



# The Oslerian

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OXONIAN REFLECTIONS

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When William, Grace and 9-year-old Revere Osler arrived in Oxford on May 27, 1905, they could not have found a warmer welcome than that accorded the American Osler Society, the Osler Club of London and the Japanese Osler Society on May 11, 2014. Biographer Michael Bliss (*A Life in Medicine*, 333) noted that Grace was quickly enamored by the flowers, the ancient colleges filled with tradition, and the people of Oxford. So were those attending the AOS meeting 109 years later.

(↓ John and Ruth Ward in AZ)

three years ensured a superb experience that nicely echoed Osler's own breadth of interests. Much of their work was rightly invisible to most of those attending the meeting, but they deserve acknowledgement now: from early discussions over coffee and croissants in Chapel Hill, to countless planning meetings, to working with a local stationer in Abingdon to print materials, to driving personally to Ewelme to pick up mugs and tiles. Dancing with draconian parking restrictions to make sure buses were available at the right times and locations, arranging special tours of the Bodleian Library, even — on one occasion — pulling out of harm's way an American who had started to cross Beaumont Street without looking in the correct direction for oncoming traffic; all these tasks were handled with grace, and on behalf of the AOS, let me say, "Congratulations on a job well done!" Those thanks extend to other members of the Local Arrangements Committee as well.

Terrance Ryan (shown below)



*Greetings, Fellow*

**President Herbert Swick, 45th President of the AOS, installed at the 2014 meeting at Oxford**



Profound thanks are due to everyone who served on the Local Arrangements Committee, but especially to John and Ruth Ward, whose care, attention and hard work over the past (Please continue in next column →)



generously opened his arms to share insights and details about the Osler's home, and we

were served tea at 13 Norham Gardens. (See photo on page 2) (Please continue on the next page →)

## President's Message *(continued)*



(↑ **Osler's Home, "The Open Arms"** ↑ **Sir William's Study**)

Mark Gardiner was pivotal in making the AOS annual banquet, hosted (and underwritten) in a marquis at Green–Templeton College, a memorable evening. (Highlights of that banquet and of a lovely dinner at the Ashmolean Museum, are described in the two paragraphs that follow by new Oslerian inductees Doug Lanska and Michael Malloy.)



**Banquet Monday, May 12 at the Randolph Sculpture Gallery of the Ashmolean Museum, looking left and right, a memorable event described below by Michael Malloy, one of the Oslerians newly inducted this year.**

Members and guests of the Oxford meeting were afforded a rare opportunity to visit and dine at the world famous Ashmolean Museum. Named after the 17th century antiquarian, Elias Ashmole, the museum is home to exotic collections of Roman, Egyptian, and other European and middle-Eastern artifacts and art. Following a brief introduction to the Museum and its history, we were seated in the Great Hall and served an outstanding meal. Following assurances that the initial course was not the run-of-the-mill city pigeon, the warm salad of wood pigeon, braised lentils, sherry pickled chanterelles, truffle dressing, and nasturtium leaves were most tasty. The main course of new season lamb with a rack encrusted with rosemary and anchovies, carrot purée, roasted rump, glazed fennel, and braised shepherd's pie was most delightful. **(See photo of main course plate →)** The dessert featured an Oxford tart of apricot and almond with sweet English whey, and lemon thyme. With words from the guest of honor, the High Commissioner of Canada, Mr. Gordon Campbell, sprinkled in over the food, the evening was considered a smashing success.

During the banquet held at Green–Templeton College on Tuesday evening, Jock Murray received the Lifetime Achievement Award, a well-deserved recognition for the many contributions he has made, not only to the AOS, but to clinical medicine and medical education, in the course of his distinguished career.

Tuesday evening we boarded buses for a short ride to Green-Templeton College where a large white marquee (pictured below) was set up.



We were graced with a lovely sunny day and we were greeted by students who gave us champagne as we entered. Twenty round tables had been set up to seat eight to a table. From a master list we found our table assignments, so we mixed and chatted as we walked about to find our seats, for each of us had a special, printed place card.

