FOURTH FOUNDATION OF UMDNJ LECTURE

The fall meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held Wednesday, October 26th at The Nassau Club in Princeton. Mark E. Silverman, MD, Professor of Medicine at Emory University and past president of the American Osler Society will present the 4th Foundation of UMDNJ Lecture. Dr. Silverman’s presentation is entitled “De Motu Cordis: The Lumelian Lecture of 1616 by William Harvey.” He is an historian of the history of cardiology and recently edited The Quotable Osler (2002). MHSNJ past president, 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, Daniel P. Greenfield, MD, President

Sir Ivan Magill: The Right Anesthetist in the Right Place at the Right Time
Geoffrey Nosker, MD and Kenneth Swan, MD, UMDNJ-NJMS

On the 100th Anniversary of the Last Yellow Fever Epidemic in the United States: New Orleans, 1905
Frank F. Katz, PhD

Rise and Fall of the Indian Mare Goddess: A Reflection on Fertility Problems in Mares and Cross-Cultural Connections
Wolfgang Jöchle, DVM

Historical CPC: The Medical History and Final Illness of Guatam Buddha
Nayan Kothari, MD, FRCP (Edin), UMDNJ-RWJMS

Cocktails and Dinner (6-7:30 pm)

Fourth Annual Foundation of UMDNJ Lecture:

De Motu Cordis: The Lumelian Lecture of 1616 by William Harvey
Mark E. Silverman, MD, Professor of Medicine, Emory University, Past President, American Osler Society
Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is $40/members, $50/guests; advance registration is required. For information, contact MHSNJ, c/o UMDNJ Special Collections, G.F. Smith Library, 30 Twelfth Avenue, PO Box 1709, Newark, NJ 07101-1709, (973) 972-7830 or densky@umdnj.edu.

* * * * * * *

**MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

**George Hill, MD, D.Litt.** was awarded a Doctor of Letters degree in May from Drew University. His dissertation, on the subject of the secret cooperation of Church and State in Liberia and the U.S., is entitled “Intimate Relationships: Race, Religion, Rubber, and Politics in the Foreign Affairs of the U.S. and Liberia, 1917-1947.” One of the principal issues was the problem of infectious diseases in Liberia at that time, especially yellow fever, which resulted in the death of the American government’s Minister to Liberia and other principals, and in the condemnation of Liberia by the international community. Dr. Hill expects to convert the dissertation to a scholarly article and then to a book.

Dr. Hill is also working toward the publication of his Master’s thesis sometime in the next year. It is entitled “Edison’s Environment: Invention and Pollution in the Career of Thomas Edison.” The book includes a review of Edison’s impact on health and of his work with x-rays, which led to the death of one of his laboratory workers from radiation-induced cancer. He reports that he has given lectures from time to time to various lay groups on medicine in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Dr. Hill recently completed a review of the archives of the Essex County Medical Society (which are held in Special Collections at the UMDNJ-George Smith Library, Newark) to draw up a list of the presidents of that Society from its establishment in 1816 to the present. This work was done in collaboration with Arthur Ellenberger, Executive Director of the ECMS for the past half-century. It will probably be published in the *Bulletin of the Essex County Medical Society*.

**Sandra Moss, MD, MA,** received a Masters degree in History of Technology, Environment, and Medicine this past May from the Federated history department of NJIT and Rutgers, Newark. She delivered a keynote address in May at the dedication of the former Kenney Memorial Hospital for its listing to both the National and New Jersey State Registers for Historic Places. Kenney Memorial Hospital was the first Newark hospital founded to provide healthcare principally to the African-American community. Dr. Moss will address the American Nephrology Society at the College of Physicians, Philadelphia, on the history of dialysis in November and present, “Everything But the Kitchen Sink: Inventing the Artificial Kidney”. She continues to join other MHSNJ members for the monthly Lunar Society meetings with David Cowen.

