

The Oslerian

A Message from the President

John P. McGovern: Oslerian Extraordinaire

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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

In 1907, Osler said: "The old art cannot possibly be replaced by, but must be absorbed in, the new science." Are William Osler's teachings and precepts relevant to present-day medicine? Are humanistic ideals still important? Such concerns led to the formation of the American Osler Society, as described by our historian, Chuck Roland, at the 1999 Annual Meeting (see *The Persisting Osler III*, pp. 189-201). John (Jack) P. McGovern and Al Henderson were brought together in the late 1960s at the urging of Dean Wilburt Davison of Duke because of a common interest in William Osler. A meeting on "Humanism in Medicine" was held in Galveston, Texas, in 1970 as a "trial run" for the fledgling group. William B. Bean, a renowned Oslerian scholar and Professor of Medicine at Iowa, was selected as president. The first formal AOS meeting was held in Denver in 1971. Throughout this early period, Jack McGovern was the driving force that made the Society a reality.

In addition to being its founder and fourth president, Jack McGovern has remained an enthusiastic supporter of the

American Osler Society through the years. My son Rob and I had the pleasure and privilege of visiting Dr. McGovern and his gracious wife, Kathy, at their home in Galveston recently (see photo). During a filmed interview, we were fascinated to hear about the formative stages of the AOA as well as its subsequent growth and development. The original membership certificates were designed by Al Henderson whose father-in-law, a printer, provided them and the meeting programs free of charge. Bill Bean was picked as the first president because it was felt that he would lend credibility and momentum to the fledgling

organization. Jack McGovern has published extensively about Osler and served as co-editor of the first *Persisting Osler* volume (with Jerry Barondess and Chuck Roland, 1985) as well as *William Osler—The Continuing Education* with Chuck Roland (1969), *Humanism in Medicine* with Chester Burns (1973), *An Annotated Checklist of Osleriana* with Earl Nation and Roland (1976), *Student and Chief—The Osler-Camac Correspondence* with Nation (1980), and the three Classics of Medicine collections of Oslerian essays with Roland (1985). McGovern wrote the



Marvin Stone, Jack McGovern, and Rob Stone in the McGovern home, Galveston, Texas, July 2003 (photo by Kathy McGovern)



Marvin J. Stone

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John P. McGovern: Oslerian Extraordinaire (continued)

forward for Hinohara and Niki's *Osler's "A Way of Life" and other Addresses, with Commentary and Annotations*, published in 2001. He established a lectureship for the annual meeting of our Society. These McGovern lectures are a highlight of each AOS gathering and all will soon appear in a single volume edited by Larry Longo. Jack also founded the Hall of Medical History and the McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He established the Osler-

McGovern Centre at 13 Norham Gardens and an annual lectureship in Oslerian Medicine at Oxford, the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center at Duke University Medical Center, and the new John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science in Houston. A wonderful *Festschrift, Appreciations, Reminiscences, and Tributes Honoring John P. McGovern* was published on the occasion of his 55th birthday, and includes a section devoted to medical history and Oslerian activities. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal

Physicians of London and an Honorary Member of the Japan Osler Society. He has served as Member and Chair of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine and received a number of special citations in recognition of his clinical and academic activities in pediatric allergy. Over ninety different awards, honors, professorships, and facilities have been named for Dr. McGovern and he has received 29 honorary degrees. He remains a staunch advocate of Oslerian medicine and ideals.

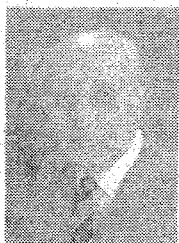
Rob and I had a delightful time visiting the McGovern. All of us in the American Osler Society as well as Oslerians around the world owe a great debt of gratitude to Jack McGovern, our founder, colleague, and benefactor. We look forward to honoring him at the meeting next April in Houston, the birthplace of the American Osler Society. Stay well and be sure to submit your abstract by November 15th!

With best wishes,

Marvin J. Stone
Marvins@baylorhealth.edu



R. Dennis Bastron teaches anesthesiology in Tucson, Arizona



John S. G. Blair, a retired surgeon, lives at Perth, Scotland, U.K.



Michael Emmett is Chief of Nephrology at Baylor University Medical Center,



Pamela Joan Miller is the Osler Librarian at McGill University, Montreal



Dennis K. Wentz is head of Continuing Professional Development at the AMA, Chicago

Welcome New Members!

