



The Oslerian

A Message from the President

J. Mario Molina

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President

Mario Molina

50th AOS President installed at the 2019 meeting in Montreal, Canada.

The American Osler Society was conceived in 1967 by Alfred Henderson and John P. McGovern. Then, as now, technology threatened to become a substitute for compassion and the human touch. In a sense, technology allows us to know more and more about the anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of the patient but threatens to cause us to know less and less about the person who is the patient. As Osler put it, we must strive even harder today to “care more particularly for the individual patient than for the special disease.” To counteract this trend, the Society was created to unite those who have a common interest in the life and teaching of William Osler and to perpetuate his memory and promote the values that he espoused. The first meeting of the board was held in February of 1970 and the first meeting of the general membership was held in 1971 with William B. Bean as the first President. From the outset, as Osler noted, the purpose of the Society was for “promotion of harmony and good fellowship.” Indeed one of the key things I have repeatedly heard from our membership is about the fellowship they enjoy with the members of our Society.

Previous Presidents have used this first address most commonly to reflect on the future of the Society or to report on

the most recent meeting. I have chosen the former. As to the latter, those of you who joined us in Montreal can attest to what a great success the meeting was despite the water damage from the fire that caused the Osler Library to be closed during our visit. As for the rest of you, I hope that you will join us in Pasadena next April to experience the meeting for yourselves.

The Society has changed over the years from a small group limited to 75 members to a larger group with no limits on membership. As such, membership has moved from being an “honorific” to a mark of someone involved in espousing and promoting our Oslerian values and heritage. The membership criteria have been liberalized.

While our name designates us as the “American” Osler Society, the name is a bit of a misnomer. Our membership, while mostly drawn from English-speaking countries, is truly international. While conceived by physicians, and the original membership was composed of physicians, the disciples represented by our members today reflects a wide range of fields.

At our past meeting in Montreal Bruce Fye reported on a survey that he conducted when he was President in 1989

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and compared the Society at that time to where it was in 2018. In 1989 there were 111 members and 21 talks were presented at the meeting over the span of about 13 hours. In contrast, the Society had 192 members and we met for about 21 hours and heard 56 talks at our 2018 meeting. A big part of the difference is that the time allotted for a talk has been shortened from 30 to 20 minutes. While I was not present for the meeting in 1989, it has been my general impression that the quality of the talks has, if anything, improved over the years. The participation of students has increased, too, largely thanks to the efforts of our members who mentor students in Quebec and Texas.

The membership of the Society is geographically dispersed and has remained so since Fye's 1989 survey. It seems to me that our membership is beginning to cluster into three areas, Texas, Minnesota, and Quebec. Student participation is strongest in Montreal and Galveston. Indeed about a quarter of the presentations at the last meeting came from students.

In fact, at the Montreal meeting half of the 152 attendees (a new record, by the way) were nonmembers. Likewise about half the talks were given by nonmembers. This has created some tension as some members' abstracts were not chosen by the program committee for talks. With membership up, more attendees than ever before, and record number of students participating in the meeting, the future of the Society appears bright.

But consider this, only 40 percent of our "living" members attended the meeting held in Montreal (where Osler began his career) to commemorate the death of our namesake. While we had three Bean awardees present at the meeting, when asked at the annual business meeting how many former Bean awardees were in attendance at the meeting, not a single hand went up. Students participate, and their numbers are growing, but they do not become active members. The membership is "graying" and active participation by our members appears to be waning. Our association with our "neighbors" in the AAHM and the ACP is broken. And while the Society appears to be on a relative solid financial footing, we find ourselves living a "hand to mouth existence" after fifty years in existence without any endowment.

The Society has always had a strong bent toward historical and biographic talks, many of them centering on Osler or those in his circle. This is very much in keeping with Osler's own view that "history is simply

the biography of the mind of man; and its educational value to us, is directly proportionate to the completeness of our study of the individuals through whom this mind has been manifested." Critics of Osler's approach would say that the hagiographic approach to the history of medicine is unscientific. To this I think Osler would have replied that "it helps a man immensely to be a bit of a hero-worshipper, and the stories of the lives of the masters of medicine do much to stimulate our ambition and rouse our sympathies." A biographical approach to the history of medicine brings to life the people and events of the time and presents the history from becoming too dry.

