

The Oslerian

A Message from the President Furthering Our Mission—IV

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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

He stayed with me during his last visit to Edinburgh. I don't think I had seen him since the war began, and I was surprised to find how little the war and his son's death had changed him outwardly. He was as cheerful and jolly as ever, and as enthusiastic. He was full of plans about his own work; talked with me about the edition of his Text-book, about cataloguing his library; insisted on knowing all that we were doing in Edinburgh. There was a great deal to tell him about that, and he cordially approved of all our plans and arrangements. ... But he really seemed to be more interested in my grandson (aged four) than in all the rest of us put together; got hold of him whenever he could, and the boy, who called him 'Willie Mosler' loved him, and was quite happy with him. One afternoon my wife found them in the nursery playing bears, with Osler easily the more active and infantile of the two. I was very unwilling to let him travel on the night of the railway strike, but he was anxious to get home,

and insisted on going.
(Letter from Lovell Gulland. In: Harvey Cushing, *The Life of Sir William Osler*, 1925: ii: 668-669.

Edinburgh—scene of many events familiar to Oslerians—from Osler's 1900 call to the Chair of Medicine, to the 1908 contest for the Lord Rectorship of the University, to his 1910 Presidency of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis, to his fateful last visit in September 1919 referred to above, following a medical consultation in Glasgow. Edinburgh—home of a great university which educated many of the late 18th and early 19th century pioneers in medicine and medical education in the United States and Canada. Edinburgh—home of numerous luminaries of medicine, including: Benjamin, Joseph, and Charles Bell, William Cullen, Alexander Fleming, John Scott Haldane, William and John Hunter, James Lind, Joseph Lister, David Livingstone, Patrick Manson, the Alexander Munros (primus, secundus, and tertius), Mungo Park, James Young Simpson, Mary Slessor, James Symie, and others. Of course, many of the great

writers, inventors, and thinkers claimed Edinburgh as their home: James Barrie, Alexander Graham Bell, Joseph Black, James Boswell, Robert Burns, Thomas Carlyle, Andrew Carnegie, Arthur Conan Doyle, David Hume, John Paul Jones, John Knox (and also the notorious William Burke and William Hare). The list goes on and on. It is truly remarkable. Edinburgh—one of the great and most lovely cities of the world.

Enclosed with this mailing is a copy of the Program for our meeting to be held from Wednesday evening through Saturday, 21 to 24 May 2003. With members of The Osler Club of London, the Japan Osler Society, and the Scottish Medical History Society, this should be one of our most outstanding meetings ever. Our Secretary-Treasurer, **Charles S. Bryan**, informs me that, to date, over 70 members of The American Osler Society and 10 members of The Japan Osler Society have registered. With accompanying others and distinguished guests, our Edinburgh meeting promises to be a wonderful event. Among our speakers, **Sir Richard Doll** of Oxford will deliver the **John P. McGovern Annual Lecture** on "The Evolution of the Controlled Clinical Trial."



Lawrence D. Longo

Furthering Our Mission—IV (continued)

As you recall, upon becoming your president, I requested **Chester R. Burns** to chair a committee with **Stephen B. Greenberg**, **Robert C. Kimbrough**, **Kenneth M. Ludmerer**, **Francis A. Neelon**, and **Cynthia D. Pitcock** to develop plans for an "AOS Professorship in Oslerian Medicine." After considerable thought and work, **Chester** has submitted a proposal for AOS members to consider. You will find it just below this letter.

Initially, I had hoped that we could promote this program this year. However, because of its importance to the life and mission of the Society, I believe this proposal requires full discussion by the Board of Governors and the membership. Please read this proposal carefully, and send comments to **Chester Burns** by e-mail (cburns@utmb.edu) or to me (*vide infra*).

A further issue concerns your thoughts on lessons to be learned from history. A decade

ago, I mailed a query to members of our Society, as well as to many members of the American Association for the History of Medicine. I asked two questions: (1) Do you believe that the history of medicine teaches useful lessons? (2) If so, what do you regard as the single most important lesson to be learned that is of relevance today? In Edinburgh, I wish to consider with you what, if any, lessons we can learn from the history of medicine. In particular, I plan

to examine some of William Osler's writings in this regard. For those of you who have not responded previously, I would welcome your thoughts on the two questions above.

Again, it is a great honor to serve as your President. We anticipate a wonderful and joyous meeting. What could be more glorious than Edinburgh in May?

Keep well, and Persevere!

