

The Oslerian

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A Message from the President

When I learned that of the 152 abstracts submitted for presentation at this year's AOS meeting, 78 originated from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, and almost all were submitted by medical students, I immediately knew that wherever he might be, Dr. Jack McGovern was smiling. Among his many legacies, the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine at UTMB has accomplished the mission he intended: "making the Oslerian principles of compassion and humane care, of practicing and teaching medicine with both head and heart, an integral part of medical education".



John P. McGovern

Physician, philanthropist, Oslerophile, Dr. McGovern was committed to promoting the philosophy of Oslerian medicine and was convinced that instilling regard and respect for humanistic values into future physicians required teaching and role-modeling by practicing physicians. To our good fortune, he selected UTMB as the site to test his theory.

UTMB would seem to most, a distinctly improbable site. The first and oldest medical school in Texas, located in a town of 50,000 on a barrier island two and

a half miles off the Texas coast, UTMB has always been a very well-kept secret, but not for Jack McGovern. Opening for business in 1891, teachings in medical history, ethics, and humanities were part of the curriculum. Dr. Chauncey D. Leake (1896-1978) arrived as Dean in 1942, and during his 13-year tenure nurtured interest in medical history, libraries, and the humanities. He also nurtured an energetic, young plastic surgeon, Dr. Truman Blocker (1909-1984) and stimulated his interest in medical history, humanities, and rare books. In great part, Leake's mentorship ultimately resulted in the Blocker Rare Books Collection and the Institute for the Medical Humanities which Dr. Blocker established during his years as President of UTMB.

Dr. Blocker recruited William Bean (1909-1989) to UTMB in 1974 as the founding director of the Institute for the Medical Humanities. Bean came to UTMB from the University of Iowa where he was the William Osler Professor of Medicine. Bean served as Director of the Institute from 1974 to 1980 and then returned to the University of Iowa as the Sir William Osler Professor Emeritus of Medicine. Bill Bean, of course, is the Bean of our Bean Award, was a charter member of the AOS along with Chauncey Leake and was the first President of the AOS. While at UTMB, he built the Institute and mentored Dr.



**President
Joan Richardson
55th AOS President
Installed at the 2024 Annual
Business Meeting.**

Please turn to next page

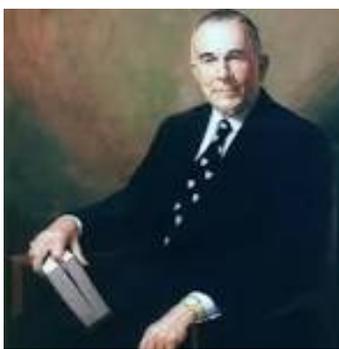
President's Message (Continued from page 1)

Chester Burns who had been recruited to UTMB by Blocker to head the Department of the History of Medicine.

In fact, it was Burns (AOS President 2004-5) along with Blocker (honorary member of the AOS) who worked with Jack McGovern to organize a symposium on "Humanism in Medicine" that was held April 21-22, 1970, at the Flagship Hotel in Galveston. This meeting was a trial balloon testing interest in the formation of what would ultimately become the American Osler Society. Wilburt Davidson, Emile Holman, and Wilder Penfield were honored guests and shared their personal experiences with Osler and his influence. The momentum created by this meeting resulted in the formal creation of the AOA with its first official meeting held the following year in Denver.

Although UTMB had a pedigree of sorts, it was the arrival of Dr. John Stobo in 1997 as its new President that offered Dr. McGovern an opportunity to instill the principles of Oslerian medicine into the fabric of medical education. Stobo came from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he was the William Osler Professor and Chair of Medicine from 1985-1994. At Hopkins he began the Osler Scholars program aimed at recognizing and supporting faculty who demonstrated innovative and outstanding humanistic teaching.

The two men met shortly after Stobo's arrival. Their common interest in Osler as well as their mutual



John (Jack) Stobo

concern that the concepts of humanism, compassion, and the special relationship between physicians and their patients were disappearing from the medical school curriculum resulted in many conversations. Ultimately, these discussions led to their proposing an Osler Scholars program with endowments to support medical school faculty who were role models for compassionate, humanistic patient care and who could inculcate these values in the education of medical students. The hope was that the "scholars" would come together in an academy setting to discuss ways to enhance the Oslerian approach to teaching and practice at UTMB. Dr. McGovern pledged to support five endowments of \$1 million dollars each to provide resources and protected time for the Scholars to participate in this program.

Dr. Stobo sent a call for nominations and convened a committee that included himself, key members from hospital and medical school leadership, and selected senior members of the faculty and student body to choose five School of Medicine faculty who embodied Oslerian ideals through their actions and their teaching. The group

identified six inaugural Osler Scholars. All six were considered worthy of being named Osler Scholars, and five were funded through the Academy. The sixth already held a distinguished chair, but when notified of the selection committee's decision, Dr. Joan Richardson happily agreed to serve unfunded. The names were announced October 26, 2001, at the UTMB Honors Convocation and included: Drs. Jack Alperin, internist and hematologist; Robert Beach, internist and nephrologist; Tung Dinh, obstetrician; Alice Anne O'Donnell, pediatrician and family physician; Francis Quinn, otolaryngologist; and Joan Richardson, pediatrician and neonatologist.

