FIRST ANNUAL FOUNDATION LECTURE

The fall meeting of the MHSNJ will be held Wednesday, October 23 at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Edward T. Morman, M.S.L.S., Ph.D., College Librarian at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and Director, Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, will present the First Annual Foundation Lecture, funded by the Foundation of UMDNJ. Dr. Morman's lecture is entitled "Race and Racism in America: the View from a Medical History Library." 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.

MHSNJ Business Meeting - Frederick Skvara, MD, President

The Health of the People is the First Duty of the State
Sam Alewitz, Ph.D.

A Scrutiny of the Caduceus Symbol in Medicine
Cristin McKenna, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School,
Class of 2004
American Osler Society Student Essayist, 2002

The New Deal Body Politic: Landscape, Labor, and the Civilian Conservation Corps
Neil M. Maher, Ph.D., Federated History Department
New Jersey Institute of Technology & Rutgers University

Social Attitudes, Medical Research, and Clinical Experimentation:
From Marcus Aurelius to the Present
Francis P. Chinard, MD, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 p.m.)
First Annual Foundation Lecture
Race and Racism in America: The View from a Medical History Library
Edward T. Morman, M.S.L.S., Ph.D.
College Librarian, College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Director, Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is $40/members, $50/guests; advance registration is required. For information, contact Cathy Gillmer, MHSNJ, 2 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, (609) 896-1901 x 15, gillmer@acadmed.org.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

William Campbell, Ph.D., a member of the faculty and a RISE fellow at Drew University, was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Francis P. Chinard, MD is teaching a History of Medicine elective course to UMDNJ-NJMS students this fall with William D. Sharpe, MD. Dr. Sharpe will, in addition, teach a Civil War Medicine elective to the medical students.

Gerald Grob, Ph.D., was awarded a D. Lit. (Hon) from Clark University. Dr. Grob participated in Grand Rounds, Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan in January, where he presented "Mental Health Policy in Modern America." He also lectured on "Health and Disease in America Since World War II" at the University of Michigan. Dr. Grob was a speaker and participant at a conference in March in Potomac, MD on "Setting a Research Agenda for Health and the Humanities," sponsored by the NEH and AHRQ. He lectured in April on "Disease and Death in America: A History," at Iowa State University, Ames.

Sandra Moss, MD presented Grand Rounds at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick, speaking on "Gentlemen of the Profession: Medicine in New Jersey Before the Revolution." Dr. Moss delivered a presentation at the Clinician's Breakfast at the American Association for the History of Medicine held in Kansas City last May. Her talk was on getting started in medical history.

Robert S. Pinals, MD has for the past two years led Historic Morbidity & Mortality (M&M) conferences at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, in conjunction with the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Medicine's residency program. The series examines the illnesses of historic figures. Each case is presented anonymously by Dr. Pinals, after which the residents and students suggest a diagnosis and attempt to identify the patient
from various historical clues. Other issues discussed include the impact of the illness, quality of medical care, and state of medical knowledge and therapy in that era. Historic M&M conferences previously held include such figures as Franklin D. Roosevelt, Napoleon Bonaparte, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Joe DiMaggio, William Osler, Gustav Mahler, and Christopher Columbus.

Helen E. Sheehan, Ph.D. has been appointed Lecturer in the South Asia Studies Department, University of Pennsylvania. She will teach courses on Health and Society in South Asia. She is an investigator on a Mellon Foundation funded research study, "Safe Horizon After September 11, 2001: A Study of Organizational Stress and Change," conducted through the Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict, University of Pennsylvania.

Norman J. Sissman, MD is an interviewer for the Oral History Project of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has recorded extensive conversations with Joseph Dancis MD, formerly Chief of Pediatrics at NYU-Bellevue; Barton Childs MD, an eminent pediatric geneticist at Johns Hopkins; and Eugene Diamond MD, a practitioner and ethicist at Loyola University Medical School in Chicago. Information about the Project may be obtained from Susan Marshall, Director, Division of Library & Archival Services, 800-433-9016, ext. 4722, or SMarshall@aap.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save This Date!
The spring meeting of MHSNJ will be held on May 21, 2003.

President's Message
Frederick Skvara, MD

When I joined this society in 1997, it was not only because I have an interest in the history of medicine and science but it also seemed a natural fit with my philatelic pursuits and a chance to acquire knowledge that I could use in developing my stamp collections. I am happy to say that I have not been disappointed. I have since had the pleasure of meeting an outstanding group of dynamic and interesting people who share a passion for medical history and whose vast knowledge of that subject seems, at least to me, endless. My membership has personally been a very rewarding and enriching experience and I hope that, in some small way, I have been able to return something to the society with my philatelic exhibits.
As mentioned by our previous president, Allen Weisse, the membership remains strong and steady but not growing. Therefore, I would like to call on all our members to make a concerted effort to increase our ranks. In the confines of our state there are literally thousands of individuals connected in one way or another with medicine. They are all potential candidates for membership and I ask your help in recruiting them for our society. Once somebody is exposed to the enthusiasm and friendship of our meetings, not to mention the information they will glean from the presentations, I am sure they will be hooked. Let’s all see if we can add a new member. Thank you!

