

THE WATERMARK



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



Table of Contents

- 3 Editors' Message
- 4 From the President
- 5 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 25 Recognition of Merit Award
- 26 News from the NLM
- 28 Repository News
- 33 Book Reviews
- 42 Advertisers

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 separately 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

Attendees at the LAMPHHS annual business meeting in Boston, 2025.

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Summer LAMPHHS members!

We hope this issue of the Watermark finds you doing well. As is tradition, the summer issue features the minutes from the annual meeting in Boston. The annual meeting kicked off the organization's 50th Anniversary year, and we look forward to celebrating LAMPHHS in the coming issues!

In addition to the Boston minutes, this issue features a write-up about this year's Recognition of Merit Award winner, Rick Fraser. Additionally, the issue includes news items from the National Library of Medicine, the University of Rochester Medical Center's Edward G. Miner Library, the Oncology Nursing Society, the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and the Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine.

This issue marks the one-year anniversary of the Watermark's move to its new format in Canva. While there have been some growing pains this year with the new format, we hope the transition has been a net positive. The editorial staff will continue to investigate ways to improve the layout.

We hope you enjoy this Summer issue!

Sincerely,

Bob Vietrogoski
and Tara Wink



Logo approved by the Steering Committee to mark the 50th anniversary of LAMPHHS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summertime is finally here! Now that we are in these warmer months, we can look back at our recent 50th Anniversary Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts and reflect a bit. From the inspiring setting to the impactful programming, for me, the meeting was an invigorating event. I hope those of you that were able to attend enjoyed a similar experience. As I listened and learned from our members' presentations, I was reminded of the depth of knowledge and breath of experiences our membership boasts. I was also reminded of the deep sense of community LAMPHHS affords. Thanks to all who helped to make this meeting such a memorable one!



Our Fearless Leader

For those who would like to provide us with feedback and suggestions for future meetings, our [2025 post-meeting survey is now live](#). Please share your thoughts regarding the meeting.

This survey will be available until the close of business on June 27, 2025. All responses are anonymous and will be used by the Steering Committee, and next year's Local Arrangements and Program Committees, as we plan next year's meeting, scheduled to be held in Buffalo, New York on June 3 and 4, 2026.

Cheers!

Keith C. Mages
President

LAMPHHS ANNUAL MEETING 2025

2025 Hybrid Business Meeting

May 1, 2025

In person: Harvard Medical School

Gordon Hall, Waterhouse Room

Streaming offered for off-site attendees

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am (EDT)

Welcome - Keith Mages

Adoption of Agenda – Carrie Meyer

Motion: Lisa Mix

Second: Stephen Greenberg

Approved: by acclamation



Michelle Marcella, Cassie Nespor, and Keith Mages at the opening dinner.

Adoption of 2024 Business Meeting minutes – Carrie Meyer

One typo correction of a museum name for one of the award winners (Thank you Arlene!) was made after sending the document to the membership. Motion is to approve as corrected.

Motion: Stephen Novak

Second: Lucy Ross

Approved: by acclamation

President's Address to the Membership – Keith Mages

Keith provided a short overview of the history of the organization pulled from archival documents. LAMPHHS started as the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences in 1976 with a membership of 24 in 1976. We have more than 220 today. He also highlighted that we've continued to grow and have even more diversity of professions than is in our name!

Open Discussion of Committee Reports

1. President's Report - Keith Mages
2. Treasurer's Report / Membership Report / Listserv Report – Elisabeth Brander
3. The Watermark Editor's Report – Brooke Fox
4. Website Committee – Cassie Nespor
5. Local Arrangements Committee Report – Charlotte Lellman
6. Program Committee Report – Sheridan Sayles
7. Nominating Committee Report – Melissa Grafe
8. Publications Awards Committee Report – Nicole Topich
9. Recognition Awards Committee Report – Kathi Isham
10. Education Committee Report – Anna Marie Schuldt
11. Travel Scholarships – Amanda Garfunkel
12. Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines for the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains – Dominic Hall

13. Archives – Jessica Johnson

14. Ad Hoc Committee on 50th Anniversary of LAMPHHS

All committee reports were circulated prior to the meeting (see appendix of 2025 Committee Chair Reports). Discussion and questions were invited from the membership.

Discussion

1. Charlotte Lellman recognized and thanked the Local Arrangements Committee members.
2. Dominic Hall informed the membership that the Steering Committee voted on April 30, 2025 to make the Ad Hoc Committee on the Guideline for the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains to be a standing committee.
3. Cassie Nespor highlighted the LAMPHHS Instagram account and solicited content for posting.
4. No questions or concerns were raised about the circulated reports.

Old and New Business:

Next year's conference – 2026: Buffalo, NY, June 3-4, 2026

Hope to see you there!

Consider serving on a committee for next year's meeting.

Introduction of new Steering Committee members

Thank you to outgoing members: Elisabeth Brander (Treasurer), Emily Beck (Member at Large), and Brooke Guthrie (Member at Large)

Welcome new members: Nicole Topich (Treasurer), Kathi Isham (Member at Large), and Sheridan Sayles (Member at Large)

Fundraising Efforts

Exploration by the Steering Committee to build an endowment for LAMPHHS - thinking of having a cash flow that is available as needed. Thinking of this being a promotion of more education pieces or offsetting costs in larger cities versus membership.

Membership feedback: Stephen Greenberg - also part of AAHM fundraising committee - their major concern was establishing a full-time executive director and for combining two fundraising organizations/501c3s; not against this initiative but because LAMPHHS has a smaller membership, that could be a large financial gift expectation by each person. Suggested that perhaps we look at redirecting funds from travel scholarships to other uses.

If the Steering Committee creates an ad hoc committee for this purpose - Steve Greenberg volunteers to serve on it.

No other directions or thoughts.
No objections to further exploration.

Adjournment at 9:29 am (EDT)

Motion: Stephen Greenberg

Second: Sarah Alger

Approved: by acclamation

2025 Committee Chair Reports**President's Report – Keith Mages**

It has been an honor to serve as President of LAMPHHS this past year. Through challenges and uncertainty brought about by shifting political and societal pressures, this organization continues to showcase the best in all of us, as we continue to support, educate, and inspire one another. Thus far, during my tenure as President, I am constantly reminded of the depth of knowledge of our membership, as well as the deep commitment so many of us have to this organization and its members. On this front, I am indebted to the following committees and individuals who have contributed their time and efforts to make our organization so impactful.



*LAMPHHS President, Keith Mages
at the business meeting.*

The *Watermark* has been a staple of our organization for decades now, providing updates on the people, places, and topics of interest to our membership. I would like to thank its Co-Editors, Tara Wink and Bob Vietrogoski, along with Associate Editor, Maria Shellman, Layout Editor, Brooke Fox, Book Review Editor, Erin Torell, and Associate Book Review Editor, Arlene Shaner.

Similarly, our website, LAMPHHS.org, is an essential mode of communication and nexus for organizational activity. My sincere thanks to the members of the *Website Committee* who work diligently to keep it up and current, always ready to help when needed. This includes Cassie Nespor (Chair), Lucy Ross (Annual Meeting/Educational Programs Website Content Editor), Curtis Forte (Social Media/Watermark/News Website Content Editor), and Amanda Garfunkel (Officer/Committee/Appointees/Awards Website Content Editor).

Our *Education Committee* has worked diligently this past year to bring a variety of educational opportunities to members, led by Chair, Anna Schuldt, with committee members Judy Chelnick and Ashley Stevens. Similarly, the *Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines for the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains* embarked upon a second year, led by Dominic Hall (Chair) to bring us more guidance and clarity on a timely, important matter. To all members who contributed their efforts to both committees, you have my thanks.

Aside from the committee work that contributes to our organization's ongoing offerings – another important cluster of committees revolve around our annual meeting. This year, we look forward to coming together in Boston on April 30 and May 1, 2025.

Leading the efforts to make our meeting a success were members of the *Local Arrangements Committee (LAC)* and the *Program Committee*, chaired by Charlotte Lellman and Sheridan Sayles respectively. LAC members included Jessica Murphy, Carolyn Damon Hayes, Alison Lotto, Michelle Marcella, Katie Loughrey, and Sarah Alger. Program Committee members included Lucy Ross, Michelle Bass, Nancy Dupre Barnes, B. Dale Magee. I had the pleasure of attending many of these committee meetings and was consistently impressed at the dedication and efforts made by all. You each have my sincere appreciation for pulling together what I know will be a wonderful meeting!

The *50th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee*, Co-Chaired by Mary Hague-Yearl as well as myself, was formed this year to help us celebrate our organization's 50th Anniversary in style. Joining us were Sarah Alger, Lisa Mix, Jessica Johnson, Stephen Greenberg, and Howard Rootenberg. I was honored to work with such a fantastic group, and look forward to seeing the fruits of our labor at the Boston meeting. Thank you all!

Finally, there are the awards committees, which provide a meaningful way for our organization to recognize specific members who have provided meaningful contributions to our profession or organization, or those who display promise to do so in the future. On this front, members of the *Recognition Awards Committee*, *Publication Award Committee*, and *Travel Scholarship Committee* worked diligently to recruit, select, and reward such individuals. My thanks to the members of each of these important committees. This includes, on the Recognition Awards Committee, Katherine Isham, (Chair), Nicholas Webb, and Brooke Fox; on the *Publications Award Committee*, Nicole Topich (Chair), Jason Byrd, and Eric v.d. Luft; and on the Travel Scholarship Committee, Amanda Garfunkel (Chair), Lucy Waldrop, Danielle Glynn, and Stephen Novak.

