

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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The Oslerian

A Message from the President Fathers and Sons

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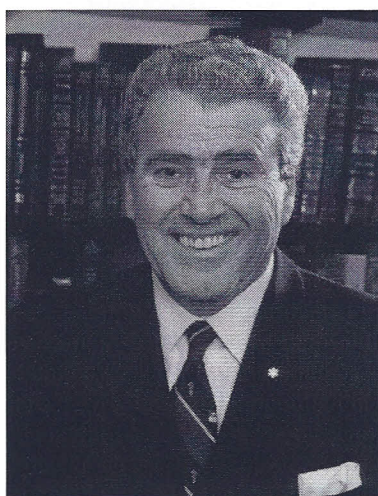
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Jock Murray

Over a decade ago we initiated a reading weekend for physicians and their companions, distributing a reading list in the spring and meeting in early October in an inn somewhere in Nova Scotia when the autumn colors were most resplendent. The reading list varies, with perhaps a new or classic novel, a biography, some essays, short stories and some poems. Usually, but not always, we have a theme. Usually, but not always, there is a medical connection, but most of medicine and most of literature deals with central issues of the human condition, so we don't specifically select obvious medical writings. With good meals, some wine and convivial company, we spend the weekend discussing literature.

This year the reading weekend will be at Keltic Lodge in Cape Breton, where the autumn colors are particularly brilliant. Traveling the Cabot Trail that winds up and down the mountains overlooking the ocean can evoke both awe and anxiety. One can see why the Scots came to this land of rolling hills and placid lakes which looks so much like Scotland.

Our theme this year will be

"Fathers and Sons". On one of our long daily walks we talked about the literature on this subject, the authors who struggled or floundered in the shadow of their fathers. Hemingway, Chekhov and so many others never escaped from the shadow. Turgenev, in the novel, *Fathers and Sons* (more correctly translated from the Russian as *Fathers and Children*) captured the conflict of the generations represented by the parent and the children. Jesus, in the parable of The Prodigal Son, spoke of the strength of the love and the willingness to forgive, of a father for his son.

As we walked we turned our attention to the relationship of William Osler and his son Revere. Some feel the son was not up to the standards set by his father, and must have been intimidated by a parent whom others regarded as a paragon and a saint, so accomplished in so many fields. In turn they would suggest the father must have been disappointed in a son who was "not a scholar", missed admission to Oxford on his first attempt and was initially rejected for a commission in the Great War as "too immature".

We feel that this is a misreading of both the father and the son. Revere was not a scholar in the sense that an academic life was in his future, but as a teenager he was an accomplished artist and woodworker, interested in nature and was developing an interest in poetry, books and a wider literature. Even his passion for fishing was not just idle time-wasting, but a serious interest and area of study. His father used this as an opportunity to encourage an interest in literature and presented Revere with a first edition of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. What a proud father he must have been to arrange a celebratory dinner for 9 guests when Revere caught his first salmon.

Revere was also a good cabinetmaker, and a better artist, evidenced by the extant copper plates of his architectural etchings of scenes of houses and doorways. At age 18 he drew his own bookplate (something his father never got around to designing or even deciding upon in his lifetime) and did drawings of moths and butterflies.

His father encouraged his son in his interest in stamps,

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Fathers and Sons (continued from page 1)

books and literature, and Revere was accumulating a library of a size unusual for a teenager (but perhaps not for the son of a famous bibliophile). There is no suggestion that the father had anything but love and support for his son, and pride in his accomplishments, and observed that he might become an architect or artist. On the other hand, the son seemed admiring of his father and the scene of him leaving on the troop train, drawing a copy of Keat's poems from his pocket to wave to his father captures a touching moment of connection between these two men.

Although William was 46 and Grace 42 when Edward Revere Osler was born, and his father at a quieter period of his career, the relationship seems close, with the son receiving every encouragement. In comparison to most teenagers (including TJM at that point in his life) these interests are

impressive in both accomplishment and diversity. There is no sign of disappointment by the father nor rebellion by the son - only mutual love, acceptance and admiration.

When Revere was killed at the front at age 21 his father was devastated and never recovered from the blow. We will never know how Revere would have lived his life, but his teen years suggest to us that he had more talent, interest and good nature than most teenagers, and because he was so supported by his parents, would have done well in his chosen field. And it would have been one of his own choosing.