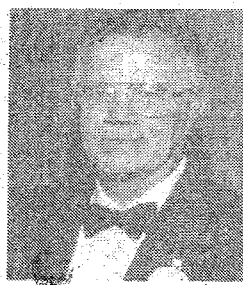
Ten persons were elected to full membership at the Board of Governors meeting in Edinburgh. All have demonstrated keen interest in the history of medicine and have participated in AOS meetings, most have published in the medical humanities, and some have held leadership positions in history of medicine organizations. In addition, Cristin McKenna, a former William B. Bean Award recipient, was elected to student membership. We look forward to active participation by the Class of 2003 for many years to come.



Paul Mueller is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester.



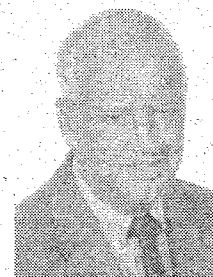
John W. K. Ward is a general practitioner in Winton, Abingdon, Oxon, U.K.



Joseph B. Vander Veer Jr., a retired general surgeon, divides his time between Pennsylvania and Arizona.



Mabel Louise Purkerson is Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Washington University, St. Louis



Robert R. Nesbit, Jr., is Professor Emeritus of Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia

Minutes, Board of Governors Meeting, American Osler Society, Edinburgh, Scotland, 21 May 2003

1. The Board of Governors of the American Osler Society was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Lansdowne Room of the George Intercontinental Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland, by president Lawrence D. Longo. Present were: Lawrence D. Longo (presiding), Marvin J. Stone, Chester R. Burns, Charles S. Bryan, Clark T. Sawin, Joseph W. Lella, John Noble, Dee J. Canale, Mark E. Silverman, John C. Carson, and (by invitation), Clyde Partin, Neil McIntyre, Daniel Morgan, and Robert E. Rakel.

A moment of silence was observed to commemorate two members who died the previous year: E. Carwile LeRoy and Edward C. Rosenow, Jr.

The minutes of the 2002 Board of Governors meeting were approved as written and previously distributed and published in *The Oslerian*.

2. The *Secretary-Treasurer's report* was presented by Dr. Bryan. The Society currently has 157 members, as follows: 88 active, 4 associate, 52 emeritus, 5 honorary, 4 student, 2 inactive, and 2 nonresident.

The Society's liquid assets of 27 April 2003 amount to \$378,005.53, distributed as follows: \$13,564.53 in cash account at Bank of America, \$30,948.27 in cash account at Fidelity Investments, and \$333,482.73 in investment account at Fidelity Investments. End-of-year financial balances as of 31 December 2003, previously published in *The Oslerian* along with comparisons with previous years, were reviewed briefly and discussed. It was reported that a reconciliation of the Society's accounts for 2003 and preparation of an income tax return have been carried out by the C.C. McGregor Company, Columbia, South Carolina.

The Society's policy of adding

to the William B. Bean Endowment (for student research awards) and the John P. McGovern Lectureship Account (for the annual McGovern Lecture) was reviewed. It was moved, seconded, and resolved to continue this policy this year.

Disposition of the Society's large inventory of *Persisting Osler II*, currently stored at Loma Linda University, was discussed in detail. It was moved, seconded, and resolved to empower Lawrence D. Longo with the discretion to distribute cases of this volume to various parties and organizations as he might see fit, examples including chapters of Alpha Omega Alpha and the American Association for the History of Medicine.

Disposition of the Society's inventory of extra-large T-shirts was discussed briefly, with the general consensus being that these would make handsome presents for guests at future meetings.

The Society's investment strategy was discussed. It was reported that members of the Board of Governors and the General Membership had been given the opportunity to provide advice and recommendations, and that the consensus among the officers and members of the Board of Governors was to stay the course (see also report of the Finance Committee, below).

Finally, Dr. Bryan reviewed the internal allocation of the Society's assets as of 31 December 2002, pointing out that although the year-end balance was \$377,567, only \$115,397 of that sum represented uncommitted assets (the remainder being distributed as follows: \$75,933 in the William B. Bean Endowment, \$182,392 in the

John P. McGovern Lectureship Fund, and \$1845 being committed to various creditors).

3. The *William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee* report was presented by Dr. Bryan for Lynn C. Epstein (chair), Jacalyn Duffin, and Herbert Swick. Five applications were received. The recipients are Andora Johnson of the University of Manitoba (a project on the historical role of women in Inuit Health) and Lee Hampton of the University of North Carolina (a project on the polio eradication campaign).

