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WATERMARK

Newsletter of the Librarians, Archivists & Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences

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Submissions for the Watermark:



The Watermark encourages submissions of news and stories about events, collections, catalogues, people, awards, grants, publications, and anything else of professional interest to the members of LAMPHHS. Please submit your contributions in a timely way to the Editors, as e-mail attachments. Visuals should be submitted as jpegs with a resolution of at least 300 dpi if possible. Copyright clearance for content and visuals are the responsibility of the author.

Cover Image: Nighttime view of the Kansas City skyline and Union Station from the National World War I Memorial.

EDITORS' MESSAGE

We hope the LAMPHHS membership is having a great start to 2024.

This winter issue teases the annual meeting in Kansas City, May 8-9, 2024. The planning committees are hard at work organizing an impactful meeting that will be here before we know it. Information about the meeting includes the call for session proposals, highlights about the city and its cultural offerings, travel award information, and finally a call for submissions for publication awards. We hope you will join us in Kansas City; it is sure to be a wonderful meeting!

The Winter 2024 edition marks our third issue as an editorial staff and we have been busy working behind the scenes to improve the *Watermark*. As a result, the editorial staff with the help of Anna Marie Schuldt has created an updated look for the newsletter; we hope the redesign will streamline our editing needs and give the organization a new, sleeker look. In addition to the redesign the editors have drafted a readership survey. We would like to know what members would like to see in future newsletters so keep an eye in your email for an invitation to participate in the survey.

As always, please reach out to the editorial staff with any questions or concerns and enjoy the Winter 2024 issue!

Sincerely,

Bob Vietrogoski

Special Collections in the History of Medicine
George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences
Rutgers University Libraries

And

Tara Wink

Historical Collections
Health Sciences and Human Services Library
University of Maryland, Baltimore

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Happy New Year to all LAMPHHS members and best wishes for a successful 2024!

We are gearing up for the upcoming annual meeting that will be held in-person at University of Kansas Medical Center on Thursday, May 9, 2024 (with a dinner on May 8th). The meeting will be live streamed. This year we are trying a new format and plan for an additional virtual half-day meeting that will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 23, 2024, pending sufficient submissions.

During the annual meeting's Business Meeting, remote attendees will be able to ask questions and share comments live or add them to the chat, providing an opportunity for a more engaged hybrid collaboration. The theme of this year's annual meeting is ***Getting it Done: Real World Problem Solving in Museums, Libraries, and Archives*** and the deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, February 23, 2024. We are looking forward to connecting with you in person or virtually. Please check for updates in this newsletter from the Local Arrangements Committee about logistics, dinner, and tours that they are preparing for all of us.

I would like to thank all of you for voting on the Membership Dues increase proposal.

118 members participated in the voting:

- 109 (92.4%) voted Yes (I agree to have the membership dues increase)
- 7 (5.9%) voted No (I do NOT agree to have the membership dues increase)
- 2 (1.7%) Abstained (I do not wish to vote on this measure)

Based on your votes and the Steering Committee approval, effective January 1st, 2024, the annual dues for membership of the LAMPHHS organization will be increased to **\$25 dollars**. This increase will be used for education, services to the membership, or in

support of other organizational opportunities under the direction of the LAMPHHS Steering Committee.

As many of you know, the best laid plans sometimes encounter barriers for a successful completion. The LAMPHHS website experienced technical issues with the processing of the membership dues payments that blocked our members from making payments before the start of the new year. The web team and treasurer have been working with our web hosting provider WooCommerce on a resolution and we have extended the implementation deadline for new dues until **February 1st, 2024**. In order to streamline membership renewals, the Steering Committee has approved a transition to rolling memberships such that a membership year starts when a person joins (previously the membership year started on January 1st regardless of the time when a person joined). We appreciate everyone's understanding and support during this transition period that will make us a more efficient organization.

We are wrapping up revisions to the Procedures Manual that will be shared with the membership in advance of the annual meeting.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to run for an officer position this year and the Nominating Committee for their work – please expect to vote in early spring.

Polina Ilieva

President

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LAMPHHS ANNUAL MEETING IN KANSAS CITY, MAY 8-9

For the third time since the founding of ALHHS / LAMPHHS in 1976, Kansas City is delighted to host the LAMPHHS annual meeting on May 8-9, 2024.

Kansas or Missouri?

You may be aware that there is both a Kansas City, Missouri, and a Kansas City, Kansas. The first city was founded at the confluence of the Kansas (Kaw) River and the Missouri River in the 1830s as a riverboat station and outfitting stop for settlers traveling the Santa Fe Trail. Settlements grew up in the area on both sides of the state line, with the City of Kansas, Missouri being incorporated in 1853 and Kansas City, Kansas in 1872. The City of Kansas was renamed Kansas City, Missouri in 1889. The airport,

conference hotel, and dinner venue are on the Missouri side; the University of Kansas Medical Center is on the Kansas side. So the answer is: both!



Nighttime view of the Kansas City skyline and Union Station from the National World War I Memorial.

About Kansas City

Kansas City is sometimes known as the “Paris of the Plains”—either for its scenic system of parks and boulevards and cultural scene, or its colorful history as a “wide-open town” during the Prohibition era 1920s and 30s. Either way, the city embodies a distinctive blend of Midwestern charm and cosmopolitan amenities. Straddling the borders of Kansas and Missouri at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, the metropolitan area encompasses a diverse range of communities, each contributing to the unique character of the region.

