



The Oslerian

A Message from the President

Archibald Wright "Moonlight" Graham: A Life in Medicine

Part 3: Reflections on a "Life of Greatness"

Paul S. Mueller, M.D.

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**President
Paul Mueller**
46th AOS President
installed at the 2015
meeting at Baltimore

During the mid-1970s, author W. P. Kinsella noticed the entry about Archibald "Moonlight" Graham's short major league baseball career in *The Baseball Encyclopedia*—one game with no at bats. Kinsella later incorporated Graham as a character in his 1982 novel *Shoeless Joe*, which was the basis for the film, *Field of Dreams*. As the story goes, Kinsella visited Chisholm, Minnesota to learn about Doctor Graham and his life and much of what is portrayed about Graham in the novel and the film came from people who knew him. (*Duluth News-Tribune*, May 22, 1988)

As noted in previous columns, the people of Chisholm loved Doctor Graham for his 50-plus years of outstanding patient care (especially of children), teaching, research (which drew national attention), public service, and philanthropy. Their adoration of him preceded the novel and film and was expressed many times during the last decade or so of his life.

For example, during May 1947, more than 200 guests and "speaker after speaker" paid tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Graham at the annual "Pioneer Dinner" sponsored by the Chisholm Chamber of Commerce. It was the largest "Pioneer Dinner" ever. (*Chisholm Tribune-Herald*, May 22, 1947 and May 29, 1947) During the dinner, which was covered in the October 1947 issue of the

Minnesota Journal of Education, Graham was praised for implementing and managing the Chisholm Public School's innovative and successful health program. On September 1, 1949, the *Tribune-Herald* published Graham's biography ("the friendliest man in Chisholm"). Similar articles regarding "one of Chisholm's greatest pioneers." appeared in the *News-Tribune* on July 24, 1952 and the *Chisholm Free Press* on October 23, 1958. During October 1955, he and his brother, U.S. Senator Frank Graham, were guests of honor at the Minnesota American-Yugoslav Convention banquet (*Tribune-Herald*, October 13, 1955). He and Alecia were guests of honor at many Chisholm High School class reunions and athletic banquets ("What would an athletic dinner be without loyal Doc Graham, the man who follows every team through thick and thin." [*Chisholm Tribune-Press*, November 8, 1960]). He was the grand marshal of parades such as the Youth Honor Day Parade. (*Free Press*, October 27, 1955 and October 30, 1958) The 1959 *Ranger*, Chisholm High School's yearbook, was dedicated to Doctor Graham, "the pro and staunch supporter of every class." (*Free Press*, June 4, 1959) (Figure 1)

During these years, Graham continued his full-time work as the Chisholm Public Schools' physician

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and his research and civic work including acting as medical officer for tuberculosis screening programs, blood drives, and polio vaccination efforts (The September 22, 1955 *Tribune-Herald* has a photo of Graham administering the Salk vaccine to Ronnie Sushak at Washington School.). He also was a member of the



Figure 1. Photograph of Dr. Archibald "Moonlight" Graham from the 1959 *Ranger*, Chisholm High School's yearbook, which was dedicated to Graham (From the collection of Mike Kalibabky, used with permission).

Chisholm Chamber of Commerce and service clubs (e.g., Kiwanis) and delivered food to needy families ("Ten baskets of food were filled with food, including the makings for a Christmas dinner. These were distributed by Chisholm's beloved Dr. Graham..." [Tribune-Press, December 30, 1958]). During May 1956, "the beloved and greatly respected" Graham was honored for 50 years of medical practice at the 103rd meeting of the Minnesota Medical Association in Rochester (*Free Press*, May 17, 1956). During June 1956, Graham presented his blood pressure research findings at the 105th meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago (*Tribune-Herald*, February 23, 1956). In 1961, Graham was honored for 50 years of service to the Masons. (*Tribune-Press*, February 7, 1961) Graham routinely was a distinguished guest of events when political dignitaries visited Chisholm (e.g., Hubert Humphrey; *Tribune-Press*, November 4, 1958).

In 1959, at age 76, Doctor Graham retired from the Chisholm Public Schools. However, he remained actively engaged in other medical- and service-related work. In 1961, he attended his 100th continuing education program at Mayo Clinic. (*Tribune-Press*, September 5, 1961) In 1961, he opened a clinic for fitting eyeglasses. (*Tribune-Press*, September 12, 1961) In 1963, he was elected to the Chisholm School Board. (*Free Press*, May 23, 1963)

During early 1965, Doctor Graham was hospitalized at Mayo Clinic. A newspaper account reported he "was responding to medications and was feeling somewhat better." (*Tribune-Press*, April 6, 1965 and April 20, 1965) In a "Card of Thanks" published in the April 27, 1965 *Tribune-Press*, Graham wrote, "I would like to take this means of expressing my sincere thanks to all the kind people of Chisholm who remembered me with such beautiful and so many get well

cards, flowers and gifts during my recent illness...It is times of illness, and when one is far away from home that he truly appreciates the loyalty and friendship of so very many. To all of you, a most fond 'Thank You'..." Notably, a photograph of Graham in the May 4, 1965 *Tribune-Press* reveals a smiling, though gaunt, Graham.