Dr. McGovern's expectations were that the Scholars meet regularly to study and discuss Osler's life and writings and develop ways to integrate his teachings and life into the curriculum and culture of UTMB. He urged their involvement in the American Osler Society and encouraged visits to Johns Hopkins and the Osler Library at McGill University.



First UTMB McGovern Academy Oslerian Scholars

The fledgling Academy, armed with copies of Bliss' *William Osler: A Life in Medicine* and

Hinohara's *Osler's A Way of Life and Other Addresses*, began meeting on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month to learn about each other, learn about Osler, and develop strategies for integrating Osler and his teachings into the culture of UTMB.

2002 was the Academy's first full year of operation, and quickly learned that the culture of UTMB was highly susceptible to food and awards. Fortunately, there were the resources to provide both. The Osler Club was proposed by Jack Alperin. It consists of a meeting of faculty, students, and interested members of the community held five to six times yearly with a speaker, followed by discussion and dinner. UTMB has several historical venues of variable sizes, and as attendance grew, location moved to a larger one. The first Osler Club was April 30, 2002 and has continued without interruption, despite hurricanes and pandemics. January 21, 2025, marked the 118th Osler Club meeting.

Dr. Alperin also proposed having an annual Osler Oration to be scheduled on the Friday evening nearest the date of Sir William Osler's birthday (July 12) to celebrate his life, give out awards, and of course, have a good meal. The Oration is held off the UTMB campus at one of the many other historical venues in Galveston and is attended by about 200 faculty, students, and family of awardees.

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

The evening starts with a presentation about the life and times of Osler and is specifically aimed at introducing him to the those attending the Oration for the first time. Then follows a seated dinner and afterwards remarks by the UTMB's President and Dean of Medicine. Then comes presentation of awards, notably the John P. McGovern Lifetime Achievement Award in Oslerian Medicine that recognizes a UTMB faculty member whose career and accomplishments reflect their contributions to furthering the principles of Oslerian Medicine. As the Academy has grown and expanded in scope, so have the awards and recognitions to include medical student essays in the history of medicine, faculty bedside teaching awards, recognition of newly selected Osler Scholars and Osler Student Scholars, and scholarship recipients. The evening ends by toasting William Osler, singing happy birthday, and serving up his birthday cake.

In 2003, Dr. McGovern funded the expansion of the Academy to 8 endowed Osler Scholars and provided another endowment that would fund six Osler Student Scholars. Selected students would receive a generous annual award with the expectation that they would be actively engaged in the activities of the Academy, learn about Osler, participate in community service activities, interact with the faculty Scholars, and participate in the AOS meeting. Additional funding was available to support their community service projects, and support was provided to attend the annual meeting of the AOS.

Students go through a robust process when applying to be an Osler Student Scholar. The application form requests details of the applicants educational history. Letters of recommendation are required, and the finalists undergo an interview with a panel of Osler Scholars. At least 2 student scholars must be second- and third-year students. The first class of Osler Student Scholars chose as their emblem a latchkey. That tradition has continued, and each student receives their latchkey when inducted. Several years later the endowment supporting the Student Scholars was expanded to support 12 students. Students selected remain a scholar until they graduate, and along with their families, are honored by the Academy at a brunch the morning following their medical school graduation ceremony.

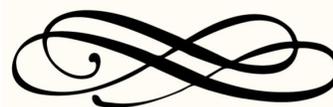
The Academy wished to expand our programs of education and mentoring throughout the medical school. Following several years of planning, negotiation, and piloting, in 2006, the medical school, supported by another generous endowment from the McGovern Foundation, allowed Academy to move forward with the creation of the Osler Student Societies. Medical students were divided into 8 groups with faculty mentors from among Osler Scholars and other interested faculty. In 2006, at the time of medical school orientation, the groups were assembled and the purpose of the societies presented. The groups were then asked to work together, do research, and then choose a name for their respective society, ideally the

name of an inspiring figure from the history of medicine. The results were interesting and included societies named for Werner Forssman, Aesculapius, Elizabeth Blackwell, Ashbel Smith, Rene Laennec, Andreas Vesalius, Truman Blocker, and Albert Schweitzer. Dr. Mark Holden, Osler Scholar, was appointed Assistant Dean of the Osler Student Societies, and when he left UTMB the next year, Dr. Mike Malloy replaced him, and the McGovern Foundation endowed a Distinguished Professorship in Oslerian Education to support his work. The Societies focus on scholarship, community service, and social interactions. The students are responsible for governance of their societies and take on major leadership roles.

Osler Scholars serve for five years. Terms are staggered to allow for overlap. They are chosen by the President and his select committee. The Academy does not participate in the selection. Since 2001, over 30 faculty have been selected as Osler Scholars. Most are senior members of the faculty, and all specialties have been well represented among the members. Once their term is completed, they are deemed Emeritus Osler Scholars and most remain very active, attending meetings, mentoring students, and participating in Academy programs. Over 100 students have been selected as Osler Student Scholars since the program's inception and soon, 20 classes of medical students (230 per class) have been a member of one of our eight Osler Student Societies.

Along the way, the Academy, its faculty, and its amazing, energetic, creative student members have undertaken many high-impact projects that have enriched our institution. Thanks to the vision of Jack McGovern, his support, and the support of the McGovern Foundation, the The McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine has been able to marshal human and financial resources to support many important Initiatives including establishment of the UTMB chapter of the Gold Humanism Society, supporting the creation of the Old Red Medical Museum, establishing the Bow Tie Social Club for the History of Medicine, sponsoring the Bioethics Bowl, sponsoring a Halloween Carnival for the children of Galveston, and conducting a myriad of community service projects.