At its heart, KC is home to a rich cultural scene with world-class museums, art galleries, and theaters. Mid-town boasts the iconic Country Club Plaza, known for its Spanish-

inspired architecture and upscale shopping, which adds a touch of elegance to the cityscape. Nearby is the [Nelson Atkins Museum of Art](#), known for its encyclopedic collection of art from nearly every continent and culture, but especially for its extensive collection of Asian art. And just down the street you can find the [Linda Hall Library](#), one of the world's leading independent science research libraries.

The city's 18th & Vine Jazz District pays homage to its historic role in the development of jazz music, featuring lively music venues such as [The Blue Room](#) and the [Gem Theater](#)-both affiliated with the [American Jazz Museum](#). Adjacent you will find the [Negro Leagues Baseball Museum](#), which stewards the story of Negro league baseball in America; and the [Black Archives of Mid-America](#), which documents the social, economic, political, and cultural histories of persons of African American descent in the region.

Downtown, the inaugural branch of the KC Streetcar line connects several unique neighborhoods and districts at the heart of the city. Beginning with Union Station, Crown Center, and the National World War I Memorial, it travels north to the [Crossroads Arts District](#): a neighborhood full of boutique shops, one-of-a-kind restaurants, creative businesses, studios and art galleries. It also features a high concentration of craft breweries, unofficially dubbed "[Brewer's Alley](#)." Also located in the Crossroads is the [Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts](#), home of the Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Ballet, and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Next is the Power & Light District, known for its concerts, restaurants, and nightlife. At the edge of the [Power & Light District](#) is the central branch of the [Kansas City Public Library](#) Central Branch. You may be familiar with the row of giant books adorning its parking structure along 10th Street. Housed in the former First National Bank building, it is also the home of the Missouri Valley Room, which contains a wide collection of items related to Kansas City local history. The streetcar terminates at the City Market, the oldest portion of the city. Here you can sample cuisines from across the world and navigate through farmer's market stalls stocked with fresh produce. It is also the home of the [Steamboat Arabia Museum](#), which displays pristinely preserved artifacts recovered from the site of a sunken riverboat from 1856. If you continue one block north and venture onto the Town of Kansas Bridge, you will find lookout point where you can view the "Big Muddy" (Missouri River), as well as brand new CPKC Stadium—home of the KC Current women's soccer team and the world's first stadium purpose-built for women's professional soccer.

Kansas City is renowned for its barbecue, and the metro area is a haven for food enthusiasts seeking mouthwatering smoked meats and flavorful sauces. Big names include [Arthur Bryant's Barbeque](#), [Gate's Bar-B-Q](#), [Fiorella's Jackstack Barbecue](#), and [Joe's KC](#) (formerly Oklahoma Joe's). The city's culinary scene extends beyond barbecue, with a growing number of diverse and innovative dining options. Notable examples include [Baba's Pantry](#), a Palestinian American café recently voted by Bon Appetit Magazine as one of America's 10 best new restaurants, and the [Kansas City, Kansas Taco Trail](#), a guide through 60 local taquerias featuring street tacos, Tex-Mex style tacos, and more.

Sports enthusiasts find plenty to cheer about with the city being home to enthusiastic fan bases for both the Kansas City Chiefs football (NFL); the Kansas City Royals (MLB) and Kansas City Monarchs baseball teams; and two major-league soccer teams: Sporting KC (MLS) and the KC Current (NWSL). The lively sports culture extends to college sports, perhaps most notably the "Border War" rivalry between the University of Kansas Jayhawks and the University of Missouri Tigers.

Conference Hotel

The official conference hotel is the [Westin Kansas City at Crown Center](#), 1 East Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108. It is located in Crown Center, a shopping and entertainment district adjacent to the KC Streetcar, [National World War I Memorial](#), Union Station, and Crossroads Arts District.

Rooms are available from May 8-May 11 at \$179 per night plus tax. Please call (816) 474-4400 (press 1, then ask to speak to an associate). Tell the associate that you are booking through the American Association for the History of Medicine room block.

Other hotels in the area include:

- Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center
- Home2Suites Kansas City Downtown
- Hotel Indigo Kansas City – the Crossroads

Getting to Kansas City

Situated about 20 miles north of downtown, Kansas City is served by [Kansas City International Airport](#). It opened its brand-new single terminal in February 2023. KCI is

served by a number of major airlines, including Air Canada, American Airlines, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, and United Airlines.

There is no direct shuttle from KCI Airport to the Westin Crown Center. They suggest using a taxi or app-based ride service such as Lyft or Uber (\$25-\$60), or a shuttle service such as [SuperShuttle](#) (\$46-\$55). Additional options can be found at the [Visit KC](#) website.

Amtrak: For those traveling regionally, both the Southwest Chief and Missouri River Runner stop at Union Station Kansas City—just a 4 minute walk from the Westin Crown Center. More information can be found at the [Amtrak](#) website.

For those driving, on-site parking at the Westin Crown center is \$25 per day.

Getting Around

KC is a city designed around the automobile—thus it is easily navigated by rental car and app-based ride services like Lyft and Uber. The bus system serves much of the metropolitan area and is free but can be inconsistent and is not recommended for time-sensitive activities.

The conference hotel is located adjacent to the first stop of the [KC Streetcar](#), the first completed branch of a new streetcar system. It is free to ride, connecting the Crown Center/Union Station area with the KC Crossroads Art District, Power and Light District, Central Business District, and the River Market.

For the Annual Meeting at KU Medical Center and optional tours, shuttles and Uber vouchers will be provided.

Wednesday Night Dinner

The Annual Meeting Wednesday Night Dinner will be held at [Lidia's Kansas City](#) in the historic Freight House in the Crossroads Arts District. Founded by chef Lidia Bastianich, the “first lady of Italian cuisine,” in 1998, Lidia’s evokes the warmth of an old Italian farmhouse.



