

The Oslerian

A Message from the President

Furthering Our Mission—II

Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

At the request of the Board of Governors, in 1997 Past-Presidents **Paul D. Kligfield** and **W. Bruce Fye** prepared a document of vital importance to the life of the Society—**The Mission of the AOS**. In this statement, upon which they had worked intermittently for several years, they observed that our mission, as outlined in the Bylaws Article II (Purposes), is to keep alive the memory of William Osler, to be attentive to lessons found in W.O.'s life and teachings, to present and discuss papers related to W.O., to publish essays as proceedings, to present W.O.'s principles before the profession, and to teach medical students about W.O.

Further, Kligfield and Fye noted that although the Society faces many challenges, the continued success of the Society and furtherance of our Mission is insured by the heterogeneity of the membership, the members' active participation in Society affairs, the recruitment of increasing numbers of young Oslerians, and our reasonably strong financial base. I mention this because I believe that in our present era, with the many challenges to health care

and to the profession, as members of this Society, we cannot do too much to preserve our Oslerian legacy.

It is, in part to help this vision, that I have suggested that the Society develop an "AOS Visiting Professorship and Lectureship". To reiterate, the idea of this program is that we would help to provide various schools of medicine with a Distinguished Oslerian who could spend two or three days as the AOS Visiting Professor, giving one or two lectures, meeting with medical students, house staff, and faculty. The school to host the AOS Visiting Professor would be chosen on a competitive basis, and ideally that institution would provide matching funds. Initially, we probably could fund only one such AOS Visiting Professorship per year. Hopefully, within several years, we could help to support AOS Visiting Professorships at two or three medical schools each year.

You will be pleased to know that Second Vice-President **Chester R. Burns** has agreed to chair this committee. He will be assisted by **Stephen B. Greenberg**, **Robert C. Kimbrough**, **Kenneth M. Ludmerer**, **Francis A. Nee-**

and **Cynthia D. Pitcock**. This group will develop clear objectives and guidelines for this program. The prospects are exciting, and I am certain that Chester (cburns@utmb.edu) and members of his committee will welcome your suggestions.

A related issue concerns the idea of Professionalism in Medicine and what our Society is doing to preserve and promote this concept. As you may know, a joint American-European group collaborated to produce "Medical Professionalism in the New Millennium: A Physicians Charter." This recently appeared in *The Lancet* (Vol. 359, pp 520-522, 2002), *Annals of Internal Medicine* (Vol. 136, pp 243-246, 2002), and several other journals. The Charter is based on the premise that structural and organizational changes in health care delivery in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and other countries threaten in a very real way the values of medicine. These changes go beyond the substitution of "commercialism" for "professionalism," in regards to the primacy of care of the patient.

Three Fundamental Principles constitute the core of this Charter, *vis*, the Principle of Primacy of Patient Welfare, the Principle of Patient Autonomy with the physician an advisor,

(Continued on Page 2)

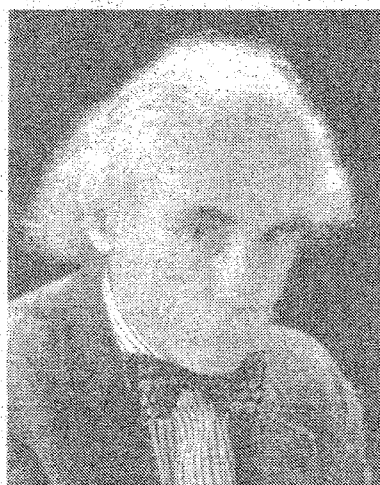
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Lawrence D. Longo

President's Message: Furthering Our Mission—II (continued)

and the Principle of Social Justice to insure a fair distribution of health care resources. The Charter details ten professional responsibilities and commitments—to competence, honesty with patients, improving quality of care, improving access to care, and so forth.

Clearly, the challenges that face the profession throughout the world and in every culture are unprecedented. "A Physicians Charter" comes at a crucial time in response to these challenges. As Oslerians, we can contribute to the dialogue about the Charter, its interpretation,

significance, and implications. I have asked **Herbert M. Swick**

(swick@saintpatrick.org), who has published widely on Professionalism, to assist us in this regard. After familiarizing yourself with this Charter, please share your thoughts along this line with him or myself.

