



The Oslerian

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James R. Wright, Jr., President



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A Message from the President

As I sat down to write this first message, I did so with trepidation! Following in the footsteps of so many great Oslerians, what should I say? So, I re-read quarterly presidential messages over the past 15 years. Some used the June letter to talk about their background. I will do the same, as most of you don't know me well. My pathway to the AOS is different!

My parents were proud Southerners living in the North. I was conceived in Columbus, OH, but, because my mother was insistent that she could never give birth to a "Yankee," she went home just before my delivery, and I was born in Huntsville, AL. I was a product of a home delivery complicated by birth asphyxia and almost died. I suspect that my eventual neuro-autopsy will explain a lot! Like Osler said of his own upcoming autopsy, having followed the case with interest, "I'm sorry I shall not see the post-mortem." Ditto!

I was raised in a suburb of Columbus, and, like former AOS president Marvin Stone, I graduated from Bexley High School. I attended The Ohio State University (OSU), first obtaining a B.Sc. in Zoology; my last summer, I lived on Gibraltar Island in Lake Erie doing field work in limnology and ichthyology. As an undergraduate, I was interested in history, but my supervisor insisted that I not "waste my time."

Charley Bryan in his 4th *Oslerian* presidential message noted that "only the most foolhardy applicant to medical school would fail to give the Admissions Committee some permutation of this simple state-

ment" -- "I like science and I want to help people." I was that foolhardiest applicant. When asked why I wanted to go to medical school, I said: "I want to do a MD-PhD in pathology and then never see a living patient again." The dumbfounded interviewers looked at each other and said: "you are the only applicant we have interviewed this year not claiming to want to be a family doctor in rural Ohio." I think I was accepted because of my unexpected honesty.

As a MD-PhD student, I was able to do the first two basic science years through OSU's Independent Studies Program (ISP), which meant that I did not need to attend classes. ISP students had considerable freedom; we were given 15 syllabi each year outlining what we needed to read and what concepts we were expected to know. We could take examinations whenever we wanted. As a pathology graduate student, I was able to get a ~30 hour per week job as a diener (autopsy assistant) at University Hospital -- usually working the 5pm to midnight shift; there were not many nighttime autopsies and so, I mostly checked bodies in and out of the morgue leaving plenty of time to study; this civil service job provided a decent income and daytime flexibility. While my PhD supervisor expected me to use daylight hours to take science courses, do research, and write papers, I finally showed some independence and took a graduate-level course in history of medicine. John C. Burnham, PhD (1929-2017) made a statement one day in class about the origin of intraoperative frozen section diagnosis at the



President
James R. Wright, Jr.
56th AOS President
Installed at the 2025 Annual

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President's Message (Continued from page 1)

Mayo Clinic that, as a pathology graduate student, piqued my interest and drove me to the library, where I found a stash of old pathology textbooks that seemed to contradict his statement. Soon, much to my PhD supervisor's chagrin, I had signed up for every graduate level course I could find touching on the history of medicine. However, because I entered medical school while already enrolled as a MSc student, it was possible to complete my coursework requirements and most of my PhD research by the end of my second year of medical school.

While I had enjoyed the preclinical experience and lifestyle immensely, entering the clinics was a rude awakening. Some socially challenged medical students gradually gravitate towards pathology; I never even imagined my destiny was face-to-face patient care. I completed the mandatory 3rd year clinical rotations. Clinical preceptors immediately identified me as an ISP student, since learning via reading, rather than listening to lectures, meant I was prone to mispronouncing medical terminology. Fortunately, everything was pass-fail, and somehow, I squeaked through. During my second clinical year, I picked non-patient care electives whenever possible. In fact, I avoided enough clinical exposure, that upon graduation, I discovered that I could never practice medicine in California --without reenrolling to complete two more clinical months. So, my pathway to Osler was unrelated to optimizing bedside manner.

At the beginning of my 2nd clinical year, Professor Burnham told me that I had accumulated sufficient credits for a M.A. degree in history -- if I was willing to write a thesis. While I had completed all coursework and enough research to satisfy my pathology PhD supervisor and committee, I had been too busy (and apprehensive) to sit for the week-long written and 2-hour oral comprehensive exams. I had planned to take a 5th year and nonchalantly finish all three degrees simultaneously. But I abruptly changed my mind when the American Board of Pathology announced an extra year of training, specifically a clinical internship, would be required for anyone entering a pathology residency after 1984. So, to avoid this new dystopian reality, I entered the match immediately. My PhD research was mostly published or in press, so I decided to focus on the MA thesis. My PhD supervisor was upset, but I assured him that, sometime during my residency, I would take a week of vacation and return to complete the comprehensive exam. Since all my research would already be published, I could quickly generate and defend a dissertation.

Midway through my 4th year, I transferred into the history graduate program for ten weeks and defended my MA thesis. Burnham suggested that I submit an entry into the AAHM's William Osler Medal competition. My essay on the history of surgical biopsy and intraoperative frozen section diagnosis was awarded the AAHM Osler Medal in 1984 (**Image Next Column**). At the awards reception, I met future Oslerian Michael Bliss (1941-2017); at the time, I had no idea how this brief interaction would alter my life. Michael had recently published *The Discovery of Insulin*, for which he was receiving AAHM's William Welch Medal. I

bought a copy but did not read it until I was halfway through my pathology residency. I matched at Barnes Hospital/Washington University.