During August 1965, Graham was hospitalized at Chisholm Memorial Hospital (*Free Press*, August 12, 1965). On August 25, 1965, at age 82, Archibald W. Graham, "one of Chisholm's most revered pioneers and a favorite of every student", died. (*Free Press*, August 26, 1965) His death certificate lists "terminal pneumonia" due to "carcinoma of the left lung" as the cause of death.

In *Field of Dreams*, actress Anne Seymour, who portrayed newspaper publisher Veda Ponikvar, reads several lines from Graham's actual obituary (written by Ponikvar), which was published in the *Tribune-Press* on August 31, 1965. The entire obituary, titled "His Was a Life of Greatness", follows (with the lines used in the film highlighted):

"The greatness of any community can be measured by the contributions of its citizenry along the journey of life. For Chisholm an era of rich and purposeful living slipped into another shadow of twilight with the passing of the beloved and deeply respected Dr. Archibald Graham. Early in life, Doc chose to be a very unusual man. With the [Blue Ridge] mountains at his feet; the peach orchards in his back yard, and the warmth and gentility of the South a distinct part of his upbringing, he could have chosen the easy, lazy, uneventful path of existence.

His father was a successful and accomplished attorney. His mother, the epitome of Southern grace and charm. Their influence led Doc to seek his bachelor's degree and then his Doctor of Medicine in an era when education was the exception rather than the accepted mode of life.

A deep thinker and scholar, Dr. Graham was interested in research and spent days, weeks and months studying, diagnosing, testing. And just as he whetted and challenged his mind to probe for the knowledge that would help to save lives in later generations, so he disciplined and trained his body to remain sound and energetic. He was a great athlete, disciplining himself to a rigid schedule of exercise and body training. To play with the New York Giants while still going to college was no small feat, but Doc had that kind of perseverance and that kind of stamina.

Following his internship in the great hospitals and medical centers of the east, this healer of men could have commanded the highest paid positions in the largest and most advanced hospitals of the great metropolitan centers. Instead, he chose to come to a new, growing community of lumberjacks, miners and toiling farmers. His Rood Hospital was a landmark for a number of years in the heart of Chisholm, and with his practice, his circle of friends and associates expanded in every direction. He was a kindly, understanding, humanitarian physician. Never did he ask for money or fees; but always he gave of himself. Every summer, for many years, he would take his vacation and return to the great medical centers of the east to probe and study further. What he learned he brought back and applied the new knowledge in his practice.

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

Doc's capabilities did not go un-noticed, and before too many years passed, the late Superintendent J.P. Vaughan persuaded this still young, highly skilled doctor to join the school medical staff. Then began a career of testing young children for heart and blood pressure abnormalities that has met no equal. Medical records and journals have recorded for all time the magnificent work of Chisholm's Doc Graham. His follow-up programs in the field over the many years became recognized by the medics of the nation. This was indeed a unique and most revealing program.

And as the community grew, Doc became an integral part of the population. There were good years and lean ones. **There were times when children could not afford eye glasses or milk, or clothing because of the economic upheavals, strikes and depressions. Yet no child was ever denied these essentials, because in the background, there was a benevolent, understanding Doctor Graham.** Without a word, **without any fanfare or publicity, the glasses or the milk, or the ticket to the ball game found their way into the child's pocket.**

As the years slipped by, and there were over forty of them of faithful and uninterrupted service, Doc became a legend. He was the champion of the oppressed; the grand marshal of every football, basketball and baseball game. He encouraged youth to train and play; he always carried that extra candy bar for the energy some lanky, hungry lad needed; and he was the first one at the side of the boy who got hurt in any sport. Doc was just that kind of man. And when it came to the support of civic projects, Doc was the first to buy tickets and lend his support. He believed in the community and the parents and children believed in him.

There were many simple things that made Doc happy, but his eyes beamed brightest like a galaxy of stars, whenever he read or heard of a student from Chisholm who had done well... who had gone forth to achieve...who reached the apex of perfection in his chosen endeavor. He remembered everyone by name and in his travels, took signal pride in telling about a town called Chisholm and its cradle of people of many tongues and creeds.

For the old and young of this little mining town who knew Dr. Graham...his era was a historic, unique sort of legend. There will never be another quite like it."

