“UMDNJ” No More!: The image above shows the Newark campus of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Founded in 1954 as the Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry at the Jersey City Medical Center, UMDNJ grew to encompass eight schools on five campuses with thousands of students, faculty, and alumni.

But change is coming. In August 2012, Governor Chris Christie signed into law the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act. On July 1, 2013, most of UMDNJ will become the foundation of a new entity named Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS), along with Rutgers’ Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy, and the Institute for Health, Health Policy and Aging Research. UMDNJ’s School of Osteopathic Medicine will join Rowan University. This transformative “integration” (as it is being termed) is a major development in modern New Jersey medicine and medical history.
The spring meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey will be held on May 1, 2013, at The Nassau Club in Princeton. **Dr. Lawrence K. Altman** will present the 34th Annual Morris Saffron Lecture, entitled “Adventures of a Medical Journalist.”

Dr. Altman is credited with being the first physician to work full-time as a journalist for an American daily newspaper. Hired by *The New York Times* in 1969, Dr. Altman has covered all the important health sciences and medical stories of the past four decades, including Legionnaires' disease, AIDS, SARS, cancer, and heart disease. He was a pioneer in journalistic coverage of the personal health of government and political leaders. His 1980 interview with Ronald Reagan marked the first time a Presidential candidate talked openly about his health to a journalist.

Among his many honors, Dr. Altman received a George Polk award in 1986 for a series on AIDS in Africa, and the Jonathan E. Rhoads medal in 2008 from the American Philosophical Society. He is Master of the American College of Physicians, Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Altman’s book *Who Goes First? The Story of Self-Experimentation in Medicine* is “the only complete history of the controversial and understudied practice of self-experimentation.” *Who Goes First?* was published in 1987, and was reprinted with a new preface in 1998.
PROGRAM OF THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF THE MHSNJ

MHSNJ Business Meeting
Presentation of Cowen Award
Michael Nevins, M.D., President

The Evolution of the UMDNJ-NJMS Institute for the Public Understanding of Health and Medicine
Jacob J. Lindenthal, Ph.D., Dr. P.H., UMDNJ-NJMS, Department of Psychiatry

Francis Xavier Dercum: A Renaissance Man
Dina Patel, B.A., UMDNJ-NJMS
Kenneth G. Swan, M.D., UMDNJ-NJMS, Department of Surgery (mentor)

What History? How Today’s Anti-Vaccine Movement Ignores the Past

Picturing Health: Medicine and Art

Cocktails and Dinner

Thirty-Fourth Saffron Lecture:

Adventures of a Medical Journalist
Lawrence K. Altman, M.D.
“The Doctor’s World” columnist for The New York Times
Senior Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Registration begins at 3:30 p.m., and the program begins at 4 p.m.

Members, students, and friends are invited to attend the dinner meeting. Cost is $58/members, $63/guests; advance registration is required. Checks payable to the Medical History Society of New Jersey should be mailed to

Linda Whitfield-Spinner, MHSNJ Treasurer,
4 Wolverton Court
Jackson NJ 08527-6406.

For further information, contact Dr. Sandra Moss at sandra.moss3@verizon.net or 732-549-5843.
**MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

**Vincent J. Cirillo, Ph.D.**, reports that his article, “Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930): Physician During the Typhoid Epidemic in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902),” was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Medical Biography*.

**Dr. George J. Hill** presented “Thomas Edison's Impact on Health and the Environment” to the Bellevue Hospital Alumni Association at the Yale Club of New York City in April 2013. His latest book *Edison's Footsteps* is due for publication in May 2013. In April 2013, he was re-elected to a two-year term as Surgeon General of the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty. Also in April he was elected Surgeon General of the National Order of the Blue and Gray, and spoke on “Reconciliation” at this year's dinner of the Order of the Blue and Gray, which was held in collaboration with the Order of the Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution. He also continues to serve as Chancellor General of the Order of Descendants of Colonial Physicians and Chirurgiens.

**Valerie Josephson** published *Stirring Times: The Lives of New Jersey’s First Civil War Surgeons* in December 2012. Her book was favorably reviewed in *Civil War Times* in April 2013, and described as “meticulously researched,” “interesting, entertaining, and factually sound,” and “reasonably priced.” Congratulations!

**Dr. Alan Lippman** published “Maintenance of Certification as a Condition of Medical Licensure: Time for Pause” (*MDAdvisor* 2013; 6(2): 25-28). He also serves as a member of *MDAdvisor’s* editorial board, and reports that the current issue also features a historical article by Alan Kraut entitled “Guardians of the Gate: The Ellis Island Hospitals and Immigrant Patients in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries.”