In July 1984, I moved to St. Louis to train in anatomical pathology. The residency was research-intensive and required residents to complete one or more years working in a basic science laboratory. I chose the pancreatic islet transplantation laboratory of Paul E. Lacy, MD, PhD (1924-2005), the long-serving chair of pathology who had just stepped down for the newly recruited chair Emil R. Unanue, MD (1934-2022), who would co-supervise some of my research. This work progressed well, and I generated numerous publications on immunology of experimental diabetes. While working as a postdoctoral fellow, I read Michael's book, and learned about JJR Macleod's fish islet research. Macleod (1876-1935), being aware that teleost (bony) fish have anatomical separation of their endocrine and exocrine pancreatic tissue, used this to definitively prove that the islets were the source of insulin. In Lacy's laboratory, I noted that ~90% of his budget was expended separating the 1% islet tissue from the remainder of the pancreas -- a slow, tedious, and error-prone process. I decided that, if I ever lived anywhere where it was practical to use teleost fish as tissue donors, their large anatomically discrete "islet organs" would be perfect to study islet xenograft rejection.

I decided to subspecialize in pediatric-perinatal pathology; there were only two places in North America where a children's hospital and a maternity hospital shared the same staff pathologists. Both were in Canada. In 1988, I relocated to Halifax, Nova Scotia. While completing this fellowship, I found an oceanography building on the Dalhousie University campus where I could house fish. I applied for a Medical Research Council grant and obtained funding to study islet xenograft rejection. By the time I finished my fellowship, I had obtained other research grants, and so I was hired as a clinician-scientist pediatric-perinatal pathologist. Over the next 16 years, I maintained a well-funded experimental islet transplantation laboratory. My initial finding was that tilapia islet tissue provided long-term normoglycemia after transplantation into diabetic athymic nude mice, and readily rejected in euthymic mice, which provided an inexpensive small animal model to study xenograft rejection. At the time I began these studies, xenotransplantation was theoretically attractive, but totally impractical, as directly vascularized xenogeneic organs hyperacutely rejected. In contrast, xenotransplanted islet tissue did not hyperacutely reject, but, in euthymic mice underwent a slower cellular rejection as it neovascularized in the new host. In athymic mice, it proved possible to study long-term cross-species physiological adaption and cellular constituent



President's Message (Continued from page 2)

remodeling of islet tissue in the xenogeneic host. My laboratory eventually produced and obtained a US patent for a new lifeform --transgenic tilapia with islet β -cell's expressing a humanized insulin gene which I hoped to characterize for possible clinical use; I fully expected to finish my career in Halifax. However, my wife, Lynn McIntyre, MD, who was halfway through her 3rd term as Dean of Health Professions at Dalhousie University, got in a fight with the president. She came home that night and told me "I know my job has kept you in Halifax but you're now free to find a better job and I will follow you."

In 2005, Lynn and I moved to Calgary, where I would be serving as department head for the University of Calgary medical school and the Calgary Health Region; the job was complex as the department operated as a public-private partnership corporation providing all hospital and community lab services for a government run healthcare system. Though, while I was being recruited, I had been assured I would have plenty of time free to continue my research, this was not the case, especially when the Alberta government restructured its entire healthcare system. Further complicating the move, the fish housing facility that I had been promised as part of my recruitment did not materialize. In a matter of a year, I transitioned from a clinician-scientist with 75% time protected for research into a near fulltime administrator. Under these circumstances, my dormant interest in medical history resurfaced, with a focus on the history of pathology.

Michael Bliss had followed my fish islet xenotransplantation research with some interest as he had been amused that it began when I read *The Discovery of Insulin*; he had told me on several occasions that he was writing a book on William Osler. My first project after "the transition" was to explore the little-known 19th century practice of performing covert autopsies; as I dug deeper, I soon discovered a connection to Osler, and I asked Michael if he would be willing to critique a draft of my paper. He did and then suggested I submit an abstract for the upcoming AOS meeting in Cleveland. I pushed back, as Osler's involvement in covert autopsies was, especially when viewed through the lens of presentism, clearly not his finest hour. Michael insisted that the members were interested in all Oslerian scholarship. I presented and a year later, Michael and Jackie Duffin nominated me for membership. My admiration for Sir William arose from reading Michael's *William Osler: A Life in Medicine* but has grown from my own historical research and from regularly attending meetings and learning from you. The AOS meeting in Cleveland marked a clear transition; 3.2% of my first 125 peer-reviewed publications and >60% of the next 100+ are historical. Oslerian David K.C. Cooper, when stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of *Xenotransplantation*, kindly invited me to write a review article summarizing my two decades of fish islet xenotransplantation research.

As a postscript, I did return to OSU to finish my PhD in experimental pathology, but not according to plan. My supervisor, Allan J. Yates, MD, PhD (1943-2010) called me every six months from the start of my residency until I was up for promotion to Associate Professor at Dalhousie to

remind me that I needed to come back to Columbus and finish. While I was a resident, that had been my plan, but as the years passed, I was always too busy; eventually, I started telling him that I was so far into my career that I didn't need the PhD. Each time, he would repress the prior conversation and call again six months later. The last time he called, I said "Allan, so much time has passed that the graduate school would never agree" and he replied, "I suggest you ask in person." I flew back to Columbus and met with someone in the graduate school dean's office. When he opened my file, he emphatically said "NO," which is what I had expected. Then, as I was leaving, he said that, because 9 years had passed since my medical school graduation, my "PhD candidacy" had expired. I replied that, since I had never sat for my comprehensive exam, technically I had never been a "candidate." Minutes later, the Dean appeared and, to his dismay, could produce no regulation that applied to my unique situation. The Dean changed tactics, insisting that, since I had not taken any classes since 1984, it would be impossible for me to pass a fair candidacy exam, even if I was readmitted. I explained that I had been teaching graduate level pathology courses for years. I was readmitted and passed my comprehensive exam, with the incredulous Dean serving as the graduate school representative on the examining committee. A university regulation requiring "candidates" to be enrolled for two terms before defending a PhD dissertation was enforced. So, I returned to Halifax, where I formatted the nine papers I had written as Allan's student into a dissertation and submitted it to my PhD committee (fortunately none had died). Six months later, I returned to Columbus for two days to defend my dissertation and submit revisions. The Dean told me I will always hold the OSU record for the slowest PhD degree as he had implemented a new rule setting a no exception ten-year start-to-finish limit. For the record, I received my PhD in 1995, having entered the MD-PhD program in 1980.