A further thought concerns our May 2003 meeting in Edinburgh. This promises to be a wonderful celebration. Our Secretary-Treasurer **Charles S. Bryan** is working closely with

colleagues at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to insure that this, our Thirty-Third Annual Meeting, will be a grand success.

Finally, allow me to end on a personal note. I cannot emphasize too emphatically that the American Osler Society is an extraordinary Society because of each of you, its great and very special members. This is your Society. Please contact me about any issues of

concern and opportunities for advancement. We are the leading international society representing Oslerian idealism in the health care profession, the history of medicine, and humanism in medicine. Together we can enhance that position, and make a difference in the world.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your president.

Lawrence D. Longo
llongo@som.lhu.edu

WWW.AmericanOsler.Org—Updating our Website

It was with great trepidation that I volunteered last year to update and maintain the AOS website from the Secretary-Treasurer's office. I had no background in this area, and was well aware that numerous people now make websites their full-time job. I was also aware that a growing number of people, and especially the young, often base their decisions on a website's attractiveness and user-friendliness. Fortunately, Sanchia Mitchell—who has been my most diligent secretary now for more than a decade—was full of enthusiasm. Both of us took a one-day course last fall on websites (more specifically, how to set up a website using something called FrontPage), but we had to wait for new computer equipment to get started. I'm pleased to report that the updated website is now operational.

Our original website was designed by William Sodeman, Jr. (son of William Sodeman, a member of the AOS Board of Governors). Bill will continue to supervise the mechanics of getting us on the web, for two reasons: (1) going through the University of South Carolina's system would probably cause a delay for many and perhaps most users since the "hit" would not be instantaneous; and (2) we

recognize that future secretary-treasurers might not want to take on this additional responsibility. Websites are to be regarded as works-in-progress, needing frequent updating and refinement. Here are some of our considerations:

- We sought to keep the design relatively simple, since adding "bells and whistles" increases the download time for users.
- We've placed the meeting registration form on the website, but—at least for the time being—it will not be possible to make payments from the website (as AOS grows and the mechanics become easier, this should of course be reconsidered).
- The William B. Bean Student Research Award is now prominently displayed as a moving banner across the top of the website (this was Sanchia's idea!), and the application form can be printed.
- The membership nomination form can also be printed from the web, and thus prospective members



Sanchia Mitchell at work on her creation, the new American Osler Society website

will no longer have to write or e-mail the Secretary-Treasurer.

- The entire Membership Directory is now on the web and—again because of Sanchia's initiative—one can now click on the name of any member and receive relevant information: *Anyone who would like to keep this information private should notify us!* One should be aware, of course, that an incredible amount of information can be obtained about any one of us from any of

several search engines such as www.Google.com. Information for members only will require the password, "eydavis."

- Clyde Partin's compilation of papers presented at AOS meetings and John Erlen's compilations of history of medicine websites have also been added.

It is our hope that most AOS members will take a look at the website, and that some of you will give us constructive criticism. This is just a start!