The Freight house is a 10-minute walk through Union Station and over the Freight House Pedestrian Bridge. We will be dining in [The Loft](#) space upstairs, with breathtaking views of the landmark Western Auto building and downtown KC. Vegetarian and gluten free options will be available. Accessible by stairs and elevator.

Meeting Venue

The annual meeting will be held in the Health Education Building at the University of Kansas Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS. Opened in 2017, the HEB (pronounced “H-E-B” by some and “Heb” by others) is a state-of-the art facility that serves as the primary teaching venue for the KU Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Professions. The HEB is the newest building on the KUMC Campus.



Health Education Building at the University of Kansas Medical Center, viewed from the south.

Join us in Kansas City (MO and KS) in May! Check the [website](#) for updates about the Annual Meeting.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Getting it Done: Real World Problem Solving in Museums, Libraries, and Archives

Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHHS) invite you to submit a proposal for its **annual in-person meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2024**, to be held in **Kansas City, MO**. This meeting will be live streamed. An additional virtual half-day meeting will be held pending sufficient submissions via Zoom on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

The program committee welcomes all proposals, but is especially interested in hearing about:

- **Sensitive Collections:** How our membership has addressed the stewardship of ethically challenging items in their collections.
- **Tackling Boundaries:** Collaborations working (or not) across museums, archives, and libraries.
- **Implementing AI** across museums, archives, and libraries.
- **Across Disciplines:** Working with non-archivists, non-librarians, and non-museum professionals (e.g., IT specialists, records managers, and administrators).

The Program Committee encourages submission of proposals that may include, but are not limited to, the following formats:

- Individual presentations: Speakers should expect to give a presentation of no more than 15 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Individual papers may be combined into panels.
- Panel discussion: Open session with a panel of 3 to 4 individuals informally discussing a variety of theories or perspectives on a common topic. Please confirm participation with all panelists before submitting the panel proposal.
- Lightning talks: Five-minute presentations on a theme. Individual lightning talks may be combined into joint sessions.
- Roundtable: 60-minute session designed to highlight innovative archives or museum programs, new techniques, and research projects. (12-15 minutes for each participant + 12-15 minutes for Q&A.)

Please submit your proposal via this submission form:

<https://forms.gle/jJFmMY7FZrfy4Wfa9> The deadline for submitting proposals is **Friday**,

February 23, 2024. You must be a LAMPHHS member to submit a proposal. Not a member? Join at <https://lamphhs.org/>

If you have any questions, please contact the LAMPHHS Program Committee 2024:
<https://lamphhs.org/annual-meeting/>

LAMPHHS ANNUAL MEETING TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN

The Travel Scholarships Committee is now accepting applications from members seeking funds to support their attendance at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO, on May 9-12, 2024. LAMPHHS awards up to four annual conference travel stipends to members of the organization who are staff, volunteers, students, or early career professionals working for health science history museums, libraries, or archives. Early career professionals are those who have worked in the history of the health sciences for fewer than five years, although they may have been employed in the profession longer. The purpose of these awards is to encourage and support continued education and professional engagement for members working in the field.

Applicants should submit the [application form](#); a personal statement (no more than 500 words) highlighting their interest in the conference, how attendance will benefit them, and why they need financial support; and a letter of recommendation from either their academic advisor (for students) or immediate supervisor (for staff/volunteers) to the Chair of the committee by **March 1, 2024**.

For further information, please contact the committee Chair, Elaine Thornton (elaine.thornton@utah.edu).

Travel Scholarships Committee: Elaine Thornton & Charlotte Lellman.

CALL FOR PUBLICATION AWARDS

Do you know of an article, book, catalog, bibliography, or electronic resource related to the history of the health care sciences or the management of historical collections in the health care sciences that was significant or spectacular? The Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHHS) Publication Awards committee is now seeking submissions for its 2024 publication awards.

Nominations can be in one of three categories:

- **Monographs** published by academic or trade publishers for the LAMPHHS Best Monograph Award
- **Articles** published in journals, trade, or private periodicals for the LAMPHHS Patricia E. Gallagher Best Article Award
- **Online resources** produced predominantly by LAMPHHS members for the LAMPHHS Best Online Resource Award

All nominations must meet the following criteria:

- Published within 3 years of the award date
- Author(s) must be LAMPHHS member(s) in good standing for the past 12 months
- The nominated monograph, article, or electronic resource is related to the history of the health care sciences or the management of historical collections in the health care sciences

Nominations that meet each of the above criteria will be considered by the Publication Awards Committee. The Committee will look for the following benchmarks of excellence when evaluating qualifying nominations:

- Quality and style of writing
- Contribution to the field
- Relevance to the profession

Up to one Publication Award in each category will be presented at the 2024 annual meeting. Winners do not need to attend the annual meeting in order to receive an award. Each nomination should identify the work being nominated, the author(s) of that work, and an email address at which the designated nominee(s) can be contacted. Self-nominations are encouraged, and re-nominations are allowed if the publication date falls within the current three-year period. Only the first two authors named on the work can be considered for the award unless the nominee is the only LAMPHHS member in the list of joint authorships. Please include all relevant URLs. Submission of four (4) copies of print-only nominations will be required. (Directions for the dispatch of these will be sent upon receipt of the nomination.)

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, February 23, 2024**. All nominations, along with any questions, should be sent to the 2024 Publication Awards Committee chair, Emily R. Novak Gustainis, at emily_gustainis@hms.harvard.edu.