OSU made my career possible. Six years ago, I endowed an annual medical history lecture there. Over the past 40 years, I have been collecting historical pathology books. After my neuro-autopsy, my book collection will be added to the "stash of old pathology textbooks" at the school's Medical Heritage Center.

Over the next 12 months, you will see how each element of this overly long biography provides critical background and neatly dovetails into my three remaining presidential messages and my presidential lecture. For August, I will write about Michael Bliss, the role of fish in the discovery of insulin, and the rehabilitation of JJR Macleod's reputation in Toronto, Aberdeen, and around the world.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Wright, Jr.



American Osler Society Business Meeting Minutes: Pasadena, CA May 5, 2025

- Meeting was called to order (Joan Richardson)
- Moment of silence to commemorate members who have died during the previous year: Allen Weiss. Special address to a list of members that have past over the last few years.
- Call for additional agenda items (Joan Richardson)
- Approval of Board of Governors minutes from November 12, 2024

• Secretary's report (not in attendance)

• **Treasurer's report** (Andrew Nadell) Dr. Nadell reported on the major changes in our Administrator, financial custodian and advisors, location of our cash account, and Certified Public Accountant. The change of AOS Administrator from Renee Zeimer to Lydia Lujan went well. The move from Fidelity to Morgan Stanley as custodians and advisors has also gone very well. We also changed accounting firms. The former accountants, were not very cooperative and the Executive Committee decided to make a change. Our new accountant George Farber, Jr. CPA, JD, LLM, partner at the Fillmore Group LLP, in Pasadena has been engaged and will be filing our 2024 taxes.

• **Finance Committee report** (Tino Bernadett) Dr. Bernadett reported that Morgan Stanley current investment strategy meets our needs, after transferring funds from Fidelity and seeing the uncertain conditions of the markets, they put our funds into a 4.5% cash equivalent account. We have maintained a positive investment status as opposed to most endowments who have lost anywhere from 4% to 5% since October 2024. Our revenue has significantly increased since Dr. Bernadett has agreed to make a \$100,000 donation for the International Student Scholarship. BOG discussed the fundraising efforts, other sources of income we need to grow to cover increasing costs.

• **The Oslerian editor's report** (Michael Malloy) Dr. Malloy reported that medical students will be invited to contribute manuscripts developed from abstracts they presented at the Pasadena meeting to a supplement of *The Oslerian Newsletter: Journal of the Young Oslerians*, for the August edition.

• **Nominating Committee report** (Rolando Del Maestro). The committee consists of Christopher Boes, Rolando Del Maestro (chair) and Robert Mennel. The committee provides the following updates: Jim Wright (President), Skip Harris (Vice-President) Gaby Frank (Secretary), Andrew

Nadell (Treasurer), Joan Richardson (Past President 2024-2025), Rolando Del Maestro (Past President 2023-2024), Chris Boes (Past President 2022-2023), Bruce Hoekstra (2026), David Wolf (2026), Chris Crenner (2029), Matthew Edwards (2029), Tee Guidotti (2029), Priya Dave (*ex officio*), Michael Malloy (*ex officio*), Rob Stone (*ex officio*), Herbert Swick (*ex officio*), Leonard Wang (*ex officio*) are staying on BOG.

The committee would like to thank Robert Mennel (Past President 2021-2022), Susan Kelen (2025), Sutchin Patel (2025) and Michael Stanley (2025) for their many contributions to the American Osler Society and especially as members of the Board of Governors of the American Osler Society over the last five years. These four members will now rotate off the Board of Governors. BOG all in favor approved Brendan Ross, Mary Hague-Yearl and Kalie Lael Kucera Ray as members-at-large to the Board of Governors of the American Osler Society.

BOG all in favor approved Dr. David Wolf as the Second Vice President of the American Osler Society.

• Membership Committee report (Skip Harris)

Active membership applications approved for 2024-5: (10) Onur Duygu, Scott Jackson, Svetlana Kochkina, Peter Kopplin, Robert Lemery, Donald Oxorn, Jerry Reves, Sherine Salib, Gordon Telford, Arvin Ward.

Trainee membership applications approved: (14) Sheheryar Ali, Avin Babakhani, Bobby Bobby, Paris Dastjerdi, Alexander David, Emilee Foix, Kate Gist, Alekhya Gurram, Reda Hessi, Jessica Matschek, Sadie Pichelmann, Austin Solak, Alexandria Soto, Sharon Vaz.

BOG voted and approved Fellowship members (3) Daniel Goodenberger, Meg Fielding, Vivian McAlister

The BOG Honorary Membership nominations approved: (2) Anthony Fauci, John Dirks – nomination letters attached.

• **Program Committee report** (Jim Wright) Dr. Wright reported. The Survey Monkey online abstract submission/review process was new this year; it was implemented through the heroic efforts of Skip Harris with the support of Pete Travers. The abstract submission window ran from October 1 through November 15, 2024. 152 Abstract submissions were distributed to the Committee for their review on November 16, 2024. 43 abstracts were selected 23 were medical students. BOG discussed balancing out the number of Students abstracts and Fellow abstracts.