Doctor Graham was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Rochester, Minnesota—the hometown of his wife, Alecia. (Figure 2)

How would William Osler summarize Graham's life? A quote from his essay, "The Master-Word in Medicine," comes to mind: "To you the silent workers of the ranks, in villages and country districts, in the slums of our large cities, in the mining camps and factory towns, in the homes of the rich and in the hovels of the poor—to you is given the harder task of illustrating with your lives the Hippocratic standards of learning, of sagacity, of humanity, and of probity. Of learning that you may apply in your practice the best that is known in our art, and that with the increase in your knowledge there may be an increase in that priceless endowment of sagacity, so that to all everywhere skilled succour may come in the hour of urgent need. Of a humanity that will show in your daily life tenderness and consideration to the weak, infinite pity

to the suffering, and broad charity to all. Of a probity that will make you under all circumstances true to yourselves, true to your high calling, and true to your fellow man." (*BMJ* 1903;2:1196-200) During his "life of greatness," Doctor Graham manifested all of these attributes. Or, as Shoeless Joe (portrayed by Ray Liotta) in *Field of Dreams* said to Graham as the latter was leaving the baseball field (after saving a little girl's life), "Hey rookie! You were good."

Paul S. Mueller

I thank Robert Reising, Jeanne Klein, Renee Ziemer, and Luke and Kirsten Mueller for their assistance with research related to the life of Doctor Graham.



Figure 2. Dr. Archibald and Mrs. Alecia Graham grave site at Calvary Cemetery in Rochester, Minnesota; baseball memorabilia is often found at the site (Courtesy of Paul S. Mueller).

Things to Do in Minneapolis

Guthrie Theater and the "Endless Bridge"

The Guthrie Theater is a center for theater performance, production, education, and professional training. It is the result of the desire of Sir Tyrone Guthrie, Oliver Rea, and Peter Zeisler to create a resident acting company that would produce and perform the classics in an atmosphere removed from the commercial pressures of Broadway. The current theater was designed by Jean Nouvel and boasts a 178-foot cantilevered bridge (called the "Endless Bridge") to the Mississippi which is open to visitors during normal building hours. 818 S 2nd St, Minneapolis, MN, 612.315.7051

Minneapolis Institute of Arts

MIA inspires wonder with extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country. From Monet to Matisse, Asian to African, 40,000-year-old artifacts to world-famous masterpieces, MIA links the past to the present and enables global conversations. 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN, 888.642.2787

Walker Art Center

Internationally recognized as a leading arts venue, the Walker Art Center presents contemporary visual arts and design exhibitions; dance, theater, and music performances; and film screenings. The Walker hosts lectures, classes, and events for visitors of all ages with many of today's leading figures from the worlds of art and culture. 1750 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403, 612.375.7600

Historic Fort Snelling

Built in the early 1820s, Historic Fort Snelling is a great place to learn about military history from before the Civil War through World War II, fur trade history, slavery in Minnesota, the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and much more. Its location - at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers - has been significant for centuries to many American Indian communities. Historic Fort Snelling is a National Historic Landmark. 200 Tower Ave, St Paul, MN 55111, 612.726.1171

Summit Avenue/James J. Hill House

Summit Avenue was named one of America's 10 "great streets" and is known for its elegant, architecturally significant and historic houses, churches, synagogues, and schools. The street starts just west of downtown Saint Paul and continues four and a half miles west to the Mississippi River where St Paul meets Minneapolis. **James J. Hill House:** Completed in 1891 by railroad magnate

James J. Hill the house is near the eastern end of Summit Avenue near the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The house was the "showcase of St. Paul" until James J. Hill's death in 1916. It is listed as a U.S. National Historic Landmark, operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. It is also a contributing property to the Historic Hill District. 240 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN 55102, 651.297.2555

Mill City Museum

The museum features exhibits about the history of Minneapolis, flour milling machinery, a water lab and a baking lab. The centerpiece of the exhibit is the multistory Flour Tower, where visitors ride the cab of a freight elevator to different floors of the building, each designed to look like a floor in a working flour mill. Voices of people who worked in the Washburn A Mill are heard throughout the show. Visitors exit on the 8th floor, where extant equipment is interpreted by staff, and are then led to the ninth-floor observation deck to view St. Anthony Falls. 704 S 2nd St, Minneapolis, MN 55401, 612.341.7555

Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum

The Weisman is a teaching museum on the University of Minnesota campus named for Frederick R. Weisman. Often called a "modern art museum," the 20,000+ image collection has large collections of Alfred Maurer, Marsden Hartley, Charles Biederman, Native American Mimbres pottery, and Korean furniture. The museum's current building was designed by architect Frank Gehry. 333 E River Road, Minneapolis, MN, 612.625.9494

Minnesota Zoo

This AZA-accredited zoo in Apple Valley, Minnesota, was revolutionary in its 1978 design. Built in a suburbanizing rural area, it had more space for exhibits and organized its animals by their living environment as opposed to their species. Exhibits are arrayed in six themed areas, including three themed walking trails ranging from one to two miles in length. 13000 Zoo Blvd, Apple Valley, MN 55124, 952.431.9200

Como Park Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory

Attractions include the zoo, the conservatory, an amusement park, a carousel, beautiful walking trails around lovely Lake Como, and more. Como Park is a free park and while no admission fee is charged for the zoo or conservatory, voluntary donations of \$3 per adult and \$2 child are suggested. 1225 Estabrook Drive, Saint Paul, MN, 651.487.8201