Lawrence D. Longo

E-mail: llongo@som.llu.edu

Proposal for Establishing an AOS Visiting Professorship in Oslerian Medicine, submitted by an Ad Hoc Committee for Discussion by the AOS Board of Governors on 21 May 2003

TITLE: The American Osler Society (AOS) Visiting Professorship in Oslerian medicine.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

As a physician in Canada, the United States, and England, William Osler (1849-1919) displayed an extraordinary commitment to the highest ideals of the medical profession. To encourage an understanding of the legacies of Osler and the development of humanistic ideals, the American Osler Society sponsors visits by members of the AOS to accredited medical schools in North America. During these visits (which can be for one, two, or three days), the AOS Visiting Professor will be available to meet with students and faculty, give lectures, and participate in conferences, seminars, and clinical rounds.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE VISITING PROFESSOR: Ad Hoc Commit-

tee members expressed conflicting views about who could be selected as a visiting speaker. Some believe that the speakers should be limited to active members of the AOS who volunteer and are then selected by the AOS committee that manages the program from year to year. These volunteers can provide the AOS committee with biographical information and a list of topics that they could present. The AOS committee would prepare a list of speakers and topics for distribution to the deans of those schools who apply from year to year. In the letter of application, a dean could name one or more AOS members from that list as suitable visiting professors for that school.

Some Ad Hoc Committee members believe that these AOS volunteers should have been members longer than ten years; should be those who regularly attend meetings; should be members who have presented more than once at the annual meetings; and/or should be members who have

published papers related to the history of medicine, William Osler, medical humanities, or medical humanism.

Other Ad Hoc Committee members believe that the schools applying for a speaker could name one or more persons who are not AOS members as possible speakers as long as there was evidence that each candidate was "a master clinician and a humanist." In the letter of application, a dean could submit a list of possible visiting professors to the AOS Professorship Committee. This committee would conduct suitable negotiations and make the final decision.

FUNDS FOR THE VISITING PROFESSORSHIP:

On an annual basis, the AOS will provide \$3,000 to an accredited North American medical school. These dollars will be used for the travel expenses and an honorarium for the AOS Visiting Professor. This grant will be awarded to schools on a competitive basis.

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee have expressed differing and conflicting views about the

amount and distribution of these dollars. One view: the AOS Professor (especially if he or she is an AOS member) should volunteer and not expect any honorarium; the AOS would pick up the tab for transportation and lodging, and the school would provide meals and perks. Another view: the AOS professor should receive an honorarium, and the AOS and the school(s) would share travel expenses. Still another view: the AOS should be the only one providing funds; this person recommends a \$1,500 honorarium and up to \$1,500 for travel expenses for a one-day visit or \$3,000 plus travel expenses for a two-day visit. If the host institution receives the entire \$3,000, one member wonders what will happen to the unused portion of the \$3,000 if the dollars are not needed for the support of the AOS Visiting Professor.

REQUESTS FROM

SCHOOLS: By October 1 of each year, the dean of a school should send a letter to the

Proposal for an AOS Visiting Professorship (continued)

Executive Secretary of the AOS. The dean should outline an agenda that describes ways that an AOS Visiting Professor could address some specific educational goals of the host school. The Professorship Committee of the AOS will review the requests from each school and select one for that year's award. Deans will be notified of the results by December 1. The Professor will visit during the following year. A school that receives an award in a given year should wait two years before submitting another request.

Deans should describe the types of pedagogical interaction that they desire from the Visiting AOS Professor. The description could include bedside or clinical teaching rounds; small group and large group lectures, seminars, or conferences; and visits to more than one branch of a school with multiple branches. The dean's letter should describe a tenable agenda for the visit and give evidence of support from the faculty and students.

If the AOS decides that schools should contribute matching funds, the letters from deans or applicant schools should indicate the availability of matching funds in a given year for support of the AOS Visiting Professor.

ties described by members included: a newer school less than fifty years old; schools with no AOS member; or schools with no medical history or medical humanities curriculum.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING HOST SCHOOLS: Members of the Ad Hoc Committee offered different views about priorities in selecting the award winner each year. Priori-

MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE: Chester Burns (chair), Stephen Greenberg, Robert C. Kimbrough, Kenneth M. Ludmerer, Francis A. Neelon, Cynthia D. Pitcock.

Oslerian Progress Notes

Shigeaki Hinohara reports that the Japan Osler Society currently has 194 members, of whom 148 are physicians, 2 are nurses, 2 are medical students, 8 are medical co-workers, and 34 are other laypersons.