• **William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee report** (Skip Harris) Dr. Harris reported. This was the second year using Survey Monkey Application for the online submission of Bean Award applications and online reviews. The process was successful. The Bean Awards will

be awarded to Delany Ding, Jessica Matschek, Rena Seeger. This was the first year of the revised Bean Award Protocol, which disbursed the first \$750 of the award in May 2024, with a plan to disburse the second \$750 upon submission of a final report.

•**John P. McGovern Lectureship Committee report** (Rolando Del Maestro) The committee consisting of Christopher Boes, Rolando Del Maestro (chair) and Robert Menel chose Professor Annmarie Adams from McGill University as the John P. McGovern Lecturer for the 2025 Meeting of the American Osler Society meeting in Pasadena.

Professor Adams delivered her Lecture entitled: Maude Abbott; A life in 10 Spaces on Sunday, May 4 at 11:00 am.

•**Historian-Archivist's report** (Herbert Swick) Dr. Swick reported, In 2023, the AOS Board of Governors approved funding for a temporary archivist to update and organize the archives to make them more accessible to scholars and others. An archivist, Mel McMichael was hired and began work mid-February 2025. She has already developed a set of recommendations that are designed to meet international archival standards to adhere to Quebec and US Policies. The current archivist was hired on a three-month contract with financial support from the AOS. The contract expires on May 12, 2025. The archivist and the Osler Library anticipate that it will take about another three weeks to finalize the work necessary to bring the AOS Archives up to date. The McGill University HR Department has determined that continuing the current contract for three weeks will cost 2,520\$ CAN. \$1,823 US

BOG all in favor and approved additional funds.

•**Publications & Media Activities Committee report** (Pete Travers) Dr. Travers reported. The AOS web site has been further modified since the Committee's last report with the assistance of committee members and particularly, Skip Harris. The AOS owns the domain AMERICANOSLER.ORG just recently purchased AMERICANOSLER.COM. Committee recommends that we purchase the AMERICANOSLER.NET domain as well for \$20 a month. All in favor to purchase immediately.

Another recommendation from the MAT committee along with the Membership committee is that the AOS needs a comprehensive management solution for membership, meetings, and mailings that is integrated with our QuickBooks financial software. Further recommendations were that an ad hoc working group of no more than 4 people (one of whom should be our administrator) empowered to establish our requirements for a new system, engage outside

companies to develop the solution within the next 12 months. Based on initial investigations of the options, it was estimated that implementing a management solution will cost \$10,000 or less. Committee would be Pete Travers, Skip Harris, Mike Stanley and Lydia Lujan (admin).

•**President's report** (Joan Richardson)

Old business

1) Future Conference Subcommittee: Mario Molina led a committee to address the future annual meetings regarding venues, budgets, transportation, target audience etc.

2) Fundraising Subcommittee: Tino Bernadett led a committee to address a fundraising campaign and potential endowments etc.. Held a successful Financial Fundraising Lunch meeting during AOS 2025 Annual Meeting hosted by Morgan Stanley

3) Governance Subcommittee: Jim Wright led a committee to revise the By Laws, which was discussed in length at Board of Governors Meeting. Discussed at the Annual Meeting and will email to all AOS Members to review and vote on them at next year's Annual Meeting.

One new AOS ad hoc committee was formed. (Joan Richardson)

1)Membership Database committee: Committee members Pete Travers, Skip Harris, Mike Stanley and Lydia Lujan (admin) will establish our requirements for a new system, engage outside companies to develop the solution within the next 12 months.

•**Future meetings and dates:**

Toronto, Canada May 1-4, 2026,

Houston, TX. 2027

London, England 2028

Montreal, Canada 2029



Toronto Skyline

Winners of the Molina Medical Student Travel Awards for 2025

Mario Molina has generously endowed travel grants worth up to a total of \$5,000 per year to medical students submitting the best abstracts at the AOS Annual Meeting. This year 6 students tied for grants of \$500 a piece and 5 students received grants of \$300. Recipients were:

\$500 Awards:

- Hanna Hronyecz
- Paris Dastjerdi
- Meygan Brody
- Maryam Othman
- Reda Hessi
- Haechen Yang

\$300 Awards:

- * Gregory Anagnostopoulos

- * Hanna Skarnikat
- * Hillary Hanna
- * Guadalupe Rodriguez
- * Virginia Teoh

YOUNG OSLERIAN VIEWS

Student Thoughts On Their Accepted AOS Annual Meeting Abstracts**Name:** Kyla Pires**School:** *Schulich School of Medicine, Western University, London, Ontario, CA. MS-2***Presentation:** *Unraveling the Dark Legacy: The Influence of Nazi Medical Education on Physicians.*

I have always been interested in medical ethics, particularly how it is taught in medical education. As someone who hopes to become a professor of medicine, I was drawn to exploring how ethical principles—or their distortion—shape physicians' decisions. The role of Nazi medical education in influencing doctors to participate in unethical practices stood out as a powerful case study of how medical training can be manipulated. Exploring this subject has reinforced my commitment to ethical medical practice by highlighting how physician training shapes moral decision-making. It has deepened my understanding of the need for strong ethical foundations in medical education, which I hope to uphold as both a future clinician and educator.

Name: Katelynn Evans**School:** *University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, Texas. MS-1***Presentation:** *Songbirds: The Use of Music as Medicine in Wartime Soldiers and in Today's Veterans.*

Because I come from a family of veterans and my life partner being active duty US Marine Corps, the unique health needs of the military community holds a special place in my heart. Through this project, I've come to understand not only the historical context of music's role in the military, but also how today's veterans find healing using music-based therapies in Veteran's Affairs clinics throughout the country. I hope to use this knowledge to inform my clinical decision making and awareness of multimodal treatment regimens as a physician.

