The spring meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, May 15 at The Nassau Club in Princeton. **Charles E. Rosenberg, Ph.D.,** the Janice and Julian Bers Professor of the History and Sociology of Science at Harvard University, is the twenty-third Annual Saffron Lecturer. Dr. Rosenberg will present "Contested Boundaries: Disease, Deviance, and Diagnosis." Dr. Rosenberg has written widely on the history of medicine and science. He is best known for *Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866* (Chicago 1962; new edition 1987) and many other works. A recipient of the William H. Welch Medal of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Dr. Rosenberg is also a past-president of the AAHM. 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.

**Business Meeting & Election of Officers -- Allen B. Weisse, MD, President**

*The Journal of the Newark Beth Israel Hospital: Twenty-five Years of Excellence in Medical Journalism*  
Alan J. Lippman, MD  
"Great Relief" From Skunk Cabbage: Dr. William Johnson and his  
New Jersey Materia Medica  
Karen Reeds, Ph.D.  
*Chasing Geronimo: a Young Physician's Great Adventure*  
Robert S. Pinals, MD  
*Confessions of a Semi-Successful Medical Historian*  
Allen B. Weisse, MD (Outgoing MHSNJ President)

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

Twenty-third Annual Saffron Lecture:  
*Contested Boundaries: Disease, Deviance, and Diagnosis*  
Charles E. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Harvard University

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. 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 x 20, ciciarelli@acadmed.org.
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Vincent J. Cirillo, PhD and Allen B. Weisse, MD both had book reviews published in the current issue of the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences (Jan. 2002).

Michael Nevins, MD who spoke at the opening of the traveling exhibit A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage at The Hermitage on February 3, has a limited number of copies of his lecture, "300 Years of Memorable Bergen County Physicians," available to MHSNJ members. Dr. Nevins may be reached at (201) 666-3030 to request a copy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save This Date!
The fall meeting of MHSNJ will be held on October 23, 2002.

President's Message
Allen B. Weisse, MD

It is hard to realize how quickly the last two years have gone by and with them my term as president of this great organization. Now it is time to sum up some major developments that occurred during this period.

At the outset we realized that our membership rolls contained the names of a number of people who never seemed to appear at our meetings or even pay dues. We looked into this and found that there was a lot of "dead wood" among this group and, in some instances, unfortunately, some actually dead people. All such names have been removed from the rolls. What remains is a strong and active membership, which has remained steady in numbers if not increasing dramatically, an encouraging contrast to other state organizations where the membership seems to be dropping off.

Establishment of the Cowen Achievement Award was a particularly gratifying event, honoring David Cowen as the first recipient. Financially, however, the society is still perched on the proverbial razor's edge. We have very little in reserve for any emergencies and still worry over support for the invitation of
distantly located potential guest speakers. New programs we envision for growth must be held in abeyance without adequate financial resources. To alleviate the situation, we have pushed for payment of dues and received a small grant from the Foundation of UMDNJ. We also established a tax-deductible Education Fund to which donations were invited. Last year we had a modest but encouraging response. We hope more members will contribute as the year progresses.

We instituted a mailing of copies of members' publications to the rest of the membership. Along these lines, I recently learned that the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences is looking for submissions. Therefore, be encouraged by this outlet for your individual efforts.

All in all, it has been a very enjoyable two years, made possible only by the continued support of such stalwarts as Frank Katz, Sandra Moss, Lois Densky-Wolff, Christine Haycock, Fred Skvara, and other members of the Executive Committee. To them and you all my best wishes and sincere thanks as we move ahead into the future.

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**Election of Officers**

**May 15, 2002**

The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for the term 2002-2004:

Frederick Skvara, MD  
Daniel P. Greenfield, MD  
Frank Katz, PhD  

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary/Treasurer

Members may propose additional nominees from the floor.

Nominating Committee

Vincent J. Cirillo, PhD, Chair  
David L. Cowen, MA  
Lois R. Densky-Wolff, MA

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**A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage -- The Book**

The exhibition catalogue for A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage has just been published by Rutgers University Press—with 140-plus illustrations, a ten-page gallery of postcards of New Jersey medical institutions, a foreword by David L. Cowen, an original text by the curator, Karen Reeds, web resources and places to see more New Jersey medical history, notes, bibliography, and index. MHSNJ is one of the project's institutional sponsors, along with UMDNJ, Rutgers, and ten pharmaceutical companies. Grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission underwrote research and writing as well as the Press's handsome full-color design and production. Copies will be available at the Spring MHSNJ meeting.