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Message Board to be added to the Society’s Web Site
Vincent J. Cirillo, Ph.D.
Paul L. Cirillo, Web Master

A Message Board will soon be added to the Society’s Web site, www.mhsnj.org, and will be open to members and the general public. The Message Board -- protected against pornography, blasphemies, etc. -- can be used for queries, job listings, announcements, and other items of interest. This new means of communication will benefit students and historians in their research, and could be a potential recruitment tool. This addition to our Web site, which already gets 2,000 to 3,000 visits per month, can only enhance the Society’s visibility.

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Medical History through Other Sources
Frank F. Katz, Ph.D.

As members of this society undoubtedly know, articles on medical history may appear in journals whose titles do not indicate the presence of such papers. Such a journal is Emerging Infectious Diseases: A Peer-Reviewed Journal Tracking and Analyzing Disease Trends. This is an online publication of full-length articles produced by the Centers for Disease Control. The URL is:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID

The current issue (September 2002) has a "Historical Review" section with a paper by Mark Wheelis (University of California, Davis) titled "Biological Warfare at the 1346 Siege of Caffa." The disease is plague. Those who have read accounts of the pandemic of the 14th century, such as The Black Death by Philip Ziegler (1998), will have been introduced to Wheelis' basic subject and may be particularly interested in enlarging their knowledge of it through this detailed presentation.

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Book Review
JOHN O’DONNELL. Coriell: The Coriell Institute for Medical Research and a Half Century of Science. Canton, MA: Science History Publications/USA, 2002, ix, 275pp, illus. $35.00 (cloth).

Reviewed by Vincent J. Cirillo, Ph.D., 1387 Joseph Street, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-1509.

The Coriell Institute in Camden, New Jersey is celebrated for its pioneering work in tissue culture and its establishment of a cell repository and registry. The importance of pure cell cultures to scientific research in the late 1950s - early 1960s cannot be overestimated, because at that time most in vitro cell lines under cultivation throughout the country were contaminated. Today the Coriell Institute is focused on molecular biology and stem cell research. The story behind the Institute’s contributions to basic scientific knowledge and medical practice, and its technical breakthroughs is skillfully presented in Coriell, although I wish the author had devoted less space to business and finances.

O’Donnell, an experienced writer of corporate histories, avoids some of the pitfalls common to this genre. Coriell is not simply a chronology of events from the Institute’s founding by physician Lewis L. Coriell (1911-2001) in 1953 to the present day. What was happening within the walls of the Institute is related to what was unfolding locally and nationally in medicine, politics and society (e.g., Camden race riots of 1968). O’Donnell’s analysis is also critical of the Institute’s management, and points out what might have been done differently regarding the Institute’s relocation, failure to retain its library, decline in staff morale and camaraderie, and loss of corporate memory as old timers left for greener pastures. In addition, O’Donnell’s criticism of Gary McGarrity’s neglect of his duties during his presidency for the sake of his personal research and travel is an eye-opener.

O’Donnell did succumb, however, to the hagiography trap. Lewis Coriell is depicted as larger than life, a knight sans peur et sans reproche. The closest O’Donnell comes to exposing the “roughnesses, pimples, and warts” (to quote Oliver Cromwell) of Dr. Coriell is when he hints at the founder’s jealousy of John Enders and Jonas Salk for receiving all the accolades for the success of the national anti-polio campaign, while his [Coriell’s] essential role in making the vaccine safe went unrecognized.

The book is profusely illustrated. In general, the photographs are pertinent; however, I question the relevance of such images as that of Drs. Marcello Siniscalco and Renato Robledo (p. 236) who are not even mentioned in the text! Also pictured is a young, clean-shaven C. Everett Koop, with a caption noting
that he received the Coriell Medal in 1993. This may be a great honor. Yet, nowhere is the reader told what the Coriell Medal signifies?

Despite these criticisms, O’Donnell’s book is a useful addition to the literature on the development of American medical science during the last fifty years. As the author states in his preface, our understanding of biomedical research in the United States “will remain incomplete until the role of the independent research institute is more thoroughly examined.” Coriell is a fine beginning.

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What's New at UMDNJ Special Collections

An unusual book on teratology was acquired, funded partially through the Saffron Book Endowment. Barton C. Hirst and George A. Pierson's *Human Monstrosities Illustrated with Photographic Reproductions and Wood Engravings* (Edinburgh, 1892-93) is an extraordinary collection of late 19th century pathologic plates on various forms of human teratology. Many of the plates have to do with disorders of the central nervous system including craniphagus, cyclops, and twinning. This is the first book on the subject to be acquired by Special Collections.