Ralph Gordon, upon his retirement as Professor of Pediatrics at Michigan State University, received the "Diploma of Merit" from the Board of Trustees of that institution and was named Emeritus Professor.

Thomas G. Benedek suggests that quotation number 429 ("Osler's description of systemic lupus erythematosus") in *The Quotable Osler* (Silverman ME, Murray TJ, Bryan CS, editors, Philadelphia: American College of Physicians; 2003) "had better been left unquoted, since it perpetuates one of Osler's errors without comments. As I pointed out in my first talk to the AOS, in 1996, while his collection of cases

undoubtedly included two instances of SLE, these were not differentiated from the majority that almost certainly would now be diagnosed as Schoenlein-Henoch purpura." See *Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism* 1997; 27: 48-56.

Robert H. Moser writes that his essay on "The Korean experience: Vignettes from cloister to chaos—and back" (*The Pharos*, Summer 2002, pp. 40-

47) has generated a remarkable amount of interest and correspondence. Bob has also recently had published his autobiography, entitled *Past Imperfect: A Personal History of an Adventurous Lifetime in and around Medicine* (New York: Writers Press Club; 2002). (Note: *This is a most entertaining medical autobiography!* — CSB)

Whither our Investments?

The liquid assets of the American Osler Society grew dramatically during Lawrence D. Longo's twelve years as Secretary-Treasurer. When the assets became substantial, Dr. Longo turned our portfolio over to Fidelity Investments in Boston, where our account is managed by Mr. Pel Stockwell. As of 31 December 2002, 89.9% of our assets with Fidelity are in an investment account, with the remaining 9.1% in a money market account (we also maintain a small escrow account in Columbia, South Carolina, for the purpose of daily deposits and checkwriting).

As we are all painfully aware,

the past three years have not been kind to investors. The table at right shows yearly changes in two of the more popular stock market indices and also in the liquid assets of the American Osler Society (calculated as the yearly change in the value of our equities with Fidelity divided by the year's beginning balance). Obviously, we have been well-served by Fidelity in this down market. However, is it time to change our strategy especially as we consider new projects? Please see my further comments on page 5. —CSB

Year	Standard & Poor 500	Dow-Jones Industrial Average	American Osler Society
1996	+ 20.3%	+ 26.1%	+ 8.6%
1997	+ 31.0%	+ 22.7%	+ 12.6%
1998	+ 26.7%	+ 16.1%	+ 18.9%
1999	+ 19.5%	+ 25.2%	+ 12.3%
2000	- 10.1%	-6.2%	-3.0%
2001	-13.0%	-7.1%	-5.1%
2002	-23.4%	-16.8%	-11.0%

AOS Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Income, Expenses, and Liquid Asset Balances, 1995-2002

