ... Although I have had a little success ... in having my "Letters to the Editor" accepted and printed, I have met more often with failure. While it is possible that I am the only member of the MHSNJ to be able to report that editors have rejected my letters, I would expect that other members could join me in such a declaration."

He went on to suggest that the Newsletter periodically publish members' letters "that editors have allowed to flutter to their office floor (or cast into the waste basket) and have at least a touch of medical history in them." How could I resist? Please send your own contributions and share your "Letters from the Circular File..." To start us off, here is one letter from Dr. Katz:

To the Editor [The New York Times]
Re "New Epidemic Proving Fatal to Foxhounds (news article, August 25):
It is interesting to note that Leishmania tropica, the agent of cutaneous leishmaniasis (the dogs in the article have the visceral form caused by L. donovani), was found in 1903 in Boston by James Homer Wright. Wright, then Director of the Clinical Pathology Laboratory of the Massachusetts General Hospital, recovered the parasite from an Armenian patient and published the first complete description of this protozoan.
That leishmaniasis occurred in Persian Gulf veterans, and before that in World War II military personnel who had been in Africa and India, and now the presence of the West Nile virus serve as reminders that diseases not endemic to the U.S. may show up here. Civilians and susceptible animals, of course, are not exempt from exposure and infection when in foreign countries. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that knowledge of and education in tropical diseases be maintained and vigilance to their possible importation and establishment must always be exercised.

Frank F. Katz, Ph.D.
28 August 2000

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"Wing of Bat and Eye of Newt: Medical Theory & Practice by the Time of the American Revolution"

"Wing of Bat and Eye of Newt: Medical Theory & Practice by the Time of the American Revolution" was held as a one-day medical history workshop on March 31 at the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton. This is the second medical history program sponsored by the museum. Speakers' topics included 19th century medicinals, the humoral theory, medical theory, and medicinal leechcraft. George Hill, MD, MHSNJ vice president and Professor Emeritus of Surgery at UMDNJ-NJMS, was one of the featured speakers.

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What's New at UMDNJ Special Collections

Special Collections has since last fall, acquired by gift or purchase many interesting antiquarian books. Mrs. Saul Jarcho donated the following volumes from the library of her late husband, the esteemed medical historian, Saul Jarcho, MD:


United States. Surgeon-General's Office. The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion Prepared, in Accordance with the Acts of Congress, under the


University Libraries' Saffron Book Endowment enabled Special Collections to purchase the following:


These books and other research material may be consulted by contacting Lois Densky-Wolff at (973) 972-7830 or email: densky@umdnj.edu.

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MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2000


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The *Newsletter of the Medical History Society of New Jersey* is published in May and October by the Society, and is a benefit of membership. **Deadline for the next newsletter is September 4, 2001.** Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions to:

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Philatelic Sketches in Medicine

Frederick C. Skvara, MD

Paul Dudley White, MD

On September 15, 1986, the United States Postal Service issued a 3¢ definitive stamp, as part of the Great American Series, marking the birth centenary of Paul Dudley White, the renowned cardiologist and founder of the American Heart Association. The stamp was released at the Convention Center in Washington, DC during the Tenth World Congress of Cardiology, an organization formed after Dr. White's death.

Born in Roxbury, Massachusetts on June 6, 1886, White initially studied forestry in his undergraduate years at Harvard but in 1907, entered Harvard Medical School. In 1913 he was offered a fellowship in London with Sir Thomas Lewis to study cardiovascular physiology, a move that led him to embark on his specializing in heart and circulatory system medicine. While there he became skillful at using the new electrocardiograph machine and studied the effects of digitalis on heart function. He also became convinced that recovered heart patients should be rehabilitated to normal lives and promoted activity rather than inactivity for these patients.

Although well-respected by his colleagues and having treated a number of famous politicians and celebrities, his name was virtually unknown until he was called in to treat President Dwight Eisenhower, who suffered a heart attack on September 24, 1955. When asked by White how much information to release to the press, Eisenhower said "Tell them everything". From then on, through a barrage of daily bulletins which described the president's blood pressure, pulse, etc. and with frequent nationwide broadcasts, Dr. White's face and voice as well as his opinions became nationally known and respected. And according to Dr. White, this communications blitz "did more than all previous efforts to inform the public about the disease that had become America's epidemic".

Almost his entire career was spent practicing at the Massachusetts General Hospital and teaching at Harvard Medical School. He published a number of books including his classic Heart Disease in 1931. He died in Boston on October 31, 1973 from complications of a stroke.

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All covers presented for cancellation must bear the correct amount of postage for the first class rate at that time. When the White stamp was issued first class postage was 22¢. This cachetmaker used other health related stamps to make up that rate.