**Dr. Sandra Moss** concluded her presidency of the American Osler Society in April. Her last presidential column in the February 2013 *The Oslerian* was entitled “The Medieval Hysterical Society of New Jersey and the Further Adventures of the Lunar Society”, and, obviously, is all about the MHNSNJ!

**Dr. Michael Nevins** presented “Dr. David Hosack: ‘Stormy Petrel’ of American Medical Education” as part of the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library History of the Health Sciences Lecture Series at Columbia University Medical Center in March 2013.

**Frederic C. Pachman**, AHIP, director of the Altschul Medical Library, presented “The History of Monmouth Memorial Hospital” at the Red Bank Public Library in February 2013. His lecture accompanied an exhibit curated by Elsalyn Palmisano, consulting archivist at Monmouth Medical Center, displaying a selection of artifacts, documents, and photographs concerning the medical center’s history.
**Dr. Vijay Rajput** published “Not Born in the USA,” in *JAMA*, 2012 Dec 5; 308(21):2197-8. This “A Piece of My Mind” feature related his experiences as a young resident in Philadelphia coming from India and learning American culture, language, and medical practice. He discussed the challenges facing international medical graduates and stressed the important of humanism in American medical instruction.

**Nicole Salomone** was elected Vice President for the National Coalition of Independent Scholars in April 2013. Congratulations! She also presented “The London Plague of 1603: A Country in Turmoil” as part of the Thomas Jefferson University History of Medicine Series in April 2013.

**Dr. Kenneth Swan** presented “Tube Thoracostomy: A Missed Battlefield Lesson” at the American Osler Society annual meeting in Tucson, AZ, in April 2013. With Birju Patel and Eugene Han, he co-authored an article entitled “Dr. Richard Schatzki: A Familiar Ring” that has been accepted for publication by the *American Journal of Roentgenology*.


**Dr. Richard Wedeen** exhibited “Native Arts: Photographs and Textiles from Africa, Asia, and Latin America” at the Maurice M. Pine Free Public Library in Fairlawn, NJ in March and April 2013.

**Dr. Allen Weisse** recently published “An Underappreciated Problem with Auscultation” (*Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings* 2013, 26(2):191-192). He presented “Saving Lives, Not Sacrificing Them: The Inevitable Clash Between Medical Research and the Protection of Human Subjects” at the American Osler Society annual meeting in Tucson, AZ, in April 2013. He reports that next fall’s Weisse Lecture will be held on September 17, 2013, with Dr. Barron Lerner lecturing on “Celebrity Patients and How We Look at Medicine.”
THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MHSNJ LUNAR SOCIETY

The reconstituted MHSNJ Lunar Society held its first event, a mid-winter daytime luncheon meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at the Rutgers Club in New Brunswick. A full house of more than thirty members attended. Following a delicious buffet, MHSNJ president Dr. Michael Nevins presented “Diary of a Rutgers Medical Student in Olde New York, Class of 1828!”, and MHSNJ past president Dr. Richard Wedeen presented “Images of Medicine: Guatemala,” and also displayed textiles from Guatemala. Both presentations were excellent!

Given the charming setting, free parking, modest cost, delicious food, and the now-expected excellence of MHSNJ presentations, many attendees strongly felt that this event should become an annual third meeting between the two traditional meetings in Princeton at the Nassau Club.
Between 1765 and 1812 a “learning society” of intellectuals met regularly in Birmingham England at the time of the full moon. They called themselves “lunatics” because moonlight made their return home through otherwise unlit streets easier and safer. Often meetings were held in member’s homes, usually only a dozen or so attended, sometimes dinner was served and everything was kept informal: no bylaws, minutes or declarations – just friends discussing common scientific interests. But what friends! The likes of Joseph Priestley, William Withering, James Watt, Josiah Wedgewood, Thomas Percival; occasionally even Benjamin Franklin. As the chemist Priestley later recalled: “We had nothing to do with the religious or political principles of each other. We were united by a common love of science, which we thought sufficient to bring together people of all distinctions, Christians, Jews, Mohametans and Heathens, Monarchists and Republicans.”
Once when one of the regulars, the physician-botanist-polymath Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of both Charles Darwin and Francis Galton, was unable to attend because of pressing medical affairs, he lamented: “Lord! What inventions, what wit, what rhetoric, metaphysical, mechanical and pyrotechnical, will be on the wing, bandy’d like a shuttlecock from one to another of your troop of philosophers! While poor I, I by myself, imprizon’d in a poor chaise, am joggled and jostled and bump’d and bruised along King’s high road, to make war upon a pox or a fever.”

