

# The Oslerian

## A Message from the President

## Osler's Bedside Library: Again?!?

### Greetings, Fellow Oslerians

Last year in these pages, Frank Neelon, our President, reviewed his attempt to up-date Osler's 'bedside library' by polling physicians about their favorites. Others have made similar attempts--seemingly a worthwhile activity since Osler's list was born more than a century ago. No modern consensus on a worthy successor has been reached, however, and in 20/20 hindsight this should be no surprise. Osler was schooled in English religious and liberal arts traditions. He grew up in the household of an Anglican cleric, surrounded by Judaeo-Christian scriptures, theology and religious ritual. Few of us now have similar roots and many have grown up either with secular or a range of different religious backgrounds. Further, Osler lived as a physician in mid- 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century North America and Britain during the infancy of specialized, science-based medicine. The profession has evolved enormously since his time and has become highly fragmented. One might reasonably ask: Is it time to forget about 'Osler's list' or can we still learn and even build from it to achieve an analogous bedside bookshelf? Frank Neelon answered that question with a "yes" and proposed that we Oslerians build a data bank of

"worthies."

Meditating on this question has brought me a related and deceptively simple answer. We can still learn from the bedside library if we focus on the deeper, and perhaps perennial question that Osler explored in it. Charley Bryan has written two books that are *a propos*. His *Osler: Inspirations from a Great Physician* and *Saints of Humanity: Selections from Sir William Osler's Recommended Bedside Library* have been organized around specific lessons for a physician's life which Osler's own writings and his library suggest. The lessons, however valuable, seem to me to radiate as only one set of possible lessons from answers to one question central to Osler's work and a second which flows from it: 1) How might anyone, more particularly a physician, cultivate an authentic life of the mind and heart---as Osler would put it a "clear mind and a loving heart"? and, 2) Given our diversity of backgrounds and professional lives today: What sorts of readings and other cultural experiences might we pursue to help achieve these with personal and professional actions that flow from them?

There is no question but that Osler's list can be read with profit today but how many of us have the patience and dare I say, the erudition to do so?

Many of its contents were written or translated into an English that is no longer our own. Few of us understand the times and contexts of its writings. I would ask: are there not other works, or genre's of work that might be read (or experienced) today with equal or greater benefit?

I suspect that the very notion of cultivating a life of the mind and heart is alien to some who feel that the more concrete ideals, knowledge and skills of scientific investigation, scientifically based clinical and educational practice are enough for physicians. As an Oslerian, I would reply that like Osler, we must fully embrace scientific medicine and clinical practice, but we should also spend a portion of our lives communicating with, or more broadly attending to the 'saints' (or great minds and hearts) of humanity and medicine. The question is then, how may we discover these minds and hearts for ourselves today.

Osler's library does, of course, provide clues. It includes the Judaeo- Christian scriptures with its: old and new testaments, collections of myths, poems, historical narratives, moral strictures and sayings, and accounts of intense spiritual experiences that are the source of many of the values of modern, Euro-

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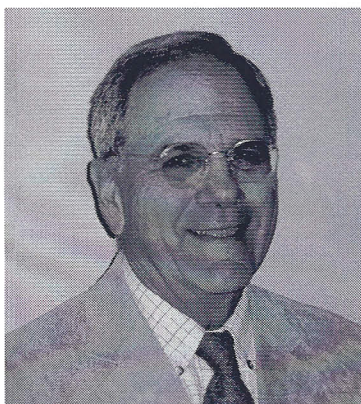
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Joseph W. Lella



## Osler's Bedside Library: Again?!? (continued)

European culture and civilization, gathered and commented upon over thousands of years. Similar scriptures and traditions exist in other cultures. Muslims revere the Judaeo-Christian scriptures, and have added the Qur'an to it. Hindus treasure the Vedas and Mahabharata, Tao-ists, the Tao Te Ching and Buddhists a range of writings. Our colleagues from these and other cultures might benefit from reconsidering the writings of their own traditions to apply what they derive to their own lives and through their own writings to the heritage of modern life and medicine.

