

The Oslerian

A Message from the President

A Time for Strategic Planning

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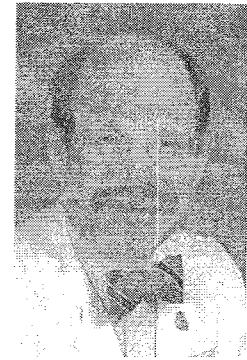
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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the newly minted, 31st president of the AOS. Our society is appreciative of Dee Canale for his excellent stewardship as president, and to Larry Longo, whose long and dedicated service on our behalf has resulted in new interest, superb meetings, and a robust treasury.

As president, I look forward to working closely with the other officers—John Carson, Larry Longo, and Charles Bryan—to look at our bylaws, membership structure, and meetings as we try to strengthen our society and its activities. The idea of a society to keep alive the memory of William Osler dates to 1967 when discussions were initiated by John P. McGovern and Alfred Henderson with later help from Tom

Durant and Wilburt Davidson.¹ It will be no surprise that the reason for starting a society devoted to the memory of Sir William Osler was their strong concern about the apparent loss of humanity and humaneness in our profession and the substitution of technology for caring about the patient. Many of the founding or honorary members had strong connections to William Osler or were prominent figures in academic medicine. Our first formal meeting was held in Denver in 1971 with Bill Bean as the first president. Since then, the AOS has generally maintained its enthusiasm though we have had several meetings within memory that had less than 50 in attendance



and concern has been expressed that our seniority is increasing without rejuvenation by younger members. The meetings have lengthened from several papers given in one afternoon to our Bethesda meeting where 29 papers, three formal lectures, one panel session, one night session, a banquet, and an excursion to

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2001 Meeting to Take Place in Historic Charleston, South Carolina, April 18-19

Historic Charleston, South Carolina will be the site of the next meeting of the American Osler Society, scheduled for April 18-19, 2001. As things now stand, the Board of Governors will meet on the evening of April 17, followed by two full days of papers. The annual banquet will take place on April 18 and, on April 19, a tour and picnic-style

dinner are planned for Middleton Place, an historic rice plantation famous for its beautiful grounds and gardens. Our meeting will precede the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, and the location will be convenient for tours of Charleston's historic district by foot or

by carriage.

Abstracts for the program should be submitted to the secretary-treasurer by November 15, 2000, to allow the Program Committee ample time for consideration. For guidelines for submissions, please see article on page 6.



Bruce Fye stands in front of some of Osler's autopsy specimens at the 1999 AOS meeting in Montreal.

Oslerians Clif Cleaveland and Bruce Fye receive top awards

Clif Cleaveland and Bruce Fye have won two of the most prestigious awards in the medical humanities, from the American College of Physicians and the American Association of the History of Medicine.

Cleaveland received the Nicholas Davies award from the ACP, created in memory of Dr. Davies to recognize outstanding contributions to the medical humanities. Cleaveland, a recent past president of the ACP, was recognized espe-

cially for his recent book, *Sacred Space*, a collection of poignant vignettes gleaned from his life's experiences in medicine.

Fye received the William H. Welch award from the AAHM for his book, *American Cardiology*, now considered to be a model for histories of medical specialties and subspecialties. Fye, who is in the process of moving from the Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin to the Mayo Clinic, is president-elect



Clif Cleaveland's remarkable ability to listen is captured at the 2000 AOS meeting in Bethesda.

of the American College of Cardiology.

Our congratulations!

President's message (continued from page 1)

"The exclusiveness of our membership requirements (published papers and stature within the medical history field) and the formidable obligation to present a paper in front of highly regarded peers can be seen as an obstacle to the goals of our society and opposed to the philosophy of W.O. who promoted broad participation in a society. It seems appropriate, after 30 years, to review and consider revising our bylaws. . ."