4. The *John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee* report was presented by Dr. Longo for Jock Murray (chair). This year's recipient is Sir Richard Doll.

5. The *Nominating Committee* report was presented by Dr. Canale. Nominees for 2003-2004 are: Claus A. Pierach for second vice-president; Neil McIntyre, Daniel Morgan, and Clyde Partin for Board of Governors (three-year terms); and Charles S. Bryan for secretary-treasurer (three-year term). These nominations were accepted by common consent.

6. The *Membership Committee* report was presented by Dr. Burns. There were nine nominees for regular membership and one for student membership. The following were elected to regular membership: Robert Dennis Bastron, John S.G. Blair, Michael Emmett, Pamela Joan Miller, Paul Stephen Mueller, Mabel Louise Purkerson, Joseph Bedford Vander Veer, Jr., John W. K. Ward, and Dennis Keith Wentz. Cristin McKenna was elected to student membership. (Robert R. Nesbit, Jr., was elected to regular membership at the 2002 meeting pending presentation

of a paper; that requirement will be completed at the 2003 meeting).

7. The *Finance Committee* report was presented by Dr. Bryan for Paul G. Dyment, reference being made to Dr. Dyment's written report dated 16 April 2003. Dr. Dyment indicated that he had discussed the investment portfolio with the Society's investment advisor (Mr. Pel Stockwell of Fidelity Investments, Boston), and recommended that the present investment policy be continued. Dr. Longo reported that he had independently discussed the Society's investments with Mr. Stockwell, and concurred with Dr. Dyment's recommendations.

8. The *Publications Committee* report was presented by Dr. Sawin. The need for clarification of the process by which proposals for subvention of books and other potential publishing projects was discussed in detail. It was resolved by common consent that the committee would draft a document outlining principles for review of proposals for subvention (sponsorship) by the Society. The need to archive abstracts and presentations was also discussed in detail. This issue has been raised at previous meetings. Notebooks containing abstracts of the presentations had been given to attendees at the 2001 and 2002 meetings. A booklet containing the abstracts—that is, a Program and Abstracts booklet—has been prepared for the 2003 meeting. However, the sentiment was expressed that the abstracts and possibly the computer-based (PowerPoint) presentations be made available on the Society's website and/or at the Osler Library for the History of Medicine at McGill University.

Minutes, Board of Governors (continued)

A motion was made, seconded and passed by common consent that these possibilities would be explored.

Dr. Noble suggested that the Society develop a set of core values which could be made available on its website.

9. The *Program Committee* was presented by Dr. Stone. He reviewed the process for determining this year's program, and led a discussion on allocation of time slots for presentation. The possibility of developing the panel discussion on professionalism into a project to be sponsored by the Society was discussed.

10. Dr. Longo made the following announcements concerning *committee appointments* for the year 2003-2004:

A. Finance Committee: Paul G. Dymant will remain as chair. The other members will be Perry Hookman, Dee J. Canale, and W. Bruce Fye. (Claus A. Pierach will rotate off the committee.)

B. Nominating Committee: Mark E. Silverman will be chair. The other members will be John C. Carson and Lawrence D. Longo. (Dee J. Canale will rotate off the committee.)

C. William B. Bean Student Research Committee: Jacalyn Duffin will be chair. The other members will be Herbert M. Swick and Richard J. Kahn. (Lynn C. Epstein will rotate off the committee.)

D. John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee: Michael Bliss will be the chair. The other members will be John B. West, Robert L. Martensen, and John P. McGovern

(ex-officio). (Jock Murray will rotate off the committee.)

E. Membership Committee: Claus A. Pierach will be the chair. The other members will be P. Preston Reynolds and Daniel D. Morgan (Chester Burns will rotate off the committee.)

F. Program Committee: Chester R. Burns will be the chair. The other members will be Joseph W. Lella, Philip Leon, and Charles S. Bryan. (Marvin J. Stone will rotate off the committee.)

G. Publications Committee: Clyde Partin, Jr., will be chair. The other members will be Francis A. Neelon, Clark T. Sawin, Joseph W. Lella, and Charles G. Roland (ex-officio).

H. American Association for the History of Medicine Liaison Committee: Richard Kahn and Kenneth Ludmerer will be co-chairs.