Also on each table was a formal, printed booklet giving the menu and the wines to be served: French and Italian wine; Smoked trout and watercress starter; Roasted fig, Roquefort and cashew salad; Confit duck with caramelized shallot mashed potatoes with vegetables; Stuffed aubergine with a roasted tomato sauce and spring onion pearl barley risotto; Ginger crème brulee with an orange shortbread biscuit for dessert, with coffee.

Lord Walton of Dechant (the McGovern Lecturer for AOS in 1989) was guest of honor and gave a brief, humorous address. He was spry, and at age 91 was sharp, revealing an entertaining wit: e.g. "The Regius Professor is to the faculty as the lamppost is to the dog."

It was a most enjoyable evening!



**(Please see the continuation of President Swick's Message on page 3 →)**

President's Message (continued)

William Osler's belief that the great Republic of Medicine knows no national boundaries was clearly evident both in the attendance list and in the scientific presentations. A large delegation from Japan was led by the founder of the Japanese Osler Society, Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara, who, at 102 years of age, still exemplifies Oslerian principles.



(Left): Drs. Hinohara and Swick; (Below): Japanese Delegation, and standing with them, Paul Mueller



The breadth of presentations at the Oxford meeting would have intrigued and pleased Sir William, with topics ranging from concepts of virtue expressed by the ancient Roman philosopher Cicero to eminent scientists who were "disappeared" during the political turmoil in Argentina in the 1970s and 1980s. Sir Donald Irvine's McGovern Lecture addressed the challenges facing 21st century medicine, eloquently defending the primacy of the patient-doctor relationship and echoing values so important to Osler.

That medicine has a long tradition of service was attested in a beautiful special exhibit at the Bodleian Library on 800 years of medical history at Oxford University. Particularly striking to me was a medical manuscript written by John of Gaddesden (d. 1348). Royal Physician to Edward II, Gaddesden was the model for The Doctor of Physick in the Canterbury Tales of Chaucer.

(Below (L) is the Theology School at the Bodleian; and below (R) is a view of Duke Humphrey's Library there.)



(Please continue in next column→)

A beautiful and touching Evensong Service at Christchurch Cathedral included the anthem "O quanta qualia" by Peter Abelard (1079-1142) that was a favorite of William and Revere Osler and that had been sung at Sir William's funeral service in the same cathedral



(L) Courtyard fountain of Christchurch College at Oxford; behind is the tower of the Christchurch Cathedral. Below is the Radcliffe Observatory at Green-Templeton College, near the tent of our banquet.



The meeting in Oxford reinforced for all of us, I think, the principles, values and broad interests of William Osler, and the challenge of maintaining such values and humanistic principles in contemporary medical education and practice. The American Osler Society has a critical role to play in meeting that challenge. It is an honor to serve as your president, and I invite any of you to contact me with your ideas about how the Society can best meet its mission.

— Herbert Swick, President [hmlswick@msn.com](mailto:hmlswick@msn.com)

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW AOS INDUCTEES!



(L→R) Drs. Douglas Lanska (Tomah, WI), Ernest Hook, (Berkeley, CA), and Michael Malloy (Galveston, TX), who were present to receive certificates at the AOS Business Meeting May 14.

## In Memoriam: Robert Turk, MD (1931-2014) by Douglas Lanska

Robert Peter Turk, MD, Colonel, USAF (Ret), was a dedicated and compassionate physician, an outstanding medical educator, a medical historian, and an Oslerian. He died on January 16, 2014 in Dayton, OH, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Robert Turk did undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama (1956), and his medical education at the Medical College of Alabama (1960). A Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, his other honors include Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha



Omega Alpha. He underwent military and surgical training at Brooks Air Force Base, Tripler General Army Hospital in Honolulu, and Fitzsimmons Army General Hospital.