Minnesota History Center

An interactive museum with both permanent and changing exhibits, the Minnesota History Center hosts concerts, lectures, family days and other special events throughout the year. The building is also home to the Minnesota Historical Society library and archives, a research destination for schoolchildren, family historians and academics. 345 W. Kellogg Blvd, St Paul MN, 55102, 651.259.3000

The Basilica of Saint Mary

A Roman Catholic basilica located on its own city block along Hennepin Avenue between 16th & 17th Streets in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was the first basilica established in the United States. The Basilica of Saint Mary is the co-cathedral of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis and is one of the finest examples of Beaux-Arts architecture in the country. 88 N 17th St, Minneapolis, MN 55403, 612.333.1381

The Museum of Russian Art

This museum houses a collection of Russian art from the 20th century, especially Soviet art. Additionally, it often hosts temporary exhibitions of art and artifacts with more general connections to Russian-speaking world. 5500 Stevens Ave, South Minneapolis, MN, 55419, 612.821.9045

American Osler Society Committee Membership 2015-2016

COMMITTEE	CURRENT CHAIR	CURRENT MEMBERS
Bean Award	S. Podolsky	J. Erlen, J. Murray, R. Rakel
McGovern Award	H. Swick	P. Miller, S. Moss
Lifetime Achievement Award	B. Fye	R. Kahn, P. Kligfield
Nominating	H. Swick	P. Miller, S. Moss
Finance	M. Molina	D. Bindschadler, B. Cooper, M. Stone
Membership	L. Drevlow	V. McAlister, E. Matteson, S. Peitzman, J. Richardson
Publications	M. Jones	J. Greene, C. Lyons, W. Roberts, H. Travers
Annual Meeting – Program Committee	J. VanderVeer	L. Drevlow, W. Evans, G. Frierson, R. Mennel, C. McAlister
Annual Meeting – Local Arrangements Committee	L. Drevlow, C. Pierach	C. Boes (Executive Committee Liaison)

OSLERIANS AND THEIR VIEWS

Thoughts on the Future of the American Osler Society

In the November edition of the Oslerian members were challenged to put forth their views on whether or not advocacy for social justice issues should be part of the AOS domain. Below are the responses of a relatively new member and one of our well established members.

Should advocacy for social justice issues be part of the AOS domain?

Yes, as I think Osler was in his own way an advocate for social justice. Hiram Woods, a member of Maryland's Medical- Chirurgical Society and a friend of Osler noted "He felt the meaning of Unity. He presented the problems of disease, cause, prevention and cure, as the same for the hard worked country doctor, with little time to read, and the man with hospital and laboratory privileges." Osler felt it was important to teach doctors from different backgrounds how to care for a diversity of patients. I see this as social advocacy.

Osler recommended that medical students read each night and have a bedside library. Suggested readings were: The Bible, Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus, Religio Medici, Plutarch Lives, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Don Quixote. Arguably, many of the topics in these selections deal with the oppressed and underserved to include what each individual can do to right unrightable wrongs.

Perhaps one of the strongest arguments for Osler being an advocate for social justice may be found in his 1889 first address in Baltimore, entitled "The License to Practice". At that time, there were 4-5 medical schools in Maryland with two year courses of study for a degree to practice, so as to gain a license. After Osler's address immediate steps were taken to prepare a legislative Bill for the appointment of medical examiners whose duty it should be to examine candidates and to issue to the successful ones license to practice. Another contemporary of Osler at the time, Dr. Henry Barton Jacobs noted "this was Osler's first effort in Maryland toward the advancement and improvement of medicine, and coincidentally his first pronounced effort in good citizenship."

According to another Med Chi colleague, Joseph Pratt "(Osler) would not listen to gossip nor speak ill of anyone. His jokes were always kindly... He never willingly hurt a brother's feeling, and all men were his brothers."

Notwithstanding the admirable qualities referenced above, I am not aware that Osler distinguished himself as a champion for social justice in ways more visible, such as we might associate with Mahatma Gan-

dhi, Abraham Lincoln or Mother Theresa. [Disclaimer: I am a *new* member to the AOS and have much to learn about WO!] As a practicing physician in West Baltimore, I wonder what he would have to say about the riots in our city following the Freddie Gray murder. Clearly certain social issues were important to him. According to Michael Bliss, Osler "had as little to do with politics and politicians as possible." Yet Osler did advocate for proper and adequate sewerage system and a pure water supply and followed similar efforts in speaking out about malaria. He urged students to be familiar with TB and a greater study of Tuberculosis which may have encouraged the Maryland legislature to create a Tuberculosis commission in 1903.

I imagine social advocacy champions being like Don Quixote, idealists who fight for change. In Osler's farewell speech to the medical profession of the United States, entitled Peace, Unity and Concord, he said: "Nothing in life is more glaring than the contrast between possibilities and actualities, between the ideal and the real. By the ordinary mortal, idealists are regarded as vague dreamers, striving after the impossible, but in the history of the world how often have they gradually molded to their will conditions that were the most adverse and hopeless. Even in a lost cause, with aspirations utterly futile, they refuse to acknowledge defeat... still nursing an unconquerable hope, they send up the prayer of faith in the face of a scoffing world."