Name: Victoria Teoh**School:** *University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, Texas. MS-1***Presentation:** *The Forgotten Life of Anna Morandi Manzolini: The Mother of Anatomy.*

I have been an avid lover of history since I was a child, especially of stories that have yet to be told. We finished gross anatomy a few months prior, and I had been obsessed with the 3D anatomical models. I briefly looked into the history of how they came to be and discovered wax sculpting. With a little more

digging, I found one short article about Anna Morandi. Her story was brief but left me with so many questions. I continued my research and was left in awe about the incredible life of an 18th-century female artist and scientist. Her work had a direct impact on the same models I was using to study months ago. The journey of researching and writing this presentation has given me a profound appreciation for the role of women in medical science and how often they go unnoticed. Now, I'm more determined to continue telling their stories, and it inspires my own journey as a woman in medicine.

Name: Guadalupe Jose Rodriguez**School:** *University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston, Texas. MS-1***Presentation:** *Nunca Vamos A Rendirnos: How José Celso Barbosa's Legacy Continues to Inspire Generations of Latinos in Medicine.*

As a first-generation Latino student, I have always been inspired by stories of perseverance and determination. One such story that deeply resonated with me is that of Dr. José Celso Barbosa, one of the first Puerto Ricans to earn a medical degree in the United States. Learning more about his struggles and unwavering dedication to overcoming obstacles has been a powerful motivator for me as I embark on my own journey to become the first physician in my family. His legacy fuels my commitment to my education and reminds me of the importance of perseverance. As I move forward in my journey, I hope to inspire others in my community and those from similar backgrounds to pursue their aspirations in medicine, no matter the obstacles.

Name: Hanna Hronyevz**School:** *Schulich School of Medicine, Western University, London, Ontario, CA. MS-3***Presentation:** *"All is Legal in Love and War: Harm Reduction during the Civil War" (Awarded 2nd (\$750) place in medical student presentation competition).*

I became interested in this topic as I have been involved with multiple research projects about vulnerable populations, particularly people experiencing homelessness and addiction. I chose this project as a way to explore other marginalized populations and their treatment throughout history. When I heard about this topic, I thought it was a great amalgamation of my interests in examining how society and healthcare responds to these populations and harm reduction. I come from a public health background,

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and learning about the process and outcome from the "Safe Sex in Tennessee" project solidified key steps to consider when implementing public health policy. It's interesting to see the parallels between modern day harm reduction (ie. safe injection sites) - the "not in my backyard" pushback is quite similar between the two eras, and acts as a large obstacle for maintaining policies that seem less desirable to the broader population. It really highlights the need for both education and compassion when it comes to protecting the health of our most marginalized patients on a larger scale.

Name: Paris Dastjerdi

School: McGill University, Montreal CA. MS-3

Presentation: *Restoring Avicenna's Tomb- A Historical Analysis of William Osler's Efforts. (1st place (\$1,000) medical student presentation competition).*

I became interested in this topic after encountering the beautiful manuscripts of Avicenna in the Osler Library at McGill. This sparked my curiosity, leading me to explore the archives of the Cushing Fonds. Harvey Cushing, Osler's close friend and biographer, meticulously collected and organized Osler's personal correspondence. Among these, I discovered a collection labeled *Avicenna*. As I reviewed the letters, I realized there was a fascinating, untold story waiting to be uncovered. This discovery led me to submit a proposal for the Osler Library's Molina Foundation Medical Student Research Award, and I was fortunate to have my abstract accepted.

During the summer of 2023, I immersed myself in this research, an experience that was both intellectually enriching and personally transformative. I connected with like-minded students and mentors who became invaluable parts of my medical school journey. Exploring these archives also gave me the chance to get to know Osler on a more personal level and to get to know the remarkable physicians Osler corresponded with and their contributions to medicine. Learning about history gives me a profound sense of gratitude and humility. It is a privilege to learn about those who came before us, to appreciate how far medicine has advanced, and to recognize how much further we still have to go.

Name: Meygan Brody

School: McGill University, Montreal, CA. MS-3

Presentation: *Justifying Judgment: How Canadian Temperance Textbooks Use Medicine to Teach Morality. (3rd place (\$500) medical student presentation competition).*

Public health campaigns aim to convince people to make healthier choices. This central tenet is tenuous; who has the power to classify some health behaviors as "good" and others as "bad"? How can objective scientific facts justify morality? These questions were at the core of my Molina Scholarship project. I discovered a quirky, fasci-

nating set of archival textbooks in the Osler Library that were written by Temperance advocates for use in high school science classes. By exploring those texts, I found some answers to the above questions and enriched my understanding of the power of medical expertise.

Name: Claramence Dokyi

School: University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, Texas. MS-1

Presentation: *The Moral Responsibility of the Medical Professional: religious Lessons from Thomas Browne's Religio Medici.*

I chose to cover *Religio Medici* because of my deep desire to explore the intersection of medicine and faith—two realms that have always felt intrinsically connected in my life. While learning more about Sir William Osler, I was struck by how many of his principles—empathy, humility, service, and reverence for the patient—mirrored the core tenets of Christianity. His outlook on medicine as both an art and a moral calling resonated deeply with me. But as I delved further into his background, I discovered that Osler was heavily influenced by Sir Thomas Browne, a 17th-century physician and devout Christian, whose *Religio Medici* offered a rich, introspective fusion of science and spirituality. This realization led me to go back in time and study Browne's work directly, hoping to better understand the philosophical and theological roots that shaped Osler's thinking—and, in turn, to better inform my own journey as a physician. Beyond personal insight, I was also drawn to how *Religio Medici* emphasized the physician's role in society, inspiring me to apply its timeless lessons to the modern call for doctors to be champions of public health. Browne's blend of compassion, integrity, and civic responsibility reminded me that physicians are not just healers of individuals, but stewards of community well-being.