In addition to this work, two other books were purchased with Saffron Book Endowment funds. Joseph Gallup's *Sketches of Epidemic Diseases in the State of Vermont...* (Boston, 1815) and Jacob Bigelow's *A Treatise on the Materia Medica, Intended as a Sequel to the Pharmacopoeia of the United States* (Boston, 1822). This first edition is a sequel to the 1820 *Pharmacopoeia*, which Bigelow helped bring to completion.

Medical History Society member, Frank Katz, Ph.D. donated a student analytical balance (ca 1926). Voland & Sons of New Rochelle, NY manufactured the beautiful instrument enclosed in a glazed mahogany case. The balance is in good working condition. Students at Seton Hall University used the balance, most likely in chemistry lab. Special Collections is always most grateful for the continuing support received from MHSNJ members.

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

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MEMBERS' RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William C. Campbell, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Use of the Internet for dissemination of information relating to the History of</td>
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Medicine.

Francis P. Chinard, MD
DuPont De Nemours and Thomas Jefferson: founding fathers of our present curriculum; Certainty and uncertainty in medicine: from Cabanis to Prigogine.

Daniel P. Greenfield, MD
Specialization in medicine; history of neuroscience.

Gerald Grob, Ph.D.
Topics on the history of disease in America.

Frank Katz, Ph.D.
The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and New Jersey's vivisection laws.

Sandra Moss, MD
African-American health and healthcare in New Jersey; Williams Gorgas and human experiments in Panama and Cuba; Edgar Holden, MD, a Newark physician in the late 19th century.

Thomas Walters, MD
History of the New Jersey Medical School; Jonathan Ackerman Coles, a New Jersey physician, art patron, and philanthropist.

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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 April 1, 2003. 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
PO Box 1709
30 12th Avenue
Newark, NJ 07101-1709
(973) 972-7830; FAX (973) 972-7474
densky@umdnj.edu

Philatelic Sketches in Medicine

Frederick C. Skvara, M.D.

## Symbols of Medicine

### The Rod of Asclepius (Aesculapius)

In Greek mythology, Asclepius, the Greek god of medicine, whose father was the god Apollo and whose mother was a mortal woman named Choronis from Thessaly, probably lived around 1200 B.C. Raised on Mount Pelion by Cheiron, a wise Centaur who taught him the art of healing, Asclepius roamed the mountains treating patients usually carrying a wooden staff and eventually became famous for his medical skill. When Asclepius resurrected Hippolytus, the son of Theseus, the Athens hero who slew the Cretan Minotaur, and who was a son of the god Poseidon, Zeus killed him with a thunderbolt for disturbing the natural order.

The emblem of medicine is the rod of Asclepius, a wood staff around which is entwined a single snake. The relationship of these two objects to Asclepius stems from the knowledge that he carried a wooden staff on his wanderings treating patients and by the use of snakes (*Elaphis aesculapii alder*) in the treatment of patients at the sanctuaries (Asklepieia) that were built in his honor all over Greece. Both the rod, representing the earth's plant life, and the snake, through its ability to shed its own skin, were felt to represent the indestructible nature of life on earth—restoration and rejuvenation.

The rod of Asclepius has become the official insignia of a number of organizations including the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization, and it is the centerpiece of the insignia of the American Association of Dentists.

### The Rod of Hermes (Mercury)

Hermes, god of communication, transportation and commerce was the son of Zeus and Apollo's brother and thus uncle to Asclepius. On the day of Hermes birth he stole Apollo's cow and using the cow's entails and a turtle's carapace fashioned the lyre. Apollo wanted the lyre and traded a golden rod with wings for the it. When Hermes stuck the rod between two fighting snakes, they stopped fighting and coiled around the rod thus making it a symbol of peace and is used as such by a number of organizations. The rod of Hermes which was called a caduceus by the Romans has also been adapted as an emblem of medicine by the U.S. Army Medical Department and others.

### The Snake Cup of Hygeia (Salus)

Hygeia, the goddess of health and prevention of disease, was the second daughter of Asclepius, and the caretaker of the sacred serpents of Asclepius in his temples. The cup she used to feed the snakes is called the cup of Hygeia and has become the symbol of pharmacology.

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France - 1938
Issued to raise funds for a monument to the French Army Medical Corps.
The French version of the rod of Asclepius shown on the upper right of this stamp depicts an elliptical mirror on top symbolizing sincerity, truth and knowledge. On the left is a laurel tree representing courage and Immortality and the oak on the right stands for strength and respect.

Brazil - 1977
Rod of Asclepius and chemical symbols for water and fluoride (3rd Intl. Odontology Congress)

Cuba - 1948
Cup of Hygeia (1st Pan-American Congress of Pharmacy)

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Greece - 1959
Bust of Asclepius

Greece - 1968
Rod of Asclepius (5th European Congress of Cardiology)

France - 1938
Rod of Hermes