Osler's library recommends "Shakespeare." His 16th and 17th century plays are a treasury of beauty and practical wisdom showing how characters of various social levels, occupations, and historical contexts confront the daily and sometimes eternal problems of life and death, interpersonal relations etc. His rich (though sometimes antiquated) language underlines and highlights the dilemmas, and sometimes solutions to these problems in ways that have yet to be surpassed. Shakespeare shows the power of drama to illuminate life. Which modern authors or plays belong on the Oslerian's bookshelf or list for a night at the theater? Here the seeker (according to taste and opportunity) might find his own items by cultivating a rich cultural life that includes Shakespeare if possible but also the works of modern playwrights. Favorites of mine include Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, on the life of homosexuals in New York City in the early days of the AIDS crisis and Michael Cristofer's, *Shadow Box*, on the families of terminal patients living together in a hospice setting.

Plutarch's lives (on Osler's list) were written in Greek (1<sup>st</sup> century, AD) in part to supply readers with models of the "virtuous life" sometimes lived in difficult circumstances. They have nourished a number of Shakespeare's plot lines but also supplied many 'morals' that are worthy of thought today. But these ancients lived lives and in contexts far from our own. There are numerous biographies and autobiographies available now that offer more proximate "heroes." Cushing's "Osler" and that of Michael Bliss are two that should be mentioned here. But also of possible value are recent biographies of Norman Bethune, Albert Schweitzer, or biographically relevant writings of Lewis Thomas, Paul Farmer, Pauline W. Chen and Norman Cousins. Readers should search out those most relevant to them, their hopes, aspirations and careers. Osler was constantly studying "biography" in "men and books" and looking for gems therein. We should do the same.

The essays of Michel de Montaigne (16<sup>th</sup> century), and Ralph Waldo Emerson (19<sup>th</sup>), Sir Thomas Browne's *Religio Medici* (18<sup>th</sup>), Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations* (2<sup>nd</sup>), Oliver Wendell Holmes's Breakfast Table Series (19<sup>th</sup>), the writings of Epictetus (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>), Cervantes' novel *Don Quixote* (17<sup>th</sup>) are all on Osler's list. Read them if you have or can cultivate a taste for them but there are recent essayists, novelists and poets in our libraries and bibliographic super stores that can supply ample nourishment for our own hearts and minds. Some that I have enjoyed are works of Atul Gawande, Vincent Lam (*Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures*), Oliver Sachs (*The Man who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, etc.), (Albert Camus' (*The Plague*), Richard Selzer (*Mortal Lessons*, etc), Pauline W. Chen (*Final Exam*), the poems of John Wright, or William Carlos

Williams, any of the writings of Robert Coles.

While not 'bouncing off' Osler's list as I have done, a number of individuals and organizations have supplied computer searchable resources focused on members of the health care community. A few of these are listed below. But along with these, as one who has grown old in academia, I must mention activities that to me are more tangible: 1) browsing, borrowing and buying from libraries and bookstores with real books in them; 2) frequenting theatres, concert halls, art galleries and museums—places in which real people perform and or display their work; 3) intense conversations with colleagues who indulge in some or all of the above.

We Oslerians tend to be men and women 'of many parts.' Most are physician academics and students from a range of clinical and research specialties, or university-affiliated, non-physicians in several other disciplines. We tend not to be locked in ivory towers, limited to abstruse specialties. Some of us are musicians, others visual artists, or poets and actors, many are avid readers of fiction and or non-fiction over a wide range of topics. Yes, most are interested in history and the history of medicine, philosophy and medical ethics and have presented papers on these topics at our meetings or circulated publications among us. But like our contemporaries we can and do learn much from our broader reading, frequenting theatre and the arts, and from communicating about these with friends and colleagues. Already, for example, Frank Neelon's annual seminars on medicine and literature have enlightened many of us. Conversations during our meetings, at breaks and meals occasionally touch on many of these interests. Phone calls and e-mails do follow up on them.

Can these and similar activities make us better human beings and better professionals? There are no guarantees, but perhaps they may do so with continual effort to pursue them and build upon what we learn. Perhaps, by engaging our colleagues with open minds and hearts in discussing our own evolving and broader "bedside" readings and other cultural experiences, we can better our chances of becoming more clear headed and loving people. Dare I ask, cannot we too become—at least minor—"saints of humanity?"