I am certain that all members of the AOS are already social advocates in the mold of Osler. Not by waving a flag, or holding a sign perhaps, but rather as Osler described himself, one who "studied to be quiet and to do my own business, and to walk honestly toward them that are without.."

Richard Colgan, M.D.

*Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine
University of Maryland School of Medicine*

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From: Charles S. Bryan

*Past three-term secretary-treasurer and past president,
American Osler Society*

Notes for arguing in the Affirmative:

Of course—this is a no-brainer. Osler considered scientific medicine "the greatest benefit to man-

OSLERIANS AND THEIR VIEWS

kind” (to borrow from the title of the late Roy Porter’s history of medicine), and perceived the medical profession “a remarkable world-unit in the progressive evolution of which there is fuller hope for humanity than in any other direction.” He expressed empathy for the poor, for “the poetry of the commonplace, of the ordinary man, of the plain, toil-worn woman, with their loves and their joys, their sorrows and their griefs.”

To borrow from Steven Covey’s *Seven Habits of Highly-Successful People*, we should “think win-win” and synergize with other organizations. My late esteemed colleagues Lawrence D. Longo and Chester R. Burns felt strongly that we should forge a closer relationship with the American Association for the History of Medicine. Accepting their charge, I pursued this goal as secretary-treasurer and president of the AOS, with the dream that the AOS and the AAHM might jointly issue position statements on the need to make basic health care a universal right, irrespective of ability to pay.

We have the resources to make a difference, if we use them wisely. With our collective knowledge and appreciation of the evolution of medicine and of health care delivery, we can join other organizations (for example, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and Physicians for a National Health Program) as a catalyst for change. We should form a committee to conduct a SWOT analysis (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats), and then (a) issue policy statements, and (b) make appropriate overtures to other organizations with similar overarching goals.

Notes for arguing in the Negative:

Let’s not be hasty—there are plenty of reasons to be careful here, even while recognizing that arguing against “Social Responsibility” is akin to arguing against Motherhood and Apple Pie. And, if one looks critically what Osler actually *did*, promoting social responsibility never ranked high among his priorities. Osler championed medical education, medical science, public health, and better facilities for treating certain diseases (notably, tuberculosis), but he never did much to promote wider access to basic health care services. Indeed, the late George Harrell’s account of “Osler’s Practice” suggests a profit-oriented, high-priced consultant!”

To borrow from Steven Covey’s *Seven Habits of Highly-Successful People*, we should remember that “private victory precedes public victory.” Before jumping into the fray of “promoting social responsibility,” let’s do some self-study, starting with a careful analysis of papers given at our annual meetings. Let’s develop criteria for evaluating “social responsibility” and then determine how many, and what percentage, of our papers even remotely concern this issue. Let’s then debate whether this should become a priority. And let’s remember that previous efforts (including my own) to synergize with our closest potential ally, the AAHM, came to naught for reasons beyond the scope of this brief column.

Our resources are limited. Our treasury contains a healthy balance but, on closer inspection, most of our assets are already designated for one or another fund. Also, the historical interests of most of our members run toward medical biography, medical science, and medicine as portrayed in art and literature. Serious social historians generally prefer the AAHM, not the AOS. We should continue to focus on what we do well while keeping open the possibility that over time the interests of our members could (and perhaps should) evolve in the direction of promoting “social responsibility.”

Bottom Line: This is an issue for our younger members. We older members should stay out of it. We should toss the ball to our younger members and let them run with it. I suggest that they weigh the possibilities, and then use social media as a cost-effective way to integrate medical history, medical biography, medicine-in-art-and-literature, and the like into a broad-based dialogue concerning social responsibility in health care delivery. I wish them *bon voyage*.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE & MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Single largest gift from John P. McGovern Foundation Renames UTHealth Medical School

Submitted on behalf of Bryant Boutwell

The John P. McGovern Foundation has made a transformational \$75 million gift to bolster medical training, provide full scholarships and support scientific discovery and innovation at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and its medical school, UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D., announced November 23, 2015. UTHealth Medical School will be renamed the [John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School](#) in honor of the largest gift in the university's history.

"Today we honor the tremendous legacy of [Dr. John P. McGovern](#) and his wife Kathrine, and we celebrate how this transformational gift will impact each and every one of you for years to come. The McGovern name is synonymous with service, knowledge and compassion – values that are embedded in the very foundation of our university," Colasurdo told a crowd of students, faculty, staff and guests during a gathering in Webber Plaza.

The late [John P. McGovern, M.D.](#), was a pediatrician, allergist, immunologist and educator who helped shape the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in its formative years. Almost 55 years after establishing his foundation, now led by his wife Kathrine McGovern, Dr. McGovern's vision continues to transform the TMC through numerous gifts supporting the art and science of medicine.