Our Society has not been without true professional historians. Three come immediately to mind, Michael Bliss, Charles Roland and Kenneth Ludmerer who have all published books and held academic positions in the discipline of history. But there are others who have written and published extensively like Charles Bryan, W. Bruce Fye, Mark Silverstein, A. McGhee Harvey, Earl Nation and Richard Golden.

Then there are those of us, who like Osler, love books and collect them. The list is too numerous to include here. But, as Osler notes, "we need more men of their class..."

I first learned about the Society from John Carson in 1998. At the time it was necessary to attend a meeting and present a paper. I procrastinated and when I met John from time to time he asked me how the paper was going. I told him that I was just too busy to write. John looked me in the eye and reminded me directly that "we are all busy, now get to writing." It was among the best advice I have ever received. I became a member in 2008 and regret the 10 years I lost when I could have enjoyed the fellowship of my fellow Oslerians.

I attended the house staff reunion for the Osler Medical Service at Johns Hopkins this year in May. I was surprised to learn that very few of my fellow Osler alums knew what the American Osler Society was or had even heard of it. Ominously there were no members from Hopkins or Baltimore who attended the meeting in Montreal. It became clear to me that, while growing in a few pockets of the country, there was a need for the Society to reach out more broadly to a much larger audience of medical schools and physicians. Is it possible that in our turning inward toward Osler, in our retreat from other medical and historical societies, that we have allowed the light of Osler's

President's Message *(Continued from page 2)*

words and teachings to be hidden under a basket of our own making? I think the profession needs Osler's guiding hand now more than ever before.

Over the years we have debated the purpose of the organization, its size, criteria for membership, the frequency and scope of publications, the structure of the meetings, what our neckties should look like and the structure of our committees. We have debated whether or not to have concurrent sessions so that more members could present, and how submitted abstracts should be chosen for presentation. We have struggled with the role of students and how to recruit new members. We have embraced technology, developed a website and created a searchable database of Osleriana.

I plan to conduct a survey of the membership to get your opinions on these issues as the Society enters its second fifty years. We have important issues before us about the membership, level of participation and even our future purpose before us.

As I survey the field of medicine two decades into the 21st century, the world needs Osler now more than ever before. Medicine exists right now in a time of tremendous disruption brought about by sociological and technological factors. The very profession of Medicine is under attack and physicians are seen by some as no more than overpaid technicians. According to an article in the New York Times last year, in 1966 three fourths of patient's had great confidence and trust in medical leaders. Today that number has diminished to just one-third.

It is up to us to decide if the American Osler Society should play a broader role in promoting the values and ideals taught by Osler or if we want to slip back into being a historical society that venerates the past. Osler said that the secret of success of an institution, and after nearly fifty years I would submit to you that the Society has become an institution, "is to blend the old with the new, the past with the present in due proportion." After fifty years, we stand at the crossroads. How we blend the past with the future will determine what is to become of the Society for the next half-century.



AOS Business Meeting Minutes Montreal, Canada May 15, 2019

President Partin called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

A moment of silence was observed to honor those members who passed away in the past year: Donald Irvine, Billy Andrews, Alfred Henderson (charter member), and John Carson.

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Business Meeting were approved as published in the June 2018 edition of *The Oslerian*.

Secretary's Report: Doug Lanska was not present and nothing new was reported.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Richardson reported the total income for 2018 was \$121,553 and total expenses \$117,463. She noted that this is the first year in a while when expenses did not exceed the income. The Fidelity accounts took a precipitous drop at the end of calendar year 2018 but have rebounded nicely. Over the last eight years, the annual meeting has generated income. There are 18 members that have not paid their dues. Please check with Renee to see if you owe dues. The dues will be increased to \$200 starting in 2020. Renee will send out a fourth reminder to those who have not paid their dues. Joan thanked everyone who made a donation to offset meeting expenses, pay for student registrations and for students to attend evening events.

Financial Committee Report: Mario Molina reported that seven out of ten years the Society has made money on its investments. Current investments are 54 percent in stocks and 45 percent in bonds. The Society's financials are good standing.