LAMPHHS Publication Awards Committee
Emily R. Novak Gustainis
SJ Hussman
Stephen Novak
Catherine Sorge

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LAMPHHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing the LAMPHHS Education Committee's First 2024 Event: Insights into Managing Restricted Health Information

In the ongoing commitment to making relevant educational programming accessible, the LAMPHHS Education Committee is thrilled to unveil an upcoming virtual panel, delving into the intricacies of managing restricted health information. This special event will feature three groups, each presenting a unique case study that sheds light on the challenges and innovative approaches within the realm of medical archives.

INSIGHTS INTO MANAGING RESTRICTED HEALTH INFORMATION

A panel with archival professionals giving insight on processing collections with restricted health information and making them available to researchers.



March 7, 2024
12 PM - 1:30 PM EST



Zoom



Event Overview:**Date and Time:** Thursday, March 7th, at 12:00 PM EST**Duration:** 1.5 hours**Platform:** Zoom**Presentation 1: “Please Don’t Make Me Close that Collection: How We Processed and Made the Highland Hospital Records Accessible”**

This case study delves into the Highland Hospital Records, a highly requested collection of hospital administrative records that administration pushed to close. The presentation outlines institutional considerations as a HIPAA covered entity, the processing of the collection to facilitate access, and the outcomes of these efforts.

Speakers:

Rebecca Williams (she/her) Archives Librarian for Research, Outreach, and Education, Duke University Medical Center Library & Archives

Lucy Brooks Waldrop, MLIS, MA (she/her) Assistant Director & Archives Librarian for Technical Services, Duke University Medical Center Archives

Presentation 2: “The Practice of Privacy”

Drawing on experiences managing CLIR-funded processing initiatives for public health collections, this group offers insight into the development and implementation of [“Recommended Practices for Enabling Access to Manuscript and Archival Collections Containing Health Information About Individuals.”](#)

Speakers:

Emily R. Novak Gustainis (she/her) Deputy Director, Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Phoebe Evans Letocha (she/her) Collections Management Archivist, Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health

Presentation 3: "Restrictions here, restrictions there, restrictions everywhere"

This presentation provides an overview of the policies and procedures in place at The Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives to carry out health information restrictions necessary to protect sensitive materials, while ‘promoting and providing the widest possible

accessibility of materials, considering ethical distribution and the SAA Core Values Statement and Code of Ethics.

Speakers:

Molly Seegers (she/they) Director, The Arthur H. Aufses, Jr., MD Archives & Mount Sinai Records Management Program

Hanna Pennington (she/her) Processing Archivist, The Winthrop Group

How to Participate: Mark your calendars and join us on Zoom for this enlightening virtual panel. Registration is required; [RSVP here!](#)

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REPOSITORY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

W. Bruce Fye Medical History Research Travel Grant

The W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine is pleased to announce its annual W. Bruce Fye Medical History Research Travel Grant. The grant is available to physicians, historians, medical students, graduate students, faculty members, and independent scholars who wish to use archival and library resources at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The grant (up to \$2,500 in one calendar year) may be used for transportation, lodging, food, and incidental expenses relating to the research project. It is available to residents of the United States and Canada who live more than 75 miles from Rochester.

The W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine houses archival collections that contain official records of the Clinic and its administrative offices, official and unofficial publications, departmental annual reports, committee minutes, photographic and moving images, sound recordings, personal papers, and memorabilia relating to the Mayo Clinic, its mission, programs, and people. To search the archival holdings, please visit the [online catalog \(MAX\)](#).

The W. Bruce Fye History of Medicine Library is a specialized library housing important collections in the history of medicine and allied sciences. Several thousand volumes of rare medical classics (from 1479) and early journal literature (from 1665) comprise the core collection of primary literature on all aspects of medicine and allied fields. More

recently published histories, biographies, facsimiles, and other support materials comprise the remainder of the collection of some 23,000 total volumes. Special strengths include anesthesiology, cardiology, dermatology, immunology, ophthalmology and neurology. The library also has a large collection of Mayo physician bound reprints. To search the library catalog, please visit the library [website](#).

Applicants should send by e-mail as attachments the items listed below to Renee Ziemer:

- Abstract of your project (250 words) stating the general scope and purpose
- How historical resources at Mayo Clinic will further your research
- Abbreviated curriculum vitae (3 pages or less)
- One letter of reference that includes comments on your project

Timeline for 2025 grant:

Application deadline (all materials): November 1, 2024

Successful applicant(s) will be notified by December 31, 2024

Visit(s) to Rochester must be completed by December 15, 2025

Contact information:

Renee Ziemer

History and Heritage Program Manager

Mayo Clinic

200 First Street SW

Rochester, MN 55905

Telephone: (507) 284-2585

E-mail: ziemer.renee@mayo.edu

News from the National Library of Medicine (NLM)**2024 NLM History Talks**

The NLM is pleased to announce its 2024 History Talks. These virtual talks are all free, live-streamed globally, and archived on [NLM's YouTube channel](#) and [NIH VideoCasting](#).

NLM History Talks promote awareness and use of NLM and related historical collections for research, education, and public service in biomedicine, the social sciences, and the humanities. The series also supports the commitment of NLM to recognize the diversity of its collections, which span ten centuries, encompass a range of digital and physical formats, and originate from nearly every part of the globe, and to foreground the voices of people of color, women, and individuals of a variety of cultural and disciplinary backgrounds who value these collections and use them to advance their research, teaching, and learning. Read [interviews with the speakers in this series](#) on NLM's blog *Circulating Now*. Find complete details for all these events on the [NLM History Talks webpage](#).