Minutes, Board of Governors Meeting, 23 April 2002

1. The meeting was called to order in the Roanoke Room of the Westin Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri, by president John Carson at 7:04 PM. Present were Drs. Michael Bliss, Dee Canale, John Carson, Cliff Cleaveland, Paul Dymont, Richard Kahn, Joseph Lella, Lawrence Longo, Charles Roland, Clark Sawin, Mark Silverman, William Sode-man, Marvin Stone, and Fernando Vescia.
2. A moment of silence was observed to commemorate members who have died during the previous year: Lloyd W. Kitchens, Jr., Arnold G. Rogers, and Roy Selby.
3. Dr. Carson asked for new agenda items. Dr. Roland presented a report concerning the status of the Society's archives.
4. The minutes of the 2001 meeting were approved as written and published previously in *The Oslerian* (volume 2, issue 2).
5. Dr. Bryan presented the Secretary-Treasurer's report. Current membership in the Society is as follows: 78 active members, 4 associate members, 53 emeritus members, 5 honorary members, 2 student members, 2 inactive members, and 2 non-resident members (total 146 members). The financial report as of 31 December 2001, previously distributed in *The Oslerian* (volume 2, issue 4), was accepted as information. The balance of the Society's three accounts as of 19 April 2002 (and prior to the major expenses for the 2002 annual meeting) were reported to be \$469,481.47. Local arrangements for the 2002 meeting were reviewed. The issue was raised whether the Society should subsidize meetings—that is, offer registration fees and meals (luncheon and banquet) at less than the actual cost. There was much discussion with the overwhelming consensus being no.
6. Committee reports were received, as follows:
 - a. William B. Bean Student Research Award: Dr. Bryan presented Dr. Philip Leon's report. Recipients for 2002 are Lauren M. Kim of Washington University School of Medicine ("Physicians and Eugenics in the American Progressive Era") and David Diaz of the University of Pennsylvania ("Trains and Trauma: An Exploration of Nineteenth Century Neurosis"). Both will receive a stipend of \$1000 and a subsidy of up to \$750 to present their research at the next (or a subsequent) annual meeting.
 - b. John P. McGovern Lectureship: Dr. Bryan presented Dr. Gary Ferngren's report. The 2002 McGovern lecturer is James H. Cassidy.
 - c. Nominating Committee: Dr. Kahn presented the following slate of officers: for second vice-president, Chester R. Burns; for the Board of Governors (3 year terms), Clifton R. Cleaveland, John Noble, and P. Preston Reynolds.
 - d. Finance Committee: Dr. Dymont reported that he had reviewed the information provided the committee by Dr. Bryan and that the Society's overall financial condition remained strong.
 - e. Program Committee: Dr. Longo summarized arrangements for the program for the 2002 meeting.
 - f. Membership Committee: Dr. Stone presented applicants for regular membership and student membership. There were no applications for associate membership. The following persons were approved for regular membership: Paul E. Berman, Burke A. Cunha, Peter D. Dans, Anand P. Date, Arnold H. Einhorn, Jonathon Erlen, David R. Haburchak, S. Robert Lathan, Sandra W. Moss, Sean B. Murphy, and Steven J. Peitzman. John S. G. Blair and Robert R. Nesbit were endorsed for regular membership contingent upon their attending a meeting. Jennifer C. Keam and Beth Aviva Preminger were approved for student membership.
 - g. Publications Committee: Dr. Sawin reported on deliberations of the Publications committee (of which Dr. Neelon and Dr. Clyde Partin were also members), which were accepted as information. There was a general consensus that the Society should (i) explore ways to preserve the papers presented by its members; (ii) request having its imprimatur (that is, its name on the cover and title page) on publications for which it bears a substantial portion of the costs; and (iii) establish its own mechanism for critical review of manuscripts for which subventions are requested. The possibility was raised that the Society might make available electronic versions of the full content of papers presented at the annual meeting. This concept was rejected mainly on the grounds that it would create problems for those members who wish to submit their manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals. It was resolved that the Society would continue to work toward a comprehensive publications policy.
7. Old business:
 - a. Website: Dr. Bryan reported that the "old" website remains operative and that he and his secretary, Sanchia Mitchell, are in the process of designing a new website. Dr. Longo recommended that the additions to the website should include a statement about the purpose of the Society, the contents of the three *Persisting Osler* volumes, and various books about Osler (e.g., Bliss, Bryan, and others).
 - b. *Persisting Osler III*: Dr. Roland reviewed the status of *Persisting Osler III*, which is now available. Concern was expressed that Society members should promote its distribution. It was moved and resolved that newly approved members be billed for one copy of *Persisting Osler III* (as has been done previously with *Persisting Osler II*).
8. New business
 - a. Committee appointments: Dr. Carson appointed the following committees for 2002-2003, contingent upon acceptance of positions by the nominees: *Finance Committee*: Paul G. Dymont (chair), Perry Hookman, Claus A. Pierach; *Nominating Committee*: Dee J. Canale (chair),