Rounding out this report, mention must be made of my fellow officers on the *LAMPHHS Steering Committee*. Brandon T. Pieczko, DiAnna Hemsath, Carrie Meyer, Sarah Alger, Elisabeth Brander, Brooke Guthrie, and Emily Beck. It takes a team, and you are some of the best! Together we've worked hard to keep this organization vital. This year, we have three steering committee officers transitioning off, including Elisabeth Brander (Treasurer), Brooke Guthrie (Officer at Large), and Emily Beck (Officer at Large). From those of us remaining, we will miss your monthly presence at our meetings and we thank you for all of your hard work over these past two years. Also cycling off is

Polina Ilieva (Past-President). Thank you, thank you, thank you Polina, for all that you have done, and all that you continue to do!

Thanks must also be made to our incredible *Nominating Committee*, consisting of Melissa Grafe, Chair, Russell Johnson, and Shelley McKellar. They did an excellent job solidifying a wonderful slate of candidates on an extremely tight timeline. I look forward to the results of this year's vote, to be announced at our meeting in Boston.

And last, but certainly not least, I would like to acknowledge Jessica Johnson, who stepped up this year to take the place of long term LAMPHHS archivist, Jodi Koste. Working often behind the scenes, our archivist assists the Steering Committee in locating discussions and organizational endeavors of the past. My sincere thanks to you both! I look forward to our forthcoming meeting – and to the 2025-2026 year that commences afterwards. No doubt additional challenges await us, but I am confident that together, as an organization, we will continue to support one another, explore new ideas, and flourish as a community of like-minded individuals!

Treasurer's and Membership Report – Elisabeth Brander

LAMPHHS remains in good financial health. Our end-of-year balance in 2024 was just shy of \$35,000, which is a bit lower than recent years. This is mainly because we had some higher-than-normal costs for Tiffany Awards, and we also needed to pay the initial cost for the Freshy website redesign project. As of April, we are well on track to finishing the year well ahead of last year's final number.

Our largest expense in 2024 was the conference, particularly the Wednesday night dinner, which is usual. Our second largest expense was the website project. Our largest source of revenue continues to be membership dues.

Our IRS form 990 has been filed and accepted, as has our PC form in Massachusetts.

As of April, we have 213 active members of LAMPHHS. Of these, 58 joined in 2024. Our actual membership number is a bit higher since there's always a bit of a lag in members paying their dues. Our numbers remain consistent with historical norms, which are generally between 200 and 250 members.

The Watermark Editor's Report – Tara Wink and Bob Vietrogoski

Publication: Four issues of *The Watermark* (v.47, n.3-v.48, n.2) have been published electronically. Issues have ranged from 27 to 49 pages with an average of 34 pages per issue.

Personnel: Bob Vietrogoski and Tara Wink (Co-Editors); Maria Shellman (Associate Editor); Brooke Fox (Layout Editor); Erin Torell (Book Review Editor); and Arlene Shaner (Associate Book Review Editor).

Report: This year, with the exception of v. 47, n.3, *The Watermark* was published using Canva. The new layout brings a new feel to the newsletter and makes it a bit more accessible. However, Canva has some learning curves and we have hit a few bumps in the road in publications. The editors ask for members' patience and understanding as we work through these learning curves.

The editors have continued to meet quarterly, when possible, to discuss the layout changes, publishing schedules, and reintroduce features of past *Watermarks*. In addition, the editors made the decision to start publishing the book covers with book reviews. We have discussed the need to find new content and we hope members feel encouraged to send us articles, news, announcements, etc. The editorial staff has defined the following dates for upcoming issues:

- Winter Issue: Submission deadline 12/15; Publish 1/15
- Spring Issue: Submission deadline 3/5; Publish 4/1
- Summer Issue: Submission deadline 6/5; Publish 7/1
- Fall Issue: Submission deadline 9/5; Publish 10/1

These dates may change but our goal is to standardize a publishing schedule. In the coming year, we hope to also introduce new formatting guidelines to help with the Canva layout. These guidelines would include image and formatting specifications to standardize submissions.

Advertisers: The number of advertisers remains at three. The financial aspects of this will be found in the Treasurer's Report.

Website Committee – Cassie Nespor

The committee consists of:

- Cassie Nespor – Website Administrator
- Lucy Ross – Annual Meeting and Education
- Amanda Garfunkel – Officers, Committee Appointments, Awards
- Curtis Forte – Watermark, News, Social Media
- Anna Schuldt – Education Committee Liaison

With the new website up and running pretty smoothly, the top priority of this committee was to find a website maintenance vendor that would ensure that all the plug-ins get updated and also provide a help line for any technical issues that arise. The committee investigated three vendors and recommended Freshy

to the Steering Committee. Our package is \$125/month for hosting, maintenance, backup, security, and support. It was approved and we migrated to their server in August. Their infrastructure survey showed that our website was in good health. The only issue it flagged was our ADA compliance. We used a free online compliance check tool and Curtis Forte fixed the major issues. We are satisfied with the customer support from Freshy.

One of our other goals was to create a downloadable Membership Directory connected to the purchase of a membership. A link to download the most recent Directory from the LAMPHHS Google Drive is now included in a membership.

We also created a new page on our site for the Education Committee with the help of Anna Schudlt. This website allows the Education Committee to advertise their upcoming and past programs to a broader audience than the listserv and hopefully draws new members.

Curtis Forte also started a new LAMPHHS Instagram account (@lamphhs). So far, there have not been a lot of submissions. The number of followers has been growing and to date we have almost 40. Follow us and submit photos to post!

Lucy Ross and Cassie Nespor updated the existing pages and WooCommerce products for the annual meeting and registration for the event has gone well. As in the past, we gave editing permissions to someone on the Local Arrangements Committee so they could track registrations and make quick changes if needed.



Lucy Ross, presenting in session one at the annual meeting.

Local Arrangements Committee Report – Charlotte Lellman

Committee:

- Charlotte Lellman, Chair (Center for the History of Medicine, Harvard Medical School)
- Carolyn Hayes (Center for the History of Medicine, Harvard Medical School)
- Alison Lotto (Austen Riggs Center)
- Katie Loughrey (Boston Children's Hospital Archives)
- Michelle Marcella (Russell Museum, Massachusetts General Hospital)
- Jessica Murphy (Center for the History of Medicine, Harvard Medical School)
- Keith Mages, ex officio (University of Buffalo)
- Sarah Alger, ex officio (Russell Museum, Massachusetts General Hospital)

The Local Arrangements Committee was formed during the summer of 2024. Charlotte Lellman reached out to colleagues at the Center for the History of Medicine, and Jessica Murphy and Carolyn Hayes volunteered. Charlotte also reached out to local colleagues listed in the LAMPHHS directory. Boston archivists Katie Loughrey (Boston Children's Hospital) and Michelle Marcella (Russell Museum, Mass General) joined the committee. Alison Lotto, who is located in Western Massachusetts, also joined the committee. Keith Mages (LAMPHHS president) and Sarah Alger (LAMPHHS vice president) participated as ex officio members. The committee had a kickoff meeting in September 2024, and met monthly thereafter.

All meetings were held on Zoom. There were also several optional site visits at Harvard Medical School and at Trident.

Accommodation

The conference hotel, as determined by the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), was the Sheraton Boston Hotel on Dalton St. AAHM reserved a block of rooms. The cost was \$279 per night plus 16.45% state and local taxes.

Repository Tours

The LAC set up four tour time slots covering five repositories:

Tour Site 1: Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Library & Boston Children's Hospital

- 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (13 registrants)
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm (14 registrants)

This joint tour will begin at Countway Library. Attendees will see highlights and staff favorites from a variety of collections related to surgery, public health, nutrition, and reproductive health, as well as anatomical atlases. Our first stop is the Center's gallery which hosts numerous unique and significant instruments, objects, and anatomical artifacts (like Phineas Gage's skull and an early plethysmograph). Then we will spend time with a hands-on display in the Center's reading room and the Prescriptions for Peace exhibition.

The group will then walk a few blocks through the heart of the Longwood Medical Area, to Boston Children's Hospital, and receive a campus tour of historical highlights led by the Archives Program. Attendees will learn about the people, places and breakthroughs at Boston Children's that have helped shape the field of pediatric medicine since the hospital's founding in 1869. With exclusive access to artifacts and exhibits not generally open to the public, we hope attendees will come away with an example of how a small archives team utilizes outreach to promote collection services by connecting users and stakeholders to the immense and ongoing history of an active institution.

These tours needed to be limited to about 12 attendees, due to the need to navigate an active hospital at Boston Children's.

Tour Site 2: Paul Russell Museum at Massachusetts General Hospital & Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm (14 registrants)
- Drop-in hours from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (no registration required)

This joint tour will begin at Mass Eye and Ear, home to a world-class collection of books and artifacts related to ophthalmology and otolaryngology. Attendees will enjoy an open house in the Rare Book Room, featuring medical instruments, prostheses, and books dating back to 1490, as well as a visit to the Howe Library's new exhibit on the history of medical illustration. From there, we walk to the Mass General Hospital's first operating theater. On October 16, 1846, this theater – now known as the Ether Dome – hosted the first successfully publicly demonstrated use of surgical anesthesia in a patient. The tour will finish at the Mass General Hospital's Russell Museum of Medical History and Innovation, where visitors will find an 1846 ether inhaler, 19th century surgical instruments, and a host of interactive exhibits highlighting past and present medical innovation.

Registration was limited to about 12 attendees because MGH is an active hospital environment.

Missed the tour? Feel free to drop by the MGH Russell Museum, the MGH Ether Dome and Mass Eye and Ear Rare Book Room for a look at these sites during special LAMPHHS open hours.

Tour Site 3: Massachusetts Historical Society

◦ 3:30 pm – 4:30pm (22 registrants)

Attendees will receive a private tour of the nation's oldest historical society and learn more about the institution's history and collections. The tour will include public-facing and behind-the-scenes spaces. In conjunction with AAHM, a medicine-themed exhibition will be on display.

All tours were free. The LAC arranged meet-ups with an LAC member in the hotel lobby to assist tour attendees in traveling to the tour venues on public transit. (MHS was accessible on foot).