It has been almost 25 years since the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine was established. It is now part of the culture and traditions of UTMB. Dr. McGovern and his colleague, Dr. John Stobo, wanted to create a group of practicing clinicians who could instill regard and respect for humanistic values into future physicians and acquaint them with the life and teachings of William Osler. Good progress has been made thus far, and now that we are finally organized, we can really get to work.



Preview of American Osler Society Meeting: Pasadena, CA May 3-5, 2025

Osler wrote in his essay on the Army surgeon, “*You cannot afford to stand aloof from your professional colleagues in any place. Join their associations [he must have meant the AOS], mingle in their meetings giving the best of your talents, gathering here, scattering there...*” but especially in Pasadena home of his close friend George Dock.

The 55th annual meeting of the American Osler Society will be held May 3 -5 at the Hilton Pasadena, 165 South Los Robles Ave. Pasadena, California. Check-in begins Friday, May 2, 2025.

There are two major airports serving the area. The larger one is Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) located about twenty miles from the hotel. The other, more convenient airport is the Hollywood/Burbank Airport. LAX offers more direct flights, but Burbank is easier to get in and out of. There are many transportation options from Uber, Lyft to www.supershuttle.com and www.flylax.com/lax-traffic-and-ground-transportation. Private car services are also available. We suggest LB Limo www.lblimo.com 818 244-4556

On Friday afternoon, May 2, 2025, we have arranged for tour of the new Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine that opened in July 2020 with 50 students and was fully accredited in June 2024. It is a free-standing medical school. The school aims to leverage the values and capabilities of the integrated health care delivery system of the Permanente medical group, the Kaiser hospitals and health plan. The school is a 3-minute walk from the Hilton hotel.

We have a robust program. We received many more abstracts than usual from which over forty were accepted for presentation. The McGovern Lecture “Maude Abbott: A Life in 10 Spaces” will be presented by Professor Anmarie Adams, the inaugural Stevenson Chair in the Philosophy & History of Science, including Medicine, at McGill University, Montreal, who is writing a book on the life of physician and museum curator Maude Abbott. Maude Abbott (1869-1940) was a Canadian physician who was one of Canada’s earliest medical graduates and pathologist who was mentored by Dr. William Osler. Dr. Adam’s upcoming book “provides a close account of Abbott’s real-life experiences, granting her considerable agency... [offering] a different account of Maude Abbott’s life than we know from other publications.”

On Saturday afternoon, we will break after lunch to travel to the Huntington Library and Gardens because as Sir William said, “*the practioners needs culture as well as learning.*” Attendees will be free to explore the gardens, art, and library exhibitions.

The Chinese Garden, added since the last time the Society met in Pasadena, is one of the finest classical-style Chinese gardens outside of China. Filled with Chinese plants and framed by exquisite architecture, the landscape is enriched with references to literature and art. With over twelve million items, the library is one of the largest research libraries in the world and treasures such as the Gutenberg Bible, Ellesmere Chaucer manuscript, the double-elephant folio of Audubon’s Birds of America and Thoreau’s manuscript for Walden will be on display. The Art Museum features British, European, American, and Asian art

spanning more than five hundred years and includes more than 45,000 objects.

A special exhibit entitled “Don Bachardy: A Life in Portraits” featuring the work of a prolific Los Angeles artist will be on display at the Huntington’s Mary Lou and George Boone Gallery during our visit. The exhibit will include more than 100 graphite and acrylic works on paper which have never been exhibited. It should be very interesting.

In the evening, we will have dinner in the Rose Hills Foundation Garden Court under a 36-foot-tall glass dome. Joel Klein, Curator for the History of Medicine will display some of the treasures from the library. George Dock, a friend of Osler, left his library at the Huntington. <https://www.huntington.org> A spot is being reserved for spouses and guests to attend an English high tea at the Huntington Library Tea Room <https://huntington.org/dining/tea-room> Spaces are limited. If interested, please email Lydia at administrator@americanosler.org for more details.

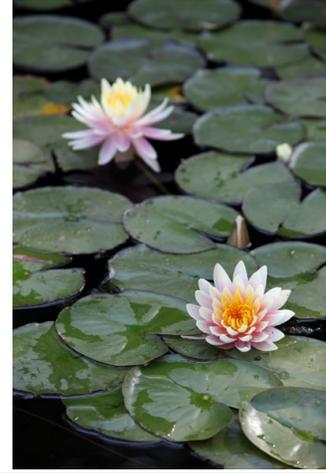
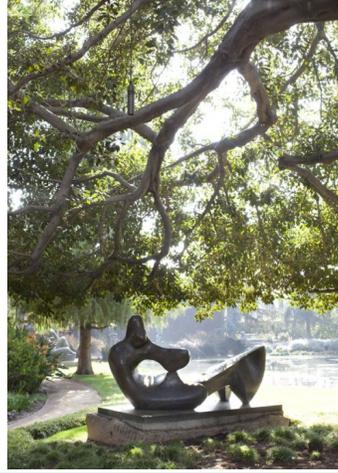
On Sunday night we will have our annual banquet at the Hilton Pasadena in the International Ballroom. Wear your “Sunday Best” to the banquet as we plan to memorialize the event with a group photo. Monday morning will kick off with the annual business meeting followed by more presentations. We will conclude at noon.