Phillip Larkin wasn't correct about all parents.

-Jock and Janet Murray
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Participants' Evaluations of the 2006 Annual Meeting

Fifty-one participants (45 physicians, six "other" persons completed the continuing medical education (CME) form at the conclusion of the meeting held 1-4 May 2006 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Here are the aggregate results:

- 74% of respondents *agreed strongly* that the activity met their needs, while the other 26 *agreed*.
- 78% *agreed strongly* that the activity made them want to learn more, while the other 22% *agreed*.
- 65% *agreed strongly* that the activity was valuable to them professionally; 31% *agreed* and 4% were neutral.
- 73% *agreed strongly* that the format facilitated learning while 25% *agreed* and 2% were neutral.
- 80% *agreed strongly* that they would recommend the activity to others, while 16% *agreed* and 4% were neutral.
- 62% *agreed strongly* that the CME staff was responsive to their needs, while 36% *agreed* and 2% were neutral.
- 60% indicated that the opportunity for participation was *excellent*, while 30% considered it good, 8% considered it satisfactory, and 2% considered it poor.
- 69% rated the course syllabus *excellent*, while 23% rated it good and 8% rated it satisfactory.
- 66% rated the facilities and food *excellent*, while 32% rated those good and 2% satisfactory.
- 81% gave the activity an overall rating of *excellent*, while 19% gave it an overall rating of *good*.

Regarding the overall learning objectives for the program,

- 100% of respondents felt their needs were met regarding their ability to describe ways in which lessons from William Osler's life and writings remain important to medical education and practice today.

- 94% felt their needs regarding: "Evaluate the extent to which William Osler, and also persons who were directly or indirectly strongly influenced by Osler, lived up to Osler's three main ideals..."
- 90% felt their needs were met regarding lessons in public health from such diseases as plague, cholera, and filariasis.
- 94% felt their needs were met regarding the usefulness of medical biography as drawn from specific examples.
- 87% felt their needs were met regarding their ability to discuss whether and to what extent various literature and literary figures are useful to medical education and practice.

Ninety-four percent of respondents agreed that appropriate acknowledgment of commercial support was made; 94% agreed that appropriate disclosure of relevant faculty relationships was made; and 91% agreed that off-label use of products, if discussed, was disclosed by the speaker (with 24 of the 46 respondents leaving this question blank on the basis of lack of off-label use).

Regarding the opportunity to list "the three most important things you learned from this activity," the most frequent response was "the importance of understanding medical history" (5 persons). Also receiving more than one mention were "the importance of humanism," "the contributions of Osler," "the influence of Gene Stead," and "the range of abilities of AOS members." Four respondents indicated that the activity would enhance their teaching. Four respondents indicated the need for more time for discussion, and two favored a longer meeting.

Here are some specific comments:

"Charles F. Wooley presented the best paper—"William Osler: A Clinical Historian Straddling Two Centuries."

"An excellent program with terrific talks. Well run meeting with many memorable moments."

"The opportunity for participation was poor due to the length of papers presented."

"Charles S. Bryan's presentation ran over" (Whoops!—CSB)