He served a total of 24 years in the Air Force, including time as an Aeromedical Technician during the Korean War, and later as a general surgeon in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He also served as chairman of departments of surgery at U.S. Air Force bases in the continental United States, the Philippines, and Spain. Among his military honors were the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Award, Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

After his military career, Dr. Turk served as a medical educator at several training programs in Ohio. He was highly regarded by trainees and received numerous teaching awards. Mathew Blanton, MD, a former trainee, remarked that, "I was always enamored by his ability to tell a story and his knowledge of medical and surgical history. His profound recollection of geography, usually centered around historic surgical sites or war-related regions, made you want to hire him as your personal travel docent." David Hasl, MD, FACS, another former student, noted that Dr. Turk "was a hero to the medical students, and inspired us to strive to be better doctors and better people. He lived and taught by example. He had a way of making each student feel 'to whom much is given, much is required'."

Bob Turk joined the American Osler Society in 2008, and became a regular presenter at the annual meetings. Well versed in general and medical history, he spoke on a wide range of topics: from the Oslerian qualities of the Dutch humanist and physician Hermann Boerhaave during the 18th-century, to the impact of tuberculosis on the career of Canadian thoracic surgeon Norman Bethune in the early 20th century.

Bob's person and his presentations will be missed!

## MYSTERY QUOTES OF THE ISSUE

**Below are three quotes relate to our namesake. Who wrote them, where and when?**

- #1) "It is easy to imagine Osler's charm because of the influence it continued to exert long after he was gone; but how describe it? A figure smaller than average, lithe and quick; the penetrating eyes and dark Celtic features whose incisiveness was made gentle by a capacity for "sunburnt mirth"; the careful observation of the sick person, who saw him as a friend even while being the subject of the most intense scrutiny..."
- #2) "The humanist physicians [Linacre, Rabelais, and Caius] were Renaissance men, with many talents. Like the humanists in other fields they represented for the most part an aristocratic focus – intellectually and culturally privileged, devoted to gracious living. They rejected the medieval values. While for the most part they favored the classical values, they did not ignore the present. Yet in their concern with classical values they did neglect one major current that was soon to dominate Western culture – the current that we call science, better known as "natural philosophy."
- #3) "... He practiced this humanism even when his friends were unconsciously rude. For example, at a tea a loud-voiced American woman rudely asked him, "Do you prefer being called 'Sir William' or just plain American 'Dr. Osler'?" He smilingly quoted Lewis Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark*: "I answer to HI, or any loud cry" without hurting her feelings.

**Send your replies to the editor. A prize to the person who spots all three!**

## OBITUARY: KENNETH G. SWAN, M.D. (1934-2014) *by Sandra Moss*



Kenneth G. Swan, surgeon, soldier, and Oslerian, died suddenly at age 79 on March 22, 2014, at his home in South Orange, NJ. A graduate of Harvard University and Cornell University Medical College, Ken completed his surgical training at New York Hospital, with additional physiology research at the University of California.

He served three tours in Vietnam, supplementing his combat surgical work with airborne, special forces, and air assault training. Between tours in Vietnam, he was director of the division of surgery at Walter Reed Hospital. For his service in Vietnam, he earned the Bronze star with Oak Leaf Clusters and rose to the rank of colonel. As a member of the Army Reserve, he served in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm. His first talk to the Medical History Society of New Jersey, in which he spoke about military medicine in Desert Storm,

was delivered in combat fatigues and boots. He retired from the Army in 1998 and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

For over forty years, Ken was professor of surgery at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark, where he practiced general, vascular, thoracic, and trauma surgery. He published over 300 papers and was the co-author of an authoritative textbook on gunshot wounds. In his later years, he was director of the surgical clerkship at the medical school. Countless students, residents, and fellows came under his tutelage. A former surgical resident, now a skilled surgical subspecialist, told me that Ken was the calm at the center of the storm in surgical emergencies—truly a model for trainees at all levels.

In the field of medical history, not surprisingly, Ken devoted himself to military medical history and surgical history in general. As member, and later president, of the Medical History Society of New Jersey, he presented a number of papers—always carefully researched and bristling with detail. In my letter of recommendation for Ken's admission to the American Osler Society, I wrote (2012):

“Some years ago, he made time in his surgical and clinical teaching schedule to co-teach a history course to medical students. For the past decade, Dr. Swan has mentored one or two students a year as they research and write original papers. Most of these are presented before the Medical History Society of New Jersey; invariably the students are well prepared by Dr. Swan. In a number of cases, his students have presented their papers just a few hours after receiving their medical diplomas.”