Alice Weinreb, PhD, Associate Professor of History, Loyola University Chicago, will offer the 15th Annual James H. Cassidy Lecture in the History of Medicine, "[Anorexia in the Archives: Documenting the Late Twentieth Century Rise in Eating Disorders](#)." Dr. Weinreb's talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm Eastern Time on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

Ren Capucão, MSN, RN, PhD candidate, Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, School of Nursing, University of Virginia, will speak on “[\(Un\)fit to Nurse: Efficiency and Discipline at the Philippine General Hospital, 1898–1916.](#)” Mr. Capucão’s talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm Eastern Time on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Lorna Ebner, PhD candidate, History Department, The State University of New York, Stony Brook, will speak on “[Burning Contagion: Organized Arson in Response to Quarantine Facilities and Pest Houses, 1858-1901.](#)” Ms. Ebner’s talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm Eastern Time on Thursday, May 30, 2024.

Ogechukwu Williams, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Department of Medical Humanities Creighton University, and 2022 NLM Michael E. DeBakey Fellow, will offer the 8th annual Michael E. DeBakey Lecture in the History of Medicine, “[Assailed at Home; Champions Abroad: The American College of Nurse Midwives’ Push for Maternal Healthcare Advancements in Nigeria.](#)” Dr. Williams’s talk will take place at 2pm Eastern Time on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

Rachael Gillibrand, PhD, University of Leeds, will speak on “[Visionary Technology: Exploring Eyeglasses and Impairment in NLM’s Collections.](#)” Dr. Gillibrand’s talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm Eastern Time on Thursday, October 17, 2024.

Namhee Lee, PhD, Research Professor, The Ewha Institute of History, Ewha Womans University, South Korea, will speak on “[In the Pursuit of Mental Well-being: Robert H. Felix and His Role in the Establishment of Mental Health in America.](#)” Dr. Lee’s talk will take place via NIH Videocasting at 2pm Eastern Time on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

NLM announces three new exhibitions

[Making the Greatest Medical Library in America](#) showcases a selection of 19th-century medical pamphlets that were once featured in NLM’s first exhibition, over 145 years ago. On a quest to bring together and catalog the world’s medical knowledge, [John Shaw Billings](#), an Army surgeon and book

collector who oversaw the U.S. Surgeon General's library ([today known as NLM](#)), acquired approximately 300 pamphlets from the private collection of the renowned French physiologist Claude Bernard in 1878. Later that year, in a letter to a medical journal, a visitor to the library recounted seeing the pamphlets on display. *Making the Greatest Medical Library in America* revisits this first reported exhibition to explore NLM's long history of collecting, cataloging, and communicating quality medical information to researchers, publishers, librarians, educators, healthcare professionals and members of the public for generations. The exhibition also spotlights the work of contemporary library professionals who cataloged, conserved, and digitized items from the Claude Bernard collection. These professionals helped preserve the history of medicine and NLM's legacy as the institution approaches its third century.

[Take Two and Call Me in the Morning: The Story of Aspirin Revisited](#) examines how modern organic chemistry and technology isolated, then synthesized nature's properties into aspirin, a ubiquitous remedy for a constellation of ailments. For centuries, people used willow bark to relieve pain and treat fevers. However, it was not until the late 1800s that scientists developed an analog of the active ingredient in willow bark, creating the essential drug that is now part of everyday life. By the latter half of the 20th century, scientists had begun examining aspirin for benefits beyond pain relief and fever reduction. *Take Two and Call Me in the Morning* revisits the content of a 1959 NLM physical display, *Acetylsalicylic Acid: The Story of Aspirin*. Curated by Anne Rothfeld, PhD, the updated and expanded exhibition brings the story to a global audience online and showcases newer items from the NLM collection alongside books from the original exhibition. The online exhibition includes a [digital gallery of works related to the history of aspirin](#) from the collections of the NLM, which are also available in their entirety in [NLM Digital Collections](#), as well as a selection of trusted [NLM health information resources](#). Beginning in 2024, a traveling banner adaptation of the exhibition will tour libraries and cultural institutions around the country.

[Promising Future, Complex Past: Artificial Intelligence and the Legacy of Physiognomy](#) explores the history of physiognomy and its influence on contemporary artificial intelligence and computer science technologies that gather and interpret body data. Now debunked as pseudoscience, physiognomy enjoyed periods of legitimacy and popularity over a history

spanning millennia before being discredited in the 20th century. Society has rejected the unscientific aspects of physiognomy, but efforts to gain information from physical characteristics continue through current technologies which have the potential to make the world safer and improve health, while impacting how data is collected, shared, and preserved. The online exhibition, produced in cooperation with [Sameer Antani, Ph.D.](#), Principal Investigator in the Computational Health Research Branch of the NLM Intramural Research Program, includes a [digital gallery of selected works from the historical collections of the NLM](#), which are also available in their entirety in [NLM Digital Collections](#), as well as a selection of links to trusted [NLM health information resources](#). A traveling banner adaptation of the exhibition will tour libraries and cultural institutions around the country, beginning in 2024.

2024 DeBakey Fellows

Following its May 11, 2023, call for applications to the NLM Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine, the [NLM is pleased to announce](#) the following 2024 DeBakey Fellows:

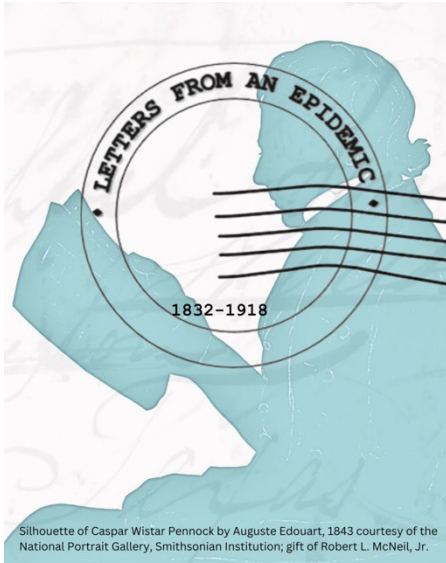
Ayman Yasin Atat, PhD

Academic Researcher, Department for History of Science and Pharmacy,
Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany

Research Project: European Medical Sources in the Manuscripts of Ibn Sallūm al-Ḥalabī

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Exhibit Announcement**Old Red Medical Museum: Letters from an Epidemic, 1832-1918**

Silhouette of Caspar Wistar Pennock by Auguste Edouart, 1843 courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Robert L. McNeil, Jr.

ports during the eighteenth century.