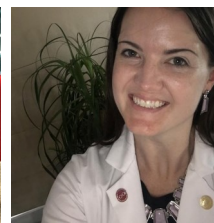
Winners of the Bernadett Family International Medical Student Scholarship for 2025

The two winners of the International Medical Student Scholarship Award were Reda Hessi, McGill University, Montreal and Katherine "Nikki" Sheffield, John Sealy School of Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. Contact Rolando del Maestro for application information for 2026. Application deadline, 11/30/2025.

rolandelmaestro@mcgill.ca



Reda Hessa



Nikki Sheffield

The 55th Annual Meeting—A Pictorial Review

Journal of an Oslerian

Sunny Southern California was sunless for a time, but AOS members and guests did not seem to mind as they enjoyed the fruits of the labor of the Program and Local Arrangements Committees.



The meeting began on Friday, May 2, with discussion of William Carlos Williams's 1934 short story, "The Girl with the Pimple Face," at the Frank Neelon Literary Gathering presided over by Frank himself. CSB and Mario Molina showed up without neckties on Saturday, May 3; Mike Jones appeared in full dress uniform. Members and guests listened attentively to the Saturday morning program while Pete Travers supervised Hudson Hedge (AV-Tech). To Pete's right: Paris Dastjerdi (McGill) and Maryam Othman (Schulich SOM). Rolando del Maestro lectured on Leonardo da Vinci and Pietro Monti; Clyde Partin informed us about the isolation of a glucagon-like-peptide agonist from Gila monsters and its use for weight loss; and Herbert Swick told us about the many lives of Thomas Gainsborough's Blue Boy (1770) before posing by the original at the Huntington Art Galleries. Robert Lemery enjoyed the History of Medicine Division at the Huntington Library, where members heard Joel Klein, Molina Curator for the History of Medicine and Science, discuss rare books. Mike and Rosie Cater enjoyed the gardens, while Elton Kerr tried unsuccessfully to blend in with the shrubbery. *(continued on page 12)*

Humanities

POETRY CORNER**Luminal***by Megan Mensinger*

The doctor exudes warmth
lights the room in the soft glow
of her personality
Instead of harsh fluorescence
We are nervous
first year med students
grateful but unsure
what we've gotten ourselves into.

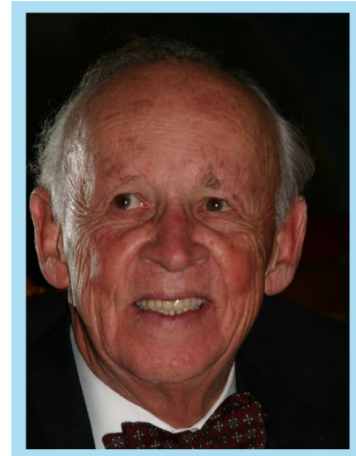
Yet she gathers our neuroticism with ease
subtly suggests we choose peace
there are so many hauntings ahead
but in this room
it is enough
to just learn
as ourselves.

She is captivating, outlining
lessons we will carry
into clinical practice.
But also
urges us to look up
doesn't want us to miss
a celestial phenomenon
doesn't want us to miss
a moment of this living.

Invites us all to her farm
to walk the prairie
in a setting autumn sun
she'll bake bars
last time it was too much
pie crust.

She believes in us unconditionally
already has tread the career
we are careening toward
we warm our hands with her wisdom.
Maybe if we just stay beside her
she will show us
the way through.

Megan Mensinger is a first year medical student at the University of Minnesota. She has a passion for narrative medicine and creative writing.

**Allen B. Weisse
(1930-2025)**

Dr. Allen B. Weisse graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical Center and did post graduate training in San Francisco and Salt Lake City under mentors such as Hans H. Hecht and Maxwell Winthrope. The latter is featured in Weisse's book *Conversations in Medicine: The Story of 20th Century American Medicine in the Words of Those Who Created It* (1984).

Weisse eventually joined Seton Hall College of Medicine in Jersey City, NJ, where he spent the rest of his professional life, teaching and researching mostly myocardial infarction. He also directed the Coronary Care Unit and created the Echocardiography Laboratory which he headed for 27 years. In 2004, to promote the teaching of medical history, he and his wife established the annual Weisse Lecture at Rutgers Medical School.

Though a full-time professor, Weisse wrote medical history in his spare time: eight books and over 100 journal articles. As a review of *Medical Odysseys*, notes: Weisse "casts a fresh eye on the intricate processes of discovery and collaboration."

Weisse's membership in the Osler Society was one of the greatest joys of his life. He joined in 1997 and was a member of the Board of Governors. He leaves behind his wife Laura, children Danielle and Chick, and 5 grandchildren who have learned from him a love of storytelling and the importance of history.

OSLERIAN VIEWS

Journal of an Oslerian**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND THE FUTURE OF OSLERIANA****From Barry Silverman:**

After returning from a wonderful trip to Ireland, I became interested in the Dublin School of Medicine and its possible influence on William Osler. I read various biographies and published papers without getting a satisfactory answer. I then asked ChatGPT. Here is the response in its entirety.