Minutes, Board of Governors Meeting (continued)

Mark E. Silverman, John C. Carson; *William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee*: Lynn C. Epstein (chair), Jacalyn Duffin, Herbert M. Swick; *John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee*: T. Jock Murray (chair), Michael Bliss, John B. West, William A. Sodeman, Jr., John P. McGovern (ex officio); *Program Committee for 2003*: Marvin J. Stone (chair), Michael Bliss, Joseph W. Lella, Charles S. Bryan; *Membership Committee*: Chester R. Burns (chair), E. Carwife LeRoy, P. Preston Reynolds.

- b. Dues status for emeritus members: Dr. Carson noted that emeritus members comprise a large segment of the Society's membership and that many or even most of these members should be capable of paying dues. The issue was raised whether emeritus members should be expected to pay full or partial dues. After considerable discussion it was decided that dues payment (full or partial) by emeritus members should be encouraged but not required.
- c. Edinburgh meeting for

2003: Dr. Longo reviewed the status of plans for the Edinburgh meeting, 21-24 May 2003 with an optional tour planned for 25-29 May 2003.

- d. Scope of the Finance Committee: Dr. Dyment proposed an Investment Policy to provide long-term direction to the Board of Governors for investment of the Society's funds. The essence of the proposal was that the Finance Committee would review annual statements prepared for the Society by an accountant at the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer, and would reserve the right to inspect the Society's books and/or to request a formal audit (as opposed to a reconciliation) of the Society's financial transactions. Dr. Bryan added that the Secretary-Treasurer should continue to provide the Finance Committee with a list of all checks written against the Society's accounts and should continue to have an accountant review justifications for all checks. These recommendations were accepted by common consent.

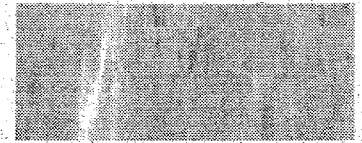
- e. Requests from the Osler Library of the History of

Medicine at McGill University for three book subventions, received by Dr. Longo from Dr. William Feindel on 10 April 2002. After review and discussion, the following were resolved: (i) The Society is committed to pay the printing costs for a volume by Drs. Longo and Teigen on Osler's letters from Egypt; (ii) The Society is favorably inclined toward providing a subvention of a volume by Dr. Richard Golden on Osler's textbook contingent on review of the manuscript by the Publications Committee and the willingness of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill to include the American Osler Society on the cover and title page of the volume as a joint publisher; and (iii) The Society is willing to review a series of seven manuscripts related to the 150th Anniversary Symposium of Sir William Osler.

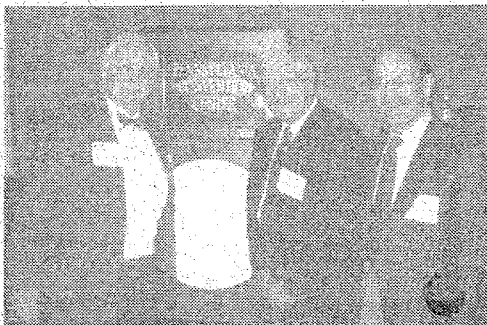
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Bryan
Secretary-Treasurer



- Eleven persons were elected to active membership and two to student membership, bringing the total membership (all categories) to 159.
- Contributions by Dr. John P. McGovern enabled the Society to finish the year 2001 with a slight increase in its net worth.
- The Finance Committee will henceforth advise the Society on its Investment Policy.
- Emeritus members will be encouraged but not required to pay full or partial dues.
- The Publications Committee will establish a mechanism for critical review of manuscripts when subventions are requested.
- Members are encouraged to purchase *Persisting Osler III*, which is now available.



Mark Silverman (right) organized a symposium on Osler's textbook at the American College of physicians meeting in Philadelphia in April 2002; other speakers included Charles Bryan and Michael Bliss. The session was well-attended and many attendees suggested "more of the same" for future meetings—confirming President Longo's conviction of the need for AOS Professorships. Bliss (the pro) received the highest audience ratings.