Joseph W. Lella

## Additional Resources:

Francis A. Neelon, "Osler's Bedtime Library: A Survey and a Proposal," *The Oslerian*, Volume 8, Issue 3 (November, 2007). See his references.

Sir William Osler, *Men and Books*. Collected and reprinted from the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* with an Introduction by Earl F. Nation, M.D. Durham, North Carolina: The Sacrum Press, 1987.

The following are interesting and related "cell2soul" sites which explore humanities in medicine. Contributors include physicians, patients, students, etc. The "canons" site includes reading lists submitted by a number of contributors from various disciplines.

<http://www.cell2soul.org/index.php>

[cell2soul.typepad.com/canons/masterlist/index.html](http://cell2soul.typepad.com/canons/masterlist/index.html)

This following site from New York University's Medical Humanities Program, Faculty of Medicine, has a rich "*Literature, Arts, and Medicine Database*" including an author index and an excellent annotated bibliography.

<http://medhum.med.nyu.edu/index.html>

Using Google creatively for searches in humanities in medicine (e.g., medical poets, or humanities in medicine programs) can provide numerous useful ideas on exploring literature and the arts.



## Minutes from the Board of Governors Meeting, May 4, 2008

1. The Board of Governors of the American Osler Society met at 7:00 A.M. at the Holiday Inn Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts. Present were: Francis A. Neelon, Joseph W. Lella, John Noble, Charles S. Bryan, Charles G. Roland, Stephen B. Greenberg, Arthur Gryfe, Robert L. Martensen, Robert G. Mennel, Pamela J. Miller, Sandra W. Moss, Paul S. Mueller, Jock Murray, Steven J. Peitzman, Claus A. Pierach, William C. Roberts, Marvin J. Stone, Mark Silverman, Mike Jones, Conrad Fulkerson, and Paul Dymont (It should be noted that this constitutes 100% attendance, plus attendance by three committee chairs [Drs. Dymont, Jones, and Silverman] and a nominee for the Board of Governors [Dr. Fulkerson]). Also, these minutes reflect committee appointments made subsequent to the meeting). President Neelon called the meeting to order.
2. A moment of silence was held to commemorate the following members who had died during the previous year: John P. McGovern, Earl F. Nation, Charles F. Wooley, and M. George Jacoby.
3. President Neelon called for additional agenda items, of which there were none.
4. The minutes of the 2007 meeting of the Board of Governors were approved as written, distributed, and published in *The Oslerian*.
5. Charles S. Bryan gave the secretary-treasurer's report. There are currently 172 members, as follows: six honorary, 111 active, two associate, 45 emeritus, five student, and three inactive. Year-end (December 21, 2007) balances of the liquid accounts (as previously published in *The Oslerian*) totaled \$550,593, distributed as follows for internal accounting purposes: \$121,522 in the William B. Bean Scholarship Fund, \$249,013 in the John P. McGovern Lectureship Fund, \$5,000 in the newly-established (through a gift from the John P. McGovern Foundation) Publications Fund, and \$175,058 in uncommitted assets. Dr. Bryan suggested that, since the amount in the John P. McGovern Fund is more than adequate to sustain this lectureship on an adequate basis, the Society might wish to (a) discontinue the practice of adding to that fund interest determined by the previous year's balance; (b) consider creating a separate investment account with that fund, using a conservative investment fund such as certificates of deposit or a money-market fund; and (c) begin adding 12% or even 20% of the previous year-end balance to the Publications Fund in order to enhance that account. These suggestions were approved by common consent after input from the chair of the Finance Committee, Paul Dymont.
6. William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee: The report was given by Mark Silverman. There were nine applicants. The two recipients were James Fraser of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and Amit Sharma of the New Jersey College of Medicine.
7. John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee: It was reported that Charles E. Rosenberg is this year's recipient.
8. Nominating Committee: Claus Pierach presented the following slate of officers: For second vice-president, Charles S. Bryan; for three-year terms on the Board of Governors, Conrad C. Fulkerson, Philip W. Leon, and James B. Young. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to endorse this slate.
9. Finance Committee: Paul Dymont presented the report, reference being made to the written material. He raised the possibility of making the Society's investment strategy more conservative. No consensus was reached.
10. Membership Committee: Pamela Miller presented the committee's endorsement of the following applicants: John D. Bullock, Leonard H. Calabrese, J. Mario Molina, C. Joan Richardson, Rob H. Stone, and Robert P. Turk. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to approve these applicants.
11. Historian-Archivist: Charles Roland gave a report, reference being made to his written report.
12. Publications Committee: Clyde Partin gave a report, reference being made to his written report. During the year the committee developed a proposal for a policy for utilizing the newly created Publications Fund. Mike Jones gave a report of the activities of the new Electronics Subcommittee of the Publications Committee. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to expend up to \$1400 per year for further development and maintenance of the electronics database. This would include \$300 to \$400 for maintenance of the AskSam database and additional moneys for adding new materials to the database. Members present expressed their appreciation for Dr. Jones's creation of this database, and also to Frank Neelon for his financial support of this project during the past year. Discussion then turned to the issue of many notable presentations at the Society's annual meetings going unpublished. Paul Mueller raised the possibility that the Society might create and maintain an electronic journal (e-journal). He volunteered to explore this possibility. Dr. Lella recommended that the Society's website should be enhanced, and there was general agreement that the Society's presence and visibility on the Worldwide Web should be strengthened. Charles Bryan pointed out that Sanchia Mitchell had done an outstanding job getting the website started. Finally, Dr. Partin reported a recommendation to provide partial subvention for Dr. Roland's new manuscript, a biography of Archibald Malloch. Pamela Miller presented the proposal that the Osler Library of the History of Medicine at McGill University and the American Osler Society each bear 50% of the printing costs for this project, which would then be published under the imprimatur of both organizations. A motion to this effect was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation.
13. Ad Hoc AOS-AAHM Liaison Committee: Charles Bryan reported that this committee had been inactive and was essentially defunct. It was agreed to dissolve the committee. However, the committee's recommendation that the officers of the two organizations should communicate during the course of the year was enthusiastically accepted. It was noted that the two organizations will meet in tandem the next two years (in Cleveland, Ohio, in