LAMPHHS members enjoying the dinner at Trident Bookseller and Cafe.

Wednesday Night Dinner

The LAC selected Trident Bookseller and Cafe as the Wednesday night dinner venue, after making inquiries at many other restaurants. Many of the estimates we received dramatically exceeded the costs we were hoping for. Trident was selected for its relative affordability and its proximity to the hotel. The buffet style-menu includes three entrees and two sides. There will be an ice cream bar for dessert. There are accommodations for people with vegan or gluten free diets. The space has a bar, and guests will be given one ticket for beer or wine. Additional drinks can be purchased in cash. The dinner cost \$75 per person. 67 people registered for the dinner.

Thursday Meeting

The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1 at Harvard Medical School. After considering several event spaces on the Harvard Medical School spaces, including within Countway Library, the LAC determined that the Waterhouse Room in Gordon Hall would best meet the needs of the LAMPHHS meeting.

The registration cost was assessed at \$70 for virtual or in-person attendees after considering the following costs:

- Room reservation
- Catering (breakfast, lunch, coffee, fruit)
 - Breakfast will consist of breakfast sandwiches, pastries, and fruit.
 - Lunch will consist of sandwiches and salads.
- Rental equipment, room set-up, printing, custodial services, etc.

The LAC communicated with the Program Committee about scheduling, accommodating remote presenters, and offering a free virtual rate for those experiencing financial uncertainty.

78 people registered for the in-person meeting. 25 people registered for the virtual meeting.

Program Committee Report – Sheridan Sayles

The LAMPHHS 2025 Program Committee was comprised of Sheridan Sayles, Chair (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center); Lucy Ross (Massachusetts General Hospital); Nancy Dupree Barnes, PhD; Sarah Alger (Russell Museum and MGH); B. Dale Magee, MD (Worcester District Medical Society); and Michelle Bass, PhD, MSI, AHIP (Pennsylvania Hospital). The group convened for their first meeting on October 21, 2024 and continued to meet monthly through February 24, 2025. Aiming to complete the charge of putting together an all-day in-person program and an additional virtual half day conference, which had been running for the past two years. In the course of the meetings, the team determined that the conference would not focus on a specific theme—following the lead of this year’s American Association of the History of Medicine (AAHM) annual meeting—but instead center around ideas of “getting it done.” This included: handling sensitive materials within your collections, best practices with limited resources, case studies, and adapting to changes.

A formal call for proposals was circulated on December 13, 2024 with an initial deadline of January 31, 2025. The Committee circulated the notice to the LAMPHHS listserv, Society of American Archivist Announcements, and Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference listserv. While waiting for the



Keynote speaker, Dr. David Louis.

submissions to come in, the team decided on inviting Dr. David Louis, MD, to be the keynote speaker. He accepted this invitation and agreed to give a talk entitled “The influence of [another] Louis on American medicine.” While waiting for the submission deadline to approach, the Committee and other members of leadership noted the effects of Presidential Executive Orders and other federal cuts to the NIH and other health agencies, and opted to extend the call by two weeks.

Once the call for proposals expired on February 14, 2025, the Committee both reviewed submissions and worked on a schedule around some predetermined

agenda items. The Committee needed to include a presentation for the 50th Anniversary of LAMPHHS and cut the day short by 30 minutes due to an event for the 100th anniversary of AAHM. Once the call for proposals expired on February 14, 2025, the Committee both reviewed submissions and worked on a schedule around some predetermined agenda items. The Committee needed to include a presentation for the 50th Anniversary of LAMPHHS and cut the day short by 30 minutes due to an event for the 100th anniversary of AAHM. After reviewing all submissions, the Committee decided to forgo the mini virtual conference in favor of creating a stronger in-person program. After getting approval from all participants and massaging the schedule, the Committee circulated the program in the Spring 2025 issue of the Watermark and the LAMPHHS website.

Nominating Committee Report – Melissa Grafe

The 2025 nominating committee was composed of Melissa Grafe (Yale University), Chair; Shelley McKellar (Western University); and Russell Johnson (UCLA). The committee was tasked with recruiting a new Treasurer and two Officers-at-Large. As the committee was formed late, emails went out to the listserv in mid-March, asking people to volunteer themselves or to send the names of potential candidates to any of the committee members for consideration. We did not publish in the Watermark to solicit candidates due to timing. We received two nominations for Officer-at-Large, creating an uncontested election for the two available positions. We received one nomination for the Treasurer position, which was also unopposed.

The following slate was proposed:

- Nicole Topich, Weill Cornell Medicine, Treasurer
- Katherine Isham, Yale University, Officer at Large
- Sheridan Sayles, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Officer at Large

The ballot was created by Carrie Meyer and distributed by her to all current members of LAMPHHS. Voting took place between March 31 and April 17, 2024. At the close of the election, 56 of 213 members had cast their votes (26%). Candidates were notified via email prior to the entire LAMPHHS Membership. New officers' terms will begin at the end of the 2025 LAMPHHS Annual Meeting.

Thanks are due to the committee members for their service and to Carrie Meyer for managing the ballot and election.



LAMPHHS leadership and membership, from left to right: Dominic Hall, Jodi Koste, Melissa Grafe, Sarah Alger, Keith Mages, Judy Chelnick, Stephen Novak, Lisa Mix, Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, and Stephen Greenberg

Publications Awards Committee Report – Nicole Topich

The 2025 Publication Awards Committee included the following members: Nicole Topich, Chair (Weill Cornell Medicine); Jason Byrd (University of Alabama at Birmingham); and Eric v.d. Luft (Owner, Gegensatz Press).

The three categories where nominations were solicited included monographs published by academic or trade publishers; articles published in journals, trade, or private periodicals of recognized standing for the LAMPHHS Patricia E. Gallagher Publication Award for Best Article; and online resources produced predominantly by LAMPHHS members for the LAMPHHS Best Online Resource.

Four nominations were received for the 2025 cycle for the LAMPHHS Best Monograph Award and the LAMPHHS Patricia E. Gallagher Publication Award for Best Article, though two did not qualify for the award criteria. By agreement of the committee:

Margaret DeLacy is the recipient of the 2025 LAMPHHS Patricia E. Gallagher Publication Award for Best Article for "Dr. Richard Davies (1708-1761): Reform, Contagion, Blood and Inflammation," published in Notes and Records of the Royal Society in 2024.

No nominations which met the award criteria were received for the LAMPHHS Best Monograph Award or Best Online Resource Award.



Nicole Topich, Publication Awards Committee Chair presents Margaret DeLacy with the Patricia E. Gallagher Publication Award.

Recognition Awards Committee Report – Kathi Isham

The LAMPHHS 2025 Recognition Awards Committee included Katherine Isham, Chair (Cushing/Whitney Medical Historical Library, Yale University); Brooke Fox (Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina); and Nicholas Webb (Phillip Capozzi, MD Library, New York Medical College). The committee primarily communicated by email and met on Zoom in February to discuss nominations for awards.

In December 2024 the committee solicited nominations for the Lisabeth M. Holloway Award and the Recognition of Merit Award on the LAMPHHS listserv and submitted a notice for inclusion in the Winter issue of the Watermark, with February 1, 2025 as the deadline. We received an inquiry as to whether nominations for the Recognition of Merit Award could include someone who had made a significant contribution to a medical museum, not just libraries as the description designated, which prompted the committee to review the description of both awards and realize the language still reflected the mission of ALHHS before the merger with MeMA, which created LAMPHHS. The deadline for nominations was extended to February 17 to provide time to determine whether the nomination could be accepted. The committee chair then conferred with the LAMPHHS president and it was decided the nomination could be accepted. The nominator was notified and submitted materials nominating Richard Fraser for the Recognition of Merit Award for his many years of service to the Maude Abbott Medical Museum at McGill University. No nominations were received for the Lisabeth M. Holloway Award. The committee reviewed the nomination materials, approved Dr. Frasier's nomination, and notified him he would receive the award at the LAMPHHS 2025 Annual Meeting. He will not be in attendance, so the award will be mailed to him.

In addition to determining award recipients, the Recognition Awards Committee edited existing descriptions of the Lisabeth M. Holloway and the Recognition of Merit Awards to make them inclusive of the full membership and mission of LAMPHHS and submitted the draft to the Steering Committee for approval. The committee chair attended the March steering committee meeting to discuss the proposed changes and the nomination that prompted the review. The final activities of the committee will include presenting the Recognition of Merit Award at the Annual Meeting and submitting an article about the award recipient to the Watermark for inclusion in the Summer issue.

Education Committee Report - Anna Marie Schuldt

Committee Profile

The Education Committee is dedicated to providing education and professional development opportunities relevant to the field of archives, libraries, and museums. We organize workshops, lectures, and other events throughout the year, tailor-made to meet the diverse needs of LAMPHHS members.

Additionally, we analyze members' educational requirements and actively seek out training opportunities to enhance their expertise. Our primary objective was to coordinate events that address specific niche topics found in archives, libraries, and museums of the history of health sciences.

Anna Marie Schuldt served as the Chair of the committee. Ashley Stevens served as the member of the committee.

Operational Highlights

Since the last annual meeting, the Education Committee successfully hosted four events. Based on feedback received, our events have been designed to address specific niche topics found in archives, libraries, and museums of the history of health sciences. We also incorporated two different event formats, lecture and lunch hour chats.

This year, the LAMPHHS Education Committee has taken steps to expand the offerings provided. The committee is currently developing a new member and prospective member orientation aimed to introduce people to the organization, how to get involved, and all the benefits of LAMPHHS membership. The goals are to use this event to sustain membership by encouraging engagement and recruit members by clearly showcasing membership benefits. This event will be launched later in 2025.

Additionally, we officially launched an event series called Insights Hour that will be dedicated to highlighting relevant experiences of our LAMPHHS community.