A current surgical resident whom Ken mentored presented a paper at the May meeting of the Medical History Society of New Jersey. Ken has seen to it that many of these student/resident papers are published in peer-reviewed surgical journals. One of his students presented a paper at the Philadelphia AOS meeting (2011), while another was a Bean Student Research awardee (2008) and presented his paper in Cleveland. When they emerge from residency and fellowship, these students will recall the joy and satisfaction of reading and researching the history of their profession — perhaps some are future Oslerians.

Ken's application for membership in the AOS (2011) was probably unique in its unabashed enthusiasm: “This past year, my wife and I visited the Mayo Medical Center for our first AOS meeting and concluded that it was the best medical meeting we had ever attended and for a variety of reasons.” He was shocked that our bylaws did not allow for instant membership!—but was, of course, elected at the earliest opportunity.

His final paper, “Flanders Fields and the Renaissance of Wound Debridement,” accepted for the Oxford program, was presented by Oslerians Joe VanderVeer and Mike Jones. It was a most timely talk for our Oxford meeting coinciding, as it does, with the centennial of Britain's entry in World War I.

Despite his hundreds of scientific papers and brilliant career at the New Jersey Medical School (formerly part of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and now a division of Rutgers University), Ken was a modest man and a gentleman of the old school in the best meaning of the phrase. His e-mails to me were addressed to “Madame President” (I tried to discourage this honorific during my year as AOS president, but he persisted) and signed with the valediction “YHS” (your humble servant) or “YFS” (your faithful servant) or the elegant and slightly mysterious “OAEHS” (obedient and ??ever?? ??eternally?? humble servant). This was not an affectation—Ken was always courteous and a most faithful friend—a theme mentioned often at his memorial service (along with comments on his 100 parachute jumps and his precious Harley).

Ken and his beloved wife Betsy (a nurse who enjoyed attending AOS meetings with him) did a small service for me in transporting the Oslerian latchkey in their car from the Chapel Hill meeting back to New Jersey and then back again to the Tucson meeting – I was afraid it might not make it past airport security in my hand luggage (a determined sociopath could do some damage to, say, someone's eyeball with the large metal key) and I was afraid to check it (things get lost at the Newark airport). Ken insisted that I, as program chair, wear the Oslerian key for the occasion of his presidential address to the Medical History Society of New Jersey in 2012. He was selected several months ago to receive the New Jersey society's 2014 David L. Cowen award for a body of work in the history of medicine, but sadly it will be presented posthumously.

**(Please continue on page 6 →)**

A fitting conclusion to this memoir is this note sent to me by one of Ken's students, already at work on a history project as she prepares to graduate and begin her residency. Ken's careful supervision is evident—a mentor to remem-

## SWAN Obituary, Continued)

A fitting conclusion to this memoir is this note sent to me by one of Ken's students, already at work on a history project as she prepares to graduate and begin her residency. Ken's careful supervision is evident—a mentor to remember and emulate. It is not difficult to imagine Ken's beaming countenance at the Match Day festivities! The student asked that her name not be used, because she felt that she was speaking for all Ken's students:

"The student community here is devastated by Dr. Swan's passing. He had such a profound impact on so many of us at each stage of our schooling. We were especially shocked since he celebrated Match Day with us just the day before. I'm personally deeply grateful to him for encouraging my interest in history—I remember our first conversation lasted over two hours in his office!"

All who knew Ken Swan mourn his death, but we celebrate his life.