The Oslerian Editor's Report: Mike Malloy thanked those who have contributed items over the last year and looks forward to receiving essays, announcements and any other items you wish to share in future editions.

Nominating Committee Report: Clyde Partin presented the Nominating Committee Report on behalf of Laurel Drevlow. The Committee recommended the following changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2019-2020:

Rotating off the BOG: Paul Mueller (Past President 2015-2016), Joan Richardson (Treasurer), James Ballard, Gordon Frierson, Eric Matteson, Vivian McAlister

Staying on: Mario Molina (President), Mike Jones (First Vice President), Douglas Lanska (Secretary), Clyde Partin (Past President 2018-2019), Laurel Drevlow (Past President 2017-2018), Joseph VanderVeer (Past President 2016-2017), William Evans (2021) Gaby Frank (2021), Ronald MacKenzie (2020), Barbara Thompson (2020), Pete Travers (2021), Michael Malloy (ex officio)

Recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Board vacancies: Second Vice-President: Bob Mennel, Treasurer: Gordon Frierson, Historian (ex officio): Herbert Swick, Digital Archivist (ex officio): Rob Stone, Members-at-large: Tom Frank, John

"Skip" Harris, and Mike Trotter.

The nominations were approved by the membership.

Membership Committee Report: Mike Jones reported that the Membership Committee would like to propose eight new members to the Society. Applications supported by the committee and Board were David Burkholder, Adam Davis, Tee Guidotti, Mark Hoffer, Rebecca Jones, James Klaas, Kelsey Klaas and membership through the Bean Award is Michael Stanley. The membership voted to approve these individuals for membership. New membership certificates were presented to new members who were in attendance. Due to absence of one of four signatures, the certificates were reclaimed and will be mailed to new members later.

Local Arrangements Committee: Mario Molina shared that the Society will meet in Pasadena next year from April 26-29, 2019, which directly follows ACP. The LAC will consist of Mario Molina, Tino Bernadett, Mike Cater, Garth Huston, George Saraka, and Rob Stone.

William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee Report: Jim Wright shared that 16 applications were reviewed by the committee and there were three selected for the award: Priya Dave from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai with research focusing on Emanuel Libman a pathologist who corresponded with Osler; Raoul Wadhwa from Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University with research focusing on USAID's PIEGO program at Washington University Medical Center: A violation of clinical ethics?; Carly Sobol from The Ohio State University College of Medicine with research focusing on the Impact of Humanities Education on Wellness and Success in Medical School.

Publications Committee Report: Mike Jones shared that a new tutorial on how to use the Ask Osleriana database is on the AOS website. Pete Travers and Mike have worked hard to request permissions to add articles and books to the database reaching out to publishers and authors. Mike reported that the Board approved renaming of the committee to Publications and Media Activities Committee (PMAC) to encompass the broader work being done. He encouraged those who may be interested in serving in any capacity of the committee to let him know. He expressed concern over having only one individual responsible for AV for the annual meeting since it puts the society in jeopardy if that person is not able to attend the meeting. Clyde thanked Mike for being the point person for AV for a number of years.

President's Report: Clyde Partin expressed the need for more diversity in the membership including members from other countries, especially South America. He would also like to avoid having the AOS annual meeting on Mother's Day

Old Business: None

New Business: Clyde thanked Marie Wilson for providing the McGovern Lecture, the outgoing members of the Board of Governors and the outgoing committee chairs and members for their service.

Clyde introduced Mario Molina as the new president and Mario thanked Clyde and expressed appreciation for his service to the Society as president. Mario presented a presidential plaque to Clyde.

Frank Neelon expressed his opinion on not having an abstract accepted for presentation at the meeting. He suggested grading the abstracts into two categories as acceptable and unacceptable and then have a lottery to determine which ones are presented. This method would alleviate the need to score each abstract, tally them and rank them according to the score and determine a cutoff number for which ones will be presented. Discussion followed with parallel sessions suggested, keep the current procedure in place, and move to flash talks where a presenter gets five minutes to present, which would allow for more presentations. Mario indicated that a survey would be sent out to the membership to determine how the majority want to proceed.