Shelburne Museum's Pharmaceutical Collection and Inventory Project

We hosted an event featuring a case study of implementing an inventorying project of a pharmaceutical collection and potential hazards.

August 8, 2024 – Registered: 48 Individuals ; Attendees: *

Putting Theory into Practice: HIPAA, Privacy Laws and Ethics

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

September 25, 2024 – Registered: 75 Individuals ; Attendees: *

An Act of Kindness: Conserving Human Remains

We hosted an event about the practical aspects of human remains care and conservation, and how these sit alongside the ethical considerations that go

hand-in-hand with collections that preserve the remains of the dead.

November 7, 2024 – Registered 55
Individuals ; Attendees: *

*Insight Hour: Identifying and Improving
Access to Underrepresented Histories*

We hosted an event discussing approaches to identifying and improving access to underrepresented histories.

April 9, 2025 - Registered: 40 Individuals ;
Attendees: 23 Individuals

*Numbers for these events were lost due to a transition of Anna Marie to a new role and the introduction of a new workflow for hosting the virtual events.

Financial Statement

2022-2023 Budget: \$5,000*
\$4,500 final expenses
(\$500 surplus)

2024 Budget: \$2,000
\$1,850 speaker expenses
\$100 annual Canva fee
(\$50 surplus)

2025 Budget: \$2,000
Speaker expenses (current): \$100 Annual Canva fee: \$100

*The initial budget was supported by a generous donation from an anonymous donor. Moving forward, the committee operates with an annual budget of \$2,000.

Future Endeavors

The LAMPHHS Education Committee is currently finalizing plans for additional events in 2025 as well as implementing the orientation events.

Furthermore, we are still aiming to provide members with easier access to event recordings and supplementary materials. We will investigate platforms that will allow for streamlining access compared to our current temporary setup through Google Drive while keeping access a benefit to members.



*Kathi Isham presenting the
recognition awards report at the
Annual Meeting.*

Travel Scholarships – Amanda Garfunkel

Amanda Garfunkel (Chair), Danielle Glynn, Stephen Novak, and Lucy Waldrop were the members of the Travel Scholarship Committee this year. The Committee was assembled in November 2024 and worked asynchronously via email for all activities. The committee created and agreed on deadlines in early December 2024. The committee agreed to extend deadlines in early February 2025 in response to anticipated funding uncertainty due to actions of the new federal administration.

Summary of committee activities:

- The committee was formed and agreed on submission and announcement deadlines in November 2023.
- Calls for applications were sent out on the LAMPHHS listserv on December 12, February 6, and February 24.
- Call for applications was shared on two LAMPHHS social media pages in January 2025.
- Call for applications was published in the Winter 2025 edition of Watermark distributed to the membership on January 10, 2025.
- The extended deadline was announced on the LAMPHHS listserv on February 6, 2025.
- The deadline closed on February 28, 2025, and the committee reviewed applications and shared results with the executive committee the following week.

Applicants were notified on March 10, 2025.

The committee received one complete application before the deadline and unanimously agreed to award a travel scholarship to Julia Brzozka (early career), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The award check was mailed by the LAMPHHS treasurer before the meeting.



Michael Seminara and Christopher Ryland at the annual meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee on Guidelines for the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains – Dominic Hall

Members: Dominic Hall (Chair), Sarah Bernstein, Kayla Cavanaugh, Brooke Fox, Richard Fraser, Danielle Glynn, Sarah M. Halter, Katherine Isham, Tegan Kehoe, Margaret Truman Kidd, Katie Lattal, Keith C. Mages, Amanda L Mahoney, Michelle E. Marcella, Erin McCleary, Chrissie Perella, Kate Quinn, Megan Rosenbloom, Brian Spatola, Paula Summerly, Ashley D. Stevens, Ella Sykes, and Kellyn Toombs.

After an initial meeting in 2024-2025, the Ad Hoc Committee divided into three separate, area-specific sub-groups. Those sub-groups, their membership, number of meetings, completed work, and work to continue are listed below:

Bibliography Sub-Group

- Members: Sarah Bernstein, Danielle Glynn, Erin McCleary, Megan Rosenbloom, and Dominic Hall.
- Number of Meetings: 4
- Completed work: The Bibliography sub-group added to and refined the list of resources developed by the 2024 Ad Hoc Committee on the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains. This resource list was further curated into six separate categories: Care, Ethics, Guidelines, History, Teaching/Research/Exhibition, and Community. The list will be published on the LAMPHHS website as a public resource.
- Continued work: Should the Committee on the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains continue, the resource list can grow further for the benefit of the membership and the community.

Survey Sub-Group

- Members: Kayla Cavanaugh, Brooke Fox, Sarah Halter, Katie Lattal, Michelle Marcella, and Dominic Hall.
- Number of Meetings: 3
- Completed work: The Guidelines sub-group developed a bibliography of human remains policies and guidelines (shared with the Bibliography Sub-Group), developed a working document highlighting the areas addressed in each of those policies, and drafted a working definition of human remains for the LAMPHHS community. These elements will be shared on the LAMPHHS website, possibly for members only.

- Continued work: Partial work was completed on a statement as to the unique nature of human remains collections and the considerations members should address when curating and making accessible remains in their holdings. Additionally, work was conducted on basic storage and care recommendations for human remains. Should the Committee on the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains continue, these areas could be completed and shared with LAMPHHS membership.

Next Steps

The work of the Committee should continue as either an Ad-Hoc Committee or as a Standing Committee. This would allow the bibliography to grow, the survey results to be shared, and the care recommendations to be completed. Additionally, this Committee can observe the changing environment around legacy human remains collections and serve as a body for the LAMPHHS community to consult regarding the challenges presented by the human remains in their collections.

Ad Hoc Committee on the 50th Anniversary Celebration - Keith Mages

Members: Keith Mages and Mary Hague-Yearl (Co-Chairs), Sarah Alger, Stephen Greenberg, Jessica Johnson, Lisa Mix, and Howard Rootenberg.

The ad hoc 50th anniversary committee met monthly starting October 2, 2024. The purpose of this ad hoc committee was to imagine and implement ideas to celebrate the 50th anniversary of LAMPHHS. There was immediate consensus that committee members wanted to think consciously about how to make the commemoration inclusive: accessible in some way to those attending in person and remotely, and also wanting to be sure that both ALHHS and MeMA factored in shared memories.

The committee settled on two activities to mark the organization's 50th anniversary: they solicited photographic and textual content from members in order to create a slideshow that will be aired during the conference dinner (and perhaps as a background at other times). Stephen Greenberg will create the slideshow from material provided. The second activity is a panel during which a few long-time members will reflect upon their memories and encourage others to do the same. Lisa Mix is mc'ing the panel and lead speakers will be Howard Rootenberg, Micaela Sullivan-Fowler, and Jodi Koste. The panelists have lined up other contributors from the membership.

The committee also ordered branded 50th anniversary stickers (200 count) and pens (100 count) from VistaPrint to be given out with registration packets. The total cost for these items was \$152.44.

Archives – Jessica Johnson

- No report

RICK FRASER- 2025 RECOGNITION OF MERIT AWARD WINNER



Rick Fraser, LAMPHHS 2025 Recognition of Merit Award winner. Image from, [McGill University Social Studies of Medicine website](#).

The Recognition Awards Committee is pleased to announce Rick Fraser was presented with the Recognition of Merit Award for leadership and service to the Maude Abbott Medical Museum at McGill University at the LAMPHHS 2025 Annual Meeting in Boston. Rick is a LAMPHHS member, Professor of Pathology at McGill University, Director of the Maude Abbott Medical Museum, and member of the Osler Library Board of Curators. As one of the nominators wrote “simply put, without Rick Fraser’s persistent and consistent advocacy, there would be no Maude Abbott Medical Museum.”

The core of the Abbot museum is a nineteenth century collection, associated with both William Osler and Maude Abbott, two giants in the

history of medicine. Like many pathological collections associated with medical schools, it fell from favor in the mid 20th century and was hidden away in storage closets for decades. At a time when the collections had been gathering dust in a medical building and “were at risk of being evicted to a dumpster,” Rick persuaded McGill University’s Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences that his vision for a restored medical museum was one that would serve the broader community while benefiting medical education at McGill, and procured both space and funding. He then personally carried hundreds of the specimens across a very busy intersection (Pine Ave and University, in front of two hospitals) to their new home in the Strathcona Building!

Under Rick’s direction the museum has reassumed an important place in medical education at McGill and has become a destination for visitors from near and far who share an interest in medical history. His approach to sensitive material is thoughtful, open, respectful, and is a credit to our community of medical heritage professionals. He never ignores that there is a very human story in every part of the museum and does not shy away from the problematic aspects of running a museum centered around pathological specimens. He has given focus to Maude Abbott, even though William Osler’s specimens are also part of the collection, and has expanded the Abbott Museum’s

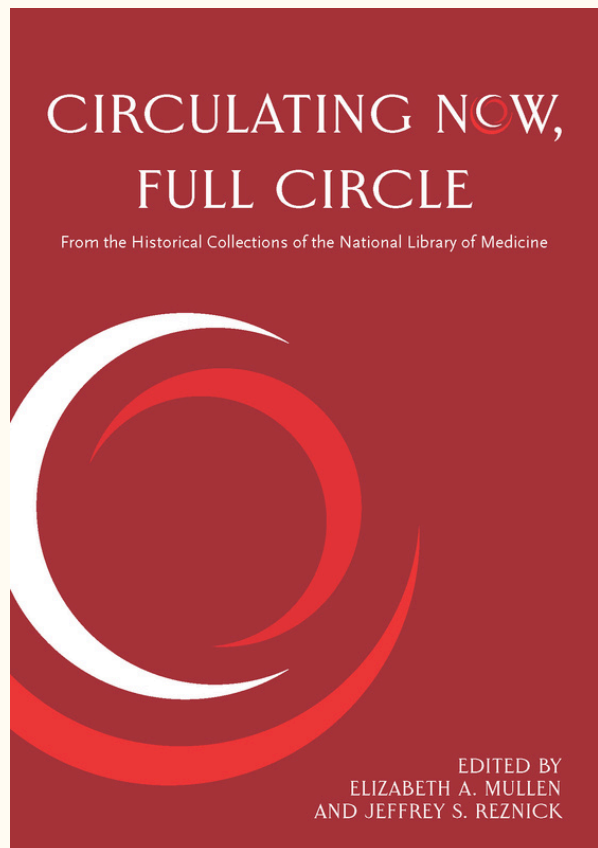
core historical collections to reflect medical education and medical history beyond Montreal and McGill. One notable example of this expansion was incorporating the Université Laval pathological collection, which was on the brink of disposal.