or those in need of even more culture, Pasadena has many museums and sites to visit. The Norton Simon Museum is in the Pasadena about 2.5 miles from the hotel. If you’ve watched the Rose Parade, you’ve seen the Norton Simon as the parade route takes the floats right past the museum <https://www.nortonsimon.org>. The USC Pacific Asia Museum, established in 1971, is one of the few U.S. institutions dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The Gamble House <https://gamblehouse.org/visit> is a historic American Craftsman home in Pasadena designed by the architectural firm Greene and Greene. Constructed in 1908–1909 as a home for David B. Gamble, son of the Proctor & Gamble founder James Gamble, it is today a National Historic Landmark, a California Historic Landmark, and open to the public for tours and events. Also nearby is the Paseo shopping center with restaurants and movie theater located only about a 15-minute walk from the hotel www.thepaseopasadena.com

We have a few surprises in store, among them a special keepsake gift and the unveiling of Charles Bryan new Book “My Collected Papers related to Sir William Osler.”

The meeting is still a work in progress, but on behalf of the local arrangements committee, we look forward to seeing you in Pasadena.





Images from the Norton Simon Museum Asian Gardens

AOS Art Exhibit in Pasadena

We are excited to announce that there will be an opportunity for members, spouses, trainees and guests to show their art during the AOS meeting next spring. More details will follow, but please start to dust off those paint brushes, charcoal sticks, cameras and sculpting tools so you can share your creative work with others. For questions, please contact Herbert Swick (hmlswick@msn.com)

COMMITTEE	CURRENT CHAIR	CURRENT MEMBERS	NEW CHAIR	ROTATES OFF	NEW MEMBERS
Bean Award	J. Harris	K. Klaas, S. Moss, T. Frank	No change	K. Klaas, S. Moss, T. Frank	M. Trotter, K. Klass, T. Frank,
McGovern Award*	C. Boes	M. Jones, B. Mennel	R. Del Maestro	M. Jones	None
Lifetime Achievement Award	L. Drevlow	J. Howell, F. Neelon, H. Swick	No change	J. Howell	None
Nominating*	C. Boes	B. Mennel, M. Jones	R. Del Maestro	M. Jones	None
Finance	F. Bernadett	F. Bernadett, M. Molina, M. Stone	No change	No change	None
History & Archives Committee	H. Swick	S. Arfaie, R. Del Maestro, M. Hague-Yearl, D. Kratz, R. Stone, L. Wang	No change	None	None
Membership#	J. Wright	L. Geldenhuys, S. Kelen, P. Kernahan, D. Wolf,	J. Harris	J. Wright	TBD
Media & Technology Committee	P. Travers	G. Frank, J. Klaas, M. Malloy, M. Abdalla, J. Crevero, M. Stanley	No change	G. Huston	None
Annual Meeting† – Program Committee	J. Richardson	G. Jackson, M. Malloy, B. Mamlock, B. Thompson, J. Wright	J. Wright	G. Jackson, M. Malloy, B. Mamlock, J. Richardson B. Thompson	J Harris, L. Drevlow, R. Mackenzie, M. Molina, H. Scofield
Annual Meeting – Local Arrangements Committee	C. Crenner		M. Molina	C. Crenner	TBD

* Chaired by the most recent living Past President and include the 3 most recent living Past Presidents

Chaired by the Second Vice-President

† Chaired by the First Vice-President

YOUNG OSLERIAN VIEWS

Ancient Remedies, Modern Medicine: Exploring Integrative Medicine and Oslerian Principles*By Jack Plewa, MS2, MD-PhD, UTMB***Integrative Medicine: Bridging Ancient Wisdom with Modern Practice:**

As the founder and president of the integrative medicine interest group (called HEAL for Holistic Education and Altruistic Living) at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), I have always been fascinated by the convergence of ancient healing practices with modern medical science. My journey in medicine has led me to explore complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) not only as a physician-in-training but also as a future pathologist (stay tuned for this connection in my next article). This dual perspective has deepened my appreciation for the holistic approach to healthcare, emphasizing the healing of both patients and practitioners.

Why Integrative Medicine?

Integrative medicine combines conventional medical treatments with CAM practices, such as acupuncture, herbal medicine, meditation, and yoga. These practices, rooted in centuries of tradition, offer additional tools for managing chronic conditions, reducing stress, and promoting overall well-being. For me, integrative medicine represents a bridge between the wisdom of the past and the advancements of modern science.

My interest in CAM began with a personal quest for balance and well-being amidst the rigorous demands of medical school. The practice of meditation and mindfulness, for example, has been instrumental in managing stress and maintaining mental clarity. This personal experience has underscored the importance of self-care for healthcare professionals, a principle that aligns with the humanistic approach championed by Sir William Osler.

Osler's Principles of Humanism:

Sir William Osler, often regarded as the father of modern medicine, emphasized the importance of compassionate patient care and the integration of medical knowledge with humanistic values. His approach to medicine was not just about treating diseases but about caring for the whole person. Osler believed that the well-being of the physician was integral to the effective care of patients, a principle that resonates deeply with the philosophy of integrative medicine.

In his seminal work, "The Evolution of Modern Medicine," Osler wrote, "The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease." This holistic view of healthcare is at the heart of CAM, which seeks to address not just the physical symptoms but also the emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects of health.