A suggestion was made to have a photographer capture the membership next year in Pasadena in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration of the Society. Disappointment was expressed that this was not done for the Montreal meeting. A pictorial directory was also suggested.

Mario called for adjournment of the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Renee Ziemer
AOS Acting Secretary

Future meeting dates:
2020 – April 26-29, Pasadena, California
2021 - April 11-14, Galveston, Texas

American Osler Society Committee Membership 2019-2020

COMMITTEE	CURRENT CHAIR	CURRENT MEMBERS	NEW CHAIR	ROTATES OFF	NEW MEMBERS
Bean Award	J. Wright	S.Podolsky, B.Thompson,	B.Thompson	J.Wright	R.Mennel
McGovern Award*	L.Drevlow	P. Mueller, J.VanderVeer	C.Partin	P.Mueller	None
Lifetime Achievement Award	C.Pierach	J.Barondess, B.Fye, R.Mennel	No Change	B.Fye	D.Canale
Nominating*	L.Drevlow	P. Mueller, J.VanderVeer	C.Partin	P.Mueller	None
Finance	M. Molina	B. Cooper, M. Stone	No Change	None	J.VanderVeer, F.Bernadett
Membership#	M.Jones	C.Boes, W.Evans, C.Fulkerson	R.Mennel	M.Jones	J.Wright
Publications	M. Jones	M. Malloy, H. Travers	P.Travers	None	C.Bryan, R.Stone
Annual Meeting† – Program Committee	M.Molina	G.Frank, M.Jones, E.Matteson, M.Trotter	M.Jones	None	J.Bailey, C.Partin, M.Moran
Annual Meeting – Local Arrangements Committee	R.Fraser	P.Miller, R.DelMaestro, M.Yearl, D.Lanska (ExCmtLiason)	M.Molina	R.Fraser, P.Miller, R.DelMaestro, M.Yearl	F.Bernadett, M. Cater, G. Huston, D.Lanska (ExCmtLiason), G. Sarka, R. Stone

*Chaired by most recent living Past President, includes 3 most recent living Past Presidents. #Second VP. †First VP

OSLERIANS NEWS

AOS Montreal Meeting Review

The 49th annual meeting of the AOS, recently held in Montreal and marking the 100th anniversary of Sir William Osler's death, was a great success. It set a record for attendance – approximately 150 participants and 170 registrants overall (including spouses and friends). Several members of Osler's "extended" family (grandchildren of WW Francis) were present and available for reminiscences. Their presence was indeed special and we thank them for coming to Montreal from as far away as Vancouver to be with us.



Osler's extended family (left to right): Hon. Michael Kelen, Dr. Susan Kelen, Stephen Kelen, Sari Kelen.

The proffered papers were of high quality. We were fortunate to have many student presenters, including a large contingent from Galveston, the Bean award winner from Maine and the three 2018 winners of the Pam and Rolando Del Maestro William Osler Medical Students Essay Awards from McGill. The McGovern lecture by Marie Wilson on the experience of Canadian indigenous people in the 19th and 20th century was both distressing and inspiring. The descriptions of the injustice and emotional harm they underwent was powerful and at times difficult to watch. At the same time, Wilson's message of hope via forgiveness and reconciliation was compelling and is relevant not just to Canadians and Canada's Indigenous peoples but to each of us as individuals in our own lives.

The McCord Museum reception on Monday evening permitted an interesting follow-up to Wilson's lecture, with the *Haida: Supernatural Stories* exhibit. This was followed on Tuesday evening by our annual banquet at the lavish McGill Faculty Club. Arias by a quartet of McGill Music Faculty alumni and poetry by our now past president provided exceptional entertainment.

Osler Librarian Mary Hague-Yearl gave a detailed description of last summer's fire at the McGill Medical Building, which has had important consequences

for the Osler Library both physically and in its day to day functioning (although, thanks to tremendous efforts by Mary and her staff, research in the Library's collections has still been possible). On a positive note, we learned that the Library will be moving back into its former site in the next year or so, at which time it will again be available for visits by AOS members.



Mezzo soprano Brittany Rae at the McGill Faculty Club.