Rick is also being honored for his work as a mentor of students and volunteers from the fields of medicine and library and archival science, and for his innovative and inclusive programming at the Abbott Museum. “Immortalizing the Immortal,” an annual collaboration with medical student board members and volunteers, invites students to respond to items Rick selects from the collections using any form of art (poetry, drawing, dance, etc.) then come together to share their creations and thought processes in a deeply moving and humanizing event.

For all of these reasons we wish to thank Rick Fraser for his contributions to the Maude Abbott Museum and congratulate him on receiving the 2025 LAMPHHS Recognition of Merit Award

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Circulating Now Comes Full Circle



Reprinted from the NIH Record (January 17, 2025).

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) launched its Circulating Now blog in 2013 to convey the vitality of medical history in our 21st-century world. In the blog, individuals from various backgrounds and disciplines share stories of their engagement with the NLM collection—which spans 11 centuries, encompasses a variety of digital and physical formats, and originates from nearly every part of the world.

A decade later, and with hundreds of posts published, *Circulating Now* has

demonstrated the public's esteem for the NLM collection. *The Washington Post* has called the blog, "varied, lively and sometimes surprising."

A new open-access book, *Circulating Now: Full Circle*, presents a collection of curated posts from the blog, edited by Elizabeth A. Mullen, manager of web development and social media at NLM, and Dr. Jeffrey S. Reznick, senior historian at NLM.

The book features six thematic chapters, each illustrated and introduced with a new and original essay describing the content development and reflecting on the programmatic and intellectual significance of the selected posts. The book creates a new access point for researchers and augments the original blog as a deep knowledge base of searchable information about NLM's collection.

To access the free, digital version of this book, visit [Virginia Tech Publishing](#) or [NLM Digital Collections](#).

Newly Digitized Collections

- Nearly 200 images were added to [IHM/Digital Collections](#), consisting primarily of additional patent medicine trade cards dating from the 1890s-1930s, the majority of which were published in France.
- Papers of [Mason V. Hargett](#), [Louis Laval Williams](#), [Julius S. Schreiber](#), and [Robert King Stone](#).

Newly Processed Collections

- [William Helfand French Medical Advertisements and Cartoons Collection](#)
- [Federal Security Agency and Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare Speeches Collection](#)

Become a guest author on [Circulating Now](#)

Are you undertaking and/or have you completed historical research in NLM's collections? Would you like to share it freely with a wide audience? [Featured in *The Washington Post*](#), *Circulating Now* circulates widely to its subscriber base of nearly 6,000 individuals, so your contribution will be widely read and appreciated! If you would like to write about your research in our collections, please send an email proposing your topic to Beth Mullen, managing editor, at elizabeth.mullen@nih.gov. If you do not already subscribe to *Circulating Now*, please do—just look for the "Follow us via email" box on the right-side of the [homepage](#).

REPOSITORY NEWS

Navy Medicine commemorates U.S. Navy's 250th anniversary

Throughout 2025, the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (i.e. Navy Medicine headquarters) has been creating material commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Navy. There is a wealth of resources and information at the Navy's [250 website](#).

Additionally, the Navy History and Heritage Command provides [more historical content as commemoration toolkits](#). We invite everyone to join in our celebrations by using the Navy 250 logo and to use the hashtag #AmericasNavy250 to show your Navy pride!

Archivist Michael Rhode has been creating albums on Flickr focusing on the Corps and people that make up Navy Medicine. Each album of 250 photographs highlights aspects of medicine as practiced in the Navy. By May, albums have been created for:

- [Navy Hospitals through History](#)
- [Medical Corps Doctors in Action](#)
- [Medical Service Corps Specialists in Action](#)
- [Nurse Corps in Action](#)
- [Nurse Corps' The Sacred Twenty](#)
- [Hospital Corps in Action](#)

These albums have been a major success for reaching the public, with a sharp rise in our viewership. For example, in April 2025, we had 618,998 views of 34,589 public photos and videos, for an average of 20,633 daily views and total lifetime

views of 15,817,023. In comparison, in December 2024, we had 176,073 views of 32,467 photos and videos, for an average of 5,680 daily views and total lifetime views of 14,453,178. So in four months, we increased our viewership by almost 1.4 million. Flickr Commons, the non-profit side of Flickr that hosts us, is open to new members and provides unlimited free storage for public domain images.

View the [Navy Medicine Flickr page](#) or [browse specific albums](#).

Historian Andre Sobocinski has been producing Navy Medicine Fast Facts supplemental editions for Navy 250, a one- or two-page information sheet. To date, these have included series on Navy Medicine in the Age of Sail, Medical Corps Legends, Floating Fortresses of Health (hospital ships), and Nurse Corps Legends. These can be found online at the [Defense Visual Information Distribution Service](#) or the [Internet Archive](#).

[Navy Medicine's Medical Heritage Library page](#) contains 7,419 items including newspapers, videos, publications, and other material. By the end of April 2025, our site had a cumulative lifetime total of 1,831,176 views and appears to be the third most popular sub-collection in terms of views, although this statistic almost certainly does not include NLM or the Welcome's contributions.

Michael Rhode

Archivist

US Navy Bureau of Medicine & Surgery (BUMED)

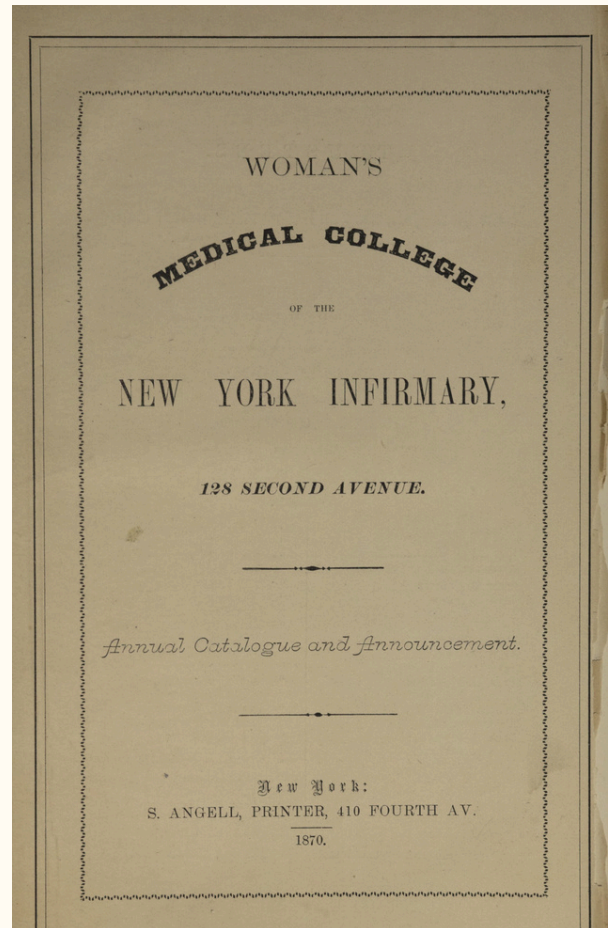
Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine METRO Digitization Grant Completed

The Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine recently completed the work from a 2024 Digitization Grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO). This grant funded the digitization of publications related to the New York Infirmary for Indigent Women and Children and the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary.

Originating as the New York Dispensary for Poor Women and Children, the infirmary was founded in 1853 by Drs. Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, the first and third women to receive medical degrees in the



Elizabeth Blackwell, MD



1870 Announcement for the Woman's Medical College

United States. The digitized annual reports illustrate the infirmary's charitable mission as the first American hospital to provide medical treatment to women and children, staffed and run entirely by women. The infirmary also provided opportunities for instruction and practice by women studying medicine and nursing.

Formal instruction was incorporated into the activities at the infirmary and in 1868 a medical school devoted entirely to training women was established. The Woman's Medical College was inspired by the Blackwell sisters' own challenges obtaining a medical education in a

male-dominated milieu. The Woman's Medical College became one of the first four-year medical colleges in the country. The digitized announcements and catalog provide insight into the student's curriculum (including textbooks and exam questions), admissions, clinical activities, and lists the names of faculty, students, and graduates. These publications are instrumental in documenting the women who studied at the school, sometimes serving as the only record of their attendance.

The project resulted in the digitization of over 100 publications and are now freely available online through the Medical Center Archives website. The publications digitized as part of this project are listed in a [blog post](#) and more publications are listed on our [Online Historical Publications](#) page.

David J. Wolf, MD Visiting Research Scholar Program

The Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine is pleased to open the application process for the 2026 David J. Wolf, MD Visiting Research Scholar Program, which supports research using the onsite collections in the Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine. The David J. Wolf, MD Visiting Research Scholar will receive up to a \$5,000 stipend to support travel, lodging, food, and incidentals for a flexible period between January 1 – December 31,

2026. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the program and how to apply by the September 1, 2025 deadline.