Integrative Medicine at UTMB and MD Anderson Cancer Center:

At UTMB, we are fortunate to have esteemed faculty who are pioneers in integrative medicine. Dr. Julie McKee, an Osler Faculty Scholar, emphasizes the importance of blending conventional and alternative therapies to enhance patient care. "When I approach patient care, I think it's really important to understand where a patient gets their strength and motivation to heal," said Dr. McKee. "Those motivators are key to understanding how patients move towards behavior change and healing."

Dr. Samuel Mathis and Dr. Sagar Kamprath, both practitioners of CAM, highlight the growing evidence supporting the efficacy of these practices. Dr. Mathis notes, "Integrative medicine is an invitation for patients to retake control of their health. Through healthy choices, patients are able to give their bodies what they need to promote healing." Dr. Kamprath adds, "Research shows that combining conventional treatments with complementary therapies can enhance the quality of life, reduce symptoms, and even improve survival rates for various conditions."

Moreover, the Integrative Medicine Center at MD Anderson Cancer Center serves as an exemplary model for the application of CAM in a clinical setting. Cancer patients often face both physical and emotional challenges, and the center offers therapies to reduce stress and anxiety while improving physical, mental, and emotional well-being. In consultation with primary care teams, MD Anderson designs comprehensive cancer care plans that incorporate therapies like acupuncture, meditation, yoga, and herbal consultations. Additionally, the center offers free online group classes and maintains an extensive online audio and video library, including meditation sessions, music therapy, and various integrative therapy talks.

In addition to its clinical services, MD Anderson Cancer Center offers a research internship in integrative medicine, providing two primary areas of focus: natural products and clinical trials. Interns can choose to assist in pre-clinical or clinical trials under the mentorship of Dr. Peiying Yang, focusing on natural products as cancer therapies or preventive measures. This experience allows interns to learn evidence-based research methodologies related to anti-inflammatory and anti-angiogenic properties of natural products and nutritional supplements.

Alternatively, interns can engage in clinical trials research under the guidance of Dr. Lorenzo Cohen and Dr. Amy Spelman. This track involves hands-on experience with mind-body and acupuncture clinical trials, covering all aspects of trial implementation, including participant recruitment, data collection, and basic data analysis. This comprehensive training prepares interns for future careers in integrative medicine research and clinical practice.

The Connection to Witchcraft in Medicine:

The history of witchcraft in medicine offers a fascinating backdrop to the development of integrative medicine. Many CAM practices, such as herbalism and spiritual healing, have roots in what was once considered witchcraft. The use of plants like St. John's Wort for depression or valproate for epilepsy showcases the enduring legacy of these ancient remedies.

"I'm amazed at how strong and resilient patients' spirits are and interested in how that is," said Dr. McKee. "Sometimes that resilience comes from a connection to a deity, spiritual or prayer group, to the earth, to animals. That connection to something outside themselves from which they can draw strength and courage, I find it important [and] fascinating."

In my upcoming presentation at the American Osler Society annual meeting, I will delve deeper into this intriguing history, exploring how practices once labeled as witchcraft have evolved into respected components of integrative medicine. This historical perspective not only enriches our understanding of CAM but

YOUNG OSLERIAN VIEWS

also underscores the importance of viewing medicine through a broad, inclusive lens.

Conclusion:

As we continue to advance in medical science, the integration of CAM into conventional practice offers a holistic approach that honors the past while embracing the future. By caring for ourselves as healthcare providers, we enhance our ability to care for our patients, embodying Osler's humanistic ideals. I invite you to join me on this journey of discovery, where the ancient and the modern converge to create a more compassionate and comprehensive approach to healing.

Stay tuned for my presentation on the history of witchcraft in medicine, where we will explore the fascinating intersections of CAM and the evolution of medical practices.

Summer Preceptorship

By Madeline Pan

The sounds of babies crying and monitors beeping,
Hearing unfamiliar acronyms during rounds,
Seeing newborns being resuscitated after delivery,
This was my first exposure to the NICU.

Neonatology presents as a duality of challenges and rewards.

One witnesses the passing of innocent newborns
Despite trying all that one can
A life that started not long ago,
Passes too soon.

One also partakes in supporting premature babies
And caring for their growth.
Providing them the environment, critical care, and love
To surpass challenges that may have been impossible
Decades ago, for such a small being.

Being born premature presents its fair share of obstacles:
At only 450 grams
Lungs not yet mature
Susceptibility to infections
Congenital abnormalities
Instead of spending their first weeks of life at home,
They are in the incubators
With the tiniest of lines inserted.

However despite their tiny masses,
One quality neonates are not small in
—Is their resilience.

Despite starting life at the size of a hand,
Their ability to bounce back from stressful conditions,
Their tenacity to improve despite the unfavorable circumstances,
Their capability to persist at this early moment of life,

Inspires the adults of us
To continue to have courage.

Every milestone crossed by these infants
Brings joy to loved ones:
Preventing the perinatal transmission of HIV
Being moved off CPAP
Successfully bottle feeding for the first time
Although these might be common transitions in the hospital,
These victories mean the world to families.
Crying tears of happiness,
These young babies are warriors.
Through slow and steady progress,
They march closer and closer
To cross the bridge into the land of miracles.