Despite the unavailability of the Osler Library because of the fire, attendees were able to experience several "extracurricular" events of an historical nature. These included visits to the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital (with its beautiful lobby) and to the Maude Abbott Medical Museum (which contains many of Osler's Montreal General Hospital autopsy specimens). There were also two exhibits mounted specially for the AOS meeting - Rolando Del Maestro's exceptional collection of material related to Leonardo da Vinci and Osler, and Pam Miller's wonderful exhibit of seldom seen Oslerian objects and books. All registered participants were presented with copies of the



Maude Abbott Medical Museum.

Deed of Donation of the Osler Collection and Osler's will along with a copy of the Osler's Leonardo da Vinci Collection: Flight, Anatomy and Art exhibition catalog as mementos of the meeting.

Two 100th anniversary projects which we did not have a chance to discuss formally at the meeting are related to the Osler Garden and the Osler Fellow Library. The garden is to be located in the outdoor area adjacent to

OSLERIANS NEWS

the first floor of the McIntyre Medical Building. Initial plans have been developed in concert with McGill



Architect's drawing of Osler Memorial Garden at the base of the McIntyre Medical Building.

medical students. Applications for funding are being developed (contributions welcome!) and we hope to have it installed at the time of the Osler Library's return to the McIntyre.

Almost 20 books were contributed to the Osler Fellow's Library. This is a collection of titles suggested by medical students, McGill Osler Fellows (teachers in the Physicianship component of the medical school curriculum) and AOS members. It now has approximately 70 titles and is housed in a special case at the Osler Library. Thank you to those who contributed; any member who would still like to suggest a title may do so by contacting Bo Latincic (bozena.latincic@mcgill.ca).

At the meeting, the Osler Library also initiated a reflections journal inviting visitors and supporters to contribute their thoughts about what Osler and/or the Osler Library means to them. For those in Montreal, it is still possible to make a written entry in the journal; for those who want to send thoughts to us, all contributions will be kept together and added to the Osler Library Archives. Please contact osler.library@mcgill.ca with electronic submissions, or for advice on mailing written contributions for the archives.

We were very happy to see everyone in Montreal and look forward to the next meeting in Pasadena.

Montreal Local Organizing Committee

Rick Fraser, Mary Hague-Yearl, Pam Miller, Rolando Del Maestro, Joan O'Malley, Steph Pang, Ke Xuan Li, Melanie Babinski, Katerina Giannios, Mathew Schulz



McGill University promenade.



Montreal Local Organizing Committee (Left to right): Mary Hague-Yearl, Pam Miller, Rick Fraser, and Susan Kelen.



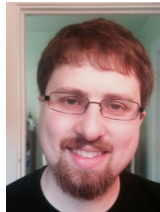
OSLERIAN NEWS

AOS Welcomes New Members In Montreal

David Burkholder: An Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, David has a special interest in the history of neurology and is a member of the Mayo Clinic Historical Committee. David finds, “that the study of history provides insight to modern practice, and allows for perspective that is often overlooked.” As an AOS member he hopes to introduce these values to younger trainees and professionals.



Adam Davis: Adam received his Masters in Biological Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh. He now an Associate Professor at the Community College of Allegheny. As a member of AOS he hopes to utilize his continued research and the company of like-minded scholars to work toward the propagation of embracing the ideals of the arts and humanities to encourage a new generations of students and scholars to keep relevant the lessons of Sir William Osler.



Tee Guidotti: Received his medical degree from UC-San Diego and residency training in Internal Medicine at Hopkins. He received an MPH from Hopkins SPH focusing on occupational medicine and toxicology. He has held Professorships and Chairs at George Washington University School of Public Health and in his retirement from GWU is writing a social history of occupational medicine in North America.



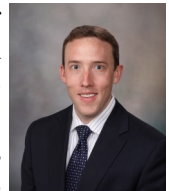
Mark Hoffer: A graduate of the University of Chicago School of Medicine and an Orthopedic Surgeon trained at Ocshner Clinic in New Orleans, Mark is a former submariner and retired Colonel from the U.S. Army. He had a career with special interest in hand surgery and cerebral palsy work. He has a special interest in the history of orthopedic surgery.