Minutes from the Board of Governors Meeting, May 2006

1. The Board of Governors of the American Osler Society met on 1 May 2006 in the Regency Room of the Prince George Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Present were Drs. Charles Ambrose, Charles Bryan, Arthur Gryfe, Neil McIntyre, William McMillan, Daniel Morgan, Sandra Moss, Jock Murray, Francis Neelon, John Noble, Clyde Partin, Charles Roland, Marvin Stone, and Herbert Swick, and (by invitation), Drs. Paul Dymont, Joseph Lella, and Pamela Miller. Dr. Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M., in the absence of the president, Claus Pierach, whose arrival was inadvertently delayed.
2. A moment of silence was observed in memory of members who died during the previous year: Watson Buchanan, G. S. T. Cavanagh, G. R. Paterson, and A. Benedict Schneider.
3. Minutes of the Board of Governors meeting of 10 April 2005, held in Pasadena, California, were approved as written and distributed.
4. Dr. Bryan presented the secretary-treasurer's report, reference being made to information published in the February 2006 issue of *The Oslerian*. The Society currently has six honorary members, 108 active members, two associate members, 45 emeritus members, five student members, and two inactive members, for a total of 168 members. Income and expenditures for the calendar year 2005 were reviewed. Gratitude was expressed to the John P. McGovern Foundation for its contribution during 2005. Total liquid assets as of 20 April 2006 were reported to be \$551,260.13. Anticipated unusual expenditures for 2006 were reported to be for a supplement issue of *The Journal of Medical Biography* and for new president's plaques. Dr. Bryan recommended that hereafter a Long-Range Planning Committee, to consist of past presidents and the secretary-treasurer (with others welcome to attend) convene during or immediately following future annual meetings to address the society's ambitions, membership policies, and eventual restructuring of its central office (that is, the secretary-treasurer's job description). He also advised fiscal restraint. The report was accepted as information.
5. Dr. Bryan reported that the William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee, chaired by Richard Kahn, had recommended one recipient: Makini Chisholm-Straker of Brown Medical School, whose proposal was entitled "Human Trafficking Victims in the Emergency Department." This report was accepted as information.
6. Dr. Bryan reported that the John P. McGovern Lectureship Committee, chaired by Paul Kligfield, had recommended Dr. Joseph J. Fins as the 2006 recipient. This report was accepted as information.
7. Dr. Bryan reported that the Nominating Committee, chaired by Lawrence D. Longo, recommended the following slate: for second vice-president, Francis A. Neelon; for the Board of Governors (three-year term), Stephen B. Greenberg, Pamela J. Miller, and William C. Roberts; and for secretary-treasurer (three-year-term), Charles S. Bryan. This slate was approved by common consent. Dr. Bryan informed the Board of his intent to serve out the term contingent, however, upon the continued availability of adequate resources at his disposal.
8. Dr. Dymont gave the report of the Finance Committee. He observed that the return on the Society's accounts with Fidelity Investments for the calendar year ending 31 December 2005 was 5.13 percent, compared with 8.08 percent during the previous year. Dr. Dymont reported that the Society's current investment asset allocation mix is 50% in stock funds (stock indices for 2005 were + 6.4% for the Dow Jones Wilshire 5000 Composite Index and + 4.9% for the Standard and Poor 500 Index), 40% in bond funds (bond indices for 2005 were + 2.4% for the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index and + 2.8% for the Merrill Lynch High Yield Master Index), and 10% in money market funds (for which the 2005 Citigroup 3 Month T-Bill Index was + 3.0%). Dr. Dymont reported the committee's overall satisfaction with the current investment strategy and the performance of the Society's accounts. This report was accepted as information.
9. Dr. Neelon gave the report of the Membership Committee. The following were proposed for membership: James O. Ballard, David K. C. Cooper, Laurel E. Drevlow, Harvey Michael Jones, and Michael A. E. Ramsay. Credentials of these five applicants were reviewed. All five were approved by unanimous consent.
10. Dr. Roland gave the historian-archivist's report. He reported a new addition to the staff of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University, Mr. Chris Lyons. He reviewed in detail the current status of the Society's records and requested that persons with items of potential interest should be sent to him or brought to his attention. He indicated that a previously unpublished manuscript developed largely by Dr. Richard Golden is to be brought out by the Osler Library this year, and that two other manuscripts are under consideration. One of these consists of a manuscript on Joseph Pratt being developed by Charles Ambrose; the other consists of a biography of Archibald Malloch being developed by Charles Roland. This report was accepted as information.
11. Dr. Murray gave the report of the Program Committee, and also presented the local arrangements for the current meeting. The banquet will take place at Pier 21, a building through which most immigrants to Canada came. This report was accepted as information.
12. Dr. Partin gave the report of the Publications Committee. He gave the status of his ongoing project with Dr. Lella to catalog presentations at the various Osler societies. This report was accepted as information.
13. Dr. Moss reported on activities of the AOS-AAHM Liaison Committee, which is a committee appointed by the

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Minutes of the 2005 Board of Governors Meeting (continued)

American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) currently chaired by Paul Berman. This report was accepted as information.