— Mark Silverman

Mount Vernon were stuffed into two days and two nights. Increasingly, the scope of the meeting has extended beyond Osler to include diverse areas in medical history. At one time we met alternate years with the American College of Physicians and we have met once in London with the Osler Club of London and the Japanese Osler Society. Exciting plans are in progress for a joint meeting in Edinburgh in 2003. Now we are more closely associated with the AAHM which dictates to a large extent where and when we meet and when we can hold sessions. We now have active and 149 members in various categories (74 active, 58 emeritus, plus others). Our small number of attendees has fostered close friendships (Clif Cleaveland, a new member, said to me, "I feel like I've come home") and a welcome

exchange of reprints but does leave us at some jeopardy in terms of long-term viability. In addition, the exclusiveness of our membership requirements (published papers and stature within the medical history field) and the formidable obligation to present a paper in front of highly regarded peers can be seen as an obstacle to the goals of our society and opposed to the philosophy of Sir William Osler, who promoted broad participation in a society. It seems appropriate, after 30 years, to review and consider revising our bylaws in consideration of the change of membership and approach that has occurred and the concerns that I have mentioned. I invite you to fill out and send back to me the attached questionnaire with your comments about membership, meetings, directions, etc. Your responses will be of vital importance in direct-

ing the future of the AOS and will be presented for discussion at the next meeting. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Charleston.

Mark Silverman

Email: marksil@mindspring.com

Reference:

1. Roland, Charles. The formative years of the American Osler Society. Presented at the Montreal meeting of the AOS, May 1999.



Osler at the bedside

Oslerian profile

Lawrence D. Longo, M.D.—A Man for All Seasons



The photograph at left shows Lawrence D. Longo as most of us know him—welcoming everyone to the annual meeting of the American Osler Society. In an exclusive interview for *The Oslerian*, conducted at Larry’s home base at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California, we came to appreciate more fully the dimensions of the man as scientist, humanitarian, and well-rounded human being.



Sheila Whitson

Larry is quick to credit others. He tells us, for example, that the humanpower behind the AOS these past 12 years has been provided to a large extent by Sheila Whitson, the “Scottish lady” who has kept our affairs so tidily. Sheila, in turn, told us that Larry has been a delight to work for, as did everyone in what seemed to be a large and amicable group of people in the Center for Perinatal Biology—where Larry’s papers in recent years have ranged from basic research in signal transduction pathways to pleas for the larger cause of women’s health.



For years Larry, shown here with two assistants, has been an active mentor to young scientists.



Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda, California.

When *The Lancet* was putting together its superb issue in celebration of the year 2000, it turned to Larry Longo to provide a perspective on the past millennium of obstetrics and gynecology. *The Lancet’s* staff explained his credentials as follows: “Lawrence D. Longo is a pioneer investigator in fetal and developmental physiology. His work has contributed substantially to the understanding of how hypoxia affects fetal cardiac functions.” Basic science. . . history. . . and a superb human being! A man for all seasons!

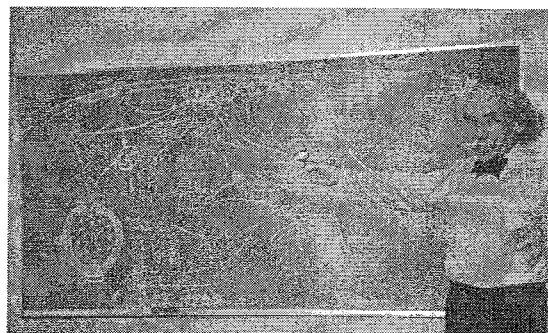
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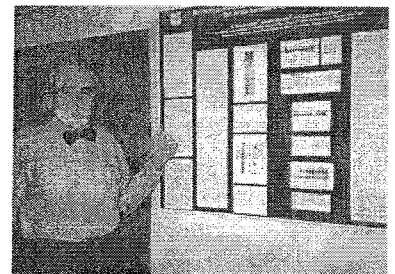
Larry relaxes in his well-cared-for Mercedes



Larry in his lair. The bulletin board behind him includes the official poster of the American Osler Society.



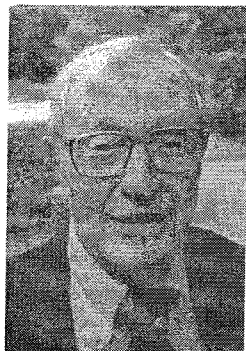
Dr. Longo describes signal transduction pathways—the area of his current research—to the uninitiated. It’s really much more complicated than this!



Larry explains his group’s most recent presentation.



President Dee Canale relaxes after a successful address given under difficult circumstances.



Earl Nation has just had published 2 volumes of *An Annotated Checklist of Osleriana*.