The exhibition is an exploration of personal stories, the social history of medicine and the lost art of letter writing. Highlights include fumigated mail and correspondence which reference several US epidemics and pandemics including yellow fever (Texas, 1839), cholera (Virginia, 1849), smallpox (Philadelphia, 1882) and La Grippe (Massachusetts, 1918).



The original correspondence is accompanied by typewritten and audio transcripts (accessed by scanning QR codes).



Audio transcript: Letter (referencing yellow fever) from Dr. Caspar Wistar Pennock, Philadelphia, December 12 1839 to Dr. Ashbel Smith, Galveston.

Letter kindly read by JR Shaw of *Galveston Unscripted*.

Scan the QR code with the camera on your cell phone.

Paula Summerly, PhD

Curator, Old Red Medical Museum

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pathology

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

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BOOK REVIEWS

Alison Li. *Wondrous Transformations: A Maverick Physician, the Science of Hormones, and the Birth of the Transgender Revolution*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2023. 272 pages. \$30.00. ISBN: 978-1-4696-7485-8

Like her biographical subject, Harry Benjamin, historian Alison Li took a roundabout route to the study of trans medicine. Li and Benjamin both started with an interest in hormones, which led Benjamin to transsexuality (the historical term used in both the book and this review) and Li to Benjamin. Despite being a self-admitted newcomer to the field of trans history, Li's sensitivity to Benjamin's role in the creation of the twentieth century's "glandular being" makes her a fitting choice for Benjamin's biographer.

Harry Benjamin (1885-1986) was a Berlin-born German-American physician who practiced medicine for over half a century, first making a name for himself as a proponent of Eugen Steinach's glandular rejuvenation treatments. In the latter half of his career, Benjamin became prominent once again for treating patients seeking medical

gender transition. Though Benjamin is widely acknowledged as one of the preeminent figures in the history of trans medicine, *Wondrous Transformations* is the first book-length treatment of the man. Interestingly, Li didn't set out to fill this gap in trans historiography. She had initially intended to write a larger history of hormones in the 1920s, but she found herself drawn more and more to the story of a single physician, the enigmatic Harry Benjamin. Still, *Wondrous Transformations* does more than simply recount Benjamin's life history. Like all good biographers, Li takes the subject's life as a fixed point and observes what moves through and around it.

Accordingly, large sections of the book focus more on Benjamin's associates than on Benjamin himself. Sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld and author/rejuvenation patient Gertrude Atherton receive particularly thorough treatment, in part due to the rich archival sources and previous scholarly attention on the two figures. Li also makes use of published memoirs to bring forward the voices of Benjamin's trans patients, including Jan Morris and Aleshia Brevard. For Benjamin himself, Li relies on the Harry Benjamin Collection at the Kinsey Institute Library and Special Collections, Indiana University. In particular, Li draws extensively from an unpublished autobiographical manuscript that Benjamin penned in midlife.

Wondrous Transformations is organized chronologically, and those interested in Benjamin primarily for his work on transsexuality may initially be disappointed to realize that the first half of the book has very little at all to do with such matters. They will be delighted, however, in the high drama of Benjamin's early life and career. Li chronicles how Benjamin suffered a years-long unrequited love affair, journeyed to New York to demonstrate a failed "turtle vaccine" for tuberculosis, and spent a strange few weeks in London after his ship back to Germany was caught up in the outbreak of World War I.

Benjamin returned to New York in 1921 to promote Eugen Steinach's method of rejuvenation. The so-called "Steinach method" was a partial vasectomy that Steinach theorized renewed vigor by increasing testicular hormone production. Benjamin eventually established a steady practice offering this procedure, as well as a parallel procedure involving directing X-rays at a patient's uterus towards the same end of increasing hormone production. Li focuses her attention on this phase of Benjamin's career to his relationship with the Californian author Gertrude Atherton, who first visited his practice to conduct research for her next novel. At the age of 62, Atherton underwent rejuvenation herself under Benjamin's care. She found the procedure incredibly invigorating and credited it for the wild success of her novel *Black Oxen* and the second

wind of her career. The novel also raised Benjamin's profile dramatically. He and Atherton both received a tidal wave of mail from women eager for more information on the miraculous rejuvenation procedure. In analyzing these letters, Li highlights how people in the 1920s and 30s began to see themselves as "glandular beings—organisms shaped by a wild internal sea of chemicals" (72). Benjamin and Atherton collaborated on responding to the mail and became life-long friends.