**Michael Nevins, MD** led a study group to Israel in May called “Israel Through A Doctor’s Eyes.” At each of seventeen sites visited, Dr. Nevins and others discussed pertinent aspects of Jewish medical history. For background he had prepared a fifty-page manuscript, which might be of interest to future visitors to Israel or to armchair travelers. To obtain a copy, please contact Dr. Nevins at mnevmd@att.net.

**Alan R. Rushton MD, PhD** presented “Bateson and the Doctors: Introduction of Mendelian Genetics...
to British Medicine 1900-1910” in March to the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge University, Cambridge, England. Dr. Rushton also presented “British Doctors and Mendelian Genetics 1900-1910” in May at the Second International Workshop on History of Genetics, Brno, Czech Republic.

* * * * * * *

‘Profiles in New Jersey Health and Medicine’

[Editor’s Note: The MHSNJ Newsletter is pleased to announce that with this issue a new, continuing biographical column will appear on individuals born in or connected with New Jersey. These individuals had a tremendous impact on the development of the history of medicine in the state, country or internationally. Members of the Lunar Society, a group who meet periodically at the home of David Cowen, have been instrumental in researching and writing these columns. If other members of the Society are interested in participating, please contact David Cowen at dlcowen1@aol.com].

Henry Leber Coit, MD
By David L. Cowen, MA

Spearheading the campaign for pure milk was Henry L. Coit, MD (1854-1917), a pediatrician who was born in Peapack and grew up in Newark. After graduating from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in 1883, he set up a medical practice in Newark.

It was generally recognized that impure milk was a deadly factor in the horrendous infant mortality rates and it was Dr. Coit’s search for safe milk for his infant son and the death of the child after an anguished two years that turned him to pediatrics.

Coit established the Newark Babies’ Hospital in 1896. It was, however, the search for pure milk that consumed his interest and activity. It was he who conceived of “certified milk” and made of it a national and international movement. Coit set down the criteria for certification in 1893. Certified milk was milk produced by dairies under sanitary conditions under contract with, and under the regulation of, a medical commission. The medical commission would consist of physicians who voluntarily assumed the responsibilities of establishing clinical standards of purity, of examining the dairies and the livestock, and of chemical and bacteriological testing of the milk.

Coit succeeded in establishing, with fellow practitioners, the Essex County Medical Milk Commission in April 1893 and the Commission was able to make its first contract with a dairyman in Caldwell. From this small beginning, the movement spread at home and abroad. By 1906, there were thirty-six medical milk commissions in the country. In four visits to Europe between 1909 and 1915, Coit spread the gospel abroad.

The regulation of dairies was not without its problems and conflicts. But most important, the certified milk program gave way to the pasteurization of milk. Pasteurization could better meet the urban demand and do so less expensively than could certified milk. Proving both medically and economically practicable, pasteurized milk won the day.

But the Newark physician left his mark on pediatrics and public health far beyond his little hospital in Newark. Certified milk did produce a relatively pure and safe method of infant feeding, but beyond that, the movement served to inspire and guide the establishment of standards of the quality of milk and of dairy sanitation.
What’s New at UMDNJ Special Collections?

Family Advisor: Everybody’s Own Physician

A new exhibit entitled *Family Advisor: Everybody’s Own Physician* opened in September at the UMDNJ-George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, Newark. The exhibit features thirty-five rare books illustrating domestic or popular medicine primarily in the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Artwork and related artifacts round out the display.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, individuals and families often relied on themselves to treat or prevent illness, finding the information they needed through books and pamphlets. Access to trained physicians was limited, due either to distance or cost, or for both reasons. Before anyone tried to see a physician, they would attempt treatment with home remedies or else consult various guides to health and healing that were issued to the general public specifically for this purpose. The books and pamphlets were written by a variety of healthcare providers—Allopathic, Osteopathic, Homeopathic, Eclectic, and herbal or Thomsonian (botanic) practitioners.