14. Dr. Swick gave the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism, including the discussion of a meeting held on 1 May 2006 immediately prior to the Board of Governors meeting. This report was accepted as information.
15. Dr. Neelon gave the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to compile a recommended list for reading in the humanities for twenty-first century medical students. This committee determined that there have been five previous published attempts to generate such a list, including efforts by Robert Rakel and Herbert Swick. A survey will be circulated at this year's annual meeting. This report was accepted as information.
16. Dr. John Noble gave a report on efforts to develop an AOS Visiting Professorship. He reported that medical students' reactions to one talk on Osler had caused him to have second thoughts about proceeding with such professorships without further analysis of the content to be presented. It was suggested that various members of the Society might invite potential AOS Visiting Professors to their campuses for the purpose of making presentations and then soliciting medical students' reactions. This report was accepted as information.
17. Dr. Bryan gave the report of the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, chaired by Dr. Bruce Fye. The committee recommended two recipients: Charles Roland and Lawrence Longo. This report was accepted as information.
18. Dr. Stone gave a report on the status of the videotape project being developed by his son, Robert Stone. The project is nearly completed. Mr. Stone is currently seeking a professional narrator.
19. Dr. Murray reported on the status of appointments to various committees for 2006-2007. These appointments are as follows:

Finance Committee:

Paul Dyment (chair), Dee Canale, Charles Wooley, Bruce Fye, Perry Hookman, and Charles Bryan (*ex officio*)

Nominating Committee:

Marvin Stone (chair), Chester Burns, and Claus Pierach.

William B. Bean Award Committee:

Robert Kimbrough (chair), Herbert Swick, and Mark Silverman

John P. McGovern Award Committee:

Claus Pierach (chair), Marvin Stone, Lawrence Longo, Chester Burns (all of whom are past presidents)

Membership Committee:

Daniel Morgan (chair), Pamela Miller, and Philip Leon

Program Committee:

Francis Neelon (chair), Philip Leon, Pamela Miller and

Charles Bryan (*ex officio*)

Publications Committee:

Clyde Partin (chair), Francis Neelon, Joseph Lella, and Charles Roland, and [added subsequent to the meeting] Preston Reynolds and Michael Jones.

Visiting Professorship Committee:

John Noble (chair), Herbert Swick, Clyde Partin, Joseph Lella, Marvin Stone, and "Charles Bryan

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee:

It was recommended that this be inactive during 2006-2007, as two persons were chosen to receive the award this year.

Dr. Murray's report was accepted as presented.

20. Dr. Bryan reported Dr. Pierach's decision not to name anyone to Honorary Membership this year.
21. Dr. Bryan reported that members of the Society had been approached about a proposed Osler Society of New York, and that he had discussed this with Dr. Martin Edelstein. The concept was discussed and was endorsed by common consent.
22. Future meeting sites and dates: The 2007 meeting will take place in Montreal, Canada, April 29-May 3, 2007. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent that the 2008 meeting would take place in Boston, Massachusetts, with Dr. Noble as chair of local arrangements. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous consent that the 2009 meeting would tentatively take place in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. McIntyre suggested that future meetings not start on Tuesdays, in order to keep down members' airfare expenses. Dr. Moss expressed concern that presenters be kept to their time limits.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Bryan, M.D.

Nationalism has been the great curse of humanity. In no other shape has the Demon of Ignorance assumed more hideous proportions; to no other obsession do we yield ourselves more readily. A vice of the blood, of the plasm rather, it runs riot in the race, and rages today as of yore in spite of the precepts of religion and the practice of democracy.

--William Osler, "Chauvinism in Medicine"