Throughout the chapters recounting Benjamin's early and midlife, Li highlights his association with the sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld—who Benjamin visited nearly every summer throughout the 1920s—and the larger world of interwar European sexology. This affinity followed him throughout his career, and in 1949, American sexologist Alfred Kinsey referred a patient by the pseudonym Val Barry to Benjamin. Barry, though assigned male at birth, had lived as a girl from a young age, and had long sought medical means to feminize her body. Benjamin believed Barry's conviction in her own identity, prescribed her female hormones, and (unsuccessfully) sought a surgeon who would operate on her. Slowly, Benjamin gained a reputation as a sympathetic doctor. In addition to his clinical work, Benjamin collaborated with advocates such as Virginia Price, Reed Erickson, and Christine Jorgensen. Li describes how Benjamin's relationship with the latter figure paralleled his earlier relationship with Gertrude Atherton. After Jorgensen became a national sensation overnight following her gender transition in 1953, she received mountains of correspondence from people seeking medical advice, which Benjamin helped her manage.

In 1966, Benjamin published *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, a milestone text that defined transsexuality in clinical terms and argued that since "the mind of the transsexual cannot be adjusted to the body, it is logical and justifiable to attempt the opposite, to adjust the body to the mind." (179) *The Transsexual Phenomenon* was picked up by nascent university-based gender identity clinics across the United States. Doctors used its recommendations as the basis for the gatekeeping model that defined trans medicine for the next half-century. Benjamin himself continued to see patients into the 1970s, only slowing down after his ninetieth birthday in 1975. In 1979, he helped establish the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA), which officially codified the Standards of Care for trans medicine. He lived another six years, still an active participant in the social and professional world he had helped build, until passing away in 1986 at the age of 101.

The major thrust of argument in Li's book is that Benjamin's work with trans patients represents a continuity, rather than a disjunction, with his early work on rejuvenation. Li writes that Benjamin's connection with Steinach and Hirschfeld predisposed him "to consider his patient's experience as grounded in biology." His long established "keen, sympathetic gaze" inclined him to take trans patients seriously. Finally, his pragmatic bent motivated him to action through hormonal intervention (143). As Li acknowledges in footnotes, trans historians Joanne Meyerowitz, Nicholas Matte, and Susan Stryker have previously pointed to the continuities in Benjamin's career across his clinical focuses. Li's contribution is to bolster these arguments: she draws out additional archival evidence, highlights the parallels between Benjamin's associations with Atherton and Jorgensen, and underscores how both halves of Benjamin's career lay downstream from—and helped create—the emergence of the "glandular being" in the twentieth century.

The most significant weakness of this book is the paucity of attention paid to Benjamin's legacy through the World Professional Association for Transgender Health's (previously HBGDA's) Standards of Care. Li briefly discusses Beans Velocci's recent work on Benjamin's classification of transsexuality, but she covers HBGDA/WPATH only cursorily. Notably, Li does not draw out the connection between her appraisal of Benjamin's paternalism (such as his tendency to refer to his trans patients as HGs, "Harry's girls") and the gatekeeping model embedded in the Standards of Care.

Still, *Wondrous Transformations* excels at painting a vibrant portrait of Benjamin, a man Li characterizes as cheerfully paternalistic, stubborn in ideals, and suffused with old world charm, "a man who liked living as a millionaire even though he wasn't one" (107). Susan Stryker and Jules Gill-Peterson both describe the book as "readable" in their dust-jacket blurbs. Far from damning with faint praise, this is a high compliment. Li's engaging prose harnesses the affordances allowed in biography to craft an engrossing narrative. She has done an admirable job in bringing the two halves of Benjamin's career together, and her work is a great service to the fields of trans history and the history of hormones.

Shir Bach

Congressional Papers Archivist

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Donald Waters. “*Medical Care for All Regardless*”: A Visionary County Medical Society Guarantees Medical Care for Everyone and Improves Medical Practice and Public Health. Oakland, CA: Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, 2021. 211 pages. ISBN-13: 978-0-578-90317-0.

As an archivist for a large multi-state healthcare system, I have speculated many times on how the healthcare system in the United States got to its current state of high technology and high costs, uneven and sometimes disappointing results, and a divide between those who have insurance and those that don't. I have believed that the rise of private insurance helped drive US hospitals to chase those lucrative dollars, but that is just my opinion.

The records in my healthcare system archives do not really answer my questions but they do show the changes happening to our hospitals. These changes were always designed to improve health care, and usually did, but they still could not stop costs from rising and more people not receiving regular quality health care.

When *Medical Care for All Regardless* was offered for review I jumped at the chance to review it with the hope it would give me some insight into the “how we got here” question.

First and foremost, *Medical Care for All Regardless* is not an academic history. It is a book written for the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association (ACCMA) by Donald Waters, a long-time staff member and former executive director of the ACCMA. The ACCMA covers the two counties that encompass the East San Francisco Bay area and includes the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond and others. This area saw significant population growth during World War II which strained the local healthcare system.

Organizational histories are often dismissed by historians as puff pieces with little value; it is a mistake to have that view of this book. While it definitively puts the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association in the best light, this text does give invaluable insight into what was happening in US healthcare between 1945 and 1955, especially in California and how that led to the health system we have today. In addition, this book gives us a look at the archives of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association and the valuable material it contains, which is not accessible by the public.

Medical Care for All Regardless is organized into nine chapters that covers malpractice insurance, blood banks, emergency & disaster response, public health, the organization's structure and Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association's relationship with the California Medical Society.

I want to talk about the first three chapters which focus on the "Alameda Plan." This plan was created "...to restore public faith in the medical profession. This program guaranteed medical care to every resident regardless of their financial means and promised to hold every physician accountable for their professional behavior"(1).

The main reason for this program was to fight calls for government-controlled healthcare. There was a real push after World War II to have either federal or state governments create a healthcare program to reduce patient costs and improve care. Fighting any government intervention in healthcare was something that united US physicians and medical societies and the Alameda County Medical Association, which originated the "Alameda Plan," was no different.