Right behind their shields and armor,
Are their allies in scrubs
On alert, ready to assist when called upon.
The attendings who are compassionate and supportive
Towards the parents during these difficult times,
The nutritionists who are passionate
Ensuring the feeds are the right quantity and type,
And the nurses who are dedicated to their care
Looking after each newborn like one of their own,
You can feel the overwhelming love and support on this floor.

It is through the care of these medical teams
They help us overcome our earliest battles.
Enabling us to be able to grow up,
So that we can look after and care for future generations.
The cycle of love and caring continues—
Forever grateful for this summer.

Madeline Pan is a second year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch. She was selected to be a John P. McGovern Academy of Medicine Student Scholar and presented an abstract on Mary Putnam Jacobi at the AOS Annual Meeting in Kansas City.



OPINION

Courage, Character, and Humanity

Regardless of your political persuasion, it has been a brutal year for politics. William Osler had little to say directly about politics, but when confronted with elections or selections of successors for his Chair at Hopkins he remained neutral stating, "I am taking Plato's advice and sitting under a wall until the storm is over." Although he said little of politics he did have much to say about courage, character, and serving and loving humanity as did others have to say about these virtues of Osler.

Lewellys F. Barker who succeeded Osler as Chair of Medicine at Hopkins had this to say of him: "Through native capacity and wide professional and social experience Dr. Osler had acquired an unusual knowledge of human nature; his intuitions of the character and personality of those with whom he came in contact were almost uncanny. One is reminded of the fine saying of Leonardo de Vinci: 'True and great love springs of great knowledge, and where you know little you can love but little or not at all.' He won friendship and affection because he loved his fellow man and because of his recognition of the best qualities in, and of the good intentions of the men and women about him. He never permitted himself to judge a human being adversely, and he had an unusual power of putting himself by imagination in his fellow's place. Malicious gossip was anathema to him."¹

Such courage, character, and love of humanity seems to be missing from politics these days and when brief snippets of those virtues do show up on the scene it is worth noting. Mariann Edgar Budde is the Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, D.C. Born in New Jersey she received a Bachelor of Arts in history at the University of Rochester, and a Master and Doctor of Divinity at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Early in her adult life she served as a missionary in Honduras and an urban ministry in Arizona. Following ordination she served as an assistant priest at a parish in Ohio, rector of a parish in Minneapolis and was elected as the ninth bishop of Washington in 2011. In that position she ministers from the pulpit of the Washington National Cathedral.² The Cathedral is one of the most beautiful buildings in the United States and if you have not visited, please put it on your lists of places to visit.

Bishop Budde has distinguished herself in the past with her courageous stances in defending the impoverished, the racially oppressed, the LGBTQ population and those with little power. However, it was in her sermon delivered at the recent Post-Inaugural National

Prayer Service that she will perhaps be best remembered. In the presence of the newly inaugurated President of the United States, she made the appeal directly to him to show mercy and compassion to vulnerable people. She stated, "Millions have put their trust in you. And as you told the nation yesterday, you have felt the presidential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy on the people in our country who are scared now." It was a powerful moment for this demure woman standing in the high pulpit of the National Cathedral looking down at the President of the United States and requesting mercy and compassion for these vulnerable populations. Even if one disagreed with the political implications of what makes these populations vulnerable and what might be done to affect a political solution to these issues, one would hope that an acknowledgement of the human condition of those affected would be forthcoming. Unfortunately no such acknowledgement occurred and Bishop Budde has been ostracized for her audacity in putting forth her plea. In response other public figures have come to her defense citing her courage, character, and humanity in offering this insightful sermon. As stated by Bishop Sean Rowe, the Senior Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States, "a plea for mercy, a recognition of the stranger in our midst, is core to the faith...but it's not bound to political ideology."

Osler appreciated such sentiments. He concludes his essay, *The Masterword in Medicine*, with this statement speaking of what must be learned: "Of a humanity, that will show in your daily life tenderness and consideration to the weak, infinite pity to the suffering, and broad charity to all."³ Perhaps it is time for all of us to take time out to reflect on and listen to that still quiet voice from within that appreciates the humanity of all.

Michael H. Malloy

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Humanities



POETRY CORNER



The Last Gift

By Julian Escalante

The day we met,
I marveled at how serene you appeared.
The atmosphere in the room
Was as calm and still as your body.

And as I stood beside you, in sterile air,
I wondered who you were before this silence.
What stories lingered within your hands,
Now tools to guide my shaking own.

I pondered about the moments
Which led you to lie before me.
Freely giving yourself to be
An instrument of my learning.

As I searched for meaning in each layer,
I found your gift was not given lightly.
Each incision was a dialogue, a conversation
Between the living and the lessons you left.

They said it would get easier
The further deep we cut.
That the more we removed of you,
The less human you would appear.

I find the opposite to be true.
Even in your quiet state,
You teach me more about life
Than anything with breath ever has.

I contemplate your history as much
As I do your anatomy.
In holding your organs, I understand how
The word “visceral” obtained its meaning.

With your heart in my palm, I ask:
“For whom did yours race?
For whom did it slow?
For whom did it ache in quiet sorrow?”

I look at your eyes, now closed,
And wonder what met your gaze last—
Was it a face of love, a comforting light,
Or just the quiet closing of the day?

I grasp your hands
And realize mine will be
The last to ever hold them;
To feel the grooves and folds that once know touch.

Our encounters pierce my soul
As much as they do your skin.
I discover time and time again
Why this course is so aptly named.