Books written by non-allopathic physicians were often published in reaction to the many harmful medical practices of the day, such as bleeding or the use of cathartics and emetics based on highly toxic mercury, arsenic, and antimony compounds. In America, the original focus was to utilize British publications directly or as reprinted editions, but as American publishing expanded and cheaper paper became available, more American imprints were produced and sold.

Today these ‘popular’ or ‘domestic’ books are important for what they tell us about how medicine was practiced not in hospitals or laboratories, but in the home, where most practice took place, whether by lay persons or professionals. They are also important for the insight they provide into popular ideas about health as well as disease, about diet, exercise, prolonging life, sex, and mental health. These concerns are universal, and books about them were ubiquitous then as well as now.

**History of Medicine Lecture Series**

Special Collections will sponsor a four-part series of lectures in the history of medicine during the academic year. The lectures are free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. Members of the MHSNJ are invited to attend. The following speakers are scheduled:

| October 11 | George J. Hill, MD, D.Litt. | ‘Edison and Medicine: The Great Inventor’s Impact on Health, the Environment, and the Practice of Medicine’ |
Thomas Edison (1847-1931) is rightly regarded as one of the most important individuals of the past century, and perhaps of the past millennium. His best-known inventions include the phonograph, the long-burning incandescent lamp, and the first successful motion pictures. He also invented and named but did not patent the fluoroscope, and one of his companies was a major producer of anesthetic gases.

In his long life of 82 years, Thomas Edison suffered from many medical problems, including progressive deafness, repeated respiratory tract infections, facial neuralgia, and sickness from ionizing radiation. Paradoxically, Edison attributed his successes in part to his deafness, and he rarely complained about his other medical problems.

One aspect of Edison’s career that has until now never been fully explored is the impact of Edison’s laboratories and factories on the physical environment. Edison knowingly allowed his workplaces to be unsafe and to generate large amounts of hazardous wastes. The long-term consequences of Edison’s industrial activity can still be seen in the seven counties in which Edison’s factories were located in New Jersey, stretching across the state from Hudson County to Warren County.

December 13
Fred Skvara, MD
‘Christmas Seals and Charity Stamps – The Medical Connection’

For over 100 years, governments, institutions and private organizations have issued stamps and labels to raise funds for a number of charities and causes. This story begins in the United States but is now a worldwide phenomenon and this illustrated lecture will highlight the history and variety of these revenue-producing colorful little works of art.

February 1
Sandra Moss, MD, MA
‘Up from Tuskegee in the 1920s: John A. Kenney, MD and the “Race Hospital” in Newark’

In 1924, John A. Kenney, editor of the Journal of the National Medical Association, left his post as chief of the hospital at Booker T. Washington’s Tuskegee Institute and opened a practice in Newark. As a skilled surgeon and a leader among African American physicians, he founded the Kenney Hospital in Newark in 1927 (the building survives today as the New Salem Baptist Church on Kinney Street). This illustrated talk will focus on the challenges faced by Newark’s black physicians and nurses in the early decades of the twentieth century. Among the topics covered will be the black hospital movement, professional organization in northern New Jersey, relations between black and white physicians, and the individual stories of outstanding Newark physicians (both men and women) who took on Jim Crow in order to care for their patients.

April 5
Bart Holland, PhD
‘Clinical Trials of Unicorn’s Horn: Plague Medicine at the start of the Scientific Revolution’

When the last wave of bubonic plague hit London in 1665-1666, it occurred at a point when Europe had suffered three centuries of successive plague epidemics, against which the remedies of classical authorities had proven ineffectual. Experimental science was on the rise in medicine as in other fields, but had not yet produced effective therapeutics against the disease. This paper presents excerpts from two authoritative medical books of that period, which illustrate differing views on the effects of Galenical pharmaceuticals in the cure of this disease. Both texts include the scientifically important claim that they are supported by empirical observation rather than merely by the learned medical writers of the past, yet the two are substantially different in approach and conclusions.