## Minutes of the 2005 Board of Governors Meeting *(continued)*

- 2009 and in Rochester, Minnesota in 2010), and possibly the following year as well (in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), presenting ample opportunity to explore this possibility.
14. Lifetime Achievement Committee: It was announced that the recipient for 2008 is Claus Pierach.
  15. Ad Hoc AOS Visiting Professorship Committee: Dr. Noble reported that this concept had not really taken off, and it was recommended that the committee be dissolved. However, discussion took place to the effect that the Society might promote Student Osler Societies.
  16. Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism: Dr. Bryan reported that this committee had been inactive, and it was recommended that this committee be dissolved.
  17. President's Report: Dr. Neelon gave his report. He confirmed that a major project the past year was to support the AskSam database developed by Mike Jones.
  18. New business:
    - a. Committee appointments for 2008-2009: The following appointments were made jointly by Drs. Neelon and Lella (note: These appointments were finalized subsequent to the meeting):
      - Nominating Committee: Jock Murray (chair), Frank Neelon, and Claus Pierach.
      - W.B. Bean Scholarship Award Committee: Charles Ambrose (chair), Clif Cleaveland, and Laurel Drevlov.
      - John P. McGovern Award Committee: Frank Neelon (chair), Jock Murray, and Claus Pierach.
      - Program Committee: John Noble (chair), Phil Leon, Pamela Miller, Sandra Moss, and Joe Vanderveer.
      - Finance Committee: Paul Dymont (chair), Dee Canale, Marvin Stone, Daniel Morgan, and David Cooper.
      - Publications Committee: Clyde Partin (chair), Frank Neelon, Joe Lella, Chuck Roland, Mike Jones, and Paul Mueller.
      - Lifetime Achievement Award Committee: Cynthia Pitcock (chair), Bob Kimbrough, and Richard Kahn.
    - b. Conclusions from the past-president's dinner, which took place just prior to the meeting, were presented. It was reported that Charles Bryan, Frank Neelon, Joe Lella, and John Noble would constitute a working committee to consider the Society's objectives. The following activities were seen as potential growth areas for the Society: creation of an e-journal; enhanced presence on the web; strengthened relationships with the AAHM; and recruitment of new members.
    - c. Honorary Membership: There were no proposals.
    - d. Proposed Bylaws changes: Motions to approve the following proposals, which had been previously distributed twice to the Membership, were made, seconded, and approved by acclamation:
      - Article V, Section I, paragraph b (Active Membership): Delete the sentence that reads: "Active membership shall be limited to one hundred and twenty-five (125) members. Add the following sentence: "There shall be no limit to the number of members in any category."
      - Article IX, Section III (Nominating Committee): Change "three most recent Past Presidents" to "three most recent living Past Presidents".
    - e. Report of the Local Arrangements Committee: John Noble gave the report.
    - f. Future meetings and dates: The 2009 meeting is scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio, for 20-23 April. The 2010 meeting is scheduled for Rochester, Minnesota, for 25-28 April. Philadelphia has been proposed for the 2011 meeting.
  19. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles S. Bryan