I. (American Osler Society Visiting Professorship Committee: This is a newly constituted committee, having previously been an ad hoc committee. Its membership is discussed below).

11. *American Osler Society Visiting Professorship*. Dr. Burns presented a draft of the document developed by the ad hoc committee, which he chaired, reference being made to that document. The document presented several alternatives pertaining to each of the major issues. Discussion was spirited, and those present differed substantially on some of the specific details such as the appropriateness of an honorarium. In general, however, there was much enthusiasm for this project. After lengthy discussion, the following were resolved:

A. A permanent committee would be established for this purpose. For 2003-2004, Chester R. Burns will be the chair. The other members will be Stephen P. Greenberg, Kenneth M. Ludmerer, Francis A. Neelon, and Cynthia D. Pitcock.

B. The committee will draft a letter to be sent to deans of schools of medicine within the United States and Canada, and possibly to other persons such as department chairs. This letter will be distributed to such persons upon approval by Dr. Longo (the outgoing president) and Dr. Stone (the incoming president).

C. Initially, a single AOS Visiting Professorship will be offered, and will apply to the academic year 2004-2005.

D. An announcement will be made in a forthcoming mailing to the general membership (that is, in *The Oslerian*) inviting persons who are interested in becoming AOS Visiting Professors to submit brief biographical sketches and two potential topics, with brief descriptions of same.

E. The issues of an appropriate honorarium for the AOS Visiting Professor and the appropriate length of stay for the lectureship, and various related issues, were left open.

12. Publication of the John P. McGovern Award lectures: Dr. Longo reported progress toward the publication by Krieger Publishing Company of a volume consisting of the McGovern lectures given to date, including this year's lecture by Sir Richard Doll. It was agreed that the Society would provide an appropriate subvention, if necessary.

13. *Future meeting sites and*

dates:

A. 2004: Bob Rakel reported on progress to date pertaining to the annual meeting scheduled for 21-24 April 2004 in the Warwick Hotel, Houston, Texas, with a side trip to Galveston. Numerous options and opportunities were presented for discussion. It was agreed by common consent that the Local Arrangements Committee would develop these concepts in greater detail. Other members of the committee include Stephen P. Greenberg, Herbert L. Fred, and Marvin J. Stone.

B. 2005: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 5-7 April 2005 in Birmingham, Alabama, to run in tandem with the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM). The 2004 annual meeting of the AAHM will be in Madison, Wisconsin, and concerns have been expressed that by 2005 the AOS and AAHM will have met in separate locations for two consecutive years.

C. 2006: The locations for both the AOS and AAHM meetings are unsettled.

D. 2007: The AAHM meeting is tentatively scheduled for Montreal, Canada, a site about which the Board of Governors expressed enthusiasm.

14. *Documentary film project by Mr. Robert Stone*: Marvin Stone presented an update concerning this project. His son, Rob, will conduct videotaped interviews of various AOS members during this, the 2003 annual meeting. The Board expressed enthusiasm and, by common consensus, approved the videotaping of the meeting sessions.

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Minutes, Board of Governors (continued)

15. Signatories for AOS Accounts: Dr. Bryan expressed the need for a policy to maintain a second signatory to the AOS financial accounts so that the Society would not need to

go through a probate court in the event of the disability or death of a secretary-treasurer. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that Dr. Partin would serve as a second signa-

tory to the accounts. Dr. Bryan will make arrangements to this effect.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M. by common consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Bryan
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes, Annual Business Meeting, American Osler Society, Edinburgh, Scotland, 24 May 2003

1. The Annual Business Meeting of the American Osler Society was called to order at 7:58 A.M. in the Seminar Room of the Conference Centre, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, by president Lawrence D. Longo. Fifty-three members and other persons were present.

A moment of silence was observed to commemorate two members who died during the previous year: E. Carwile Leroy and Edward C. Rosenow, Jr.

The minutes of the 2002 Annual Business meeting were approved as written and previously distributed and published in *The Oslerian*.

2. The secretary-treasurer's report was presented by Charles S. Bryan. Information including financial reports presented and discussed at the Board of Governors meeting of 21 May 2003 (reference being made to that report) was given and illustrated with slides. The report was accepted as information.

3. The *William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee* report was given by Herbert M.

Swick. Recipients of this year's awards are as listed in the Board of Governors minutes.

4. The *John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee* report was presented by Dr. Longo for Jock Murray (chair). This year's recipient was Sir Richard Doll.