New Exhibit Puts Women of Water-Cure in the Spotlight

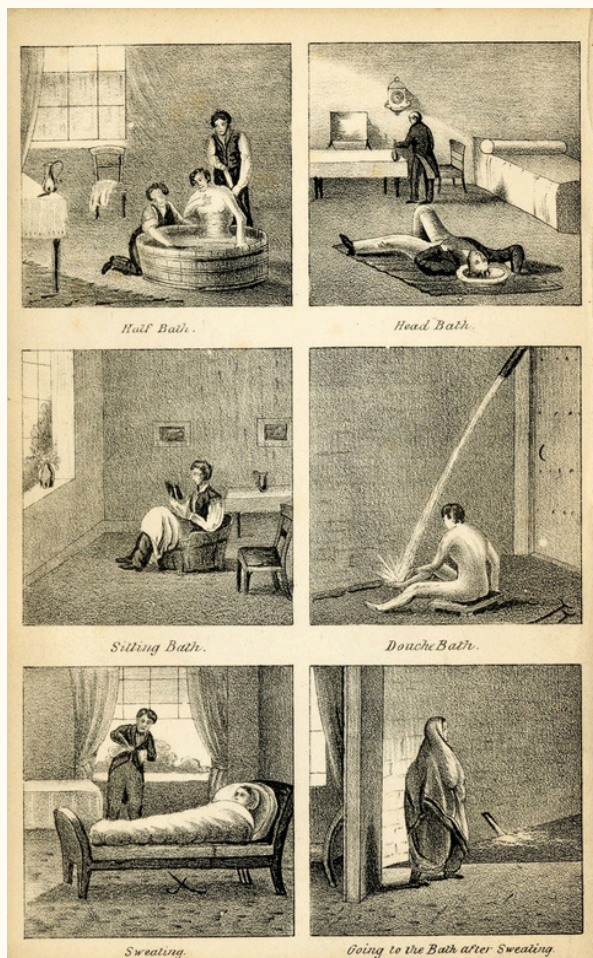
In February of this year, the History of Medicine Section at University of Rochester Medical Center's Edward G. Miner Library mounted our second exhibit in our recently renovated exhibition space—*Healing Waters: Women in Water-Cures of Nineteenth-Century New York*. After exhibiting highlights from our rare book holdings, our team wanted to spotlight the printed ephemera and manuscript material from the Edward C. Atwater American Popular Medicine Collection.

In 1994, Edward C. Atwater, MD made Miner Library the repository for his personal collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, almanacs, trade cards, printed ephemera, and manuscript material pertaining to American "popular medicine." His collection includes materials on the self-diagnosis and treatment of disease, personal hygiene, contraceptive practice, first aid, and more. Much of this literature was written by physicians for the lay public, and much of it by authors opposed to the medical profession. The collection also reflects the popularization of health and healing by members of alternative medical sects such as Thomsonians and other botanics, eclectics, homeopaths, mental healers, and hydropaths.

Healing Waters, which runs through the end of August, explores the significant contributions of women to the water-cure movement: a set of therapeutic treatments using water for healing that gained popularity as an alternative to conventional medicine. This practice offered opportunities for more accessible and empowering medical care, particularly for women, who played pivotal roles as practitioners, patients, and advocates. Many water-cure practitioners were also supporters of health reform, women's rights, and abolition. The growth of

water-cure establishments in Upstate New York alongside abolition and suffrage meant that health and social reform movements were often connected—and some local water-cures were hosts to names like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

In March, to celebrate Women's History Month, we invited regional historian and lecturer Jane Oakes to present her talk, *Water Cures and Their Role in the Temperance, Women's Rights, and Abolition Movements*. We also hosted a guided tour in April for the Friends of the UR Libraries (FURL) where we displayed additional items from other 19th century health movements in our reading room. If you're interested in learning more about our current or past exhibits, visit our [online exhibits guide](#).



Graeter, Francis. *Hydriatics: Or Manual of the Water Cure, Especially as Practised by Vincent Priessnitz in Graefenberg ... Third edition*. New York: Published by William Radde, 1843.



Members of FURL receive a tour of the exhibit

Katelyn Gibson, MLIS, MAS
Centennial Archivist
Edward G. Miner Library, History of
Medicine Section

**The Connie Henke Yarbro
Oncology Nursing History Center
celebrates the Living History of
the Oncology Nursing Society at
their 50th anniversary Congress in
Denver, Colorado**



(Left to right) Tara Spires portraying Virginia Barckley, RN, MS (1911-1993); Connie Henke Yarbro, MS, RN, FAAN, a founder of Oncology Nursing Society; Cassie Williams as Norma Owens, AB, AM, RN, EdD (1924-1996); Ashley Setticone as Josephine Craytor, RN, MS, FAAN (1915-2003)

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, and as part of the celebrations, the ONS held their 50th annual Congress in Denver, Colorado in April. Oncology nurses are passionate about their history, and Danielle Glynn, Director of the Connie Henke Yarbro Oncology Nursing History Center, fed that passion with the Living History Exhibit. Danielle worked with five community theatre actors in the Denver, Colorado area. The actors portrayed some of oncology nursing's pioneers: Virginia Barckley, RN, MS (1911-1993); Jeanne Quint Benoliel, RN, DNSc, FAAN (1919-2012); Josephine Craytor, RN, MS, FAAN (1915-2003); Norma Owens, AB, AM, RN, EdD (1924-1996); and

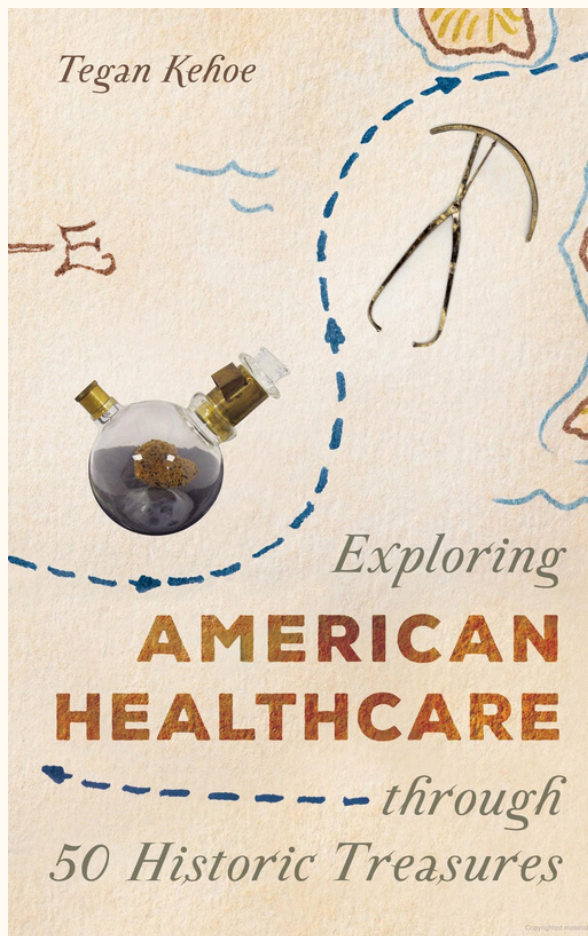
Renilda Hilkemeyer, RN, BS, DPS (1915-2006). Danielle provided actors with photographs, oral history recordings, and other materials and worked with them to develop their characters. Danielle also worked with three of her local community theatre groups to source costuming for each actor, including a gorgeous WWII army nursing cape. The costumes traveled with Danielle from Western New York to Denver for the conference. Congress attendees enjoyed interacting with the oncology nursing pioneers, who did an excellent job of improvising as their characters.

In addition to the Living History Exhibit, Danielle arranged five display cases of artifacts from the five decades of ONS and oncology nursing history and conducted oral history interviews with several founders of ONS. Once they are edited, the interviews will be available on the Connie Henke Yarbro Oncology Nursing History Center's Digital Collections.

The Oncology Nursing Society is a national membership organization that empowers oncology nurses to transform the way the world cares for patients with cancer through advocacy, leadership, and professional development support. The Connie Henke Yarbro Oncology Nursing History Center was established in 2023 to support the missions of Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), Oncology Nursing Foundation (ONF), and Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation

(ONCC) by preserving the history, capturing the present, and celebrating the future of our organizations and the oncology nursing profession, and providing access to staff, members, outside researchers, and the general public.

BOOK REVIEWS



Tegan Kehoe. *Exploring American Healthcare through 50 Historic Treasures*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2022. 287 pages. Hardcover \$40.00. ISBN: 9781538135464

Tegan Kehoe is well-known in the LAMPHHS community, and her acknowledgment section could double as the organization's

membership directory. It is a wonderful tribute to the interconnectedness of our field and the publication of this book is a testament to the work of librarians, archivists, and museum professionals in the history of the health sciences across the nation.

Published during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of the American Association for State and Local History's *Exploring America's Historic Treasures* series, Kehoe's stated goal is, "The history of healthcare can inspire deep empathy. I invite you to look for opportunities for empathy with the patients, caretakers, researchers, and victims and survivors of the complex stories that these historic treasures tell" (4).

The stories and artifacts explored range from 1795 to 2016. While there is a timeline at the beginning of the book, the chapters would benefit from a reiteration of the dates to remind the reader where they are in time, as that can get lost while reading. Written in chronological order with easily accessible chapters of one to three pages in length, Kehoe explores artifacts from a variety of professions, practices, and places. From the mundane daily used item, like George Washington's toothbrush, to the nationally significant ambulance recovered from the World Trade Center site, from the dissemination of civilization-changing practices like cowpox quills in a small snuffbox used for vaccination to the craniometer used in discredited practices like

phrenology, there is a little something for every interest in the last 200 years.

But this is not just a march through some unique factoids of healthcare history. Kehoe routinely ties the historical to the modern to show modern relevance to the study of historical artifacts. For example, in chapter one, Kehoe links a wax model of scrotum with cancer from the late-18th century to the present-day discussion of occupational hazards in the workplace.