2000 Meeting in Bethesda Among the Best Ever

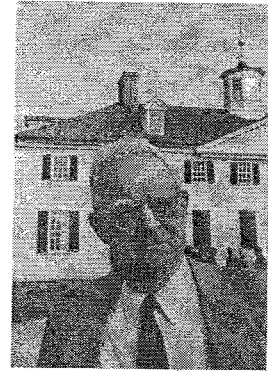
The only complaint we heard was that there was just not enough time. . . time to discuss the papers adequately . . . time to meet and greet all of one's old friends. . . time, perhaps, to explore the nation's capitol. But then, isn't this a very good sign that our Society is alive and vibrant?

The papers, as usual, were superb. Osler and Pepper, Osler and DaCosta, Osler and White, Osler and Kate Cushing. . . and more. There were new insights into John Singer Sargent's "The Four Doctors," and there was an unusually-moving paper on Osler and Lt. Col. John McCrae, the physician-poet, that left nary a dry eye in the well-filled ballroom. There were interesting presentations on such diverse topics as the unicorn and the reformation, mesmerism and Benjamin Franklin, Noah Webster on infectious diseases. There was a spirited panel on Michael Bliss's new biography, during which Joseph Lella challenged the illustrious author on Osler's views of the after-life. There was a superb session on military medicine—the overall theme for the meeting—at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, with a tour of the National Museum of Health and Medicine. The McGovern lecture, by Gert Brieger, will surely become a "must read" in its printed form, and the two student lectures reassured us that the future of the Society is bright indeed. And for the privileged few there was Frank Neelon's session on literature.

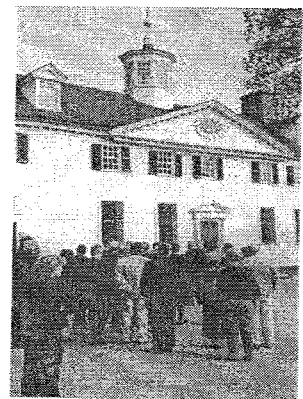
But mostly there was the fellowship. Where else can one be with so many kindred spirits from around the world (yes, we were well-represented from abroad!) committed to the Oslerian ideals?

There was just not enough time. . . Should our meetings be a tad bit longer? Let us hear from you!

—CSB



Carwile Leroy at Mount Vernon



Oslerians take in the history of George Washington's home.



Joseph Lella and Gert Brieger. Lella has just had published *Willie: A Dream* by the Osler Library of the History of Medicine. Brieger, the 2000 McGovern lecturer, was elected to honorary membership.



Student presenters Shane R. Mull (left) and Zachary A. Rubin, both recipients of Bean Scholarships, congratulate each other after "it's over."

Welcome Ten New Members!

The following persons were elected to membership at this year's meeting in Bethesda, Maryland:

Gert H. Brieger, director of the Welch Institute for the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins and one of America's most distinguished medical historians, was elected to honorary membership. Dr. Brieger gave the John P. McGovern lecture at this year's meeting.

Barry Cooper of Dallas, an oncologist who is Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, was promoted to membership from associate membership.

Christopher Goetz, Professor of Neurological Sciences at Rush Medical College in Chicago, has been extremely active in the history of neurology. He is co-author of a biography of Charcot, and is interested in Charcot's Osler connection.

Martin Dalton is Chairman of Surgery at Mercer University School of Medicine, Macon, Georgia. He first heard of Osler while making rounds with Tinsley Harrison as a medical student in 1957, and gave a paper on Osler and Harrison at this year's meeting.

Daniel Morgan practices orthopaedic surgery in Fremont,

California. He has presented two papers to AOS, including one on Sargent's "The Four Doctors" at this year's meeting.

William Roberts of Dallas, Texas is a world expert on the pathology of the heart and editor of the *American Journal of Cardiology*. His lively interviews of contemporaries, shared at this year's meetings, are history-in-the-making.

William Alton Smith practices neurology in Fulton, Kentucky and teaches at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. His papers on history range from neurology in Tzarist Russia to Charles Bell.

Herbert Morris Swick has just become Executive Director of the Institute of Medicine and Humanities in Missoula, Montana. He is an authority on the subject of teaching professionalism.

John Thomas Truman, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Columbia University, New York, has made noteworthy contributions to medical history and presented last year on Osler and the Charaka Club.

Benjamin Cody Wright, who is training in psychiatry at Harvard, has been elected a student member. His interest began under Cynthia Pitcock at the University of Arkansas.