It is gross.
It is tortuous.
It is sublime.
It is sacrosanct.

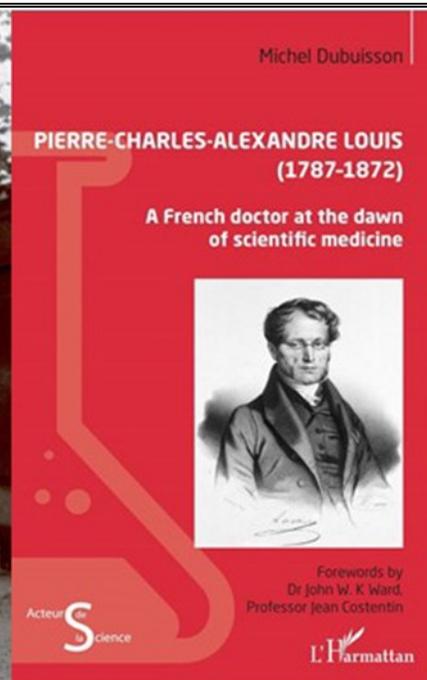
My only comfort lies in knowing
That to teach me was your dying wish.
As my first patient you will be remembered;
I am humbled to have been your final student.

With gratitude and reverence,
I will forever cherish your last gift.
For in tearing you apart,
I began a life of putting thousands back together.

Julian Escalante is a first year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) who submitted her poem for the Medallion Award Medical Humanities Competition.



OSLERIAN VIEWS



Left: William Osler (arrow) and others at the tomb of Pierre Louis, Montparnasse Cemetery, Paris, 1905. This family mausoleum was demolished in 2000 because it had not been visited or opened for several years. Right: English translation of *Pierre-Charles-Alexandre Louis (1787–1872): A French doctor at the dawn of scientific medicine*, by Michel Dubuisson (Paris: L’Harmattan; 2024). At the time of this writing, the French edition is available Amazon.com, from which the English translation can be purchased as print-on-demand.

Journal of an Oslerian

An (Auto) Biography of Pierre Charles Alexandre Louis (1787–1872)

William Osler encouraged colleagues to do medical biography. It was in this spirit that AOS member John W.K. Ward of Oxfordshire, U.K., stimulated a French colleague, Michel Dubuisson, to take on the life of Pierre Louis.

Astonished to learn that none of his French friends in the Anglo-French Medical Society knew of Louis, John gave a lecture to that organization subtitled “A Neglected French Physician.” Dr. Dubuisson, an internist and endocrinologist, took the bait. As far as I can tell, his 210-page treatise is the first book-length monograph of Louis.

It is not really a biography. The author describes it as “neither the work of a biographer nor a total fiction.” Dr. Dubuisson took the known facts about Louis, succinctly summarized elsewhere,^{1–3} contextualized his subject’s place in the so-called Paris School of the early-to-mid nineteenth century, and then wrote in the first-person as Louis might speak to us today.

The effect is charming. The first paragraph, for instance, resembles the first paragraph of Charles Dickens’s *David Copperfield*:

I was born in Aÿ, on April 14th 1787. My father, Jean-Baptiste Louis, was a landowner, winegrower and merchant in the Champagne region, a few miles from Reims and Epernay. [Aÿ, also spelled “Aÿ,” was the center of

champagne production; on 1 January 2016 it was merged into the new commune Aÿ-Champagne.]

Dr. Dubuisson goes on to give his subject’s presumed perspective on, for example, his friendship with François Chomel (1788–1858), his battles with the stormy François Broussais (1772–1838), his relationship with the English physician Marshall Hall (1790–1857), and his impressions of such great teaching hospitals as La Charité, La Pitié, and the Hôtel Dieu. We also learn, vicariously, Louis’s self-appraisal of his work’s significance.

Mention of Louis usually conjures up the “numerical method” he used to evaluate the effect of bloodletting in pneumonia and his influence on young Americans—37 by Osler’s account¹—who followed him on ward rounds. However, in Louis’s self-estimation (per Dr. Dubuisson), all of this flowed from “five years of obscure work and documentation at the Charité Hospital.” Still a bachelor and having saved money from a flourishing practice in Odessa (then in Russia, now in Ukraine), Louis forsook remunerative practice and tabulated more than 2000 observations in patients on Chomel’s wards at the Charité. Osler wrote, “I know of no other parallel instance in the history of medicine.”¹

Dr. Dubuisson writes in his preface that Louis’s major contribution was “the creation of individual patient records” which became “the starting points” for in-depth case studies, case-series analyses, and, later, “the precision of evidence-based medicine.” The story is not quite so straightforward.

Individual patient records date to antiquity and, prior to Louis, were employed on both sides of the Atlantic, notably in Berlin, Paris, Boston, and New York. Recent accounts of the history of the medical record make scant mention of Louis.^{4–6} Nineteenth-

OSLERIAN VIEWS/NOTICES

century physicians were slow to adopt Louis’s approach to analysis of case series, and by the end of the century there was more emphasis on experimental medicine than on case studies.⁷ One can also quibble about Louis’s ultimate place in the history of medical statistics. A larger question concerns why Louis is so little-known in his native country, yet so familiar to North American medical historians. Was there something about his personality?

Dr. Dubuisson surely knows all this, and he made a wise decision not to attempt a critical biography. One can only hope this lively and informative narrative will raise awareness of the importance of Louis and stimulate further research and scholarship.