As young children in 18th-century towns performed the much-needed task of sweeping chimneys as a form of fire prevention, this occupation often led to health concerns later in life. Young boys of six or seven would often clean the chimneys naked to prevent their clothes from getting dirty. Soot would lodge in the folds of the scrotum and form sores that then hardened into lumps. Known as “soot wart,” this condition began as a squamous cell carcinoma that typically spread into the abdomen where death followed quickly. Percivall Pott, an English surgeon famous for connecting soot to this phenomenon, is the first person to effectively connect a specific cancer to an occupation. There are many places to point to historically where occupations have been detrimental or fatal to workers’ health, and while legislation and regulation have significantly decreased the dangers, there continues to be cases today. Right off the bat, Kehoe proves to the reader that studying humanity’s past

health woes provides relevant links to present-day health struggles, and this continues throughout the rest of her explorations.

Kehoe also does not shy away from more controversial topics. In Chapter 13 (57-60), she examines a Burdin Craniometer from 1885 and discusses the controversial and racially segregating practice of phrenology. Using this artifact and the history of racial classification, Kehoe can bring awareness of health disparities to an audience that might not already be familiar with it. The artifact and this discredited practice provide an easy gateway to draw awareness about modern situations that still exist. Kehoe’s straightforward presentation of the facts shows how the previously pervasive practices and mindsets still cast a long shadow into the present and begs the reader to question how many other biases and egregious misconceptions still exist in healthcare and health history.

What I love most about this book is how succinctly Kehoe explains why it is important to readers and articulates in the same sentence why preservationists in health sciences do this work. As she states in her introduction, “Healthcare history is full of drama, yet also full of the routines of daily life...museum artifacts are windows into both famous and ordinary people’s experiences with healthcare throughout American history...” (1). This is not a groundbreaking assertion to us in the field, but many

times it is a “lightbulb” moment for those in other professions or walks of life. There are instances in which the artifact highlighted features significantly in the discussion, and other times where it is more a reference point to a larger story that does not directly relate to its provenance. Some readers may prefer one or the other, but both are effectively used.

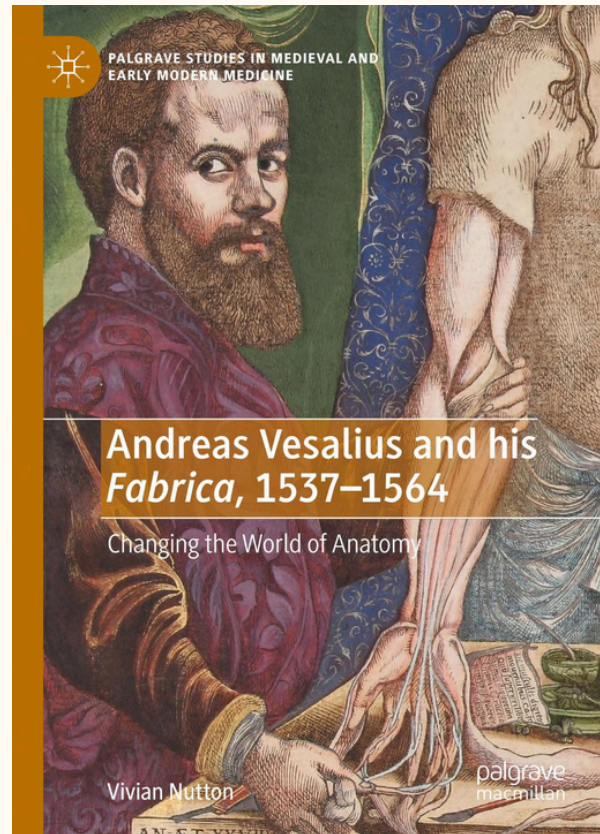
Kehoe has presented an interesting, easily read, digested, and, dare I say, fun journey through the high points of healthcare history. There’s a mix of interests, disciplines, and fun facts throughout that will delight the public and be a nice relaxing read for the health history professional. While accessible to those outside the profession, there is still substantive citation provided to assure the historian that the research is sound, and an exciting tour of museums, libraries, and archives for the material culture professionals as well.

Carrie J. Meyer, MA

Associate Professor & Associate Dean

Robert S. Wigton Special Collections and Archives

McGoogan Health Sciences Library,
University of Nebraska Medical Center



Vivian Nutton. *Andreas Vesalius and his Fabrica, 1537-1564: Changing the World of Anatomy*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024. 281 pages. \$139.99. eBook \$119.99. ISBN: 9783031695643

Andreas Vesalius remains one of the most pivotal figures in the history of medicine, renowned for his groundbreaking anatomical work, *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* (1543). The *Fabrica* revolutionized anatomical studies, challenging long-held Galenic traditions and establishing a new standard for medical education and illustration techniques. In *Andreas Vesalius and his Fabrica, 1537-1564: Changing the World of Anatomy*, historian of medicine Vivian Nutton offers an in-depth exploration of Vesalius’ development

of the *Fabrica*. By structuring his book into five sections covering an introduction; Vesalius's early life; the creation and printing of the 1543 *Fabrica*; the years leading to, before, and after the 1555 edition; and a conclusion, Nutton presents a well-organized, accessible, and insightful historical investigation into Vesalius and his *Fabrica*.

Chapter 1's "Introduction" serves to acknowledge the discovery of "correspondence [that] has come to light" (1), allowing Nutton to expand on the life and background of Vesalius, as well as some of his works that often receive less attention like the *Paraphrasis* and the 1555 edition of *Fabrica*. Nutton is not trying to overwrite the previously acclaimed biographies of Vesalius with this book but works to show the early influences that helped to create the *Fabrica*, such as Vesalius' studies in Paris, publication activity in Basle and Louvain, and his revisions and corrections of his most famous work (3). He is looking at Vesalius through a fresh critical lens, hoping to fill in the gaps that previous studies have neglected.

Chapter 2, "Before the *Fabrica*," explores Vesalius' lineage, birth, childhood, and early adulthood. Nutton links Vesalius' years in Brussels, Louvain, and Paris with those who would come to influence him to enter the medical profession, mainly those writers taught in the classical literary canon that one would absorb when receiving an elite Renaissance education. Vesalius'

move to Padua in the 1530s for a lectureship appointment fueled in him the desire to lead anatomical instruction in a much different way than in the past: he morphed into "lecturer, demonstrator, and dissector in one" (35), himself sketching and creating complete illustrations from his findings. The chapter also introduces Vesalius' relationship with Jan Stephan van Calcar, the artist he would collaborate with on *Tabulae Anatomicae Sex and Fabrica*. One of the most notable points of this chapter is Nutton's narrative about a debate Vesalius had during a dissection class taught by Matteo Corti in Bologna in 1540. Vesalius was invited by Corti's students to act as a dissector for one of Corti's anatomy lectures, and Corti insulted Vesalius by calling him a "mere dissector" (54). A dispute between Vesalius and Corti over differing interpretations of Galenic doctrine erupted in the church where the class was held, marking a significant step in his departure from strict Galenism (55).

Chapter 3, appropriately named "The 1543 *Fabrica*," offers an in-depth look into how Vesalius prepared the text, images, and production of the first edition of the *Fabrica*. With a jocoserious Joycean nod, Nutton muses that the plethora of unnamed artists and block-cutters Vesalius employed to create the images has "exercised Vesalian scholars for generations" (84).¹ Nutton follows this with various theories about the involvement of possible artists, including that of Titian, Domenico

Campagnola, and Giuseppe Salviati. Accompanying narratives about the illustrations, Nutton delves into Vesalius' choice for the printer, Johannes Oporinus, and delivers many pages dedicated to Vesalius' production process, including concerns that the wooden block prints could be harmed during the production process (98). The details offered about the price of printing ("thirty-nine meat meals or thirty-four fish meals at a Basle inn") are amusing (99), and the travel details of how the woodblock prints were transported across the Alps are fascinating (99), but Nutton's thorough research into the time and money Vesalius invested in publishing the *Fabrica* distinguishes this book from others on the same topic. The reader is continually delighted in this chapter as the focus switches from expenses and logistics to the images themselves, and the author emphasizes that this meticulously crafted and comprehensive book is suitable for readers of all ages with an interest in human anatomy (106). It is clear here that Nutton feels he has uncovered a new perspective which explains that Vesalius' goal in publishing the *Fabrica* was to bring it to the masses; however, a few pages later, he writes that the famous title page depicting Vesalius performing a dissection of a female body visually emphasizes the main message of the *Fabrica*: "a true understanding of the workings of the human body can be demonstrated only by an expert, learned, experienced and practiced in dissecting by and for himself"

(108). This inconsistency is my only quibble with Nutton's work. As Nutton introduces text and images detailing Vesalius' historiated opening initials, he makes an important point that these initials deserve as much scholarly attention as the anatomical images (125). This gap in Vesalian scholarship is a welcome statement that one hopes medical historians will take advantage of in the future. Nutton finishes up the chapter by delving into the text of the book, acknowledging that Vesalius' humanist Latin makes the *Fabrica* slow to read (126) and that "Vesalius' silences...[are problematic because he] deliberately disguise[s] his debts to others" (128). These honest criticisms of Vesalius are a refreshing anecdote at this point in the book.

Chapter 4, "After 1543," offers a unique, in-depth analysis that is often overlooked in other studies of the *Fabrica*. Earlier in the book, Nutton points out that little attention in scholarship focuses solely on the 1555 edition (3), and this chapter serves to remedy that. Vesalius crafted the second edition out of the necessity to improve it because of criticisms. Readers loved the illustrations but found errors, struggled with the language and the size of the work, and found it unfavorable that Vesalius neglected to give credit to his predecessors (159). Working again with Oporinus, Vesalius lengthened the work by 161 pages, switched the roman and italic fonts, and redrew almost all of the chapter initials (169-170). The

second edition also had improved text features, such as more marginal notes and more precise references (172). The last forty pages of this chapter delve into criticism after the publishing of the 1555 edition, the last years of Vesalius' life, a thorough history of the wooden block prints, and the *Fabrica*'s influence on medicine treatises in the sixteenth century and after.