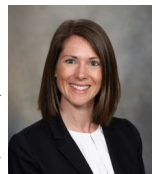
Rebecca Jones: Becky received her BSN from the University of North Carolina and an MSN from Duke. She is currently a nurse practitioner on the Cardiology Service at UNC. She is inspired by Osler’s concept of teaching at the bedside and thinks of Osler on a daily basis when rounding with medical students, residents, fellows and faculty.



James Klaas: James is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He is the current medical director of the comprehensive stroke center and outpatient associate chair of practice operations for the Department of Neurology. He has co-authored several manuscripts on the history of Neurology, and also shares an interest and passion for medical history in general with his wife, Kelsey.



Kelsey Klaas: Kelsey is an Instructor of Adolescent and Pediatric Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and is currently the associate pediatric clerkship director for medical students. One of her clinical specialties is adolescent autonomic dysfunction, which led to an interest in JM DaCosta and his historical description of “irritable heart” syndrome. She also shares an interest and passion for medical history in general with her husband, James.



Meet the Bean Award and Del Maestro Award Winners

Aditi Kantipuly (Del Maestro Award): A second year medical student at McGill, she plans on pursuing her career in medicine with a focus on public health. Her essay award was entitled: *Surgery of the Soul: A Brief History of Lobotomy in Montreal*. The essay dealt with the spread of the technique by Walter Freeman and James Watts across the U.S. and was brought to Montreal by Freeman in 1940. The procedure was implemented at the Montreal Neurological Institute, but without Director Wilder Penfield’s endorsement. The procedure was stopped after 1950.



OSLERIAN NEWS & MEDICAL HUMANITIES

Benjamin Mappin-Kasirer (Del Maestro Award):

A third year medical student at McGill, he is supported by a Marjorie Hampson Scholarship. A Rhodes Scholar, he completed graduate studies in literature and medicine at the University of Oxford from 2015-17. As an undergraduate at Yale University, his work on barometers in the novels of Marcel Proust and on the history of meteorology in France won the James T. King Prize in French. His research on objectivity and Paris Medicine was undertaken with the support of a Hannah Studentship Award from the Canadian Society of the History of Medicine and won first prize in the Del Maestro competition.



Kacper Niburski (Del Maestro Award): A second year medical student at McGill, Kacper is interested in how reconstructed history can change patient health outcomes. Kacper's essay, *Charting the Chart: Development of the Modern Medical Record*, received a Del Maestro Award and documents how the 19th century evolution of the medical record, "shaped illness into spatial and temporal zones, by carving out an anatomy of the ideal form and categorizing messy deviations into neat tables, in which the patient becomes an artifact to be mapped upon," and "how these early patient charts displaced patients' narratives."

Michael Stanley (Bean Award): Dr. Michael P.H. Stanley is an 11th generation Mainer and a 1st generation physician. He graduated from Harvard College, spent a year as a John H Finley, Jr Traveling Fellow, and then matriculated to the Tufts University School of Medicine/Maine Medical Center Maine Track Program. He is currently an intern at the Brigham & Women's Hospital and will be pursuing neurology residency jointly at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital. He has published poetry, children's stories, and historical blogposts, in addition to global health and scientific research.



POETRY CORNER

Thread

by

Truc Nguyen

*A deep breathe in to pull in such thoughts,
A slow release to expel the excess
To reflect on such experiences so,
Of the thread holding my head up, the thread I follow.*

This thread the sisters of fate had not cut,
The thread that's grounded me, the thread of life.
How deep I've followed it to the depths of the labyrinth,
Where tragedies and difficulties; darkness and monsters reside.

Yet still the thread held on, the line still one.
Where end goals meet, my drive, my purpose, the anchor.
Seeing the light at the end of such an epic exists
So I hold on tightly and pursue on.

Oh the trials and tribulations I've met
The tragedies that stain the thread so
How many others had their own thread cut,
By such sisters so fickle, so unforgiving.

The many others I've met along the way.
Holding onto their own so tightly they bleed.
And others so loosely, so slacked it seemed,
As if they questioned if their thread was their own.

How many times have I been in either state?
Holding on so tightly, trying to pull others until I bleed,
Or lost to my own self, lost in my own purpose
Letting go, becoming tangled, wanting to escape and leave.