## Minutes from the Annual Business Meeting, May 6, 2008

1. The annual business meeting of the American Osler Society took place at 7:30 A.M. at the Holiday Inn, Beacon Hill, Boston. President Francis A. Neelon called the meeting to order.
2. A moment of silence was observed to commemorate the following members who died during the past year: John P. McGovern, Earl F. Nation, Charles F. Wooley, and M. George Jacoby.
3. Minutes of the 2007 annual meeting were approved as written and distributed in the society's newsletter, *The Oslerian*.
4. Charles S. Bryan gave the secretary-treasurer's report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors. There was extensive discussion of whether to place the liquid assets assigned to the John P. McGovern Lectureship Fund in a more conservative investment instrument (such as a Money Market fund) in order to minimize further market fluctuations, since interest on the balance of the fund should be more than sufficient to meet expenditures from the fund. This matter was referred to the Finance Committee.
5. William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee: Mark Silverman gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
6. John P. McGovern Award Lectureship Committee: Reference is made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
7. Nominating Committee: Claus Pierach gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors. A motion to approve the proposed slate of officers was approved by acclamation.



8. Finance Committee: Paul Dymont gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
9. Membership Committee: Pamela Miller gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
10. Historian-Archivist's report: Charles Roland gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
11. Program Committee: Joseph Lella gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
12. Publications Committee: Clyde Partin gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors. Discussion followed, pertaining to the following issues:
  - Mike Jones gave a report of the Searchable Database subcommittee. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to assign the sum of \$1400.00 to the work of the Database Subcommittee.
  - A motion was also made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to allot up to \$400 annually to maintain the AskSam database.
  - A recommendation was made that Paul Mueller will explore the possibility of the Society's starting an electronic journal (e-journal).
  - A motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation that the Society would support financially the publication of Charles Roland's new biography of Archibald Malloch to the extent of 50% of printing costs with the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University, with the imprimatur of the book to indicate such joint publication.
13. Ad Hoc AOS-AAHM Liaison Committee: Charles Bryan reported that this committee had, as a formal committee, been dissolved. However, it was reported that at the Past President's dinner on May 4, 2008 (a first-time event, which has been proposed as an annual event), a recommendation was made to the effect that the officers of these organizations should be in contact throughout the year.
14. Lifetime Achievement Award Committee: Bruce Fye gave the report, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
15. Ad Hoc AOS Visiting Professorship Committee: John Noble reported that this committee has, as a formal committee, been dissolved. Claus Pierach reported, however, that Paul Mueller had given two highly satisfactory presentations in this capacity at the University of Minnesota.
16. Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism: Charles Bryan reported that this committee has been dissolved.
17. President's report: Francis A. Neelon gave the report, which included the following:
  - A recommended reading list program had been developed.
  - His gift to the Society consisted of one-year's funding of the AskSam database.
  - The Society's website and its presence on the World Wide Web should be enhanced (Joseph Lella contributed to the discussion of these issues).
  - New members were introduced and presented with certificates.
18. Old business: There was none.
19. New business:
  - The following Bylaws changes were reported to have been presented twice to the membership through its quarterly mailings, and a motion to approve them was made seconded, and approved by acclamation: *Article V, Section I, paragraph b (Active Membership)*: Delete the sentence that reads: "Active membership shall be limited to one hundred and twenty-five (125) members." Add the following sentence: "There shall be no limit to the number of members in any category." *Article IX, Section III (nominating committee)*: Change "three most recent Past Presidents" to "three most recent living Past Presidents".
  - John Noble gave the report of the Local Arrangements Committee.
  - President Neelon reported committee appointments for 2007-2008, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
  - Mark Silverman gave a report of the past president's meeting, which took place on May 4, 2008. He reported that separated subcommittees would explore the long-term trajectories of the Society and its relationship to the AAHM. He also reported that at some point the Society might wish to employ an executive secretary.
  - Dates of future meetings were announced, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
20. President Neelon expressed gratitude to the members of this year's John P. McGovern lecturer, Charles E. Rosenberg.
21. President Neelon recognized and gave certificates to persons elected to membership, reference being made to the minutes of the Board of Governors.
22. President Neelon expressed his appreciation to the Society for the privilege of serving as president and introduced the incoming president, Joseph W. Lella.
23. President Lella expressed his appreciation and gave the president's plaque to the immediate past president, Francis Neelon.
24. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles S. Bryan  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Secretary-Treasurer Transition