William Osler and the Influence of the Dublin School of Medicine

William Osler (1849-1919) is widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in the history of modern medicine. A founding professor at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the United States, Osler was instrumental in shaping the future of clinical medicine and medical education. His approach to patient care, his advocacy for medical education reform, and his contributions to the field of internal medicine have made him a revered figure in medical history. However, a crucial part of Osler's intellectual and professional development can be traced back to his time in Dublin, where he was deeply influenced by the Dublin School of Medicine, one of the premier medical institutions of the 19th century. This essay will explore Osler's education in Dublin, the intellectual climate of the Dublin School, and how it shaped his approach to medicine and teaching.

The Dublin School of Medicine: A Brief Overview

The Dublin School of Medicine, particularly during the 19th century, was a renowned center for medical education, attracting students and scholars from around the world. Dublin itself was a city of great intellectual ferment, with its hospitals, clinics, and medical schools serving as a crucible for new ideas in clinical practice and medical research. The city's medical schools, particularly those affiliated with Trinity College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, were leading the way in experimental medicine, pathology, and clinical teaching.

In the 19th century, the Dublin School was characterized by its emphasis on clinical training and the importance of direct observation of patients. The teaching philosophy was heavily influenced by the scientific advancements of the time, particularly in pathology and physiology. The Dublin School had a tradition of developing highly skilled clinicians who were able to diagnose diseases based on physical signs, rather than relying on theoretical models or outdated humoral theories.

Notable figures in the Dublin medical tradition included Sir William Stokes, Robert Graves, and John Cheyne, all of whom contributed to the development of clinical medicine. Their emphasis on the importance of bedside teaching and the clinical examination of patients had a lasting impact on medical education. The focus was not just on learning from books or lectures, but on acquiring practical skills through direct patient interaction.

William Osler's Time in Dublin

Osler arrived in Dublin in 1874 to pursue his medical education, having already completed some training in Canada. He was drawn to the city due to its reputation for rigorous clinical training and its rich intellectual environment. During his time in Dublin, Osler was exposed to the work of many influential teachers and clinicians, and it was here that his ideas about the practice of medicine were solidified.

Osler enrolled in the medical program at the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). The RCSI was one of the primary institutions in Dublin that emphasized clinical teaching, and Osler's time there was formative. He worked under the mentorship of prominent medical figures such as Sir William Stokes, who was the physician to the Royal Dublin Hospital, and Robert Graves, who would later become a close professional influence.

The clinical environment in Dublin was dynamic, with a focus on diagnosis through careful observation and physical examination. Osler was particularly influenced by Stokes, whose clinical acumen and diagnostic skill were legendary. Stokes believed in the importance of understanding the full context of the patient's illness—an approach that went beyond pathology to include social and environmental factors.

At the time, Dublin was also an epicenter of scientific innovation, and Osler had access to the latest advancements in pathology and physiology. The city's medical environment was progressive, and Osler's exposure to these ideas would shape his views on the integration of scientific principles into the clinical setting. The Dublin School emphasized a holistic understanding of the patient, something that Osler would carry with him throughout his career.

The Influence of the Dublin School on Osler's Medical Philosophy

One of the key features of the Dublin School that resonated with Osler was its emphasis on clinical practice. At the time, many medical schools were still focused on theoretical instruction, but in Dublin, there was a strong tradition of learning from real-world patient interactions. Osler, who believed in the importance of experiential learning, found this approach to be revolutionary. This emphasis on patient-centered care—where the physician's role is to observe, listen, and understand the patient's narrative—became a cornerstone of Osler's philosophy.

Moreover, the Dublin School fostered a culture of mentorship and personal teaching. Osler was profoundly influenced by the way prominent Dublin physicians worked closely with students at the bedside, guiding them through the diagnostic process. The individual attention that Osler received from figures like Stokes and Graves provided him with a model of how medicine should be taught: with an emphasis on careful observation, intellectual rigor, and empathy.

The Dublin School's focus on pathology was another lasting influence on Osler. In Dublin, Osler was introduced to the latest pathological theories, particularly those of the French physician René Laennec, whose innovations in auscultation were revolutionizing the practice of diagnosing chest diseases. Osler's exposure to these ideas solidified his belief in the importance of pathology in understanding disease and patient care. His later work in internal medicine would be characterized by a deep commitment to the study of pathology and its application in clinical practice.

Another significant influence was the Dublin School's emphasis on medical ethics and professionalism. The Dublin physicians, particularly Stokes, were known for their integrity, and this left a lasting impression on Osler. The idea that the physician must maintain a high standard of ethical conduct, particularly in relation to patient care, became central to Osler's practice. He often spoke of the need for physicians to remain humble, compassionate, and dedicated to the well-being of their patients.

Osler's Legacy and the Enduring Influence of Dublin

Osler's time in Dublin provided him with the foundation for his later success as a clinician, teacher, and medical educator. He took many of the lessons he learned in Dublin and adapted them to the medical schools and hospitals where he later worked, particularly at Johns Hopkins. One of Osler's major contributions to medical education was his insistence on the importance of clinical teaching and bedside rounds, an approach that was inspired by his experience in Dublin. He stressed that medical students should spend a significant amount of time with patients, learning to observe and diagnose through direct interaction rather than relying solely on theoretical knowledge.

Osler also became an advocate for the integration of scientific principles with clinical practice, a philosophy that was first developed during his time in Dublin. He saw the study of pathology as an essential part of medical education and believed that understanding the underlying causes of disease was crucial for effective patient care. His emphasis on the scientific method, evidence-based practice, and the importance of constant learning was rooted in the intellectual environment he experienced in Dublin.

OSLERIAN VIEWS

In addition, Osler's enduring belief in the value of mentorship, and his approach to teaching as a personal and interactive process, was heavily influenced by the Dublin School. He often referred to his mentors in Dublin, particularly Stokes and Graves, as formative influences on his development as both a physician and a teacher.