Meanwhile, the exhibition continues to visit sites around New Jersey. It was at The Hermitage, in Ho-Ho-Kus through April 16, where curator, Karen Reeds, spoke. The exhibition will be showing at the Walsh Library Gallery, Seton Hall University, June-September (contact JoAnne Cotz, 973-275-2033 for information). If your organization wants to host the exhibition, get in touch with Lois Densky-Wolff, densky@umdnj.edu, 973--972-7830.

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History of Medicine Lecture to be Held at UMDNJ

The University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey Libraries will sponsor a survey course entitled "History of the Health Sciences: A Two-day Overview" on Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1 at the UMDNJ campus in Newark. Patricia E. Gallagher, MS, MLS, AHIP of the New York Academy of Medicine and Stephen J. Greenberg, MLS, Ph.D. of the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD, are the featured speakers.

This eight-hour course is designed as an overview of the history of the health sciences in the West. Though concentrating on medicine, it will also discuss topics in dentistry and nursing. It will identify major names, issues, discoveries, and publications, and will place them in a coherent historical context for the use of the health information professional and others interested in medical history. The course will include sections on

- Ancient and Medieval Medicine, 1500 BC-1485 AD
- Midwives and Healers: Nursing in the Pre-Professional Era
- The Dawn of Scientific Medicine, 1485-1800
- Florence Nightingale: the Beginnings of American Nursing and Female MDs, and
- 'Modern' Medicine, 1914-2000
The University Libraries is pleased to offer this educational opportunity at a significantly reduced cost due to the generosity of an anonymous donor.

The course is open to UMDNJ students, faculty and staff, New Jersey librarians, medical historians, nurses, and other interested parties. Eight hours of MLA CE credits are available at no extra charge. The course will be held May 31, 1:30 pm - 6 pm (dinner 6:15 pm-8pm) and June 1, 9:30 am - 2 pm.

The Registration fee is $25 and the registration deadline is May 17. UMDNJ students may attend without charge. The registration fee includes a dinner reception Friday night and a light lunch on Saturday (12:15 pm - 1:00 pm). For additional information and to register, please contact Lois Densky-Wolff at (973) 972-7830 or email: densky@umdnj.edu.

What's New at UMDNJ Special Collections

Donald Wernik, a retired pharmacist from Metuchen, donated a substantial pharmacy collection in November. The collection includes two 19th century ledgers (1877-1900) from his family's Metuchen pharmacy containing prescription records. Two antique apothecary scales and a variety of pill-making devices round out the gift.

Several antiquarian books were acquired with funds from the Saffron Book Endowment. Antoine Ruppaner's *Hypodermic injections in the treatment of neuralgia, rheumatism, gout, and other diseases* (Boston, 1865) is a very scarce first American book on hypodermically administered medication. Ruppaner (1825-1892) was one of the first physicians in this country to specialize in laryngology.

Mary Putnam Jacobi's *The Question of rest for women during menstruation* (NY, 1877) was an important, statistical study in its time written by one of the first American women to hold a medical degree. Jacobi (1842-1906) demonstrated that menstruation was not an incapacitating condition, as had been suggested previously by male physicians.

"Flap Anatomies and Anatomical Illustration"

A small display of books with moveable plates is currently on exhibit at the UMDNJ-G.F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences in Newark. The exhibit is entitled "Flap Anatomies and Anatomical Illustration." Books displayed include Frederic Hollicke's *Outlines of anatomy and physiology: illustrated by a new dissected plate of the human organization, and by separate views..."
(Philadelphia, 1846) and George Spratt's *Obstetric tables: comprising graphic illustrations, with descriptions and practical remarks; exhibiting on dissected plates many important subjects in midwifery* (Philadelphia, 1848). Several other books and ephemeral works are also on view.

To consult these and other research materials, please contact Lois Densky-Wolff, (973) 972-7830 or densky@umdnj.edu.