Minutes, Annual Meeting, 25 April 2003

1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. John C. Carson in the Shawnee Mission Room of the Westin Crown Center, at 7:38 AM.
2. A moment of silence was observed in memory of members who departed this life during the past year: Lloyd W. Kitchens, Jr., Arnold Gerald Rogers, and Roy Selby.
3. The minutes of the 2001 meeting were approved as written and distributed in *The Oslerian* (volume 2, issue 2).
4. Charles S. Bryan announced that the winner of the contest based on the annotations to Osler's essays by Shigeaki Hinohara and Hisae Niki was Dr. Nicholas Dewey. The prized consisted of a Crumline brick (that is, a brick on which was written, "Don't spit on sidewalk," as implemented by Dr. Samuel Jay Crumline, former health officer of the state of Kansas, the intent being to curb the spread of tuberculosis in Kansas City and elsewhere).
5. **Secretary-Treasurer's Report:** Charles S. Bryan reported that as of 23 April 2002 there were 146 members of the Society (reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting of that date). Eleven persons were elected to active membership and two to student membership at the Board of Governors meeting on 23 April 2002, so that—assuming that all of these persons accept the invitation to membership—the total membership will be 159, or a 9% increase over the previous year. Financial data previously presented in *The Oslerian* (volume 2, issue 4) was shown in graphical format. It was pointed out that of the \$447,237 in liquid assets shown on year-end balance (31 December 2001), \$239,236 was credited to one or the other of the Society's two endowment funds (the William B. Bean Educational Endowment Fund and the John P. McGovern Lectureship Fund). Thus, the Society's uncommitted liquid assets at year-end balance were \$208,001. Dr. Bryan pointed out that the Society finished the year 2002 with a slight increase in its net worth, despite significant losses in the value of its assets in an unfavorable financial market, solely because of the generosity of Dr. John P. McGovern. Dr. McGovern's contributions included not only significant additions to the two endowment funds but also a contribution for unrestricted use. Members expressed their appreciation to Dr. McGovern with a round of applause. The Secretary-Treasurer's recommendations as presented in *The Oslerian* (volume 2, issue 2) were briefly reviewed.
6. **Finance Committee Report:** Dr. Bryan, in Dr. Dyment's absence, summarized briefly the recommendations made by Dr. Dyment to the Board of Governors.
7. **Nominating Committee Report:** Dr. Carson presented the report made by Dr. Richard Kahn for the following slate of officers: for second-vice-president, Chester R. Burns; for the Board of Governors (3 year terms) Clifton R. Cleaveland, John Noble, and P. Preston Reynolds. All were elected by acclamation.
8. **William B. Bean Student Research Committee:** Philip Leon reported that the recipients for 2002 are Lauren M. Kim of Washington University School of Medicine ("Physicians and Eugenics in the American Progressive Era") and David Diaz of the University of Pennsylvania ("Trains and Trauma: An Exploration of Nineteenth Century Neurosis").
9. **John P. McGovern Lectureship Committee:** Lawrence D. Longo reported that the recipient for 2002 is Dr. James H. Cassidy.
10. **Publications Committee:** Francis Neelon and Clark Sawin summarized briefly the deliberations toward a publications policy, discussed at the Board of Governors meeting on 23 April 2002 and also at the general session on 24 April 2002.
11. Expression of thanks to this year's McGovern lecturer: Dr. Carson expressed his gratitude to Dr. Cassidy.
12. **Committee appointments for 2002/2003:** Dr. Carson announced committee appointments, as listed in the Board of Governors Report (first item under "New Business").
13. **Introduction of new members and presentation of certificates:** Dr. Carson acknowledged members elected at the Board of Governors meeting on 23 April 2002 (reference being made to the minutes of that meeting) and presented certificates to those present.
14. **Future meeting sites and dates:** Dr. Carson announced that the next meeting will be in Edinburgh, Scotland, 22-24 May 2003. Houston, Texas has been selected as the site of the 2004 meeting. The site of the 2005 meeting will be determined at a later date.
15. **Introduction of new president:** Dr. Carson introduced Lawrence D. Longo as the new president of the American Osler Society.
16. **Expression of appreciation to outgoing president:** Dr. Longo presented Dr. Carson with a plaque to commemorate his faithful service as president.
17. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Longo at 8:56 A.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Charles S. Bryan
Secretary-Treasurer