Eight years ago I assumed with trepidation the position of Secretary-Treasurer from **Lawrence D. Longo**, who served 12 years in this capacity. Larry kindly provided me with an elaborate list of things that needed to be done along with a timetable of when to do them. During Larry's tenure the Society substantially increased its membership and its treasury; improved the quality of the meetings; and enhanced its national and international reputation as a premier organization in the medical humanities. Like Larry, I've found that whatever chores accom-

pany this position are more than offset by the richness of friendships formed and the opportunity to communicate on a frequent basis with like-minded souls around the world. We've continued to grow in numbers, to prosper financially, and to increase the attending at our meetings, and we've added a newsletter, a Website, and a Program and Abstracts booklet. I'm now in the third year or my third (and last term), and it has become clear that the job will need to be divided between or among two or more persons, and Mark Silverman's ad hoc committee is looking actively at various possibilities. In the meanwhile, I'd welcome inquiries from potential volunteers for specific functions.

— CSB



## AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

American Osler Society  
Charles S. Bryan, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer  
2 Medical Park, Suite 502  
Columbia, SC 29203

Phone: 803-540-1000  
Fax: 803-540-1079  
Email: cbryan@gw.mp.sc.edu

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

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### 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

## Call for Abstracts for 2009 Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, 20-23 April

The Board of Governors will meet on Monday, 20 April. Assuming that we once again have a surplus of abstracts, we will meet through the early afternoon of Thursday, 23 April.

For several years we have received more quality submissions that can be accommodated. The Program Committee will be chaired by the First Vice-President, John Noble. 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: smitche@gw.mp.sc.edu with a copy to cbryan@gw.mp.sc.edu or by regular mail. If sent by e-mail they must be **received** by 1 November 2008; if sent by regular mail, they must be **received** by 15 November 2008. 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.
5. Standard audiovisual equipment will consist of a laptop computer and LCD projector. Presenters should carefully weigh, and justify, requests for additional AV equipment since this will add substantially to the cost of the meeting.
6. Each presentation will have a 20-minute time slot, which will be strictly enforced. **Presenters should rehearse and time their papers to 15 minutes**, in order to permit brief discussions and to be fair to the other presenters. Although 20 minutes might seem quite short for a paper in the humanities, our experience with this format has been overwhelmingly favorable.

**Abstracts will be accepted by e-mail up until 1 November 2008 (smitche@gw.mp.sc.edu and cbryan@gw.mp.sc.edu) or by regular mail up until 15 November 2008. 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 2008 and by regular mail 15 November 2008.**