Although brief, the "Conclusion" that is Chapter 5 remains significant, as the author emphasizes the enduring influence of the *Fabrica*, reminding readers that "few books have had such a lasting impact" (237). Nutton describes how biographies of Vesalius require updating to include newly discovered archival materials, and he praises the discoverability and accessibility of online materials related to Vesalius and the *Fabrica* that has attracted a wider audience and has allowed for a wide variety of criticism within a larger context (238). This juxtaposes nicely with Vesalius' own desire to make the understanding of human anatomy accessible to people of all ages (106). Nutton ends the chapter by explaining that he has left out many biographical details so that other scholars can fill in those gaps (243).

Nutton, a leading expert in the history of anatomy and Renaissance medicine, thoroughly reconstructs the context of *Fabrica*'s creation and its reception. He does this by offering new insights into Vesalius and his work and takes care to recognize previous work focusing on Vesalius

and *Fabrica*, such as those written by Sachiko Kusukawa, Martin Steinmann, Moritz Roth, and Charles Donald O'Malley.

This book is a welcome contribution to the field, appealing to scholars of medical history as well as those interested in the broader intellectual currents of the Renaissance. What adds to this book's uniqueness is that it reveals fresh evidence about Vesalius' life and the physicians, illustrators, and printers that contributed to the birth of the *Fabrica*. It will serve as a useful resource for librarians, curators, and archivists working in health sciences libraries and archives (especially if they have the works of Vesalius in their collections), but it also serves as a fantastic read for those who enjoy learning about the history of the Renaissance.

Notes

¹ One of the most quoted lines from Irish writer James Joyce is the popular "I've put in so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries arguing over what I meant, and that's the only way of insuring one's immortality." An important note: editors Slote et al. of *Annotations to James Joyce's Ulysses* state that it is highly unlikely that Joyce actually said this (Slote et al., 2022, xvi).

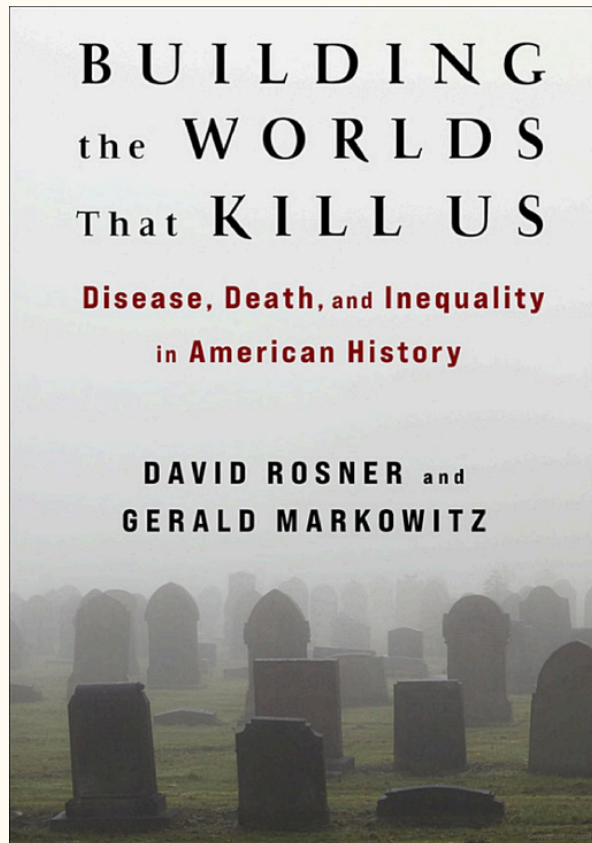
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David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz. Building the Worlds that Kill Us: Disease, Death, and Inequality in American History. New York: Columbia University Press, 2024. 338 pages. Paperback \$28.00. ISBN 9780231200851

A recurrent theme of one of my favorite podcasts, *You're Wrong About*, is the fact that the American public is reminded over and over about the question: “are corporations

bad?” And while one of the major takeaways of the podcast—that much of the horrors we face because of capitalism are the result of people working without malice on the incentives they’ve been given—may be a fascinating take on human nature, it is definitely at odds with the authors of this book. David Rosner and Gerald Markowitz have collaborated on works for over twenty-five years and this text, *Building the Worlds that Kill Us*, is the culminating work of a series of articles that addresses the questions: what are the ways that urbanization, social status, technology, capitalism, and other factors shape the health outcomes of the people that live in the United States? How has this changed over time? And probably most poignantly, what can we learn from these struggles? Overall, I feel like the authors answer this question, even if at times the text was hard to navigate, and even if the answer does not inspire a lot of confidence.

Their main argument is that negative health outcomes are primarily linked to a lack of wealth and social resources, and that poor results are largely the result of social engineering, both outright and tangentially. “Health outcomes” is a loaded concept in this text and are measured as: hunger/malnutrition; poisoning in the workplace and living areas; mental health; lifestyle diseases; policing as magnified by race, immigration, and social status; lack of government intervention; exposure to pathogens and general

hygiene; access to clean air and water; maiming; intentional withholding from health services (such as in eugenics); and generally early death. To cover such a large topic, the authors employ a mixed structure that is both chronological and topical. The chapters focus on the displacement of native peoples in the era of colonization, the Antebellum Era, the Industrial Revolution through a look at the rise in disease due to urbanization followed by the rise in factory-related injuries leading to the Labor Movement, the health conditions due to chemical exposure prior to the New Deal, the post-WWII era and the rise of cancers due to synthetic cancers, and the current state of health disparities with a look towards the future.

Because of its chronological structure, the content is presented in a patchwork way that both magnifies the myriad ways that structural forces impact our public health and also makes the overall thesis a bit hard to follow. Within the third chapter, for example, the authors discuss factory accidents, infectious disease prior to public health interventions, the beginnings of labor reform, racial prejudice, economic inequality, physical workspace conditions, and more, which, while fascinating, makes that chapter particularly overwhelming. While I do wish for a more singular focus for each chapter, the compounding nature of each of these forces is a necessary element of such negative outcomes. The authors spend the

bulk of the second chapter, for example, detailing the superior health outcomes of women in Lowell, Massachusetts factories—in sharp contrast to English factories—until factory owners wanted to make more money and implanted measures (longer hours, etc.) that put them on par with their British counterparts (58-71). They further show that one poor outcome can lead to another, such as how silica miners would contract silicosis, a lung infection caused by silica particles scraping the inside of their lungs, which would then make them more susceptible to tuberculosis and bring that infection home to their families (206).

To me, the most striking aspect of text is the way that business and access shape health outcomes, reinforcing the inextricable link between health and politics. The authors do an exceptional job of hammering home that the social out-group always leads to poorer health outcomes, incidentally and intentionally. One particularly striking moment is their coverage of a conference of motor and chemical industry heads (including Standard Oil, General Motors, and DuPont) in May 1925 to discuss industrial poisonings such as through tetraethyl lead. And though the leaders of this group were aware of the dangers of lead exposure, they argued that “the continued development of motor fuels is essential in our civilization” and that any resulting health outcomes were outweighed by necessary progress (198). Business owners and managers even shifted

blame for underpaying employees and providing subpar dwellings by stating publicly that employee salaries are fair but that workers choose to “spend their surplus funds on automobiles and radios” (210).

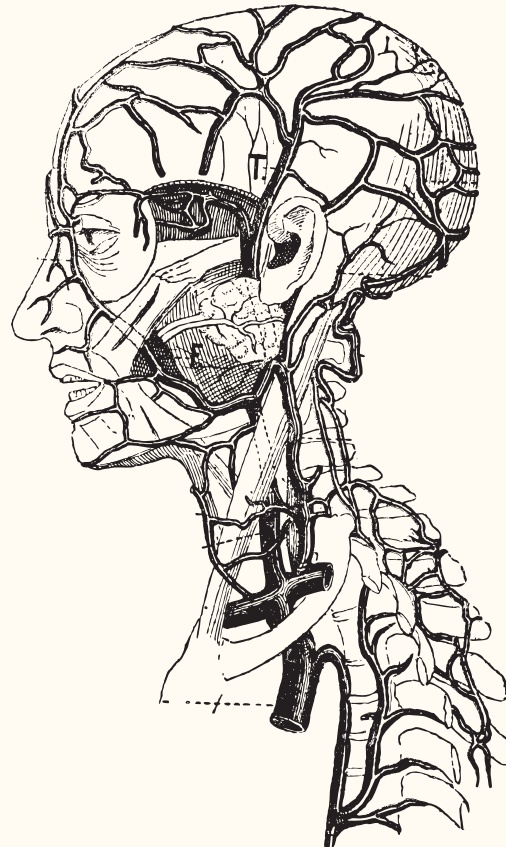
Overall, I would recommend this book to someone who is interested in a survey landscape of the history of medicine and anyone who enjoys the political history of the United States and the ramifications therein. This text shows that better health outcomes are a moving target and it is political and social capital that makes the difference. The authors do a great job of reinforcing awareness of the ways that certain groups are left aside as society moves forward (which was even more striking as the book ends with the COVID-19 pandemic) while also highlighting ways that this does not have to be necessary. They point to the labor movement as a blueprint to elevate the working class, public health agencies as infrastructure to limit disease, and government regulations to reduce exposure to toxins, and all of these tools are accessible to the average person. This text notes that poor outcomes exist at our consent, which, in light of the current political climate, is something that should not be forgotten.

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Jugular, vintage, engraved illustration from Dictionary of Words and Things, Larrive and Fleury, 1895.

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The Watermark (ISSN 1553-7641) is the quarterly publication of the Librarians, Archivists & Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHSS). It was founded in 1976 to serve as the newsletter of the Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences, changed its subtitle in 1992 when the name of the organization was changed to ALHHS. The subtitle was changed again in 2020 when the present name was adopted. OCLC records are #11902760 (1976-1992) and #40676801 (1992-2020).

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