Now, the MHSNJ announces our own version of the Lunar Society. Although our venture can’t pretend to approach the original in sheer brilliance, and although we may meet in sunlight, at least we can aspire to recreate the spirit of those meetings whose members were inspired by enthusiasm for knowledge. These mini-meetings are intended to supplement our more formal semi-annual MHSNJ meetings at the Nassau Club. And because they are conceived as a kind of moveable feast, held at more convenient times and in different parts of the State, hopefully, they will attract people who, although interested in medical history, have been unable to travel to Princeton.

In February our Lunar Society held a successful weekday luncheon meeting at the Rutgers Club in New Brunswick. The next meeting will be held in Bergen County on **Sunday, June 2 at 2:30pm**. (actually, the moon will be full on May 25) at The Belskie Museum of Art and Science in Closter, NJ. After a tour of medical sculptor Abram Belskie’s sculptures and medallions, **Dr. Michael Nevins** will describe “Professor Charcot’s Lectures on Hysteria at La Salpetriere in Paris during the 1880s.” Then famed medical illustrator **Robert Demarest** will discuss “The History of Medical Illustration in America.” Afterward, an optional encore will be dinner (Dutch treat) at Confetti Ristorante & Vinoteca, an Italian restaurant ten minutes drive from the museum in beautiful Piermont, NY, on the Hudson River. All members, spouses, friends are invited. Admission for the meeting is free, but pre-registration is requested. For further information, contact Dr. Nevins at mnevmd@att.net.

[The images of Abram Belskie’s sculpture of the Dionne Quintuplets (above) and medical medallions (below) are courtesy of Michael Rhode, the Archivist / Curator of the US Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery’s Office of Medical History. Many thanks!]
A NEW JERSEY MEDICAL HISTORY EXHIBIT

The Human Spirit:
The Evolution of the Practice of Medicine and Medical Care, 1807–Present

The Hermitage Museum
April 21–September 30, 2013

[The following is the press release from the Hermitage Museum.]

Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ: The Hermitage Museum presents a new exhibition, from April 21 through September 30, 2013, that explores the commitment to medical care in Bergen County from 1807 to today. The museum developed the exhibition, “The Human Spirit: The Evolution of the Practice of Medicine and Medical Care, 1807–Present,” in collaboration with several local health organizations, including BD, Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, Hackensack University Medical Center, the Henry P. Becton School of Nursing at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Valley Health System.

New Jersey led the American Colonies in 1766 with the creation of the Medical Society of New Jersey; later, New Jersey became the first colony to regulate the examination and licensing of physicians. In 1863, the state’s first general hospital opened in Hoboken. Located between New York and Philadelphia, the State of New Jersey looked to these educational centers in the nineteenth century for up-to-date medical knowledge and leadership.

“The Human Spirit” presents visitors with a glimpse of where healthcare has been, where it is today, and where it may be headed in the future. By seeing how healthcare was delivered in the past, visitors can gain an appreciation for today’s medical technology and imagine the direction healthcare may take in the future.

The exhibition starts with the story of Dr. Elijah Rosencrantz, the country doctor who in 1807 purchased as his home The Hermitage, the present-day National Historic Landmark in Ho-Ho-Kus. At the time, Elijah was one of relatively few physicians in Bergen County. He cared for families mostly through house calls to their farms or to villages around Ho-Ho-Kus. He treated victims of accidents, set bones, purged patients, provided medicine for fevers, and delivered babies. To reach his patients, he used a horse-drawn buggy and a sleigh in the winter.
The story of the country doctor in the late nineteenth century is also represented in the exhibition by Dr. William L. Vroom, who led the effort to build a hospital in Ridgewood. That hospital would eventually become The Valley Hospital, which has served the community for sixty-three years by healing and caring for patients, comforting their families, and teaching good health. The exhibition includes a number of medical artifacts on loan from The Valley Hospital, including an early example of the quintessential doctor’s black bag. Several examples of stethoscopes are also on display, including the earliest tube-in-ear type, a sensitive fetal stethoscope, and a modern disposable stethoscope. A special collection of antique glass baby bottles show the variety of shapes and sizes that have been used throughout the years.

The exhibition also presents the 125 year history of Hackensack University Medical Center, which pursues excellence in healthcare by creating a world-class medical, academic, and research institution through innovation and creativity. A special video presentation, along with photographic collages, depicts the work carried out by the forefathers of Hackensack University Medical Center and celebrates their many achievements and accomplishments.