### **IN MEMORIAM Dr. Marian Francis (Popsie) Kelen, 1922-2014** **Honorary Member of the American Osler Society**

by Oslerian Michael Howard Malloy

(At left, Marian Kelen in her youth; at right, with her husband Andrew)

Dr. Marian Francis Kelen died in Ottawa on January 29, 2014, at the age of 92. Born in Oxford in 1922, Dr. Kelen was the daughter



of Hilda Colley and Dr. William Willoughby Francis, who catalogued the books of his second cousin Sir William Osler. Like her father, she studied medicine, graduating from McGill University in 1945. She practised medicine for many years at the Ormstown (Quebec) Medical Center, and also raised five children and acted as a role model for women in medicine. She was known for her compassion, her delightful humour, her encyclopaedic knowledge and her memory, her love of poetry and Shakespeare, and for her cheerfulness and kindness. Marion Francis Kelen is survived by her five children and their spouses and by her many grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Dr. Andrew Kelen.

(Dr. Kelen's humorous "Memories of My Librarian Father, W.W. Francis, M.D." appeared in 1985 in *The Persisting Osler: Selected Transactions of the First Ten Years of the American Osler Society.*)

## OSLERIANS IN THE NEWS: JOCK MURRAY AND STEVE PEITZMAN



Shortly before he was honored with the AOS's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award in Oxford, **THOMAS JOHN MURRAY** (known to us as Jock), received another prestigious award. On April 24, he was inducted into **The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame**. At a banquet in Kingston, ON, attended by over 575 Canadian business and health care leaders, Jock joined the ranks of 101 other esteemed laureates who have "pushed the boundaries of discovery and innovation beyond the realm of possibility to make the world a better place." Recipient of many other honors, Jock may best be remembered by Oslerians for his innovations in medical education at Dalhousie, where as Dean, he initiated a trendsetting, problem-based, tutorial-format curriculum in the undergraduate years and a world-respected program in the medical humanities, fostering other related disciplines - artists and writers in residence, theatre, music and literature. Jock's comment – "***We need science, but science also***

***needs the humanities to understand the human values and the human questions and the human decisions that must guide our use of science***" – would be heartily endorsed by Sir William Osler!

**Oslerian Steve Peitzman** has been awarded the 2014 **Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award** of the American College of Physicians. The award also has a named lecture that Steve gave in Orlando on April 11. (Dr. Davies was an AOS member, and previous recipients of the illustrious Award include AOS members Gert Brieger, Ken Ludmerer, Jock Murray, Robert J. T. Joy, Charlie Bryan, and (in 2013) Joel Howell.) **Well done, Steve!**

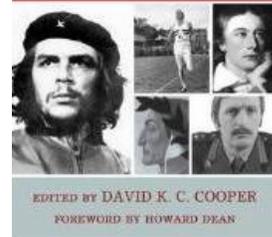
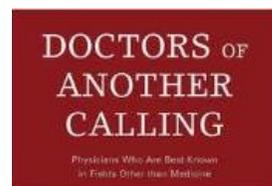


**BOOK REVIEW**

**Doctors of Another Calling: Physicians Who Are Known Best in Fields Other than Medicine** Edited by David K.C. Cooper. Newark: The University of Delaware Press, with Rowman & Littlefield. 2014 \$83.69  
 (A review by the *Oslerian* Editor)

The headmaster of my high school once made a comment that has stuck with me. He said, “The truly educated man is never bored, for the truly educated man is infinitely curious.” I thought of that comment as I read through the thirty-eight chapters of David Cooper’s new book, a compilation of short biographies of physicians who made their mark in fields other than medicine. If you’re a curious person, as I am, it’s a fascinating read full of facts and stories about interesting individuals. And for a book with chapters written by 26 different authors, I found the caliber of the writing remarkably and consistently high.