"I know my late husband would be so proud to see the McGovern name linked to such a forward-thinking institution devoted to teaching generations of future physicians to be humanistic and compassionate caregivers," said Mrs. McGovern, president of the John P. McGovern Foundation.

"Dr. McGovern once said, 'We physicians are a privileged lot – privileged to serve, to share the human drama of our patients, and to contribute to their health and well-being. To be properly educated to practice his or her art, it is essential that knowledge of science be supplemented by familiarity with the humanities,'" said William C. Shrader, vice president and director of the John P. McGovern Foundation. "This is a fitting gift in memory of a man who dedicated his adult life to learning, teaching, researching and practicing medicine."

The largest gift in the foundation's history will, in part, be used to provide a series of scholarships to be

The Medical Humanities Section is meant to highlight activities in programs for the medical humanities, history, and art across the U.S. and internationally. Articles describing activities and opportunities in this area are requested, as well as essays, prose and poetry highlighting the humanities.

awarded annually. The medical school's first full scholarships will recognize McGovern Scholars' superior scholastic achievements, high standards of personal conduct, and empathy and compassion for patients and their families. These scholarships will offset students' burden of debt and also will allow UTHealth to attract qualified students who would not

be able to attend medical school without financial support.

In addition to scholarships, the gift will enhance programs at UTHealth's [McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics](#), which was established in 2004 with another generous donation from the McGovern Foundation. McGovern embraced the philosophy of Sir William Osler, M.D., whose approach included patient-centered, compassionate care and appreciation of medical history and the humanities. McGovern co-founded the [American Osler Society](#) in 1969. With its focus on ethics and humanities, the McGovern Center's mission is to address the dehumanizing forces in health care today. The center serves all six of the university's schools.

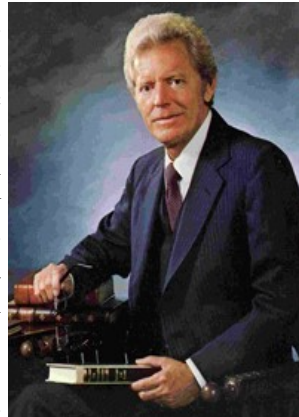
"This extraordinary gift to UTHealth will reach far more than that of one great institution," said William H. McRaven, chancellor of the University of Texas System. "It will impact the future health of Texans and beyond. Anyone educated, mentored or treated by a McGovern scholar or professor will benefit from the highest principles of compassion and ethics inherent to the late Dr. McGovern himself. The UT System is honored that the John P. McGovern Foundation board elected to have UTHealth's medical school bear the McGovern name. With this great honor comes profound responsibility, and I know that the leadership and faculty of UTHealth could not be happier or more deserving of this opportunity."

"Funds for endowed chairs and research programs will be transformational as we work to expand current academic programs and to build new programs," said Barbara Stoll, M.D., dean of McGovern Medical School and the H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences. "We have an obligation to use this wonderful gift wisely to recruit and retain the most outstanding faculty and to build programs to support fundamental scientific discoveries, research that translates these discoveries to the clinical arena, and community-based studies to enhance the health of Houston and beyond."

McGovern, a 1945 graduate of Duke University Medical School, taught at George Washington University Medical School and Tulane Medical School before deciding

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to move to Houston where a vibrant, young Texas Medical Center was taking shape. In 1956, he joined the faculty of The University of Texas Postgraduate School of Medicine, now The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, a partnership between UTHHealth and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. McGovern went on to hold clinical faculty appointments at each of UTHHealth's five other schools – the only faculty member to hold such a distinction.



He purchased a private practice from a retiring physician and established the McGovern Allergy Clinic. In 1958, he hired a talented office manager, Kathrine Dunbar Galbreath, a native Houstonian who would become his wife three years later. The patient-centered Houston practice grew to become the largest privately owned allergy clinic in the world. In 1961, the same year he and Kathrine wed, he started a foundation, the Texas Allergy Research Foundation, which was renamed the John P. McGovern Foundation in 1979. "What one earns, he spends; what he wins, he loses; and what he gives, he keeps forever," McGovern was quoted as saying in *John P. McGovern: A Lifetime of Stories* by Bryant Boutwell, the John P. McGovern, M.D., Professor of Oslerian Medicine at McGovern Medical School.

During his career in medicine, McGovern held 17 professorships, received 29 honorary doctorates, authored 252 professional publications including 26 books – all while serving as president or chief elected officer of 15 professional societies of medicine. He died in 2007, leaving a legacy that his wife carries on today through her work heading the John P. McGovern Foundation.

"One of my patients recently told the medical school's graduating class of 2015, 'The biggest gift you can give your patients is yourself and your time,'" Colasurdo said. "Each student at McGovern Medical School will learn these values, ensuring that, every four years, more than 1,000 alumni will enter the health care workforce practicing the Oslerian values that formed the heart of Dr. McGovern's philosophy."