5. The *Nominating Committee* report was presented by Dee J. Canale. Nominees for 2003-2004 are: Claus A. Pierach for second vice-president; Neil McIntyre, Daniel Morgan, and Clyde Partin for Board of Governors (three-year terms); and Charles S. Bryan for secretary-treasurer (three-year term). These nominees were elected by acclamation.

6. The *Finance Committee* report was given by Dr. Bryan for Paul G. Dymont, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting.

7. The *Membership Committee* report was presented by Chester R. Burns, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting.

8. The *Publications Committee* report was presented by Clark T. Sawin, reference being

made to minutes of the Board of Governors meeting. Dr. Sawin reported that a committee would draft guidelines to review future requests for subventions. He also discussed alternatives for preservation of papers presented at the annual meeting.

9. The *Program Committee* report was presented by Marvin J. Stone, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting.

10. *Committee Appointments for the year 2003-2004* were announced by Dr. Longo, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting.

11. Drs. Longo and Burns presented the conclusions of the AOS Visiting Lectureship (Professorship) Committee. Persons interested in being AOS Visiting Professors should advise Dr. Burns by 1 August 2003; they should provide two potential topics with brief descriptions of each.

12. Dr. Longo gave a report of progress made toward publication of the John P. McGovern lectures to the Society to date, including this year's lecture given by Sir Richard Doll.

13. Dr. Longo announced future meeting sites and dates, reference

being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting.

14. Dr. Longo expressed his gratitude to this year's McGovern lecturer, Sir Richard Doll.

15. Dr. Longo introduced those new members who were present, and gave them their certificates of membership.

16. Dr. Longo expressed his appreciation to Drs. Dymont and Sawin for their service on the Board of Governors.

17. Dr. Longo introduced Marvin J. Stone as the new president of the Society for 2003-2004 and transferred the latchkey, symbolic of this office, to Dr. Stone.

18. Dr. Stone expressed his appreciation to Dr. Longo for his service as president, for his enormous dedication to the Society through the years, and for his frequent exhortations to persevere.

19. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Bryan
Secretary-Treasurer

Oslerian Progress Notes

Allen Weisse has had published *Heart to Heart: The Twentieth Century Battle against Cardiac Disease* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press), an oral history project

based on in-depth interviews with pioneering cardiologists and cardiac surgeons of the twentieth century.

Mark Silverman writes that

"the Wellcome Library has developed 'a one stop shop' for locating high quality Internet resources relevant to the study of the history of medicine, a web-based catalogue that includes e-

mail discussion lists, electronic versions of classic texts, databases, collections of digitized images and electronic journals. The site is accessed at <http://medhist.ac.uk>."

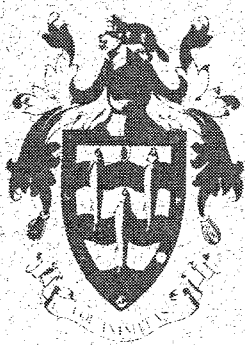
AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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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—2004 meeting in Houston, Texas, 21-24 April

The 2004 meeting will take place in Texas, primarily in Houston but with a day trip to Galveston. The Board of Governors will meet on Wednesday, April 21. As was the case this year, it is possible that a third half-day will be added to the meeting on Saturday, April 24.

For several years we have received more quality submissions that can be accommodated. The Program Committee will be chaired by the First Vice-President, Chester R. Burns.

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

1. Abstracts must be **received** by the Secretary-Treasurer by 15 November 2003. **FAX and e-mail submissions will be accepted only from overseas members and guests.** Members and invited guests are encouraged to submit their abstracts well prior to the deadline.
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 possible interest to the membership. The problem should be defined and the conclusions should be stated. Phrases such as "will be presented" should be avoided or 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"; **avoid** noncommittal verbs such as "know," "learn," and "appreciate").
4. Each author should provide a brief (two- to five-sentence) description of himself/herself, which will serve as the speaker's introduction. We have learned that providing this information in the program booklet saves valuable meeting time.
5. Each author supply a curriculum vitae (a one-page synopsis is acceptable), which is required for Continuing Medical Education.
6. 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 to receive reimbursement for the costs of attending the meeting.

Please send five copies of the abstract, a computer diskette containing the abstract (ideally in Microsoft Word format), 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. Again, the deadline for receipt is 15 November 2003.