In Memoriam

R. Carmichael Tilghman (1904-1999)

Dr. R. Carmichael Tilghman died on September 23 at his home, Wye House, in Talbot County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, not many miles from Centerville in Queen Anne's County where he had been born in 1904. He was descended from Dr. Richard Tilghman, a surgeon who came to the colonies in 1661 from Kent, and was described as the "leading physician in the province."

Mike Tilghman received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the Johns Hopkins University, served as intern and assistant resident on the Osler Medical Service at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, did a fellowship at the Thorndike Laboratory in Boston, and was chief resident physician of the Osler Medical Service in 1936 and 1937 under Dr. Warfield T. Longcope. Mike was recognized as a dedicated, careful

Physician, a good teacher and admired as a leader. In 1937 he entered the private practice of internal medicine in Baltimore. He maintained close ties with Johns Hopkins as a valued teacher. In 1942 he joined the 18th General Hospital, a Johns Hopkins-affiliated unit in the Army Medical Corps, and served in the South Pacific. He was Chief of Medicine with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was also the historian of the 18th General Hospital and later wrote and published its history. In 1946 he returned to Baltimore and reestablished his practice. He continued to teach but was given additional responsibilities in administration, serving Associate Dean of the Medical Faculty, Director of the University Health Service, and Editor of the *Johns Hopkins Medical Journal*. For over 40 years he was the driving

force behind the Johns Hopkins Medical and Surgical Association and was responsible for the great success of that organization as a spirited, vibrant alumni group. In 1983 he received the Distinguished Medical Alumni Service Award of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 1970 an auditorium was named the Tilghman room and his portrait hangs in that room.

Mrs. Tilghman was a full partner in all his endeavors. The Tilghmans were gracious hosts who provided a warm welcome to new faculty coming to Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Tilghman was active in the American College of Physicians, serving as a member of the Board of Regents and Secretary General. He was made a Master of the College and received the Albert Stengel Award for "outstanding service and

Achievement." He was acutely interested in medical history. His teachers and senior colleagues were Osler's disciples and Mike captured the spirit of that first faculty and transmitted it with enthusiasm to his students and associates.

His last few months were spent at Wye House and after a funeral service in Baltimore, he was buried in the private family cemetery at Wye. The first grave in the cemetery is dated 1684. It was a rainy day as the friends and family gathered under umbrellas, but as the last prayer was finished, the sun came out and the honking of Canada geese could be heard in the distance.

—From memorial by Richard S. Ross, *Transactions of the American Clinical and Climatological Association 2000; 111: lv-lvii, with permission.*

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

American Osler Society
Charles S. Bryan, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer
Department of Medicine
University of South Carolina School of
Medicine
2 Medical Park, Suite 502
Columbia, SC 29203

Phone: 803-540-1000
Fax: 803-540-1075
Email: cbryan@richmed.medpark.sc.edu

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.AMERICANOSLER.ORG



Aequanimitas

The Oslerian is published approximately four times a year by the American Osler Society, Inc., a non-profit organization. Members of the American Osler Society are encouraged to send news items of interest, including but by no means limited to their personal activities and accomplishments and accompanied by photographs or other illustrations. For distribution of reprints and other materials of possible interest to AOS members, please send 150 copies. And your ideas about The Oslerian are of course most welcome! Direct all correspondence 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.

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

Abstracts for 2001 Meeting Due November 15

For several years the AOS has had a pleasant problem: more quality submissions for the annual meeting than can be accommodated. President Silverman has determined that the Program Committee should be chaired by the First Vice-President and should get an early start on its deliberations. To that end, we request that abstracts for next year's program be submitted by November 15, 2000.

Please observe the following guidelines:

1. Make the abstract no longer than one page.
2. Provide the complete title, the names of all co-authors, and the corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, FAX, and e-mail address.
3. Provide sufficient information for the Program Committee to determine the merits of the abstract and its possible interest to membership. State the conclusions of the paper. Keep phrases such as "will be presented" to a minimum.
4. Include in a covering letter your opinion of the paper's potential interest to members. Also state the date of your last presentation to AOS, since some preference will be shown to members who have not presented in recent years and to prospective members.

Please send five copies of the abstract and a covering letter to the Secretary-Treasurer. Thanks!