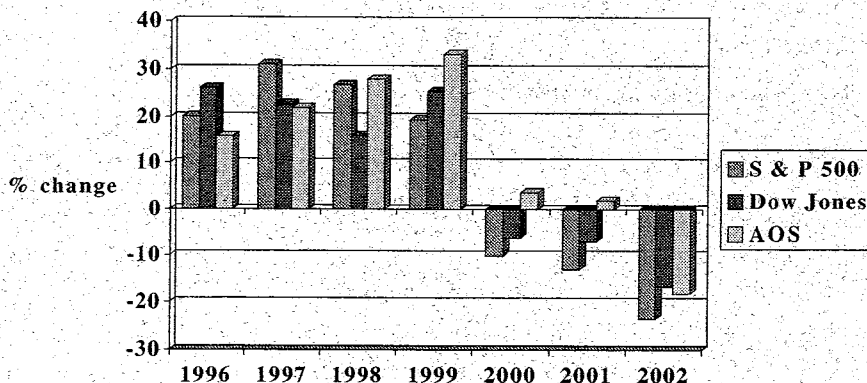
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
START BALANCE, 1 JANUARY	176,743.40	210,257.84	256,832.87	328,415.54	437,635.88	439,237.65	447,236.97
<i>Income</i>							
Dues and initiation fees	6,900.00	6,750.00	7,700.00	9,775.00	6,400.00	9,900.00	14,865.00
Meefing income ¹	21,410.00	21,355.00	14,180.00	39,875.00	33,945.00	33,575.00	39,060.85
Latchkeys, ties, T-shirts	4,055.00	1,040.00	990.00	1,095.00	830.00	1,329.00	805.00
<i>Persisting Osler I, II, and III</i>		380.00	190.00	180.00	135.00	85.00	5,831.50
Educational Endowment Fund	4,630.43	8,313.82	9,897.45	13,154.34	975.00	20,855.00	540.00
Friends of 13 Norham Gardens	250.00	485.00	450.00	200.00	355.00	355.00	185.00
Friends of Osler Library	375.00	365.00	350.00	200.00	455.00	460.00	160.00
McGovern lectureship/contributions	14,051.18	9,462.89	15,200.88	46,662.66	26,000.00	36,849.20	10,000.00
Miscellaneous income ²	823.19			20,053.39	30.27		
Appreciation of equities	15,304.98	26,569.53	48,497.45	40,546.44	-13,001.98	-22,233.11	-48,670.55 ³
Total Income	67,799.78	74,721.24	97,455.78	171,743.83	56,123.29	81,175.09	22,776.80
<i>Expenses</i>							
Administrative assistant ⁴					1,500.00	6,000.00	4,500.00
Supplies and postage ⁴					273.40	293.85	1247.87
Printing	141.82	1,592.47	368.12	497.18	1,502.58	1,677.64	1566.28
Latchkeys and other merchandise	11,302.52	2,603.00	1,170.00	700.00	1,606.04		
<i>Persisting Osler I, II, and III</i> ⁵	4,641.00			9,894.00		882.00	3789.58
Meeting expenses ⁶	12,907.55	14,191.73	14,286.19	20,660.60	27,233.93	37,134.72	30,835.87
McGovern Lectureship Account	2,286.92	3,312.93	3,019.42	5,731.88	3,790.89	6,162.21	4,830.00
Wm. B. Bean Educational Endowment	1,102.15	3,783.58	1,590.00	4,691.80	3,775.60	4,388.00	3,309.05
Deposits for future meetings ⁷		2,000.00	800.00	2,545.00	4,500.00	1,271.18	19,457.03
Friends of Osler Library	250.00		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	610.00	
Friends of 13 Norham Gardens	500.00		500.00	1,000.00	500.00	480.00	
Subventions for books				12,000.00		4,199.20	17,000.00
Web site				245.00		1,195.00	600.00
Refunds ⁸	200.00	662.50		325.00	1,275.00	790.00	1630.00
Money management fees	833.88		3,079.38	2,851.03	3,567.64	3,460.02	1661.18
Miscellaneous expenses ⁹	120.00		60.00	380.00	3,996.44	4,631.95	2020.00
Total disbursements	34,285.84	28,146.21	25,873.11	62,521.49	54,521.52	73,175.77	92,446.86
END BALANCE, DECEMBER 31	210,257.34	256,832.87	328,415.54	437,635.88	439,237.65	447,236.97	377,566.91

Secretary-Treasurer's Notes for 2003 Annual Meeting

General Observations:

- The value of our investments has declined (like everybody else's), as noted in the Table on page 3. The graph at right shows the percentage change in our year-end balance, compared with the S & P 500 and the Dow-Jones Industrial Average.
- The decline in our assets (18.1%) exceeds the depreciation of our assets at Fidelity (11.0%) mainly because of the hefty deposits for the 2003 meeting in Edinburgh (\$19,456.83), which we hope to recoup.
- The allocation of our assets with Fidelity Investments as of 31 December 2002 are 64% stocks 28% bonds, and 8% short-term.** The Finance Committee of the AOS, which is responsible for our overall investment policy, is chaired by **Paul Dy-**
- I encourage anyone with a strong opinion about the allocation of our investments to contact Paul Dymont by e-mail (pdymont@maine.rr.com) or telephone/FAX (the numbers are the same: 207 829 5725).
- The year-end value of the William B. Bean Endowment Fund is \$75,953.33 and the year-end balance of the John P. McGovern Lectureship Fund is \$184,392.15. **Therefore, the total value of uncommitted liquid assets is \$117,221.43.** This value should, in my opinion, be taken into account as we contemplate new projects and subventions.

Change (% from previous year) in Standard and Poor 500, Dow-Jones Industrial Average, and American Osler Society Financial Balance, 1996-2002



Footnotes to Table (page 5):