As reflected in the exhibition’s title, “The Human Spirit” is integral to the effective delivery of healthcare. The exhibition includes two organizations that reflect the best of humanity in making a difference with healthcare delivery. The first is the Henry P. Becton School of Nursing at Fairleigh Dickinson University, which provides excellent undergraduate and graduate education in nursing and allied health. A visual display reveals the school’s contributions and impact of the delivery of medical care to Bergen County, the state, the country, and the world with the preparation of BSN, MSN Nurse Practitioners and Educator and Doctor of Nursing Practice nurses. The second organization is the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI), whose mission is to provide free primary and preventative medical care for working low-income residents of Bergen County who have no health insurance. Relatively new among local healthcare agencies, BVMI recruits volunteer medical professionals to serve its mission. A special video presentation tells stories of patients whom BVMI’s volunteers serve at no charge.

New Jersey traditionally has been at the forefront of medical research and development in the United States. In 1897, Maxwell W. Becton and Fairleigh S. Dickinson entered into a business partnership to design, manufacture, and market medical devices, forming a company that has grown worldwide into a recognized leader in the field. The exhibition features the BD Time Machine, an interactive touch-screen informational kiosk that is a passport to the history of BD.

**Admission to “The Human Spirit: The Evolution of the Practice of Medicine and Medical Care, 1807–Present,” is free.** The exhibition is open during the museum’s regular hours of operation: Wednesday through Sunday from 1–4 PM.

For more information, contact Richard A. Sgritta, Executive Director, 201-445-8311, ext. 22, or rsgritta@thehermitage.org
CALLS FOR PAPERS AND PROPOSALS

New Jersey Forum

The New Jersey Historical Commission, New Jersey State Archives, New Jersey State Museum, and Kean University will cosponsor the 2014 New Jersey Forum to commemorate our state’s 350th anniversary. The conference will take place at Kean University in Union, New Jersey on Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22, 2014. The Forum will be based on the three commemorative themes of liberty, diversity and innovation. Some papers may be selected for publication in the online journal *New Jersey History*. Suggested topics include “New Jersey Urban, Labor, Women’s, Medical, Environmental and Social History.”

500-word abstracts on research papers and poster sessions are due by September 9, 2013. If you have ideas for your own or MHSNJ-sponsored papers or posters, contact Michael Nevins or Bob Vietrogoski.

The Republics of Benjamin Rush

The year 2013 marks the 200th anniversary of Dr. Benjamin Rush's death. In commemoration of this anniversary, Dickinson College and The McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania solicit paper proposals for an academic conference examining politics and culture of the early American republic. The conference will be held at Dickinson College (which was founded by Rush in 1783) in Carlisle, PA, on March 21-23, 2014. Proposals are due by May 24, 2013. If interested in forming a medically-focused panel with MHSNJ members, contact Karen Reeds.
MEMBERS’ PUBLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 2012


Weisse, Allen B. *Book review* of Denton A. Cooley’s *100,000 Hearts: A Surgeon’s Memoir* for *Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings*, July 2012; 25(3) 297-299.


**THE USUAL EDITORIAL FINISH :)**

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. Short articles on medical history topics are especially welcome. Please send comments, suggestions, and submissions to:

Medical History Society of New Jersey  
c/o UMDNJ Special Collections  
George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences  
P.O. Box 1709  
Newark NJ 07101-1709  
Tel: 973-972-7830  
Email: vietrora@umdnj.edu

Thanks to Contributors: Vincent Cirillo, George Hill, Alan Lippman, Valerie Josephson, Sandra Moss, Michael Nevins, Frederic Pachman, Vijay Rajput, Michael Rhode, Alan Rushton, Nicole Salomone, Frederick Skvara, Kenneth Swan, Richard Wedeen, and Allen Weisse.
William Carlos Williams (1883–1963)

On April 21, 2012, the United States Postal Service issued a pane of twenty Forever stamps for the First-Class rate commemorating Twentieth-Century Poets. One of the poets honored was the New Jersey native, William Carlos Williams, (Scott 4656) whose poems were written in original meter using common language and imagery. His first book of poems appeared in 1909 and was followed by a number of other poetry collections as well as short stories, plays, novels, essays and translations. Much of his writing was inspired by his local surroundings including the five-part epic poem, *Paterson*, written over a twelve year period from 1946 to 1958. In *Paterson* Williams gave an account of the history, people and essence of Paterson, New Jersey, dramatizing the city to present a complex vision of America and modern man. In 1950 he won the National Book Award for Poetry and in 1963 the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for *Pictures from Brueghel and Other Poems*.

Born on September 17, 1883, in Rutherford, New Jersey, he obtained a doctorate in Medicine in 1906 from the University of Pennsylvania, interned in New York, studied pediatrics in Leipzig, and returned in 1910 to Rutherford practicing general medicine and pediatrics. He remained in Rutherford for the rest of his life practicing medicine by day and writing at night. In 1948 he suffered the first of several heart attacks and strokes that led to his declining health. Williams died on March 4, 1963, at his home in Rutherford at the age of seventy-nine.