Minutes from the Annual Meeting, May 2006

1. The Annual Meeting of the American Osler Society took place on 3 May 2006 in the Windsor Room of the Prince George Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia. President Claus A. Pierach called the meeting to order.
 2. A moment of silence was observed in memory of members who died during the previous year: Watson Buchanan, G. S. T. Cavanagh, G. R. Paterson, and A. Benedict Schneider.
 3. The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 12 April 2005 were approved as written and distributed.
 4. Charles Bryan gave the secretary-treasurer's report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 5. Richard Kahn gave the report of the William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 6. Paul Kligfield gave the report of the John P. McGovern Lectureship Committee, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 7. Claus A. Pierach gave the report of the Nominating Committee, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006. The slate was again approved by common consent.
 8. Paul Dymont gave the report of the Finance Committee, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 9. Francis Neelon gave the report of the Membership Committee, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006. Those present received their certificates.
 10. Charles Roland gave the historian-archivist's report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 11. Jock Murray gave the report of the program committee along with local arrangements, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 12. Dr. Partin gave the report of the Publications Committee. He gave the status of his ongoing project with Dr. Lella to catalog presentations at the various Osler societies. This report was accepted as information.
 13. Sandra Moss gave the report of the AOS-AAHM Liaison Committee (an AAHM committee), reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 14. Bruce Fye gave the report of the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 15. John Noble gave the report of the AOS Visiting Professorship Committee, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 16. Herbert Swick gave the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 17. Francis Neelon gave the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to compile a recommended list for reading in the humanities for twenty-first century medical students, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 18. Jock Murray announced appointments to the various committees for 2006-2007, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on 1 May 2006.
 19. Claus Pierach announced that he had chosen not to exercise the president's discretion to appoint an honorary member.
 20. Claus Pierach announced that the 2007 meeting will take place in Montreal, Canada, April 29-May 3. He reported that the Board of Governors had approved Boston, Massachusetts, as the site for the 2008 meeting with John Noble as chair of local arrangements, and had suggested tentatively that the 2009 meeting take place in Rochester, Minnesota.
 21. Allen Weisse made a motion that the Society eliminate its current membership requirements and procedure and thereby make membership open to all interested and qualified persons, as is the policy with the American Association for the History of Medicine. This motion was referred to the Board of Governors for further consideration.
 22. Claus Pierach expressed gratitude to this year's John P. McGovern Lectureship award recipient, Joseph J. Fins.
 23. Claus Pierach presented membership certificates to those new members who were present.
 24. Claus Pierach introduced Jock Murray as the new president of the American Osler Society and presented Dr. Murray with the latchkey, symbol of that office.
 25. Jock Murray expressed his appreciation to Dr. Pierach for his service as president and presented him with the presidential plaque.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 A.M.
- Respectfully submitted,
- Charles S. Bryan, M.D.

Linked together by the strong bonds of community of interests, the profession of medicine forms a remarkable worldwide unit in the progressive evolution of which there is a fuller hope for humanity than in any other direction."

--William Osler, "Unity, Peace and Concord"

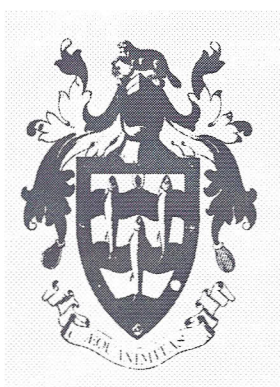
AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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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 2007 Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada April 30-May 3

The Board of Governors will meet on Monday, 30 April. Assuming that we once again have a surplus of abstracts, we will meet through the afternoon of Thursday, 3 May. We anticipate that the Thursday sessions will overlap with events scheduled by the American Association for the History of Medicine, and we are exploring the possibilities for a joint session.

For several years we have received more quality submissions that can be accommodated. The Program Committee will be chaired by the First Vice-President, Francis Neelon. Please note the following guidelines for submission of abstracts (some of these are required for Continuing Medical Education credits):

1. Abstracts can be sent by e-mail to: smitchc@gw.mp.sc.edu or by regular mail. If sent by e-mail they must be **received** by 1 November 2006; if sent by regular mail, they must be **received** by 15 November 2006. Early submission is encouraged. Abstracts submitted by e-mail will be acknowledged. However, we will not be responsible for lost e-mail submissions.
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. This should be followed by a two- to three-sentence biographical sketch indicating how the author would like to be introduced (This will probably be your entire introduction. Don't be modest!). 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," "discuss," "examine," "evaluate," "define," "contrast," or "outline"; avoid noncommittal verbs such as "know," "learn," and "appreciate"), which is required for Continuing Medical Education.
4. A cover letter should state:
 - 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.
 - Audiovisual requirements for the presentation (e.g., computer and LCD or 35 mm projector).
 - *Optional:* Whether the author(s) insist on a time slot longer than 20 minutes (At the 2004 and 2005 meetings, we determined that 20-minute time slots, with papers carefully timed to 15 minutes, work quite well for nearly all presentations).

Abstracts will be accepted by e-mail up until 1 November 2006 (smitchc@gw.mp.sc.edu) or by regular mail up until 15 November 2006. If submitting by regular mail, please send five copies of the abstract, a computer diskette containing the abstract (ideally in Microsoft Word format), and a cover letter to: Charles S. Bryan, Secretary-Treasurer, American Osler Society, Two Medical Park, Suite 502, Columbia, SC 29203. Again, the deadline for receipt by e-mail is 1 November 2006 and by regular mail 15 November 2006.