- Meeting income* includes registration fees, luncheon and banquet tickets, and continuing medical education fees.
- Miscellaneous income* variably includes dividend income (\$19,288.33 for 1999; tabulated elsewhere in subsequent years), refunds of meeting expenses, and positive changes in credit balance.
- Administrative assistant and payment for postage and supplies* were assumed by the Society at the time of changeover of the Secretary-Treasurer position in 2001. The fee for administrative assistant is \$6,000/year (we were \$1,500 in arrears on 31 December 2002).
- Appreciation (depreciation) of assets:* This includes—\$47,089.52 as change in investment value and -\$1581.03 as advisory fee redemptions.
- Persisting Osler I, II, and III:* The Society purchased 100 copies of *Persisting Osler III* during 2002 for \$3192.17.
- Meeting Expenses:* Expenditures for the 2002 meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, exceeded income by \$3,947.37. This was the case primarily because (a) the registration fee was set too low at \$175.00; and (b) the luncheons were more expensive than anticipated.
- Deposits for Future Meetings:* This amount represents deposits for the Edinburgh meeting to the George Intercontinental Hotel, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, and two caterers.
- Refunds* include registration fees and overpayment of dues.
- Miscellaneous expenses* during 2002 included a \$1,000 grant to Pamela Miller of the Osler Library of History of Medicine, McGill University, to attend the annual meeting; \$1,000 for tax preparation and reconciliation of accounts, and \$20.00 bank transaction costs.

Other notes:

- As in previous years, 12% interest on the previous year's end balance (that is, the balance on 31 December) has been credited to the William B. Bean Education Endowment Fund and the McGovern Lectureship Account.
- Inventory in the possession of the Secretary-Treasurer as of 31 December 2002 consists of 12 copies of *Persisting Osler III* (cost value \$383.04); 21 latchkeys (cost value 623.70), 4 old *Aequanimitas* ties (blue; 2 four-in-hand, 2 bow) (\$70.00); 57 new *Aequanimitas* ties in red (40 four-in-hand, 17 bow) (\$1825.00); 65 new *Aequanimitas* ties in gray (37 four-in-hand, 28 bow) (\$2032.00); 191 posters (\$2238.52); 73 tee-shirts (2 medium, 11 large, 60 extra large) (\$931.48); 8 Presidential plaques, and 5 McGovern medals. In addition, 602 copies of *Persisting Osler II* (cost value \$12,732.30) are in the possession of Dr. Lawrence D. Longo. The total value of our inventory exclusive of the plaques and medals is \$21,824.02. Thus, the value of our total assets (liquid assets plus inventory) is \$399,466.71.

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: 803-540-1050
Email: cbryan@richmed.medpark.sc.edu

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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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 155 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.

Meeting Notes and Announcements

2003 meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, 21-24 May: It's not too late to register! Persons wishing to do so should contact Mr. Al Yougel at AtlantaCompanyTravel (al@atlantacompanytravel.com, or 1-800-225 8323, extension 103).

Fourth Annual Reading Seminar to take place on Wednesday, 21 May 2003: The seminar will take place from 3 PM to 5 PM in the George Intercontinental Hotel. Once again, Frank Neelon will organize the session. The only restrictions are that we will need six participants and cannot successfully accommodate more than thirty. The selections are as follows: "Crosswalk," by Francis Sweeney; "Postscript," by Seamus Heaney, and "July," from *A Measure of My Days* by David Loxterkamp, M.D. As before, participants should have read the selections in advance and should come prepared to discuss them. **All persons wishing to attend should contact** Frank Neelon well before the meeting by e-mail (neelon02@duke.edu), FAX (FAX 919 309 4695), or regular mail (3543 Rose of Sharon Road, Durham, NC 27712).

Some overall learning objectives for the 2003 meeting in Edinburgh:

1. Discuss Scottish contributions to the history of medicine including the impact of the Scottish Enlightenment on medical education and medical ethics.
2. List at least five contributions of Sir William Osler to our current understanding of medical humanism, medical competencies, and medical education.
3. Name the three principles and at least five components of the new Physicians' Charter on Professionalism, and critique the strengths and limitations of the charter.
4. Illustrate the value of medical history to the practice of medicine with at least four five specific examples, and suggest ways in which physicians can continue to contribute to serious medical historiography (as opposed to hagiography).
5. Express an opinion about whether an understanding of the medical climate of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, as exemplified by William Osler's participation in the issues of his own time, will remain relevant in the twenty-first century as medicine becomes increasingly technology-oriented.

2004 meeting in Houston, Texas, 20-22 April: The Board of Governors meeting will take place on Tuesday, 20 April, followed by the thirty-fourth annual meeting on Wednesday and Thursday (21-22 April 2004). The meeting will *not* conflict with the American Association of the History of Medicine, which will take place separately in Madison, Wisconsin. This meeting will enable us to honor our history—since it was in the Houston-Galveston area that the American Osler Society had its beginnings—and will also enable us to honor Dr. John P. McGovern, whom we recognize as the principal architect of our organization. Mark your calendars now! —CSB