Full disclosure demands that I confess to writing the chapters on John Keats and Anton Chekov, and many members of the AOS are contributors as well. Editor Cooper has authored several chapters in the present volume, including ones on the buccaneer Thomas Dover, the runner Roger Banister, the entrepreneur Armand Hammer, and the actor Graham Chapman. Jock Murray, (the AOS 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient) also authored three chapters, on St. Luke, Peter Roget of thesaurus fame, and petroleum industry father Abraham Gesner. So did J. Michael Fuller, writing about missionary Al-



**Editor David Cooper**

bert Schweitzer, explorer Roald Amundsen, and violinist Fritz Kreisler. In an Appendix, Cooper lists scores of other physicians who *could* have been chosen (but were not), and in a second Appendix, he lists hundreds more (from Thomas Monro’s collection of more than 500); none is among the 38 physicians chosen for separate chapters in the book. In this second, longer list, they are categorized as: Scientists; Writers of literature, Poetry, and Drama; Scholarship, Bibliography and Scientific Collecting; Philanthropy; the Church and Saints; Law and Politics; Soldiers; Inventors; Explorers, and a Miscellaneous category. They are splendid lists to pursue, if you are a person curious to read about other members of the profession who achieved renown outside the practice of medicine.

I enjoyed the book immensely, and it’s become part of my updated Oslerian bedside library. Since I’m from Philadelphia, one doctor of another calling that I would suggest be included in a second edition is the physician and chemist Albert C. Barnes, who earned a fortune from his patented Argyrol (a silver nitrate solution used to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum). He then spent it to amass one of the finest private collections of impressionist and modern art, which can be seen in the recently opened Barnes Foundation Museum on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia.

Get **Doctors of Another Calling**: you’ll love it!

The minutes of the 2014 Board of Governors and Annual Business Meetings at Oxford will be published in the August 2014 issue of the *OSLERIAN*.



**BEHIND THE SCENES AT OXFORD**

Three persons were quietly responsible for the pleasing success of this year’s AOS Meeting. ←**Renee Ziemer**, AOS Administrator, and her husband **Matt** minded the “store.” **Mike Jones**→ oversaw and controlled all the presentations.  
**Our thanks to all three of them!**



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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.*

We're on the Web!  
√ us out at:  
www.americanosler.org

## Call for Abstracts for 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD April 26-29, 2015

**Abstracts** should be sent by e-mail to Renee Ziemer at aosrenee@gmail.com with a copy to Chris Boes at boes.christopher@mayo.edu and must be **received** by 15 November 2014. Abstracts submitted by e-mail will be acknowledged. The abstract should be no longer than one page. It should begin with the complete title, the names of all co-authors, and the corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, FAX, and e-mail address. This should be followed by a two to three sentence biographical sketch indicating how the author would like to be introduced. (This will probably be your entire introduction. Don't be modest!). The text should provide sufficient information for the Program Committee to determine its merits and possible interest to the membership. The problem should be defined and the conclusions should be stated. Phrases such as "will be presented" should be avoided or kept to a minimum.

**Three** learning objectives should be given after the abstract. Each learning objective should begin with an active verb indicating what attendees should be able to *do* after the presentation (for example, "list," "explain," "discuss," "examine," "evaluate," "define," "contrast," or "outline"; avoid noncommittal verbs such as "know," "learn," and "appreciate"). The learning objectives are required for Continuing Medical Education credit.

**A cover letter** should state: Whether any of the authors have a potential conflict-of-interest such as direct financial involvement in the topic being discussed, and whether there will be any mention of off-label use of drugs or other products during the presentation.

**Standard audiovisual equipment** will consist of a laptop computer and LCD projector. Presenters should carefully weigh, and justify, requests for *additional* AV equipment since this will add substantially to the cost of the meeting. (*Specifically request additional equipment.*)

**Each presenter** will have a 20-minute time slot, which will be strictly enforced. *Presenters should rehearse and time their papers to 15 minutes*, in order to permit brief discussions and to be fair to the other speakers. Although 20 minutes might seem quite short for a paper in the humanities, our experience with this format has been overwhelmingly favorable.

**Abstracts will be accepted by e-mail up until 15 November 2014.** Send with objectives and cover letter to Renee Ziemer at aosrenee@gmail.com with a copy to Secretary Chris Boes at boes.christopher@mayo.edu. Please make submissions in Microsoft WORD format.

**AOS Members** — Please forward to the editor information worth sharing with one another for MEMBERS IN THE NEWS column, including awards and publications for yourself or other Oslerians. - JBV