Yet still I am here, thread intact,
Stained by the journey, maybe worse for wear.
But still, this thread is my own, my story to be told, anchored,
In such a purpose, one still elusive to me. I want to know

*A deep breathe out to release such tension
A deep breathe in to renew my thoughts, fresh
Minding the air that comes in cold, but leaves all warmed
Changing, affected, like all the things I've touched.*

Truc Nguyen is a 4th year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch with interests in poetry, music, video games, and model building. He is part of the Physician Healer's track where students are given tools to not only heal other but ourselves as well. His aspiration is to be able to intertwine both his interests in poetry and medicine by sharing his experiences observed as a physician in the future.

OPINION

The Humanities, Agape, and Medical Education

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

At the Montreal meeting of the American Osler Society (AOS) we heard several presentations dealing with the issue of whether or not the humanities had a place in medical education and what role they might serve if present. Jack Coulehan posed the question, “who needs the humanities for humanism”. He compared and contrasted the views of William Osler who advocated for the use of the humanities to promote humanism in medicine, while Arthur Hertzler, a contemporary of Osler, eschewed the humanities despite being a humanistic physician. Charles Bryan reviewed Osler’s essay on, “The Old Humanities and the New Science”, where Osler states, “The humanities are the hormones.” Osler goes on to interpret this statement relating it to the “historical evolution of the word Humanism as, “embracing all the knowledge of the classical world—what man knew of Nature as well as what he knows of himself.” Finally, Osler reminds the reader of the Hippocratic aphorism of medicine as, “the love of humanity associated with the love of his craft—philanthropia and philotechnia—the joy of working joined in each one to a true love of his brother.” And then a young Oslerian, Kara Jencks, an Osler Student Scholar from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), brought up the contemporary issue of “burnout”, and posed the question of how Osler might approach the issue suggesting that he might see the practice of medicine as a way to “fulfil self-actualization by giving service to others and to one’s self, as medicine is, after all, ‘a calling not a trade.’”

Nicole Piemonte a former graduate student of the Institute for the Medical Humanities at UTMB where she received her Ph.D. and now Assistant Professor at St. Joseph Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, has just published a book, *Afflicted: How Vulnerability Can Heal Medical Education and Practice*, that supports the need for the integration of a humanities education into the evolution of a complete physician. Dr. Piemonte notes, “It is easy to criticize doctors for being less empathetic, uncaring, and self-serving, but doing so often covers over the root of the problem: the educational and institutional cultures that so powerfully (trans)form medical students and doctors; that promote reductionistic understandings of care, illness, and suffering; and that virtually ignore the personal development—the self—of students who are becoming doctors.” She suggests that future physicians might be, “brought back to themselves through a pedagogy that values the cultivation of the self, openness and humility, and a fuller conception of what it means to be a healer.” She goes on

to promote the concept of teaching by “indirection” through, “the way we learn from reading literature and poetry for emotional and intellectual capacities that allow us to imagine something of what it might be like to be in the situation of someone

else.” Teaching, “with literature, art, poetry, and narrative can foster new ways of seeing and thinking and can open up spaces for dialogue and reflection.” Dr. Piemonte goes on to cite Emmanuel Levinas (1906-1995) a French philosopher and Holocaust survivor. According to Levinas it is the encounter of the “face” interpreted as the “other”, that calls us into “authentic living.” Taken a step further by Professor William Greenway in his book, *Agape Ethics: Moral Realism and Love for All Life*, Greenway interprets Levinas’ trope of “face” as the “selfless love of the other” or “agape” and the “heart of ethics and anchoring of moral realism.”

So, how do we as physician educators and as Oslerians succeed in promoting the humanities in medical education. Certainly in promoting Oslerian ideals and revealing Osler to medical students we offer the opportunity to at least raise the consciousness of aspiring physicians to a person who valued the humanities and the humanism in medicine. Additional opportunities to incorporate literature, poetry, and art outside the immediate classroom should also be goals of all of us involved in the educational process to demonstrate to students not only the knowledge that can be gained through the exposure to such self-promoting growth, but also to expose the students to our own humanity and need to understand the “other”. Given the overburdened curriculum to which current medical students are exposed, it is hard to see much in the way of opportunity to squeeze in more required humanities course, however, an emphasis on liberal arts and humanities undergraduate exposure in the admissions process, may be a more realistic goal. Nevertheless, the opportunity for the American Osler Society to promote the utilization of the humanities in the education of young physicians presents itself through our support and promotion of medical students as they come to our meetings and present, and through our individual efforts within our local spheres of influence. So, to all our members I pray, go forth and do such good works.