The John P. McGovern Foundation, which was founded in 1961 by John P. McGovern, M.D., is dedicated to carrying out the charitable interests of its founder by supporting nonprofit organizations that focus on health promotion and disease prevention, family values, the arts, and enhancement to and preservation of the environment.



POETRY CORNER

Recollected



The photos emerge
from their hiding place in the cellar,

sepia fish, or paper ghosts
with white deckled borders.

Our fathers, long dead, boast
the cheerful sibilance of baldness,

a halo in the camera's flash.
Our mothers, bedecked

in aprons and strange eyeglasses,
flap like crows' wings.

Then ourselves, in jeans too tight
or loose, a scherzo of lapels

and weird hair. It hurts to laugh
at our remembered youth.

Take the day Grandma
sprayed her hair with starch.

We cleaned her up, then piled into
the Studebaker for New Year's fireworks.

Dolor squeezes through the cracks
of memory—the career that never was,

the shock of suicide. In the blur
of work, food, sleep, we sigh

platitudes: we have our health,
we have each other,

knowing that even these gifts
will be snatched from our hands

as if we were children wanting too much.
Our ration, randomly appointed,

is an orange in a stocking
hung on the mantel for Christmas.

By Donna Pucciani

Printed with permission of the American Medical Association, license date: January, 2016. JAMA 2013;310:2678.

OPINION

Tolerance

There seems all too little of tolerance in the world these days. From politicians disrespecting one another, to the maligning and suspicion of migrants, to the mistrust of police and differences of opinion on gun control issues, there seems little interest in negotiation or compromise. I happened to tune in to a Public Broadcasting System *Frontline* edition last evening on the trials and tribulation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The program followed the rise of Benjamin Netanyahu in Israeli politics, his interactions with the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations, his interactions with Palestinian representatives, and the evolution of the Iranian Nuclear Deal. What a tangled web that story wove. Without a dose of tolerance there will never be a way out of that mess.

Osler prescribed tolerance. In Charles Bryan's book, *Osler: Inspirations from a Great Physician*, he notes that, "Whenever a disparaging or disrespectful remark of someone was made in his presence, he (Osler) would quickly steer the conversation in a new direction by commenting on an unrelated subject."^{1-p97} In this instance Osler serves as a model for how other humans respect one another despite the differing of opinions. Can humanity disagree and still treat others with respect? Contemporary news media certainly seems to promote stories of intolerance over stories of tolerance.

The issues cited above, of course, are highly contentious national and international issues. Nevertheless many health related issues of today are highly politicized. Bryan says, "Osler suggested that physicians, like other citizens, have a duty to take part in the political process. Reflecting on the multifaceted career of the great German pathologist Rudolph Virchow, who served as an alderman on Berlin's city council for 22 years, Osler said, 'it will be generally acknowledged that in this country [the United States] doctors are as a rule, bad citizens, taking little or no interest in civic, state or national politics.' However, he taught that major involvement in politics distracts successful physicians from their calling."^{1-p179}

According to Bryan though, "Osler usually succeeded at separating the people from the issues." Bryan notes that, "the surgeon JMT Finney remarked that although Osler 'was never heard to

Articles expressing opinions on contemporary issues related to the medical humanities, ethics, and practice of medicine will be presented in this section following review and approval of the Board of Directors.

speaking ill of any one' he could nevertheless 'enter a vigorous protest against some wrong or wrong doer... and at times in truly picturesque fashion'." Bryan notes also, "Controlled anger can be especially powerful when it emanates from someone widely known for praise and tolerance, as Osler was."^{1-p182}

In a world of instant communication with Twitter, Instagram, e-mails, and continuous news media postings and podcasts, time for reflection and measured interactions and response seems lost. Though some of us may wish for a slower pace the likelihood of a regression of technology to facilitate such a slower pace is not likely. Thus, how do we adapt to allow for that time needed to reflect, to learn to understand the "other's" position, to grow in tolerance? Here again, I think we can look to Osler for advice. In his address to Yale students in 1913, *A Way of Life*, Osler states, "What I urge is that you so learn to control the machinery [technology] as to live with 'day-tight compartments' as the most certain way to ensure safety on the voyage."² Can we control our interactions with technology so that we use it as a tool to the benefit of our lives and to the lives of others rather than be distracted from the task at hand? "Look heavenward, if you wish," Osler said, "but never to the horizon—that way danger lies. Truth is not there, happiness is not there, certainty is not there, but the falsehoods, the frauds, the quackeries, the *ignes fatui* which have deceived each generation — all beckon from the horizon, and lure the men not content to look for the truth and happiness that tumble out at their feet."²

Be content, be tolerant, stay focused, and pray for peace. Happy New Year!

¹Bryan, CS. *Osler: Inspirations from a great physician*. Oxford Univ Press. 1997. p.97, 179, and 182.

²Hinohara, S and Niki, H. *Osler's, "A way of life" & other addresses with commentary & annotations*. Duke Univ Press. 2001. p.3-18.