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**Rules & Procedures for Borrowing Videotapes of Past MHSNJ Meetings**

Borrowing videotapes of the MHSNJ meetings is a benefit of membership in the Society and is normally restricted to the members. This privilege may be extended to an educational institution or professional society or nonmember who has been a program speaker. A request for borrowing videotapes may be made by mail, email, fax, or telephone to:

The Academy of Medicine of New Jersey  
Two Princess Road, Suite 101  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
Telephone: (609) 896-1901 x 20  
Facsimile: (606) 896-2317

The borrower will provide the following information:

1. His or her name or name of the organization  
2. Complete mailing address  
3. Telephone number  
4. Purpose for borrowing the videotapes(s)

The borrower will assume the shipping costs from and to the Academy, and safeguard the tapes in shipping. While the viewer(s) may take notes for personal use, no videotapes may be copied or sent to another party. The borrowing period is one month, with consideration for extension. Borrowers may be requested to submit comments regarding the use and value of the videotapes. The Academy of Medicine will keep records on the distribution of the videotapes and will issue reminders when the return of the tape(s) is overdue.

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MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2000


Campbell, WC. Remembrance of past images of *Trichinella*. *Parasite* 2001; 8: S14-S15.


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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 6, 2002.** Short articles (250 words) on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send correspondence and submissions to:

Lois Densky-Wolff  
Editor, *MHSNJ Newsletter*  
UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library  
30 12th Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07103  
(973) 972-7830; FAX (973) 972-7474  
densky@umdnj.edu

At our upcoming May 15th meeting, Karen Reeds will be presenting a talk entitled: "Great Relief" from Skunk Cabbage: Dr. William Johnson and his New Jersey Materia Medica. I thought it would be interesting to try and find some philatelic connections to her presentation based on what I could learn about the topics in the title. Although this proved more difficult than I thought, philately did not let me down.

Skunk cabbages are members of the Arum family, a group of plants found in Europe and throughout North America and which also includes Jack-in-the-Pulpit, philadendrons and calla lilies. While the eastern skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) has not been commemorated philately, a stamp for the yellow skunk cabbage (Lysichiton americanum) was issued by the United States Postal Service in 1992 as part of a 50-stamp series entitled Wildflowers of the United States. The roots of the plants of the Arum family are a favorite food of bears and believed by some, including the English herbelist and surgeon John Gerard (1545-1612), to aid in restoring the bear’s “quiet” digestive system to full form upon awakening from hibernation. The roots are also edible by humans as they can be roasted, dried and ground into a starchy powder and the sap of the yellow skunk cabbage was once used to treat ringworm.

Other native New Jersey plants that have been used medicinally and that have been illustrated on stamps include the flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) used as an antimalarial and peppermint (Mentha piperata) used as a gastric stimulent and antiflatulent. In 1982, the United States Postal Service issued a 50-stamp series illustrating the state birds and flowers. The stamps for North Carolina and Virginia both depict the flowering dogwood as their state flower. A peppermint plant was depicted on a 15pf stamp, one of a set of five stamps showing medicinal plants, that was issued in 1960 by the German Democratic Republic.

Although there are no direct philatelic items for Dr. William Johnson, information obtained from Karen Reeds new book: A State of Health: New Jersey’s Medical Heritage and through the assistance of Lois R. Densky-Wolff, a few philatelic connections came to light. Dr. Johnson studied under Dr. Benjamin Rush (1745-1813) at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1811 and opening his practice that year in Whitehouse, New Jersey. Dr. Rush may have contributed to Dr. Johnson’s materia medica as Dr. Rush taught pharmacy and materia medica at the Medical Department of the College of Philadelphia(later merged with the University of Pennsylvania). Benjamin Rush, as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, can be seen on the two United States stamps issued in 1869 and 1976 that show John Trumball’s painting of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence and in 1952 the Chicago Heart Association issued a series of 21 gummed seals depicting “Famous Figures in the History of Medicine”. One portrays Benjamin Rush. Finally, the convention hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed is preserved today as Independence Hall and is illustrated on a 1956 United States stamp. The building was at one time used as a school building of the Medical School of Pennsylvania.

References:
2. Ibid., 40