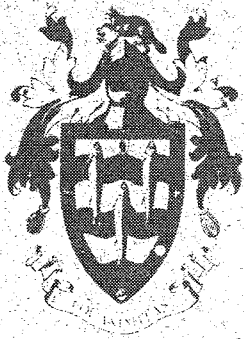
AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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Spend the last half-hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.AMERICANOSLER.ORG



Aequanimitas

The Oslerian is published approximately four times a year by the American Osler Society, Inc., a non-profit organization. Members of the American Osler Society are encouraged to send news items of interest, including but by no means limited to their personal activities and accomplishments and accompanied by photographs or other illustrations. For distribution of reprints and other materials of possible interest to AOS members, please send 180 copies. Your ideas for The Oslerian are of course most welcome! Direct all correspondence by mail, fax, or e-mail to the Secretary-Treasurer.

The American Osler Society has been founded for the purpose of bringing together members of the medical and allied professions who are, by their common inspiration, dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness and the ethical example of **William Osler** (1849-1919). This, for the benefit of succeeding generations, that their motives be ever more sound, that their vision be on everbroadening horizons, and that they sail not as Sir Thomas Browne's Ark, without oars and without rudder and sails and, therefore, without direction.

Call for Abstracts for 2003 Meeting

The 2003 meeting will take place at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, Scotland, 21 to 24 May 2003. Tentatively, we plan a full-day meeting for 22 May and half-day meetings for the next two days in order to allow members the opportunity to see Edinburgh. As noted elsewhere in this issue (page 6), we are also planning an excursion to the Highlands, and we are considering the possibility of short evening presentations during that time.

For several years the AOS has had a pleasant problem: more quality submissions for the annual meeting than can be accommodated. The Program Committee is now chaired by the First Vice-President, and this year's chair is Marvin J. Stone. The program will be planned in consultation with the officers of the Osler Club of London and the Japanese Osler Society.

Please note the following guidelines (some of these are required for Continuing Medical Education credits):

1. Abstracts must be **received** by the Secretary-Treasurer by November 15, 2002. **FAX and e-mail transmissions will be accepted only from overseas members and guests** Members and invited guests are encouraged to submit their abstracts well prior to the deadline; receipt will be acknowledged by e-mail and/or postcard.
2. The abstract should be no longer than one page. It should begin with the complete title, the names of all co-authors, and the corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, FAX, and e-mail address. The text should provide sufficient information for the Program Committee to determine its merits and its possible interest to membership. The problem should be defined and the conclusions should be stated. Phrases such as "will be presented" should be kept to a minimum.
3. Three learning objectives should be given after the abstract. Each learning objective should begin with an active verb indicating what attendees should be able to do after the presentation (for example, "list," "explain," or "outline").
4. The curriculum vitae of each author should accompany the abstract (a one page synopsis is perfectly acceptable).
5. A covering letter should state:
 - The corresponding author's opinion of the paper's potential interest to members.
 - Whether any of the authors have a potential conflict-of-interest such as direct financial involvement in the topic being discussed, and whether there will be any mention of off-label use of drugs or other products during the presentation.
 - *Optional:* Would the author(s) be willing to present their paper in a 15-minute time slot (rather than a 25- or 30-minute time slot) if necessary?
 - *Optional:* Are there any special considerations, such as insistence by one's organization that a paper be presented in order to justify reimbursement for the costs of attending the meeting?

Please send five copies of the abstract, a computer diskette containing the abstract (not required but strongly encouraged), curricula vitae of all authors, and a covering letter to: Charles S. Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer, American Osler Society, Two Medical Park, Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29203. Authors will be notified of the status of their submissions shortly after 1 January 2003.