Michael H. Malloy

LETTERS –OBITUARIES–NOTICES

In Memoriam: Lawrence D. Longo, MD (1926 – 2016)

With deep sadness we share with you that Lawrence D. Longo, MD, passed away 5 January 2016.

Dr. Longo, a distinguished Professor of Physiology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology at Loma Linda University, was internationally recognized in the field of fetal and neonatal physiology as a pioneer investigator, mentor, teacher, missionary, innovator, medical historian, and ambassador of academic scholarship. Among his many significant accomplishments he authored more than 350 scientific papers, and edited or authored 20 books.

Graduating from Pacific Union College, and then the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University School of Medicine) in 1954, Dr. Longo had an illustrious career. Over the past five decades he compiled an impressive record in research and academic leadership. He established the Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University into one of the world's leading research groups in the field of developmental physiology, and served as its founding Director from 1973 to 2012. His research has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health and other agencies since 1964.

Dr. Longo was President of both the Society for Gynecologic Investigation (1982-1983) and the American Osler Society (2002-2003). In 1987, Dr. Longo prepared the original grant application for the Reproductive Scientist Development Program, which was first funded in 1988 by the National Institutes of Health. He served as Director and Co-Director until 2013.

His life was an extraordinary example of dedication and perseverance.

This communication was shared by Loma Linda University.

In Memoriam: Eugene H. Conner, M.D. (1921-2016)

Eugene Hayward Conner, M.D., 94, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2016 in Dallas, Texas. One of identical twins born in Baltimore, Maryland December 2, 1921 to Mary Anna Fader and James Moses Conner, he graduated from the University of Maryland, School of Medicine in 1945. He completed his residency in Anesthesiology at The University of Pennsylvania where he stayed on as faculty from 1948-1957. He served in the U.S. Army

Letters to the Editor will be accepted that address issues presented in previous publications of the *Oslerian*, or that are related to contemporary issues in the medical humanities, ethics or practice of medicine. Publication is subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

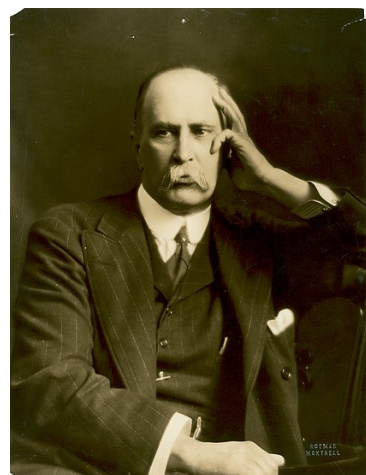
Air Force Medical Corps during WW II. He moved to Louisville, KY in 1957 and assumed the Chair of Anesthesiology at The University of Louisville, School of Medicine where he remained chairman for over 20 years. In the early 1970's, he joined a private practice at Methodist

Evangelical Hospital with a group of his former residents until his retirement. He was president of the AOS from 1997-1998. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Mary Louise Brown, identical twin brother, Harry Gorsuch Conner, and older brother James Raymond Conner.

In Memoriam: Jack D. Key (1934-2015)

Jack D. Key, a member of AOS since 1979 and past secretary-treasurer 1986-1989, passed away. Jack was born on February 24, 1934, and passed away on Tuesday, December 22, 2015. Condolences may be sent to his wife at the below address.

Virgie Key
PO Box 231
54 Skyline Drive
Sandia Park, NM 87047



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**Aequanimitas**

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. Its OSLERIAN is published quarterly.

Looking Ahead to Minneapolis
 Saturday, April 30th-Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016
[Minneapolis Marriott City Center](#)



A CALL FOR ART WORKS BY OSLERIANS & FRIENDS
William Osler once said that “no man is really happy or safe without a hobby.” He also counseled doctors to “have a hobby and ride it hard.” Many Oslerians do indeed have artistic hobbies, and in Minneapolis will have a chance to show their stuff. Again this year at the Annual Meeting, Herbert Swick has organized an Art Exhibit where we can share our creations. Please use the form below to contact him to arrange to show your work when we meet in Minneapolis, MN, Saturday, April 30th -Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016.

2016 AOS Art Exhibit Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type of work: (please check)

☐ painting/drawing (medium: _____)

☐ photography

☐ sculpture (material: _____)

☐ other art form (please specify): _____

Title of work: _____

Size: _____ (Dimensions in cm)

Brief description of work (optional): _____

Special exhibition needs, if any **

Deadline for applications is March 1, 2016.

Please submit applications to: Herbert Swick, 4 Brookside Way, Missoula, MT 59802 or by e-mail to hmlswick@msn.com. Please direct any questions to him at that address, or call him at 406-542-6560.** It may be possible to accommodate special needs, depending upon the nature of the request and the exhibit space.

We're on the Web!

✓ us out at:
www.americanosler.org

AOS Members — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another for **OSLERIANS IN THE NEWS** column, as well as “Opinions and Letters”. - MHM (mmalloy@utmb.edu)