The book goes into detail on the intensive public relations campaign conducted by the Alameda Medical Association to promote the "Alameda Plan." The author includes some print advertisements and other material produced at the time promoting the plan which provides great insight into how this new plan was being sold to the public. The focus of these ads was on how the "Alameda Plan" would provide people with medical care regardless of their ability to pay.

One unique inclusion in the book is the full five-page supplement from *Search Magazine* of a transcript of an NBC radio program, "What the Doctor Ordered," which aired on June 9, 1951. The program focused on presenting the "Alameda Plan" to a national audience. The author thought so much of this radio program that he used the first page of that magazine supplement as an illustration two other times in the book.

The author makes liberal use of items from the Alameda County Medical Association archives such as newspaper articles, documents, publications and photos throughout the book. While I like the inclusion of material from the Association's archives, others might not, especially with so many of them taking up a full page.

The book gives a very positive view on the success of the "Alameda Plan" and based on the facts presented, that conclusion seems correct. However, since this is an internally

produced history of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association, it lacks any countering facts or arguments from outside the organization that could challenge that conclusion. The author also does not state if the “Alameda Plan,” or something similar, was adopted outside of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, which I think would be a real measurement of the plan’s success.

I see this book as a great jumping off point for further research and discussion on that critical period right after World War II where the US healthcare system could have gone the route of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and other countries in establishing a national healthcare system. I hope that the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association will make their archives available to outside researchers working on this topic in the future.

In the book’s introduction, Donald Waters states, “One lesson everyone will take away is that physicians have the capacity to influence major challenges affecting our society when they collectively put their sights on doing so”(xii). While I agree that physicians collectively kept the US healthcare system private, since there is no information that the “Alameda Plan” concept was adopted outside of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, his statement rings a bit hollow.

I do recommend reading this book as it provides great insight into a critical period of healthcare in the United States.

The book is available for free download from the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association web site under the “About Us” tab.

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Leslie A. Schwalm. *Medicine, Science, and Making Race in Civil War America.* University of North Carolina Press, 2023. 232 pages. \$99.00. ISBN: 978-1-4696-7269-4

Captain Matthew Virgil Boutté, an African American officer in the 92nd Division, left for the Western Front in June 1918. Weeks later he lay convalescing from wounds, untended by white military doctors. At that time, he wrote: “No nation on earth has ever

hated a group as the Americans hate Negroes” (*The Wounded World: W.E.B. Du Bois and the First World War* by Chad L. Williams, 2023).

Leslie Schwalm, in the volume under review here, tries to explain this, and in doing so examines how the pseudo-science and racism that America’s educated elites – its physicians and military officers in this case – had nurtured for generations expressed itself in the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Boutté’s war was a half century after the American Civil War that is the focus of Schwalm’s book. And still a 1918 memo circulated among American officers, “On the Subject of Black American Troops,” read as if it were written by Confederate apologists. It described the Black man as an “inferior being” who was a “constant menace.” Nothing had changed; in fact, with the end of Reconstruction and onset of Jim Crow rule in America, it got worse.

It is Schwalm’s thesis that the, “... medical and scientific endeavors documented ... show how racist ideology born out of slavery survived slavery’s destruction ...” (xiii). In this, the author echoes Du Bois’ harsh commentary on WWI that the fight for global democracy was in fact a cover for, “...a theory of the inferiority of the darker peoples and a contempt for their rights and aspirations” (Du Bois, *The Crisis*, 1919).

Schwalm marshals considerable evidence for her thesis. Indeed, her notes in this volume comprise half the text of the book. The War Department Archives and US Sanitary Commission (USSC) papers provide considerable resources in defense of race-based practices throughout the Civil War. Schwalm notes the particularly thorny issue of what can be described as “carry over” prejudices that sustained exclusionary practices and unequal (or no) treatment or relief for African American war victims. This carry over marked all the work of the USSC in the field with direct, terrible impact on African Americans or their (few) representative organizations, e.g., women’s relief groups that operated throughout the Northern states. In concert with this were the pernicious series of “scientific” social surveys motivated by bogus racial theories undertaken by Benjamin Gould working for the USSC or Benjamin Woodward, J. H. Baxter, etc. emanating from the War Department.

To illustrate the wide-ranging impact of carry over prejudice one need look no further than the expressed and written thoughts of Frederick Law Olmsted, the first executive secretary of the USSC. Once appointed he actively lobbied to also oversee the care of

Southern freedmen touting his experience in the Southern states prior to the war (he was the author of three widely read travelogues describing slavery and society in the South) as support for his appointment. Olmsted unabashedly spoke of the “peculiarities” of African Americans whom he characterized as, “ ... little better than a cunning idiot and a cowed savage” (44) in need of, as Schwalm states, “efficient and forceful white governance” (44).

Schwalm establishes a hectic pace through these subjects, finally arriving at a curious end: examination of death rites for African American soldiers. For Schwalm what occurred after death was the final indignity to be visited upon African Americans. The denial of pension or death benefits on a grand scale, inferior medical treatment, mass anonymous burials, etc. prepare the reader for general, insistent conclusions that overreach, e.g., “The Union war effort was also turned into a race-making project, ultimately assuring Northern whites [of] the nation’s racial hierarchies, and, specifically the subordination of African Americans, would continue in the aftermath of the war” (116). This, in fact, was accomplished by the failure of the government to live up to the promise of Reconstruction, to undermine it and eventually repeal its most compelling legislation. The war was not required as a “race-making project.” Race has and had always been present.

But apart from such questions of emphasis the book is a good primer in how established racial prejudice insidiously distorted and undermined the efforts of African Americans to rid themselves of white skinned oppression and enslavement.


John Hellebrand

Palinurus Antiquarian Books

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