Conclusion

William Osler's time in Dublin was a crucial period in his medical education, shaping his philosophy of patient care and medical teaching. The Dublin School of Medicine, with its emphasis on clinical practice, pathological understanding, and ethical professionalism, provided Osler with the tools and intellectual foundation he needed to become one of the most important figures in modern medicine. The mentorship he received in Dublin, particularly from figures like Sir William Stokes and Robert Graves, had a lasting influence on his career. Osler's commitment to patient-centered care, scientific inquiry, and compassionate teaching can all be traced back to the formative years he spent in Dublin. As such, the Dublin School's influence on Osler cannot be overstated—it was here that Osler's legacy as a physician and educator was first born.

From Charles S. Bryan:

Barry asked me whether his AI-generated paper on "William Osler and the Influence of the Dublin School of Medicine" was useful as a guideline for a potential manuscript. He also asked me whom to credit if he confirmed the information was correct. I chose to answer in the form of a mock review.

Mock review of manuscript entitled "William Osler and the Influence of the Dublin School of Medicine"**To the Editors:**

I am unaware that William Osler "arrived in Dublin in 1874 to pursue his medical education" and thereupon "enrolled in the medical program at the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland." Unless the author can provide documentation, this paper should be rejected outright.

To the Author:

The author describes how William Osler's time in Dublin during 1874 was formative to his development as a great clinician-educator. He summarizes the Dublin School of Medicine in three paragraphs, stressing its emphasis on bedside teaching; he relates that Osler arrived in Dublin and enrolled in the medical program at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; and he describes how some of the great physicians of Dublin mentored Osler, imparting a commitment to patient-centered care, scientific inquiry, and compassionate teaching.

Major comments:

1. The author is to be commended for succinct summaries of the Dublin School and its importance, and for a manuscript that is well-written and well-proofed.
2. Although reasonably familiar with Osler's life story and with the secondary literature pertaining to Osler, I am unaware that Osler spent time in Dublin during 1874 or enrolled in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
 - a) In Harvey Cushing's biography of Osler, it is stated (volume 1, page 86), "They [William and his older brother Edmund] sailed on one of the Allan Line steamers, on July 3rd [1872], and landing in the north of Ireland visited the Giants' Causeway and the Lakes of Killarney. From there W.O. must have gone to London...." Cushing recounts (Chapter V, "1872-4, Student Days Abroad") that Osler arrived in Ireland and Scotland during which he visited Dublin, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, spent the bulk of his time in London after he

studied in Berlin and Vienna, and returned to London in April 1874, from which he sailed for home.

- b) In Michael Bliss's biography of Osler, it is stated (page 69), "In July he [W.O.] and Edmund crossed the Atlantic together and did some sightseeing in Ireland and Scotland before going their separate ways..."
 - c) In an article on "Osler and Ireland" by J.B. Lyons in the *Osler Library Newsletter* (no. 73-June 1993), it is stated that in 1872, in addition to visiting the Giants' Causeway [of which Samuel Johnson famously said, "Worth seeing, yes; but not worth going to see"] and the Lakes of Killarney, Osler "spent some time in Dublin during his *Wanderjahr*, and returned there again in October 1907 10
 - d) 176: 323-324), nothing is said about Osler's having studied in Dublin.
3. Osler was indirectly influenced by the Dublin teachers by two of his Canadian mentors—James Bovell and Palmer Howard—as he made clear in a toast at the medical school of Dublin University (Trinity College) in July 1912 (see Cushing, volume 2, 319-320).
 4. Osler clearly valued his Irish colleagues, as evinced by his including Ireland in what he sometimes considered his greatest contribution to medicine in the British Isles: creation of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain *and Ireland* (The italics are mine). But he never studied under them.
 5. In summary, unless the author can provide documentation to the contrary, the idea that Osler arrived in Dublin in 1874 and was seriously influenced there by some of the great Dublin clinicians appears to be total fiction.

Discussion from both of us

According to Wikipedia, "ChatGPT is a generative artificial intelligence chatbox developed by OpenAI and launched in 2022," which by January 2023 "had become what was then the fastest-growing software application in history, gaining over 100 million users in two months and contributing to the growth of OpenAI's current valuation of \$86 billion."

Moreover, "Some observers have raised concerns about the potential of ChatGPT and similar programs to displace human intelligence, enable plagiarism, or fuel misinformation."

This experience confirms these fears in spades. The ChatGPT-generated article on "William Osler and the Influence of the Dublin School of Medicine" is flawlessly written and could easily fool the unsuspecting reader. And yet it is erroneous. Osler never studied at the Dublin School of Medicine!

Comments, fellow Oslerians?

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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



On Sunday, May 4, Clyde Partin and Robert Mennel welcome late-arriving Laurel Drevlow. Annmarie Adams gave The John P. McGovern Award Lecture on "Maude Abbott: A Life in 10 Spaces," and relaxed afterwards with husband Peter Gossage. Rob Stone photographed and videotaped the proceedings. Attendees took notes. Mario Molina photographed the McGill contingent, and Ian Anderson on aspects of artillery in the Great War (World War I). North Carolinians Chad and Judy Wood posed for their photographs, as did Richard and Patty Kahn, and as did the Galveston contingent at the Sunday evening banquet. The meeting concluded on Monday, May 6, with incoming president Jim Wright expressing appreciation to outgoing president Joan Richardson. Pam and Rolando Del Maestro relaxed afterwards. Mike Jones and Pete Travers were the last AOS members seen in the dining room of the Pasadena Hilton.

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Call for Abstracts for 2026 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada. May 1-4. Online submissions open October 1, 2025.