Michael H. Malloy

LETTERS -OBITUARIES-NOTICES

Notices - News Flashes

Over the course of more than thirty years as a faculty member of what is now called Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School, I tried to inject more medical history into the curriculum, but without much success. After my retirement my wife and I decided to remedy this a bit by the establishment of an annual lecture on medical history at what is now called Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. We had the full support of the Department of Medicine chairman who insisted we include our family name in the title. Thus the Weisse Annual Lecture on the History of Medicine. This year will mark the fifteenth of these lectures, so it seemed a good time to take stock.

The lecture has become a major event for the Department of Medicine. We have had a string of outstanding individuals speak before us, including one Nobel laureate. What is particularly striking is the number of Osler Society members: Jacalyn Duffin, Charles Bryan, Jock Murray, David Cooper, Michael Bliss, as well as myself. Whether our success was due to the quality of the presentations or the tasty free lunches that followed the lecture I cannot say, although I would like to believe it was the former.

The inaugural lecture was entitled "On First Looking into Jarcho's Leibowitz." The subtitle read "The Small Joys and Great Satisfactions of Medical Sleuthing." May we enjoy many more of them to come in the future.

Allen Weisse

Oslerians Gather in Minnesota

Minnesota Oslerians gathered in Rochester this January to hear Bruce Fye testify about his ongoing recovery from bibliophilia. In a recap of his Dibner lecture delivered at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in December of 2018, Dr. Fye illustrated his experience with medical book collecting and scholarship with both word and visual images.

Oslerians Robert Kyle, Claus Pierach, Laurel Drevlow and Chris Boes (not pictured) were in the audience for the evening. American Osler Society administrator, par excellence, Renee Ziemer, joined the smiling group posed for the photo beneath three stern faced Mayo founding men.

Laurel Drevlow

**Joe Lella Recognized with Life Time Achievement Award at Montreal Meeting**

Joe joined the AOS in 1989 and became its president for 2008/9. He delivered his Presidential Address in a stunning performance as William Osler, a role he had experience in since he created and published (2000) a play: *Willie: A Dream*. He had further chaired a symposium on William Osler, published (2001) in the Bulletin of the History of Medicine. Joe attended the annual meetings of the AOS faithfully, where together with Clyde Partin, he moderated the Frank Neelon Literary Gatherings. Joe had received his PhD in Sociology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He later became Chair of the Department for the Humanities and Social Studies in Medicine at McGill University.

Claus Pierach



Montreal Meeting—Opera at the Faculty Club.

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

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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. Its *OSLERIAN* is published quarterly.

We're on the Web!

√ us out at: www.americanosler.org

Looking Back at Montreal



Looking back at Montreal brings memories of "Oh Canada" sung with gusto by Canadians and guests alike; an enlightening evening at the McCord Museum; and opera at the McGill Faculty Club. Intellectual stimulation was provided by outstanding scholarship revealed in the presentations of members, guests, and the abundance of student presentations. A beautiful city to explore and a convivial group of attendees made for a wonderful gathering.

Looking Ahead to Pasadena, CA



The 50th meeting of the American Osler Society (AOS) will be held in Pasadena, California, from April 26-29. We anticipate a significant level of interest in this meeting as we will be celebrating a Golden Anniversary with remembrances of the origins of the AOS. We enthusiastically await your arrival. The weather in Pasadena is usually perfect at this time of year and the meeting will be preceded by the American College of Physicians meeting occurring in nearby Los Angeles. Save the date now!

Call for Abstracts for 2020 Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA, April 26-29, 2020

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to: aosrenee@gmail.com and must be received by **15 November 2019**. Abstracts submitted by e-mail will be acknowledged. Detailed submission guidelines will appear in the August *Oslerian*.

AOS Members — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another as well as "Opinions and Letters". - MHM