Lectures are held in the Library Exhibit Gallery, George F. Smith Library, 30 12th Avenue, Newark. For more information on medical history resources or to pre-register for the lectures, contact densky@umdnj.edu or 973-972-7830. For travel directions and a map of the campus, please see the following URL: http://www.umdnj.edu/librweb/newarklib/libdirection.html
MEMBERS’ RESEARCH IN PROGRESS, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gerald N. Grob, PhD</td>
<td>Mental health policy in the US from World War II to the present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Jöchle, DVM</td>
<td>Research project in cooperation with experts in Germany and the UK: Veterinarians often were – and sometimes still are – socially stigmatized: a carry-over from past centuries, when animal healers were social outcasts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Moss, MD, MA</td>
<td>Civil war naval medicine; Sphygmograph (pulse wave recorder, 19th century); Yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia; Joseph Stickler, New Jersey Physician who experimented on children, 19th century.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan R. Rushton, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Historical development of ideas on genetics in British medical practice, 1600-1939.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Walters, MD</td>
<td>Cult of Ibeji and Yoruba twinning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* * * * *

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, 2006. 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 07101-1709
(973) 972-7830; FAX (973) 972-7474
densky@umdnj.edu

The zoonosis yellow fever is caused by a single-stranded RNA Flavivirus and characterized by fever, bleeding, and renal and hepatic failure. The disease is transmitted from human to human by the female *Aëdes aegypti* mosquito. The origin of the disease is uncertain—some believing it was transmitted to the Western hemisphere in sailing ships during the 17th century with the mosquito vector breeding in the ships’ fresh water containers. Others feel it is of American origin as there is a jungle form of yellow fever which occurs in tropical South America and the disease was present among the Indians when Columbus explored the New World.

After the 1647 yellow fever epidemic in Barbados, where the disease was known as “Barbados Distemper”, yellow fever quickly established itself in the Caribbean and surrounding areas including Haiti, the site of a thriving French colony and the key to Napoleon’s plans for extension of the French empire into the Mississippi River valley. The French emperor wanted to use Haiti as the base for the colonization, but a yellow fever epidemic decimated the French troops sent by Napolean to quell an 1801 slave rebellion in Haiti. The French were forced to evacuate the colony—only 3,000 of the 37,000 troops originally sent returning to France—in 1803. That same year, the United States, wishing to safeguard the entrance to the Mississippi River and prevent its closure to commerce approached France about purchasing the Port of New Orleans. With the yellow fever disaster fresh in his mind, Napolean offered to sell the entire territory of Louisiana and the Mississippi River valley. During the 19th century yellow fever epidemics were seen throughout the Caribbean, in Central America and tropical South America, the Iberian peninsula and the west coast of Africa. The United States was not spared from these epidemics as they occurred in South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, and up the Mississippi River as far as southern Illinois.

But if any country deserved fame as a hotbed of yellow fever, it was Cuba which became notorious for its yellow fever epidemics. Tomás Romay y Chacón (1764-1849), a Cuban physician gave a dissertation before the Patriotic Society of Havana on April 5, 1797: *About malign fever vulgarly called—Black Vomit—Endemic Disease of the West Indies*[sic]. Nearly 100 years later, in August 1881, another Cuban physician, Carlos J. Finlay (1833-1915) delivered a presentation before the Academy of Sciences of Havana: *The Mosquito Hypothetically Considered as the Agent of Transmission of Yellow Fever*. Met with skepticism by his colleagues, it took another 20 years before his theory was proven by the experiments of the Yellow Fever Commission headed by Walter Reed, an American physician. While Finlay could not establish the mosquito vector with certainty, his firm belief in the mosquito as the agent of transmission of yellow fever led him to propose a series of steps to prevent the disease:

...the houses in yellow fever countries be provided with mosquito blinds...
...mosquito larvae should be destroyed in swamps, pools, privies, sinks, street sewers and other stagnant waters.
...the offending mosquitoes must be prevented from reaching yellow fever patients...

William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920), an American Army surgeon who became the director of public health in Havana following the Spanish-American War, implemented the suggestions of Finlay and within months the incidence of yellow fever in Havana dropped to near zero.