Charles S. Bryan
cboslerian@gmail.com

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**Announcing The McGovern Lecture
At the 55th Annual Meeting
Of the American Osler Society**

We have a very special McGovern Lecture planned for the 2025 AOS meeting and attached is a poster specially created by one of our McGill students. Maude Abbott is one of the heroes of McGill University. Professor Annmarie Adams of McGill University will be the lecturer. The poster below was created by Neevya Balasubramaniam, a student at McGill and a winner of a Molina Award. Please plan to attend this special lecture and hear of the inspirational work of Maude Abbott.

Rolando Del Maestro

**55th Annual Meeting of the
American Osler Society**
Pasadena, California, May 2 to May 5th, 2025

Maude Abbott: A Life in 10 Spaces
McGovern Lecture: Professor Annmarie Adams,
McGill University

This talk, drawn from a book project, offers a spatial biography of Canadian physician and museum curator Maude Abbott (1868–1940). Known for her expertise in congenital heart disease, leadership in medical museums, and pioneering role in a male-dominated field, Abbott’s life is explored through the spaces she occupied rather than her medical achievements or constraints. Adopting a spatial and feminist approach, this work repositions Abbott as an agent in her own story. The analysis is framed around ten spaces from her life, inspired by Abbott’s decimal-based museum cataloguing system. These include her medical museum at McGill, an artist’s studio in Philadelphia, a New York hotel ballroom, and exhibitions in London and Chicago. For the American Osler Society, this focus on “the doctor’s house” (space number eight), which sheds light on Abbott’s enduring connection with William Osler, and 2S). At this stage it resembles the four-umbered heart of the fish, and is especially interesting in regard to the mitive aorta. The recent researches of Greil¹ on the reptilian heart of Keith² Annmarie Adams is the inaugural Stevenson Chair in the Philosophy & History of Science, including Medicine, at McGill University, where she is jointly appointed in the Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture and the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. Her research focuses on the cultural landscapes of homes and hospitals. Notable works include *Architecture in the Family Way* (1996), which won the Jason A. Hannah Medal, *Designing Women* (2000), and *Medicine by Design* (2008). She is currently writing a book on physician and curator Maude Abbott. Adams has held leadership roles in architectural and medical education, including Director of McGill’s School of Architecture and Chair of the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. She is President of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Institute of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and the Society of Architectural Historians, along with being a member of the Board of Curators of the Osler Library since 2001.

July, 1906.
(323)

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY
LITTERAE SCIENTIA PRAXIS Q
ET INTEGRITAS

Hilton Pasadena – 168 South Los Robles Avenue,
Pasadena, CA
Sunday May 4, 11:00 am



*Hospital des Freres de la Charite, Paris.
Line engraving by A. Bosse (1602-1676)*

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The Oslerian: Editor

Michael H. Malloy
mmalloy@utmb.edu

Assistant Editor

Michael Stanley
mphstanley@gmail.com



The 55th meeting of the American Osler Society (AOS) will be held in Pasadena, California, from May 3-5, 2025. I am sure that you have heard about or seen the news of the horrific fires in the Los Angeles area. Pasadena is near Altadena but was spared direct harm from the fires. The Hilton hotel in Pasadena was unaffected. The Huntington Library sustained some minor damage from the winds, mostly damage to trees, but was never threatened by the fires. We plan to hold our annual meeting in Pasadena this May (barring another pandemic or natural disaster). More details are forthcoming in the next issue of The Oslerian. Please plan to join us as Pasadena is beautiful in May.

Mario Molina

Dear members of the American Osler Society

Concerning: The Molina Family Head Librarian of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine Endowment

Background: Many past and current members of the American Osler Society along with researchers and medical students from around the world have utilized rich resources of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine to make significant contributions to the humanities.

Since 1954 when an Assistant Osler Librarian of the Osler Library was appointed, the library has had two librarian positions who along with the Osler Library staff were critical to achieving the goals of the Osler Library. In 2016 the position of Assistant Librarian of the Osler Library was removed and difficulties achieving the goals of the Osler Library have since become evident.

With financial assistance of the Molina Family Foundation and other donors, a new initiative named The Molina Family Head Librarian of the Osler Library of the History of Medicine Endowment has been launched (see attached). The goal is to raise 4 million dollars to endow a Head Osler Librarian position which in turn would allow for the creation of a new Assistant Osler Librarian position under current funding from McGill. The focus of this new position will be to develop and integrate innovative medical humanities programs into the education and research of medical students and researchers.

Please go to the link: giving.mcgill.ca to make an online donation and to get more information. As one of the chairs of this initiative I would ask you to consider donating to this most worthwhile cause.

- Tax receipts are available in both the US and Canada.
- For US donors it would be best to donate to the

Friends of McGill University Inc.
 P.O. Box 28137
 New York, NY 10087-8137
 USA

Sincerest Regards,
 Rolando del Maestro



The AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY exists to bring together members of the medical and allied professions, who by common inspiration are dedicated to memorialize and perpetuate the just and charitable life, the intellectual resourcefulness, and the ethical example of Sir William Osler, who lived from 1849 to 1919. The OSLERIAN is published quarterly.

We're on the Web!
 √ us out at: www.americanosler.org

AOS Members — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another as well as "Opinions and Letters". - MHM (mmalloy@utmb.edu)